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FULL PAGE ILLUSTRATION: BRIMSTONE HILL, ST. KITTS.

### The Quarantine Conference.

Dr. Theodore Thomson, Medical Inspector of the Local Government Board, sailed for Jamaica in the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's steamer "Port Royal" on Saturday last with a view to making arrangements in the West Indies for the Quarantine Conference which is to meet in Barbados in April. After interviewing the authorities in Jamaica he will proceed to Trinidad and the other West Indian Colonies in turn. Dr. Thomson is an expert in sanitary matters and attended the recent International Quarantine Conference in Paris in the capacity of a British delegate.

The object of the forthcoming Conference at Barbados will be to replace the present quarantine methods in the West Indies by a more enlightened system of uniform character, the need for which has been more amply shown during the recent epidemic, as we pointed out to the Colonial Office on March 27th last (*West India Committee Circular*, No. 93, page 3). This is a matter closely affecting the interest of all our West Indian Colonies, and while we are confident that they will give Dr. Thomson all the assistance in their power, we may also express a hope that they will approach the question with a spirit of unselfishness and a determination to arrive at an understanding which will obviate the anomalous condition of affairs hitherto existing in the quarantine regulations of the West Indies.

### The West Indian Cables; More Interruptions.

The further interruptions in the West Indian Cable communication which occurred on December 21st and 28th last, cutting off St. Kitts, Antigua, Dominica, St. Vincent and Barbados, led to the despatch of the following letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on December 29th.

SIR.—On the 11th ultimo we had the honour to call your attention to the serious inconvenience and loss to which West Indian Proprietors were being put through the constant breakdowns of the telegraphic communication with and between the British West Indian Colonies, and on the 14th ultimo (41,235/1903), you were pleased to reply that certain suggestions which we had made would receive your attention.

2. While thanking you, we would respectfully call to your notice two further breakdowns which have occurred since this correspondence took place, which will emphasise the urgent need of prompt steps being taken to ameliorate the present state of affairs.

(a) On the 21st instant, the St. Thomas-St. Kitts cable was interrupted, cutting off St. Kitts, Antigua, Guadeloupe and Dominica, by the lines of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, and making those Islands dependent upon the lines of the French Company for the transmission of their messages at increased rates.

(b) On the 28th instant, the St. Vincent-Grenada cable broke down, cutting off telegraphic communication entirely between St. Vincent and Barbados, and the outside world.

3. At any time this would be a serious matter, but it is especially so at the present time when the reaping of the sugar crop is about to begin, and it is of the utmost importance that Estates Proprietors should be fully informed as to the course of the sugar markets.

4. We feel that this matter is one of paramount importance, and we trust therefore that you will be pleased to inform us whether there is any likelihood of steps being taken to ameliorate the existing conditions of affairs in the near future.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servants,

N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman*,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary*.

### Peasant Cane Farming in British Guiana.

In a recent issue (No. 109, page 86) we gave figures showing the progress of the Cane Farming industry in Trinidad, for the inception of which our Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, was mainly responsible. For some time past efforts have been made to start a similar industry in British Guiana, but the conditions regarding drainage, transport, etc., in that Colony have been such as to retard the development of cane farming hitherto. It will be noted with satisfaction, however, from the figures given below, for which we are indebted to Mr. F. I. Scard of British Guiana, that some substantial progress has been made during the past three years. The figures show:—

Acres in Cultivation.		1903.	1900.
Essequibo (including Wakenaam)	...	580	45
Demerara	...	308	26
Berbice	...	130	—
		1018	71

These figures represent the acreage of peasant farmers canes dealt with by fifteen estates. The canes are mostly paid for by the punt load, at a price equal to about 8/- per ton, or by the gallon in one or two instances. Three estates adopt a sliding scale of price, according to the value of 96% crystals in Georgetown. Land for the purpose is provided by the estates in eight cases. In the Essequibo district and in one instance in Demerara the managers speak encouragingly of the industry. The figures given do not include canes supplied in quantity by employers of labour, but merely those grown by the individual exertions of the peasantry. The growth of the industry has been considerable, but it is much to be feared that the present low price of sugar will affect its immediate future very prejudicially. In Demerara the cost of canes, at 8/- per ton, to make a ton of sugar would be somewhere about £5, leaving a loss to the manufacturer, while a reduction of price, in the present position of the industry, would, it is feared, effectually discourage the farmers.



### Barbados and Porto Rico Molasses.

Sir Daniel Morris and Mr. J. R. Bovell during their recent visit to the United States obtained some valuable information respecting the relative merits of Porto Rico and Barbados molasses, which was laid before a special meeting of the Commercial and Agricultural Bodies at the Commercial Hall, Bridgetown, on the 4th ult. It appears that in Porto Rico, there are only three grades of molasses, although some people profess to recognise intermediate ones. The three grades are (a) 'Fancy'; (b) 'Choice'; and (c) 'Prime.' 'Fancy' molasses, which is the highest grade, is prepared in some instances by mixing syrup made from cane juice, which has been sulphured and settled, with the best quality molasses obtained from Muscovado sugar. In other instances, 'Fancy' molasses is obtained direct from sugar which has been specially prepared in the manner described in a letter from Mr. Robert Graham, of Porto Rico, to Messrs. Hanschell & Co., from which we give the following extracts:—

The superior quality of molasses is not produced all over the island, only on the south side of the island and where canes are grown by irrigation. These conditions coupled with careful manipulation gives from Muscovado Sugars an exceedingly fine coloured and tasted molasses.

First: When the canes are cut and brought to the mill they are perfectly clean and free from soil and roots.

Second: The juice as it leaves the mill is passed through the sulphur box where washed sulphurous fumes are injected into it, bleaching the juice and enabling the use of a larger quantity of lime without injury. The lime is made in the island, and is of a very fine quality.

Third: The juice is immediately run into the ordinary rectangular steam clarifiers, or direct to the open Jamaica train, where it is tempered and clarified pretty much as it is done in Barbados, only that the open copper wall here is better adapted to the thorough cleaning of the juice than I have seen in any of the British Islands. The boiling is rapid and the brushing is done on the surface about four feet above the level of the juice when at rest. The juice well clarified, is run off from time to time at from 20 to 25 Beaumé into settling tanks, where it remains from two to ten hours, the longer the better.

Fourth: The settled juice is now drawn off into the Wetzel pans, where by the aid of exhaust steam and the atmosphere it is reduced to a grainable consistency and run off into wooden coolers, where, when cool it presents a honey-coloured hard massequite, and is dug out and put into hogsheads to drain. The result being a pale yellow sugar of good grain and a bright coloured pleasant-tasted molasses. The best and most cleanly managed estates make the finest sugar and molasses, and the grades throughout the island vary from the finest golden syrup to the coarse stuff only fit for making rum. There you have the whole secret of Porto Rico molasses:—clean, healthy canes, clean machinery and apparatus, clean manipulation throughout, with sulphur fumes and high liming, settling and graining at a low temperature.

'Choice' molasses, which is the second grade, corresponds to Barbados molasses, which is also known in the trade as 'Choice' molasses. It was stated, however, that the Porto Rico 'Choice' was of a considerably better colour than the Barbados 'Choice.' 'Prime' is the lowest grade exported from Porto Rico. There is a marked difference in colour between the Porto Rico 'Fancy' and Barbados molasses.

#### Method of Shipping Molasses.

All the molasses shipped from Porto Rico is graded by the merchants after it is bought from the planters. Molasses is shipped from Porto Rico in hogsheads containing about 150 gallons, in puncheons of about 110 to 120 gallons, and in barrels of about 50 to 55 gallons each. The hogsheads and puncheons are made of the best new packs, which are of a better quality than those used in Barbados. These hogsheads and puncheons are bound round with strong, locked, wooden hoops, which are obtained in New York, and four iron hoops. Three of these hoops with one iron hoop are used at each head and at each bilge. In Barbados, the ends of the wooden hoops on the puncheons are placed together and wound with rope yarn. This seemed to be objected to by the buyers, as they stated that puncheons so constructed were not so strong as those where the hoops were locked. Buyers of molasses also seemed to object to the use of hogsheads and puncheons, for the reason that these



packages when empty are practically unsaleable. A comparatively large quantity of molasses is now shipped from Porto Rico in barrels. These barrels are made of the best material and bound with six iron, but no wooden, hoops. They cost f.o.b. in New York from about \$1.25 to \$1.40 each. They are usually returned to be filled a second time, and, if in good condition, a third time. As soon as these barrels are so worn as to be unsuitable for molasses, they are sold for from about 75 to 90 cents each, for putting tallow in, and afterwards for tar. It may be mentioned that Mr. J. Allan Jones, of the firm of Messrs. Jones & Swan, of Barbados, whom they met in New York, promised to have a few bundles of the packs used in Porto Rico for hogsheads and puncheons and fifty of the barrels, sent out to Barbados, for those interested to see. The barrels he intended returning to the United States with syrup like that made in 1903 at Rugby plantation in Barbados, which the buyers informed them 'was very satisfactory.' They were also informed that there was every likelihood of these barrels being in the near future substituted for the hogsheads and puncheons at present in use.

Molasses puncheons received from Barbados were considered suitable, and it was stated that if the sellers spent a dollar more on each puncheon, they would not get a cent more for their molasses. It was, however, suggested that the wood hoops should be locked, like those on the Porto Rico hogsheads and puncheons, and not tied with rope-yarn as at present.

#### Barbados Puncheons.

Where the molasses in Porto Rico is shipped in sailing vessels, the hogsheads and puncheons are 'run' as at Barbados, but the barrels are filled, in the case of non-fermenting molasses, to within one gallon of the full contents, and in fermenting molasses to within five gallons, tightly bunged and hoisted on board. Where molasses is shipped by steamers, the full packages are hoisted on board and not 'run.' Barbados molasses used to keep as well as Porto Rico molasses, but lately some of it has turned acid. They were told that the merchants in Barbados were of opinion that the reason for this was, because the planters used old packs for making their puncheons. Good molasses should be light-red in colour, non-fermenting, and possess good baking qualities.

The price paid includes the value of the puncheons. In Barbados, where the puncheon is paid for separately, its value is first deducted by the buyer from the true value of the molasses when the bargain is being made with the seller.

It was stated that the loss on Porto Rico molasses has been less than that from Barbados, since molasses had been carried in steamships from Porto Rico. As to actual figures, one gentleman told them that the loss on Porto Rico molasses was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., while that from Barbados was frequently from five to ten per cent. On some occasions, however, he and others had been charged for more gallons of molasses than the puncheons could contain, according to the gauging of the United States Revenue Officer. In such cases, of course, the apparent loss would be even greater.

#### Cost and Value of Molasses.

The majority of Barbados molasses cost f.o.b. at Barbados about  $23\frac{1}{2}$  cents per gallon, made up as follows, viz.:—molasses 18 cents per gallon, puncheon 4 cents per gallon, stowing on board, etc., 1 cent per gallon, and bank charges  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent per gallon. The highest price paid for Porto Rico 'Fancy' molasses was 27 cents per gallon f.o.b., the average price being from 24 to 26 cents per gallon. Porto Rico 'Choice' molasses, which as stated above, corresponds somewhat to Barbados molasses, cost f.o.b. 21 cents per gallon. The value of a gallon of Porto Rico 'Fancy' molasses this year in New York was about 35 cents per gallon, while Barbados molasses was worth about 28 cents per gallon, the difference being therefore about 7 cents per gallon in favour of Porto Rico molasses.

Porto Rico 'Fancy' and 'Choice' molasses and Barbados molasses contain on the average about 52 per cent. of saccharose, the minimum being about 47 per cent. and the maximum 56 per cent. The duty on molasses containing less than 56 per cent. of saccharose is 3 cents per gallon, and



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on that containing 56 per cent. and upwards it is 6 cents per gallon, wine measure. Nearly all the Porto Rico 'Fancy' molasses is used in the eastern part of the United States, none going to Canada. On the other hand, Porto Rico 'Choice' and Barbados molasses, nearly all go to Canada. A great deal of the molasses is used for making ginger bread and cakes of various sorts. For this reason, the users prefer the molasses slightly acid, as it liberates the carbonic acid in the bi-carbonate of soda mixed with the flour, causing the ginger bread and cakes to rise. This property of causing ginger bread and cakes to 'rise' is known as the 'baking quality' of molasses. Rugby syrup was sent to the Halifax market, and was, as stated above, considered very satisfactory. The opinion was expressed that there was every likelihood of this article having a ready sale.

In reply to the question "when the price of sugar locally is \$1.30 per 100 lb. and molasses 18c. per gallon, would it be advisable to make syrup such as that sent from Rugby or to erect central factories," Sir D. Morris and Mr. Bovell replied that this question was considered very debatable, some of the gentlemen interviewed holding one view, some the other. One gentleman pointed out that at the price mentioned, a pound of sugar in the molasses was worth nearly double what it would be if sold as sugar. Another gentleman who owns a factory in Porto Rico, and who used to make muscovado sugar in the past, was of the opinion that it would be better to erect factories. The reason he gave was that before the erection of his factory he only obtained 6 lb. of sugar per 100 lb. of cane, whilst now he obtains 9 lb. of first sugar and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of second sugar per 100 lb. of cane, in addition to a certain quantity of molasses, which is made into rum.

If the planters of Barbados made all their crop into 'Fancy' molasses, it would practically all have to be sold in the United States, and if produced in a large quantity, the price might fall slightly. On the other hand, owing to the fact that good molasses was yearly becoming scarcer, due to the erection of central factories in Porto Rico, Louisiana and other countries, the quantity from these sources would be considerably reduced.

(TO BE CONCLUDED.)

### Cuban Reciprocity Treaty.

Messrs. Czarnikow MacDougall & Company's New York Circular, dated December 18th, contains the following important passages regarding the Cuban Reciprocity Treaty:—

"The event that has overshadowed all others in our sugar market, and indeed in the sugar markets of the world, has been the passage of the Cuban Reciprocity Treaty by the Senate on the 16th of December, followed by the President's proclamation of the 17th December, which makes the reduced duties go into effect on the 27th December. This is the most important legislation on the part of the United States, with regard to sugar, since the passage of the existing Tariff Bill on 24th July, 1897, with its accompaniment of a countervailing duty on sugars receiving a bounty, an accompaniment which put all cane sugars on a better footing than they had hitherto occupied in this market, and had a correspondingly adverse effect on the bounty-fed beet sugars of Europe. It is not too much to say that this action of the United States in countervailing bounties was one of the main contributing causes to the agreement signed by the Brussels Convention on March 5th, 1902, which abolished bounties from September, 1903. The producing countries whose sugars enjoy special privileges on importation into the United States are now as follows:—

"Hawaiian Islands, free since January 30th, 1875; estimated production, 1903-4, 393,000 tons.

"Porto Rico sugars paid 15 per cent. of regular duties from May 1st, 1900, till July 25th, 1901, since free. Estimated production, 1903-4, 126,000 tons.

"Philippine Islands sugars, since March 8th, 1902, have paid 75 per cent. of regular duties. Estimated exports, 1903-4, 125,000 tons.



"Cuba sugars will pay 80 per cent. of regular duties from December 27th, 1903. Estimated production, 1903-4, 1,200,000 tons.

"As the duty on the grade of sugar principally imported (namely 96° test Centrifugals) is \$37.74 per ton of 2,240 pounds, the Hawaiian Islands and Porto Rico sugars paying no duty, enjoy a premium of that amount, and Cuba paying a modified duty of \$30.19 per ton will enjoy a premium of \$7.55 per ton on the sugar it sends to the United States, as compared with other countries paying full duties. The Philippine Islands assorted sugars (basis 84°) have a premium of \$7.07 per ton.

"Next year's requirements of the different United States ports, and the supplies of preferentially treated sugars probably available to meet them, may be estimated as follows:—

New York, Boston, Philadelphia—imports required—say	...	...	...	1,700,000 Tons.
New Orleans	...	...	...	200,000 "
San Francisco	...	...	...	150,000 "
				2,050,000
Supplies of preferentially treated sugars:—				
Cuba	...	...	say	1,125,000 Tons.
Hawaiian Islands	...	...	"	375,000 "
Porto Rico	...	...	"	100,000 "
Philippine Islands	...	...	"	50,000 "
				1,650,000
			Deficiency	400,000

"The deficiency must be supplied by sugars paying full duties and this should help to keep prices at a level which will give Cuba a good share of the \$7.55 preferential granted under the treaty, unless Cuba throws away this advantage by trying to market its sugar too rapidly.

### The Sugar Bounties Agitation, 1864—1903.\*

A RETROSPECT: BY W.P.B.S.

The Third and Final Stage, 1889—1903—continued.

The terms of the Royal Commission of 1896 constitute such valuable historic evidence as to the general conclusions of the most responsible officials and representative public bodies throughout the West Indies as to the cause of the then serious condition of the sugar industry that it seems proper to set out at full length the Commission itself. It was as follows:—

#### The Terms of the Royal Commission.

Victoria, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, Empress of India: To Our Trusty and Well-beloved Sir Henry Wylie Norman, General of Our Forces, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and St. George, Companion of Our Most Eminent Order of Our Indian Empire, Chairman: Our Trusty and Well-beloved Sir Edward Grey, Baronet; and Our Trusty and Well beloved Sir David Harbour, Knight Commander of Our Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, Greeting.

Whereas representations have been made by the Governors and Legislative Bodies, and by inhabitants, of those of Our West India Colonies in which the cultivation and production of sugar forms the chief industry, and provides subsistence directly or indirectly for a large proportion of the population, that the Sugar industry in those Colonies is in a state of extreme depression and can no longer be carried on except at a loss, and that many sugar estates are being abandoned and thrown out of cultivation, and if the depression continues many more estates will shortly be abandoned, and that such abandonment is causing and will cause distress among the labouring population, including large numbers of East Indian immigrants, and destroy the general prosperity of those Colonies, and render it impossible for them to provide without external aid for their own Government and Administration, and that this

\* Continued from "The West India Committee Circular," No. 113.

depression is mainly caused by the competition of sugar produced under a system of Bounties adopted in some European countries, which has recently been greatly extended.

**And** whereas it is expedient that full and authentic information should be obtained as to the facts and causes of the alleged depression of the Sugar Industry in Our said Colonies, and the general condition and prospects of that industry and of the said Colonies generally in connexion therewith.

**Now** We do hereby constitute and appoint you, the said Henry Wylie Norman, Sir Edward Grey, Sir David Barbour, to be Our Commissioners to make full and diligent inquiry into the condition and prospects of certain of Our Colonies in the West Indies in which sugar is produced, namely, Our Colonies of Jamaica, British Guiana, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Grenada, St Vincent, St Lucia, and the Leeward Islands, and to suggest such measures as appear to you best calculated to restore and maintain the prosperity of those Colonies and of their inhabitants

**And** We do hereby charge and command all Our Officers, Civil and Military, and all Our faithful subjects, and all others inhabiting the said several Colonies and their respective Dependencies, that in their several places, and according to their several powers and opportunities, they be aiding to you in the execution of this Our Commission

**And** for your assistance in the due execution of these presents We have made choice of our Trusty and Well-beloved Sydney Olivier, Esquire, Bachelor of Arts, to be Secretary to this Our Commission, and to attend you, whose services and assistance We require you to avail yourselves of from time to time as occasion may require.

**Given** at Our Court at St James's this Twenty-second day of December 1896, in the Sixtieth year of Our Reign.

By Her Majesty's Command.

J CHAMBERLAIN

Before dealing with the Report of the Royal Commission, which was made on the 25th August, 1897, it is necessary to allude to the introduction into the agitation, as it was about to assume its final and most definite form, of Mr. Mayson M. Beeton.

One of those telling articles which it is the gift of literary genius to produce, appeared in the *Nineteenth Century* for July, 1897; it was entitled "The Wrecking of the West Indies," by Mayson M. Beeton. The writer had then recently visited the West Indies as special correspondent of the *Daily Mail*. From this period until the close of the agitation by the Act of Parliament which gave effect to the Brussels Sugar Convention, Mr. Mayson M. Beeton was continuously and actively engaged in literary effort of the most valuable kind for the abolition of the Bounties, to which it will be necessary to refer in greater detail.

#### The Report of the West India Royal Commission.

Before the members of the Royal Commission left for the West Indies on the 13th of January, 1897, several witnesses were examined in London, including Sir Nevile Lubbock, Mr. Dobree, Mr. Q. Hogg, Mr. E. Tinne, Mr. A. R. Gilzean, Mr. John Price, Mr. J. R. Grieg, Mr. Hamel Smith, Mr. N. Lamont, Mr. George Carrington, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. H. W. Estridge, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. H. Hales, Mr. Shephard, Mr. Rutherford, and Captain J. H. H. Berkeley. Various important papers as to trade, tariffs, cost of production etc., bearing on the West India sugar industry were also sent in to the Committee.

The Commissioners arrived in British Guiana on the 27th of January, 1897, and left on the 6th of February, and then visited successively Grenada, St. Vincent, Barbados, Trinidad, Tobago, St. Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat, Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, and Jamaica. They left Jamaica on the 14th of April for New York, where some informal investigations were made as to circumstances affecting West Indian trade, and information as to the beet sugar industry of the United States was obtained, and the Commissioners returned to England, arriving in Liverpool on the 1st of May, 1897.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)



### The Tariff Reform Movement.

The Tariff Reform League on December 29th issued a further list of gentlemen who have consented to serve on Mr. Chamberlain's Tariff Commission, including Sir Robert Herbert, who has accepted the chairmanship, and Sir G. Ryder, who has just retired from the post of Chairman of the Board of Customs. Mr. Frederick Baynes, Mr. Henry Bostock, Mr. Charles Eckersley, Sir John A. Cockburn, K.C.M.G., Mr. Francis Elgar, F.R.S., Mr. Lewis Evans, Mr. Thomas Gallaher, Mr. Alfred Gilbey, Mr. W. Harrison, Mr. J. Johnstone Keswick, Mr. Charles Lyle (Chairman of Messrs. Abram Lyle and Company, Sugar Refiners), Mr. Henry D. Marshall, Mr. Joseph Rank, Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, and Mr. W. Bridges Webb. A final list is to be issued in a few days, including further representatives of agriculture and banking, and members of the brewing and electrical trades. There will also be some additional representatives of Colonial interests.

The Colonial Section of the Tariff Reform League is providing speakers for the Devon and Gateshead elections.

### Cacao.

In the current issue of the *Bulletin of the Department of Agriculture, Jamaica*, there appears an interesting and instructive article on the "Budding of Cacao." Detailed instructions are given as to the mode of carrying out the operation; and it is suggested that since the operation of budding is so simple, the cacao planter has a ready means of ensuring that all the trees on an estate are of "one uniform variety."

The following extract from a letter from Messrs. Powell Bros., Lami River estate, Suva, Fiji, to the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, dated July 20, 1903, relating to the varieties of cacao in Fiji is of interest. "In the *Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society* for May, 1903, we find a reference to cacao which very much interests us, and we would thank you very much if you would let us know whether what is stated there is true with regard to the inside of the bean of the pure Criollo being milkwhite in colour. If such is the case it is important that we should find some means of importing this variety into this colony, and perhaps you would help us in this matter. There appear to be some half a dozen varieties in Fiji, brought together by the late Sir J. B. Thurston; but at his death all record was lost and the trees are now quite wild in the forest. Most of these beans when split are purple, some very dark, but we have one dwarf tree the leaves of which are very much smaller than any others. This tree carries a small yellow pod deeply furrowed and pointed, the bean when cut is very much lighter than any others, in fact a pink colour. We are carefully saving and propagating the seed from this tree, but we are much surprised to find a description of a still lighter coloured cacao, which is of course what we want to produce, the highest marketable product; and if you can help us in the matter we shall feel exceedingly obliged."

To this the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture replied, that it was an essential feature of the Criollo variety that the inside of the bean was of a white or pale colour, and while he promised to obtain a few pods of this variety for Messrs. Powell Bros., he doubted whether they would travel safely to Fiji. It is stated that while the Criollo variety gives the most valuable product, it is not nearly as hardy as the other varieties, and great care has to be exercised in the choice of soil, locality, etc.—*The Agricultural News*.

### The Cotton Industry.

For the latest information regarding the cotton industry in the West Indies we would refer our readers to the extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents which we give on pages 13-14. From these it would appear that satisfactory progress continues to be made, and on all sides we hear of



planters preparing to embark upon this industry. During the planting season of 1903 nearly 1,000 bushels of cotton seed were presented by the British Cotton Growing Association to planters in the West Indies and seed was also obtained by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the Southern States, Egypt and Peru and distributed free of cost. The Department emphasises the fact that the best all-round varieties for cultivation in the West Indies are the fine, long-stapled sorts of Sea Island cotton. The plants themselves are hardy and easily cultivated and the return, in value, (though not always in weight of lint per acre) is larger than that from other cotton. It is stated that the best Sea Island cotton can only be grown successfully in districts more or less under the influence of sea air but belief is expressed that there is no part of these Islands where, with moderately good soil, Sea Island of some sort cannot be grown.

Mr. A. A. Paton, Vice-chairman of the British Cotton Growing Association, states that he has sold through Messrs. F. Zerega & Co. thirteen bales of Puerto Rico cotton at 14½d. per lb., and thirty three bales are to be delivered in Liverpool this week. The first lot was sold in small parcels, so that the spinners of the country might test its rare qualities. Altogether from 1,000 to 1,200 bales are to be shipped this season, and there is confidence that the price realised by the cotton just sold will stimulate cotton cultivation throughout the West Indies. Messrs. F. Zerega & Co. presented the above Association with all the seed from the cotton, and it is to be distributed among the West India Islands. In the view of Mr. Paton this is the finest cotton ever imported into Liverpool, and it is noted that for the cultivation of this fibre the climate and soil of the Islands are peculiarly adapted. A sample of the small lot of Puerto Rico cotton just sold was identified by an experienced broker (who did not know its origin) as good Sea Island.

### West Indian fruit.

The Orange Market in the United States collapsed suddenly about the middle of December and the Jamaica orange trade has consequently almost stopped. The growers of Manchester approached the Government asking them to reduce the freight on citrus fruits by rail to Kingston. The Government reduced the freight by sixpence, but it is understood that this concession is not sufficient to enable growers to trade with profit. The West India Trading Company have stopped running to Jamaica for the present on account of the low prices paid for fruit in America, and it is a significant fact that a firm who were the largest handlers of Jamaican citrus fruit in New York have failed, and their failure will cause considerable loss of traffic.

In an article on the Christmas Fruit Markets in the "*Times*" of December 25th it is satisfactory to read that Australian and Jamaica oranges are the best obtainable this Christmas. Both command about similar prices, Jamaicas, with 150 or 200 fruits, making from 12s. to 14s. a case, Australians with 88, 96, or 120 fruits, from 9s. to 10s. Grape fruits are increasing in popularity and making from 10s. to 15s. a box. Choice specially graded Jamaica mandarins are particularly fine; such specimens are new to the fruit trade here, and they made excellent prices, proving one of the most attractive novelties of the season.

Unfortunately Jamaica bananas are not plentiful at present. Bananas are represented by Canary and Costa Rica fruits. The latter provide cheap supplies, but the former are higher in value than they were this time last year. The Canary Hoyas have secured from 12s. to 17s 6d. a bunch. They have not exceeded 14s. and 15s. a bunch for years. The medium quality fruits have sold from 5s. to 10s. The supplies of perfectly ripened fingers of Canary bananas are plentiful, for the weekly shipments of the month have ranged from 20,000 to 30,000 bunches. Never were the banana stocks so heavy in any Christmas week as they are now.

### Brimstone Hill.

The illustration of Brimstone Hill, St. Kitts, which faces page 4, forms a fitting pendant to the view of the deserted Dockyard at English Harbour, Antigua, which appeared in our last issue. Brimstone Hill is a huge isolated mass of volcanic rock rising to a height of some 700 feet, which has the appearance of having been ejected *en bloc* from the craters of the central mountains of St. Kitts, the Mother Colony of the West Indies. This hill was once a frowning fortress which earned the sobriquet of the "Gibraltar of the West Indies." The records of the Island show that it was purchased by the Government for £500, and that the fortifications were erected by slave labour, each estates' proprietor having to furnish one out of every eighty slaves he possessed for this purpose. The fortress for a long time was impregnable, but the French by placing their heavy guns on the hill behind it, once compelled the garrison to evacuate. The gates bear the dates 1793-1794, an anxious period of English History, and it was not until half a century ago that the British garrison was finally withdrawn and the fort left to rack and ruin. Now, it is interesting to wander through its deserted casemates and galleries which are overgrown with dense undergrowth fragrant with the perfume of sweetly scented myrrh which is here found in profusion, and it is hard to realise that this spot ever resonated with martial bugle and the tramp of many feet. It is worth recording that Brimstone Hill was in 1902, inspected with a view to the location there of Boer prisoners, but happily, peace obviated this step being taken.

### The West Indian Civil Service.

We shall be glad to receive particulars of movements and appointments of Officers of the several West Indian Governments and other persons officially connected with the West Indian Colonies, for insertion under the above heading.

Mr. Leslie Probyn, late Attorney General of Grenada, Secretary to the Southern Nigeria Administration, has arrived in England on leave of absence. Mr. Probyn has been acting as High Commissioner for several months.

Mr. Darent H. McDonald, Treasurer of the Bahamas, has arrived in England on leave of absence.—*Morning Post*

The office of Postmaster-General of Jamaica, rendered vacant by the retirement of Mr. G. H. Pearce, has been filled by the transfer of Mr. Alfred H. Miles from the Revenue Department of the Island. Mr. Miles entered the service in 1874, and has been Supervisor of Revenue Offices for the past three years.

Mr. Justice E. A. Northcote, late Puisne Judge, Jamaica, has arrived in Trinidad and assumed the duties of his new office as Chief Justice of that Colony.

Mr. Douglas Young, Commissioner of Turks and Caicos Islands, returned to duty by the Mail which left on December 23rd.

Mr. Justice J. M. Danavall, Puisne Judge of the Leeward Islands, has obtained an extension of his leave until February 29th.

Mr. Robert S. Earl, Medical Officer at Antigua, has been appointed Commissioner of the Presidency of the Virgin Islands, in succession to Mr. N. G. Cookman.

The Hon. R. H. McCarthy, Collector of Customs, Trinidad, has been made a member of the Executive Council of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. F. C. Wells Durrant, Stipendiary Magistrate of St. Lucia, left England on December 23rd, to resume duty.

Mr. B. Fowler, of the Treasury, British Guiana, has been transferred to the Government Secretariat, and Mr. Kenneth King succeeds him in the Treasury.

Major G. C. Bayly, late Chief of Police in Grenada, has arrived in London, en route to Cyprus, whither he proceeds to take up his new appointment in the Military Police of the Island.

Mr. M. McNeill has resigned the office of Agricultural Instructor in Grenada, owing to ill-health.

Mr. A. E. C. Ross has been selected for the office of Postmaster-General of Trinidad, in succession to Mr. J. A. Bulmer. He was formerly Chief Manager of the Savings Bank Department.

Mr. H. E. Dale, of the Colonial Office, has arrived in British Honduras on a special mission to inquire into the Civil Service of the Colony.

Mr. C. B. Hamilton, Receiver-General for British Guiana, has obtained an extension of his leave, and will take his departure from England on February 3rd.



Mr. T. A. Pope has been appointed Principal of Queen's College, British Guiana. He has been for sixteen years past a Professor at the Royal College, Mauritius, and, like his father, the Rev. Dr. G. U. Pope, is a distinguished Tamil scholar.

An extension of the tour of service of Mr. H. H. Cousins, Government and Agricultural Chemist, Jamaica, together with a substantial increase of salary, has been recommended to the Government of Jamaica by the Board of Agriculture. It is also proposed that Mr. Cousins should be placed on the permanent Civil Service establishment of the Colony—*Civil Service Gazette*.

### Notes of Interest.

**INDEX TO VOLUME XVIII.** With the next issue of the *West India Committee Circular* an index to Volume XVIII, Nos. 87-113, January to December, 1903, will be issued as a Supplement. The present issue forms the first of the New Volume, No. XIX.

**MESSRS. SANDBACH TINNE & CO.** Mr. John Abraham Tinne, son of Mr. John Ernest Tinne, was on December 31st last admitted a partner in the firms of Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne, & Co. (Liverpool), and Messrs. Sandbach, Parker & Co. (Demerara).

**LONDON TO DEMERARA.** Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co. announce that in connection with the Demerara and Berbice Steamship Co., Ltd. (Messrs. William Smith and Co.) they will in future despatch a steamer every fourteen days from London to Demerara, calling at Dartmouth for mails. The first sailing of this service will be the "Statia."

**OVERSEER'S REGISTER.** Estates Managers and Proprietors requiring overseers are informed that arrangements have been made for a list of applicants for such posts to be kept at the West India Committee Rooms. All enquiries regarding it should be addressed to the Secretary, West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

**NEW CHAIRMAN OF CUSTOMS.** The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Thomas J. Pittar, C.B., to be Chairman of the Board of Customs in succession to Sir G. L. Ryder, K.C.B., who will retire on the 29th inst. Mr. Pittar earned the gratitude of the West Indies by acting as Principal Expert Adviser to the British Delegation to the Sugar Bounties Conference at Brussels in 1901, and is now Assistant British Delegate on the Permanent Sugar Commission at Brussels.

**OUR ADVERTISEMENTS.** It will be pleasing to our advertisers to know that since we first accepted advertisements for the *Circular* less than five months ago, our Membership has increased by over one hundred Members, all of whom are directly interested in the West Indies and to whom the advertisements, which now adorn our pages, distinctly appeal. It will be noted that we have been compelled to add four pages to our advertisement columns to meet the great demand for space.

**RUM AND SUGAR.** The annual report of the New Colonial Company, to which we refer elsewhere, gives the following table showing the net proceeds per ton of Sugar, and per puncheon of Rum from British Guiana and Trinidad since the formation of the Company have been as follows:—

	CROP, 1898	CROP, 1899.	CROP, 1900.	CROP, 1901	CROP, 1902	CROP, 1903.
Sugar per ton ...	£9 15 4	£11 7 1	£11 5 7	£10 7 3	£7 7 3	£8 8 8
Rum per puncheon...	5 0 2	7 10 0	10 14 6	5 12 10	4 14 10	3 17 11

**MR. LLOYD OF THE R.M.S.P. CO.** Last week we referred to Captain Woolward's fifty years service with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and the announcement of the retirement of Mr. John Manning Lloyd, after a service of fifty two years, during forty of which he has acted as Secretary of the Company, is a further reminder of the spirit of loyalty and devotion which the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company imbues in her servants. All will wish Mr. Lloyd many years of health and happiness in his retirement, and his successor, Mr. R. L. Forbes, a prosperous future in the important post to which he succeeds.

**PAPER FROM BAGASSE.** The report now comes from Cuba that a gentleman has arrived in Havana who proposes to establish plants for the manufacture of paper from bagasse. The agent presents samples of the paper boards produced from bagasse, and they are said to look very much like leather. He is about to canvass the country with a view of exciting interest in this new industry. It will be extremely satisfactory if these experiments can be made an industrial success in Cuba, but our own experience here in Louisiana thus far hardly justifies any enthusiasm as to the final outcome of the proposed venture in Cuba.—*Louisiana Planter*, December 19th.



## West Indian Securities.

Bank of England rate 4 % (changed from 3 % on September 3rd). 2½ % Consols, 87½.

Colonial Government Inscribed Securities.				Miscellaneous Securities—continued			
				Stock or Shares.	Paid.	Div.	Price.
Antigua, 4 per cent. ... ..	Red	1919-44	102-104	Stock Imperial Direct West India			
Barbados, 3½ per cent. ... ..	..	1925-42	98-100	Mail Service Debenture	100	4½ %	85-89
British Guiana, 4 per cent. ... ..	..	1935	106-108	10 West India and Panama			
Grenada, 4 per cent. ... ..	..	1917-42	100-102	Telegraph Company ...	10	Nil.	2½
Jamaica, 4 per cent. ... ..	..	1934	105-107	100 Direct West India Cable Co.			
St. Lucia, 4 per cent. ... ..	..	1919-44	101-103	Debentures ... ..	100	4½ %	98-101 rd
Trinidad, 4 per cent. ... ..	..	1917-42	101-103	5 New Colonial Co. Pref. ...	5	5 %	2½-3½
<b>Miscellaneous Securities.</b>				100 New Trinidad Lake Asphalt			
20 Colonial Bank ... ..	6	6 %	4½-5	Company ... ..	100	6 %	90-95 rd
100 Royal Mail Steam Pckt. Co	60	Nil	25-27	Stock Demerara Railway Co. ...	100	Nil.	15-20

THE ANTIGUA SUGAR FACTORY, LTD. The issue is announced of £10,000. "A" First Mortgage Debentures, part of a series created by resolution of 11th December, 1903, to secure £25,000, charged on the Company's undertaking and property, present and future, including uncalled capital. No trustees. No previous issue of same series.

THE NEW COLONIAL COMPANY LTD. The report and statement of accounts were adopted at the seventh ordinary general meeting held Thursday December 17th, at 20, Eastcheap, Sir Nevile Lubbock K.C.M.G. presiding. The Accounts shew a net Profit, after payment of Interest on Debenture Stock, of £15,280 14s. 3d., to which has to be added £5,209 11s. brought forward from last year, making together £20,490 5s. 3d. Out of this amount £3,687 1s. 8d. being a portion of the Expenditure on Improvements brought forward from last year, has been written off, leaving £16,803 3s. 7d. From this sum the Directors have, in accordance with the Articles of Association, declared the Dividend of 5 per cent. on the Preference Shares of the Company for the year ending 30th June, 1903, which they propose to pay by two equal Instalments, upon January 13th and June 29th, 1904; this will absorb £11,718 10s. and leave £5,084 13s. 7d. to be carried forward to the next account. During the year the Improvements and Extensions on Albion Estate, Berbice, referred to in the Directors' Report of last year, have been completed, and the cost has been charged to the Estates' Capital Account. The whole amount expended on the Improvements of the other Estates of the Company during the year under review, amounting to £5,548 19s. 7d., has been charged before arriving at the profit shown in the present accounts. Of the balance of Expenditure on Improvements carried forward from last year, one-half, amounting to £3,687 1s. 8d., has been charged to the Profit and Loss Account of the present year, as stated above, and one-half has been added to the Estates' Capital Account, in respect of the additions to their Capital value. In compliance with the Articles of Association, Sir John H. Morris retired from the Board, but was re-elected. A vote of thanks to the Chairman was moved by Mr. Woodhouse, seconded by Mr. Scrutton, and carried unanimously.

## The Homeward Mail.

Considerable inconvenience has been occasioned by the late arrival of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "La Plata." We understand, however, that her departure from the West Indies was delayed owing to her having to wait at Barbados, for Trinidad passengers who were left behind, and to the difficulty in effecting, during terrific weather, the transfer of cargo and passengers from the inter-colonial steamers. She left Barbados for England 22 hours late, and encountered at first very bad weather and after a slight improvement, strong easterly winds, arriving at Plymouth at 1 a.m. on Friday,

Jan. 1st. The mails were delivered in London at 1.30 p.m. on the same day. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company state that in ordinary weather, the "La Plata" would probably have made up most of the time which was lost at Barbados. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, December 23rd. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received by the R.M.S. "La Plata."

**Antigua.**—Hon. A. St. G. Spooner, December 16th. At the last meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, a letter was read signed by the principal parties in the Antigua Central Factory Scheme, *i.e.* Mr. George Moody Stuart, on behalf of Messrs. Henckel, DuBuisson & Co. and the Syndicate, and the Hon. John Freeland Foote, on behalf of the landed interest affected, setting forth the full particulars of the scheme. (A copy of "The Antigua Standard" to hand by the Mail gives this letter.—Ed.) Resolutions of thanks to Mr. Chamberlain, the Governor, and Mr. Watts for their assistance in bringing about the achievement of the scheme were unanimously passed. On the 11th, a special meeting of the Society was convened at the new cotton ginning and baling factory, which had been set in working order by the energy and enterprise of the Governor, with the co-operation of the Imperial Department of Agriculture and the British Cotton Growers' Association, the latter providing the cotton gins free of cost, or rather lending them to the Government in order to promote the cotton industry. His Excellency made a capital address, and pointed out the great advantages to Antigua of permanently establishing a cotton industry there, and the importance also of growing as much cotton within the Empire as was possible, so that the British industry might be relieved from its present dependence on foreign supplies of raw material as far as possible. At the conclusion of his address His Excellency ordered one of the gins to be started, and Lady Edeline Strickland fed the machine with the first seed cotton that had passed through a steam gin in Antigua for about 30 years. After an exhibition had been given of the operation of the baling press, Lady Edeline Strickland held an "at home" at the factory, and thus a very enjoyable and, also, memorable afternoon concluded. The weather had been showery and warm for the time of year. The canes looked very fresh and green, but still crops would be late, owing to the severe drought during the early part of the year. A few estates were grinding stand-over canes, but no sugar of any consequence would probably be ready before March.

**Barbados.**—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, December 17th. The weather during the fortnight had been very peculiar. Up to the 13th inst. it was extremely sultry, and nice showers fell over St. James, St. Michael, St. George, and Christ Church, and lighter ones over St. Peter, St. John, and St. Thomas. St. Lucy, St. Andrew, and part of St. Philip continued very dry, and the canes in these latter were beginning to show signs of suffering. Since the 13th, high winds prevailed and it became much cooler. The showers had degenerated into mere scuds, as they had been driven away by the wind. If more did not fall the canes would soon be ripening up. Some good showers fell on the 17th, though the wind was very high. Planting had been going on vigorously, and most of the crop to be reaped in 1905 had been planted. On the 11th Sir Daniel Morris gave a very instructive lecture on his visit to the cotton districts of the United States. (A copy of this lecture has reached us, and can be seen at the Committee Rooms.—Ed.) The Legislature had granted another £120 for the completion of the cotton factory, and he hoped that before the next Mail left, the six gins would be at work. The caterpillars had not re-appeared, and the trees were putting out fresh shoots. A good supply of cotton was waiting to be ginned. They were glad that the Committee were taking up the matter of the telegraphic cables, the frequent breakages of which are very unsatisfactory. The Lancashire Fusiliers had left for St. Helena, and the Worcester Regiment had arrived to take their place.

**British Guiana.**—A. Summerson, Esq., December 16th. The "Moy," the third immigrant ship of the season, arrived on December 3rd, with 570 adults. The weather continued dry until December 12th, when rain began to fall and continued daily. The fall had been general, but in some districts somewhat lighter than in others. Large parcels of refining crystals had been sold during the fortnight and \$1.82½ might be taken as the price of the day.

**Dominica.**—E. A. Agar, Esq., December 17th. A meeting of local members was held on December 16th, and as a result a Dominica branch of the West India Committee was successfully inaugurated. The Hon. H. A. Alford Nicholls, M.D., C.M.G., was elected Chairman of the local branch, and Mr. E. A. Agar, Hon. Secretary. The Dominica branch will meet once every three months, and oftener if necessary. As soon as the number of resident members rendered it desirable an Executive Committee of the branch will be appointed. At the inaugural meeting the following resolutions were moved by Dr. H. A. A. Nicholls, seconded by Mr. C. H. Grell, and carried unanimously:—(1) That the Dominica branch of the West India Committee at its inaugural meeting records (1) Its regret at the severance of the official tie connecting the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., with the West Indies, as during the time he occupied the position of Secretary of State for the Colonies he did more for the material prosperity of the West Indies and British Guiana than any of his predecessors. (2) Its opinion that Mr. Chamberlain's policy, as outlined in his recent remarkable speeches in Great Britain, involving the reform of the antiquated Fiscal System of the Home



Country, and the establishment of preferential trade with the Colonies, is calculated to increase the prosperity of the component parts of the Empire, and to weld them together in a permanently closer union."

On December 17th Mr. Francis Watts addressed the Dominica Agricultural Society on the subject of the testing of the acidity of lime juice, demonstrating the actual methods in practice. He also spoke on the subject of the conservation of soils. The German training ship, "Gross Herzogin Elizabeth," spent a few days in Portsmouth Harbour, and the cadets visited St. Pierre and Martinique in the R.M.S. "Exc." The R.M.S. "Yare" had returned and resumed work. Prædial larceny of the cacao was very prevalent, and the need of more adequate protection for planters was very great. The past fortnight had been very wet.

**Grenada.**—Hon. D. S. De Freitas, December 17th. There was nothing of importance to report. Most of the sugar estates had begun to cut canes with satisfactory results, the weather during November and this month having been favourable to the development and ripening of the canes. Rum was also being generally made. The last two pickings of cocoa had been very heavy, especially on the high-lying estates, from which large crops were expected in consequence of the low rainfall during the past seven weeks. The January pickings also would be large throughout the Island, but prospects for February and March were regarded as unpromising. The presence of so few blossoms and small pods at this time caused a little anxiety in the minds of cocoa planters. Mr. L. R. Mitchell's cotton gin was being erected in St. George, in preparation for the next cotton crop. In certain parts of the Island the cotton fields were looking very well, whereas in other parts the trees seemed to be affected by excess of moisture, but it was too soon to form any adverse opinion.

**Jamaica.**—J. L. Ashenheim, Esq., December 15th. The weather during the fortnight had been very seasonable. (A local branch of the West India Committee is, we understand, in course of formation in Jamaica, thanks to the initiative of our Honorary Correspondent. This will, we hope, enable us to give more Jamaica news than hitherto in this column.—Ed.)

**Montserrat.**—C. Watson, Esq., December 15th. In parts of the Island the cotton plants were recovering from the ravages of the Caterpillar, but on one plantation where the leaf blinli mite (*Phylloptus* sp.) first made its appearance, the plants had been unable to recover as every field was infested by the mites which destroyed the young shoots as they put out. The life history of this mite was not known, and it would probably prove of serious damage to the Industry later on. A ginning plant consisting of four 40 inch single-action Macarthy gins and a 5 inch screw self-tramping baling press, all driven by a 12½ B.H.P. Hornby-Akroyd oil engine was being erected at Dagenham estate, on behalf of Messrs. Sendall and Wade of London, and all cotton grown in this Island could be ginned for a reasonable remuneration. The action of this firm in establishing the cultivation of cotton in St. Kitts and Montserrat on commercial lines in 1902, having previously experimented in 1901, had done much to create confidence and to promote the development of the industry in the Leeward Islands. The weather for the past week had been very blustering, with frequent showers of rain. It was thought that the dampness of the past two months had been unfavourable to the cotton plants.

**Nevis.**—Hon. C. Arthur Shand, December 16th. The weather had been all that a planter could desire, and prospects for next year were improving. At Clarke's and Pinney's estates they were putting up the weighing machine to deal with the peasant proprietors' canes during the next crushing season, and he hoped the new system of payment by weight might be conducive to the benefit of all parties.

**St. Kitts.**—The absence of news from St. Kitts is due to the change of our Honorary Correspondents, but with the appointment of Mr. C. Adamson Smith we may hope to resume giving particulars as to weather and crops as heretofore.

**St. Vincent.**—Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., December 18th. Nothing had transpired locally as to how the Authorities were going to apply the £25,000 balance of the Relief Fund, and the Governor had not paid them his expected visit. Sir Daniel Morris however had been there and met the principal proprietors and others at the Court House on the 17th when he quite captured his hearers with the description he gave of the Cotton Factory he was erecting which he said would be capable of dealing with the produce of 2000 acres. They had had most peculiar weather for the last fortnight and quite unusual for the season, heavy downpours of rain and very strong winds prevailed, much against arrowroot making.

**Trinidad.**—Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick & Edgar Tripp, Esq., December 18th. A Decree, dated December 7th 1903, respecting the Custom Houses of the Eastern parts of Venezuela had been issued by the President. The effect of the Decree remained to be seen. The important point, namely, the date of the re-opening of the Custom House of Bolivar, for no apparent reason was made dependent upon the completion of the works of the new Custom House of Cristobal Colon, which work might be indefinitely extended. Showers had fallen more frequently during the fortnight than had been the case for the last two months and they had been better distributed. Where the young Cocoa fruits had not been altogether dried off, they were maturing rapidly. In some districts the pickings had begun and were considered good. Canes were rapidly recovering from the effects of the partial drought. Local prices had fallen since last advices and were only \$13.00 to \$13.50 for "Ordinary" and \$13.60 to \$14.00 for "Estates." Looking at the growing importance of the fruit trade it was felt that special attention should be given in the next mail contract to the provision of

ample facilities in this connection. Already the trade had outgrown the available freight room. The Royal Mail Company appeared fully alive to the situation, and seemed anxious to meet it as soon as possible. Apart from the fresh impetus the three new steamers must give to the fruit business, they would also be of great service in affording regular and rapid transit for Cocoa and other produce.

*The Editor of the West India Committee Circular invites the assistance and co-operation of the West Indian Press and Members, with a view to make the Homeward Mail pages as fully informative as possible. Cuttings from papers and notes of general interest will be much appreciated.*

**Weather Telegrams.**

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), Dec. 28th, 1903. "Heavy rains generally throughout the Island." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), December 29th, 1903. "Wet weather continues." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), January 1st, 1904. "Some heavy rains have fallen since last message, now moderate."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.	
British Guiana—	Tons	lbs	Cwts.	Puns		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.	
Jan. 1 to Dec. 15, 1903	119,226	124,442	—	23,577	4991	3548	82,617	9513	
.. .. 15, 1902	114,441	102,243	—	26,107	13,410	1611	97,297	12,230	
Jamaica—		Cwts.		Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.	
April 1 to Nov 21, 1903	8149	16,558	20,462	879,959	13,615,910	52,319	7,379,141	61,382,800	
.. Nov 22, 1902	12,585	116,892	47,655	1,524,998	16,875,706	95,404	10,453,026	58,888,577	
Trinidad—	Bags & Hrs	lbs.	lbs	Puns.		Molasses.	Trcs	Brls.	Asphalt.
Jan 1 to Dec. 17, 1903	382,407	27,260,580	42,360	1173	13,675,292	3598	178	168	177,413
.. .. 17, 1902	450,437	30,904,810	39,900	1560	11,733,256	3408	142	236	150,642

**The Mails.**

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R M S. "La Plata," January 1st, 1904.—Barbados.**—Mr. F. H. Higgins, Mr. C. Nicolaisen, Mr. E. B. Potter, Capt. H. M. Farmer and ten rank and file 3rd Lancashire Fusiliers, Sergt. Brierly and eight rank and file R.A., Mr. A. W. Odell. **Demerara.**—Dr. A. Harrison, Mr. A. Wahed. **Jamaica.**—Mr. P. D. Burnett, Messrs. Spicer, Mr. G. Norton, Mr. G. Harding, Mr. and Miss Compton, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. A. Scott, Mrs. Milton Bode, Mr. W. E. Blyth, Dr. P. H. M. Star. **Trinidad.**—Mr. M. Solaiman, Dr. S. A. Ali, Mr. D. R. Requena, Mr. G. Walpole. **St. Vincent.**—Miss Smith.

**Outward Bookings per R M S. "Trent," January 6th, 1904.—Barbados.**—Mrs. Sargood, Mr. F. Maitland, Mr. C. Broadway, Mr. and the two Misses Jump, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Wilkinson, Mr. and Miss Ewing, Col. C. Swaine, Mr. W. W. Keating, Mr. and Mrs. Heap, Mr. H. Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Porter, Mrs. M. Sexton, Mr. and Mrs. Standring, Miss Hunt, Miss Ravenhill, Mr. W. Mitchell, Miss Mitchell, Mr. Kearns, Mr. T. W. O'Neal, two Misses Wotherspoon, Miss E. McFurran, Mrs. Whitfield, Miss Joyce, Mr. F. Worthington, Major and Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mr. L. Craven, Miss E. Finch, Mr. J. Blackwood, Mr. D. Atkinson, Mr. G. Downs, Mr. R. Craven, Mr. J. Wildgoose, Mr. H. Dixon, Mr. L. Collier, Mr. B. Bushell, Sur-Gen. Sidthorpe, Mr. E. Colthurst, Mr. W. S. Storie, Mr. J. Wotherspoon, Mr. G. O'Neal, Mr. T. Bickerstaffe. **Demerara.**—Mr. F. Gill, Mr. Cummings, Mrs. and Miss Murray. **Jamaica.**—Mr. and Master Church, Mrs. Bastock, Miss Church, Lieut. and Mr. D. Spencer-Smith, Col. and Miss Clegg, Mr. G. G. Hildyard, Mr. and Mrs. Colbourne, Mr. G. Dunsmerc, Mr. J. Atkins J.P., Dr. J. D. Donovan, Lieut. A. E. Fitzgerald, Mr. A. M. Lewis, Miss F. Sinclair, Mr. S. Aldridge, Mr. and Mrs. G. Littlewood, Major O. Marescaux, Mr. E. Fritz. **Trinidad.**—Mr. N. Lamont, Mr. and Mrs. Todd, Mrs. M. Clifford, Mr. G. Burford, The Hon. W. S. Robertson, Mr. R. H. Nott, Miss F. Hope, Mr. and Mrs. Sykes, Mr. W. Hogg. **Antigua.**—Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin, Miss E. Higgins, Mr. and Mrs. Cowley, Miss M. Farrington, Mr. M. H. Bugle, Mr. F. W. Hutson, Mr. G. F. Powell, Mr. O. van Williams. **Dominica.**—Mr. R. Ford, Mr. A. Falconer. **Grenada.**—Master D. Copland, Mr. W. Lessey, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. G. Paterson. **Montserrat.**—Rev. and Mrs. Shankland. **St. Kitts.**—Capt. G. M. Montgomerie. **St. Lucia.**—Mr. K. Kennaway.

**Advance Bookings per R M S. "La Plata," January 20th, 1904.—Barbados.**—Mr. H. Johnson, Major C. Thompson, Mr. J. Lithgow, Miss M. Lithgow, Miss A. Knox, Mr. C. Falkner, Mr. F. Falkner, Miss H. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Henning, Mr. E. Tanqueray, Mr. B. Mends, Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Moore, Mr. J. Patch, Mrs. Gordon, Miss Moon, Mr. G. Chapman, Hon. E. Parker. **Demerara.**—Mr. R. A. Robertson. **Jamaica.**—Mr. and Mrs. Child, Capt. H. Hingley. **Trinidad.**—Mr. P. Crean, Mr. Bree, Mr. Goss, Mr. Grinan, Mr. P. Flynn, Mr. A. Cunningham, Miss Weld, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Scott, Mr. and Miss Henschen. **Antigua.**—Mrs. M. W. Smith. **Dominica.**—Mr. M. P. Ismay, Mr. W. E. Beck. **St. Lucia.**—Second-Lieutenant J. W. Harc.

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R M S. "Port Royal," Dec. 23rd, 1903.—Jamaica.**—Mr. W. Conran, Lieut.-Col. Drummond, Mrs. Drummond, Lieut. Hamilton, Mr. D. Jones, Master H. Joslen, Mrs. Joslen, Mr. McDonnell, Mr. and Mrs. Mapstone, Capt. E. B. Scott, Mrs. Flavelle, Mr. Charles H. Gee, Mrs. Holloway, Mrs. Morris, Sergt. and Mrs. Pepperdin, Master M. Rodrigues.

**Sailings per R M S. "Port Royal," January 2nd, 1904.—Jamaica.**—Mr. C. W. Bennett, Lady Bridge, Major G. Close, Mr. H. W. Cole, Mr. R. B. Cox, Mr. and Mrs. A. Cross, Mr. R. St. J. Dickson, Miss Dugdale, Mr. F. Durant, Mr. W. S. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Evans, Mr. J. T. Garlick, Miss Hopley, Mr. and Mrs. W. Illingworth, Mr. E. Main, Mr. C. Morris, Miss Morris, three Messrs. Obregon, Hon. F. S. Sanguinetti, Dr. Theodore Thomson, Mrs. and Miss Townsend, Mr. W. Wilson, Mr. Noble.

**Advance Bookings per R M S. "Port Antonio," January 16th, 1904.—Jamaica.**—Mr. J. S. Brownhill, Rev. R. C. F. McGarrity, Mr. G. W. Kay, Miss Latham, Col. Mrs., and Miss Malcolm, Mr. J. B. Lucie-Smith, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Solomon, Miss Stanley, Miss Withers.



## The Produce Markets Summary.

**Sugar—88 per cent Beet**—The market remains steady, and excepting for any temporary slight improvements that may take place, should frost on the Continent interfere with navigation, there seems no probability of any immediate change in prices either one way or the other. Should frost cause a momentary fluctuation, when it is over we come back to the unpleasant fact that we still have too much sugar, the result of Cartels and Bounties. This can only be remedied by reduced sowings on the Continent and nothing less than a 10% reduction will effectually cure the errors of the past and produce a paying price for both Beet and Cane growing. Whether this course will be adopted or not remains to be seen, and it will be quite May next before we shall have definite information on this point, all calculations before being in the nature of unconfirmed rumours. In the meantime, the various periods dealt in, in the speculative rings, are quoted as follows:—Jan/Mar, 8s. 5½d.; Apl/June, 8s. 8¾d.; Aug., 8s. 11½d.; and Oct/Dec 9s. 1d.; f.o.b. Hamburg.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America (uneven dates) are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	Tons
Europe	3,200,000	3,060,000	2,950,000	2,430,000	2,200,000	
United States	60,000	140,000	130,000	60,000	210,000	
Cuba	100,000	50,000	30,000	—	10,000	
Cargoes afloat	50,000	50,000	10,000	20,000	30,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,410,000</b>	<b>3,300,000</b>	<b>3,120,000</b>	<b>2,510,000</b>	<b>2,450,000</b>	

Comparative prices of 88% for 5 years:—  
 1904 8s. 4½d.    1903 8s. 0½d.    1902 6s. 6d.    1901 9s. 0½d.    1900 9s. 1½d.

**Crystallised Sugar.**—Although the market has been closed during the fortnight for the usual Christmas recess until the 1st a fair business has been doing privately in yellows from 15s. 6d. to 15s. 9d., being steady prices, the latter figure remaining the value of average qualities with fine and choice sugar in smaller quantities at 16s. to 17s. Inferior grades are worth 15s. 3d., and the prices of imitations ranged from 14s. 9d. to 15s. 1½d. A cargo of 96 centrifugals to Cane Refiners might still possibly be placed at 9s. 3d. on floating terms.

**Molasses Sugar** in continued good demand from 11s. 6d. to 15s., and very scarce.

**Muscovado**—None here, and spot quotations uncertain. A cargo of 89 test should command 8s. 3d. on floating terms.

West India Figures to 26th Dec.	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	Tons.
Imports to date	24,000	60,000	45,000	43,000	
Deliveries	41,000	43,000	41,000	40,000	
Stocks	12,000	29,000	12,000	9,000	

From this it will be seen that consumption is steadily maintained, the reduction against last year being attributable in some measure to the fact that the Government have bought only retail lots in 1903, no doubt throwing over purchases that will appear in 1904, and further to the reduced stocks known to be in retailers' hands throughout the country.

**Rum.**—The Market is unchanged, and as our dealers have abstained from buying there is no business to report. Quotations of 9d. for fair Demerara and 1s. 9d. for Standard Home Trade Marks of Jamaica are purely nominal. Leewards range from about 8d. to 11d. proof.

London Figures to 26th Dec.:	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	Puns.
Imports Jamaica	8700	13,600	10,600	10,400	
Demerara	11,600	17,900	16,000	12,700	
Stocks Jamaica	9200	10,900	7900	8300	
Demerara	7600	7900	4500	4600	
Total of all kinds:— Stocks	26,869	29,078	Deficiency, 2209 Puns		

**Cocoa.**—This Market also has been closed for Christmas, and privately there has been scarcely anything done, buyers waiting for the re-opening, which takes place to-morrow, after this Summary has had to appear. In the meantime quotations of West Indian cocoa are virtually unchanged, viz.: Trinidad fair collected, 64s. Estate Marks, 64s. to 70s.; Grenada fair, 53s. fermented, 58s. to 61s.; fair Native Cocoa from other Islands being worth about 51s., with fermented, 54s. to 60s. Fermented African Cocoa costs about 56s., on full landed terms delivered at London, Bristol, or Liverpool. The growth of Cocoa is increasing everywhere, and consumption must further expand to avoid a glut, as in Sugar. From the Island of St. Thome alone the increase is remarkable.

ST. THOME CROPS, NINE YEARS.								
1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
5600	6300	7200	8300	11,000	11,000	13,000	15,000	16,000
								Tons.

**Coffee**—Fluctuating daily under the influence of speculative operations. The moment's quotation of Santos for this month's delivery is 36s. 6d. **Spices**—The markets have been all closed since the last mail, and prices remain as then. **Pimento** firmer, with a quotation of 4d. for fair. **Cotton** irregular, and prices are entirely under the control of the gamblers in America, and are most unreliable. American for January delivery is about 6½d., and fair West India about 6½d. also.

**Arrowroot**—There is scarcely any business to report. There are sellers of fair manufacturing at 1½, but buyers do not respond.

Stocks in London:—30th Nov	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
	13,164	13,050	6832	8321
	Barrels.			

**Lime Juice**—Steady with a small business doing from 10d. to 1s. 1d. Concentrated unchanged at £12 15s. Distilled Oil at 1s. to 1s. 4d. Hand Pressed slow at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The . . .

# West India Committee Circular

ENTERED AT STATIONERS HALL.

Vol. XIX.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19th, 1904.

No. 115.

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### Afternoon Meetings—Important Notice.

Arrangements have now been completed for holding a series of afternoon meetings at the West India Committee Rooms, when papers will be read and discussions take place regarding topics of interest affecting the West Indies. The first of these will be held at 3.45 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9th, when Dr. John S. Flett, M.A., D.Sc., F.G.S., will read a paper on "The Volcanic Eruptions in the West Indies," with lime-light illustrations, the chair upon this occasion being taken by Sir Walter J. Sendall, G.C.M.G. Members will recollect that Dr. Flett, accompanied by Dr. Tempest Anderson, went out to the West Indies on May 28th, 1902, on behalf of the Royal Society and at the instance of the Colonial Office, with a view to making scientific investigations on the spot regarding the disastrous eruptions of the Soufriere in St. Vincent and Mont Pelé in Martinique. They visited St. Vincent, Grenada, St. Lucia, and Martinique, returning in the first week in August. Their principal work was done in St. Vincent. Admission to this meeting will be *free*, by ticket, and as the number of tickets must be strictly limited, it is very desirable that those members wishing to attend should notify the Secretary immediately. *Applications will be dealt with in order of receipt, each member being entitled to apply for a ticket for himself and one lady's ticket.*

### The Cable Question.

A special meeting of the Executive Committee was held on the 13th inst, to consider the reply of Mr. Lyttelton (January 9th) to our letter of the 29th ult, which was published in our last issue, regarding the interruptions in cable communication. Mr. Lyttelton asked whether the West India Committee would wish to select a representative to give evidence on their behalf before the Departmental Committee now sitting at the Colonial Office to consider this question. It was felt that it would be most desirable to do so, and Sir Henry Davson was nominated accordingly, with Mr. Arthur Lubbock in the event of two representatives being permitted to attend.



It would now appear that the cable question is within measurable distance of solution, and it may be hoped that before long some arrangement may be made which may obviate the vexatious delays and interruptions which have of late been so constantly experienced.

Communication with Barbados was restored on the 15th inst., but the St. Kitts-St. Thomas cable which was repaired on January 6th is once more interrupted. It appears from mail advices to hand that when Barbados was cut off the arrangements for forwarding messages by vessels were by no means satisfactory. On the 30th ult. a protest to this effect was laid before the Governor by the Committee of Commerce. They complained that 36 hours after the interruption of the cable the telegraphic company's clerk in charge knew of no arrangement for a service between the Islands and had taken no steps to initiate one. On the other hand, we gladly give prominence to the following extract from a letter received by Mr. R. T. Brown, secretary of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, from a large firm of merchants in New York which he has forwarded to us for publication:—

"After a prolonged trip through the West Indies, it gives the writer particular pleasure to call attention to the efficiency and prompt service rendered to him by your office at Barbados during a stay there of over a fortnight, the writer received and dispatched very long messages of the most urgent importance, and in all cases the transmission was most prompt, and in no case was it necessary to have any code word repeated. The writer is glad to bear testimony to the courtesy and consideration extended to him by your Mr. Meade, which was in pleasant contrast to many telegraph offices."

Mr. E. A. de Pass writes to us recording a smart piece of work done by the Direct West India Cable Company. A message sent to him from Jamaica at 7.27 a.m. on 11th inst was delivered at his office at 12.59 same day making time of transit, allowing for difference in time, just *twenty-five minutes* from Kingston to destination.

### The Antigua Central Factory.

As briefly announced in our last issue, we have received from the Agricultural Society of Antigua a copy of a letter signed by the principal parties in the Antigua Central Factory scheme giving particulars of the arrangements made in connection with the larger Central Factory. They point out that it would have been impossible to get the work undertaken had it not been for the abolition of the foreign sugar bounties. Had it not been for that, estates would have been abandoned, for those hitherto financing them could do so no longer under the most unfair competition that had to be faced. Thus the maintaining of the land in cultivation, with all the employment of labour which that implies, instead of seeing it lie waste, is in the first instance entirely owing to the successful result of Mr. Chamberlain's action in connection with the Brussels Conference. The site selected is on the flat pasture on Gunthropes, on the north side of the road about three and a half miles from St. John's.

The factory will be capable of making 3000 tons grey crystals, 96 degrees, in the season. Arrangements have been made with planters for fifteen years for the supply of canes from an area calculated to give about 2550 tons sugar, except in years of drought, and in accordance with the Government conditions, the factory is to purchase from peasants annually, for the same period, up to 4500 tons canes, equal to 450 tons sugar. Thus full work for the factory is, as far as practicable, secured. The terms with the planters briefly are as follows:—

On delivery of the canes, payment to account of same shall be made at the market value of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of 96 degrees grey crystal sugar free on board Antigua for every 100 lbs. of canes—that is, on the assumption that the canes yield 10 per cent. of sugar, the planters receive the value of 45 per cent. of the sugar as a payment to account, 55 per cent. to be retained meanwhile by the Company for the payment of charges. Any balance left over, after paying these, is to be handed over to the planters until they receive a total of 10s. per ton of canes. If there is a surplus beyond that, one half of it is to go to the planters and one half to the investors in the factory. With Antigua canes it is expected that the yield will be more than 10 per cent. sugar, and the planters will benefit accordingly in the final

settlement for the year. With grey crystals at £9 per ton, the first payment to planters will be 8s. 1½d. per ton of canes, and it is confidently expected that, with the market at that level, there will be a very considerable further sum to be paid them at the end of the season. The investors receive 5 per cent. interest, and are secured by debentures on the factory, to be redeemed within fifteen years by a sinking fund. At the end of fifteen years one half of the shares in the factory will belong to the contracting planters, and one half to the investors. It will thus appear that both planters and investors should receive in the first instance a reasonable return on their outlay, and that if the price of sugar rises, both will equally share in the profit resulting. The payments to peasants are also based on 4½ lbs. of 96 degrees grey crystals for every 100 lbs. of canes, but in their case there is a guaranteed minimum of 7s. 6d. per ton of canes.

The contract, of which the above is a summary, was the work of the Honourable Francis Watts, who has devoted much time and labour to the Central Factory Question, and to whom, with Sir Gerald Strickland, a large share of the credit for the success which attended the negotiations is due, and it is felt that it will serve as a model upon which to base similar schemes for other Islands in the West Indies.

### **The Sugar Bounties Agitation, 1864—1903.\***

A RETROSPECT: BY W.P.B.S.

#### **The Third and Final Stage, 1889—1903—continued.**

The Report of the West Indian Royal Commission need only be referred to in this retrospect of the agitation for the purpose of stating that the mischiefs and consequences of the bounties to our West Indian Sugar Industry were fully admitted by the Commissioners. Thus, once more, all the facts, inferences, and deductions which the agitation had placed before the public were found to be correct. The prolonged period of discussion seemed at last about to give way to political action. In December of 1897 the Anti-Bounty League was revived for the purpose of organising Parliamentary support for any effective measures the Government might be induced to bring forward in order to promote the abolition of the bounties on the Continent. An inaugural meeting to revive the League took place at the Cannon Street Hotel on the 22nd of December, 1897. Mr. Mayson M. Beeton became the official secretary of the League, and the members of the Council were very numerous and representative of all interests. No labour members were introduced. In short, the last word had been effectively spoken by the Trades' Unions when they unanimously in 1888 denounced all bounties and demanded their suppression by the prohibition of imports of bounty-aided sugar. The first work of the League was to place the whole matter before members of Parliament, and Mr. Mayson Beeton, who had accepted the office of Secretary to the League, was soon fully engaged in the onerous and continuous duties of his post. The agitation was now supported by many public writers. In February, 1898, the late Sir George Baden-Powell contributed an article in the *Fortnightly Review* under the title of "Hope for the West Indies."

But the following reference in the Speech from the Throne on the opening of Parliament on the 8th of February, 1898, brought the bounty question to the front as one of immediate urgency. "The Report of the Commission which I appointed in December, 1896, to inquire into the condition of certain of my West Indian Colonies has conclusively established the existence of severe depression in those Colonies caused by a heavy fall in the price of sugar, which is mainly attributable to the reduction in the cost of production and the great increase in its extent during recent years. But this fall has been artificially stimulated by the system of bounties to the producers and manufacturers of beet-root sugars maintained in many European States. There are signs of a growing opinion in those States that this system is injurious to the general interests of their population; and communications

\* Continued from "The West India Committee Circular," No. 114.



are now in progress between my Government and the Governments principally concerned with a view to a Conference on the subject which I trust may result in the abolition of the bounties. In the meantime, measures will be proposed to you for the relief of the immediate necessities of the West Indian Colonies, for encouraging other industries and for assisting those engaged in sugar cultivation to tide over the present crisis." (*Hansard*, vol. 53, page 2).

On the 10th of March, 1898, a deputation from the League was received by a large number of members of Parliament in a Committee Room of the House of Commons, and Mr. Charles B. Renshaw took the chair. The members of Parliament present included the Marquis of Lorne, Baron F. de Rothschild, Lord Curzon, Lord Avebury (then Sir John Lubbock), Mr. W. F. Lawrence, and many others. On behalf of the League, Lord Stanmore, Sir Nevile Lubbock, Mr. Tate, and many other leading members of the representative bodies associated with the various branches of our sugar industries, were in attendance. The whole subject was discussed, the Parliamentary members asking many questions of the representatives of the industry. This conference with the members of Parliament had most important results: it led to a deputation on the 28th of April to the Prime Minister of members of Parliament to present a memorial by some 180 members of Parliament in order to urge upon the Government the necessity of granting to the British representative at the then expected international conference on the sugar bounties such powers as would enable them to bring pressure to bear in support of those countries which were willing to abolish the bounty system. The deputation was introduced by the late Colonel Milward, and Mr. Brodie Hoare; Sir T. Sutherland, Sir E. Hill, Colonel Dennis, Sir Alfred Hickman, Sir M. Bhownaggee, and Mr. W. F. Lawrence addressed the Prime Minister in favour of some effective action being taken to make the approaching conference a final settlement of the question. Mr. Balfour, after alluding to the point insisted upon by Sir E. Hill, as to the uncertainty produced in the industry by bounties, said that the uncertainty, no less than the depressed price, was one of the most serious consequences.

On the 8th March, 1898, a most opportune exposition of the consequences of this bounties had been given in a valuable paper on "Our West Indian Colonies" read by Mr. George Carrington, B.A., F.H.A.S., F.C.S., before a crowded audience at the Colonial Institute. The chair was occupied by General Sir Henry Norman, and among those present were the late Lord Napier of Magdala, Lord Stamford, Sir William Robinson, Sir C. G. Walpole, the late Colonel Milward, M.P., Mr. E. R. P. Moon, M.P., and Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P.

Mr. Carrington, after alluding to the historic fact that the West Indies included in Barbados and other islands some of the earliest of our Colonial possessions, proceeded to give an interesting description of the agricultural and industrial capabilities of the West Indies. He considered that their sugar industry had been arbitrarily arrested in its progress by the political drawbacks created by the *laissez-faire* policy of the Imperial Government on the bounty question and its rejection of the offers of the United States for reciprocal trade arrangements in connection with the West Indies. To abolish bounties, develop minor industries, and economise the expenses of administration, were the measures necessary, in his opinion, to revive the West Indies.

At the Society of Arts on the 15th of March Sir Nevile Lubbock delivered an exhaustive exposition on the West Indian Sugar Industry dealing fully with the bounties.

The agitation by the League was in favour of another international conference. It was hoped that, if an international agreement for the abolition of bounties could be arrived at, the Government would be willing and able to carry the Act of Parliament necessary to give effect to the treaty. Thus the policy of expediency favoured an international agreement to abolish bounties as the best preliminary to an Act of Parliament: although it was obvious that whilst no treaty could be effective without an Act of Parliament, yet an Act of Parliament would have been effective, and perhaps better

without a treaty. The Brussels Conference assembled in 1898, but terminated abortively owing to the attitude of reserve, as to any effective penal security, imposed by the Government on the British delegates. But Mr. Chamberlain was not to be baffled in his efforts to save the West Indies and as soon as this was discerned the agitation by the League was renewed with vigour.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

### New Members of the West India Committee.

The West India Committee has begun the year well, 37 Members having been elected at the first election, which was held on the 7th inst. These are distributed as follows: TRINIDAD, 22; JAMAICA, 5; BARBADOS, 2; DOMINICA, 2; BRITISH GUIANA, 1; ST. KITTS, 1; TOBAGO, 1; HOME, 3. Last year's record of 219 new Members is a large one to beat, but we confidently hope that Members will assist us to surpass it by bringing forward the names of candidates for election. The following were elected on January 7th:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
J. W. BAILEY, ESQ.	John Laidlaw, Esq.	Edward Geo. Barr, Esq.
SIR NEALE PORTER, K.C.M.G.	Col. A. H. Nourse	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
EDWARD L. LYNCH, ESQ. (Jamaica)	Hon. Foister M. Alleyne	Edward B. Lynch, Esq.
HIS GRACE PATRICK V. FLOOD (Trinidad)	Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick	C. A. Campbell, Esq.
THE VEN. AUGUSTUS E. SMITH (Trinidad)	" "	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
HON. WALSH WRIGHTON, C.M.G. (Trinidad)	" "	C. A. Campbell, Esq.
HON. R. GERVASSE BUSHE, C.B. (Trinidad)	" "	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
HON. JAMES A. DE WOLFE, M.D. (Trinidad)	" "	Edward Geo. Barr, Esq.
HON. R. H. MCCARTHY (Trinidad)	" "	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
MONTGOMERY GORDON, ESQ. (Trinidad)	" "	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
Prof. PATRICK CARMODY, F.I.C. (Trinidad)	" "	R. Rutherford, Esq.
W. E. SMITH, ESQ. (Trinidad)	" "	C. A. Campbell, Esq.
C. S. ROGERS, ESQ. (Trinidad)	" "	Arthur McConnell, Esq.
Capt. J. B. SAUNDERS (Trinidad)	" "	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.
Capt. J. T. HAMLYN (Trinidad)	" "	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
C. H. DE LEMOS, ESQ. (Trinidad)	" "	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
Dr. E. INSKIP REID (Trinidad)	" "	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.
A. S. BOWEN, ESQ. (Trinidad)	" "	" "
R. B. SHORT, ESQ. (Trinidad)	" "	" "
KNOX WRIGHT (Trinidad)	" "	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
W. SCHOENER, ESQ. (Trinidad)	" "	G. MacG. Frame, Esq.
JOAQUIM RIBEIRO, ESQ. (Trinidad)	" "	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.
A. VASCONCELLOS, ESQ. (Trinidad)	" "	S. H. Curtis, Esq.
HIS HON. MR. JUSTICE R. M. ROUTLEDGE (Trinidad)	" "	R. Rutherford, Esq.
HIS HON. MR. JUSTICE R. A. SWAN (Trinidad)	" "	C. A. Campbell, Esq.
ALBERT HAMMOND, ESQ. (Barbados)	Walter S. Vaughan, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
C. ADAMSON SMITH, ESQ. (St. Kitts)	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	" "
CHARLES H. STUART, ESQ. (B. Guiana)	Arthur McConnell, Esq.	Edward Geo. Barr, Esq.
RUDOLPH EHRENSTEIN, ESQ. (Jamaica)	Cyril Gurney, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
MISS E. S. PRICE	R. A. Daniell, Esq.	Mrs. Senhouse.
MESSRS. SAVILL & EVANS (Tobago)	E. L. Marshall, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
ARCHIBALD R. HAMILTON, ESQ. (Jamaica)	Herbert Maddick, Esq.	" "
S. LOUIS WILLIAMSON, ESQ. (Jamaica)	Cyril Gurney, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
C. GORDON FARQUHARSON, ESQ. (Jamaica)	" "	" "
HARRY WALKER, ESQ. (Dominica)	Hon. H. A. A. Nicholls, C.M.G.	" "
FREDK. STERNS-FADELLE, ESQ. (Dominica)	" "	" "
JOHN T. HAYNES, ESQ. (Barbados)	T. W. O'Neal, Esq.	Elliot G. Louis, Esq.



At a meeting of the Executive Committee on the 7th inst., the formation of a branch of the West India Committee in Dominica, with the Hon. H. A. Alford Nicholls, M.D., C.M.G., as Chairman, and Mr. E. A. Agar as Hon. Secretary, was approved unanimously.

Mr. A. R. Usher, of the Belize Estates and Produce Company, has been appointed Honorary Correspondent to the West India Committee in British Honduras.

### The West Indian Club.

The half-yearly general meeting of the West Indian Club was held at the Howard Hotel, Norfolk Street, on January 11th, Mr. Robert Rutherford presiding. The adoption of the report and accounts for 1903, which was moved by Mr. E. T. Whitaker, seconded by Mr. A. Hutchinson, and carried *un. con.* shows the club to be in a prosperous condition. During the year 101 new members were elected and the accounts show a substantial credit balance. A vote of thanks to the energetic Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. Athel M. Goode, brought proceedings to a close. The Club held the first fortnightly dinner of the year, on Wednesday, January 6th, at the Club Rooms. Mr. Lionel de Mercado was in the chair. Among those present were Mr. H. Powell Rees, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. Orton Bradley, Mr. W. O. Benekendorff, Mr. F. Thompson, Mr. F. W. Scott, Mr. H. S. D. Perry, Mr. Robert Schult, Dr. Henderson, Mr. A. Hutchinson, and Mr. Harold Collis.

### The Tariff Reform Movement.

The following new members have been appointed to the Tariff Commission, which is now complete. Mr. S. B. Boulton, Mr. J. G. Colmer, C.M.G., Mr. William Cooper, Mr. J. W. Dennis, Sir Charles A. Elliott, Mr. George Flett, the Hon. Vicary Gibbs, M.P., Mr. William Goulding, Mr. J. M. Harris, Mr. I. Levenstein, Mr. Robert Littlejohn, Sir Westby Perceval, Mr. C. J. Phillips, and Mr. Francis Tonsley. The Commission was opened by Mr. Chamberlain on Friday, 5th inst., at the Whitehall Rooms. Future meetings will take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The two most important speeches of the fortnight have been those delivered by Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain at Ardwick and Birmingham respectively, on January 11th, of which we extract from the *Times* the following summary:—

MR. BALFOUR, on January 11th, delivered his annual address to his East Manchester constituents at Ardwick. He would not, he said, speak of the chances of peace or war in the Far East, but he added that Great Britain would to the full carry out all her treaty obligations in regard to any of her allies. Proceeding, he defended himself vigorously against the attacks which had been made upon him in respect of the changes in the Government last autumn, stigmatising as an amazing legend the statement that he had come down to a Cabinet meeting and presented two alternative pamphlets on the fiscal question. Nothing was nearer his heart than unity within their ranks. Some loss was inevitable in these difficult circumstances, and some loss there had been, but for that he took no blame. He did not believe that a crisis of the same magnitude could have been surmounted with less loss by any device which could have been employed. Finally, he deprecated rash and intolerant procedure amongst any section of the Unionist party, which could not but bring disaster.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN, speaking on the same night at the annual dinner of the Birmingham Jewellers' Association, referred to the South African war. In repairing the ravages of that war we had not been unsuccessful. Though there had been a check in the development of the country, he believed that it would only be temporary, since the difficulties were not beyond the powers of British statesmanship. In the South African war the existence of the Empire was at stake. It was a question whether the great sub-continent of South Africa should be governed under the British flag or controlled by a corrupt oligarchy hostile to British ideas. In coming to our assistance

Supplement to "THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR," No. 115, Jan. 1911, 1904.

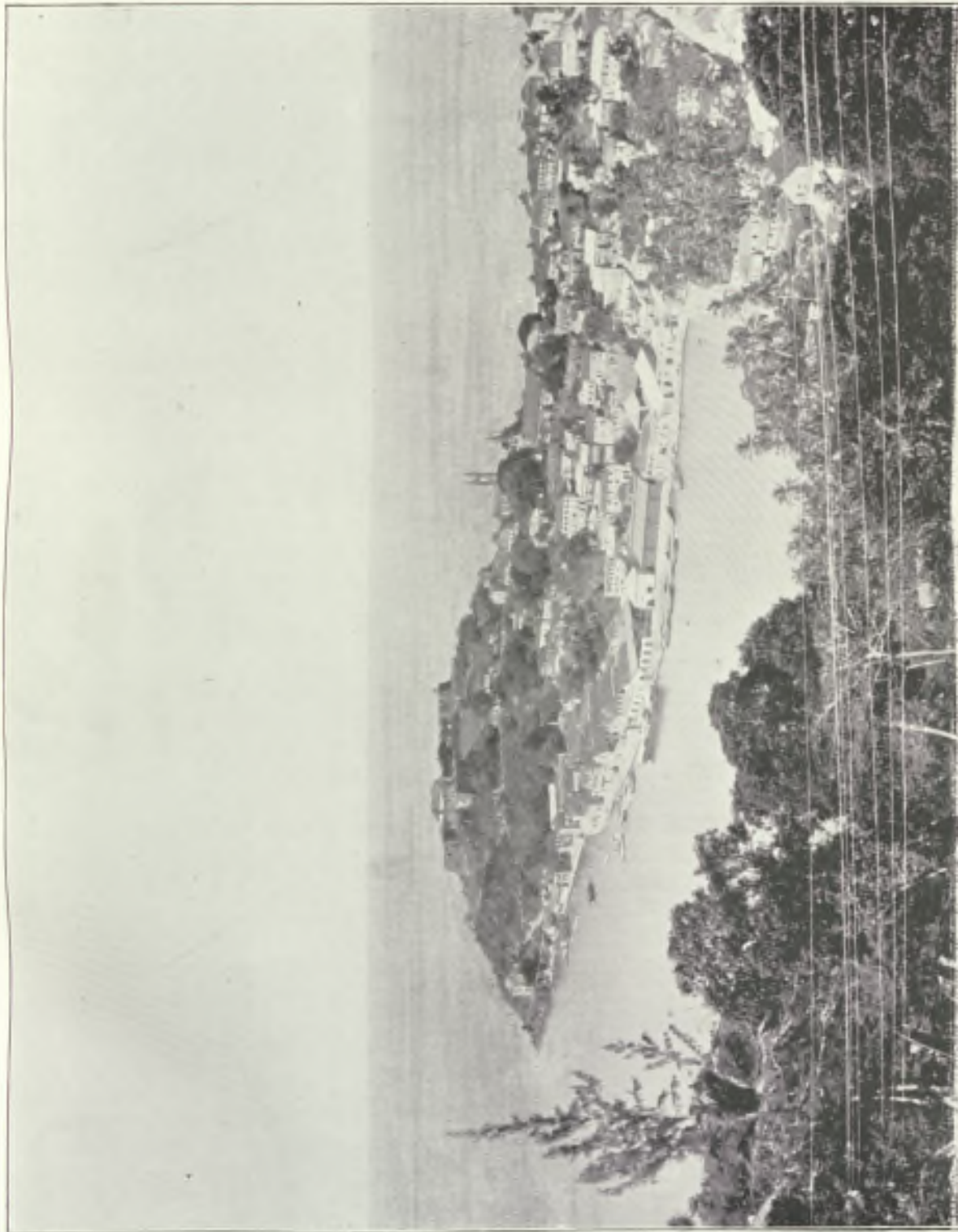


Photo by AUGUSTUS E. ARTHURSON.

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## ST. GEORGE'S, GRENADA.



in that war the Colonies understood that there was something more than mere provincialism and that they could all work for a great Empire. The time had gone by when we could consider the Colonies as negligible quantities, and we must take them more and more into our confidence. We had an Empire in which there were all the elements of strength, but they were in solution and had now to be crystallised. He had come to the conclusion that the policy he proposed, no doubt mainly because it would tend to unite the Empire, was also the one likely to conduce to general prosperity. The future of the race depended upon the way in which we met the invitation extended to us by the Colonies.

Mr. Chamberlain has sent to the Secretary the following acknowledgement of the resolution adopted at the inaugural meeting of the Dominica Branch of the West India Committee, the text of which appeared in our last issue (page 13) —

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by Mr. Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of January 5th, containing a copy of the Resolution passed by the Dominica Branch of the West India Committee, and to say that he highly appreciates the kind terms in which the Committee refer to his past connection with the West Indies, as well as their assurance of support in his present endeavour to secure a reform of the fiscal system of this country, and to promote a closer union between it and the Colonies. Yours obediently,

(Signed) J. WILSON.

The West India Committee are represented by Sir Nevile Lubbock and Sir Henry K. Davson, upon the General Committee of to-day's meeting at the Guildhall, a report of which will appear in our next issue, for purpose of record.

### Barbados and Porto Rico Molasses—*continued.*

#### Adulterated Molasses.

Is molasses from other countries ever sold as Barbados or Porto Rico molasses? So far as Sir D. Morris and Mr. Bovell could ascertain, molasses from other countries was often sold as Barbados or Porto Rico molasses. Mixtures containing molasses from other countries and glucose syrup made from Indian corn was repeatedly sold as *bona fide* molasses. For instance, if a buyer asked for 50 barrels of Barbados molasses, he was shown samples of these mixtures resembling the molasses shipped from Barbados. On his making a selection, the required number of barrels of the mixture would be put up and marked Barbados molasses. Should any Barbados molasses be on hand some of it might be used in the mixture; if not, molasses from some other country, glucose and some flavouring essence would constitute the 'Barbados new crop molasses,' the quantity of glucose in the mixture, depending on its price. If the corn crop is a good one, and consequently glucose is cheap, this would form the greater portion (in some instances as much as 75 per cent.) of the mixture.

The opinion was expressed that if cane syrup was canned and sent from Barbados in cans of different sizes, containing, say, from 1 quart to 5 gallons, owing to the duty which would be charged on the tin cans, and other circumstances, this syrup would hardly be able to compete with the coloured and flavoured glucose syrups now so largely used in the States.

As to whether it was likely that the price of molasses in 1904 would be as good as that this year, it was stated that the price this year was exceptional, but that probably a good price would be obtained for molasses next year, as the molasses crop of Louisiana would be short. The price would, however, in a great measure depend on the corn crop. If the corn crop was good, and glucose, from which it is principally made, was cheap, this would be substituted for the molasses, thus causing the price to fall. Barbados molasses should all be carefully graded to certain standards of quality and be prevented from becoming acid.

**Sir D. Morris' Recommendations.**

The following recommendations were made by Sir David Morris and Mr. J. R. Bovell: "From the answers given to our questions and from the general trend of the opinions expressed, we are of the opinion that the planters in Barbados during the coming season, should ship a number of barrels of syrup similar to that sent from Rugby last season. If the experiment proved a success, an increasing quantity could be yearly supplied, until practically the whole of the sugar crop is made into syrup, or until the quantity that could be profitably marketed is reached.

"The following will give some idea of what this would mean to the planters:—During the past crop, the average price of sugar was \$1.29½ per 100 lbs., and of molasses 16¾c. per gallon. One gallon of Barbados molasses contains about 52 per cent. of saccharose, and weighs about 11 lb. At \$1.29½ per 100 lb. for 89° test muscovado sugar this would be equal to 1.45 cents per lb. of saccharose, there are 5.72 lb. of saccharose, which at 16¾ cents. per gallon for the molasses, is worth 2.09 cents per lb. Therefore, for every pound of saccharose sold as sugar, the planters obtain 1.45 cents, and for every pound sold in the molasses 2.09 cents. To put it another way, a planter who sells 100 hogsheads of sugar weighing 2000 lb. net, at the average price of \$1.29½ per 100 lb. say £539, and 90 puncheons of molasses of 100 gallons each at 16¾ cent. per gallon, say, £314, would receive in all £853. In the 100 hogsheads of sugar there would be 178,000 lb. of saccharose, but a certain proportion of it would have to be converted into glucose so as to prevent the saccharose from crystallizing. The smallest proportion of glucose necessary to effect this has not yet, we believe, been ascertained. On looking up the subject, we find that the smallest proportion of glucose to saccharose given in any analyses of molasses is one by Prof. d'Albuquerque, in which the saccharose is 58.16 per cent., and the glucose 5.86 per cent., or in the proportion of ten to one. On this basis, the planter who sold the amount of saccharose contained in 100 hogsheads of sugar in the form of molasses would be paid for about 160,200 lb.; his total sugar crop therefore would be worth to him £697 instead of £539, or an increase of £158. This increase would be equal to £1 11s. 7d. per hogshead, or more, by nearly 7s. than the late German bounty. Of course, great care would have to be taken in properly preparing such syrup as is indicated above.

"When at Washington last month, we had an opportunity of discussing the question of preparing sugar-cane syrup with the chief of the Bureau of Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture, who is now engaged in this work in Georgia. Dr. Wiley informed us that of the many acids capable of producing the necessary inversion of the saccharose, he had found citric acid the best, for the reason that if more were used than was absolutely necessary, there was no need to add an alkali as had to be done when an acid like sulphuric was the agent employed.

**Clarification of the Juice.**

"In a pamphlet on the manufacture of table syrups from the sugar-cane, issued by the United States Department of Agriculture last year, Dr. Wiley, when writing on the determination of the best methods of clarifying and purifying the juice previous to evaporation, states: 'This is a problem which has been worked out pretty thoroughly, and there is little left to study except mechanical and technical details. The principals of neutralizing the free acids present in the cane juices for the purpose of facilitating clarification must, however, be applied in a somewhat different manner in syrup manufacture than in making sugar. It is desirable, in the case of syrups, to leave the juice decidedly acid. This is necessary for two reasons. In the first place, the acid juices make a light-coloured and more presentable looking syrup, and second, in the process of evaporation the free acids of the juices tend to invert certain quantities of the sucrose, and thus render the finished product less liable to crystallization. To just what extent the neutralization of the natural acids can be carried to secure satisfactory clarification and yet leave sufficient acidity for the purposes mentioned above is a problem which demands careful study. The final problem which demands consideration in these studies is



to secure a syrup of uniform character, both in colour and consistence, and to put it in packages in such a way as to prevent fermentation during warm weather. When these two conditions are secured the marketable value of the syrup will be vastly increased. The first consideration would be, probably, to mix large quantities of the finished product and thus secure uniformity, as it would be found difficult, if not impossible, to manufacture at different times small quantities of syrup of a perfectly uniform colour and consistence. Not only should the syrup thus manufactured be preserved as indicated, but it also should be so treated as to prevent the possible crystallization of the sucrose. This, as indicated above, can be secured by inducing a certain amount of inversion during evaporation. The addition of antiseptics to syrup of this kind is to be in all cases discouraged as ill advised and possibly injurious to the consumer. Freedom from fermentation should be secured by packing the finished product in such a way as to exclude germs, or if germs be admitted, during packing the final packing should be sterilized before being sent to the market. Just what the methods will be for securing these desirable results can only be determined by actual experience.'

"On estates where vacuum pans are in use, we are of opinion an excellent table syrup could be produced by decolorizing the cane juice with sulphur fumes, then adding lime nearly to neutrality, evaporating the juice in the tachines to thin syrup, adding, if necessary, some citric acid, settling the syrup to allow the impurities to subside and afterwards concentrating it in the vacuum pan. Syrup made in this way should be of a nice golden colour and worth as much as the best Porto Rico 'Fancy' molasses. A similar process would be applicable also in the case of Central Factories. In addition a properly equipped factory would recover at least 25 per cent. of the saccharose in the canes that is now lost.

"All syrups should preferably be put up in barrels holding about 50 to 55 gallons in the manner adopted by Dr. Wiley, who first of all steams out the barrels and puts lighted sulphur inside, tightly driving in the bung. The sulphur continues to burn until all the oxygen in the barrel is consumed; the remaining bits are then taken out and the barrels filled with syrup. He informed us that a barrel of syrup so treated had kept quite good for many months in spite of the fact that it had been opened several times for samples to be withdrawn."

### The Cuban Reciprocity Treaty.

The following is the text of the Reciprocal Commercial Convention between the United States and Cuba, which came into operation in Cuba on the 27th December :—

**Article I.**—During the term of this convention, all articles of merchandise being the product of the soil or industry of the United States which are now imported into the Republic of Cuba free of duty, and all articles of merchandise being the product of the soil or industry of the Republic of Cuba which are now imported into the United States free of duty, shall continue to be so admitted by the respective countries free of duty.

**Article II.**—During the term of this convention, all articles of merchandise not included in the foregoing Article I, and being the product of the soil or industry of the Republic of Cuba imported into the United States shall be admitted at a reduction of twenty per centum of the rates of duty thereon as provided by the Tariff Act of the United States approved 24th July, 1897, or as may be provided by any Tariff Law of the United States subsequently enacted.

**Article III.**—During the term of this convention, all articles of merchandise not included in the foregoing Article I, and not hereinafter enumerated, being the product of the soil or industry of the United States, imported into the Republic of Cuba shall be admitted at a reduction of twenty per centum of the rates of duty thereon as now provided or as may hereafter be provided in the Customs Tariff of said Republic of Cuba.

**Article IV.**—During the term of this convention, the following articles of merchandise as enumerated and described in the existing Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba, being the product of the soil or industry of the United States imported into Cuba shall be admitted at the following respective reductions of the rates of duty thereon as now provided or as may hereafter be provided in the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba :—

*Schedule A.*—To be admitted at a reduction of twenty-five (25) per centum.—

Machinery and apparatus of copper or its alloys or machines and apparatus in which copper or its alloys enter as the component of chief value; cast iron, wrought iron and steel, and manufactures thereof; articles of crystal and glass, except window glass; ships and water borne vessels of all kinds, of iron and steel; whiskies and brandies, fish, salted, pickled, smoked or marinated; fish or shell-fish, preserved in oil or otherwise in tins; articles of pottery or earthenware now classified under paragraphs 21 and 29 of the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba.

*Schedule B.*—To be admitted at a reduction of thirty (30) per centum:—

Butter; flour of wheat; corn; flour of corn or corn meal; chemical and pharmaceutical products and simple drugs; malt liquors in bottles; non-alcoholic beverages; cider; mineral waters; colours and dyes; window glass; complete or partly made up articles of hemp, flax, pita, jute, henequen, ramie, and other vegetable fibres now classified under the paragraphs of Group 2, Class V. of the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba; musical instruments; writing and printing paper, except for newspapers; cotton and manufactures thereof, except knitted goods (see Schedule C); all articles of cutlery; boots, shoes and slippers, now classified under paragraphs 197 and 198 of the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba; gold and silver plated ware; drawings, photographs, engravings, lithographs, chromo-lithographs, oleographs, &c., printed from stone, zinc, aluminium, or other material, used as labels, flaps, bands or wrappers for tobacco or other purposes, and all the other papers (except paper for cigarettes, and excepting maps and charts), pasteboards and manufactures thereof, now classified under paragraphs 157 to 164 inclusive of the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba; common or ordinary soaps, now classified under paragraph 105, letters "A" and "B," of the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba; vegetables, pickled or preserved in any manner; all wines, except those now classified under paragraph 279 (a) of the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba.

*Schedule C.*—To be admitted at a reduction of forty (40) per centum:—

Manufactures of cotton, knitted, and all manufactures of cotton not included in the preceding schedules; cheese; fruits, preserved; paper pulp; perfumery and essences; articles of pottery and earthenware now classified under paragraph 20 of the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba; porcelain; soaps, other than common, now classified under paragraph 105 of the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba; umbrellas and parasols; dextrine and glucose; watches; wool and manufactures thereof; silk and manufactures thereof; rice; cattle.

**Article V.**—It is understood and agreed that the laws and regulations adopted, or that may be adopted, by the United States and by the Republic of Cuba, to protect their revenues and prevent fraud in the declarations and proofs that the articles of merchandise to which this convention may apply are the product or manufacture of the United States and the Republic of Cuba, respectively, shall not impose any additional charge or fees therefor on the articles imported, excepting the consular fees established, or which may be established, by either of the two countries for issuing shipping documents, which fees shall not be higher than those charged on the shipments of similar merchandise from any other nation whatsoever.

**Article VI.**—It is agreed that the tobacco, in any form, of the United States or any of its insular possessions, shall not enjoy the benefit of any concession or rebate of duty when imported into the Republic of Cuba.

**Article VII.**—It is agreed that similar articles of both countries shall receive equal treatment on their importation into the ports of the United States and of the Republic of Cuba respectively.

**Article VIII.**—The rates of duty herein granted by the United States to the Republic of Cuba are and shall continue during the term of this convention preferential in respect to all like imports from other countries, and, in return for said preferential rates of duty granted to the Republic of Cuba by the United States, it is agreed that the concession herein granted on the part of the said Republic of Cuba to the products of the United States shall likewise be, and shall continue, during the term of this convention, preferential in respect to all like imports from other countries: Provided, That while this convention is in force, no sugar imported from the Republic of Cuba, and being the product of the soil or industry of the Republic of Cuba, shall be admitted into the United States at a reduction of duty greater than twenty per centum of the rates of duty thereon as provided by the Tariff Act of the United States approved 24th July, 1897, and no sugar, the product of any other foreign country, shall be admitted by treaty or convention into the United States, while this convention is in force, at a lower rate of duty than that provided by the Tariff Act of the United States approved 24th July, 1897.

**Article IX.**—In order to maintain the mutual advantages granted in the present convention by the United States to the Republic of Cuba and by the Republic of Cuba to the United States, it is understood and agreed that any tax or charge that may be imposed by the national or local authorities of either of the two countries upon the articles of merchandise embraced in the provisions of this convention, subsequent to importation and prior to their entering into consumption in the respective countries, shall be imposed and collected without discrimination upon like articles whenever imported.



**Article X.**—It is hereby understood and agreed that in case of changes in the tariff of either country which deprive the other of the advantage which is represented by the percentages herein agreed upon, on the actual rates of the tariffs now in force, the country so deprived of this protection reserves the right to terminate its obligations under this convention after six months' notice to the other of its intention to arrest the operations thereof.

And it is further understood and agreed that if, at any time during the term of this convention, after the expiration of the first year, the protection herein granted to the products and manufactures of the United States on the basis of the actual rates of Tariff of the Republic of Cuba now in force, should appear to the government of the said Republic to be excessive in view of a new Tariff Law that may be adopted by it after this convention becomes operative, then the said Republic of Cuba may reopen negotiations with a view to securing such modifications as may appear proper to both contracting parties.

**Article XI**—The present convention shall be ratified by the appropriate authorities of the respective countries, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Washington, District of Columbia, United States of America, as soon as may be before the thirty-first day of January, 1904, and the convention shall go into effect on the tenth day after the exchange of ratifications, and shall continue in force for the term of five (5) years from date of going into effect, and from year to year thereafter until the expiration of one year from the day when either of the contracting parties shall give notice to the other of its intention to terminate the same.

### The Cotton Industry.

One of our Members, Mr. A. O. Thurston, of St. Kitts, has contributed to the *West Indian Bulletin*, Vol. IV., pages 227 and 228, a concise paper regarding the cultivation of cotton in that presidency. We quote the following extract which appears in the current number of the *Agricultural News*:—

"Advices received by last mail report the sale of the first shipment of 12,000 lb of lint at 1s 1½d per lb. From the experience gained during the past year, I have come to the following conclusions: (1) That the cotton industry is a promising one if the present prices last; (2) that low-lying lands capable of bearing good crops of cane are also the best for cotton; (3) that such lands should be well tilled and kept free from weeds from the time of planting to the development of the cotton bolls; (4) that during the process of cultivation the soil should be drawn up around the plants to keep them from being injured by wind; (5) that 4-foot rows on good lands and 3-feet in hilly or exposed situations, with single plants left in 12 to 15 inches apart, are good distances; (6) that June, July and August are the best months for planting; (7) that it is necessary to have on hand spraying machines and a sufficient supply of Paris green or other insecticide, to deal with a sudden inroad of caterpillars; (8) that the red stain bug can also do considerable damage to the quality of the cotton, and efforts should be made to keep it in check; (9) that the cost of labour required to cultivate an acre, from the time of preparation to the reaping of the cotton, under conditions prevailing here in lands recently under cane cultivation, does not exceed 15s; and (10) that cotton is ginned much better if recently picked. In conclusion I may say that I purpose planting 350 acres in cotton this year."

The same issue contains an important article on Picking and Ginning Cotton, Utilisation of Cotton Seed, By-Products, etc., etc. According to the proceedings of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad there are about 52½ acres in that Colony under cotton, some 340 lb. of seed having been sown. Of the seed sown only about 46 per cent. germinated. From the replies as to the state of the cotton, it is gathered that on about half the estates the cotton was "growing well," while in the other cases it was reported as "fair." Reference to pages 33-34 will show that our Hon. Correspondents continue to keep us well informed regarding the progress of the cotton industry in their respective Colonies.

The following particulars relative to experiments in cotton cultivation made in Rhodesia have been furnished to the Board of Trade:—

"About 35 acres have already been grown near Salisbury. The results so far are said to be satisfactory. Samples from small patches of cotton grown from seed sent out eighteen months ago have all been well reported on, and the product of Egyptian seed appears to retain its characteristics. The climate in Rhodesia is considered to be quite suitable; it is not thought that the rainy season will be a drawback, and there is said to be very little danger of frost. Men's wages in Rhodesia are 1s. a day and no food, and women and children 6d., and little difficulty is

anticipated in getting sufficient labour for cotton-growing. The natives take far more readily to agricultural than to mining work, and a favourable feature is that women and children can be largely employed in picking the cotton, which is the operation that requires most labour. The Rhodesia Railways, Limited, will give every possible facility as regards carriage and freight; it is not thought, therefore, that the question of transport will present any difficulty. An expert who has been engaged by a syndicate which has just been formed to carry out further experiments is about to travel in Rhodesia with a view of ascertaining the most suitable districts for cotton-growing. Next season he will superintend the planting and growing of at least 400 acres. If this is successful it is intended to grow cotton on a much larger scale."

### Land Settlement in Carriacou.

The Hon. D. S. de Freitas, our hon. correspondent in Grenada, wrote to us in August and September last enthusiastically regarding the arrangements which were being made for the settlement of a peasant proprietary in Carriacou, and that his remarks on the subject, which were published in the *West India Committee Circular*, Vol. xviii., No. 5, were justified, is shown by the Report of Mr. Edward Drayton, the Administrator of Grenada (Colonial Reports—Miscellaneous, No. 244) which has just been presented to Parliament. Pressure on our space precludes us from dealing more than very briefly with this interesting report.

Two estates were first dealt with, Beausejour and Harvey Vale. Applications for the former poured in immediately, and it soon became apparent that the idea which had originally been entertained of making the lots five acres each, or thereabouts, would have to be abandoned, unless bitter disappointment and possible failure of the scheme were to be faced. A maximum value of £12 and a minimum of £4 per acre were approved, but only four lots were fixed at the maximum, the greater number being classed at from £8 to £12 per acre. Consequent upon the metayer system of cultivation, which has prevailed in Carriacou in the past, the lots cultivated have been nearer in size to one acre than anything else, and to have selected one tenant out of five and located him upon a large lot would have dispossessed two-thirds of the tenants eager to become landholders. A plan of sub-division was therefore matured, whereby, while aiming at not giving any allottee less than two acres, lots were cut up into two, and occasionally three, sub-lots among claimants. Success has attended this arrangement, which gives satisfaction, and it has been possible under it to locate the large majority of the original tenants on the estate, while yet securing that more than one-third of the lots are more than three acres in area. The detail, which promised to give much trouble at first, has been handled with much tact by the Land Officer.

The second estate acquired was Harvey Vale, and as soon as it was known that the Government intended to purchase it there was an inrush of tenants, the owners offering no opposition, and 120 were actually cultivating plots when Mr. Drayton arrived.

Cotton is the staple of Carriacou, and every facility will be afforded to peasant proprietors to gin and place on the market this commodity, but Mr. Drayton is far seeing, and Indian Corn, which thrives extraordinary well in Carriacou, will also be encouraged, and provision provided for storing the crop. The existence of the large crop of corn ought to be the means of developing another most important industry for Carriacou, the raising of poultry for the Grenada and Trinidad market. Owing to the absence of the mongoose, and the nature of the soil, poultry-rearing is most successful in Carriacou, and if a better breed of fowl were introduced and regular arrangements made for a continuous supply of cheap corn, a most lucrative industry would result.

It is proposed also to improve the breed of goats and sheep in the Island, and to introduce good rams for service at moderate rates. There are two other matters connected with the future development of Carriacou, which are also mentioned in Mr. Drayton's despatch as requiring attention, and these are, (1) the possibility of establishing an export trade for her excellent building stone, and



(2) the desirability of a jetty in Hillsborough Bay for shipping purposes. Carriacou abounds in a stone which seems to him superior to the Barbados stone for building purposes, in that it is of finer grain and more lasting. It is described by Professor Harrison, who visited and reported on the Island in 1895, as a "shallow water foraminiferal lime-stone," and it crops up along the hills in layers of varying degrees of thickness. In the sugar days, when Carriacou was prosperous, it was largely used for building, and has stood the test of time extremely well; nowadays it is chiefly used for gravestones. Both Grenada and Trinidad lack good building stone, and Mr. Drayton is making enquiries with a view to ascertaining whether the dressed stone can be put upon the market, in either place, at a price that will lead to its being taken up. About freight there will be no difficulty, as there are numerous small craft belonging to Carriacou only too ready to handle it.

Mr. Edward Drayton and the Government of the Windward Islands are to be congratulated upon the marked success which is attending their efforts to give effect to one of the most important recommendations of the Royal Commission of 1897.



**Digging and Loading Pitch at the Pitch Lake, Trinidad.**

The famous pitch lake, 140 acres in extent, is situated at La Brea, thirty miles by water from Port of Spain, Trinidad. The supply of pitch appears to be inexhaustible. One can walk on the surface which is intersected by pools and rivulets of clear water, but just below the surface it is soft. The pitch is dug and loaded into trollies, from which it is transferred by a system of "telpherage" on aerial buckets to "Brighton" pier where it is shipped.

### **Colonial Products at Liverpool.**

The first exhibition of Colonial products ever held in the provinces was opened by the Duke of Marlborough on the 5th inst. at St. George's Hall, Liverpool. The exhibits include examples from Canada, the West Indies, India, Newfoundland, Australia, West Africa, Rhodesia, and New Zealand. There are also some home goods on view, the object being to encourage an export trade in these particular classes with the Colonies. A special feature is made of Colonial grown cotton, of which numerous samples are shown.

The Trinidad Lake Asphalt Paving Company, Limited, of which one of the branches is situated at Bootle, Liverpool, has an interesting exhibit. They show samples of compressed Trinidad asphalt pavement (twenty three streets in Liverpool and Bootle are paved with this material); refined Trinidad bitumen, crude Trinidad asphalt, as dug from the lake, bituminous cork concrete, as applied to iron plates and foundations to minimise vibration, and to iron railway bridges to prevent noise. There are also samples of mastic asphalt, in various forms, as laid by the Company. A footway was laid in asphalt in front of the stall, which attracted particular notice from the Duke of Marlborough, Sir Alfred Jones, and many others.

SIR ALFRED JONES, to whose initiative the exhibition is due, said he believed that the exhibition would prove the beginning of a powerful agency for encouraging the exchanging of commodities between the Mother Country and the Colonies. No one could estimate the power of the British Empire if the various component parts worked on a system promoting mutual advantage. He read a telegram from Mr. Chamberlain expressing hearty good wishes and success to the exhibition.

The DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH, in opening the exhibition, said it must possess peculiar interest because they had the opportunity of seeing the products and manufactures, not of foreigners, but of their own flesh and blood. He was one of those who believed and hoped that in years to come Great Britain and all her colonial dependencies would be able to unite and become a self-sufficing, self-contained Empire. That exhibition was an object-lesson of what the Colonies could do. Whatever their views might be on the fiscal problem, regarding which they had heard the opinions not only of great statesman, but of others belonging to a different school of thought, they could congratulate themselves in Liverpool that they had taken the first practical step in the direction of placing before the people the commercial value of the products that came from our different Colonies and dependencies. He hoped the time was not far distant when similar exhibitions would be held in all parts of the country, and that in the Colonies, too, there would be exhibited specimens of manufactures of the Mother Country.

In the evening the Duke of Marlborough was entertained at dinner at the Adelphi Hotel by the Chamber of Commerce. In replying to the toast of "Our Colonies," he referred to the tariff question and to the development of the West African colonies. As to cotton growing, he urged that it should be cultivated in proximity to existing railways, as it was not likely Parliament would yet grant a sufficient sum for railway extension.

### Colonial Report—St. Lucia.

The report of Mr. Mark Kerr, the acting Colonial Secretary of St. Lucia, upon the Blue-book of that Colony for 1902-3, has just reached us. The Report covers the period ended March 31st, 1903, and, as we have so frequently commented upon the belated appearance of Colonial Reports, it is satisfactory to note that the report is published five months earlier than that for 1901-2. But there is another suggestion which we should like to make, and that is that greater uniformity of arrangement, especially as to the tables of revenue and expenditure, exports and imports, etc., should be aimed at. This would greatly facilitate the comparison of those reports for the respective Colonies, and we commend it to the careful consideration of the powers that be. The following is a comparative table of revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years.

		Revenue.		Expenditure.		
1898	...	£67,628	...	£60,975	...	£6653 Surplus.
1899	...	71,479	...	63,821	...	7658 "
1900	...	72,107	...	64,750	...	7357 "
1901	...	67,365	...	67,486	...	121 Deficit.
1902	...	72,193	...	69,408	...	2785 Surplus.



The Revenue for 1903 includes part proceeds of sales of Reclamation Lands, £1143 17s. 3d.; Imperial Department of Agriculture Grant-in-Aid, £1486; and Imperial Grant-in-Aid, Sugar Industry, £3000; and the Expenditure, Public Works, extraordinary, £5531 7s.; Imperial Grant-in-Aid, Sugar Industry, £3000; Agriculture, £1551 os. 3d. There was an actual decrease of revenue from local sources amounting to £3034 7s. 10d. The balance-sheet of the Colony on March 31st, 1903, shows a surplus of £22,262 8s. 6d. The following table gives the values of the principal exports of local produce, and the total exports for the past five years.

	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Sugar—Muscovado	£3197	£474	£1903	£3167	£2967
„ Usine ...	49,370	36,319	51,674	44,348	23,029
Cocoa ...	25,377	25,734	38,247	18,185	31,733
Rum ...	916	381	897	1337	1019
Total Exports ...	£166,508	£170,668	£229,436	£188,067	£157,753

The year 1902 could not by any means be called a prosperous one, and for some years to come the prosperity of the Colony must depend on (1) Coal and shipping trade; (2) Works undertaken by the War Department in connection with the transfer of the headquarters of the troops stationed in the West Indies from Barbados to St. Lucia; (3) Extension of cultivation of cocoa and introduction of cotton growing.

### Trinidad and Venezuela.

In the *West India Committee Circular*, No. 110, we gave a summary of a Memorial addressed by the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce to the Secretary of State for the Colonies urging the extreme importance of early measures being taken to obtain relief from the importation of the 30 per cent. Differential Surtax levied by Venezuela upon all goods imported from Trinidad into that country. At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on the 7th inst. it was decided to address a letter to the Secretary of State and the Colonies strongly supporting the Memorial, and urging that immediate action may be taken in accordance therewith.

In this connection the appearance of a contract in the Venezuelan Official Gazette of November 26th last respecting the establishment of a line of steam navigation between the ports of Puerto Cabello and Guanta, and those of the Republic of Cuba is significant. The line is to consist of five steamers, each with sufficient capacity to transport 800 or 1000 cattle under the best possible conditions. The contractor is restricted, on his part, from raising his transport charges for cattle beyond a certain specified amount; the Venezuelan Government, on the other hand, engage not to allow the establishment of another steam line for cattle transport from the above Venezuelan ports to Cuba. The contract is for a year, with renewal at option of the contracting parties. In forwarding the above, H.M. Minister points out that a large export trade is carried on between Puerto Cabello, Guanta—and other Venezuelan ports on this littoral—and Cuba, by tramp steamers, the majority of which are Norwegian. It will be of interest, he adds, to note whether this trade will now be suppressed.

### The West Indian Civil Service.

Mr. A. L. M. Mitchell, late of the York and Lancaster Regiment and formerly connected with the Constabulary of the Gold Coast and British Honduras, has been appointed Sub-Inspector of Police and Excise in Grenada, West Indies.

Mr. Oliver Nugent has been selected to succeed Mr. C. G. Evelyn as Escheator-General of Antigua, and is to act as a magistrate of the Colony—*Morning Post*.

The Hon. Sydney Olivier, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, who has been suffering from a severe attack of malarial fever, is returning to England on sick leave.

Mr. J. B. Lucie-Smith, of the Colonial Secretary's Office, Jamaica, has been granted an extension of leave, and will return to Jamaica by the Mail on January 30th.

Mr. Charles B. Hamilton, C.M.G., official member of the Court of Policy of British Guiana, who has been granted an extension of leave, returns to British Guiana on February 3rd.

### Obituary.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of the Hon. Edward G. Todd, Member of the Executive Council of the Leeward Islands, unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of St. Kitts—Nevis, and for many years our Honorary Correspondent for that Colony. A reference to the file of the *West India Committee Circular* will show that Mr. Todd was one of our most active and conscientious correspondents. He took an active share in securing the abolition of Bounties, convening many important meetings of the local branch of the West India Committee, which was formed through his initiative and with the assistance of the Hon. A. Munro, whose death we have also had to deplore quite recently. Mr. Todd had been in failing health for some time past and the end was not unexpected, but it came none the less as a shock to his wide circle of friends and acquaintances. Many will have recognised Mr. Todd in the foreground of our illustration in last issue of *Brimstone Hill*, St. Kitts.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on the 7th inst., the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

"That this Committee has heard with sincere regret of the death of the Hon. Edward G. Todd, for many years their Honorary Correspondent for the Island of St. Kitts, and being desirous of recording its sense of the services rendered by him to the West Indies, hereby instructs the Secretary to communicate with the family accordingly."

"That this Committee has learned with sincere regret of the death, on November 27th last, of Mr. J. E. Kerr, a former Member of the Executive Committee, and desires to convey to his relatives the expression of its deep sympathy."

### Notes of Interest.

**ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE.** At a Court of Directors of the Royal Exchange Assurance held on Friday, January 15th, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., was elected a Governor of the Corporation.

**JAMAICA SCENERY.** Those of our Members who were unable to see the exhibit of pictures of Jamaica at the West India Committee Rooms in November will have an opportunity of doing so shortly, as Mr. Joseph Kirkpatrick's exquisite paintings of Jamaica scenery will be on view at the Doré Gallery, 35, New Bond Street, from January 16th to February 6th.

**THE W. I. MAIL SPECIAL TRAIN** The hour of departure from Waterloo Station of the special train running in connection with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's West Indian Mail Steamers on alternate Wednesdays has been altered from 11.35 a.m. to 1.35 p.m. This will enable passengers from distant places to proceed through to Southampton on the day of sailing.

**CODRINGTON COLLEGE.** We are glad to learn from Canon T. Herbert Bindley, the principal, that this old-established University is doing well. It has now fourteen students, and, what is very important, seven of them come from Colonies other than Barbados. Demerara, Tobago, Trinidad, Grenada, and St. Vincent each has one, Antigua two, and Barbados seven, so that the influence of the College is now as widely spread as in its palmiest days.

**A BUDDING BARRISTER.** Mr. H. A. A. Nicholls of Lincoln's Inn, is to be heartily congratulated upon taking a second class in the final examination for call to the Bar (January 12th). Mr. Nicholls thus shows himself to be a worthy son of his father, the Hon. H. A. A. Nicholls, M.D., C.M.G., the chairman of the Dominica branch of the West India Committee. We understand that Mr. Nicholls after his "call" will shortly return to Dominica.



## West Indian Securities.

Bank of England rate 4 % (changed from 3 % on September 3rd). 2½ % Consols, 87½.

## Colonial Government Inscribed Securities.

	Red	1919-44	102-104
Antigua, 4 per cent. ...	...	1919-44	102-104
Barbados, 3½ per cent. ...	...	1925-42	98-100
British Guiana, 4 per cent. ...	...	1935	106-108
Grenada, 4 per cent. ...	...	1917-42	100-102
Jamaica, 4 per cent. ...	...	1934	104-106xd
St. Lucia, 4 per cent. ...	...	1919-44	100-102xd
Trinidad, 4 per cent. ...	...	1917-42	101-103

## Miscellaneous Securities.

Stock or Shares.	Paid.	Div.	Price.
20 Colonial Bank ...	6	6%	4½-5
100 Royal Mail Steam Pckt Co	60	Nil.	25-27

## Miscellaneous Securities—continued.

	Paid.	Div.	Price
Stock Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Debenture	100	4½%	85-89
10 West India and Panama Telegraph Company ...	10	Nil.	3-½
100 Direct West India Cable Co Debentures ...	100	4½%	98-101
5 New Colonial Co. Pref ...	5	5%	2½-3½xd
100 New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company Debs ...	100	6%	90-95
Stock Demerara Railway Co. ...	100	Nil	15-20

THE ESSEQUIBO SYNDICATE, LTD. (share capital £10,000 in 10,000 shares of £1 each, of which 5000 are to be in consideration of the granting of options for the purchase of certain claims) invites subscriptions for 5000 shares for the purpose of providing working capital of the Syndicate, payable 1s per share on application, and 19s per share on allotment. This Syndicate is formed for the purpose of acquiring certain options on diamond properties situated in the Colony of British Guiana, which have been acquired by Mr. Francis Capello, the vendor. The lists opened on Tuesday, January 12th, and close on or before January 19th.

## The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Tagus" anchored off Plymouth at 6.15 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13th. The mails were delivered in London by the first post on the following day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Antonio" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Thursday, January 7th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received by the R.M.S. "Tagus."

**Antigua.**—Hon. A. St. G. Spooner, December 29th.

Cotton was ripening, but the weather had been too wet and unsettled to allow of much picking being done. The recent rainy weather had been all in favour of the onion crop and assisted the operations of transplanting the later plants considerably. Most of the standover sugar canes had been reaped and nothing much would be done in the direction of sugar making for the next two months. On the 20th Dec. another deluge of 3-4 inches fell in a few hours, which, coming after the heavy fall reported at the end of last month, was not entirely welcome in all parts of the Island. The weather for the fortnight, apart from this big fall, had been showery and unsettled and with pretty strong wind at times, which had "laid" a good deal of the heaviest plant canes. The prospects for next crop had certainly improved a good deal lately, and the ratoons that were generally very backward until recently were doing their best to make up for lost time.

**Barbados.**—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Dec. 30th.

There had been no meetings of the Agricultural and Commercial bodies during the fortnight, but he was authorised to say that they viewed with extreme satisfaction the nomination of the Chairman, the Secretary, and other members of the West India Committee to be on the Committee of the Tariff Reform League. They considered that it was only on some such basis as that proposed by Mr. Chamberlain that prosperity could be restored to the West Indies. The cable had been broken beyond St. Vincent for several days, and great annoyance and inconvenience had been caused by it at that time of the year, though it would have been worse in crop time. December had been an entirely



The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne,

MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND HON. CORRESPONDENT OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, BARBADOS.

favourable month. Hardly had the last Mail gone, when a fine rain fell all over the Island, of from three to five inches. After that, showers fell almost daily, and the ground was thoroughly soaked. The total for the month varied from eight to thirteen inches, but all had had enough. The temperature had been cool, and the wind latterly very high. The young crop was beginning to show, and the spring seemed to be good. The late rains would probably delay the reaping season, but add juice to the canes. The annual exhibition of the Agricultural Society took place on December 22nd, and was well attended. The standard of exhibits was much the same as usual.

**British Guiana.**—A. Summerson, Esq., December 30th. The Governor, the Bishop, and Mr. McTurk returned from the interior on Christmas Day. The sugar market was very quiet, and \$1 81 was spoken of as the price of the day. Rainy weather had been experienced during the fortnight generally throughout the Colony; in Essequibo the fall was reported as being too heavy for the cultivation, whilst Berbice estates could take more rain. The tragic death on Christmas night by his own hand of Dr. Blanco, one of the Commissioners appointed to delimit the British Guiana-Venezuela Boundary, caused a sensation. He was invalided from the interior suffering from a severe attack of malarial fever.

**Dominica.**—E. A. Agar, Esq., December 31st. It was difficult to see how the West India Committee's recommendations with regard to the Mail contracts could be improved. Passengers by the Royal Mail were commenting most favourably on the improvements recently effected under the new management. The weather had been favourable to cultivation.

**Jamaica.**—J. L. Asbenheim, Esq., December 28th. The fall in the value of oranges in the United States was unfortunate, the estimate showed still 100,000 barrels that could be picked and shipped, but the present value would leave a loss on the operation. He was sorry to report that Mr. Olivier had been very ill from malarial fever, he was much better when the Mail left. During the past fortnight they had been having poor weather for the growing crops. He anticipated that the banana crop, commencing about April, would be a large one with very poor fruit. As might be imagined, the holidays had interfered with all work or movements, political or otherwise. The people here, *i.e.* in Kingston, have all enjoyed themselves, behaving in a most commendable manner, and no signs were shown of want of spending power.

**Nevis.**—Hon. C. A. Shand, December 29th. Cotton was undoubtedly the coming crop of Nevis, and some very handsome returns were expected by those planters who had pitted science versus nature. The planters were getting just the weather that suited them, and the sugar crop of 1904 would compare favourably with its predecessor.

**St. Kitts.**—C. Adamson Smith, Esq., December 29th. The deepest regret was felt at the death of Mr. Edward G. Todd, who always took a lively interest in public affairs. His death would be a great loss to the small community. The writer was glad to report good showers which had kept up a vigorous growth in the canes to what was an unusually late date, and in consequence reaping operations would be postponed for some time yet.

**St. Lucia.**—Hon. E. Du Boulay, December 31st. The weather had been very showery, and was beneficial to the growing crops.

**St. Vincent.**—Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., December 31st. The machine for driving the cotton gins had arrived, and the authorities were going ahead with the erection of the factory, but it was doubtful if it would be completed by March, by which time the picking of the cotton was to take place. The weather had been extremely boisterous during the fortnight, and they regretted to say the yield from the arrowroot had been very poor. This poor yield, coupled with the miserable prices existing for this staple product, made the outlook for next year anything but pleasant. Up to the time of writing they had not had a visit from the Governor, nor had they heard anything about the uses the £25,000 balance of the Relief Fund was to be put to.

**Trinidad.**—Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, January 1st. The holidays had pretty well filled up the last fortnight, and not much business had been done. The suggestions of the Committee regarding the Mail contracts would be submitted to the Agricultural Society and also to the Chamber of Commerce at their next meetings. The third immigrant ship of the season, the "Avon," arrived on the 26th inst., with 307 men, 154 women, and 31 children. They had an excellent passage of 85 days—three births and only one death. The weather for the fortnight had been very favourable to cultivation, rain falling in sufficient quantity nearly every day. Canes and cocoa had greatly benefitted, though the curing of the latter had been somewhat interfered with. Cocoa picking was now general, and some good lots were already coming in to the local market, and shipments for January were likely to be heavy. The Americans were still buying "Estates" cocoa (good quality) at prices varying from \$13 60 to \$13 90, while "Ordinary" was being purchased for the French market at from \$12.75 to \$13 10. So far very little cocoa had been shipped to the London market.

*The Editor of the West India Committee Circular invites the assistance and co-operation of the West Indian Press and Members, with a view to make the Homeward Mail pages as fully informative as possible. Cuttings from papers and notes of general interest will be much appreciated.*



**Weather Telegrams.**

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), Jan. 5th, 1904. "Weather all that can be desired." January 18th. "Weather all that can be desired." **British Guiana** (New Colonial Co., Ltd.), January 5th, 1904. "Heavy rains in Demerara and Essequibo. Too dry in Berbice." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), Jan. 11th. "Weather favourable for cultivation generally, but too dry in Berbice." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), January 15th. "Rains rather too heavy." (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.), January 16th. "Weather is showery in Berbice."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
	Tons.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns		Puns	Ozs	Carats.
<b>British Guiana—</b>								
Jan 1 to Dec. 29, 1903	130.413	129,442	—	27,179	4991	4389	86,480	9540
.. .. 30, 1902	119,526	102,243	—	29,401	13,410	1111	102,185	12,230
<b>Jamaica—</b>		Cwts.		Galls.		<b>Pimento.</b>	<b>Bananas.</b>	<b>Oranges.</b>
April 1 to Dec. 12, 1903	8155	17,340	32,826	894,190	14,169,960	57,890	7,393,842	68,994,200
.. Dec. 13, 1902	12,761	13,929	53,549	1,532,151	18,531,806	103,638	11,858,806	80,982,797
<b>Trinidad—</b>	Bags & Brls	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		<b>Molasses.</b>	Trus	Brls.
Jan 1 to Dec. 31, 1903	382,407	27,664,840	42,440	1173	13,803,092	3608	174	168
.. .. 31, 1902	457,657	33,268,490	39,900	2216	11,764,556	3408	142	236
								<b>Asphalt.</b>
								Tons.
								182,138
								153,803

**The Mails.**

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R M S "Tagus," January 14th, 1904:—Barbados.**—Miss Cowper Smith, Mrs W Cole, Miss Ormonde, Lieut Col J G Lutyens, R E **Demerara.**—Mr W M Campbell, Mr Vogel, Mr J Litt **Jamaica.**—Mr Beaumont, Mr J A Turner, Dr R Boxall, Mr Cecil Samuelson, Mr Rupert Candy, Mr Dudley Yorke, Mr N Horrocks, Mr H A Solomon, Mr W Jackson, Mrs Bramley Moore, Mr W Pickersgill **Trinidad.**—Mr W M Bancroft, Miss Bragge, Mrs Dillingham, Miss A Liermann, Mr F C Shaw, Miss H Laird, Miss N McLelland, Miss B McLelland, Master J McLelland, **Antigua.**—Mr Goodhife, Mr and Mrs D J Martin.

**Outward Bookings per R M S "La Plata," January 20th, 1904:—Barbados.**—Mr H Johnson, Major C Thompson, Mr and Miss Lithgow, Miss A Knox, Mr C Falkner, Mr F Falkner, Miss H Thompson, Mr and Mrs W Henning, Mr E Tanqueray, Mr B Mends, Mr and Mrs P L Moore, Mr J Patch, Mrs Gordon, Miss Moon, Mr G Chapman, Hon E Parker, Mr L Lewis, Mr G Woolward, Mr E Woolward, Mr and Mrs Albright, Mr E Spencer-Fox, the two Misses Fyfe, Mr W F Fyfe, Mr R A F Melliar, Lieut F S Lirchfield, R N, Lieut A H Alington, R N, Lieut A H C C Home, R N, the two Misses Wotherspoon, Mr G Lutwyche, Mr F Grimwade, Mr A Butterworth, Mrs Gobel **Demerara.**—Mr R A Robertson **Jamaica.**—Mr and Mrs Child, Capt H Hingley, Mr W Brierley, Mrs J H Howard, Mr and Mrs J H Williamson, Mr R T Jolly, Capt W Rhodes, the two Misses McClelland, Captain F Irby, Rev W J Jack **Trinidad.**—Mr L Schoener, Mr P Crean, Mr Bree, Mr Goss, Mr Grinan, Mr P Flynn, Mr A Cunningham, Miss Weld, Mr and Mrs E J Scott, Mr and Miss Henschen. **Antigua.**—Mrs M W Smith, Mr H C Branch, **Dominica.**—Mr M P Ismay, Mrs W E Beck. **Grenada.**—Mr W Lessey **St. Kitts.**—Mr D MacCullum **St. Lucia.**—Second-Lieutenant J W Hare, Rev E Danvergue, Rev E Jafus **St. Vincent.**—Mr D Porter.

**Advance Bookings per R M S "Tagus," February 3rd, 1904:—Barbados.**—Mr F B Smith, Mr F S Smith, Dr and Mrs West, Mr and Mrs Cave, Mrs L Randall, Mr and Miss Mann, Mr F Clegg, Mr R Hargreaves, Mr T Kingsford, Mr J Rawdling, Miss O'Neal, Mrs B Hibberd, Mr R Brown, Mrs Dutton, Miss Kerr, Miss Hibbert, Mr Bell, Mr Bell, jun, Hon and Miss Hamilton, Canon, Mrs, and Miss Sloman, Mr M Bugle **Jamaica.**—Hon Evelyn Ellis, Mr M Fox, Mr H S Hammond, Mr J Buchanan, Mrs Murray, Mr H Crum Ewing, Colonel and the two Misses Irwin, Mr T Shields, Mr C Clynn, Mr H Teitz, Mr W Mitchell-Thompson, Mrs A H McShine, Miss B Loam and the two Misses Twycross, Mr T Waller, Mr G Harding, Mr J H Pinckvass, Mr R Dyson, Mr G H Dunsmere, Miss C Ewing, Mr W Brierley, Rev Dr and Mrs C Atkinson, Mr and Mrs C Wright, Mr W R Lawrence, **Trinidad.**—Mr and Mrs Collingwood, Dr and Mrs C B Reid **Antigua.**—Mr Geo J G C Codrington, The Right Hon Lord Zouche, Mr E Lovell.

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R M S "Port Antonio," Jan 7th, 1904:—**Mr J. J Andrews, Dr and Mrs Reinhardt, Mr R Stewart, Q. M. Sergt. Rabson, Mrs Rabson

**Sailings per R M S. "Port Maria," Jan 16th, 1904:—Jamaica.**—Mr Lawrence Bradbury, Mr J S Brownhill, Mr J Charlesworth, Mr J D Denholm, Rev and Mrs W Farrar, Miss G Hardy, Lieut Colonel J Honeyball, Mr G W Kay, Miss Latham, Colonel, Mrs, and Miss Malcolm, Mr and Mrs M C Solomon, Miss Stanley, Miss L Thudiehum, Miss E Wilkie, Miss M Withers, Mr H Ing, Mr and Mrs Whitaker, Mr J Yates

**Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," January 30th, 1904:—Jamaica.**—Mr Charley, Mr A W Gardner, Miss F G Kenney, Mr and Mrs R Wosworthy, Mr J B Lucie-Smith, two Misses Stephens.

## The Produce Markets Summary.

**Sugar—88 per cent Beet.**—Weakness has again set in under the weight of over produced Kartel and Bounty-fed Sugar of the late seasons, and prices have declined fully 4d. per cwt. all along the line, closing as follows:—January 8s 1d.; April/June, 8s 4d.; August, 8s 6d.; and October/December, 8s 8½d. In white continental granulated a similar reduction has been established, January being quoted 10s. 1½d., April/June, 10s. 2½d.; August, 10s. 3½d.; and October/December, 10s. 6d. f.o.b. Hamburg. This is not surprising to those who follow closely the position of sugar aggravated by the passing of the Cuba reciprocity treaty in America, which has the tendency to lower the bonded value of sugar throughout the world. With the increasing production in Cuba and elsewhere, which will be largely stimulated by this legislation, it becomes more and more necessary to reduce the Continental crops to a large extent, otherwise a condition of things will be created, which will not be pleasant to those gentlemen, any more than it will be to cane producers who do not share in the benefits accorded to Cuba and other American Colonies in the United States Cane.

**The Visible Supplies** of Sugar in Europe and North America (uneven dates) are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	
Europe	3,440,000	3,270,000	3,380,000	2,690,000	2,540,000	Tons.
United States	90,000	120,000	120,000	90,000	180,000	"
Cuba	90,000	70,000	50,000	20,000	10,000	"
Cargoes afloat	60,000	70,000	10,000	10,000	30,000	"
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,680,000</b>	<b>3,530,000</b>	<b>3,560,000</b>	<b>2,810,000</b>	<b>2,760,000</b>	

Comparative prices of 88 % for 5 years:—

Year	Price
1904	8s. 1d.
1903	7s. 11½d.
1902	6s. 6½d.
1901	9s. 3d.
1900	9s. 6½d.

**Crystallised Sugar.**—A good business has been done since the 1st January, but prices have been insensibly easing off and average qualities may not now be quoted over 15s. 6d., with the following general range, inferior grades 15s. low to good yellow 15s. 3d. to 15s. 9d., fine and choice in small quantities 16s. to 16s. 6d. This is only natural with the fall in Foreign Refined. Imitations are selling pretty freely from 14s. 7½d. to 14s. 10½d. A cargo of 96 centrifugal is still nominally worth 9s. 3d. to Cane Refiners on floating terms.

**Molasses Sugar** in good demand from 11s. 6d. to 15s., and scarce.

**Muscovado**—No Grocery here, and quotations are uncertain. A cargo of 8g test might possibly command 8s. d. on floating conditions.

**West India Figures since 1st Jan.**

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901	
Imports to date	1400	400	900	1700	Tons
Deliveries	1300	1500	2000	2000	"
Stocks	12,000	28,000	11,000	8,000	"

**Rum.**—Shipments from Demerara to United Kingdom, entire years:—

	1899	1900	1901	1902.	1903.	
Board of Trade Returns for entire years:	18,000	26,000	25,000	29,000	27,000	Tons
Imports	5,426,000	8,210,000	6,719,000	6,719,000	6,719,000	Gallons.
Home Consumption	3,981,000	4,285,000	4,386,000	4,386,000	4,386,000	"
Stocks 31st Dec	9,417,000	9,461,000	7,211,000	7,211,000	7,211,000	"
London Figures to date:	1904	1903	1902	1901		
Imports Jamaica	215	75	24	179	Puns	
Demerara	1126	267	551	1743	"	
Stocks Jamaica	9100	10,700	7500	8100	"	
Demerara	8600	7700	4800	6000	"	
Total of all kinds:— Stocks	27,461	28,629	28,629	28,629	28,629	Deficiency, 1168 Puns.

A very dull tone continues to prevail and with the exception of a few small isolated lots of fine Demerara Marks which have been sold at 9½d. to 10d., no business has occurred, fair Rum offering at 9d. without attracting buyers. The nominal value of Standard Home Trade Marks Jamaica, remains at 1s. 9d., Leeward ranging from about 8d. to 11d.

**Cocoa.**—Board of Trade Returns for entire years:

	1903	1902	1901	
Imports	22,378	25,954	23,571	Tons
Home Consumption	18,387	20,377	18,908	"
Stocks 31st Dec	3435	4814	5721	"
IMPORTS OF FOREIGN PREPARED COCOA	4681	3905	3743	Tons.

These figures are not encouraging for the Home Trade and want altering. The small stocks of raw cocoa in the country are of no importance in these days of direct import by manufacturers on cost and freight terms, rendering an accumulation of cocoa in the bonded warehouses unnecessary. They are therefore misleading as are the stocks in London printed each issue of this "Summary" from the same cause.

Stocks in London—1904, 51,000; 1903, 69,000; 1902, 85,000; 1901, 95,000 Bags.

The noticeable feature this fortnight has been the advance of at least 5s. per cwt. in Trinidad, induced by the lateness of the crop and by some special buying, both of which elements are about to be relieved. Quotations are uncertain, viz. Trinidad fair collected about 68s., and Estate Cocoa, 69s. to 76s. Grenada is steady at 53s. for fair, and 57s. to 60s. for fermented; from other Islands, fair Native is worth about 51s., and fermented 54s. to 60s. Fermented African for the moment costs 58s. to import on full landed terms. The general tone of the market is steady.

**Coffee.**—Still fluctuating. Santos for this month's delivery is 36s. 6d. **nutmegs**—Steady, sales of West India, 83's at 1s. 3d., 110's at 9d., and 131's at 7½d. **Mace**, pale sold at 1s. 10d., red at 1s. 9d., and broken at 1s. 8d. **Singar** dull, Jamaica sold, fair bright 41s. 6d., small 38s. to 40s. 6d., lean and dark 37s. to 38s. **Pimento** dull, nominal value of fair 4d.

**Arrowroot.**—Figures for entire years:—

	1903.	1902.	1901	1900.	1899	
Imports	15,064	19,075	20,410	25,383	11,629	Brls
Deliveries	14,682	14,570	20,863	19,842	14,975	"
Stocks 31st Dec	12,633	12,224	7747	8100	2521	"

Rather more business has been done, chiefly at 1½ for fair manufacturing and 1¼. for good, but the market is uncertain and the demand is in nowise general.

**Lime Juice**—Exceedingly quiet and business difficult to effect at 10d. to 1s. 1d. Concentrated steady, value 112 15s. Distilled Oil, buyers at 1s. 3d., to 1s. 5d. Hand Pressed unchanged at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d.

**Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.**



# The . . . West India Committee Circular

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### The Cotton Industry.

Sir Daniel Morris, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, to whose efforts the resuscitation of the cotton industry in the West Indies is mainly due, informs us in a letter received by the Mail that the cotton prospects in the West Indies are steadily improving. It is satisfactory to learn that in his opinion, too much prominence has been given to the attacks of caterpillars. In most cases the plants are recovering, and are now beginning to bear a crop. Next year, with care and energy and a plentiful supply of paris green the Colonies should be fully prepared to cope with any attack which may appear. It should, in this connection, be borne in mind that the Islands are entirely free from any pests which affect cotton in the United States, and the conditions of soil and labour are distinctly in favour of the West Indies.

The British Cotton Growing Association originally formed in 1902 with a guarantee fund for the promotion of the growth of cotton in British Colonies has now developed into a business corporation with, it is stated, a capital of £500,000 at its disposal and with the object of planting cotton in British Colonies in order to supply Lancashire with raw material. On the 28th ult. a deputation of the Association waited upon the Duke of Marlborough at the Colonial Office, and as the result of the concessions promised in the form—it is understood—of grants of land, a large acreage in West Africa will at once be planted up. The deputation was entirely concerned with West Africa but it is to be hoped that the West Indies will not be lost sight of in this connection. There are in the West Indies as has already been pointed out, many thousands of acres suited to cotton, and the samples so far received from the West Indies of the Sea Island variety, for which the Islands are particularly well suited, have so far realised prices exceeding those from any other part of the British Dominions. As far as the Government is concerned there can be no reason to doubt that the same facilities will be afforded to cultivators in the West Indies as to those in any other parts of the British Empire.

The following figures regarding the cost of cultivation of cotton in Montserrat are extracted from a paper by His Honour F. H. Watkins in the *West Indian Bulletin*. Mr. Watkins states that he is indebted for most of the results given to Mr. C. Watson (the Honorary Correspondent of the West India Committee in Montserrat), and Mr. A. J. Jordan, the Agricultural Instructor.

Most of the land planted in cotton last season was previously in cane, but in one instance some new land was cleared of bush. The bush was first cut and burnt, the debris ranged in lines with a hoe and the cotton seed planted in between the lines. The cost of cultivation was as follows:—

Cutting and burning per acre	...	...	...	...	...	£1	0	0
Ranging	"	...	...	...	...	0	4	0
Planting	"	...	...	...	...	0	1	6
Three weedings @ 1s. 2d. per acre	...	...	...	...	...	0	3	6
Picking 1000 lb. @ 1s. per 100 lb.	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	0
						£1	19	0

In the case of land planted with cotton after cane, the work was much less. The cane stumps were dug out and the trash ranged in the furrows. The banks were then forked or grubbed over with a subsoil plough and the seeds planted. Three weedings were given during growth. The cost of cultivation was as follows:—

Digging out cane stumps per acre	...	...	...	...	...	£0	2	6
Ranging trash	"	...	...	...	...	0	2	0
Forking banks	"	...	...	...	...	0	4	3
Planting seed	"	...	...	...	...	0	1	0
Three weedings @ 1s. 2d.	"	...	...	...	...	0	3	6
Picking cotton @ 1s. per 100 lb.	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	0
						£1	3	3

When the plough was used instead of the fork, the cost of ploughing per acre was about 3s.

The first weeding is generally given as soon as the plants are well above the ground, and the second and third weedings at intervals of from two to three weeks, and by the time the last weeding has been given the plants are almost meeting across the rows.

### The Deterioration of Cut Sugar-Cane.

It is well known that when the outer wall of the sugar-cane is broken and air thereby admitted to the cell contents the sucrose or crystalline sugar contained in the latter gradually changes into non-crystalline invert sugar; this action seriously affects the value of the cane to the sugar manufacturer, and it is therefore desirable that canes should be treated at the factory as soon as possible after cutting. Experiments have from time to time been undertaken to determine the rapidity with which this deterioration proceeds, but the results have as a rule been untrustworthy, owing to lack of uniformity in the material used.

In a recent number of the *Agricultural Ledger* (1903, No. 6) the results of some experiments are given in which this difficulty was avoided; these show in a striking manner the amount of deterioration (that is, the decrease of the available sucrose) which occurred in the course of periods varying from one to five days.

Five varieties of cane were divided into four or five uniform samples, preliminary experiments having shown that no change was produced by cutting the canes in this manner, and the percentage of available sugar was determined in each at intervals of one day. For the first two days the loss was relatively small, but after 72 hours about one-fifth of the av. sugar disappeared. Taking an average of the experiments the following figures are shown:—

Days cut	...	...	...	...	0	1	2	3	4
{ Av. Sugar per 100	...	...	...	...	100	97.3	92.0	78.6	67.9
{ Av. Sugar original sample	...	...	...	...	0.0	8.0	8.0	21.4	32.1
Total loss Av. Sugar	...	...	...	...	0.0	2.7	5.3	13.4	10.7
Daily " "	...	...	...	...					



### Molascuit.

A first shipment of 240 bags of molascuit went forward to Canada in the C.M.S. "Oruro" on January 4th. It is noteworthy that exports of rum from British Guiana for the year 1903 show a decrease of about 2,000 puncheons. If the manufacture of molascuit continues, there will probably be a further marked decrease in the current year. Mr. George Hughes the inventor is leaving for Ireland with a view to developing the demand for the new cattle food there.

### The Cable Question.

Sir Henry K. Davson, Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock, and the Secretary, attended at the Colonial Office on Thursday, January 14th, and gave evidence on behalf of the West India Committee, before the Departmental Committee on Cable Communications. Proceedings were private, but it may be stated that the points contained in the various letters to the Colonial Office which have already appeared in the *West India Committee Circular* were emphasised, and letters from several firms of merchants complaining of the inadequacy of the existing cable system and the heavy rates, were handed in.

### London to the West Indies.

Messrs. Henry Langridge and Co., and Messrs. Scrutton, Sons and Co., announce that beginning with the sailing of April 6th, they have arranged to supplement the service of the "Direct" Line of Steamers from London to the West India Islands by the employment of a steamer to run at regular intervals between Barbados and the Islands from St. Vincent to St. Kitts. A steamer will leave London every alternate Thursday throughout the year arriving at Barbados on the following Monday night. These steamers will be met at Barbados on the Monday by the new intercolonial steamer which will receive by transshipment all the finer cargo for the above-mentioned Islands. The intercolonial steamer will complete her deliveries at St. Kitts not later than the Saturday of the same week. All deliveries of cargo from the intercolonial steamer will be made in daylight for the convenience of consignees and to ensure the safety of the goods. The first steamer to be employed in this intercolonial service will be the S.S. "Sibun." The London steamer will also proceed as at present to the Northern Islands to deliver rough cargo and to receive the larger shipments of homeward cargo.

### The Tariff Reform Movement.

Mr. Chamberlain brought to a close his first campaign in support of his fiscal proposals on January 19th by addressing an immense gathering of citizens of London in the Guildhall. The West India Committee were well represented, Sir Nevile Lubbock and Sir Henry Davson being on the general committee, while the West India Committee flag was prominently displayed under the band gallery. We extract from the *Times* of January 20th the following summary of Mr. Chamberlain's impressive speech. He expressed his regret that owing to circumstances for which he was not responsible, the meeting would have no opportunity of expressing an opinion on the policy he had to submit to it. He regretted this the more because he was told that the arguments which might be successful in other great centres would have no influence there. He did not accept that view. He had pointed out that fifty years ago we altered our fiscal policy with the definite purpose of securing free trade with all the nations of the world. But we had never had free exchange; we had had free imports instead, which was a very different thing. Under this system, competition with our trades and manufactures had increased, and was altering its character to our disadvantage. Meanwhile, the prosperity of other countries which had not adopted this fiscal religion was advancing more rapidly than ours. Then he had urged that the future of this country depended mainly on its continuance as the centre of the Empire, and that every nerve should be strained to maintain that position. Mr. Chamberlain proceeded to argue that, though the City might be the clearing-house of the world, its supremacy would

be gravely imperilled by any serious decline in the national industries. In illustration of this, he pointed to the history of Holland, Venice, and the Hanseatic cities. The question was whether the policy of free imports, which might have been beneficial for us in the original circumstances, was still good now that circumstances had changed. He denied that the Board of Trade returns for the last year had, as was alleged, destroyed the basis of his contention. They showed that there had been a decrease in our exports to foreign protected countries, and though that had been concealed by an increase in our exports to our Colonies, the increase of foreign exportations to those Colonies was still greater. He held that to maintain our Imperial position we must maintain our Imperial trade, and that unless we changed our policy our foreign trade would disappear. He analysed the trade returns of Germany to show that her export trade was increasing more rapidly than ours, and dwelt on the fact that, in spite of trade prosperity, there had been during last year a decline in employment in this country. He cited various statistics to show that there was more steady prosperity in Germany than in this country, and closed with an eloquent appeal on behalf of the cause of Imperial unity. Mr. Chamberlain afterwards addressed an overflow meeting in the Guildhall yard.

### The Sugar Bounties Agitation, 1864—1903.\*

A RETROSPECT: BY W.P.B.S.

#### The Third and Final Stage, 1869—1903—*continued.*

The Belgian Government were entrusted at the last sitting of the International Conference of 1898 by the representatives of the assembled Powers with the duty of continuing diplomatic negotiations on questions as to which divergent views prevailed, so that international proposals might be formulated offering bases for a final discussion when the Conference reassembled.

The Government of Belgium had for many years kept the sugar question to the front; in our Commercial Treaty with Belgium of 1859, a protocol reserving the consideration of the sugar bounties was annexed. But what could the Belgian, or any other Government do—however skilful their negotiations—in the presence of the policy of absolute *laissez-faire* prevailing with the very Power on whose attitude all the negotiations depended: "it was,—as Lord Salisbury once said,—trying to make bricks without straw."

But on the 2nd of August, 1898, Mr. Chamberlain in presenting to the House of Commons the case of the West Indies, and the alarming condition of its sugar industry owing to the continuance of the sugar bounties, stated that, "if we did not threaten countervailing duties it was not because we were influenced by any theoretical idea that such a course would be opposed to free trade. That, for one, I absolutely and entirely deny." Mr. Chamberlain indicated two objections: (1) Customs expense and hindrances on import; (2) a change in price equivalent to that produced by the abolition of the bounties. Were such objections as these, which Mr. Chamberlain must have mentioned in a spirit of irony rather than of seriousness, to block the way to the international abolition of the whole bounty system? Whilst international statesmen were now engaged in real earnest in devising a solution of the sugar question, the working members and the secretary of the Anti-Bounty League were ably co-operating in order to educate public opinion on the subject. "The Truth about the Foreign Sugar Bounties," by Mayson M. Beeton, B.A., Oxon, was published by Simpkin, Marshall and Co., and soon became a veritable text book on the subject; and until the close of the agitation this able and authoritative exposition of the whole question was of infinite service.

The columns of the *Times*, the *Spectator*, and other papers, contained repeated references and letters, and the pens of Sir Nevile Lubbock, and Mr. G. Martineau were kept constantly on the alert to reply to Lord Farrer, and other champions of *laissez-faire*; when Lord Farrer wrote, "the sugar

\* Continued from "The West India Committee Circular," No. 115





Photo by ALBERTUS E. AERTSMA.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TRINIDAD.

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bounties attract fallacies as sugar attracts flies," the reply quickly came that the fallacies were Lord Farrer's and not the sugar planters', or the refiners'.

It must be remembered that in the year 1898, the United States not only annexed the Hawaiian Islands, but was reaping the fruits of conquest in the war with Spain: Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippines—the great sugar producing colonies of Spain—had become subject to the Sovereignty of the United States. Such a change from foreign to almost domestic relations gave to their sugar industries a more favourable competing status on the United States market than that enjoyed by the British West Indies. At all events these prospects of inferiority in relation to favoured rivals on the American market tended to accentuate the crisis in the West Indies. But the year closed as it had begun with *laissez-faire* dominant and consequently all bounties flourishing and increasing; and the development of this form of State protection was indicated in the following year by the formation of combinations under what was called the "Kartell" system. Early in 1899 a most important contribution to the discussion of the whole question was made in a paper by Mr. George Martineau which was read before the Royal Statistical Society on the 18th of April. Sir Robert Giffen, Sir N. Lubbock, General Sir Henry Norman and others took part in the discussion, but the author of the paper was unable owing to indisposition, to be present in person to read his paper. The conclusions derived from the almost mathematical analysis by Mr. Martineau of the whole range of the statistics of the world's sugar production and trade, were, that the production of sugar had been artificially stimulated by bounties—that cane sugar could be produced more cheaply than beet sugar—that periodic artificial depressions in price due to a stimulated supply, whilst disastrous to producers, conferred on an average no benefit to consumers; that cane sugar could be produced and sold with a profit at a lower price than the average price of the preceding fourteen years of alternate depressions and reactions, and that under free and open competition the world would cease to be dependent on the vicissitudes of the European beetroot crop. This paper was the precursor of one by M. Yves Guyot which will demand careful attention.

All who are interested in realising to advantage the products of their skill and labour know how serious to their industry are great fluctuations in price, even when the so-called average price for a period is well maintained. Too often the producers of sugar have to realise in periods of depression. What avails it to them that there should be a good average price for the period? The whole question of what is meant by average price is yet to be settled. Hitherto average quotations disregard the quantities sold at each price. Much confusion has been bred by this unscientific method in the whole sugar bounty discussion. It is quite possible to have an average based on high maxima and low minima equate with an average of steady equable prices: the latter favours but the former impedes trade. Greater steadiness in price was one of the avowed objects of the abolition of the bounties, it was an attainable object because abolition would eliminate that arbitrary interference with production which had destroyed the adjustment of the supply to the natural demand, and as a consequence steadiness in prices.

The economic validity of positive action against bounties received early in the year direct confirmation in the enactment by the Council of India of countervailing duties on all bounty-aided sugars. In vain did the apostles of *laissez-faire* in this country challenge the soundness of the policy of the Indian Government. Germany, Austria, Russia felt the reality of this measure of defence by the Government of India of its native sugar against the European bounties. Questions as to the favoured nation article were raised. But India put on the countervailing duties, and as long as bounties remain India has determined that the duties shall continue. In short the Indian Government followed out the methods of the United States in the imposition of countervailing duties varying, as between different countries, to correspond to the variations of the bounties.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)



### A Novel Exhibition.

We have received from the *Daily Express*, particulars and the itinerary of the proposed "Imperial Floating Exhibition." Broadly, the idea is to charter a large steamer, fit her out with samples of goods manufactured by the best British industrial firms, and send her on a voyage round the principal ports of the Empire, China, Japan, and possibly, one or two other countries important as markets of British products.

Accompanying the steamer will be a representative of each firm exhibiting, and a competent staff of officials for organising and carrying out the details of the tour. A fixed amount of clear space will be set aside for each participant, in order that his goods may be properly displayed. At each Port of call the exhibition will be "opened" by a prominent official, and the members of the local Chambers of Commerce, the leading traders, and others will be entertained on board the Steamer. The advance agents of the Exhibition, assisted by the local press, will see that the advent of the Exhibition is made widely-known throughout the trading community of each country.

The objects the promoters have in establishing the Exhibition are:—

- (1) The promotion of inter-Imperial commerce.
- (2) The personal introduction of the seller to the buyer.
- (3) To provide a means by which British manufacturers can fully investigate the peculiar conditions and requirements of individual markets.
- (4) The advertisement of British industries by bringing to Foreign and Colonial Ports a representative Exhibition of British manufactured articles.

Included in the itinerary are Trinidad, Barbados, and Jamaica, to which other West Indian Colonies may possibly be added.

### Government House, Trinidad.

The subject of our illustration this fortnight is Government House, Trinidad. The Governor's residence at St. Ann's is a substantial building of limestone erected in 1875 on the Indian model, from designs by Mr. Ferguson, at a cost of £45,000. It stands at the foot of the hills overlooking the expansive Savannah, Queen's Park, and the gulf beyond, amid beautiful surroundings—the Botanical Gardens—to the praise of which Charles Kingsley devoted so many pages of "At Last."

### The World's Consumption of Sugar.

M. Georges Dureau has in the current issue of the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* an interesting article on the consumption of sugar. Consumption of sugar he points out does not depend only upon the retail price of that commodity but is affected also by climatic influences, general economic conditions, the degree of financial ease of the consumers, and the cost of the principal products with which sugar is used, namely, coffee, tea, and cacao and the abundance of the fruit crops. With regard to the latter, 1903 was very unpropitious. In France, England and the United States, fruit was generally scarce and this circumstance had undoubtedly an unfavourable effect upon consumption. By a most regrettable coincidence just when the sugar industry is in need of growing markets the demand from the principal consuming centres is slackening. Of the world's consumption of ten million tons the United States absorb no less than two and a half million tons. In the United States consumption of 1902, showed an increase of 194 thousand tons over the preceding year, in 1901, 153 thousand tons, in 1900, 141 thousand tons, or an average increase of 160 thousand tons for those three years. But in 1903 the position was reversed and consumption showed a falling off of 16,465 tons as compared with the preceding year. But it must not be overlooked that this falling off is only apparent.

The consumption in the United Kingdom, again, instead of showing an increase as formerly of 35 to 40 thousand tons a year fell off 240,000 tons in 1903 as compared with 1902. It may be that the duty imposed after the Transvaal war has had something to do with this, but without doubt the

falling off is largely due to a reduction in the invisible stocks, caused by the excess of supplies and the prospect of the reduction, or the abolition of the tax in April next.

In the principal European countries however, the consumption of sugar had made notable progress. In France, from September 1st to December 31st, 1903, the increase amounted to 122,892 tons or 63 per cent. In Germany the increase was 122,177 tons or 39 per cent. In Austria 37,316 tons or 25 per cent. In Belgium as far as can be ascertained 17,467 tons or 87 per cent, in Holland 22,137 or 43 per cent. while in the United Kingdom there was a falling off of 133,332 tons. (These are the figures of the Board of Trade but Herr Licht's differ considerably). Taken altogether these countries show an increase of 202,693 tons or 17 per cent. for the first four months after the Brussels Convention came into force. If the United Kingdom is excluded, the increase amounts to 336,025 tons or 45 per cent. This, M. Dureau says, is a thoroughly satisfactory result which would inspire confidence in the future of the continental markets. But while waiting for the situation to become clearer, manufacturers of beet and of cane would do well to moderate their production for the next campaign. A chart showing the consumption of sugar in the principal European countries which were parties to the Brussels Convention accompanies M. Dureau's interesting article.

### Colonial Reports—British Guiana.

The report of Mr. D. C. Cameron, Acting-Colonial Secretary for British Guiana, on the Blue Book of that Colony for 1902-3, has just been published. The following is a comparative statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the past five years.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.
1898-99	£525,865	£525,387	£478
1899-00	538,838	525,542	13,296
1900-01	509,950	505,492	4,458
1901-02	531,506	522,631	8,875
<b>1902-03</b>	<b>557,351</b>	<b>501,705</b>	<b>55,647</b>

We append a comparative table of the amounts and value of exports of local produce from British Guiana during 1901-2 and 1902-3.

Articles.	1901-1902.		1902-1903.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Sugar	Tons. 105,695	£1,038,163	120,126	1,042,023
Rum	Galls. (Proof) 4,122,546	160,846	4,278,638	135,670
Molasses	Galls. 124,320	4,303	331,383	10,496
Timber	Cubic feet 313,571	18,685	340,260	23,288
Shingles	No. 1,474,500	1,001	1,243,000	891
Ballata	Lbs. 387,576	23,653	540,800	40,636
Bullion (Raw Gold)	Ozs. 101,709	371,492	102,363	372,830
Hides	No. 5,539	1,820	6,856	2,137
Cattle	Head 1,413	5,122	1,152	5,221
Charcoal	Bags 67,186	7,186	77,882	8,429
Cocoa	Lbs. 121,533	3,308	93,917	2,319
Diamonds	Carats 7,507½	19,055	10,949	20,356
Fish Glue	Lbs. 10,229	829	9,306	640

The total export trade of the Colony for the year of report was less by £3875 than in the previous year. The shrinkage, however, is not to be found under the head of Colonial produce. The export of sugar last year was larger than it has been since 1887. In that year the export of sugar reached 134,874 tons, at an average value of £13 6s. 8d. per ton. The average value for last year works out at £8 13s. 5d. per ton.

The acreage of the plantations in cane cultivation has again increased: from 72,330 acres at the end of the previous year to 73,193 acres on the 31st March last. There are fifty estates in the Colony on which sugar is made, of the following acreage:—



Under 500 acres ... ..	...	...	...	...	1
Over 500 and under 1000 acres	...	...	...	...	11
" 1000 " " 2000 "	...	...	...	...	29
" 2000 " " 3000 "	...	...	...	...	7
" 3000 " " " "	...	...	...	...	2

The largest area under cane cultivation on any one estate is 4958 acres.

Although there is a vast area of land situated a few miles from the mouths of the rivers of the Colony, which is eminently suited for the growth of cacao, few attempts have been made of recent years to materially extend its cultivation. There are about 1350 acres under cultivation, yielding an export produce of 93,917 lbs. in the year under review. Considerable quantities of cacao are sold to the local chocolate factory. In 1902-1903 the export amounted to 121,552 lbs., the decrease in 1902-1903 being due to the prevalence of less favourable climatic conditions.

Coffee occupies 1450 acres; 4000 acres are under cocoanuts, and 12,500 acres under plantains and bananas.

The gold output for the last five years has been as follows:—

1898-9	1899-0	1900-1	1901-2	1902-3
113,114	112,789	114,102	101,332	104,525 ozs.

The search for diamonds has continued steadily, the output for the year being 163,680 stones weighing 10,466½ carats, as compared with 91,206 weighing 8227 carats in 1901-02. Machinery has been erected on the property of the Mazaruni Company, Limited, but up to the end of the year it had not been completed sufficiently to start work. Large concessions have been granted to two companies formed principally with English capital.

As regards the forest industries the ballata industry was particularly successful, the amount of the gum obtained for the year being 540,800 lbs. or 50,357 lbs. in excess of the highest return ever reached in any one year. The timber trade was fairly steady. There has been a slight decrease on last year's output, but the production for the year compared with the last five years was an average one. No work in connection with kaolin has been done during the year, but the clay is being carefully tested and analysed in America, and it is hoped will prove to be of mercantile value.

In his general observations Mr. D. C. Cameron remarks that the hopes of the Colony are now centred on the Brussels Convention.

"The sugar planter of British Guiana, on the whole, is fully equipped and prepared to take every advantage of any improvement in prices which may be vouchsafed to him. Considering what he has gone through, to say this is to reflect great credit on him. While any future material benefit to the people of the Colony is, perhaps, mainly to be found in an extended cultivation of the soil, the gold and diamond industries have been of very real service to the Colony in many ways in years of shrinkage. In the darkest days when the price of labour on the sugar estates had been much reduced on account of the dire stress to that industry, the gold fields afforded a means of occupation to a large section of the labouring classes who would otherwise have been without employment. Gold and diamonds, too, are important items on our export list. A valuable work is being done in the settlement of the East Indian immigrants—time-expired coolies—on the lands of the Colony. They have already built a monument to their worth in the establishment of the rice industry. Twenty years ago we imported 19,543 tons of rice, valued at £205,000; last year the import of this cereal had fallen to 6600 tons, valued at £64,518, with a larger rice-consuming population. This industrious East Indian is rapidly assuming a very important part in the agricultural development of the Colony.

Viewing the year as a whole, then, it may be said that we have not only held our own, but have made some slight advance. When sugar prices are better, and when a reduction in taxation can be made—there is a fair prospect for both in the not distant future—the Colony I feel sure will be able to render a worthy account of herself."

### Banana Trade.

On Saturday, Jan. 16th, the S.S. "Matina," the first of three steamers being built to the order of Elder and Fyffes Shipping, Limited, for their banana service between Manchester and Port Limon, was launched at the Wallsend Yard of Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson, Limited.

The "Matina" is the first steamer ever built in which the whole of the internal space, except what is needed for the engines and coal bunkers is insulated for the carriage of fruit. The principal dimensions of the vessel are, length 362 feet, breadth 46 feet and depth 32 feet. She is built to take the highest class registry, and to carry a deadweight cargo of about 5,000 tons, the arrangements for the expeditious handling of which will be very complete. The principal feature will be the refrigerating plant, the plant adopted being known as the cool air system, by which the air is kept systematically circulating throughout every part of the fruit space, passing on each round over pipes through which cold brine is constantly pumped. This process calls for a more scientific and elaborate arrangement of trunks and fans than would be imagined, the air possessing an extraordinary tendency to stagnate in odd places.

Mr. W. Denton, director of the building firm, presided at the after-luncheon, and proposed, "Success to the vessel and the owners." After referring to the manner in which the vessel was adapted for fruit storage, he said that in the event of the fruit trade becoming extinct, she would be a serviceable vessel for carrying dead meat. Fruit carrying from tropical parts, however, was becoming one of the greatest industries of the day. One enterprising firm in New York had about 300 ships on its list, all of which could carry fruit, but it was the exception for vessels to be built, as that vessel had been built, for the sole purpose of carrying tropical fruit over a somewhat extended passage. The majority of steamships that were employed in the fruit carrying trade were merely ordinary cargo steamers, or vessels treated with special ventilators, but with no insulation or refrigerating machinery. He thought that he might claim that the vessel was the most up-to-date fruit-carrying steamer that had yet been constructed. The growth of the fruit carrying trade during the last 20 years had been little short of marvellous. That vessel would carry no outward cargo. She would go out to Port Limon in ballast and bunkers. That would help them to realise what an important trade the fruit trade was when they saw that the steamers could be worked profitably carrying cargo one way only. He was told quite recently that between the Central American ports and the West Indies there were between 100 and 200 steamers constantly employed in fruit carrying.

### The West Indian Civil Service.

Mr. F. Bonham Smith, I.S.O., Provost Marshal and Inspector of Prisons at Barbados, and Mr. Stanley Smith, Senior Police Magistrate at Bridgetown, return to Barbados by the R.M.S. "Tagus," to-morrow.

Sir William J. Anderson, who recently retired from the office of Chief Justice of Trinidad, has taken up his residence in British Honduras, where he was Chief Justice for ten years prior to going to Trinidad.—*Morning Post*

The Hon. Sydney Olivier, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, who is recovering from a severe attack of malaria arrived in England on leave of absence by the R.M.S. "Atrato" on Thursday, 28th, ult. It is expected that he will return to the Colony early in March.

The Hon. F. C. Wells Durrant has returned to St. Lucia and resumed the post of acting Attorney-General in the place of Mr. William Degazon who was acting during Mr. Durrant's absence.

Mr. Seabrook, the American cotton expert engaged by Sir Daniel Morris, Commissioner of Agriculture, to superintend cotton growing operations in the West Indies, arrived here by the Grangense from New York on the 13th inst.

Sir David Palmer Ross, Surgeon General of British Guiana, who has been indisposed, has been granted leave of absence. During his absence Dr. Widdup will discharge his duties.

### Notes of Interest.

**TROPICAL DISEASES.** The Duke of Marlborough has kindly consented to take the chair at the second of our series of lectures, which will be delivered by Sir Patrick Manson, on Tropical Diseases, on Tuesday, March 8th.

**BINDING CASES FOR VOL. XVIII** Handsome lettered cases for binding the *West India Committee Circular*, Vol. XVIII, can be obtained from the Secretary, price 2/- each, post free. Members can have their copies bound for the inclusive charge of 3/6.



**NEW MEMBERS.** Since we last went to press there has been no meeting of the Executive Committee, and consequently no election. The next meeting will be held on the 4th inst., when forty-five candidates, and we hope more, will present themselves for election.

**MR. ROBERT HARVEY.** Mr. Robert Harvey, M.I.M.E., head of Messrs. McOnie, Harvey and Co., has informed us that he has opened an office at 27, Mark Lane, London, E.C., with a view to acting as a consulting sugar engineer, and expert adviser for the construction and equipment of cane sugar factories.

**OBITUARY.** The death was announced on the 27th inst. of the Right Rev. James Thomas Hayes, Bishop of Trinidad. He had been undergoing a considerable strain during his holiday in speaking and preaching on missionary work. His efforts seem to have resulted in a complete nervous breakdown as he stepped on board the steamer which was to convey him to his diocese. He was carried to an hotel in Liverpool, where he hardly recovered consciousness; and the end came in a few days.

**THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ROOMS.** For the convenience of Members, notice boards on which are shown the movements of the steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service have been put up in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ROOMS. The latest cabled reports of the weather and sales of produce in the West Indies are also notified. Writing materials are provided, and all the West Indian papers and official Gazettes filed. The Rooms are open for the reception of Members from 10.30 a.m. until 5 p.m. *Smoking is permitted.*

**A PRIZE FOR RUBBER.** The Governor has, says the *Demerara Chronicle*, offered a prize of fifty dollars to any person who can produce, either in a ball of not less than five inches diameter or in any other form, not less than 10 lbs. in weight, rubber of good commercial value and of a kind not hitherto gathered in British Guiana. Specimens, preferably pressed and dried, of the leaves and flowers, must accompany samples, and if possible specimens of the fruit of the tree from which the rubber has been gathered.

**THE SUGAR TAX.** The Glasgow sugar merchants, having asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer why the tax on sugar, which was a war tax, should not now be removed, have received the following reply from Mr. Austen Chamberlain through his secretary:—

"With reference to the argument that the sugar duty was imposed to provide 'war funds,' I am to point out that this is a misapprehension, for Sir Michael Hicks Beach, in opening his Budget on April 18th, 1901, when this tax was imposed, defended the duty on the express ground that additional revenue was required to provide for the growth in the ordinary expenditure of the country as opposed to extraordinary or war expenditure."

**SACCHARINE SMUGGLING.** In last week's *M.A.P.*, Sir Charles Follett, late Solicitor of H.M. Customs, in his autobiography gave some interesting disclosures regarding the smuggling of saccharine, and other substitutes for sugar. "Now saccharine, which is one of these substitutes, is said to be five hundred times as sweet as sugar, and the tax upon it has been adjusted accordingly, being £1 for every pound. This in itself is, of course, a tremendous inducement to smuggling, and the penalty is exceedingly severe; indeed, in one quite recent case it amounted to £4000. It was my duty, naturally, to superintend these cases, and to get up the side for the prosecution. The work was very difficult, owing to the fact that saccharine can be scientifically disguised, and it requires the utmost skill and vigilance to detect it. By a very simple scientific process the whole of its sweetening taste can be removed entirely, and by an equally simple process it can all be restored."

**THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.** At the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club held on Wednesday, January 27th, the Hon. Secretary proposed the health of Mr. P. F. Warner, a Member of the Club and captain of the English cricket team in Australia. By acclamation it was decided to send the following cablegram to Adelaide: "Fellow Members West Indian Club dining to-night drink to your winning rubber." Mr. G. H. H. Pile, the chairman of the evening, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. J. H. Wilkinson and Mr. T. B. Younger, who once again had kindly undertaken the task of auditing the yearly accounts of the Club. Mr. Pile referred to the fact that this year the work of the auditors must have been more pleasant, in view of the fact that all outstanding liabilities had been wiped off, and the membership so largely increased. The health of the Club's honorary auditors was drunk enthusiastically, and Mr. Wilkinson in a happy speech, made reply. Among those present were:—Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. A. Hutchinson, Mr. Preston, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. J. W. Clark, Mr. J. Nash, Mr. C. E. Davies, Mr. W. J. Baker, Mr. G. H. H. Pile, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. H. O. Smith.

**West Indian Securities.**

Bank of England rate 4 % (changed from 3 % on September 3rd). 2½ % Consols, 87¾. (30.1.04).

Colonial Government Inscribed Securities.				Miscellaneous Securities—continued.			
	Red.		Price.	Stock or Shares	Paid	Div.	Price.
Antigua, 4 per cent. ....	1919-44		102-104	Stock Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Debenture	100	4½ %	85-89
Barbados, 3½ per cent. ....	1925-42		98 100	10 West India and Panama Telegraph Company ...	10	Nil.	2-½
British Guiana, 4 per cent. ....	1935		106-108	100 Direct West India Cable Co. Debentures ...	100	4½ %	98-101
Grenada, 4 per cent. ....	1917-42		100-102	5 New Colonial Co. Pref ...	5	5 %	2½-3½
Jamaica, 4 per cent. ....	1934		105-107	100 New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company Debs ...	100	6 %	90-95
St. Lucia, 4 per cent. ....	1919-44		100-102	Stock Demerara Railway Co. ...	100	Nil	15 20
Trinidad, 4 per cent. ....	1917-42		101-103				
Miscellaneous Securities.							
20 Colonial Bank ... ..		Paid.	Price.				
100 Royal Mail Steam Pckt. Co.		6	4½ 5				
		60	27-30				

**The Homeward Mail.**

The letters of our Hon. Correspondents received by the R.M.S. "Atrato," extracts from which we give below, are of an exceptionally interesting character, dealing as they do, very fully with the prospects of the various Industries, and the development of Cotton Cultivation, which progresses very satisfactorily. It will be seen that the proposals of the West India Committee with regard to the mail contract have been most favourably received.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Atrato" anchored off Plymouth at 6.35 a.m. on Thursday, January 28th. The mails were delivered in London at 5.45 p.m. on the same day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Morant" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, January 20th.



**The Hon. C. A. Sband,**  
HON. CORRESPONDENT TO THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE  
FOR THE ISLAND OF NEVADA.

**Antigua.**—Hon. A. St. G. Spooner, January 12th. A very interesting and important meeting, convened by His Excellency, Sir Gerald Strickland, was held on the 6th inst., at which Sir Daniel Morris, who had recently returned from his cotton "pilgrimage" to the Southern States, was present. His Excellency stated that at last he had been successful in securing for the Leeward Islands the sum of £5000, which was to be available for loans to small cotton growers, and of which £1100 would be available for such cotton growers in Antigua. The money would be advanced to the extent of £2 an acre, and the minimum loan would be on ten acres of land being cultivated in cotton. Adequate security would be required for the repayment of these loans, first by a lien over the crop, and secondly by some collateral personal security. The rate of interest for such loans would be 2 per cent. for administrative expenses, and 5 per cent. per annum, that is to say, the Government would charge 2 per cent. on any sum borrowed for any time as the cost of lending such sum, and that the interest, 5 per cent. per annum, was the interest the Government were actually going to pay for the loan to itself in order to make these loans to the small cotton growers. All cotton grown by means of these loans was to be sent to Britain for sale, and to be shipped under the auspices of the Government. The Government was prepared to allow persons desirous of growing cotton, to take up land for the purpose free of rent for two years on Piccadilly Estate, with the option of purchase at the end of that time. Sir Daniel Morris gave a most interesting account of his recent visit to the States, and contrasted West Indian



and American cotton growing conditions; on the whole the conditions in the West Indies appeared quite as favourable, or even in places more favourable than those in America. The weather had been dry and windy, but not so cold at night as it usually was at that time of the year. The sugar crop would not probably begin before the end of February in earnest. The first effect of the Cuban Reciprocity Bill seemed to have been that the American refiners had pocketed their share of the concession in the duty, and lowered the price of sugar accordingly in New York. As Canada based her prices on those of New York, it would seem that the Canadian refiner would benefit by the concession as well as the American. In this case, however, the concession would come out of West Indians' pockets, and not out of the United States Treasury. With crystals at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  New York, the value of 96<sup>o</sup> crystals f.o.b. Antigua was only £7 8s. a ton; it would take a long time to reach prosperity at these prices. It would seem that unless Canada chose to base her offers on the price of beet and not on the price at which American refiners could buy Cuban sugar, she might not get much sugar sent her from the West Indies. It might perhaps be more profitable to ship West Indian sugar to Europe again. At the last meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society a resolution was passed drawing the attention of the Government to the concession on Cuban sugar entering the United States, and pointing out in what manner this would seriously injure Antigua's prospects.

**Barbados.**—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Jan. 14th. Barbadians were in full agreement with the representations of the West India Committee with regard to the Mail contract. They hoped that the Royal Mail service might be preserved. The weather during the fortnight had been very seasonable, cool trade winds having blown, with occasional showers. On the leeward side of the Island they had marked only .35 parts to date, but to windward heavier rains had fallen amounting to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Promise of a good crop, over almost the whole Island therefore continued. Several estates had begun making a little sugar from the trimmings round of the fields, and from canes cut down for plants for supplying. The juice suited to <sup>o</sup> Beaumé, by their rough method, which compared most favourably with the beginnings of former years. The quantity also seemed to be abundant, and the quality of the sugar was excellent. The young crop was springing well. The six gins were now fixed in position in the cotton factory, as well as a seed crusher, and cotton was coming down from the country. Onions were coming on well and were being placed on the local market. During the whole fortnight, including the date of writing, they had been subjected to all the annoyances of a broken cable. The many vessels in port awaiting orders were greatly delayed, and business in chartering vessels was almost useless, owing to the long delay in getting replies. The cable between St. Thomas and St. Kitts was repaired on January 5th, and that between St. Kitts and Antigua broke on January 8th. The cable repairing steamer arrived at St. Vincent on January 9th, presumably after repairing the St. Thomas-St. Kitts break, and was supposed to be at work on the St. Vincent-Grenada section, but the Company gave little or no information. When Barbados was cut off on December 27th, the superintendent at St. Thomas acceded to the petition from the Commercial body, and requested the superintendent at St. Thomas, in the interests of the community, to establish a daily service of sailing boats, independently of any transient steamship opportunities of carrying telegrams between St. Lucia and St. Vincent, and likewise to authorise the clerk in charge of the Barbados station to charter vessels at Barbados or at St. Vincent, if the St. Lucia service should at any time fail. The Company agreed to do this, and they had from time to time advertised by name the sailings of fine chartered sloops between St. Lucia and St. Vincent, but this service as carried out appeared to be no great improvement on that complained of in May, 1903, as telegrams were two days delayed either way, so that the time of reply was not under four days, unless a steamer happened to come in between, and conveyed messages in twelve or fourteen hours. The quality of the chartered sloops might be fairly estimated by the Company's occasional announcement that such and such sloop which sailed from St. Vincent for St. Lucia returned the following day owing to "boisterous weather," the weather being the usual trade winds ruling at this season. A further complaint was the constantly occurring mutilation of words in cable messages received, which in view of the interruption of the service was an additional and serious inconvenience to business people. He need hardly add that they were for days together without public news, and this when the great issues between Russia and Japan were in the balance. If this state of things extended into crop time, the detriment to the public at large would be enormous. The cruising squadron and the N. A. and West India squadron left on Monday the 12th inst. for Trinidad, after a shorter stay than had been expected. The Island was very gay during their visit. On the 9th inst. Vice-Admiral Sir A. I. Douglas and Rear-Admiral Sir W. H. Fawkes visited the West Indian Petroleum Company's works at Turner's Hall, with the Hon. Arthur C. Ponsonby, the Managing Director, and were specially interested in the boilers, where steam was generated by oil fuel.

**British Guiana.**—A. Summerson, Esq., January 13th. The weather was too heavy for Demerara and Essequibo during the first half of the fortnight. It had since been fair with occasional showers. In Berbice they had had very little rain and it was wanted there very badly. Nothing was doing in refining crystals at the moment. The price was 1'81 nominal. Nearly all estates had closed down. Under the auspices of the Berbice Cotton Growers' Committee, a district meeting was held at Hopetown on the 4th. A large number of farmers attended and those on the platform included, Dr. Rowland, Hon. Sec., Rev. W. E. Downes, and Dr. Reid. Thirty persons gave their names in to the Secretary promising to plant cotton in all 34 acres.

**Dominica.**—E. A. Agar, Esq., January 14th. He felt sure that Dominica thoroughly endorsed the views of the West India Committee as to the benefit to be derived from a regularly fortnightly service of the Canadian Line. Inter Colonial trade among the smaller islands at any rate was largely in the hands of small sloops. One improvement was desirable—better accommodation for fruit—with Canada no serious fruit trade could be done under existing conditions. At the invitation of the Administrator, the Prædial Larceny Committee had again met and had forwarded several recommendations to the Government; they tended to make existing legislation more stringent and also provide for some new regulations with regard to the sale of cacao. If carried out, and there was every reason to believe that they would be as the Administrator and Magistrates were in cordial agreement, prædial larceny should soon be successfully coped with. Some months ago a third magistrate, who was also prædial officer for his district, was appointed and this had assisted planters by expediting the hearing of cases. An American Company had just started to work the sulphur deposits at Soufrière in the south end of the Island. They had imported a large quantity of machinery and people were confident that the island would benefit to a considerable extent. The telephone was being extended round the island. Arrangements were being made to continue the Imperial Road at the Layou end as soon as dry weather settled in. They are 1903 had been an interruption of their continued progress, there was a considerable falling off in the exports; however it was impossible to seriously grumble at a bad year after such a long series of good ones. The export of lime juice had suffered principally, a blight attacked the trees in the early part of the year and then the hurricane in August did a great deal of damage to this crop as well as to the cacao. This hurricane did little damage to the trees and the blight had been successfully combated by all planters who took steps to do so as soon as its nature was understood. It was indeed probable that having learnt a rather severe lesson planters would now increase their yield of limes immensely by improving their methods of cultivation. Until the treasury issued the annual returns it was impossible to give exact figures.

**Grenada.**—Hon. D. S. De Freitas, Jan. 14th. In Grenada the mail proposals of the West India Committee were approved. The Canadian service was originally intended to benefit Barbados and the smaller West Indian Islands, between whom and the Dominion increasing trade had opened up, the connection between that service and the service to New York was not remote. That the ratio of West Indian produce—specially cacao—which was shipped to New York was increasing yearly should excite no surprise. It would occasion surprise if it did not so increase. And the reason for this increase was largely one of freight charges. The freight on cocoa from St. George to London was 47s. 6d. per ton and five per cent. for primage, whereas the freight on cocoa to New York is 45 cents per bag, of no specified weight. The bags shipped to New York were in consequence very heavy, and he thought he was well within the mark in estimating that about 11 bags equalled a ton; the comparison then was freight on cocoa to New York, per ton £1 os. 7½d., and to London (exclusive of 5 per cent. primage) per ton £2 7s. 6d. Cocoa planters were reaping heavy pickings this month, but the prospects for February, onwards, were not so bright as they were in 1903. Shipments of cocoa after February would be small. 1904 finds Grenada as healthy and peaceful as it usually was, and with little stir and no strife.

**Jamaica.**—J. L. Ashenheim, Esq., January 11th. A meeting was about to be held with a view to the formation of a Jamaica Branch of the West India Committee. Apart from Vere, the weather generally had been very seasonable during the fortnight. In Vere there had been since the New Year a little rain which although acceptable was not of any substantial benefit to the sugar crop which was on the eve of being reaped. The crop of Vere would be about 33½ per cent. short on a good average reaping. So far, the irrigation in Vere had not been a success—two causes had produced this result—1st. The impossibility of the Milk River to supply the Canal with sufficient water except when irrigation is not needed, that is, during heavy seasons. 2nd. The drought that had prevailed in Vere for practically nearly two years. It was reported that for the irrigation to be of any service, the "River Nimbo," would have to be tapped above Longville Estate in Clarendon. The Ginger crop was just coming to market. It was estimated that there were 15,000 to 17,000 bags pimento remaining in the island for shipment. These were held by strong hands and the quantity was about the usual stock unshipped, from Jamaica for this period of the year.

**St. Kitts.**—Chas. A. Smith, Esq., January 12th. A good representative meeting of the local branch of the West India Committee was held on the 8th inst. and approval was expressed of the appointment of the writer as honorary correspondent to whom every support was promised. Regret at the death of the Hon. Edward G. Todd was unanimously expressed, it being recognised that it was through his good services that the St. Kitts branch of the West India Committee was formed. In expressing approval of the action of the West India Committee with regard to the Mail contracts they were gratified to find that the complaint of shippers as to the want of adequate space in these steamers owing to the position of St. Kitts as the last port of call had been voiced in the report on the subject. The following resolution was then passed unanimously:—

"This meeting of the local branch of the West India Committee very heartily endorses the work being done by the Tariff Reform League in the defence of the industries of the Empire and cordially approves of the appointment of Sir Nevile Lubbock, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. J. Rippon, and Mr. A. E. Aspinall as representatives of the West India Committee, upon the Colonial Committee of the League."



The meeting also desired him to point out that St. Kitts, in common with the other islands, had so far received no benefit whatever from the 33½ rebate granted on British goods going into Canada under the existing tariff, the benefit of the preferential rebate of 18s. to 20s per ton having hitherto gone direct to the Halifax refiners, and that this injustice was greatly increased by the drop which had taken place on the price of sugar in Canada and the determination of the refiners there to keep the price of muscovado in Halifax at a parity with that ruling in New York. A visit from His Excellency, the Governor was looked for shortly and during his stay, the Federal Council would meet in Basseterre.

**Nevis.**—Hon. C. A. Shand, January 13th. The Agricultural and Commercial Society was to meet on Thursday and in the course of the month the £25 presented by the Imperial Department of Agriculture would be allotted to deserving peasant proprietors for cotton culture. Some of the cotton in Nevis looked splendid and already a fair quantity had been picked. The machinery was nearly ready for beginning operations, so that next month should be in full swing. The weather was all that could be desired, heavy showers at night and hot sun in the day time.

**St. Vincent.**—Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., January 17th. They were glad to learn that Dr. Flett would shortly read a paper at the West India Committee rooms on the subject of the volcanic eruptions. It would be a perfect god send to this island if an authentic opinion as to the behaviour in future of the volcano in the island, could be forthcoming. Local opinion was all on the side of the belief that La Soufrière had gone to rest for another century or perhaps for all time, but the authorities seemed to do nothing towards re-establishing the industries of the colony despite the fact that there remained a balance of £25,000 standing from the relief fund, so generously subscribed to by the British public. Weather was all that could be desired for the reaping of crops.

**Trinidad.**—Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, January 15th. He thought that the Committee had decided rightly with regard to the Mail services. It was a matter for regret that the West Indian Agricultural Conference would not be held this year as usual in the month of January, quarantine restrictions being not yet entirely removed in some of our West Indian colonies. It might be found possible to hold the Conference later in the year, and they were hoping that, in such case, it would be held in this colony. The North American squadron under Vice-Admiral Sir Archibald Douglas, with a portion of the Channel cruiser squadron, under Rear-Admiral Sir W. H. Fawkes, were at present anchored in the harbour. Trade with Venezuela was at an absolute standstill. The whole question of the water and sewage works had been submitted to a mixed committee, which it was hoped would come to some workable agreement. Rains had been much less frequent during this fortnight than in the previous one, and there was every indication of the dry and breezy weather of the last few days continuing. Sugar reaping would begin next week and would probably be general by end of January. Large quantities of cocoa were coming in from the country, and shipments would be heavy. The greater of the better sort "Estates" cocoa, was being sold for the American market at prices varying from \$14.25 to \$14.80. "Ordinary" was being bought for the French market at \$13.50 to \$14, and a small quantity of "Estates" of well known marks going to London. The market on the day of writing was very firm and likely to advance.

Edgar Tripp, Esq. The Chamber of Commerce had again urged upon the Government the desirability, in order to restore public confidence, of the appointment of an absolutely independent water engineer, who, it was represented, would be of great assistance in enabling the water committee to arrive at a right decision. The suggestion would probably be submitted to the Secretary of State, and if acted upon, would in the opinion of many, go far to allay the spirit of unrest which unfortunately still existed in certain quarters. The very excellent up-to-date electric lighting and tramway system of Port of Spain afforded marked improvement to the comfort and convenience of the town. It was therefore most satisfactory to note that the Trinidad Electric Company, which controlled this extensive enterprise, was entering already upon the good dividend stage. The Company, which was incorporated in 1901, had now in full working order their power, light, and tramway plant, all of the most modern description. The authorised stock of this undertaking was £250,000, of which £215,000 had been issued. These shares were on the 24th December quoted on the Montreal Exchange at 73-77 per £100, but a dividend of 5% had just been declared, which would doubtless enhance their value. The 5% bond issue of £150,000 was quoted at par and accrued interest. Mr. W. Weldon Symington, of the Symington Fruit Syndicate, was returning by the Mail to confer with his colleagues and make arrangements for a further extension of the business. Mr. Symington had done wonderfully good work in Trinidad, and if a fruit trade was established, the merit would be his alone, as was to be expected, when none of the cultivators knew anything of the business, and all the difficulties of transport locally as well as oversea had to be overcome.

### Weather Telegrams.

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), February 1st. Heavy rains generally throughout the Island. **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), January 23rd "Weather finer since last message." **Trinidad** (New Colonial Co., Ltd.), January 27th, "Showery and unsettled."

## Exports from British Guiana and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
British Guiana—	Tons.	lbs.		Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1903	132,916	132,682	—	27,179	4991	4389	97,968	10,426
" " 31, 1902	121,230	102,243	—	29,403	13,410	1611	108,552	12,567
Trinidad—	Bags & Brls.	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Puns.	Trcs.	Brls.
Jan. 1 to Jan. 14, 1904	—	672,180	—	—	5000	10	—	—
" " 14, 1903	956	2,588,420	1440	—	549,600	76	41	24
								Asphalt.
								Tons.
								5974
								4799

## The Mails.

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.**—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," January 28th, 1904:—**Barbados**.—Rev. W. I. Holland, Mr. C. Holden, Major W. B. Standfield, Mr. G. P. Cesar. **Demerara**.—Mr. S. Oliver. **Jamaica**.—Rev. J. B. Ellis, Rev. and Miss Killburn, Mrs. Lee, Mr. J. H. Banon, Mr. A. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson, Dr. and Mrs. Bibby, Dr. T. Vallance, Miss Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. P. de Winton, Major F. E. Ryde, Hon. Sydney Olivier, C.M.G. **Trinidad**.—Mr. Champernowne, Commr. A. Chatfield, Lieuts. J. Ingles, R. Hamilton, A. Stokes, J. S. Forbes, A. Roberts, and J. Moncrieffe, Engrs. J. W. Smith and Henry Beacham, Mr. W. C. Jardine, Dr. T. Reid, Mr. W. W. Symington, Mr. and Mrs. F. Dodsworth. **Dominica**.—Lieut. Cardew, R.A. **St. Vincent**.—Mr. J. K. Dasant, C.B., Sergt.-Major Beale.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Tagus," February 3rd, 1904:—**Barbados**.—Mr. F. Smith, Mr. F. B. Smith, Mrs. O. Dr. and Mrs. West, Mr. and Mrs. Cave, Mrs. L. Randall, Mr. and Miss Mann, Mr. F. Clegg, Mr. R. Hargreaves, Mr. T. Kingsford, Mr. J. Rawdling, Miss O'Neal, Mrs. B. Hibberd, Mr. and Mrs. R. Brown, Mrs. Dutton, Miss Kerr, Miss Hibbert, Mr. F. Bell, Mr. H. Bell, Miss B. Loden, the two Misses Twycross, Mr. T. Waller, Mr. G. Harding, Mr. J. Pinkwass, Mr. R. Dyson, Mr. G. Dunsmere, Mr. H. Crum Ewing, Miss Crum Ewing, Mr. W. Brierley, Rev. and Mrs. C. Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Wright, Mr. H. Wright, Mr. W. Lawrence, Mr. C. Allan, Colonel and Mrs. Auberton, Mr. and Mrs. Croft, Miss K. Mann, Mr. H. Brown, Messrs. Bruce, Mr. J. Pignalelli, Mr. J. Littlewood, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Miss Scoffham, Miss Willis, Mr. W. Temple, Mr. S. Shipton, Mr. W. Reynolds, Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Temple, Lieut. R. L. Jermain, R.N., Miss Marshall, Miss Stevens. **Demerara**.—Hon. T. and Miss Hamilton, Rev. Canon and Miss Sloman, Mr. M. Bugle, Mrs. M. Gill, Rev. J. Reid, Mr. E. R. Davson. **Jamaica**.—Hon. E. Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Fox, Mr. H. Hammond, Mr. J. Buchanan, Mrs. Murray, Colonel and the two Misses Irwin, Mr. T. Shields, Mr. C. Clynn, Mr. H. Teitz, Rev. and Mrs. J. Deane, Mr. F. McDowell. **Trinidad**.—Mr. and Mrs. Collingwood, Dr. and Mrs. Reid, Mr. W. Mitchell-Thompson, Mrs. A. H. McShine, Mr. W. Bishop. **Antigua**.—Mr. G. Codrington, Lord Zouche, Mr. E. Lovell, Mr. J. Milne, Mr. Rivett, Mr. H. Cruise. **Grenada**.—Mr., Mrs., and two Misses Paterson.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," February 17th, 1904:—**Barbados**.—Hon. Miss Cunliffe Lister, Captain and Mrs. Jones, Mr. C. Kidley, Mr. G. Jarvis, Mrs. Jarvis, Mr. and Mrs. Quin, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon, Mr. and Mrs. Fraser-Tytler, Captain A. Fellows, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Clay, Mr. D. Ramsden, Mr. C. Bartlett, Mr. Ridley. **Jamaica**.—Mr. J. Eyre, Mr. E. Hanbury, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Goddard. **Antigua**.—Mr. Justice and Mrs. Danavall. **Dominica**.—Mr. H. Homfrey. **Grenada**.—Mrs. M. Hayward, Mrs. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Earnshaw.

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service**.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," Jan. 20th, 1904:—**Jamaica**.—Mr. E. E. Broughton, Mr. J. S. Downing, Mrs. Douglas Gordon, Mr. R. A. Leckie, Lieut. Polly, Staff-Sergt. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Bookman, Qtr. Mstr. Sergt. Bravin, Sgt. Edwards, Mr. J. Gillans, Staff-Sergt. and Mrs. Jeffries, Staff-Sergt. and Mrs. Wilcox.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," January 30th, 1904:—**Jamaica**.—Mr. M. J. C. Baker, Mr. G. E. Britton, Mr. Charley, Mr. A. Coak, Mr. T. G. Detmar, Mr. A. W. Farquharson, Mrs. A. W. Gardner, Mr. H. C. Heselton, Miss F. G. Kenney, Hon. and Mrs. C. Duff-Miller, Mr. Fred. Misutzky, Mrs. and Miss Nosworthy, Major J. B. Lucie-Smith, Mr. V. Sperling, two Misses Stapleton-Stephens, Mr. Pratt, Miss Walker.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," February 13th, 1904:—**Jamaica**.—Dr. G. M. André, Mr. and Miss Mackenzie-Ashton, two Misses Bethell, Miss Brodrick, Mrs. and Miss Cass, Miss A. Clarke, Mr. and Miss Courtauld, Mr. C. Danvers, Mrs. Edwards, Miss D. Favrol, Miss R. Felix, Dr. J. Freer, Miss Gladstone, Mr. B. Hooper, Mr. D. Hooper, Mr. A. Jersey, Mrs. Nevill, Sir H. E. and Miss Oakeley, Mr. A. Simpson, Mr. J. P. Tay, Mr. H. H. Watson, Mr. West, Mr. H. Wharton, Capt. Willis, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Youg.



## The Produce Markets Summary.

**Sugar—88 per cent Beet.**—One is constantly being asked what is the probable course of prices from now to October next when we enter a new season in the so-called history of Sugar. With all the surrounding elements it would take a venturesome writer to answer the question. Certain facts are prominently before us and have been so for the last three years. There has been too much sugar produced under the Kartel and Bounty systems, and as we keep continually carrying over 1,000,000 tons more than is required from one October to another, so gradually the burden becomes intolerable, and this condition of things is unfortunately going to be repeated on the 1st October of the present year. The increase in this year's beet production is close on to 400,000 tons, that of cane is also about 300,000 tons, making together an excess of 700,000 tons which will have to be got rid of to leave us high and dry on the same basis of stocks as we were last October. With a reasonable increase in Continental Consumption under the reduced duties payable in the various countries, and with some increase in England and America, if the fruit crops turn out next summer less of a failure than they did last year, this dissipation of the increased production can well be brought about, but when it is done we still start a new season with too large a carry-over, and it is this point that destroys all hope of any early and permanent improvement. The speculative operators get tired of carrying forward from year to year this great accumulation of stock, and there are indications at the present moment that they are trying to force off their holdings on to other shoulders, ultimately the consumer, and it is no doubt to this cause that the present falling prices are largely attributable. The remedy, the only one, is decreased production of Continental Beet. To make things certain, something like 1,000,000 tons of Beet should be struck off next season. Is this likely? that is the question. Of course, Cuba will go on increasing under the fostering care of the United States, and this is the largest crop outside Continental Beet. Java, the next largest country, will struggle no doubt to do so equally. The Sandwich Islands, Porto Rico, and the Philippines, have no inducement except to expand. The British West Indies and other minor contributors must follow events as they arise. Reductions in Beet are easy and possible with alternative industries. Cane Sugar grown in the tropics is in a different position, where none of these advantages are immediately or ultimately attainable, so the initiative steps will have to be Continental, unless we are to be dosed for a series of years with 7s to 8s basis 88%, even if worse does not happen. The crisis long expected in the fight between beet and cane is upon us, modified it is true to a certain extent by the Brussels Conference, but still it is here and must be a source of much anxiety to all those engaged in the distribution of a great article like Sugar.

**The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America (uneven dates) are as follows:—**

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	
Europe	3,520,000	3,330,000	3,510,000	2,820,000	2,590,000	Tons
United States	80,000	130,000	100,000	100,000	160,000	..
Cuba	100,000	100,000	100,000	40,000	20,000	..
Cargoes afloat	60,000	60,000	10,000	10,000	30,000	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,760,000</b>	<b>3,620,000</b>	<b>3,720,000</b>	<b>2,970,000</b>	<b>2,800,000</b>	

Comparative prices of 88% for 5 years:—

7s. 9½d.      7s. 10½d      6s. 8½d.      9s. 2½d.      9s. 9d.

**Crystallised Sugar.**—The decline in raw beet and in white crystals and granulated, which amounts to about 6d per cwt since the last mail, has enabled the makers of "Imitations" to reduce their quotations proportionately and to-day's prices of this Sugar range 14s. 4½d to 14s. 7½d; under these circumstances, values of imported yellows have naturally given way to an equal extent, and present quotations are 14s. 0d to 14s. 3d for inferior grades, 14s. 6d to 15s for low to good yellow, with average qualities 14s. 9d., and small lots of fine Sugar 15s. 0d to 16s. A cargo of 96 test may not now be quoted over 8s. 6d to Cane Refiners.

**Molasses Sugar,** scarce. Values, 11s to 15s.

**Muscovado**—No Grocery here, and prices are uncertain. The value of a cargo of 89 test is about 7s. 6d on floating terms.

**West India Figures since 1st Jan.**

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	
Imports to date	4300	4000	3100	2700	Tons
Deliveries ..	2800	2800	4800	3400	..
Stocks ..	<b>14,000</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>	..

**Rum.**—Although a large business has been done in Liverpool, amounting to some thousands of puncheons Demerara, on the basis of 8½ proof for ordinary marks, and upwards for better quality, our London buyers still abstain from making any offers, and prices are entirely nominal. Jamaica is worth about 1s. 9d for approved Standard Home Trade Marks, and Leewards range nominally from 8d to 11d.

**London Figures to date:**

	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Imports Jamaica	270	110	50	210	Puns.
Demerara	2760	470	2870	3340	..
Stocks Jamaica	8600	10,300	7100	7700	..
Demerara	9700	7400	6700	7200	..
Total of all kinds:— Stocks	<b>28,455</b>	<b>28,472</b>	..	Deficiency, 17 Puns	

**Cocoa.**—Stocks in London:—1904, 54,000; 1903, 75,000; 1902, 84,000; 1901, 94,000 Bags.

There has been a good demand for Grenada, with considerable sales on the basis of 54s. for fair native, and 57s. to 60s. for fermented. The recent exceptional advance in Trinidad is not maintained, and sales are difficult to effect even at 66s. for fair collected, 69s. for fair Estate Marks, with fine up to about 74s. Native cocoa from other Islands is worth about 52s., and fermented 56s. to 61s. Fermented African costs about 59s. for delivery on full landed terms in the usual United Kingdom Ports.

**Coffee**—Santos is still rising on indifferent crop reports, and to-day's price is quoted 39s. 3d. Jamaica ranges from 34s. to 125s. **Ruticas**—Irregular and in large supply, 64's sold at 2s.; 85's, 1s. 2d.; 100's, 10d.; 150's, 5½d., and in shell at 6d. to 6½d. **Mace.**—Steady. Pale sold at 2s. 1d to 2s. 2d., reddish at 1s. 9d. to 1s. 11d., and broken at 1s. 7d. to 1s. 9d. **Bluger,** quiet. Small sales of Jamaica, middling, 41s. to 43s.; ordinary, 36s. to 37s.; and rough, 34s. to 35s. **Pimento**—Steady, with small sales of fair at 4d.

**Cotton.**—Under renewed American manipulation prices have again risen, and are very dangerous. To-day's quotation for this month's delivery is about 8½d. What it may be to-morrow, no one knows. Fair West India is nominally worth 8½d.

**Arrowroot.**—Stocks in London 31st December

	1903	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
	12,653	13,224	7747	8100	2521

A good business has been done, chiefly at 1½d for fair manufacturing, and there are still sellers at that price.

**Lime Juice.**—Slow and difficult of sale, prices slightly easier, viz., 9d. to 1s. 1d. Concentrated, unchanged at £12 15s. Distilled Oil, buyers at 1s. 3d., to 1s. 4d. Hand Pressed, at 2s. 6d to 3s.

**Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.**

# The . . . West India Committee Circular

ENTERED AT STATIONERS HALL.

Vol. XIX.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16th, 1904.

No. 117.

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## OUR CELEBRITIES.



The Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick,

SENIOR UN-OFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND  
HON. CORRESPONDENT OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE FOR TRINIDAD.

## The Cotton Industry.

In a few weeks time we shall be able to form a more definite opinion regarding the prospects of the first season of the revived Cotton industry in the West Indies. When the homeward mail left at the end of January, the cotton was in an advanced stage of cultivation in Montserrat, and in Antigua, Nevis, and Barbados cotton was being gathered. In Nevis 50,000 lbs. have already been picked, but no estimate as to the extent of the crops generally is as yet available. The Cotton Factory was re-opened at Barbados on the 25th January by Sir Frederic Hodgson, when all six gins, the seed crusher and the baling press were set in motion. In St. Vincent the Cotton Factory is approaching completion. As to what has transpired on this side of the water during the fortnight, it is a significant fact that the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE have received many enquiries from people wishing to embark upon the cotton industry in the West Indies, and we hope that the information we have been able to afford may result in land being taken up for this purpose. On Wednesday, February 10th, Mr. J. Arthur Hutton, vice-chairman of the British Cotton Growing Association, delivered an address at a



meeting of the Manchester Statistical Society in the course of which he said that it was, perhaps, not generally known that at one time we derived our principal supplies from the West Indies, and it was almost an irony of fate that we should be again turning our attention in that direction. It had been arranged that, under the joint guarantee of the local authorities and the association, grants should be made to all respectable planters who wished to undertake the growth of cotton—so much when the land was planted, so much when the crop was partly grown, and a further amount on shipment. The cotton would be consigned to the association and the surplus proceeds handed over to the planter.

It is interesting to note what is being done by Germany with regard to the shortage of cotton.

In 1900 the Colonial Industrial Committee took up the question of introducing cotton cultivation into the German Colonies. According to the first report of the committee, it appears that in Togoland, West Africa, there is as much land suitable for cotton growing as there is in Egypt, and climatic and soil conditions are favourable. A comparatively large part of the population has taken up the cultivation of cotton readily. The quality of the Togo cotton is, according to the American market, "middling," and it is capable of improvement. A profit from cotton culture by the native seems assured as long as transportation is cheap. The committee is interesting capitalists in the building of a rail-road into the interior of Togo, which it is hoped will be commenced soon. Methods for increasing cotton culture in German East Africa are also being studied by the committee. There the conditions are different from those in Togo. The population is not large, nor is it so intelligent. Besides, it is interested in the cultivation of the oil palm. The report states that a small area is devoted to cotton in Kamerun, German South-West Africa, where irrigation will be an important factor in the culture of cotton; and, according to a resident of this region, the Kunen River can be used for this purpose. Already cotton culture in Ambolade is flourishing. The uncertainty of rain, however, makes it an unsafe crop, but by the diversion of the River Kunen as ideal conditions would result as are found in Egypt. Some experiments have been tried with Sea Island cotton, which have turned out fairly well. The introduction of cotton into the German Colonies will prove exceedingly valuable, as the cotton raised there will doubtlessly go to the German market; while this is the case only in a limited measure with the cotton countries of South America and Asia Minor. For the carrying on of their work the Colonial Committee has been promised £25,000.

The following allusion to the Cotton Industry was made in the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament on the 2nd inst. "The insufficiency of the supply of raw material upon which the great cotton industry of this country depends has inspired me with deep concern. I trust that the efforts which are being made in various parts of my Empire to increase the area under cultivation may be attended with a large measure of success."

### Cocoa Consumption.

It is a matter for regret that there is no reliable information available as to the World's production of Cocoa, but the following figures showing the consumption in Europe and the United States over the periods of 11 months (12 in the case of the United Kingdom and United States) for the past five years which have been compiled by Messrs. C. M. and C. Woodhouse, will be useful for the purpose of reference.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
United Kingdom 12 mths.	41,186,300	45,643,800	42,353,700	37,829,300	34,013,800 lbs.
Germany .....	42,760,800	42,424,100	37,915,800	39,789,900	37,255,300 ..
Holland .....	34,716,700	30,384,600	30,512,600	23,878,600	28,923,600 ..
France .....	40,506,700	38,044,700	35,309,000	34,535,700	35,383,400 ..
Spain .....	12,435,900	11,777,100	11,322,200	6,651,800	12,466,700 ..
Belgium.....	8,978,300	7,923,900	6,712,700	7,543,800	6,732,600 ..
Austria .....	4,155,400	3,691,700	3,337,500	3,104,600	2,960,000 ..
Italy .....	452,800	462,900	578,500	695,700	778,200 ..
United States ...12	(estimate) 56,515,000	49,106,400	41,729,000	39,089,700	35,260,000
Total .....	241,707,900	229,459,200	209,771,000	193,119,100	193,773,60

It will be seen that the increase of consumption since 1899 amounts to about 25%.

### The Outlook for Sugar.

Now that the bounties have been abolished and prices remain at an abnormally low level, the question naturally arises how far the continental producers are able to avoid loss. We are informed by a reliable authority that at present prices a severe loss is being incurred by producers in France and to a minor extent in Belgium and Holland. As regards Germany and Austria, at the reduced prices which farmers have accepted for roots and the increased yield in sugar which the good crops of recent years have shown, producers can at 8s. 6d. f.o.b. Hamburg, make both ends meet. Every effort must be made in the West Indies to lower the cost of production if the industry is successfully to compete. That much may be done in this direction we are inclined to believe from the fact that sugar can be produced in Java without loss, provided the producer is able to obtain £7 per ton f.o.b.

Mr. John Farr, our hon. correspondent in New York, writing to us on January 29th said: "The effect of the Cuban Reciprocity has been to demoralise all sugar markets, as the Cubans, through lack of storage facilities and financial necessities at the beginning of their crop, have offered sugars more freely than they were wanted, with the result of their having lost the entire amount of the concession. Sales are being made at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cents c. & f., and there is no doubt that if there were no reciprocity the price would be about the same. The effect on sugars from other countries is naturally disastrous, and San Domingoes have sold at equal to  $1\frac{1}{8}$  c. & f. So far Canada has taken the balance of the Demerara sugars, which have received the full benefit of reciprocity with that country, or  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent more than was obtainable here. Whether the West Indian crop coming in will continue to command the full amount of the reciprocity will depend on the demand from Canada and the demand from the West Indies, but it seems certain that on Centrifugals they will get a good proportion of the reciprocal concession. Muscovados, however, are not wanted in Canada, and the outlook for Barbados is gloomy.

### The Antigua Sugar Factory.

We have been favoured by the MIRLEES WATSON CO., LTD., with particulars regarding the factory now in course of erection at Gunthorpes, Antigua, by that firm. The present scheme is for a factory to make 3,000 tons of grey crystals in 100 days, but the factory is so designed that without disturbing any of the arrangements it may be doubled or extended to any desired extent. The plant now in the course of manufacture consists of a powerful double crushing set of mills with provision for hot and cold maceration. Sulphuring arrangements are provided, so that if necessary a very high class of sugar, ready for immediate consumption, may be turned out. The clarifying arrangements are of the most modern high pressure type, with ample provision for the subsidence of the juice, with high pressure eliminators for the further cleaning of it before it enters the triple effet. The evaporating arrangement consists of a modern triple effet with large vapour pipes and especially designed arrangements for circulation of the juice and of the steam, and very considerable attention has been bestowed upon the arrangements for the removal of the water of condensation from the various calandrias. Two vacuum pans are provided of ample capacity with large heating surface, a central condensation plant being provided for the whole of the evaporating plant with very high-class dry slide valve air pump, Torricellian condenser, and cooling tower. The first sugars are cured hot, the dry sugar being conveyed, elevated, and delivered into the sugar store without any handling. The resultant molasses is cleaned, re-boiled, and struck into malaxeurs, the resultant masse-cuite being delivered by a magma pump into special second sugar centrifugals. Arrangements are also provided for the use of second sugar as seed grain, if so desired. Ample plant is provided for the treatment of scums in large blow-ups and filter presses, with a light railway for the removal of the



filter press cake. The green megass from the mills is delivered immediately into two of the most modern green megass burners attached to water tube boilers, and a carrier from the megass burners is so arranged that any surplus megass can be conveyed to a megass store, and as occasion arises withdrawn and returned to the boilers with a minimum amount of handling. A fully equipped machine shop is attached to the factory, with a travelling crane commanding the whole of the grinding plant, so that any part of this plant may be examined, overhauled, or replaced in the shortest possible time. The works are to be illuminated throughout by electric light. The buildings are of iron, specially designed to resist hurricanes, to which this island is subject.

### The Sugar Bounties Agitation, 1864—1903.\*

A RETROSPECT: BY W.P.B.S.

#### The Third and Final Stage, 1889—1903—*continued*.

In the last quarter of the year 1899 it became evident in this country that the eminent French economist and journalist, M. Yves Guyot, was conducting an active and vigorous international campaign against the whole system of bounties either direct from the State, or indirect by means of trusts, combinations, or kartels, operating under and by the aid of protectionist import duties. On the 20th of December, at the dinner of the London Chamber of Commerce, Sir Nevile Lubbock, who was presiding, welcomed M. Yves Guyot as a guest, referring to him as "a distinguished French economist whose able pen had always been used in the interests of truth and who had always endeavoured to do justice to England." In this retrospect the difficulty is to do justice to M. Yves Guyot.

It must be remembered that M. Yves Guyot held the portfolios of "travaux-publics" under the Governments of France of M. Tirard and M. de Freycinet from 1899 to 1902. Thus M. Yves Guyot was a trained statesman, an economist of admitted authority, and a writer of the highest rank in journalistic and literary circles. What then was his verdict on the bounties of France—on the methods of giving them, on their objects, their results, and the measures for repressing them? In his letter of the 10th of October, 1899, to the Honorary Secretary of the Economic Circle of the National Liberal Club, M. Yves Guyot, after expressing his regret at not being able to be present at the club dinner, at which the bounty question was to be discussed, wrote, "you might have supposed that as a Frenchman I should tell you that from an economic point of view I disapprove of premiums on exports but should ask you not to lay countervailing duties on imports. Such a supposition would however have been incorrect. So far from persuading the English not to impose countervailing duties on sugar, I would tell them that if by such means they should bring about the abolition of the French bounties, they will have rendered a most signal service to France, to the French taxpayers, and, I would add, even to the French sugar manufacturers." After observing on the benefits the abolition of the French bounties would confer on the French consumers of sugars, preserves, chocolates, and biscuits, M. Yves Guyot went on with his usual dialectical skill to point out the inherent political absurdity of bounties on production. "Produce! Produce sugar, you will be paid for producing! And why are they to produce? For amusement! The industry has no *raison d'être* unless it produces in order to sell. Produce—we will pay you for producing—and in order to pay you we will levy on the sugar, the production of which we are encouraging, such high taxes that for a large number of consumers they will be prohibitive." Thus, with this scintillating and brilliant irony, did this great thinker put before the Economic Circle of the National Liberal Club, his verdict in favour of positive action by countervailing duties or otherwise, on the part of England

\* Continued from "The West India Committee Circular," No. 116.

against continental bounties. "Impose," writes M. Yves Guyot, "countervailing duties and we (France) shall only have to thank you for the abolition of the bounty régime which deprives the French consumer of sugar and makes him pay as taxpayer."

But the letter contained in itself a complete exposition of the facts, as regards duties, bounties, and their effects, so well marshalled as to indicate and support the writer's evident conclusion—unexpressed, but manifestly deducible—that England was economically wrong and violating all free-trade principles by her policy of *laissez faire* on the sugar bounty question.

As soon as the pen of such a writer made its force known in English journalism the apathetic ignorance of many leaders of public opinion, no less than the political bias of others, began to give way before the unanswerable arguments of this writer—arguments which were sustained by such brilliant and attractive dialectical skill. To this letter, Mr. J. H. Levy, the Honorary Secretary of the Political and Economic Circle of the National Liberal Club, replied by stating his general agreement with all that M. Yves Guyot had written in favour of the imposition of countervailing duties. "Ought Great Britain," wrote Mr. Levy, "to introduce countervailing duties? I answer without hesitation: Yes! The idea that countervailing duties are opposed to free trade is in my opinion erroneous. Free trade is interfered with by an export bounty, and all that the countervailing duties do is to neutralise the effects of the bounty by conveying it direct to the Treasury of the country whose industry is attacked." Had this acceptance of an economic truth by a powerful political body been manifest in the earlier days of the bounty system the sugar industries of England and her Colonies would have had, in the words of Mr. Levy, "freedom of expansion without obstacles and without subventions on the one side or the other," and thus, "would have tended to distribute themselves naturally so as to produce the greatest and best results for a given amount of human effort."

But this economic truth was ignored by British Governments and their officials, and the British sugar industries were well nigh entirely suppressed by foreign protectionists.

In the following year (1900) the agitation was still in the hands of the Council of the Anti-Bounty League and its Secretary, Mr. Mayson M. Beeton. But those who, like the writer, had many years experience of the way in which the economic principles of the whole question had been obscured by political or party bias, now felt great hopefulness of the final verdict of the public in favour of positive action against all forms of export protection from the interest then awakened in the "pure economics" of the bounty question. It was evident that unless some economic remedy could be validated by purely economic reasoning no appeal by West India producers or traders or English refiners for redress on account of their industrial or trade losses had any chance of being granted.

Thus a line of reasoning, with which sugar as such had nothing whatever to do, and which was purely academic, evolved the true economic method of dealing with all bounty-forms of protection. Whilst the technicalities of the sugar industry were only discernible by highly trained experts, yet these experts as such could go no further than demonstrate the existence of bounties and calculate their amount. But having, as it were, "caught their bounty, how were they to cook it?" The sugar experts, the traders, the merchants, and the brokers, to their dismay found that the only solution of the difficulties which were ruining their industry, and trade had to be arrived at by pure economics, that even statistics, prices, imports and exports solved no point of principle but left the facts when ascertained as bare final results in themselves.

What had been aimed at from the very first by those who started the agitation in this country was the affirmation of some general principle of remedy applicable to every case of admitted and avowed export protection. That principle, the economic writers who have taken part in the agitation, have at last succeeded in getting recognised, and it may now be taken as settled that when export bounties exist the doctrines of free trade require that they must be neutralised by positive action and not allowed to enjoy the immunity of a policy of *laissez faire*.



It will be apparent before this retrospect is concluded that to the expositors of the principles of pure economics is due this solution of the bounty question. And M. Yves Guyot must be recognised as one of the ablest expositors of the science and as such never claiming any dogmatic authority whatsoever.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

### Production and Consumption of Sugar, 1897—1904.

The following statistics regarding the production and consumption of raw sugar for the past six seasons will doubtless be useful to our members for purpose of reference.

	Season 1897—1898.	Tons.	Consumption.
Visible Supply 1st October, 1897	...	985,284	
Beet Crops, 1897—1898...	...	4,825,000	
Cane ..	...	2,537,000	
		8,347,284	
Deduct Visible Supply 1st October, 1898	...	910,171	7,437,113 Tons.
	Season 1898—1899.		
Visible Supply 1st October, 1898	...	910,171	
Beet Crops, 1898—1899...	...	4,948,000	
Cane ..	...	2,792,000	
		8,650,171	
Deduct Visible Supply, 1st October, 1899	...	831,558	7,818,613 ..
	Season 1899—1900.		
Visible Supply, 1st October, 1899	...	831,558	
Beet Crop, 1899—1900 ...	...	5,518,000	
Cane ..	...	2,410,000	
		8,759,558	
Deduct Visible Supply, 1st October, 1900	...	480,001	8,279,557 ..
	Season 1900—1901.		
Visible Supply, 1st October, 1900	...	480,001	
Beet Crop, 1900—1901 ...	...	6,069,000	
Cane ..	...	3,110,000	
		9,659,001	
Deduct Visible Supply, 1st October, 1901	...	851,092	8,807,909 ..
	Season 1901—1902.		
Visible Supply, 1st October, 1901	...	851,092	
Estimated Beet Crop, 1901—1902	...	6,843,000	
Estimated Cane ..	...	3,363,000	
		11,057,092	
Deduct Visible Supply, 1 October, 1902	...	1,605,767	9,451,000 ..
	Season 1902—1903.		
Visible Supply, 1st October, 1902	...	1,605,767	
Beet Crop, 1902—1903 ...	...	5,521,000	
Cane ..	...	3,687,000	
		10,813,767	
Deduct Visible Supply, 1st October, 1903	...	1,487,351	9,326,416 ..
	Season 1903—1904.		
Visible Supply, 1st October, 1903	...	1,487,351	
Beet Crop, 1903—1904 ...	...	5,930,000	
Cane ..	...	3,800,000	
		11,217,351	

Supplement to "THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR," No. 117, February 16th 1904.



Photo by ALFRED B. ASPENALL.

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A FERTILE VALLEY, DOMINICA.



**A Fertile Valley.—Dominica.**

Our full page illustration this fortnight is typical of one of the many fertile valleys awaiting development which abound in Dominica, the most beautiful of the Leeward Islands. It is from a photograph taken from La Haut, the residence of our esteemed Hon. Correspondent, Mr. E. A. Agar. The staple industries of the Island are Cacao and Limes, and Crown Lands, which comprise about 120,000 acres, are being sold at 10/- per acre. Dominica affords a magnificent opening for young and energetic men with a capital of £2,000 at their command, and any of those whose eye our illustration may attract would do well to apply to the Secretary for copies of His Honour H. Hesketh Bell's pamphlet "Notes on Dominica" (3d.) and Mr. F. Sterns Fadelle's "Dominica" (1/-).

**New Members of the West India Committee.**

The membership of the West India Committee continues to increase very rapidly and it is hoped that every member old and new will by introducing fresh candidates for election enable us to beat last year's records of 219 new members. At a meeting of the Executive Committee on the 4th inst., 46 new members were elected. This brings the total elected during the current year to 83, distributed as follows:—Trinidad 32, Jamaica 11, Barbados 5, Dominica 5, British Guiana 4, Grenada 3, St. Kitts 3, Antigua 2, Tobago 2, St. Vincent 1, Home 12 and Foreign 3. The following are the names of those elected on the 4th inst. :—

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
E. X. LEON, ESQ. (Jamaica)	E. A. de Pass, Esq.	W. Gillespie, Esq.
H. O. SMITH, ESQ.	G. Macgregor Frame, Esq.	Arthur F. Turnbull, Esq.
W. E. HUNTER, ESQ. (Barbados)	Allan E. Messer, Esq.	G. Macgregor Frame, Esq.
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY	Allan E. Messer, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
ALFREDO SIEGERT, ESQ. (Trinidad)	Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
LOUIS SIEGERT, ESQ. (Trinidad)	" "	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
J. B. D. SELLIER, ESQ. (Trinidad)	" "	R. Rutherford, Esq.
J. L. LANGE, ESQ. (Trinidad)	" "	E. A. de Pass, Esq.
V. L. WEHEKIND, ESQ. (Trinidad)	" "	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
ELLIS GRELL, ESQ. (Trinidad)	" "	" "
GEORGE GRELL, ESQ. (Trinidad)	" "	" "
E. E. CORYAT, ESQ. (Trinidad)	" "	W. Gillespie, Esq.
W. G. KAY, ESQ. (Trinidad)	" "	Arthur F. Turnbull, Esq.
H. RANKIN, ESQ. (Trinidad)	" "	Arthur F. Turnbull, Esq.
G. L. LATOUR, ESQ. (Grenada)	Hon. F. Gurney	G. Macgregor Frame, Esq.
G. G. D. DOWNING, ESQ. (Dominica)	E. A. Agar, Esq.	A. K. Agar, Esq.
A. D. RIVIERE, ESQ. (Dominica)	E. A. Agar, Esq.	A. K. Agar, Esq.
H. D. SCUDAMORE, ESQ. (British Guiana)	Sir Henry K. Davson	W. W. Craib, Esq.
JOHN BARCLAY, ESQ. (Grenada)	Cyril Gurney, Esq.	R. A. Hankey, Esq.
W. A. S. VICKERS, ESQ. (Jamaica)	H. A. Trotter, Esq.	E. A. de Pass, Esq.
J. C. NOLAN, ESQ. (Jamaica)	H. A. Trotter, Esq.	W. Gillespie, Esq.
J. J. KIRKE, ESQ.	F. V. McConnell, Esq.	Robert Kirke, Esq.
M. H. M. HARDING-FINLAYSON, ESQ.	H. F. Previtè, Esq.	J. W. Previtè, Esq.
THOMAS A. TURNER, ESQ. (Tobago)	Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick	Sir Nevile Lubbock, R.C.M.C.
HON. S. L. HORSFORD (St. Kitts)	Charles A. Smith, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
DR. A. L. WYKHAM, (Antigua)	G. B. Mason, ESQ., M.R.C.S., L.D.S.P.	Hon. C. A. Spooner

## New Members—continued.

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
G. H. VANGENDEREN, ESQ. (B. Guiana)	W. Gillespie, Esq.	E. A. de Pass, Esq.
JAMES WILSON, ESQ. (Jamaica)	W. Gillespie, Esq.	E. A. de Pass, Esq.
N. F. BRIGGS, ESQ. (Barbados)	R. Rutherford, Esq.	T. J. Wilkinson, Esq.
E. T. FORREST, ESQ. (Jamaica)	E. A. de Pass, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
O) GEORGE FRANK BURN, ESQ., M. Inst. C.E.	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne	R. Rutherford, Esq.
GORDON WM. TURNER, ESQ.	H. H. Dobree, Esq.	G. Macgregor Frame, Esq.
J. K. MORRISON, ESQ.	" "	G. Macgregor Frame, Esq.
W. CLARKE, ESQ. (Barbados)	" "	R. Rutherford, Esq.
E. W. LUCIE-SMITH, ESQ. (Jamaica)	" "	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
A. H. RICHARD, ESQ. (Grenada)	" "	G. Macgregor Frame, Esq.
J. A. ROBISON, ESQ. (St. Vincent)	" "	A. McConnell, Esq.
W. F. MENDES, ESQ. (Dominica)	" "	R. Rutherford, Esq.
G. S. HOBSON, ESQ. (Antigua)	" "	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
A. WAKEFIELD, ESQ. (St. Kitts)	" "	R. Rutherford, Esq.
W. P. BREEN, ESQ. (British Guiana)	" "	A. McConnell, Esq.
W. McL. JONES, ESQ. (St. Thomas)	" "	" "
FREDERICK PETFORD, ESQ. (St. Croix)	" "	" "
V. HOSKING, ESQ. (New York)	" "	G. Macgregor Frame, Esq.
! Messrs. THOMSON AIKMAN & Co.	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
W. MITCHELL THOMSON, ESQ.	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.

## Our First Afternoon Lecture.

A series of afternoon lectures regarding matters of interest in connection with the West Indies was successfully inaugurated at the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ROOMS, at 3.45 p.m., on Tuesday 9th inst., when Dr. John S. Flett, M.A., D.Sc., F.G.S., delivered a most instructive and interesting address on "The Volcanic Eruptions in the West Indies." The chair was occupied by Sir Walter J. Sendall, G.C.M.G., late Governor of British Guiana and a former Governor of the Windward Islands and in spite of the inclement weather there was a large attendance, those present including Lady Sendall, Mr. E. Anderson, Mr. G. F. Burn, Mr. Chalmers, Mr. Carvalho, Mr. J. P. Dasent, C.B., Mr. W. Gillespie, Mrs. Halliday Harcourt, Mr. D. F. Harris, Mr. H. J. Irish, Mr. Herbert Jones, Mr. Llewellyn Jones, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mrs. Kielhorn, Mr. Arthur McConnell, Mr. D. Mackintosh, Mr. D. S. Macdonald, Mrs. Macdonald, Mr. L. A. Martin, Mr. A. Boyd Neilson, Mr. W. C. C. Park, Mr. J. Rippon, Mrs. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mrs. Rutherford, Miss Winnie A. Rutherford, Mr. H. Martin Sells, Mrs. H. Martin Sells, Mr. W. W. Symington, J.P., Mr. W. P. B. Shepherd, Mr. J. W. Smith, Mr. H. Spooner, Mrs. Thorn, Mr. P. A. Wade, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, M. T. J. Wilkinson, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Miss Wilkinson, Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G., Mr. T. B. Younger, Miss E. Whitaker, Miss M. Mackay, Sister Florence, Mr. Lea, Captain J. F. Anderson, Mr. J. E. Otto, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall.

Sir Walter Sendall in introducing Dr. Flett to the meeting, expressed the pleasure he felt at presiding over the first of a series of lectures which he hoped would prove as useful as they would be interesting; the object the Committee had in view was to bring about a closer co-operation among those interested in the West Indies and to disseminate more widely information regarding those Colonies. West Indians would never forget what they owed to Mr. Chamberlain and he should like to associate that gentleman's name with this inaugural meeting and he accordingly proposed, subject



to their approval to send a telegram to Highbury wishing him a pleasant holiday so well deserved, which he was about to take\*. No one was more fitted to deliver the inaugural address than Dr. Flett, who it would be remembered visited St. Vincent and Martinique on behalf of the Royal Society and at the instance of the Colonial Office shortly after the disastrous eruptions of 1902.

The Lecturer said that the earliest reports which reached this country about these eruptions showed that the destruction of St. Pierre was a catastrophe unprecedented in its nature but did not prepare the public for the fact that the eruption of the Soufrière was of the same kind and of even greater magnitude. The tremendous quantity of red hot dust which was vomited by these volcanoes, rushed down the slopes overturning everything in its path and killing all the inhabitants. It was in fact a *red hot avalanche* and the only similar outburst of recent years was that of Bandaisan in Japan, in which, however, the sand and stones were quite cold. No lava streams were discharged from either



#### MONT PELÉ, MARTINIQUE.

This very remarkable photograph which was taken early in 1903, shows the tremendous spine of solid rock rising from the crater of Mont Pelé. Dr. Flett considers that the Pitons of St. Lucia are remains of a similar structure in the old volcanoes now extinct and greatly injured by the ravages of time.

volcano because the volcanic magma within them was so highly viscous that it could not flow like a liquid, and, in fact, in Pelé a solid pillar of lava had been forced up within the crater till its rose to such a height that it overtopped the whole summit of the mountain. The steam expanding within such a mass could not escape, but blew it into a cloud of dust. Dr. Flett described his thrilling experience one night when he and his colleague, Dr. Tempest Anderson, were lying in a small boat off Carbet, and Mont Pelé almost without warning gave vent to a red hot discharge which poured down on the bay. After this, an enormous black cloud of dust came sweeping out across the sea and came to rest only a short distance from the party. They had a narrow escape with their lives; but had the great satisfaction of knowing that they had seen the deadly activity of Pelé in full operation and were able to explain many of the most remarkable features of the eruptions from actual observation.

\* A telegram of thanks was subsequently received from Mr. Chamberlain.—Ed.

Scientific men had not refrained from prophesying as to the future behaviour of these two West Indian Titans. But the prophecies had been most conspicuous failures and only the most general inferences could be drawn from a study of their past history and of similar types of volcanoes in other parts of the world. They were essentially explosive, and after these eruptions ceased there would probably be a long period of repose. The possibility that the present outbursts were not ended must always be kept in mind, and till Mont Pelé relapsed into inactivity it was not safe to re-occupy the devastated plantations at the foot of the Soufrière. Obviously there was a distant connection between the two mountains and though the Soufrière was less constantly active it was not really the less dangerous of the two. The deadly suffocating black cloud was the chief factor of danger, as few who were overtaken by it could escape with their lives unless they had taken refuge in closely shut up rooms. The rain of ashes was comparatively harmless as could be seen from the fact that no one in Georgetown or Chateaubelair was killed, although the houses were covered with sand and stones. The black clouds followed the slopes of the mountain and the course of the valleys at its base and the ridges interposed between these towns and the crater had deflected the course of the mephitic gases and saved the inhabitants. But they had a very narrow escape. It was likely however that any future eruptions would not be of greater magnitude than that of May 7th, 1902, though in the matter of volcanoes of this kind it was impossible to lay down any hard and fast rule. The wasted plantations would in a few years recover their former fertility and the forests would again take root on the sides of the mountain. Dr. Flett's lecture which was listened to with the closest attention was illustrated by a series of limelight lantern views of exceptional interest. A vote of thanks to the lecturer proposed by Sir Walter Sendall and seconded by Mr. W. P. B. Shephard brought a most successful meeting to a close.

The next lecture will be delivered by Sir Patrick Manson, K.C.M.G., M.D., at 3.45 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8th, on the subject of "Tropical Diseases." The Duke of Marlborough, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, has consented to take the Chair upon this occasion. The number of tickets, which will be allotted in order of application, is strictly limited.

### Venezuela and Trinidad.

The following letter was addressed by the West India Committee to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 25th, ult. :—

SIR,—We have the honour to transmit herewith for your serious consideration, an abridged account compiled by the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce of the negotiations regarding the 30% differential surtax levied by the Government of Venezuela upon importations from the West Indian Colonies into Venezuela from the year 1882 up to the present time.

(2) In view of the fact that for over twenty years past this matter has, during successive administrations, been the subject of representations from the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce to my Committee, to the Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, to His Majesty's Ministers at Caracas, Venezuela, to the Government of Trinidad, to His Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to the Department over which you, Sir, now preside, and having regard to the extreme urgency with which the question appears to have become invested by reason of the harsh measures recently adopted by Venezuela against the commercial interests of the colony of Trinidad; I am directed by my Committee to beseech, through your mediation, the earnest consideration of His Majesty's Government to the facts, figures and particulars set forth with unusual brevity in this Memorial.

(3) From this document it will be seen that the trade of Trinidad is suffering to the extent of over £1,000,000 per annum through the action of Venezuela in abolishing, almost without notice and by a stroke of the pen, the whole of transshipment trade which for more than fifty years has been carried



on between Trinidad and Venezuela, and at the same time increasing by more than 200% the differential surtax of 30% on all imports from West Indian Colonies which so long ago as the year 1882 was declared by His Majesty's Government to be illegal and a violation of the treaty then and now subsisting between Venezuela and all His Majesty's dominions. The natural effect of such measures is the almost total extinction of direct trade between Trinidad and her neighbour and the complete annihilation of the transhipment trade hitherto carried on at Trinidad to the mutual advantage of British and Venezuelan traders.

(4) To quote only one instance of the disastrous effects of the measures referred to, it may be mentioned that at least one important steamship corporation owning a fleet of shallow draught river steamers which for over thirty years have been the vehicles of the Trinidad-Venezuelan transhipment trade has been obliged to suspend operations, while the consequences to exporters and importers as well as to British shipping interests may be readily conceived.

(5) The Trinidad Chamber points out that two favourable opportunities for settling the long pending dispute between that colony and Venezuela have been allowed to pass, and expresses the belief that the interest now awakened throughout the Empire in all that relates to the welfare of our Colonies has created another and more favourable opportunity for the adjustment of these differences. In this belief my Committee confidently share, and they, therefore, hope that this matter may receive immediate attention.

We have etc.,

(Signed.) HENRY K. DAVSON, *Deputy Chairman.*  
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

On the 30th, ult., Mr. Lyttelton replied that the relations between Venezuela and Trinidad were receiving the careful consideration of His Majesty's Government.

### The £80,000 Imperial Grant-in-Aid to Barbados, 1902.

The following letter was addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the West India Committee on the 1st inst. :—

SIR,

We beg leave on behalf of several owners, merchants, and others interested in Barbados Sugar Plantations, to submit for your consideration a statement of the grounds on which they base their claim to have the Grant of £80,000 distributed in accordance with the conditions on which Parliament voted the whole grant to the West Indies. We beg therefore to state as follows, viz. :—

(1) That the date originally proposed for the coming into operation of the Brussels Sugar Convention was the 1st September, 1902. At the International Conference in Brussels it was found impossible to obtain the agreement of Germany and Austria to that date, and one year later was thereupon submitted for the consideration of the Conference. This delay was deemed by the British delegates, after consultation with the expert advisers (Sir Nevile Lubbock and Mr. George Martineau), to be so prejudicial to the West Indian Colonies as to render the Convention of very doubtful value, and under those circumstances the British delegates enquired of His Majesty's Government on January 26th, 1902, as to whether the negotiations should be broken off if the proposed date of 1st September, 1902, could not be secured, or whether, in the last resort, a delay to 1st September, 1903, could be accepted "in view of the fact that complete liberty of action had been reserved to His Majesty's Government as to measures of temporary relief to the West Indies, in order to enable the interests concerned to tide over the time before the Convention should take effect." (See correspondence relating to the Brussels Sugar Convention; Miscellaneous, No. 5 (1902), presented by command; Despatch No. 41, British delegates to the Marquess of Lansdowne, Brussels, January 26th, 1902, and enclosure

therein, being memorandum dated January 24th, 1902, by the British expert advisers, Sir Nevile Lubbock and Mr. George Martineau).

(2) That His Majesty's Government decided to accept the Convention by conceding the delay required by Austria and Germany, and to propose to Parliament a Grant-in-Aid to the West Indies, to enable the Sugar Industry to tide over the interval then to elapse before the Convention could take effect.

(3) That pursuant to the intentions under which His Majesty's Government accepted the Convention by agreeing to the postponed date of the 1st of September, 1903, a Grant-in-Aid of £250,000 for the Sugar Industry in the West Indian Colonies was proposed on 31st, July, 1902. In introducing the vote, the Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Joseph Chamberlain) referred to the statement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in introducing the Budget that a Grant-in-Aid would be necessary to enable the Sugar Industry in our West Indian Colonies to tide over the interval which must elapse before the Brussels Convention came into force.

(4) That the Secretary of State for the Colonies defined in his speech the object and class of persons for which the vote was asked. After stating that the result of another twelve months delay would be to subject the industry for that period to all its previous disadvantages. Mr. Chamberlain, at a subsequent part of his speech, spoke as follows: "This, then, is the problem before His Majesty's Government. How are we to secure the continued cultivation of these sugar estates during the comparatively short interval between the present time and the time when the abolition of the bounties comes into force?" And he then went on to state as the principle on which the Grant would be distributed, he said: "We are prepared to treat alike all those producers of sugar, whether they be well-to-do or poor, whether they are large or small producers, who have met with this misfortune." Mr. Chamberlain concluded his speech by stating as the condition subject to which the Grant would be allotted: "We have made it a condition in every instance of any assistance, that the estate shall be continued in a state of good cultivation right up to the period of the abolition of the bounties."

(5) That in the result, the sum of £80,000 was passed to the credit of the Government of Barbados, as its distributive share of the Grant-in-Aid voted by Parliament, in order to enable the estates to be continued in a state of good cultivation up to the period of the abolition of the bounties.

(6) That at the date of this vote, the Sugar Industry of Barbados was engaged in the cultivation of a crop of sugar requiring for the wages of labour and other incidental expenses, a sum of about £400,000, which amount had to be provided in order to continue the cultivation of the Plantations until the Convention came into force.

(7) That the £80,000 allotted to the Barbados Sugar Industry, was virtually an Imperial contribution of one-fifth of the cultivation expenses, and therefore left the other four-fifths to be provided by those who were carrying on the cultivation of their estates; this one-fifth contribution was really the consideration paid to Barbados for consenting to continue the cultivation of sugar for one more year in competition with the full amount of Bounties and Cartels continued during the same period to the Continental Beet Sugar producers. The burden was undertaken by the cultivators, and the aid of the Grant should have accrued to them, if the conditions on which it was voted by the Imperial Parliament, were to prevail.

(8) That at the present date, the grant of £80,000 still remains undistributed, although the conditions as to distribution have been complied with by the cultivators, who maintained their Plantations in a good state of cultivation up to 1st September, 1903.



(9) That different views as to the application of the £80,000 are prevailing in Barbados, and delay is taking place in distributing the Grant in accordance with the conditions voted by Parliament, and cultivators, who have fulfilled the conditions, are desirous of being secured in their rights in the distribution of the £80,000.

(10) That the following resolution was communicated to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, His Excellency the Governor, and to members of the Legislature of Barbados :—  
 "That prior to the 1st September next, it may be declared that the Grant-in-Aid of £80,000 shall (subject nevertheless to the provisions of the Plantations-in-Aid Act, 1902), be set apart and appropriated to and for the general benefit of the whole planting community in Barbados who participated in the 1902 crop in such manner and form as the Barbadian Legislature may determine, having regard to the objects for which the Imperial Parliament voted the Grant and the obligations by Great Britain under the Brussels Sugar Convention." (June 11th, 1903.)

2. We therefore most respectfully venture to suggest that a communication should be addressed by you, Sir, to the Governor of Barbados on the subject, especially pointing out to His Excellency the spirit and intention under which the Grant was voted by the Imperial Parliament, and that those who continued the cultivation for the period covered by the Grant, in reliance upon receiving their share of the £80,000, now claim that it should be distributed accordingly, otherwise a large majority of the very persons for whom the Grant was voted will receive no benefit whatever from it.

3. In conclusion, we beg to state that the delay conceded to the Continental Government of one year has proved to be a far greater loss to the West India Sugar Industry than was calculated on at the time. This delay was taken advantage of by the Continental sugar industries to make a large addition to the stock of bounty-aided sugar, and the effect of this is felt so seriously at the present time, and it is likely to be felt for another year or more, that the continuance of the cultivation in Barbados is as much dependent now on funds being forthcoming for the payment of the wages of labour and other cultivation expenses as it was in 1902, when the grant was voted.

4. Under these circumstances it is of pressing urgency that those who, on the faith of the Grant, provided and advanced the cultivation expenses in 1902 should be at once recouped their share of the £80,000 voted in that year and so placed in funds (pro tanto) for the continuation of the cultivation.

We have, etc.,

NEVILLE LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

### The West Indian Civil Service.

We shall be glad to receive particulars of movements and appointments of officers of the several West Indian Governments and other persons officially connected with the West Indian Colonies, for insertion under the above heading.

The Hon. Sydney Olivier, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, returns to the Colony by the R.M.S. "Atrato," on the 17th inst.

Mr. J. F. A. Redhead, Stipendiary Magistrate and Warder of Toco, Trinidad, has been granted five months leave of absence, from January 15.

Mr. A. G. W. Choppin, Stipendiary Magistrate, British Guiana, has been granted five months leave of absence from January 22nd.

The Hon. J. Downer, who has been seriously ill, left Demerara by mail on Thursday, January 21st, for Barbados where he will remain for some weeks to recuperate.

Mr. W. E. Smith, manager of the Trinidad Railways is visiting Jamaica in order to make enquiries as to handling fruit in view of the success of Mr. W. W. Symington's fruit enterprise.

The appointments of Mr. A. F. C. Weber and Mr. J. K. D. Hill as Stipendiary Magistrate and Assistant Stipendiary Magistrate for the Berbice Judicial district, British Guiana, have been confirmed.

## Notes of Interest.

**BINDING CASES FOR VOL. XVIII** Handsome lettered cases for binding the *West India Committee Circular*, Vol. XVIII, can be obtained from the Secretary, price 2/- each, post free. Members can have their copies bound for the inclusive charge of 3/6.

**COOLIE IMMIGRATION.** Mr. Robert W. S. Mitchell writes from Calcutta that immigration prospects are bad. 201½ million lbs. of tea have been manufactured as against about 35 million thirty years ago, so that the demand for labourers in the Assam tea estates is very great and they have been only able to get about half as many immigrants as last season.

**HISTORY OF WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.** It is proposed to write a history of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE for publication in the Circular and the Secretary will be glad if members and others will furnish him with any records, notes or information they may have regarding this organisation. The assistance of the West Indian Press who have always shown their readiness to further the work of the Committee is confidently hoped for.

**TRINIDAD'S FRUIT INDUSTRY.** At meetings of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce and Agricultural Society on the 11th and 12th of January, respectively, resolutions were passed expressing opinion that the time had arrived when the Government might be approached by Mr. Symington, with a view of financial assistance being granted to his Fruit Syndicate, as the establishment of a fruit industry in Trinidad is a matter of great injustice to the entire country.

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**FROM THE "TIMES" OF 1804.** We extract from the *Times* of January 23rd the following reproduction of an advertisement which appeared in the columns of January 23rd, 1804:—

## SALES BY AUCTION.

Cotton Plantation, Berbice—By Mr. Smith.  
At Garraway's, on Friday, Jan. 27, at 12 o'clock in 1 Lot.  
**THE COTTON PLANTATION** called RICHLAND, consisting of 250 acres, or thereabouts, of which 180 acres are planted with fruitful cotton trees, and the remaining 70 acres with Bananas, with a canal 18 feet broad and 1000 rods in length, situate on the Western Sea-coast of the Colony of Berbice, known in the general map of the said coast, and marked No. 14, with 70 negroes of all descriptions; the cattle, cotton, gins, capital boiler, grinding hut, provision house, 6 negroe-houses, and various materials. Printed Particulars may be had in a short time of Mr. Smith, No. 62, Broad-street, near the Royal Exchange; also at the Bosh, Bristol; of the Printers of the Dublin Hibernian Journal; Cork Evening Post; Edinburgh Herald; Glasgow Journal; Hull Packet; Liverpool General Advertiser; at Lloyd's and Garraway's.



## West Indian Securities.

Bank of England rate 4 % (changed from 3 % on September 3rd). 2½ % Consols, 86  $\frac{1}{8}$ . (13.2.04).

Colonial Government Inscribed Securities.				Miscellaneous Securities—continued.			
	Red.		Price	Stock or Shares.	Paid.	Div.	Price.
Antigua, 4 per cent. ... ..	1919-44		99-101	Stck. Imperial Direct West India			
Barbados, 3½ per cent. ... ..	1925-42		98-100	Mail Service Debenture	100	4½ %	84-88
British Guiana, 4 per cent. ... ..	1935		106-108	10 West India and Panama			
Grenada, 4 per cent. ... ..	1917-42		100-102	Telegraph Company ...	10	Nil.	3-3½
Jamaica, 4 per cent. ... ..	1934		105-107	100 Direct West India Cable Co.			
St. Lucia, 4 per cent. ... ..	1919-44		100-102	Debentures ... ..	100	4½ %	98-101
Trinidad, 4 per cent. ... ..	1917-42		101-103	5 New Colonial Co. Pref. ...	5	5 %	2½-3½
<b>Miscellaneous Securities.</b>				100 New Trinidad Lake Asphalt			
Stock or Shares.	Paid.	Div.	Price	Company Debs ... ..	100	6 %	90-95
20 Colonial Bank ... ..	6	6 %	4½-5	Stck. Demerara Railway Co. ...	100	Nil.	15-20
100 Royal Mail Steam Pckt. Co.	60	Nil	29-31				

## The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Orinoco" anchored off Plymouth at 11 a.m. on Thursday, February 11th. The mails were delivered in London first post next day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Thursday, February 4th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents received by the R.M.S. "Orinoco."

**Antigua.**—Hon. A. St. G. Spooner, January 27th. The cotton crop was being gathered but it was too soon to say what the average yield would be. All cotton would be ginned at the Government factory, and the produce sold by the British Cotton Growers Association who furnished the gins and recently added a 12½ h p. oil engine to supply power. For the first part of the fortnight the weather was unusually rainy for the time of the year, and during the second half they had strong gales and occasional squally showers. This resulted in a good deal of the heavy canes being laid, which would make crop difficult to cut, and retard its ripening; but the ratoons would be benefitted by these late rains. Little reaping would be done before March, unless February was very dry and windy. The general Council of the Leeward Islands would be held this year in St. Kitts, and Sir Gerald Strickland had already left for that Presidency.

**Barbados.**—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Jan 28th. It was becoming a serious matter how Barbados would dispose of her sugar crop. Only \$1.20 to \$1.25, package included, was offered locally per 100 lbs. The Canadian market might afford some relief if they could obtain the preferential terms they were supposed to give. Molasses had opened at 12 cents and 84. The weather continued very reasonable and all that could be wished both for the young and old crops. The wind at times had been very high, and the temperature very cool. Good showers had fallen from time to time, and the general rainfall for the month might be quoted from four to five inches, which was good for January. A good many mills were at work, especially windmills, and many more were only waiting for the completion of a little field work to start. The juice so far obtained seemed to be pure, and the sugar good. The young crop was springing well, and under the influence of these showers would soon make a show. The onion crop was ripening rapidly. The cotton factory was reopened on January 25th by Sir Frederic Hodgson, when all six gins, the seed crusher, and the haling press were set in motion. All worked satisfactorily and much interest was taken in it. The cotton was of excellent quality. (A full account of the speeches and proceedings is contained in the *Agricultural Reporter* of January 26th.—Ev.) Mr. Seabrook, the expert obtained by the Imperial Department of Agriculture from America, was present, and expressed his satisfaction at the result. The whole fortnight had been more or less taken up with the cricket matches for the inter-colonial challenge cup. Barbados was successful in obtaining a decisive victory over Demerara by 334 runs, but in the match with Trinidad, the holders, they had been badly beaten in a single innings.

**British Guiana.**—A. Summerson, Esq., January 27th. The weather was favourable everywhere except in Berbice, where the rain still kept off. Good soaking showers were very much wanted there. The Chamber of Commerce of Georgetown supported the nomination of the West India Committee of Members to the Colonial Section of the Tariff Reform League.

**Dominica.**—E. A. Agar, Esq., January 28th. The combined fleets were at the Island, the cruiser squadron at Roseau, the North American squadron at Portsmouth. There was a dance at Government House on the 27th, and a cricket match in the afternoon, when after a most exciting game the local team was victorious. The two Members elected for the Federal Council were the Hon. J. C. Macintyre and the Hon. D. O. Riviere.

## Notes of Interest.

**BINDING CASES FOR VOL. XVIII** Handsome lettered cases for binding the *West India Committee Circular*, Vol. XVIII, can be obtained from the Secretary, price 2/- each, post free. Members can have their copies bound for the inclusive charge of 3/6.

**COOLIE IMMIGRATION.** Mr. Robert W. S. Mitchell writes from Calcutta that immigration prospects are bad. 207½ million lbs. of tea have been manufactured as against about 35 million thirty years ago, so that the demand for labourers in the Assam tea estates is very great and they have been only able to get about half as many immigrants as last season.

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Antigua, 4 per cent. ...	...	1919-44	99 101	Stock. Imperial Direct West India			
Barbados, 3½ per cent. ...	...	1925-42	98-100	Mail Service Debenture	100	4½ %	84-88
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Grenada, 4 per cent. ...	...	1917-42	100-102	Telegraph Company ...	10	Nil	7-1
Jamaica, 4 per cent. ...	...	1934	105-107	100 Direct West India Cable Co.			
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				Company Debs ...	100	6 %	90 95
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**Jamaica.**—J. L. Ashenheim, Esq., January 26th. Business had been very dull, and he feared that the result of the hurricane was now being felt, and that they would probably have a bad time until the middle of the year. There had been some high winds on the north side, but no damage to speak of. The bananas would be late in coming to a condition for export, this being due to the remarkably cool weather they had been having for a long time past, which had retarded the quick growth of the bananas. Generally the Island had experienced strong winds with plenty of rain. Vere had had strong winds with occasional showers. The coffee crop would be much shorter than was contemplated, and it was said that there was very little left in the Island awaiting shipment. In view of the low price of sugar, the short coffee crop, with the low value abroad, and no demand for logwood in Europe or America, plus the damage done by the hurricane, the outlook for Jamaica in the near future was rather gloomy.

**St. Kitts.**—Chas. A. Smith, Esq., January 26th. The high winds which had lasted throughout the last two weeks were to some extent ripening up the canes, but crops were not likely to be in full swing for a month. On the other hand the cotton plants seemed to have felt the heavy weather, and on the windward side of the Island had assumed a blasted appearance. Ginning had begun. Mr. F. R. Shepherd, Agricultural Superintendent at Antigua, had been appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the regretted death of Mr. Lunt, who for some years filled the similar post in St. Kitts.

**Montserrat.**—C. Watson, Esq., January 26th. He was sorry to say that the hopes of cotton cultivators would not be realized with respect to the good returns which they were led to expect from the fine appearance of the cotton fields. 90% of the bolls on hundreds of acres of cotton appeared to be rotting before the bolls matured. The assistance of the Imperial Department of Agriculture had been evoked. The weather had been boisterous, with light showers.

**Nevis.**—Hon. C. A. Shand, January 27th. Cotton reaping was in full swing and some good results were being obtained. About 50,000 lbs. had already been picked. The three gins would be in working order by the end of the month. The weather had been favourable except for excessively high winds which lodged the canes a good deal.

**St. Lucia.**—Hon. E. Du Boulay, January 28th. The weather had been very rainy and the winds rather high. Cropping would begin in about a fortnight with fair promise.

**St. Vincent.**—Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., January 29th. The erection of the Cotton Factory was nearly completed and should be ready for ginning Cotton by March. The weather being fine both sugar and arrowroot operations proceeded without interruption.

**Trinidad.**—Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, January 29th. It was a satisfaction to the residents in Trinidad to know that a Departmental Committee on the subject of cable communication was sitting at the Colonial Office. The general opinion in Trinidad, was that the Direct West India Cable Company should be encouraged to continue their all British Line from Jamaica to the other British West Indian Colonies, and that as soon as this was done, the subsidy now given to the West India and Panama Company should be transferred to the Direct West India Cable Company. The 2% rate ordinance to provide for the cost of rebuilding the Red House and other expenses in connection with the Riot was passed by the last meeting of the Council. Colonel Brake, Commandant of the local forces, had drawn up a scheme for the re-organisation of the police force, involving a considerable increase in the number of officers and men. This had been referred to a Committee of the Legislative Council, consisting of Colonel Brake, and Messrs. G. Bushe, R. H. McCarthy, A. Warner, R. de Verteuil and the writer. After a lengthy discussion, the Chamber of Commerce whose opinion had been invited by the Governor, approved by a large majority of the No. 1 plan of Messrs. Goode, Son and Matthews for Harbour improvements. This was the larger of the two schemes, and it was estimated to cost £750,000. As regards weather and crops, a fortnight ago they thought dry weather was setting in, but it soon changed, and they had since then had rain every day. The one or two Sugar Estates that had made a start with their crops, had to stop owing to the state of the roads, and also on account of the poorness of the juice. The rains had been in favour of Cocoa cultivation, although a little detrimental to crop operations. Large quantities of Cocoa had been reaped, and in consequence of the large supply prices had dropped. A similar tendency had been exhibited both in the United States and in Europe, in spite of the reports that the Trinidad crop was likely to be short. Fair ordinary might be quoted at \$13, and estates from \$13 50 to \$14 25. The Northern ranges of hills still seemed to hold out a prospect of an average crop, but it was anticipated that some districts would show a considerable shortage.

*The Editor of the West India Committee Circular invites the assistance and co-operation of the West Indian Press and Members, with a view to make the Homeward Mail pages as fully informative as possible. Cuttings from papers and notes of general interest will be much appreciated.*



## Weather Telegrams.

**British Guiana** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), February 4th. "Too dry, Berbice, generally favourable elsewhere." (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.), February 15th. "Weather is more favourable, Berbice." **Trinidad** (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), Feb. 3rd. "Broken weather, crop operations retarded, prospects of crop good." (New Colonial Co., Ltd.), February 8th. "Weather is more favourable." February 12th, "Weather changeable."

## Exports from British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
	Tons	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
British Guiana—								
Jan 1 to Jan. 26, 1904	11,626	4329	—	3836	60	9	1692	—
" " 27, 1903	9167	7380	—	4918	24	300	1508	562
Jamaica—		Cwts. <td></td> <td>Galls. <td></td> <td>Pimento. <td>Bananas. <td>Oranges. </td></td></td></td>		Galls. <td></td> <td>Pimento. <td>Bananas. <td>Oranges. </td></td></td>		Pimento. <td>Bananas. <td>Oranges. </td></td>	Bananas. <td>Oranges. </td>	Oranges.
Apr 1 to Jan. 9, 1904	1188	17,679	44,926	902,374	14,458,460	60,613	7,413,410	74,407,010
" " 10, 1903	13,468	19,133	69,128	1,536,939	20,173,706	107,734	12,452,616	90,204,597
Trinidad—	Bags & Bris	lbs. <td>lbs. <td>Puns</td> <td></td> <td>Molasses. <td></td> <td>Asphalt. </td></td></td>	lbs. <td>Puns</td> <td></td> <td>Molasses. <td></td> <td>Asphalt. </td></td>	Puns		Molasses. <td></td> <td>Asphalt. </td>		Asphalt.
Jan. 1 to Jan. 28, 1904	—	2,527,730	20,000	—	227,100	Puns	Trcs.	Hrls.
" " 28, 1903	1081	4,258,330	1520	—	557,500	10	—	—
						136	41	24
								Tons
								10,943
								7720

## The Mails.

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.**—Home arrivals per R M S "Orinoco," February 11th, 1904:—**Barbados.**—Lieut. Moore, Mr. C. Anderson, Capt. Ferris, R. N. **Demerara.**—Mrs. Ashmore, Mr. Grant, Mr. S. Carter. **Jamaica.**—Dr. E. Forbes, Mr. J. Keenan, Major and Mrs. Skey, Mr. H. F. Dale, Mr. E. B. Colthurst, Mr. H. A. Trotter, Mr. H. C. Ward, Mr. T. O'Hagan, Mr. E. Walmisley. **Trinidad.**—Mr. Manco, Mr. Redhead, Mr. Thomas, Miss Buckingham, Mr. J. Smyth, Mr. H. S. Tappin, Mr. C. W. Tappin, Mr. R. H. Cresswell, Mr. C. Bizell, Mr. D. Bizell, Mr. J. B. Brinkley. **Dominica.**—Mr. Agar. **Grenada.**—Mr. R. Ferguson, Mr. G. Kent. **St. Kitts.**—Mr. J. E. Foreman. **St. Lucia.**—Lieut. Basil Brooke, R. N.

Outward Bookings per R M S "Atrato," February 17th, 1904:—**Barbados.**—Hon. Miss Cunliffe Lister, Captain and Mrs. Jones, Mr. C. Ridley, Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis, Mr. and Mrs. Quin, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon, Mr. and Mrs. Fraser-Tytler, Captain A. Fellows, Mr. and Mrs. Clay, Mr. D. Ramsden, Mr. C. Bartlett, Mrs. Barron, Hon. and Miss Henniker, Mr. A. Kemp, Mr. D. C. Da Costa, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Solomon, Miss I. Bartlett, Mrs. Martin, Mr. A. East, Dr. Elliot. **Demerara.**—Mr. J. Ogilvie, the two Messrs. Finue. **Jamaica.**—Mr. and Mrs. Goddard, Mr. J. Eyre, Mr. E. Hanbury, Mr. W. Orrett, Mr. and Mrs. Earnshaw, Mrs. M. Hayward, Hon. Sydney Olivier, C M G, Mr. F. W. Fitzgerald, Mr. and Mrs. Armitage. **Trinidad.**—Mr. and Mrs. Goodwille, Miss A. Palmer, the three Misses Riddle. **Antigua.**—His Honour Mr. Justice and Mrs. Danavall. **Dominica.**—Mr. H. Homfrey, Miss M. Melville. **Grenada.**—Mrs. Alexander. **St. Lucia.**—Miss F. Hendy, Mrs. Barlow.

Advance Bookings per R M S "Orinoco," March 2nd, 1904:—**Barbados.**—Mr. W. McLaren. **Demerara.**—Rev. and Mrs. Wallace. **Trinidad.**—Mrs. C. Taitt, Miss Muriel Stewart. **St. Lucia.**—Capt. D. F. Nichol.

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.**—Home Arrivals per R M S "Port Royal," Feb. 4th, 1904:—**Jamaica.**—Mr. J. F. Abraham, Mr. N. Byerley, Lady Bridge, Mrs. Coke, Mr. F. Durant, Mr. K. Deveson, Miss M. Greaves, Mrs. T. Hughes, Mr. A. F. Jones, Mr. R. M. Lamb, Mr. G. Lamb, Miss Leighton, Mr. McMonies, the two Misses Nevatt, Mr. J. J. Spencer, Mr. W. Wilson.

Sailings per R M S "Port Royal," February 13th, 1904:—**Jamaica.**—Dr. G. M. Andre, Mr. A. and Miss Mackenzie-Ashton, Mr. Mackenzie-Ashton, junr., the two Misses Bethell, Miss Prodrick, Mrs. and Miss Cass, Miss A. Clarke, Mr. W. J. Courtauld, Mr. C. Danvers, Mrs. Edwards, Miss D. Favrol, Miss R. Felix, Miss R. Ford, Dr. J. Freer, Mr. F. G. Gill, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Goodwin, Mr. W. Hairsine, Mr. B. Hooper, Mr. H. D. Hooper, Mr. A. Jersey, Mrs. W. N. Nevill, Sir H. E. and Miss Oakeley, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, Mr. A. Simpson, Dr. Hancock, Wathen, Mr. H. H. Watson, Mr. W. West, Mr. H. Wharton, Capt. C. Willis, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Young.

Advance Bookings per R M S "Port Antonio," February 27th, 1904:—**Jamaica.**—Mr. G. Bruenech, Mr. C. F. Brymer, Mr. J. W. Christie, Mr. A. T. Cooper, Capt. Dundas, R. N., Mr. Dundas, two Misses Douglas, Mr. A. N. Farewell, Miss J. A. Hastie, Rev. F. J. Hodges, Mrs. Leader, Mr. H. Morton, Miss M. Nuttall, two Misses Philp, Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Robinson, Mr. A. H. Stockley, Mr. J. P. Tay, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Walker, Miss Walker, Staff-Capt. and Mrs. J. H. Clifford, Mrs. Winstanley.

# The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar—88 per cent Beet.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America (uneven dates) are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
Europe	3,470,000	3,290,000	3,450,000	2,800,000	2,600,000
United States	110,000	130,000	90,000	130,000	160,000
Cuba	110,000	140,000	170,000	70,000	50,000
Cargoes afloat	50,000	60,000	20,000	20,000	30,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,740,000</b>	<b>3,620,000</b>	<b>3,730,000</b>	<b>3,020,000</b>	<b>2,840,000</b>
Comparative prices of 88% for 5 years:—	7s. 10d.	7s. 11½d.	6s. 8d.	9s. 3¾d.	10s. 0¾d.

All interest centres on the sowings of beet for the next season commencing in October, for it is abundantly clear that unless a reduction of 1,000,000 tons is made, no permanent relief can come to the congestion of stocks, nor improvement in prices which are simply disastrous to beet growers as well as cane sugar proprietors. The crops now being raised in the three chief countries admitted into the United Kingdom, under the Brussels Convention, are some 2,000,000 tons in excess of their requirements, after allowing liberally for increase in consumption promoted by their reduced internal duties. The various figures are approximately, as follows:—Germany's production say 1,970,000 tons, possible consumption 1,000,000 tons, surplus for export 970,000 tons. Austria's production say 1,220,000, possible consumption 400,000 tons, surplus for export 820,000 tons. France's production, say 810,000 tons, possible consumption 600,000 tons, surplus for export 210,000 tons, making in all 2,000,000 tons which has to be got rid of to outside places. This industry being protected by the 2s. 3d. per cwt. duty, imposed on the importation of foreign sugar into these three foreign countries and sanctioned by the Brussels Convention, is extremely difficult to assail, indeed we may say impossible and the only question whether it can be maintained or not is "price." The results of crop 1903—04, cannot fail to leave an unpleasant loss if it is sold on the basis of 8s. for 88 per cent, which looks at present a maximum average for this season, if sowings are to be maintained for 1904—05 on the basis 1903—04. This is the point which will determine the future of this year and next, no one, however clever, being able so early in the year to determine how this will work out. Quotations of 88 per cent, beet, are as follows:—February, 7s. 10d., May, 8s. 0¾d., August, 8s. 3d., and October—December, 8s. 3¾d., those of first marks German granulated, being, 9s. 9d., 9s. 11½d., 10s. 0¾d., and 10s. 3¾d., for these respective periods.

**Crystallised Sugar.**—The Market has further weakened under the influence of the general surrounding depression, but a good business has been done, the Trade operating with more freedom at the low range of prices now established, which are as follows:—Inferior grades, 14s., low to good yellow, 14s. 3d. to 14s. 9d., with average qualities, 14s. 6d., some fine sugar, 15s. 3d. to 15s. 9d., and small lots of choice up to 16s. 3d. "Imitations" are selling from 14s. 3d. to 14s. 6d. A cargo of 96 centrifugals is worth about 8s. 6d. in bond on floating terms, and being now cheaper than beet, this sugar is attracting the attention of the general body of refiners.

**Molasses Sugar** is still scarce. Quotations range from 11s. to 15s.

**Muscovado**—Grocery kinds are wanted at relatively good prices. A cargo of 89 test would command not far off 7s. 6d. on floating terms, in bond.

**West India figures since 1st Jan.**

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports to date	5000	2000	4000	4000
Deliveries	4000	4000	7000	5000
Stocks	13,000	26,000	10,000	8,000

**Rum.**—The market still remains inanimate and only some small lots of Demerara have been sold from 8½d. to 9d. There is a large accumulation in Importers hands which is firmly held at present and it will be interesting to see whether they or the Trade gain the day. Jamaica is less plentiful and its 9d. remains the quotation of fair home trade marks. Leewards and Cuba rum ranging from 6½d. for the latter up to 11d. for the former.

**Board of Trade Returns for January:**

	1904.	1903.	1902.
Imports	925,000	625,000	1,037,000
Home Consumption	407,000	389,000	403,000
Stocks 31st Jan.	9,869,000	9,645,000	7,691,000

**London Figures to date:**

	1904	1903	1902	1901
Imports Jamaica	290	140	100	490
Demerara	4400	2300	4500	5400
Stocks Jamaica	8100	9700	6800	7500
Demerara	11,000	8500	8000	8700
Total of all kinds:— Stocks	29,033	28,992	Increase, 41 Puns.	

**Cocoa.**—There is a continued good demand for Grenada, and prices of Native Kinds are in sellers favour, fermented Cocoa showing no change. Prices now are, fair native, 55s., and fermented 57s. to 60s. Trinidad is exceedingly flat, and offers to sell at 2s. to 3s. decline failed to interest buyers. Prices are more or less nominal, viz: fair collected, 63s.; estate marks, 64s. to 72s.; native cocoa from other islands is worth about 53s., and fermented 56s. to 61s.; fermented African costs about 59s. for delivery on full landed terms in the various Ports of the United Kingdom.

**Board of Trade Returns for January:**

	1904	1903	1902.
Imports	3300	3098	4150
Home Consumption	2487	1622	3510
Stocks 31st Dec	3751	5819	6030

London Stocks:—1904, 56,000; 1903, 83,000; 1902, 87,000; 1901, 94,000 Bags.

**Coffee**—The Santos future market is in the hands of speculators, largely American, fluctuations in price being frequent and violent. The moment's quotation for this month's delivery is 35s., and the value of good ordinary Jamaica 40s.

**Nutmegs**—Steady. Small sales of West India 110's at 8½d. **Mace**—Fair red realised 1s. 10d. and broken 1s. 9d.

**Ginger**—A few packages Jamaica sold from 36s. 6d. to 40s. **Pimento**—Quiet. Fair is nominally worth 40.

**Cotton**—Uncertain, owing to continued gambling in America. Prices having once touched nearly 9d. are now about 7½d. for this month's delivery, a useful fall for Lancashire but still very dear.

**Arrowroot**—Dull and only a retail business at 1¾d. for fair manufacturing.

**London Figures for January:**

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	912	2121	2330	952	1041
Deliveries	1629	1105	1558	1058	1280
Stocks	11,916	13,150	8519	7994	2292

**Lime Juice**—Slow and inactive; small sales at 10d. to 15s. Concentrated unchanged at £12 15s. Distilled oil, value 1s. 4d.; Hand Pressed unchanged at 2s. 6d. to 3s.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.



# The . . . West India Committee Circular

ENTERED AT STATIONERS HALL.

Vol. XIX.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1st, 1904.

No. 118.

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## OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. IV.



Mr. Mayson M. Beeton,

Secretary of the Anti-Bounty League, 1897-1903  
(Special Commissioner for the "Daily Mail" in the West Indies, 1902-3).

## Proposed Produce Association.

Nearly every Colony has now replied to our circular letter of November 10th last (see *Circular 110*, page 101), regarding our proposal to form an Association for furthering the sale of and stimulating the demand for all kinds of West Indian produce. Inasmuch as the replies to our enquiry "does the idea of the formation of a West Indian Produce Association under the auspices of the West India Committee meet with your approval in the abstract?" were, with one exception, in the affirmative, it is proposed now to go more closely into the matter and it is probable that a further communication on the subject will very shortly be addressed to the Colonies. Mr. Lyttelton takes much interest in our endeavour to promote trade between the West Indies and the Mother Country; Sir Daniel Morris, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, has expressed his opinion that such an Association if well organised and heartily supported by all the leading people in the West Indies would be calculated to be of great and permanent benefit to those Colonies, and letters of a most satisfactory and encouraging nature have

been received from the Governors and Administrators of the Colonies. We wish at the outset to give the assurance that nothing whatever will be done to prejudice the interests of those who are already doing much to promote the sale of West Indian produce in this country, but rather to assist them by stimulating the latent demand for these commodities.

### Our Lectures.

The Duchess of Marlborough has accepted an invitation to be present at our afternoon meeting on Tuesday, March 8th, at 3.45, when Sir Patrick Manson will deliver an address on "Tropical Diseases," and the Duke of Marlborough, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, will take the chair. The lecture will be illustrated by limelight lantern, and a large attendance is expected. The subject is one of the most absorbing interest, and the resulting dissemination of information throughout the West Indies as to how to combat malaria, cannot fail to be advantageous to the Colonies. A limited number of tickets (free) for this lecture can now be obtained from the Secretary. The success which attended our first meeting, February 9th, has induced us to arrange for a further lecture after Easter, and we are glad to be in a position to announce that Sir George Watt has kindly consented to read a paper on "Cotton," on April 19th. Now that the West Indies are giving their serious attention to the revival of what was once their staple industry, this subject should appeal to all our members, and as Sir George Watt's paper will, it is hoped, be subsequently published in this paper, the information which he is so well qualified to give will be eagerly awaited in the West Indies.

### The Health of the West Indies.

The condition of public health in the West Indies is at the present time excellent and it is with great regret that we learn that in certain Colonies an unfounded rumour is being given persistent currency—presumably by interested parties—as to the health of a neighbouring Island. We say "unfounded" advisedly, as we have no reason to believe that the public health authorities would do otherwise than report the existence of any serious illness. It is hardly fitting to the dignity of some of the Colonies that such petty jealousies should be exhibited. This is a matter which might well, and probably will, engage the attention of the forthcoming quarantine conference.

### The West Indies and Cotton.

We are keenly alive to the good work being done by the British Cotton Growing Association. The West Indies section of that organisation is working in close co-operation with the various Governments and the Imperial Department of Agriculture. Seed is being supplied to anyone applying for it, and ginneries are being established wherever necessary, while in the Leeward Islands a scheme has been formulated by which planters are to receive substantial financial help from a fund guaranteed by the Government and the Association. We are, however, officially informed that the Association does not contemplate forming companies for the development of cotton growing in the West Indies. In many quarters this will be a matter for sincere regret. The West Indies are very well suited for the growth of cotton, especially of the Sea Island variety, two consignments of which from Barbados were recently valued at 16d. to 17d., and the influx of some part of the capital of £500,000 being raised by the British Cotton Growing Association would afford a much needed stimulus to the Islands.

### £500,000 to be Raised.

An influential meeting of manufacturers and merchants was held on February 20th, in the board-room of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, in furtherance of an effort to raise £500,000, to be subscribed during five years, in support of the work of the British Cotton Growing Association.



Sir F. F. Adam, who presided, said the world's demand for cotton had so much increased that at the end of last year's season the visible supply was only 500,000 bales. That was the opportunity of the American gambler. With an immense financial backing, he rigged the market. A short time ago the price was rushed up to close upon 9d. a pound. Short time in Lancashire meant a loss of millions to the employers and employed, and by diminishing the purchasing power of the people, it meant an immense loss to all who supplied Lancashire with food, clothing and other necessaries. India could probably be looked after by its own Government, but the Association were prepared to begin active cotton growing in West, Central, and East Africa. A great deal had been done, and the Association now thoroughly understand what they could do and what was wanted. Advances would be made to natives to be repaid when the cotton was grown, or land would be taken and cotton grown by the Association itself. Every effort would be made to obtain a substantial return for contributions. A large supply of cotton must come by steady, hard, and honest endeavour. In a few years the result undoubtedly would be that Lancashire would be much more independent of the American supply.

Mr. T. Broadhurst said he looked upon the money they were trying to raise as a very necessary investment. Properly supported by those interested it must be an investment for Lancashire and a individual investment for those who joined. The profits might not be direct, but they were none the less sure. He was glad to hear the chairman say that it did not matter where the cotton came from so long as they got a supply. Of course the British Association could only deal with British Dependencies and Colonies.

The meeting was addressed by others, and it was resolved to form a committee for the purpose in view, and to act in other ways as an auxiliary of the Cotton Growing Association.

One subscription of £1,500 and some of £1,000, with other sums above and below it, were subscribed in about a quarter of an hour. Before the meeting, several sums of £5,000 from the larger firms and combinations had been reported. The executive committee of the Association has been at the same time strengthened by many of the leading members of the trade. The funds of the association, which a fortnight ago fell short of the £50,000 originally proposed, may now be counted as nearly £100,000.

It is indeed to be hoped that the Association will not lose sight of British Guiana and the West Indies, in connection with their proposals for growing cotton upon a large scale in our Colonies and Dependencies.

### "Phytoptus" or "Eriophyes."

We recently received from Montserrat a bottle containing a specimen of cotton plant injured by Phytoptus, or Eriophyes as it is often called. Without wishing in any way to encroach on the sphere of utility of the Imperial Department of Agriculture to which, as we would remind our Members, enquiries on entomological problems should more properly be addressed, we forwarded it to Sir William Thiselton Dyer, at Kew, who in turn sent it to the Natural History Museum. Mr. Charles O. Waterhouse, assistant to the keeper of zoology, reported that it would take some time to make enquiries as to the best remedy to use, but advised spraying with ordinary *liver of sulphur wash*, especially at the time the Phytopti were leaving the buds for the leaves. He suggested this as an experiment. The Phytopti are exceedingly difficult pests to deal with, owing to the fact that they spend the whole of their lives *in* plant buds or *in* galls on the leaves, and hence, the only effective way of dealing with them, as in the case of black currant, is to *burn* all infested shrubs. The mischief can however be lessened by cutting off and burning the infested parts, or by frequent spraying. It is a matter for local planters to consider whether it would be possible to try some other variety of cotton plant in the affected districts.

### Sugar Beet in the United Kingdom.

During the year 1903, fifty two experiments in sugar beet cultivation were conducted in the United Kingdom, and the results, as embodied in Mr. Sigmund Stein's ninth report, will be read with especial interest now that the Brussels Convention has removed many obstacles in the way of starting a sugar beet industry in this country. The results shown appear to prove very conclusively that British farmers can compete successfully with their continental confrères. In 1903 a greater variety of seeds was used than in previous years, on account of Mr. Stein's desire to study the results obtained from their use in different counties and under different conditions. Soil and manure varied also this year.

Compared with M. Licht's analysis, the following results were shown :—

	British Grown Roots.	German
Average weight of roots, without leaves, in grammes ...	933	560
Quantity of sugar in 100 parts of the juice ... ..	17.28	16.87
Quantity of non-sugar in 100 parts of the juice ... ..	2.65	2.83
Quotient of purity ... ..	86.98	85.63

Regarding the quantity of juice and pulp, the average in 1903 was as follows :—

Juice ...	92.88.	Pulp ...	7.12.	Total ...	100.00.
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With regard to the tonnage per acre, British grown roots yielded as follows :—

1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
16.07	16.03	16.09	19.01	19.04	15.90	14.50 Tons.

The tonnage in 1903 was smaller than in previous years, but this was mainly attributable to the unfavourable weather.

### The Surtax on Rum.

The injustice of the surtax or countervailing duty imposed by the British Government on West Indian Rum has constantly been the subject of representations from the West India Committee to His Majesty's Government. It is a genuine grievance that while spirit manufactured in this country is duty free when used for methylation, British Colonial spirit intended for this purpose should be mulcted of the amount of the surtax.

In this connection it is of interest to note the remarks of Mr. T. Tyrer, who read a paper on "The need of duty free alcohol for industrial purposes," before a meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry, held on the 22nd ult., in the rooms of the Chemical Society, Burlington House, W. The lecturer said that no progress could be made in the production of a large class of bodies employed freely in medicine and the arts of this country and for exportation to our colonies and dependencies, unless large facilities were given by the State. After recapitulating past concessions as to duty-free spirit by the drawback on exportation of medicinal preparations and perfumery, by the return of the differential duty of 5d., by allowance for waste, and by non-interference with manufacture, Mr. Tyrer dealt with the present position of the distiller, and declared that he was in no sense a free agent either as to procedure or material. Encouragement of British manufacturers would go a long way to make supply and demand equal, and if the facts were as stated and commonly believed, there was in them a convincing case for the exemption of the British surplus from the 5d. differential duty on spirits for selected manufacturing purposes. It was not at this moment a question of over production, but of absorbing the surplus for industries, not for drinking, and they urged that the quantities required for *bona fide* manufacturing should be free from two loads—



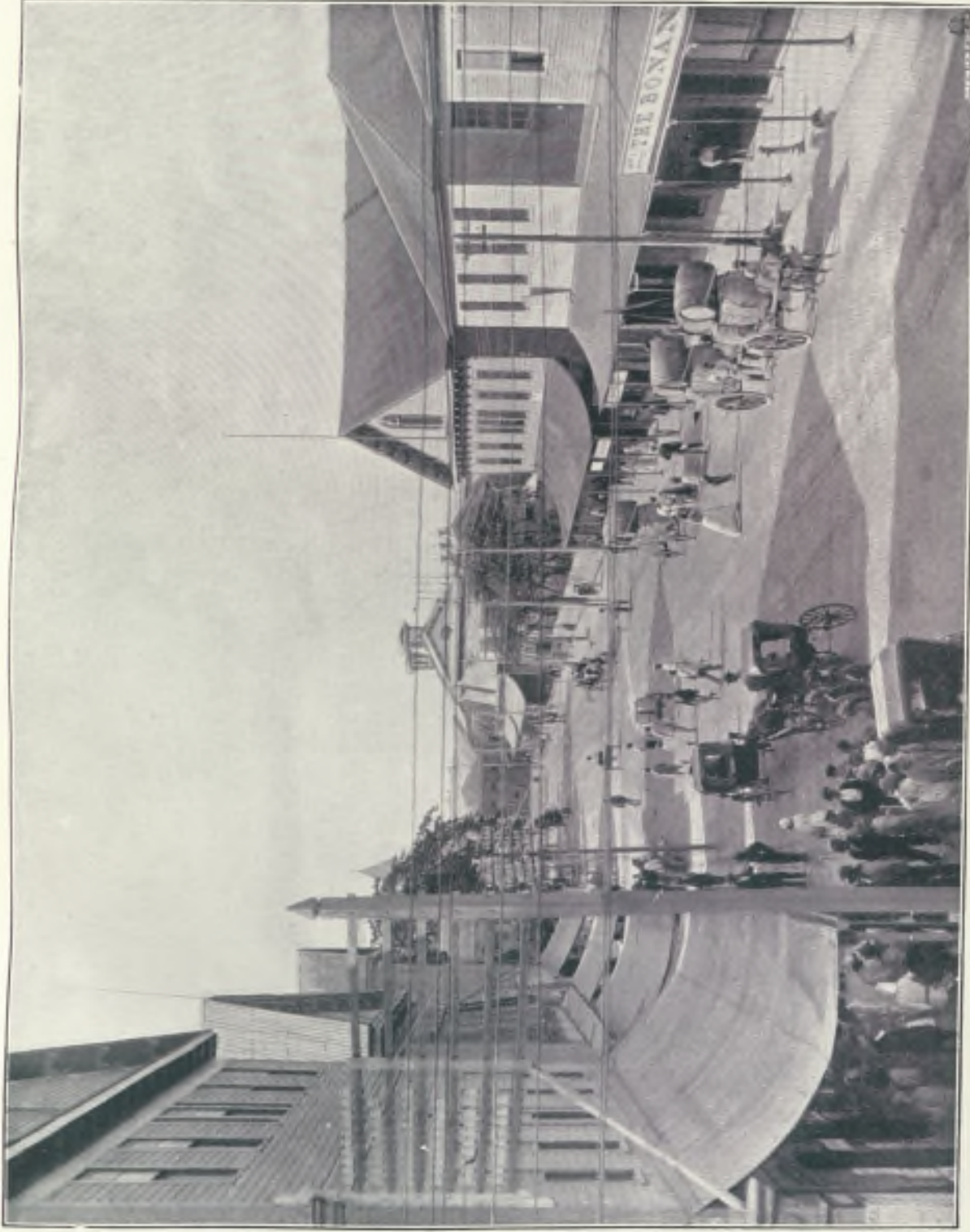


Photo by ALGERIUS E. ARSTRALE.

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**WATER STREET, GEORGETOWN,  
BRITISH GUIANA.**

one, of the duty itself; secondly, with regard to the quantity so employed, that was, in industries, of the 5d. differential duty. He pointed out that, from answers received from a letter sent round to colleges where duty-free alcohol was permitted to be used for purposes of research, it appeared that the regulations under which the alcohol was used had worked very smoothly and well. He claimed that this privilege should be extended to manufacturers, who should be put upon an equality with their energetic, able, and scientific rivals. In the course of a short discussion reference was made to the great injury done to the colour and other industries of this country by reason of the manufacturers having to pay duty on the alcohol used.

### Water Street, Georgetown.

Water Street, which runs parallel to the east bank of the Demerara river for about two miles, might be described as the Mincing Lane of British Guiana. It is the leading commercial centre of Georgetown, and it is there that the houses of business are mostly situated. At one end stands the Stabroek Market, while at the other, from which our photograph was taken by the writer in 1898, the well arranged museum. Water Street is essentially the business quarter, and it is in the nature of things that it should be less picturesque than most of the broad streets of Georgetown, which is one of the finest cities in the West Indies.

### The Sugar Bounties Agitation, 1864—1903.\*

A RETROSPECT: BY W.P.B.S.

#### The Third and Final Stage, 1889—1903—continued.

At the dinner of the London Chamber of Commerce, on the 20th of December, 1899, which was presided over by Sir Nevile Lubbock, and at which M. Yves Guyot was present as a guest, and to which some reference has already been made, there were present some representatives of the Confectionery trades. One gentleman (Mr. Mathieson), spoke strongly against any interference with the sugar bounties as being opposed to the policy of Free Trade. He considered that on broad public grounds the compensations connected with the bounties were greater than the drawbacks. Another gentleman (Mr. Machin), declared that his trade (confectionery) was not dependent on the bounties, or that their abolition would damage it to any extent whatever, but he objected to countervailing duties as inconvenient, and would prefer prohibition of bounty-aided sugars.

It is necessary to take note of this early opposition to the anti-bounty movement on the part of the British confectionery trades, because it developed subsequently into an open pro-bounty movement, and in that guise raised a vigorous parliamentary opposition to the Sugar Bounty Convention. At no time did this pro-bounty movement of the confectionery trades advance any sustainable argument against the economic validity on free-trade grounds of the anti-bounty movement. Perhaps the most substantial plea for the trade interests of our confectionery trades, arose from the consideration that the abolition of the bounties and cartels, would make sugar very much cheaper for their continental rivals.

Another speaker, Mr. C. J. Crosfield, the well-known refiner of Liverpool, stated that the only reason why beet sugar was not produced in the United Kingdom, was the bounties. He also pointed out that the one million tons of refined sugar then imported, would if produced at home, create employment in the villages and small country towns, for very large numbers of men, women, and children. The capital required would be £15,000,000, the farmers would produce a crop of the annual value of £10,000,000.

In March 1900, at the Annual Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, a resolution in favour of an anti-bounty Convention with a penal clause, prohibiting the entry of bounty-aided sugar into the territories of the contracting Powers was lost by a considerable majority. Later on in

\* Continued from "The West India Committee Circular," No. 117.



the year this decision was over-ruled at meetings of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, the anti-bounty resolution then proposed by Sir Nevile Lubbock, and supported by Lord Avebury, Mr. C. J. Crosfield, and Sir Thomas Sutherland, M.P., being carried by an over-whelming majority.

The Cobden Club with its policy of *laissez faire* favoured this opposition, but such opposition need not be regretted as it insured a thorough ventilation of the whole question, and gave greater stability to the final triumph over the organised opposition to the anti-bounty movement.

In this year (1900) the 'Kartel' or combination between the two branches of the German sugar industry became a *fait accompli*. This form of protection was of course entirely dependent upon the high protective import duty against foreign sugar entering Germany. It had been for some time established in Austria. But in France trusts and combinations being illegal, their industry was placed at a serious disadvantage by the 'Kartel' in the international competition, but it still enjoyed its direct State bounties on production and export.

When it is considered, that according to one German authority the 'Kartel' bounty in Germany amounted to no less than £3,700,000, it will surprise no one to learn that the effect of this additional export protection completely disorganised the market prices of the world. The source of Kartel protection is the pockets of the consumers who have the misfortune to be enclosed within this ring fence of high tariff protection. The price of sugar abroad was kept at an artificial maximum in order to create an artificial decrement from the natural free-trade level of price in the open British market. Thus our consumers were being tempted by these protectionist devices to permit the destruction of their natural source of supply. The effect on the West Indian and other British sugar industries was ruinous; they now (1900) had to provide out of their own resources the full equivalent, not only of the foreign State bounties, but also of the Kartel bounties. If the British Government had levied on all imports of British cane sugar a differential surtax of £7 or £8 per ton, from which their continental rivals were to be exempt, the economic consequence would have been on a par with that produced by this double form of foreign aggressive protection.

This was the economic mischief which Mr. Chamberlain, in the interests of "free trade and no protection," determined should be stopped; and this was the economic mischief which the Cobden Club, in the name of "free trade" sought to sustain by their policy of "*laissez-faire*."

In August 1900, the Prime Minister replying to a question in the House of Commons, declined to say more than that "he had hopes that the chief bounty giving countries of Europe, would abandon bounties on sugar." As yet, no definite result of the agitation, still vigorously maintained by the Anti-Bounty League, was apparent in the policy of our Government.

TO BE CONTINUED.

### The £80,000 Imperial Grant-in-Aid to Barbados.

The following reply, dated February 13th, has been received to the letter to the Secretary of State on the above subject which appeared in last issue, page 63:—

Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st February, submitting, on behalf of several owners, merchants and others interested in the sugar plantations of Barbados, a statement of the grounds on which they base an application for the distribution among them of the sum of eighty thousand pounds which was allotted to Barbados from the grant-in-aid of the sugar industry in the West Indies.

Mr. Lyttelton has given this memorial his attention, and will cause a copy of it to be forwarded to the Governor of Barbados, with whom he is in communication as to the further disposal of the grant; but he thinks it right to add that no new argument has, in his opinion, been adduced which

would justify him in holding out any hope that previous decisions on the subject will be reversed, and that money which, after the most careful consideration it was decided not to distribute to the individuals concerned in the sugar industry of Barbados, but to appropriate to the maintenance of the industry as a whole, will, when it becomes available, be paid over to individual owners and merchants instead of being applied to some permanent object for the good of all.

I am, etc.,

C. P. LUCAS.

To this letter the following acknowledgment was sent on February 23rd:—

Sir,—We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 3776, 1904, dated the 13th instant in reply to our letter of the 1st instant, on the subject of the £80,000 which was allotted to Barbados from the grant-in-aid of the sugar industry in the West Indies, voted by Parliament on July 31st, 1902.

We confess, Sir, that we are unable to appreciate the distinction which Mr. Lyttelton appears to draw between the individuals concerned in the sugar industry and that industry taken as a whole. It appears to us that the one is identical with the other.

We are glad, however, to receive Mr. Lyttelton's assurance that the money, when it becomes available, will be applied to some permanent object for the good of all, by which we understand him to mean for the good of all connected with the sugar industry, for the benefit of which industry the grant-in-aid was undoubtedly voted by Parliament.

We have, &c.,

Signed NEVILLE LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

### Steamship freights.

We have received from the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce a copy of a report of a special committee on steamship freights to and from Europe, and freights on transshipment goods from Venezuela, which was adopted at a meeting of the Chamber on the 11th January last. This document was considered at a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on the 18th ult., and copies have been sent to the principal shipping companies connected with the West Indies with a request for their views on the subject. It is proposed to publish the correspondence in a subsequent *Circular*.

### The Cuban Reciprocity Treaty.

We have been officially informed by Lord Lansdowne in reply to an enquiry, that the representations made by His Majesty's Government to the United States relating to the Reciprocity Treaty with Cuba were based on the interpretation placed by His Majesty's Government on the most favoured nation article in the Convention of Commerce between Great Britain and the United States of 1815. Lord Lansdowne added that His Majesty's Government had not so far received any reply which could lead them to hope for a satisfactory solution of the question.

### A Treatise on Cocoa.\*

A useful addition to literature on cocoa is to be found in the third edition of Mr. Olivieri's "Cocoa Planting and its Cultivation," which is now published under the above title. This work is based on a careful and developed study of the cocoa-tree, contains also a modest but frank and straightforward "exposé" of the knowledge acquired during twenty years of tropical field experience.

\* A Treatise on Cocoa by F. Emmanuel Olivieri, Trinidad, Mole Bros., 5s.



The book is divided into twenty chapters, each dealing separately with the subject or subjects under discussion, the first being the habitual classification and description of the cocoa tree and the last artificial cocoa driers and artificial cocoa drying. Much information is to be found in the 101 pages of this treatise which is very fully illustrated by wood cuts and half tone illustrations.

### New Members of the West India Committee.

With fifteen candidates on our list and ten elected on the 18th ult. we are hopeful that the list of new members for 1904 will exceed that for 1903, which was, as far as we can tell from our Minutes, a record year. If the present rate of progression continues, we shall in a very few years be able to bring our membership up to 1,000, a consummation devoutly to be wished. With confidence we again ask our members to help us, by bringing the *Circular* and the work of the Committee before the notice of their friends, inviting them to join our ranks. At a Meeting of the Executive Committee on the 18th ult. 11 new members were elected. This brings the total elected during the current year to 94, distributed as follows:—Trinidad, 32; Jamaica, 12; Barbados, 6; Dominica, 6; St. Lucia, 5; British Guiana, 4; Grenada, 3; St. Kitts, 3; Antigua, 2; Tobago, 2; St. Vincent, 1; Home, 15; and Foreign, 3.

Name.	Proposer.	Secunder.
T. McLEAN GRAY, Esq. (Jamaica)	C. Gurney, Esq.	J. Rippon, Esq.
HAMLET B. GITTENS, Esq. (Barbados)	Elliot G. Louis, Esq.	Colonel Nourse.
ROBERT HENRY FOWLER, Esq.	G. Christall, Esq.	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.
R. G. McHUGH, Esq. (St. Lucia)	Hon. E. Du Boulay,	Hon. S. D. Melville.
EVANS H. EDMUNDS, Esq. (St. Lucia)	" "	" "
WILLIAM MEDOUZE, Esq. (St. Lucia)	" "	" "
HON. MARK KERR (St. Lucia)	" "	" "
LEONARD O'REILLY, Esq. (St. Lucia)	" "	" "
JOHN JAMES SPENCER, Esq.	T. A. Prentice, Esq.	J. Herbert Scrutton, Esq.
J. C. ROYER, Esq. (Dominica)	E. A. Agar, Esq.	
MESSRS. LABOUCHERE & Co.	E. A. de Pass, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson.

### Venezuela.

It was announced on the 23rd ult., that the Hague Tribunal had decided in favour of preferential payment to Great Britain, Germany, and Italy in respect of the 30 per cent. levied on the customs receipts of La Guaira and Porto Cabello in settlement of the claims against Venezuela. The United States Government has been requested to watch over the due execution of the judgment.

A telegram has been received from H.M. Minister at Caracas to the effect that the ports of Guanta, Puerto Sucre, and Guiria have been re-opened to trade by Decree. This should, as our hon. correspondent points out, lead to a renewal of the trade through Guiria in cocoa (of which there is a large quantity waiting to be sent up) and other products, and it is believed that the opening of the Orinoco and the resumption of transshipping goods for Bolivar from Port of Spain will not long be delayed. It is to be regretted however, that the 30 per cent. differential surtax levied by the Government of Venezuela upon importations from West Indian Colonies has not been abolished, though this matter is still engaging the attention of His Majesty's Government.

### The Fiscal Question.

In the House of Commons on February 15th, Mr. Morley's free trade amendment to the Address was defeated by a majority of 51. The text of Mr. Morley's amendment was:—

It is our duty, however, humbly to represent to your Majesty that our effective deliberation on the financial service of the year is impaired by conflicting declarations from your Majesty's Ministers. We respectfully submit to your Majesty the judgment of this House that the removal of protective duties has for more than half a century actively conduced to the vast extension of the trade and commerce of the realm, and to the welfare of its population; and this House believes that, while the needs of social improvement are still manifold and urgent, any return to protective duties, more particularly when imposed on the food of the people, would be deeply injurious to our national strength, contentment, and well being.

### An Ascent of the Soufriere, St. Vincent.

In connection with Dr. Fletts' interesting lecture at the West India Committee Rooms, on Tuesday, February 9th, a report by Dr. C. W. Branch of his observations on the conditions of the Soufrière, St. Vincent, on the occasion of an ascent which he made in November, forwarded by the Governor of the Windward Islands, and submitted to the West India Committee by Mr. Lyttelton, will be of special interest. The last violent eruption took place on March 22nd last, eleven months ago, so it is hoped that the period of activity of the volcano is now past. Dr. Branch's interesting report, addressed to the administrator, runs as follows:

At your request I shall endeavour to describe the condition of the Soufrière as I saw it on Friday last. The crater presents the appearance of having been one-third filled with sand, in which a smaller crater has been formed near the south side. There is thus a wide platform extending about three-fourths round the circumference at a level about 1000 feet below the highest part of the lip, and about 500 feet above the lake. An enormous mass seems to have been removed by one of the eruptions from the north and north-east walls of the great crater, leaving a freshly cut cliff about 1000 feet high, and exposing a series of lenticular sections of lava flows. The smaller north crater has been breached by this. About a fifth of its circle has gone. One now walks on its flat raised floor straight to the edge of the great crater and looks down to the lake about 1300 feet below. The water of the lake is green blue; on its surface fleecy wisps of vapour are ever forming and being drawn eastwards into strands by the movement of the air which acts steadily in that direction at the bottom of the crater. At points on the margin of the lake are small escapes of steam. The east wall of the inner crater is a slope steaming actively with a hissing noise from numerous fissures and holes. A considerable area here is encrusted with deposited sulphur as in the crater of Mount Misery, St. Kitts, and there is one chasm close to the wall of the main crater which steams particularly. On the surface of the platform above the inner crater, and at several points high in the walls of the great crater small jets of steam-vapour are seen. A bare crack of the surface on the actual lip gently emits hot vapour smelling of sulphurous acid. A *glacis* of scoriæ on the western side of the mountain very near the top gently steams from numerous cracks. The small northern crater is almost filled with sand. At one point its wall is a cliff of rock, at the base of which there is a very slight escape of sulphurous acid from cracks. On the whole there is hardly more thermic energy manifested than may be seen at any time in the Soufrière crater of St. Lucia. The walls of the great crater where sandy, especially near the top, are falling in. Two slips occurred while we were on the lip. The walls of the inner crater are rapidly falling and being washed down to fill the bottom of the lake. This is raising the level of the lake and extending its area. The only living things seen on the higher slopes of the volcano were a very few specimens of two species of field bugs, wasps, and a cricket. The flora consists of two species of club moss and a fern, the common silver fern. These were found on the rock cliff in the north crater.



### West Indian Interests at Westminster.

#### Barbados and South Africa.

On the 6th ult., in answer to Mr. Norman (Wolverhampton, S.), MR. LYTTLETON said,—I have received a dispatch from the Governor of Barbados asking whether he may permit steps to be taken for recruiting labourers in Barbados for service in South Africa. No reply has yet been made to this dispatch pending reference to Lord Milner on the subject.

#### Russia and Brussels Convention.

On February 22nd, Mr. Lough asked the Under Foreign Secretary, whether any further negotiations had taken place between the Commission set up under the Brussels Sugar Convention and the Russian Government, with regard to the treatment of sugar made in Russia by the Signatory Powers, and whether the Government can see its way to cancel the prohibition of the import of sugar from Russia into this country. Earl Percy: No, Sir.

#### The Brussels Sugar Commission.

On February 23rd, in answer to Mr. Lough (Islington, W.), EARL PERCY said,—there has been no change in the British representation on the Permanent Commission. The Permanent Bureau is an office for the discharge of the clerical business of the Commission. The United Kingdom is represented by one delegate and four assistant delegates, one of whom was appointed on behalf of the Colonial Office and another on behalf of the India Office. Eight countries are represented, each country having one delegate and from one to four assistant delegates. The British representatives are Sir Henry Bergne, delegate; and Mr. Martineau, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Ozanne, and Mr. Pittar, assistant delegates. The provision for their cost will appear in the Estimates, under the heading of special missions.

#### The Effects of the Abolition of Bounties.

On February 26th MR. LYTTLETON, in answer to Sir John Leng, said that the imports into the United Kingdom of sugar from the British West Indies, including British Guiana and British Honduras, during the five months (September to January) since the Brussels Convention came into force have been 11,261 tons, as compared with 7,953 tons in the corresponding period a year earlier. As a matter of fact, therefore, there has been an increase in the exports of sugar to this country since the commencement of the Convention. A comparison of this nature can, however, be of no practical value until after the close of the crop season, which commenced at the beginning of this year; and even then it will be misleading unless allowance is made for the difference in the size of the crops of the years compared, for the effect of the treaty between the United States and Cuba, and also for the conditions affecting the Canadian market. He had not, and is not likely for some time to come, to have any official information showing any definite improvement in the position of the West Indian sugar planter, arising from the Convention. The existence of large surplus stocks of sugar in the home market necessarily retards the natural operation of the abolition of bounties; while the Cuban Treaty has placed the British West Indian planter at a great disadvantage in the United States market.

### The West Indian Civil Service.

We invite Members to forward to us particulars of movements and appointments of officers of the several West Indian Governments and other persons officially connected with the West Indian Colonies, for insertion under the above heading. The information in the last twelve paragraphs on the next page is derived from the *Morning Post*.

Mr. Cyprian Pike, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., has been appointed a District Medical Officer, in St. Vincent. Mr. Pike leaves for St. Vincent on the 16th inst.

Mr. H. A. Harrison, Barrister-at-Law, has been appointed Stipendiary Justice of the Peace for Caroni, Trinidad. Mr. Harrison will leave for Trinidad on the 16th inst.

Sir Fielding Clarke, Chief Justice of Jamaica will shortly return to this country on leave of absence.

Sir William F. Haynes Smith is about to retire from the office of High Commissioner of Cyprus, the duties of which he assumed in April, 1898. He entered the Colonial Service thirty-nine years ago as Solicitor-General of British Guiana, and subsequently became Attorney-General of that Colony. In 1888 he was made Governor of the Leeward Islands, and seven years later Governor of the Bahamas. He will now retire from the service on pension.

Dr. J. E. Godfrey, Medical Inspector of British Guiana, having returned to the Colony from leave of absence, has taken over the duties of Surgeon-General from Dr. J. Widdup, who acted when Sir David Ross went on sick leave.

Sir Daniel Morris, Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, with headquarters at Barbados, has been appointed a member of the Executive Council of the Leeward Islands.

Mr. T. H. D. Bratt, Assistant Treasurer of Northern Nigeria, and formerly of British Guiana, has arrived in England on four months' leave of absence.

Mr. A. G. W. Choppin, Stipendiary Magistrate of British Guiana, has left the Colony on six months' leave, during which Mr. A. D. Cameron will take over his duties.

Mr. J. F. Guthrie, Chief Clerk in the Audit Department, Trinidad, has been appointed Manager of the Government Savings Bank of that Colony, in succession to Mr. A. E. C. Ross, who has been promoted.

The Hon. G. A. Goodman is acting as Attorney-General of Barbados during the absence on leave of the Hon. W. H. Stoker, who is spending his vacation in St. Lucia.

Mr. J. E. C. Sealy, Clerk to the Warden, Tobago, has been promoted to the office of Chief Clerk and Cashier in the Sub-Treasury of Tobago in place of Mr. T. C. Pile, who has retired on pension.

Mr. P. A. Ongley, Chief of the Grenada Police, has been made a Member of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Justice C. F. Lumb has been appointed Senior Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Jamaica in place of Mr. Justice Northcote, who has been transferred to Trinidad as Chief Justice. Prior to proceeding to Jamaica some twelve years ago, Mr. Justice Lumb occupied the office of Puisne Judge in Trinidad and acted as Chief Justice.

Mr. Walsh Wrightson, Director of Public Works, Trinidad, had been instructed by the Secretary of State to proceed to St. Lucia to report on the condition of the Public Works Department of that Colony.

Mr. W. A. Parker has been appointed a Stipendiary Magistrate of British Guiana.

### Notes of Interest.

**OBITUARY.** We have to record the death of Mrs. Golding-Bird, the owner of plantation "Port Morant," Berbice, British Guiana, which took place at Torquay, on February, 7th last.

**WEST INDIAN MAIL LETTERS.** At the request of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE the hour for posting late fee letters at Waterloo station for the fortnightly West Indian mail has been extended to 1.5 p.m.

**A LOLLIPOP DIVIDEND.** The Board of Fullers' Ltd., recommend the declaration of a further dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for the whole year, together with a bonus of 2½ per cent. per annum.

**ERRATA.** In last *Circular*, page 55, 15th line, 1½ cents should read 1¼ cents; 20th line "demand from the West Indies" should read "supply from the West Indies." Page 66, 4th par. 5th line, "injustice" should read "importance."

**CABLE REPAIRED.** Communication by the St. Lucia-St. Vincent cable which was broken by the eruption of the Soufrière in May, 1902, repaired on September 16th, and broken again two days later by another eruption of that volcano, was restored on February 10th.

**A GIFT FOR OUR LIBRARY.** Sir Walter Sendall has presented to the library Père Labat's "Nouveau voyage aux Isles de l'Amérique," in six well preserved volumes, dated 1722. We are greatly indebted to Sir Walter Sendall for this handsome gift, and hope that other Members will follow his generous example.

**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships after the departure of the West Indian Mail on Wednesday, are advertised: S.S. "Barbadian," Liverpool, March 5th, for Barbados and Trinidad; S.S. "Barrister," March 10th, for British Honduras; R.M.S. "Port Morant," March 12th, for Jamaica. *Information for publication under this head is invited from Shipping Companies.*



**THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.** Under the guidance of the energetic Hon. Sec., Mr. W. Athel M. Goode, the West Indian Club is "going very strong" just now. The Duke of Marlborough is to be the guest of the evening at the fortnightly club dinner on Wednesday next, and a large and distinguished company will be present.

**AN APOLOGY.** "The Mirror," by means of several (*sic*), courteously calls our attention to the names of Trinidad members which were given incorrectly in the "West Indian (*sic*) Committee Circular." We apologise to these gentlemen, and will see that their names are correctly described in our new list of members, which is now in course of preparation.

**OVERSEER'S REGISTER.** Estates Managers and Proprietors requiring overseers are informed that arrangements have been made for a list of applicants for such posts to be kept at the West India Committee Rooms. All enquiries regarding it should be addressed to the Secretary, West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

**BINDING CASES FOR VOL XVIII.** Handsome lettered cases for binding the *West India Committee Circular*, Vol. XVIII, can be obtained from the Secretary, price 2/- each, post free. Members can have their copies bound for the inclusive charge of 3/6. Spring back cases for *filig* a year's issue of the *Circular* can also be obtained at 2/6 each, or post free 3/-. These will be found a great convenience.

**ANTIGUA SUGAR FACTORY.** Referring to the description given in our last issue of the new Central Factory to be installed at Gunthorpes, Antigua, we are informed that the steam required for the factory will be provided by two Babcock & Wilcox patent water tube steam boilers, fitted with two of the most modern furnaces for burning green bagasse. Mr. C. T. Berthon is consulting engineer to the factory.

**HAMBURG AND THE WEST INDIES.** A marked development is shown in the Shipping between the West Indies and Hamburg. From statistics just published, it appears that the entries at the port of Hamburg from the West Indies for 1903 show a total of 80 vessels, with an aggregate of 104,000 net registered tons, as against 55 vessels and 53 vessels for 1901 and 1902 respectively, the respective aggregates of tonnage for these two years being 70,000 and 68,000. These figures represent steamer traffic mainly; 20 sailing vessels, with an aggregate of 9,000 tons, arrived from the West Indies last year. The increase in the Hamburg and West Indian traffic as against 1902, was at the rate of 53 per cent.

### West Indian Securities.

Colonial Government Inscribed Securities.		Miscellaneous Securities.		Dive.	
Antigua, 4 per cent. ... ..	Redeemable 1919-44 ... ..	99	101		
Barbados, 3½ per cent. ... ..	" 1925-42 ... ..	98	100		
British Guiana, 4 per cent. ... ..	" 1935 ... ..	106	108		
Grenada, 4 per cent. ... ..	" 1917-42 ... ..	100	102		
Jamaica, 4 per cent. ... ..	" 1934 ... ..	105	107		
St. Lucia, 4 per cent. ... ..	" 1919-44 ... ..	100	102		
Trinidad, 4 per cent. ... ..	" 1917-42 ... ..	101	103		

Present Amount.	Stock or Sbars.	Miscellaneous Securities.	Paid.	Dividend.	Dive.
100,000 ... ..	20	Colonial Bank ... ..	£6	6 %	47-51
15,000 ... ..	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ... ..	60	—	29-31
250,000 ... ..	Stock.	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4% 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4½ %	82-86nd
80,000 ... ..	100	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. 5% Deb	100	5 %	99-102
34,563 ... ..	10	" " " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	10	8s	6-6½
4,669 ... ..	10	" " " " " " " 2nd "	10	—	41-51
88,321 ... ..	10	" " " " " " " Ordinary ... ..	10	—	3-½
46,874 ... ..	5	New Colonial Company Preference ... ..	5	5 %	2½-3½
360,700 ... ..	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 5% Deb.	100	6 %	91-96
165,000 ... ..	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company ... ..	100	Nil.	15-20
115,000 ... ..	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company 7% Preference ... ..	100	Nil.	88-93
31,250 ... ..	10	" " " " " 4% Extension Preference ... ..	10	4 %	7-8
70,000 ... ..	Stock.	" " " " " " " Perpetual Deb. Stock	100	4 %	97-99
85,800 ... ..	100	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd., 4½% 1st Mortgage Debentures (1 to 1200) redeemable	100	4½ %	98-101
30,000 ... ..	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ... ..	£2 10 0	6 %	—
58,700 ... ..	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4½% 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4½ %	98-101
50,000 ... ..	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. ... ..	5	5 %	—

Bank of England rate 4 % (changed from 3 % on Sept. 3rd, 1903). 2½ % Consols, 85½. (29.2.04).

### The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Trent" anchored off Plymouth at 2.35 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24th. The mails were delivered in London first post next day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Maria" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, Feb. 17th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents received by the R.M.S. "Trent."

**Antigua.**—Hon. A. St. G. Spooner, February 9th. With sugar selling at the present rates in Canada and New York, it was probable that a considerable portion of the coming crop might find its way to the home market for the first time for many years, but of course much would depend on the shipping facilities and the freight rates. With these points satisfactorily met there should be little reason why West Indian sugars should not regain an important position in the home markets from which they had only been unfairly banished in the past. The weather continued most unusual for the time of year, with constant little showers, most favourable on the whole for the germination of the cane plants and giving the ratoons and late plant canes a good chance of becoming quite a fair crop. There was so far very little sign of the cane ripening which was not a drawback this year as the rains set in so very late. It was doubtful whether any sugar in quantity would be ready for shipment before the end of March.

**Barbados.**—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, February, 11th. Since last letter, the weather had been all that could be desired, and the temperature abnormally cool. The first week of the fortnight was marked by cold nights and driving showers in the early morning, so much so that blankets and warm clothing had to be resorted to. Many passengers who landed from the "Orient" on January 30th, could not believe they were in the tropics. These light showers had retarded sugar making, as it would have been impossible to dry the megass, and coal was not to be thought of with sugar at its present price. A general start was to be made on the following Monday, however, on all windmill estates at all events, as it would not be safe to keep the canes any longer. There was still every hope of an abundant crop, as the yield so far promised well, and the juice seemed pure. The problem, however, was, what class of sugar to make, and where to go for a market; and whether to put it into hogsheads, barrels, or bags. The present quotation of \$1.20 per 100 lbs, including hogsheads, was appalling, and molasses also showed a drooping tendency. Beet at 7s. 9d. was relatively stronger than the American market. Canada seemed to offer them no advantage, and the buyers would give none of the preferential bounty, and they were so close to New York, that Canadian refiners would always be able to replenish their stocks from there. They had sent away their first shipment of cotton from the factory, and hoped that it might do well. He was glad to hear from Captain Owen that the new cargo steamers being built by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company were to be fitted with "Hall's storage," the method advocated by Sir D. Morris, and he hoped they might carry their fruit safely. The native onions were much appreciated in the local market, but they had not heard of any shipments being made. They hoped that the West India Committee would press on their efforts to form a Produce Association, for it was a most difficult question how they could best dispose of their sugar.

**British Guiana.**—A. Summerson, Esq., Feb. 10th. The annual session of the Combined Court was announced for the 17th inst. The fortnight had been quiet, and only one sale of sugar was reported, 400 tons at \$1.75. \$1.65 was spoken of as the price at the time of writing. The weather was favourable in Demerara and Essequibo. In Berbice showers had fallen, but these had not been heavy enough for them. The epidemic was practically at an end, only an odd case turning up now and then.

**British Honduras.**—A. R. Usher, Esq., February 5th. Mr. H. E. Dale, of the Colonial Office, who was sent out to the Colony to inquire into the expenditure and working of the public departments of the Colony, left on the 18th January for England, via Puerto Cortez and Jamaica. His report was looked for with interest. Belize was in telegraphic communication with the following places in the north of the colony, viz.: Baker's, on the Belize river, Orange Walk, on the New river, Corozal and Consejo, on the sea coast, and work had commenced on a line to the south, with stations which would probably be established at the following places; Sibun, Manatee, Mullins River, Stann Creek, Sittee River, Monkey River, and Punta Gorda, and a local telephone service would also be installed in Belize immediately. The Government of the colony were in correspondence with the Mexican authorities, and hoped shortly to be able to connect their line at Consejo with the Mexican system, and when this was accomplished they would be in communication with the outer world. The Bank of British Honduras, although it had only been established for a year, had been very successful and had supplied a great want. The dividend for the past year was fixed at six per cent, and the capital would be increased to \$100,000 at the discretion of the directors. The Hon. B. Fairweather, Member of the Legislative Council, died on the 1st February. His seat in the Council had not been filled.

**Dominica.**—E. A. Agar, Esq., February 10th. The Council of the Dominica Agricultural Society at a meeting in the preceding week agreed in principle to the formation of a Produce Association. The weather continued to be wet,



and if it continued long enough it might harm the cacao crop a little; the outlook for lime planters was most promising. The annual Agricultural Show was to take place on the 24th and 25th.

**Jamaica.**—J. L. Ashenheim, Esq., February 8th. During the last two weeks there had been a good deal of rain in St. Mary, Portland, St. Catherine, and Upper St. Andrew's. In the other parts of the Island they were having seasonable weather, save lower St. Andrew's, where rain was much wanted. There had experienced favourable reaping weather, say "dry," with an occasional shower. It was reported that there were a few sugar estates in Trelawney about to abandon sugar cultivation; it was to be hoped that this was not true. A public meeting at the Merchants' Exchange was about to be held to discuss the best means to be adopted to encourage and develop the tourist trade of Jamaica.

**Montserrat.**—C. Watson, Esq., February 10th. The weather for the past fortnight had been very boisterous and rainy, such as it generally was in November.

**St. Kitts.**—Chas. A. Smith, Esq., February 9th. Mrs. Todd was desirous of thanking the Committee, through the writer, for their kindly expression of sympathy with her in her bereavement. Mr. A. D. C. Adamson, and Mr. R. A. Hartmann, both planters, had been nominated to the two vacancies on the Legislative Council, and one of our members, the Hon. J. T. Manchester, had been placed on the local Executive Council, and another, the Hon. B. S. Davis who already filled a place on the local Executive Council had been still further advanced as a Member of the Federal Executive Council. It was many years since the staple Industry was so well represented in the deliberations of the local Parliament and Cabinet. The weather conditions which had existed here for some weeks past had a disheartening effect on Cotton Growers, many of whom until a short time ago had taken up Cotton-growing in no half-hearted manner. The reason of the change was due to the high winds which had swept over the exposed slopes on the windward side of the Island, and had a dissipating effect on one's calculations as well as on the Cotton Bolls, and it was not going too far to say that the wind has done more harm to the plants than the repeated attacks of Caterpillars, in their earlier stages. The weather of which they complained with regard to Cotton, was just what was wanted for Canes which even at this late date were growing vigorously, and although crops must in consequence be exceptionally late, the amount of sugar to be made improved daily. The stay of the Fleet and Cruiser Squadron did not conduce in any way to the benefit of the community at large, as no men were allowed ashore. The Federal Council met in the preceding week and the Bill authorising loans on Cotton was passed. The delegates returned on the 10th.

**Nevis.**—Hon. C. A. Shand, February 8th. The weather was all that could be desired, and cotton picking was in full swing. Ginning would soon begin in earnest.

**St. Lucia.**—Hon. E. Du Boulay, February 11th. The weather was wet until the last few days, and crops had begun in two factories. At a meeting of the Agricultural Society on February 5th, the proposal of the West India Committee to form a Produce Association was accepted in principle.

**St. Vincent.**—Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., February 12th. The weather had been everything that could be desired, but the yield from the Arrowroot was exceedingly disappointing and they must expect short crops; there was every likelihood however of many of the Arrowroot fields being utilised for Cotton-growing next season. Business in Kingstown shewed quite a revival, several vessels being in the Harbour discharging Lumber, Oil, &c., and with the coming Inter-colonial Service of Steamers, and their old friends the Messrs. Scrutton, they looked forward to better times in the future.

**Trinidad.**—Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, February 12th. At a meeting of the Agricultural Society on February 10th, the proposals of the West India Committee regarding the Produce Association were accepted in principle. Mr. Hart exhibited samples of Trinidad native cotton which had been ginned, and expressed the opinion that it was even better than the Sea Island cotton. The combined squadron under Admirals Douglas and Hawkes had been off Port of Spain since the 6th and left on the 14th for La Guayra. The time had been passed in manœuvring and target practice in the Gulf during the day and attending balls and other hospitable functions in the evening. By a Decree of President Castro dated 1st February, 1904, the custom houses of Guanta, Puerto Sucre, and Guiria had been re-established with the same powers and jurisdiction as they had previous to their suppression in May of last year. The trade through Guiria in Cocoa (of which there was a large quantity waiting to be sent up), and other products should thus be renewed at once, and it was believed that the opening of the Orinoco and the resumption of transshipping goods for Bolivar from this port would not now be long delayed. The weather had been very showery throughout the fortnight, the showers had not been heavy but however made a start. Cocoa had been coming in from the country in fairly large quantities and pickings would continue to be good until the middle of next month when they would probably slacken considerably, in some districts they would cease until June or July. Prices during the fortnight ruled from \$13.60 to \$13.00 for best "Estates" Cocoa, and were at the time of writing firm at latter price. The Venezuelan Cocoa expected from Guanta, Guiria, &c., was quoted at \$13.25 the next three boats of the Royal Mail would take a good quantity for the London Market direct. Copra was very firm. A lot of 100 tons sold locally at \$2.80 per 100 lbs.

## Weather Telegrams.

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), Feb. 16th. "Fine rains generally throughout the Island." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.), February 19th. "Berbice, weather unsettled." **Trinidad** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), February 23rd. "Fine, with occasional light showers."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
	Mhds.	lbs.	Tons.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats
<b>Barbados—</b>								
Jan. 1 to Feb. 17, 1904	26	—	—	—	—	583	—	—
" " 11, 1903	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>British Guiana—</b>	Tons.							
Jan 1 to Feb. 9, 1904	15,287	4329	946	5404	5160	13	3434	—
" " 9, 1903	15,118	11,580	—	6123	24	457	4166	562
<b>Jamaica—</b>		Cwts.	Coffee.	Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
			Cwts.			Cwts.	Stems.	
Apr. 1 to Jan. 23, 1904	6412	17,990	54,795	914,976	14,571,760	61,533	7,419,680	77,342,210
" " 24, 1903	14,114	20,254	74,826	1,552,100	20,860,506	110,643	12,731,697	94,244,397
<b>Trinidad—</b>	Bags & Brls	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.	Trcs.	Brls.
						Puns.		Tons.
Jan. 1 to Feb. 11, 1904	1144	5,846,300	20,160	—	342,280	10	—	2
" " 11, 1903	16,118	8,452,740	2000	25	1,517,090	136	41	24
								Asphalt.
								Tons.
								14,964
								12,068

## The Mails.

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," February 24th, 1904:—Barbados.**—Mr. W. R. Clark, Mr. H. G. Edwards, Miss K. Carrington, Miss F. Carrington, Miss Trimmingham, Mr. A. C. Gouda, Capt. A. J. Lainson, D.S.O. **Demerara.**—Mr. W. A. Wolseley. **Jamaica.**—Mr. and Mrs. Sankey, Mr. Fuller Maitland, Mr. C. MacLachlan, Dr. B. Sharpe, Mr. A. Benwell, Dr. and Mrs. A. Clayton, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Von Der Oester, Mr. R. Von Voigtlander, Mr. F. Von Voigtlander, Mr. A. Ledingham, Mr. R. Thorn, Mr. and Mrs. S. Heap, Mrs. Bourner, Miss Bennett, Mr. C. H. Hopkins, Mr. J. A. Irwin, Rev. W. Lewis, Rev. C. Davies, Mrs. E. W. Lucie-Smith, the three Misses Lucie-Smith, Mr. Jubsan Breedy, Mr. Najib Breedy, Mr. E. Bansback, Mr. and Mrs. W. Standring, Miss Hunt, Mr. A. C. Ward, Capt. and Mrs. Clayhill-Henderson, R.N., Mr. W. Church, Master C. Church, Miss M. Church, Mrs. Bostock, Mr. W. Gibbons, Mr. H. S. Gibbons. **Trinidad.**—Mr. Hamlyn-Nott, Mr. and Miss Henschen, Mr. and Mrs. Max Gilhorn, Mr. E. Pelacios, Mr. G. Bruford, Mr. A. Von Gillhausen, Mr. B. H. Marwood, Mr. D. Gordon, Mr. G. N. Graysom, Lieut. the Hon. W. S. Leveson-Gower, R.N., Lieut. L. S. Holbrook, R.N., Lieut. W. K. Napier, R.N. **Grenada.**—Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Gay, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bailey-Knight, Mr. J. G. Porter.

**Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," March 2nd, 1904:—Barbados.**—Mr. Wm. McLaren. **Demerara.**—Mr. G. D. Kaufmann, Mr. W. Hyder. **Jamaica.**—Rev. and Mrs. Bavin, Mr. F. Nicholls, Mr. J. H. Moncrieff, Mr. A. Fergusson, Miss S. Ward. **Trinidad.**—Mrs. C. Taitt, Miss M. Stewart, Mr. H. Taurig, Mrs. Hamlyn, Mr. V. Sellier, Miss Mitchell. **Dominica.**—Mr. M. Fletcher. **St. Kitts.**—Mr. D. Mitchell. **St. Lucia.**—Capt. D. F. Nichold, R.G.A.

**Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," March 16th, 1904:—Demerara.**—Mrs. R. Gewared. **Jamaica.**—Mr. J. R. B. Balfour, Captain Neeld, Lieut. G. Goldney, R.E.

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Maria," Feb. 17th, 1904:—Jamaica.**—Mr. C. W. Bennett, Mr. H. W. Cole, Miss Dugdale, Mr. and Mrs. W. Illingworth, Miss H. Lowndes, Capt. G. J. Milton, Mrs. Maddick, Mr. D. M. Panton, Mr. P. Rattray, Mr. T. A. Brydie, Mr. G. Clement, Mr. S. M. Hart, Mr. H. N. Messam.

**Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," February 27th, 1904:—Jamaica.**—Major F. W. Blunt, Mr. Bruenech, Mr. C. F. Brymer, Mr. J. M. Christie, Mr. A. T. Cooper, Mr. A. B. Cordey, Countess of Cromartie, the two Misses Douglas, Capt. Dundas, R.N., Mr. Dundas, Mr. A. N. Farewell, Mr. H. Fletcher, Miss J. A. Hastie, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Hibbert, Rev. and Mrs. E. J. Hodges, Alderman W. Hulme, J.P., Mrs. Leader, Mr. Mayor, Dr. Miller, Mr. H. Morton, Miss M. Nuttall, Capt. Pearson, two Misses Philp, Sir David and Lady Richmond, Miss Richmond, Rev. and Mrs. Robinson, Miss M. Robinson, Mr. Simpson, Mr. — Simpson, Mr. F. C. Stocker, Mr. A. H. Stockley, Mr. J. P. Tay, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Walker, Miss Walker, Mr. Percy Wilkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Blackett, Staff-Capt. J. H. Clifford, S.A., Mr. Clifford, Mrs. Winstanley.



# The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar--88 per cent Beet.

LIGHT'S VISIBLE SUPPLIES ON 1st OCTOBER.

1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898
1,410,000	1,510,000	768,000	402,000	670,000	680,000 Tons

The above figures show the weight of sugar that has been carried over during the last two seasons in excess of normal times and for which we have to thank the Bounty and Kartel systems on the Continent. As this year's beet production exceeds that of 1902-3 by some 350,000 tons, and as cane also shows an important increase, it is not surprising that prices everywhere are below cost of production and may possibly remain so until a material contraction in the growth of beet sugar is undertaken.

LIGHT'S BEET ROOT CROPS.

1902-3	1901-2	1900-1	1899-0	1898-9	1897-8
5,550,000	6,760,000	5,990,000	5,510,000	4,980,000	4,830,000 Tons.

These figures are for the seasons corresponding with the visible supplies on the 1st October, as given above, and indicate plainly how the excess has arisen. With a crop of beet for this year 350,000 tons larger than last and an increase in cane of another 350,000 tons, we may consider ourselves fortunate if the Visible Supply on the 1st October, 1904, is not added to. Increased consumption can do much and it will have a lot to do to equalise supply and demand. The remedy is in the hands of the Continental growers.

The market has slightly improved during the last fortnight from an increased trade demand, but the statistical position is unchanged and all still hinges on the sowings of beet for crop 1904-5, about which no reliable information will be available before May next. When sentiment favors a moderate reduction, speculators come out and buy sparingly, but their influence is slight and is often measured by farthings, which disappear when opinions lean towards a full sowing, which opinions unfortunately are in the ascendant. With new crop quoted as it is now at 8s 9d, against 8s 1d, for the current month, the inducements to curtail are not great. Time alone will show. To-day's quotations of 88% beet are February, 8s 1d., May, 8s 3½d., August, 8s 6½d., and October/December, 8s 9d., those of first Marks Granulated being respectively, 10s 0½d., 10s 1½d., 10s 3½d., and 10s 6d., all free on board Hamburg.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America (uneven dates) are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
Europe	3,340,000	3,170,000	3,380,000	3,660,000	2,560,000 Tons.
United States	110,000	150,000	80,000	150,000	150,000 ..
Cuba	160,000	200,000	240,000	120,000	80,000 ..
Cargoes afloat	50,000	50,000	20,000	20,000	20,000 ..
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,660,000</b>	<b>3,570,000</b>	<b>3,720,000</b>	<b>3,950,000</b>	<b>2,810,000 ..</b>
Comparative prices of 88% for 5 years:	8s. 1d.	8s. 5d.	6s. 8½d.	9s. 2½d.	9s. 8½d.
Granulated	10s. 0½d.	9s. 7½d.	8s. 4½d.	10s. 10½d.	11s. 0½d.
Margin	1s. 11½d.	1s. 2½d.	1s. 7½d.	1s. 8½d.	1s. 4½d.

**Crystallised Sugar.**—A continued good demand has assisted prices which are insensibly 3d. better. A good business has been done during the fortnight and the following are the latest quotations; inferior grades, 14s., 14s. 3d., pale sugar, 14s. 3d., 14s. 6d., low to good yellow, 14s. 6d., 15s., average qualities, 14s. 9d.; with small quantities of choice up to 16s. 3d. Imitations are selling at 14s. 6d. and 14s. 9d. A cargo of 96 centrifugals would readily command 8s. 9d. on floating terms. An interesting feature is the increased margin between 88% and granulated as indicated above, the result of abolition of Bounties and Kartels.

**Molasses Sugar**—About steady from 11s. to 15s.

**Muscovado**—Supplies would be welcome and sell readily. A cargo of 89 test would easily realise 7s. 9d., if not 8s. on floating conditions.

**West India Figures since 1st Jan.**

	1904	1903	1902	1901
Imports to date	5500	2200	5000	5000 Tons
Deliveries	6300	6200	8100	6600
Stocks	11,500	25,000	9,000	7,000

**Rum.**—Importers of Demerara are still firm and having some 8,000 puns on hand to dispose of are disinclined to listen to any reduction in prices for isolated shipments. In the meantime buyers hesitate to operate and there is no business to report. Jamaica remains steady at 1s. 9d., for approved Standard Home Trade Marks. Leewards are worth from about 8d. to 11d.

**London Figures to date:**

	1904	1903	1902	1901
Imports Jamaica	350	190	120	540 Puns
Demerara	5570	4950	6530	7470
Stocks Jamaica	7900	9300	6400	7100
Demerara	11,700	10,700	9200	10,000
Total of all kinds:—Stocks	29,543	30,698	Deficiency, 1155 Puns	

**Cocoa.**—Stocks in London:—

1904	1903	1902	1901
62,000	80,000	90,000	89,000 Barrels.

Trinidad is dull and prices are again lower, viz.: 62s. for fair collected and 63s., 70s. for Estate Marks. Grenada is in good demand on the basis of 56s. for fair Native and 58s. to 60s. for fermented, with special lots even higher. Other West India is selling freely. Native Cocoa from 52s. to 55s., and good to fine fermented 57s. to 61s. African is quoted 59s. for delivery on landed terms in the usual United Kingdom Ports.

**Coffee**—Fluctuations always tending downwards on a partial break-up of the gamble in Santos this month's delivery of which is quoted 32s 1½d. Good ordinary Jamaica unchanged at 40s. **Nutmegs**—Moderate sales of West India 73's at 1s. 3d., 90's at 9d., 115's at 7½d., 123's at 6½d., and in shell, 6½d. to 7d. **Pepper**—Small sales from 1s. 9d. to 2s. passing; a few lots sold at 35s., 42s.

**Cotton**—At the heavy decline reported last mail, rather more steadiness in prices has been noticeable, but values are still far above cost of production and are by no means safe. The momentary quotation for American is about 7½d.

**Arrowroot**—Difficult to sell, buyers appearing to be amply provided and large quantities of second hand holdings pressing on the market. Approximately 400 Barrels sold chiefly at 1½d. for fair manufacturing during the fortnight.

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
Stocks in London	11,916	13,150	8,519	7,994	2,292 Brls.
<b>Lime Juice.</b> —Dull, unchanged. Fair ordinary sold at 10½d. to 11d. Concentrated £12 15s. Distilled oil, value 1s. 4d. Hand Pressed, 2s. 6d., 3s.					

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

# The . . . West India Committee Circular

ENTERED AT STATIONERS HALL.

Vol. XIX.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15th, 1904.

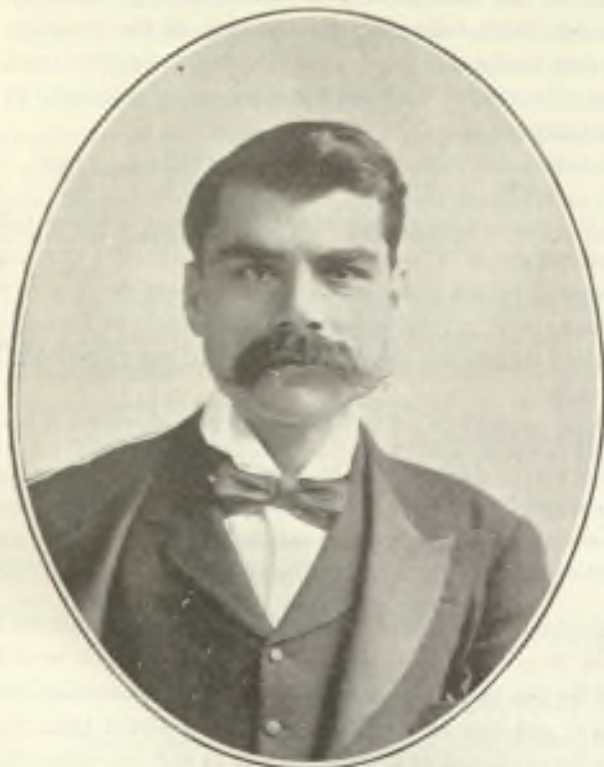
No. 119.

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## OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. V.



**Hon. D. S. de Freitas,**

MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF GRENADA.  
HON. CORRESPONDENT OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

## The Cotton Industry.

When the homeward mail left, the reaping of the cotton crop was in full swing and the ginneries were everywhere in operation. Sir Daniel Morris, who is taking such a prominent part in the resuscitation of the cotton industry, writes to inform us that the quality is excellent, but owing to the attack of the worm and rather unfavourable seasons, the quantity will not be quite so large as was expected. In spite of this, the prospects for planting for the next crop are distinctly favourable. The Department of Agriculture has already received orders for nearly 30,000 lbs. of selected cotton seed, and as this has already been paid for, there is every indication that the planters are prepared to give a thorough trial to the industry before passing a final judgment upon it.

At a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Thursday, March 3rd, correspondence with the British Cotton Growers Association was reported, and it was felt very desirable that the Committee should co-operate more closely with the West Indies section of this very useful organisation. Steps with this object in view have been taken, and we have good reason to believe that the offer

of the Committee to place at the disposal of the Association its full and ungrudging assistance will be accepted in the cordial spirit in which it has been made. As we have already announced, a large sum is to be raised for the development of cotton growing within the Empire, and it is but natural that the hope should be uppermost in our hearts that a due proportion may find its way to British Guiana and the West Indies, which appear to be so admirably suited to cotton culture.



### The Outlook for Sugar.

At a meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce on March 10th, Sir Albert K. Rollit, speaking on a resolution of the Wakefield Chamber protesting against the abolition of bounties (the resolution was lost, only 26 voting for it) is reported to have said that the general opinion of the Council of the London Chamber of Commerce was that the sugar legislation had been a failure. We believe it to be true that on three occasions the Council passed resolutions opposing the abolition of the bounties. But, we imagine that the policy of the Chamber is dictated by its Members and not by the Council, and it should be remembered that on each of these occasions a general meeting of the members of the Chamber was subsequently called and resolutions in favour of abolition of the bounties carried by large majorities.

Those who have followed the tactics of the opponents of the Sugar Convention will have experienced little surprise at the misstatements to which the debate on Mr. Lough's resolution in the House of Commons on March 2nd (see page 100) gave rise. It was argued that the Convention had caused a rise in the price of sugar, and that the West Indies had not benefitted. No one ever ventured to assert that sugar would not rise from the abnormal price of 5s. 10½d. which it reached in 1902. Had such prices continued the sugar industry of countries which gave no bounties would have been wiped out completely, and consumers would have been at the mercy of two bounty-giving countries only. Our argument has always been that in the ten years following the abolition of the bounties the average price of sugar would not be higher than in the ten years preceding their abolition, and the course of prices so far has tended to confirm this view. Leaving the duty out of account, the comparative prices of 88% beet for ten years are as follows:—

1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.	1895.
8.3½	8.5¼	6.3¾	8.11	9.11½	9.11½	9.2¼	9	12.2	9.3

In the face of these figures how can it be said that the confectionery and allied industries are injured by the Convention? But, our opponents, as is pointed out in a very concise article in the current number of the *International Sugar Journal*, in order to make out a blacker case, amalgamate two entirely independent influences which tend to raise prices, and the sum total is laid to the door of the Brussels Sugar Convention. They blame the latter for the fact that to the price of sugar f.o.b. has to be added 4s. 2d., the tax imposed in this country on refined sugar.

If sugar is 8s. f.o.b. Hamburg, it may be roughly 12s. landed here; it is a convenient plan, therefore, to refer to the sugar as at 12s., and to compare it with the 6s. of two years ago. These are grossly unfair tactics, but are only too likely to deceive "the man in the street" with his limited knowledge. Whether the Government be right or wrong in deeming sugar a suitable article to tax for revenue purposes is a matter of opinion, but the imposition of this tax lies utterly apart from the question of the effect on the price of sugar occasioned by the retention, or the abolition, of bounties. This last should be judged on its own merits, and there has certainly not yet been enough time allowed to ensure a fair trial.

The situation in the West Indies has undoubtedly improved since the abolition of bounties; confidence is being restored and capital invested in improved processes and machinery which would not have been the case had the uncertainty caused by the bounties continued. But the accumulations of bounty fed sugar have still to be worked off and it will not be until this has come about that the price of sugar will reach the price at which it can be produced at a profit, that is to say, 9s. or 9s. 6d.

### The Sugar Bounties Agitation, 1864—1903.\*

A RETROSPECT; BY W.P.B.S.

The Third and Final Stage, 1889—1903—continued.

It became still necessary to keep the public mind informed and interested as to the effects of the bounties on the welfare of the West Indies. At the close of the year 1900, Sir Nevile Lubbock was invited by the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool, to read a paper on "The present

\* Continued from "The West India Committee Circular," No. 118

position of our West Indian Colonies." The paper was read at Liverpool on December 10th, and the reader after enumerating the natural wealth resources of the various colonies, concluded by stating "that the sugar industry was the large industry to which the West Indies were specially adapted," and, this the speaker urged, was demonstrated by the fact that the sugar industry had survived for fifty years against such odds as the competition, first, of slave-grown, and then of bounty-aided sugars. "Abolish," said Sir Nevile Lubbock, "the bounties, and you may feel as certain as you can feel certain of anything in this world that the West Indies will flourish."

In 1901, the sugar duties were re-imposed on the graduated scale which was necessary to prevent low grades being subjected to higher taxation than the more highly manufactured sugars; in short the Chancellor of the Exchequer had to take care that taxation of sugar should be based on the equality of a graduated system and not on the inequality of a uniform duty.

The gathering convictions of public opinion in Europe as to the political and economic mischiefs of the systems of export protection by means of bounties and cartels were brought to a focus by the publication in France of "The Sugar Question in 1901," by M. Yves Guyot. The political effect of this exposure of the losses upon the taxpayers and the consumers of the Continent, inflicted by the direct and indirect State bounties and the tariff-created Kartels, was sufficiently great to overpower in the legislatures the opposition of the interested industries to the withdrawal of the bounties. A general cessation of the whole system with England, who had never adopted it, holding all countries to their engagement by a Statutory penalty, was the policy favoured in order to lessen the opposition of the industries dependent on bounties. The publication was translated into English and issued with the consent of the author, by the Anti-Bounty League. The work would have been more useful for English readers if its able translator, M. Jules Hedeman, of the London office of *Le Siecle*, had had time to convert the foreign weights and monies into their English equivalents. But this publication endures as a record of, and if necessary as a future source of appeal on, the bounty and Kartel systems of Europe.

Although the victory against bounties has been won, yet the arguments and reasoning of such writers as M. Yves Guyot should be carefully placed on record; in short the position of "free trade and no protection" for sugar should be entrenched and secured against any possible future attacks of the devotees of the policy of *laissez faire*.

Following in the wake of the current of public opinion created by this publication of M. Yves Guyot came an invitation to him from the Royal Statistical Society to read a paper, and this was accepted by M. Yves Guyot. On the 27th May, 1902, M. Yves Guyot read a paper on "The Sugar Industry on the Continent" before the Society. Lord Avebury, the president of the Society was in the chair. M. Guyot dealt in this paper with the whole subject from the first introduction of bounties until the Brussels Convention of 1902.

TO BE CONTINUED.

### "The Disease Problem of the West Indies."

The largest meeting yet held at the West India Committee Rooms assembled on Tuesday, March 8th, at 3.45 p.m., when Sir Patrick Manson delivered his address on "The Disease Problem of the West Indies." The Duke of Marlborough presided and those present included, Sir Nevile Lubbock, *Chairman*, Sir Henry K. Davson, *Deputy-Chairman*, Mr. R. Rutherford, *Hon. Treasurer*, Lord Addington, Sir Francis Fleming, Sir Charles Bruce, Sir E. Noel Walker, Sir Frederick Young, Lady Manson, Mr. G. L. Bannerman, Mr. Burnand, Mr. G. Carrington, Miss E. J. Challis, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mrs. de Pass, Sister Florence, Mr. A. M. Gillespie, Mr. D. B. Gillespie, Mr. William Gillespie, Miss Gordon, Mrs. Hall, Mr. M. Kerr, Dr. T. S. Kerr, Mrs. T. S. Kerr, Mr. A. V. Lake, Mr. Alfred B. Lamb, Miss Lamb, Miss E. H. Lubbock, Mr. G. Lidgett, Mr. D. Mackintosh, Miss



Manson, Miss V. Manson, Miss R. Manson, Miss Mason, Mr. Stewart M. Massey, Mr. P. Michelli, Mr. Audley C. Miles, Rev. Dr. Morton, D.D., Mrs. Morton, Mr. Boyd A. Neilson, Mrs. W. S. Orr, Mr. H. S. Osment, Mr. John Pinder, Mr. E. S. Price, Mr. H. F. Previt , Mr. S. W. Percy Reynolds, Mr. J. Rippon, Mrs. Rippon, Mrs. Rutherford, Miss W. A. Rutherford, Mrs. J. Van Fleet Ryerson, Mr. A. Schoener, Miss R. C. Scott, Mr. H. M. Sells, Mrs. Senhousie, Mr. J. V. Smith, Mr. S. Smith, Dr. Thomas, Mr. Thorn, Mr. A. F. Turnbull, Miss N. S. Vernon, Dr. H. Vallance, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, Miss Wilkinson, Mr. James Wilson, Miss Young, and Algernon E. Aspinall, *Secretary*.

SIR PATRICK MANSON, having been introduced to the meeting by the Duke of Marlborough, said: Your Grace, Ladies and Gentlemen.—The most valuable asset a man can possess is good health. This remark applies to the community as well as to the individual. It follows that the preservation of his health is a primary duty of the individual, and the preservation of the public health one of the most important functions of Governments. In the abstract this has been recognised from the time men began to think about such things; but, however it may have been with the individual in the case of his own health, as regards the public health it is only of recent years that attention has been specially directed to the subject. As regards the more backward countries and those semi-civilised communities lying under the tutelage and protection of the more powerful and civilised states, we are only just beginning to think about the matter, dimly perceiving that we have not only a duty in this respect but, also, it may be, a decided interest. Apart from considerations of humanity, it is to our interest to keep our colonies healthy. A sick community is a poor community. It cannot buy from us; it has nothing to sell to us; it cannot work for us; in calamitous times it has to be subsidised, and so instead of being a public asset it becomes a public burden.

From the fact that I have been asked to come here this afternoon to speak about tropical disease, it is evident that the members of the West India Committee are

#### Alive to the Importance

of this subject. I sympathise with the Committee; and, although I cannot expect to deal exhaustively with so extensive a theme, if I succeed in the few minutes at my disposal in further increasing your interest in this matter, in imparting to you some items of information or new ideas, and especially if I succeed in stimulating you to take action—and in indicating the direction which such action should take—I shall feel that I have done something, however small, towards forwarding a good cause.

In what follows I propose, in the first place, to specify some of the more important diseases of the West Indies, making a few remarks on each; I shall then throw upon the screen photographs of the germ causes—so far as we know them—of these diseases, indicating at the same time the way by which these germs are spread and gain access to the human body. Finally, I shall make a few suggestions on what I conceive to be the best practicable means by which these germs and their respective diseases can be combatted.

In the West Indies the various forms of tuberculosis are prevalent. We are apt to regard consumption and its allies as a special prerogative of our cold and damp climate. Tuberculosis is common enough in England; you may be surprised to hear that in some parts of the West Indies it is far more common; in Demerara, for example, it is one of several diseases which, but for the constant flow of immigration from Barbados, from India and elsewhere, would in no long time exterminate the population. As tuberculosis is not a tropical disease, in the strict sense of that expression, I will not enlarge on the subject. I mention it in order that you may carry away a properly proportioned impression of the causes of disease and death in the tropics, that you may avoid the misconception that death in the tropics is necessarily the outcome of disease special to the tropics.

Malaria is prevalent in most of the West Indies. There, as elsewhere in the endemic zone, it is especially common along the coasts, on river banks, in alluvial plains—that is to say in the most

fertile and therefore most populous districts. It is a disease of villages, of hamlets, of suburbs, rather than of cities. Although the malaria of the West Indies does not as a rule approach in malignity that of tropical Africa, yet, it is often deadly enough. Pernicious cases occur, especially among young children. In the more highly malarious districts, such as the neighbourhood of Georgetown, Demerara—as Dr. Daniels was the first to point out—after the first year of life practically every black child is affected with malaria. By repeated re-infection with the germ, the child in time acquires an increasing immunity, much in the same way, though of course less promptly, as immunity from small-pox is acquired by one or more vaccinations. So that by the time the black child has grown to be a man he is no longer, or only feebly, susceptible. This is how it comes about that the negro of certain localities has earned the reputation of being malaria proof. It is an acquired immunity, not racial nor inherited. The immunising process is a long one, and many perish before it is complete. The white child supports this process much less successfully than does the black child; few survive it. Hence one reason for the difficulty of raising European children in highly malarial districts. In the negro races even, malaria is a chief factor of the excessive infant mortality. The public statistics do not bring out sufficiently this important fact. In these statistics deaths which are really attributable to malaria are often, I might say generally in the case of young children, returned as convulsions, meningitis, sun-stroke, pneumonia, and so forth. Thus we are apt to receive a false impression of the gravity of this disease. An average attack of malaria is not a serious matter as regards risk to life, but in consequence of its wide prevalence and frequency malaria is one of those

**Diseases like Measles or Whooping Cough,**

which, though rarely fatal, are the cause of an enormous aggregate mortality, far in excess of that of many diseases which, case for case, are very much more deadly. Furthermore malaria, even in a mild form, since it usually causes a profound anæmia, and often great debility, predisposes to other and more dangerous disease. Thus there is not only a considerable direct mortality, but also an indirect and possibly much greater mortality attributable to the disease. Economically, it is a serious disease for the State, for being very common, the attacks recur again and again during a number of years. The victims of malaria are frequently on the sick list, so that they are unable to do their share in the work of the country.

As regards the white man in the tropics it is malaria that is his principal enemy. Where malaria is altogether absent, as in Barbados, or mild, as in the Caymans and the highlands of Jamaica, the white man thrives and may reproduce his race unimpaired in vigour for generations. Where malaria is common and severe, the white race degenerates, and quickly dies out. It is not the climate that makes the tropics inimical to the European constitution, it is the diseases—that is to say the parasites—of the tropics and especially malaria that practically has precluded him from successfully colonising this—the finest and most productive zone of the globe.

In most tropical countries, dysentery and allied conditions are important diseases. The West Indies form no exception to this general rule. From time to time there occur more or less extensive epidemics of virulent dysentery, while nearly always and everywhere, there is to be found a milder, sporadic, endemic form. Very often dysentery steps in to finish off the subject of some long-standing chronic disease—such as consumption, malaria, and leprosy. Perhaps no class of the community is more punished by this type of disease than are the infants and young children. I shall have something more to say about this massacre of the innocents by-and-by.

Apart from that produced by malaria and the more chronic forms of intestinal disease there prevails in the West Indies a certain type of anæmia the outcome of what is known as “ankylostomiasis.” It is only quite recently that the true nature of this condition has been recognised in that part of the world. It occurs in all degrees of severity. It may be so slight as to be hardly noticeable, or so severe that the patient is absolutely unfitted for work, and unless promptly and properly treated,



will surely die. Fatal cases are perhaps not very numerous, but the importance of this type of anæmia lies principally in its frequency and in the tax it imposes on the energies and productive capacity of the community as a whole.

Filariasis is another very common, and for this reason, very important disease. In some parts of the West Indies, Barbados for example, one third of the population is the subject of this infection. For the most part it does little harm, but a proportion of those affected are liable to a variety of accidents in the shape of abscesses, of elephantoid fever, of chyluria, and of that hideous deformity known as elephantiasis or sometimes as Barbados leg.

Lastly, I would mention yellow fever, a disease peculiarly West Indian, in fact almost confined to the West Indies and neighbouring mainland. As regard the native born West Indian, for some reason not yet satisfactorily explained, yellow fever is not a disease of great importance; in him it is comparatively rare and when it does attack him usually of little gravity. But, it is quite otherwise with the European immigrant, tho' for him even, it should soon, with our present knowledge, be deprived of its terrors. Yellow fever has done an infinite amount of harm to the West Indies, not only directly, by causing an enormous loss of life, but also, indirectly by the dislocation and hampering of trade the scar of it has entailed. Quarantine, generally ineffective, kills trade. Yellow fever means, or rather did mean, quarantine all round.

These are but a few of the diseases of the West Indies and a few of the evils they entail, samples so to speak, of a larger stock. In addition to the diseases I have alluded to there are many others of a tropical nature such as yaws, dengue, leprosy, and so forth, and, over and above these tropical diseases, a vast assortment of sicknesses which the West Indies have in common with the rest of the world. Practically all the diseases of temperate climates, with perhaps the exception of scarlet fever, are to be found in the West Indies. In truth we may say that the list of West Indian diseases includes all the diseases of Europe, with some two or three dozen tropical diseases thrown in—yellow fever being a speciality.

#### A Very Hopeful Feature

about many of these diseases lies in the fact that we know the causes of most of them, especially of those composing the tropical section, or if we do not know their causes that we recognise the conditions under which these causes are applied.

Thus to take the first disease I have mentioned—tuberculosis—we know that it is produced by a minute bacillus which gains access to the human body, either in food, or through a wound or other breach of surface, or possibly, by being inhaled. We know that when people are crowded together in badly ventilated, dark, damp and dirty houses there the tubercule bacillus get its opportunity and spreads like wildfire. This is what the late Dr. Grieve said about the terrible increase of consumption that has been going on in Demerara, and, I presume, elsewhere in the West Indies during the last thirty years, "In my belief" he says, "there is one chief factor in the result, and that, curiously enough, is itself dependent indirectly on one phase of advancing civilisation. It seems to me that there has been a progressive change in the character of the houses in which the labouring population in town and country live. The change has been the gradual improvement in the material of their dwellings; the substitution of boards and shingle for wattles and thatch. With the general use of boards goes even a more general dislike of the fresh night air, and the latter by the use of the former can now be indulged in to the fullest extent. Boarded houses of small size when closed are nothing more or less than boxes with tightly fitted lids, and in such boxes are often packed away as many men, women, and children as there is floor room to hold." Dr. Grieve goes on to say "it is not possible to conceive a process more favourable for the making of consumption than this, and we need not wonder, however much we may grieve, at its success." I am told that all over the West Indies the negro has a similar dread of the night air and that he shuts doors and windows and stuffs up every crack and



Photo by ALBERTUS E. ARPSGALL.

**COALING AT CASTRIES,  
ST LUCIA.**

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crevice through which a little air might percolate, even the keyhole, before he ventures to turn in for the night. Little wonder that under such conditions tuberculosis flourishes.

Our knowledge of the cause of malaria and of the means by which it is disseminated is even more precise. We know that what we call malaria is a minute animal which lives in the blood of man. Each blood corpuscle occupied by the growing parasite is destroyed. When the corpuscles so invaded break up and liberate the little groups of young parasites into which the full grown parasites divide, the characteristic fever is produced. Generation of parasites follows generation, and in a very short time, in consequence of the destruction of many blood corpuscles, the patient is brought to a condition of profound anæmia, even if he does not die of the disease. Under the most favourable circumstances he is unfitted for work for a longer or shorter time. If not properly treated his fever spells may recur during several months or years and all this time he is more or less of a burden to his friends or to the community. We know now that

#### The Malaria Parasite is passed from the Sick

to the sound by a special kind of mosquito and we also know that if this mosquito is prevented from biting the sick, or if it does chance to bite the sick from subsequently biting the sound, there will be no spread of the infection.

We are not so sure about the germ cause, or causes, of the dysenteries and diarrhœas, but we are sure that most of these diseases are caused by germs conveyed from the sick to the sound, either in food, or in water, or by direct contact with the discharges from diseased surfaces, and, further, that the growth of these germs and the diseases to which they give rise are specially favoured by unwholesome feeding. The influence of feeding in inducing these intestinal diseases is specially well illustrated by what happens in most negro nurseries. Writing in the sixth issue of that most instructive publication, the British Guiana Medical Annual, Dr. N. Barnes remarks: "as regards feeding, the children of our populace must be ranged in two great classes. The Hindu coolies almost invariably nurse their children. With the negroes it is far different. Almost from the moment of birth the black baby is crammed with pap made of plantain, indian corn-meal, cassava starch, etc., sometimes even with soup made of salt meat or fish. When this diet causes dyspepsia, and the child, being in pain, begins to cry, the usual treatment is to fill it up with more pap until it is unable to cry." Under such circumstances dysentery, or diarrhœa, or convulsions, are only to be expected. This grotesque system of infant feeding has much to do with the enormous infantile mortality so notorious among the negro races.

As regards the wide-spread and sometimes fatal anæmia of ankylostomiasis, we know that the disease is caused by a minute worm with a very big name, "*ankylostomum duodenale*," which fastens leech-like on to the surface of the bowel and so slowly drains its victim of his blood. When only a few of these little parasites are present little harm is done; but in proportion to their number is their effect, and when they are present in hundreds of thousands, as they sometimes are, they reduce the patient to a condition of extreme or even fatal anæmia and weakness.

#### The Worm gains access

to the bowel in dirty water, in dirty food, in dirty dishes, or on dirty unwashed hands. Under certain circumstances it is believed by some to penetrate the skin of the feet and legs in wading through fouled ground; having entered the body in this way, it bores through the tissues or is carried by the blood stream to its final habitat—the bowel. The eggs of the mature worm escaping in the discharges are spread about the fields and in the neighbourhood of houses; there they hatch in the warm damp soil, the young patiently waiting an opportunity to reach a human host. So that here again the sick man is a danger to his neighbour, although the disease he carries about with him cannot be said to be infectious in the usual sense of the word.

Similarly the victim of filariasis is a danger to his neighbours. The full-grown long and slender *Filaria* lives in the tissues of the body, but its young circulate with the blood. Particular

species of mosquitos suck this filariated blood. The young filariæ so imbibed pass into the muscles of the mosquito, and after undergoing a developmental process there, wander to the mouth parts of the insect, and when the mosquito proceeds to feed on another man the worms slip along the proboscis and so into the human host, in whom they grow and in time produce young of their own. Prevent mosquitoes biting filariated men, or if they chance to bite filariated men, prevent them from biting healthy men, and you will prevent the spread of filariasis and its associated diseases.

Lastly, as regards yellow fever, although we do not know the germ of the disease we know where this germ resides and how it is acquired. The germ is so minute that it passes through the closest porcelain filter; it is ultra-microscopic. But although it is invisible we know it exists, and that like the germ of malaria it circulates in the blood and is transferred from one victim to another by a certain kind of mosquito. This knowledge, though only some two years old, has already done and is destined in the future to do more for the West Indies and the neighbouring mainland than money subsidies, banana culture, trade preferences, and all similar methods of stimulating prosperity lumped together. The world should be ever grateful to the American authors of this, the latest and perhaps the greatest triumph of sanitary science. Thanks to the labours of these Americans, we know that the germ of yellow fever is present in the blood of the patient only during the first three or four days of the disease. If the patient is bitten at this time by the common West Indian tiger mosquito (*Stegomyia fasciata*), the insect sucks up the germ. In the tissues of the mosquito the germ now undergoes certain developmental changes, which after the lapse of about a fortnight enables it, when reintroduced into another and non-immune man by the bite of the mosquito, to multiply in the blood, and after three or four days to produce this deadly disease. If, therefore, the yellow fever patient is not bitten by the mosquito in question during the first three or four days of his illness, or if the healthy man is protected from the bites of the infected mosquito, the latter will not contract the disease even though he lives in the same room as the patient, or wears the same clothes, or even sleeps in the same bed. Acting on this knowledge, the American

#### **Sanitarians have rid Havana of Yellow Fever.**

For the first time in nearly 200 years there is now no yellow fever in that city, once the hotbed of this disease, a hotbed from which many devastating epidemics have spread all over the West Indies and to many parts of the United States, Mexico, and Central and South America.

From what I have said you will be struck with the importance of the rôle played by the mosquito in the diffusion of tropical disease. In truth, take away mosquitoes, and the tropics would be as healthy, if not healthier, than England. The fact of the matter is that it is only now we are beginning to recognise that nearly all the grave diseases of the tropics, and some of the grave diseases of temperate climates, are conveyed by the instrumentality of mosquitoes, flies, ticks, fleas, and certain other small deer with names not to be mentioned in polite society. It is a humiliating confession to have to make, but it is nevertheless true, that until lately man was not the lord of creation; the flies that buzzed about him or the fleas that he carried on his person were his masters. We now begin to apprehend the rationale of cleanliness, of how it conduces to health. Dirt means vermin, vermin which bite, and by their bite transfer other and more deadly vermin. And not only is this the case as regards man; it is equally the case as regards the domestic animals. Thus the germ of a virulent cattle disease common in many parts of America, of the Cape, of Australia, and even of the south of Europe, is passed from cow to cow by the cattle tick. Nature rarely loses an opportunity of fostering parasitic life. The opportunity supplied by the habits of the blood sucking insects is one which she has not that so good an opportunity be not lost. Thus certain blood sucking creatures, like the ticks, feed only once, and so cannot directly transfer disease germs from animal to animal. To get over this difficulty in the case of the ticks, nature has arranged that the disease germs shall pass into the egg of the mother



tick and thus into the blood of the cow the young tick feeds on. There is a devilish sort of ingenuity in this utilisation of blood sucking insects in the conveyance of disease germs; it looks like design, but surely design of a vindictive order.

I might further mention that scourge of parts of Africa—the fly disease. This, too, is caused by a blood parasite, which is passed from animal to animal by a species of bush fly—the tsetse fly. Similar diseases similarly conveyed occur in America, in India, and in the Phillipines. Even in man there is a corresponding affliction, viz., the deadly disease known as the sleeping sickness, now devastating large areas of tropical Africa, the probable parasite of which is passed from man to man by a kind of tsetse fly.

Our very dogs are victimised in the tropics by a mosquito borne filaria. Our fowls too, are killed by a flea-borne parasite, and so on. I could enumerate other diseases of man and of the domestic animals of a similar nature and which are spread in a similar way.

The list of such diseases is growing rapidly; almost every month we have some addition made to it. But with all our recent advances our knowledge of this most important subject is far from complete; much is known, it is true, but we have every reason to believe that many chapters in this department of pathology yet remain to be written.

This brings me to the more practical part of my paper. Although we know something about these germs and the way they are spread, little use has hitherto been made of this knowledge: to be of value it must be applied; properly applied we could control, if not abolish, many of the diseases these germs give rise to. Tuberculosis would be checked, could we induce the negroes to improve their houses and keep their doors and windows open; malaria, filariasis, and yellow fever, could we suppress mosquito puddles and induce people to use mosquito nets; dysentery and ankylostomiasis could we institute a proper conservancy and supply pure drinking water; the excessive infant mortality could the negro mothers be taught how to feed their babies. All this is absolutely within the power of an intelligent sanitation. Moreover, I hold it to be perfectly practicable, if the powers that be and public opinion be educated up to the point at which the one would demand it and the other be ready to supply it.

#### Preventive Measures.

I have two suggestions to make. The first is that a well-equipped laboratory, with an able and experienced director with suitable assistance, be established at some central and otherwise suitable point in the West Indies. The director is of more importance than the laboratory. This is a fundamental principle too often lost sight of in establishing such institutions. More money is spent on the bricks than on the brains. The result is a splendid building that looks well but yields nothing. I would suggest, then, a first class director, a sufficient staff, and a modest laboratory to be devoted to the study of the causes and prevention of the diseases of man and the domestic animals in the West Indies.

The other suggestion I would make is one that I have urged on more than one occasion. Hitherto, I am sorry to say, I have been crying in the wilderness. The suggestion has reference to the application of the knowledge we already possess about tropical diseases and of such additional knowledge as we may become possessed of in the future. It is that every boy and girl in every school in our West Indian Colonies be taught the leading facts on which a rational system of tropical sanitation might be founded. The idea is a perfectly practicable one. To carry it out would cost next to nothing. The good that would ensue would be immense. The educational machinery in the shape of teachers and schools already exist. All that is required would be a short course of instruction to the teachers, a few diagrams and two or three additional pages in the current school books. It ought not to be difficult to put into simple language the story of malaria, of filariasis, of yellow fever and their relations to the mosquito; the story of the ankylostome; of the tubercle bacillus and of other important

disease germs. If well done by a skilled literateur it would read like a fairy tale and sink into the minds of the children to be a guide to them in their future lives. It is only by catching the negro young that you will ever wean him from his silly traditions about disease, far less get him to believe in and act on the great facts to which I have alluded. Instill these facts and ideas into the young negro mind and he will stick to the truth as obstinately as he now sticks to nonsense. You might preach for ever to the grown up man negro about the virtues of fresh air; he will stuff the keyhole as soon as your back is turned; you might preach for ever to the old grannie negress about the merits of a clean house and a dry compound; she will still pin her faith to dirt and bush medicine and stuff the babies with pap. It is useless to attempt the sanitary reform of the adult negro. He is more wedded to his old ways and more obstinate and stupid than even an average Englishman. Bring the child up in the way it should walk is advice just as good for the body as it is good for the mind. The end and purpose of education is the benefit of both.

Were these suggestions carried out I feel convinced that in a few years incalculable benefit would result to the West Indies. Not only would much suffering be avoided and many lives saved, but energies at present repressed by preventible disease would be free to assist in the development of countries whose natural resources might long ago have placed them in the fore-front of our Colonies. To start the machinery which would produce this consummation all that is wanted, your Grace, is that someone shall press the official button.

THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen, I feel sure I express the opinions of every lady and every gentleman in this room when I say that we are extremely indebted to Sir Patrick Manson for having given us an opportunity of listening to such an excellent and interesting lecture. (Hear, hear). I certainly thoroughly agree with Sir Patrick's statement that

The most valuable asset a man can possess

is good health. I think, although that is a truism, it is very often a matter which is neglected by people in every day life. And I am reminded that I think it was no less important a statesman than Lord Beaconsfield himself who said that the laws of health was a matter which no Government could fail to recognise as being of vital importance to the welfare of the community. He enlarged for a considerable space of time in one of his speeches on the importance of the laws of health, and I remember what his opponents said of him at the time: they called this policy of Lord Beaconsfield a policy of sewage, which was perhaps more correct than polite.

It is truly a most wonderful discovery that science has made with regard to malaria during the last five, six or ten years. I think that we who are not connected with the medical or scientific profession owe a debt of gratitude to people like Sir Patrick Manson and others, who have given many years of study to the research of such subjects as we have been discussing this afternoon. Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasing duty to assure Sir Patrick that we have listened to the paper which he has read to us with very great interest (hear, hear), and I can assure him that, speaking for every lady and gentlemen in this room, we thank him very much indeed for his kindness in having read this paper and offered us an opportunity of listening and being instructed in one of the most interesting scientific discoveries of the last ten years. (Cheers).

SIR HENRY DAVSON: Your Grace, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution, and though I am not going to make a speech, I join heartily in thanking Sir Patrick Manson for the paper which he has read, and for having introduced us scientifically to those germs which those who have resided in the tropics as long as I have, know something about. I believe, Sir, with all the knowledge which has been, and is being, given to us by men of science, that these germs will not enjoy the immunity that they have had in the past, and that all residents in the West Indies as well as in the tropics generally will make use of the scientific knowledge which has been afforded them, and that the mosquito will be stamped out. We have not only to thank Sir Patrick, but we have to thank the Colonial Office for the great interest they have taken in this subject.



THE REV. DR. MORTON: Mr. Chairman, might I say a single word? I have lived thirty-six years in the West Indies amongst all these mosquitoes, and I am alive yet, which is wonderful (laughter). I have enjoyed so much what I have heard this afternoon. It is not all new to me. I believe it to be all true, to be all important, and I hope the suggestion which has been made will be carried out to give us the information and some means to put it before our children. I am in connection with a mission which has 60 schools, not for Africans, but for East Indians in the West Indies and Trinidad, and we shall be most happy to put that information in any attractive form you can give it to us before these young people who are represented by 80,000 in the Island of Trinidad, and do all we can. I have very much pleasure in supporting a thorough-going vote of thanks to the lecturer. (Cheers.)

SIR PATRICK MANSON: Your Grace, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very much obliged to you for the vote of thanks that you have passed to me for my feeble effort to speak upon this subject and ventilate it a little more. And I am especially grateful for the support that my ideas have received from the last speaker. I believe that it is only by education that you succeed in diffusing and getting adopted the knowledge and the benefits which accrue from the knowledge that these scientific discoveries have bought us. So long as the people remain ignorant of these things so long they will not use them. So soon as a man knows that

**A Mosquito may carry death in its proboscis**

then he will be precious careful not to be bitten by that mosquito.

The idea of exterminating the mosquito, of course, is preposterous. It cannot be done, but we can diminish the number of mosquitos to an enormous extent, especially in the neighbourhood of settlements of all sorts. But if we cannot absolutely destroy the mosquito and remove it from the face of the earth entirely, we can avoid it, avoid it very often to a large extent, and reduce the number of bites we are obliged to submit to certainly 99 per cent. It is not every mosquito that carries death in its proboscis, but a certain proportion do. If you get one mosquito for instance in a thousand with a malaria parasite, and are bitten by a thousand mosquitos the chances are that you will get malaria. Now, in the tropics, I should think in an ordinary mosquito haunted place you will get bitten ten times a night. I am quite sure that is a fair average biting (laughter), ten mosquito bites a night. Now there are 365 days in the year, which makes 3,650 mosquito bites in a year. That is, you get infected with malaria three times in a year, but if you reduce by care in the use of mosquito nets, using mosquito proof rooms, and abolishing as far as you can mosquitos in the neighbourhood of your house, the number of bites to one a month, as you could easily do, you would be bitten twelve times a year, and you might be in that place a dozen years without being bitten by a malaria mosquito. That is the lesson I wish to drive home: it is knowledge of the fact that malarial fever, yellow fever, and many other diseases probably are conveyed by the bite of the mosquito.

SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK: Ladies and Gentlemen, I am sure before we separate it would be your wish to pass a very hearty vote of thanks to the Duke of Marlborough for his kindness in coming here this afternoon and presiding at this meeting. (Cheers.) It is not the first time he has shown his interest in the West Indies, and I should wish to assure him that we all very much appreciate the interest he has shown. And I am sure it is not only we who appreciate it, but I think it will be appreciated in the West Indies. (Hear, hear.) Some of you know that the Duchess of Marlborough had kindly expressed her intention of coming this afternoon. I am very sorry to hear from the Duke that ill-health has prevented her coming as she intended, but I am sure we shall all take the will for the deed and feel very much obliged to the Duchess for her kindness in having expressed her willingness to come if she had been able. (Hear, hear.) I am sure Ladies and Gentlemen, that I may take it as your unanimous wish to pass a hearty vote of thanks to the Duke for coming to our meeting this afternoon. (Hear, hear.)

The Duke of Marlborough having acknowledged the vote of thanks, the formal proceedings were then brought to a close, but the ladies and gentlemen present had an opportunity of conversing together while partaking of a cup of tea which was provided.

### New Members.

The total number of new members elected during the current year now amounts to **112**, distributed as follows:—Trinidad, **33**; Jamaica, **15**; Barbados, **7**; Dominica, **8**; St. Lucia, **10**; British Guiana, **5**; Grenada, **3**; St. Kitts, **3**; Antigua, **2**; Tobago, **2**; St. Vincent, **1**; Nevis, **1**; Canada, **1**; Home, **18**; and Foreign, **3**. The next election will be held on Thursday next. The following new members were elected on March 3rd.

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
JABEZ J. A. BELLOT, ESQ. (Dominica)	Walter S. Vaughan, Esq.	J. C. Henderson, Esq.
L. DE LAUBENQUE, ESQ. (St. Lucia)	Hon. E. Du Boulay	Hon. S. D. Melville.
P. N. BELLOT, ESQ. (Dominica)	Walter S. Vaughan, Esq.	J. C. Henderson, Esq.
W. D. EDMUNDS, ESQ. (St. Lucia)	Hon. E. Du Boulay	Hon. S. D. Melville.
HON. THOMAS LIBURD (Nevis)	Hon. C. A. Shand	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
COMMANDER W. H. OWEN, R.N. (Barbados)	Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.
DR. A. B. DUPREY (St. Lucia)	Hon. E. Du Boulay	Hon. S. D. Melville.
E. C. SKINNER, ESQ. (Trinidad)	Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.
MESSRS. TWISS & BROWINGS	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.
CAPTAIN CONSTANTINE (Jamaica)	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.
GEORGE V. HEPBURN, ESQ. (St. Lucia)	Hon. E. Du Boulay	Hon. S. D. Melville.
ROBERT ANDERSON, ESQ. (Canada)	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.
EUSTACE GREG, ESQ. (Jamaica)	H. A. Trotter, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
CAPTAIN HICKS	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.
H. STAFFORD JERNINGHAM, ESQ., J.P.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	E. N. Fellowe, Esq.
RICHARD LLOYD, ESQ. (British Guiana)	A. McConnell, Esq.	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.
The Very Rev. FATHER L. TAPON (St. Lucia)	Hon. E. Du Boulay	Hon. S. D. Melville.
THE SUPERINTENDENT, Direct West India Cable Co. (Jamaica)	J. Rippon, Esq.	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.

### The West Indian Club Dinner.

The Duke of Marlborough was the guest of the West Indian Club on the 2nd inst. at a dinner held at the Howard Hotel, Norfolk Street. Sir Nevile Lubbock presided, and among those present were Lord Stamford, vice-president of the Club, the Rev. W. W. Jackson, D.D., the Hon. Charles Russell, Sir Thomas Lipton, Sir Simeon Stuart, Sir Anthony Thornhill, Sir Alfred Jones, Sir Ralph Moor, Mr. W. Athel M. Goode, Mr. Owen Philipps, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. F. C. Stewart, Mr. Geo. Fowler, Mr. J. Arnold, Mr. J. Westwood, Mr. C. Hickman, Mr. J. Hicks-Bratt, Mr. A. Duncan, Mr. C. R. Winn, Capt. Chas. Foulkes, R.E., Mr. H. Powell Rees, Mr. Lionel de Mercado, Mr. J. W. M. Jarrett, Mr. A. Hutchinson, Mr. F. W. Scott, Mr. G. B. Baker, Mr. B. Cockell, Mr. W. J. Baker, Mr. G. H. H. Pile, Mr. A. F. Turnbull, Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. A. Bovell, Capt. J. Howell Jones, R.M.A., Mr. A. T. Hirsch, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. L. Hudson, Mr. A. M. Gillespie, Mr. F. E. Harris, Mr. F. G. Rayment, Mr. H. A. Kenshole, Mr. R. G. Lee, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Col. Nuthall, Mr. T. B. Younger, Mr. H. O. Smith, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. R. F. Lubbock, Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. E. A. Tarolin, Mr. G. Hughes, Mr. H. S. Osment, Mr. R. B. Sanderson, Mr. A. T. Isaac, Mr. J. J. Sabey, Mr. C. A. Clarke, Mr. F. R. Leistikow, Mr. F. Berger, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. John de Pass, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. A. A. Paton, and Mr. W. J. Hughes.



After the loyal toasts had been honoured, the Chairman gave the toast of "The Guest of the Evening." He said that they had to thank the Colonial Office, and Mr. Chamberlain especially, for having succeeded in getting rid of the European bounty system. He believed that it would be found before long that it was a right course to pursue, not only with regard to sugar, but also as to other industries. They had not yet got rid of bounties, for it was quite evident that one or two foreign countries were endeavouring to obtain some bounties within the four corners of the Convention. He then referred to the cocoa industry in the West Indies, which was very flourishing, and was likely to remain so for a considerable number of years. With regard to cotton, he observed that great difficulties had arisen in Lancashire owing to the deficiency of the crop in the country from which the manufacturers obtained their supply. The eyes of the manufacturers had been opened to the importance of deriving their supply of cotton from other places than the United States. Efforts were being made to open up new sources of supply, and Nigeria seemed to be most promising in that direction. Attention has also been directed to the West Indies, and cotton was being tried in almost every Colony in the West Indies, but it seemed to be the prey of large numbers of insects. In conclusion he remarked that the committee had it in their minds to open a shop in Piccadilly for the purpose of exhibiting the various products of the West Indies in order to show the public what could be done by those Colonies. (Hear, hear.)

The Duke of Marlborough, in responding to the toast, said that he knew that the club was closely connected with the West India Committee, and, as they were aware, the Committee had from time to time come into relation with the Colonial Office, and during the time that Mr. Chamberlain and the present Colonial Secretary had been at the Colonial Office those relations had been of the most cordial character. That cordiality, which still existed, had been largely due to the confidence and respect which they had all entertained for Sir Nevile Lubbock. He was very

**pleased to bear that the West India Committee**

had determined to try and show in London what produce could be brought home from the West Indies. Nothing could be more desirable and better than to try and put before the public the productions of the Colonies; whether in a shop or in colonial exhibitions of a small character it must help to show that the Colonies could produce foodstuffs, vegetables, and all commodities which were suitable for the use of the people of this country. Reference has also been made to the important question of the cotton supply. Lancashire to-day was suffering from the shortage of the raw material. He was told that the cotton production in the West Indies was going on satisfactorily, and was on the whole improving. It was quite true, however, that the industry was subjected to many vicissitudes of fortune. He hoped, that, with the aid of the British Cotton-Growing Association, there would be in the future a good supply of that cotton which was so valuable and which was such an important factor in the Lancashire industries. The sugar industry was of equal importance. With regard to the Brussels Convention, he remarked that his department would do all in the power to see that the arrangement which was come to last September was properly and efficiently carried out. Attempts were already being made to discover what the results of the Brussels Convention would be, but it was much too soon to judge. At the same time they believed that the result would be to give greater stability and security to the sugar growing people in the West Indies and everywhere else. Since the sugar convention had come into operation more sugar had come from the West Indies into this country from last September until the present time than during the same months of any previous year. The Duke then drew attention to the trade between the West Indies and this country and Canada. He was told that owing to the preference that Canada had given, the tendency of the sugar trade between the West Indies and Canada was to increase, and he hoped that it would increase still more. In order to facilitate that trade it was important that the steamer service should be maintained in the most efficient manner, and it was the earnest desire of the Colonial Office to do all in their power to make

that service as efficient as possible. He was told that the present Government was a dying Government; but how soon it would die out he would not for one moment venture to foretell. Whatever party was in power, he trusted that they would preserve the same harmony, co-operation and hearty good will which now existed between the Colonial Office and the West Indies. (Hear, hear.)

Other toasts followed.

### West Indian Interests at Westminster.

#### The Brussels Commission.

At the evening sitting of the House of Commons on Wednesday, March 2nd, Mr. Lough called attention to the proceedings of the Sugar Commission, and moved a resolution which affirmed that the decisions of the Commission had inflicted grave injury on the manufacturers of sugared products in the United Kingdom, and that the Brussels Convention had failed to confer the anticipated benefits on the West Indies. The convention, he argued, had caused a rise in the price of sugar in this country and a diminution in the amount of sugar consumed; it had encouraged "dumping" of sugared products by foreign countries, and had led to the imposition of new tariffs in Russia against British grown tea. He complained that this country was represented on the Commission by a protectionist, and called upon the Government to send a representative of the sugar industry to serve on that body. As to the West Indies, the abolition of the bounties had done them harm instead of good, for their exports of sugar had actually fallen off since the change was effected. Confectioners were suffering because they could no longer obtain the raw material of their industry in the cheapest market. The resolution was seconded by Mr. KEARLEY. Mr. MACIVER, having spoken on the other side, Mr. CHURCHILL bantered the Government on the results of the Convention, which was their first step in the new policy of retaliation. The price of sugar having risen, the working classes would be able to form a very fair idea of the consequences of that policy when it should have been developed more fully. Upon this question of sugar Mr. Chamberlain had been allowed to have his own way, and his policy had failed.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, after defending Sir Henry Bergne, our representative on the Commission, against the criticism that he was merely a complacent figure-head, challenged the figures upon which Mr. Lough had based his case. He then stated that he was informed on good authority that the sugar refiners of the country were satisfied with the working of the Convention. He insisted that sufficient time had not elapsed since the Convention came into operation to enable the House to form a fair and final estimate of its value. With regard to the West Indies, he declared that as a matter of fact their exports of sugar to this country had of late increased steadily. As for the present prices of sugar, refined and unrefined, they were not formidable, and the confectioners were crying out before they were hurt. He regretted that the Commission did not agree with the interpretation which His Majesty's Government put upon the articles of the Convention dealing with the question of the surtax. If the contracting States were allowed to put a greater surtax on sugared goods than upon sugar a serious situation would arise. This question, however, was not yet finally decided.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN challenged the Government to show that the Convention had benefitted anybody; and after two other short speeches the division was taken. The motion was rejected by 202 votes against 162—majority, 40. (For full report see the *Times*, March 3rd.)

### Notes of Interest.

**WEST INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.** Owing to pressure in our space we are compelled to hold over our usual list but it may be noted that Sir Alfred Moloney will return from Trinidad on leave at the end of the March.

**OBITUARY.** News has been received in London by cable of the death of Mr. Thomas Clarke, of Canefield, Barbados, one of the oldest agricultural attorneys in that island. Mr. Clarke was greatly respected in the Colony, and his many friends in England will learn of his death with sincere regret.

**BINDING CASES FOR VOL. XVIII.** Handsome lettered cases for binding the *West India Committee Circular*, Vol. XVIII, can be obtained from the Secretary, price 2/- each, post free. Members can have their copies bound for the inclusive charge of 3/6. Spring back cases for filing a year's issue of the *Circular* can also be obtained at 2/6 each, or post free 3/-. These will be found a great convenience.

**THE METRIC SYSTEM.** In reply to a circular despatch of Mr. Chamberlain, 9th September, 1902, British Guiana, Trinidad and the Leeward and Windward Islands have expressed themselves in favour of the adoption of the Metric System. Jamaica and British Honduras recommend the adoption of the system of the U.S.A. The reply of Barbados is on the whole unfavourable.

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.** Mr. H. F. Previté proposed by Sir Neville Lubbock, and seconded by Mr. Rutherford, was unanimously elected a member of the Executive Committee on the 3rd inst. Mr. Previté is a Director of the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt, Co., Ltd., and the Trinidad Lake Asphalt Paving Co., Ltd., and the connection of the Committee with Trinidad is thus strengthened.





### The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "La Plata" anchored off Plymouth at 9.45 a.m. on Thursday, March 10th. The mails were delivered in London first post next day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Morant" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, March 2nd. Owing to the late arrival of the R.M.S. "La Plata," we are compelled to condense considerably the usual extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents.

**Antigua.**—Hon. A. St. G. Spooner, Feb. 24th. WEATHER cool and cloudless, keeping canes green and growthy. Though there was little ripe cane showing, many estates would begin grinding in the first week in March. An effort was to be made to co-operate with neighbouring Islands in withholding sugar from Canada and New York and shipping to Great Britain, in order to induce Canadian refiners to concede some part of the 33½ preference. Shipment of onions had begun.

**Barbados.**—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, February, 25th. WEATHER very favourable: cool, especially at night, by day, high winds with occasional light showers. Total rainfall for month about 1.50 inches, about the normal amount for February. Sugar making was pretty general. Various estates were giving 1½ and 2½ hhds per acre, which was much better than usual so early. Sugar was quoted \$1.30 including hhds., molasses 14c including package. On February 17th there was a severe cane fire from Stepney right across the valley to Constant, burning 47 acres in all. Sir Daniel Morris gave another very interesting address on the cotton industry on February 17th, and also on onions and bananas. A letter was read from the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. to the effect that the "Tagus" and "Trent" would almost at once be fitted with Hall's method of cool storage.

**British Guiana.**—A. Summerson, Esq., Feb. 24th. The Combined Court was formally opened on Feb. 17th, and adjourned to March 1st. Some reduction in taxation was expected, and also the 5% surtax on Customs duties. Dr. Thompson, Quarantine Commissioner, arrived from Trinidad February 19th, and left by mail for Barbados. WEATHER dry in Essequibo and Demerara, showers would do good. In Berbice it was much too dry, and heavy rains were wanted. The protracted drought had affected the canes for next year's crop. Canes to be cut in May and June were reported short generally. Nothing was doing in crystals, last sale, \$1.73. (The report of the Immigration Agent-General for 1902-3, received by Mail, can be seen at the Committee Rooms—ED.).

**British Honduras.**—Hon. A. R. Usher, February 26th. The writer had been appointed a member of the Legislative Council in the place of the late Hon. B. Fairweather. There was only one land surveyor in private practice in the Colony and there was therefore a good opening for a few more competent men. Surveyors of some colonial experience would be preferred.

**Dominica.**—E. A. Agar, Esq., February 21st. The Federal Council had passed a Bill to allow flogging of persons convicted of "obeah." The "Henry Holmes" was repairing the cable between Dominica and St. Lucia. Weather was showery. The prædial larceny committee had made various recommendations for suppressing the evil. It was suggested that cacao and spices should be brought before sale to a public weighing place, where the seller would have to satisfy an official that he was entitled to dispose of the goods, and could then receive a permit.

**Jamaica.**—J. L. Ashenheim, Esq., February 23rd. The weather continued the same as last reported. The "tourist" trade meeting had been a marked success, and it was hoped to establish an efficient tourist bureau. The legislature was to meet in the following week. The combined fleet of Admirals Douglas and Fawkes were in port. From reports received from district inspectors it appears that prædial larceny was on the increase.

**Montserrat.**—C. Watson, Esq., Feb. 24th. WEATHER drier and canes were ripening up. The fourth annual Agricultural Show, under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture was to be held on the next day. Cable communication with Antigua was much needed.

**Nevis.**—Hon. C. A. Shand, February 24th. Mr. Francis Watts had been in the Island for a week, and a meeting of the Agricultural Society had been held to discuss various matters of interest connected with sugar and cotton. The ginnyery was working satisfactorily, and the quality of cotton was excellent.

**St. Kitts.**—Chas. A. Smith, Esq., February 23rd. WEATHER: high winds had continued and were ripening the canes. Reaping would be pretty general in a week or two. The young crops were well established and were growing vigorously.

**St. Lucia.**—Hon. E. Du Boulay, February 26th. A meeting had been held to consider the question of cotton cultivation. Sir D. Morris gave an address, and it was decided to continue experiments, the Imperial Department of Agriculture undertaking to start experimental plots in different localities.

**St. Vincent.**—Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., February 26th. The cotton factory was nearing completion and there were prospects of quite an extensive acreage of cotton for next year. The planting of fruit for shipment was also engaging attention. The weather, though boisterous on the coast, had been all that could be desired for arrowroot making, and



the few estates that still made sugar were in full swing. At a meeting of estate proprietors and others, it was decided that the only way to remedy the unfortunate state of the arrowroot market in London was to leave the next year's crop unreaped.

**Trinidad.**—Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, February 26th. Business with Venezuela had been carried on to a certain extent since the re-opening of the Custom House at Guiria, and the large stocks of cocoa which had been accumulating. These were now being shipped to Trinidad. Mr Robert Henderson, of Bolivar, had purchased the Orinoco Steamship Company's steamers. The weather was more unsettled than usual at this time of the year, and showers, some rather heavy, were still frequent, but sugar estates had all started and were making good progress. Cocoa had been coming in steadily during the fortnight, and prices had been exceptionally high, notwithstanding the fall in the London market. Prices ranged from \$12.50 for "Ordinary," to \$13.75 for Estates. The bulk of the crop would have come to hand by the 15th of March.

**Weather Telegrams.**

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), March 1st. "Seasonable weather." **British Guiana** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), March 7th. "Rain is badly needed in Berbice." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), March 12th. "Some rain has fallen generally since last message." (Messrs. H. K. Davson & Co.), March 14th. "There is a favourable change in the weather, Berbice." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), March 14th. "Heavy rains have fallen in Demerara and Berbice." **Trinidad** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), March 1st. "Fine, with occasional light showers."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
	Hhds.	lbs.	Tons.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
<b>Barbados—</b>								
Jan. 1 to Feb. 26, 1904	297	—	—	—	—	1729	—	—
" " 26, 1903	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>British Guiana—</b>	Tons.							
Jan. 1 to Feb. 23, 1904	17,258	4329	989	5735	5160	13	5182	1138
" " 21, 1903	21,754	14,430	83	8344	424	1292	6720	967
<b>Jamaica—</b>		Cwts.	<b>Coffee.</b>	Galls.		<b>Pimento.</b>	<b>Bananas.</b>	<b>Oranges.</b>
			Cwts.			Cwts.	Stems.	
Apr. 1 to Feb. 6, 1904	1890	18,250	63,582	948,063	14,623,475	62,723	7,430,709	78,120,110
" " 7, 1903	14,769	22,001	82,973	1,375,036	21,864,556	112,948	13,040,416	97,184,497
<b>Trinidad—</b>	Bags & Brls	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		<b>Molasses.</b>		<b>Asphalt.</b>
						Puns.	Trcs.	Hrils.
Jan. 1 to Feb. 25, 1904	8871	10,142,370	30,240	—	360,040	10	—	2
" " 25, 1903	33,751	12,081,050	2000	25	2,065,190	254	84	47
								Tons.
								16,842

**The Mails.**

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.**—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "La Plata," March 10th, 1904.—**Barbados.**—Col. and Mrs. Chesney, Mr. G. D. Hogenas, Mr. T. E. Olsen, Mrs. Sargood, Mrs. Murray, Mr. F. N. Martinez, Mr. C. H. Stuart, Mr. W. and Miss Mitchell, Mr. Roberts, Capt. G. Montgomerie. **Demerara.**—Dr. Kenny, Rev. F. Welch, Mrs. Ireland, Mr. R. A. Robertson, Mr. G. Ghose, Mr. Rampersod. **Jamaica.**—Dr. S. Hasbrouck, Mr. H. Forbes, Dr. V. E. Sorapure, Dr. F. Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Hulme, Mrs. J. B. Ellis, two Messrs. Rawlinson, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Porter, Miss E. McFarran, Mr. F. Worthington, Mr. B. Bushell, Miss Leighton, Mrs. Lowe, Mr. T. Bickerstaffe, Mr. G. Duns-mere, Mr. J. Atkins, J. P., Mr. L. Craven, Mr. J. Wildgoose, Mr. H. Dixon, Mr. R. Craven, Mr. R. A. Foster-Melliar, Major O. H. F. Marescaux, Mr. L. Collier, Mr. H. Howe, Mr. and Miss Ewing, Capt. Pusey, R. N., Surg-General Sib-thorpe, Lieut. V. F. Gibb, R. N. **Trinidad.**—Dr. Abdussamad, Dr. S. A. H. Jakir Ala, Dr. King, Mrs. and Miss Bizelle, Mr. B. J. Othner, Dr. Carl Bovallius, Mr. T. D. Arnott, Mr. and Mrs. Milne, Mr. J. Kelly. **Antigua.**—Mrs. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. R. McDonald. **Dominica.**—Mr. S. Ismay, Mr. B. Chester, Mr. W. E. Beck, Mr. M. Parker Ismay.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," March 16th, 1904.—**Barbados.**—Mr. W. A. Alcott. **Demerara.**—Mrs. R. Gewand. **Jamaica.**—Capt. R. and Mrs. Neeld, Lieut. G. Goldney, R.F., the Hon. J. R. B. Balfour, Mr. Salomon, Miss A. Campbell, Mr. W. Hall, Mr. W. H. Watson, Miss G. Fyffe, Miss F. Arnott, Mr. H. Hall, Lieut. Col. J. S. Talbot. **Revis.**—Mr. and Mrs. Buxton. **St. Lucia.**—Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Lindsay. **St. Vincent.**—Mr. and Mrs. Pike.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "La Plata," March 30th, 1904.—**Demerara.**—Mr. A. Batchelor. **Jamaica.**—Mr. W. D. MacPherson. **Trinidad.**—Mr. F. Farfan. **Antigua.**—Mr. H. Tipping, Mr. and Mrs. Patterson.

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.**—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," March 2nd, 1904.—**Jamaica.**—Capt. Barlow, Mr. Coad, Mr. Detmar, Lieut. Col. Honeyball, Lieut. Lamont, Mr. C. E. Maples, Master John Maples, Mr. E. J. Neuville, Miss Thudichum, Mr. J. A. Bussell, Mrs. Wm. Cunningham, Mr. Henry Ing.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," March 12th, 1904.—**Jamaica.**—Mr. C. de M. Grant, Miss N. Green-wood, Rev. and Mrs. J. Lindsay, Mr. W. C. Logan, Dr. A. Riley, Mr. J. Turnbull, Mr. H. W. Beaverstock.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," March 26th, 1904.—**Jamaica.**—Rev. A. L. and Mrs. Bodfish, Miss M. Champness, Mr. C. Williams.

## The Produce Markets Summary.

### Sugar—88 per cent Beet.

Sentiment, which is worth little, favors a reduction of sowings in France, but nothing is definitely known. Germany and Austria are supposed to sow on the same scale as this year, but here again all is sentiment and all equally unreliable. When May comes some tangible indications will be before us, but not earlier. The feeling that there may possibly be some modification in production has given a temporary stimulus to the speculative portion of the market, and prices have fluctuated to some extent, closing rather over the basis of last mail. There has also been a somewhat increased Trade demand, but the extreme cheapness of Java cargoes which have been selling to our Refiners at 8s 7½d has caused them to neglect 88% beet and does not tend to decrease the large stocks of this sugar held on the Continent, which are a menace to the long hoped for advance in prices, required to cover cost of production throughout the world. To-day's quotations of 88% are, March, 8s 3½d, May, 8s 4½d, August, 8s 7d, and October/December, 8s 9d, those of First Marks granulated being respectively 10s 3d, 10s 3d, 10s 5½d and 10s 6½d, all free on board Hamburg.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America (uneven dates) are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	
Europe	3,240,000	3,100,000	3,340,000	2,630,000	2,500,000	Tons
United States	110,000	160,000	110,000	180,000	140,000	"
Cuba	190,000	250,000	300,000	150,000	90,000	"
Cargoes afloat	40,000	40,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	"
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,580,000</b>	<b>3,550,000</b>	<b>3,760,000</b>	<b>2,970,000</b>	<b>2,750,000</b>	"
Comparative prices of 88% for 5 years:—	8s. 3½d.	8s. 5½d.	6s. 6½d.	8s. 11½d.	9s. 11½d.	

**Crystallised Sugar.**—The continued margin of some 2s per cwt. between 88% beet and Foreign Granulated is still improving the prices of yellow crystallised and a good business has again been done in suitable sugar at a further advance of about 3d, the value of average qualities, "yellow," now being 15s.

Pale kinds are not in favour, and the manufacture of them should be avoided, as no doubt, with care, can easily be done. "Imitations," are selling from 14s 6d to 14s 9d. A cargo of dark crystals would command close on 9s on floating conditions.

**Molasses Sugar**—Sugar is steady from 11s. to 12s.

**Muscovado**—Grocery is scarce and quotations are uncertain. A cargo of 89 test is worth fully 8s on floating terms. Sales are being made on this parity.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901	
Imports to date	7000	2500	6000	6000	Tons
Deliveries ..	8000	8000	9000	8000	"
Stocks ..	11,000	23,000	9000	6000	"

**Rum.**—There is no change in the position of Demerara. Importers still hold firmly and the Trade stand off, being only inclined to offer prices which are not acceptable. Quotations therefore are uncertain. Jamaica is steady at 1s. 9d. for approved Home Trade Marks. Leewards range from about 8d. to 11d.

Board of Trade Returns for two months:	1904.	1903.	1902.	
Imports	1,490,000	1,450,000	1,910,000	Gallons
Home Consumption	760,000	700,000	840,000	"
Stocks 31st Jan	10,020,000	10,100,000	7,960,000	"

London Figures to date:	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901	
Imports Jamaica	470	310	240	840	Puns.
Demerara	5700	5200	7800	8400	"
Stocks Jamaica	7800	9000	6200	6900	"
Demerara	11,600	10,300	9700	10,000	"
Total of all kinds:—Stocks	28,987	29,668	Deficiency, 681	Puns.	

**Cocon.**—The market for West India has again eased off and prices generally are 1s. to 2s. below last mail, but with a good demand from the Trade for all descriptions. The latest quotations are—Trinidad "fair collected" 61s, estate marks, 62s, 68s. Grenada fair native, 54s, fermented, 56s, 58s, and from other Islands, fair native, 53s. and fermented, 55s. to 60s. African to arrive is quoted 59s, on full landed terms.

Board of Trade Returns for two months:	1904.	1903	1902.	
Imports	6552	5000	7818	Tons.
Home Consumption	3862	3045	6762	"
Stocks 29th Feb	5094	5608	5903	"
Stocks in London:—	71,000	77,000	84,000	85,000 Barrels.

**Coffee.**—There is practically no change in the market and after the usual fluctuations Santos for this month's delivery closes at 32s. 6d. Good ordinary Jamaica is quoted 40s. **Autmeas**—Sales of West India, 65's at 2s. 1d., 82's at 1s. 3d., 100's at 10½d., 123's at 8d., and in shell at 6d. **Mace.**—Pale sold at 1s. 10d, 1s. 11d., and red at 1s. 9d. **Pimento**—Lower, value of fair 3½.

**Cotton.**—Speculative operations have again forced up the price of American and the moments quotation for March delivery is 8½d.

**Arrowroot.**—Continues steady, and some 800 barrels fair manufacturing have been sold at 1½d., with moderate lots of Chemists Root at 2d.

London Figures to 29th Feb	1904	1903.	1902	1901.	1900	
Imports	1885	3333	4021	2085	3724	Brls.
Deliveries	3775	2205	3275	2418	3303	"
Stocks	10,745	13,352	8465	7767	2952	"

**Lime Juice**—Steady at 10d. to 11s. Concentrated unchanged at £12 15s, Distilled oil, 1s. 4d. Hand Pressed, 2s. 6d., 3s. Little doing.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.



# The . . . West India Committee Circular

ENTERED AT STATIONERS HALL.

Vol. XIX.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29th, 1904.

No. 120.

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## OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. VI.



Sir Patrick Manson,

K.C.M.G., F.R.S., M.D., LL.D., P.R.C.P.  
(Physician and Medical Adviser to the Colonial Office.)

## Sir Patrick Manson.

Our celebrity is the distinguished parasitologist who first enunciated the hypothesis that a certain mosquito is the host of the malarial parasite at one stage of its existence, and thus an active agent in diffusing disease. Sir Patrick Manson is physician and medical adviser to the Colonial Office, and senior lecturer to the London School of Tropical Medicine, which was founded upon the initiative of Mr. Chamberlain and opened on October 1st, 1899. Sir Patrick has earned the gratitude of West Indians, and it is hoped that they will show it in tangible form by sending substantial donations to Mr. P. Michelli, the Secretary of the London School of Tropical Medicine, Greenwich, S.E., of which further particulars will be found on page xi.

## A New Process of Sugar Manufacture.

We are informed by Mr. Robert Harvey, Consulting Sugar Engineer, that the new process of sugar manufacture, called the PATENT NAUDRET PROCESS, which has been in use experimentally for the last two years in Madeira, has now been perfected. By this process, it is claimed that a great saving in the cost of sugar manufacture, beyond that of

the most modern machinery which is now in use is obtained, as practically all the sugar is recovered from the cane. The process consists of filtering the juice through the megass, and subsequently washing the remaining sugar out of the megass by means of hot water under pressure. The megass is then passed through the mill and used as fuel in the ordinary way. Major George A. Porter, Mr. G. M. Bethune, of Plantation Enmore, British Guiana, and Mr. G. Vogel, Chemist to Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., have just returned from a visit to Madcira, where they inspected the process.

We may state that Messrs. McOnie, Harvey and Company, Limited, the well-known firm of Sugar Engineers in Glasgow, hold the sole right for the manufacture of this new machinery for Great Britain and the British Colonies.

### Cotton Growing in the West Indies.

By the appointment of Mr. E. R. Davson and the Secretary to the Executive Committee and West Indies Section of the British Cotton Growing Association, as nominees of the West India Committee, which was announced on the 25th inst., closer co-operation will be brought about between these two bodies, which cannot fail to be advantageous to their common cause. In the West Indies favourable progress continues to be reported, and the Imperial Department of Agriculture has published a further Bulletin dealing with "Sea Island Cotton in the United States and the West Indies," an invaluable publication which embodies the report of Sir Daniel Morris and Mr. J. R. Bovell on their recent visit to the United States. This pamphlet should be in the hands of every planter.\*

Mr. Alfred Emmott, M.P., read a paper on "Cotton Growing in the British Empire" before the Colonial Section of the Society of Arts on Tuesday, March 22nd, Sir Edward Grey, presiding. Among those connected with the West Indies who were present were Sir Henry K. Davson, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. J. Rippon, and Mr. E. T. Whitaker, and they were rewarded by hearing a most interesting exposition of the situation. Referring to the West Indies, Mr. Emmott said that in 1786 and 1790 we received from the British West Indies, British Guiana, and British Honduras 45,000 bales a year, out of a total consumption of 63,000 bales, whereas of late years we have not imported more than 1,000 bales of the same size. In these Islands could be grown the very finest cotton which was used—the Sea Island variety. He paid a tribute to the work being done by Sir Daniel Morris and Sir Gerald Strickland, in furthering the industry. It was not the intention of the British Cotton Growing Association to develop cotton growing by the system of large plantations, and the suggested large plantation in Southern Nigeria must be regarded rather as an object lesson and technical school. He referred to the shortage of cotton in 1850 and the work of the Cotton Supply Association which was started in 1857 with similar objects to those of the British Cotton Growing Association. A noble attempt was then made in the West Indies. He held in his hand a letter from Mr. Stephen Bourne, of the Jamaica Cotton Co., Limited (patron, Lord Brougham) which stated that the Sergeant-at-Arms had kindly allowed a bag of cotton grown on the estates of the company to be on view in the House of Commons. The letter concluded "I think there can now be no reason to doubt our entire success." The West Indian experiments appear to have failed at that time because the crop was a precarious one, and because the cultivation of sugar was far more remunerative.

### Sugar Beet in the United Kingdom.

The result of the fifth year's growth of sugar beet on the estate of the Earl of Denbigh at Newnham Paddox, Warwickshire, shows that though the weight of the roots grown per acre is somewhat less than in some previous years the quality is good, and, in fact, better than that of the German productions. It is to be noted that, in view of the fact that the possibility of growing good sugar beet in the British Isles where there is not much sunshine, the results of the crops of 1902 and 1903—when

\* *West Indian Bulletin*, Vol. VI., No. 4, price 6d., post free 7½d. Obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms



the weather was nothing like so hot as in the three or four preceding years—show no differences in the analysis of the article produced at Newnham Paddock. The beet was grown by four of the tenants on the estate, and the total results gave 13 tons 3 cwt. 2 qrs. 18 lbs. per acre, the best crop producing 16 odd tons. The mangolds averaged 32 tons per acre. The value of the beetroots for the manufacture of sugar was excellent. The average quantity of sugar in 100 parts of the juice was 18.34 as compared with the German average of 16.87; the average of the quantity of sugar in 100 parts of the roots was 17.44, and the average quotient of purity was 88.49 as against 85.63 from German roots. If roots of the standard grown at Newnham could have been sold to a sugar factory the heaviest crop of sugar beet would have been worth £22 16s. 6d. an acre, and the lowest weight £14 14s. 6d., giving the average value per acre £16 17s. 6d. As to the cost, after making full allowance for the extra cost of cultivation it may be reasonably contended that a crop of sugar beet will make £15, while a similar amount of mangolds will earn £12 4s. Members will find it interesting to compare these figures with those of Mr. Stein's experiments recorded in the *West India Committee Circular* 118, p. 74.

### Cane Sugar v. Beet.

The following letter regarding the respective merits of cane and beet sugar appeared in the *British Medical Journal* of the 19th inst. :—

Sir.—I have long been satisfied that with consumptives and children the nutrient fattening power of ordinary grocer's sugar is *nil*. On numberless occasions I have noticed improved results when real cane sugar—preferably I think in the uncrystallised state—was used instead; chemically they are said to be "identical" just as potato spirits and malt whisky; practically they are as different. A recent inquiry in the *British Medical Journal* has evolved the following interesting communication from an expert, which speaks strongly in support of my experience: "I have had a long experience of cane and beet sugars. I have no interest in upholding the former, but the result of my experience has convinced me of the superiority of cane sugar over beet."

Chemically so far as our scientific knowledge goes—and it is not very far yet—both sugars when pure (and in the case of beet, this is a rarity) are alike. Chemistry in this branch is wanting; there is a difference chemically in my opinion which will be discovered soon; physically there is a big difference.

Cane sugar is easily purified, and even if it were not, the impurities unarrested would not have a prejudicial effect on the human system. Beet is very difficult to clear, and in this case the impurities are such as to disturb the system and interfere with its normal functions. Low beet sugars or treacle cannot be used with satisfactory results even as a cattle food. Bees refuse to feed upon even the good grades of grocery beet sugars, they turn it out of their hives. There are cases where serious injury has been done to hives. I know of a case in the north where the bees, having nothing else, partook of some, and suffered from severe diarrhoea in consequence, many dying of it. Persons wishing to have cane sugar should buy from their grocers under guarantee. The country just now is flooded with foreign refined sugars, got up to please the eye, but only imperfectly refined.

I am, etc., COLIN CAMPBELL.

### Our Next Lecture.

We have pleasure in announcing that the third of our series of lectures will be delivered at the West India Committee Rooms, at 3.45 p.m., on Tuesday, April 19th, by Sir George Watt, on the subject of "Cotton." Sir Hubert E. H. Jerningham, former Governor of Trinidad, will preside, and tea will be provided for members and their friends at the close of the meeting. Ladies will be welcomed and as our space is limited it is desirable that those wishing to be present should send in an early application for tickets.

### The Late Sir Walter Sendall, G.C.M.G.

With deep regret we have to record the death of Sir Walter Joseph Sendall, G.C.M.G., which took place in London on the 16th inst., as a result of congestion of the lungs. After a distinguished University career Sir Walter Sendall in 1859 entered the Educational Branch of the Ceylon Civil Service and in the following year he was appointed Inspector of Schools and in 1870 Director of Public

Instruction. In 1876 he was appointed General Inspector of the Local Government Board, Whitehall, and in 1878 Assistant Secretary. In 1885 he was appointed to the Windward Islands, and in 1889 to be Governor of the Barbados. In 1892 he was appointed High Commissioner for Cyprus and in 1898 Governor of British Guiana, from which office he retired in 1901. Sir Walter Sendall was created K.C.M.G. in 1889 and G.C.M.G. ten years later, and was also an honorary LL.D. of Edinburgh. He was one of the four representative Governors, after his retirement, at the Coronation of the present King, on which occasion he represented the West Indian Colonies. Sir Walter Sendall was a member of the West India Committee, in the work of which he took a deep interest, and it will be remembered that as recently as February 9th last, he presided at the first of our series of lectures at the West India Committee Rooms.

At a fully attended meeting of the Executive Committee, on March 17th, a resolution of condolence with Lady Sendall was carried unanimously, and the Committee were represented at the funeral service at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, on March 21st, by Sir Henry K. Davson.

### Jamaica after the Cyclone.

Sir Augustus Hemming in his opening address to the Legislative Council of Jamaica on March 2nd, referred to the effects of the cyclone of August 11th last. In bananas alone there has been a loss of 7,142,000 bunches, while the exports of coconuts have fallen off to the extent of 11,289,000. The railway receipts have decreased by £17,880. The loss in ordinary revenue has been £16,692, and there has been an excess of expenditure to the amount of £38,053 as the direct result of the disaster. The generous donations collected from the Mother Country by the West India Committee, together with those subscribed by neighbouring Colonies locally, had provided food for the peasantry and had been used to rebuild huts and houses. The estimated surplus for the year of £11,456 had of course not been realised, but the situation has been saved by the transference of £100,000 from the Civil Service Widows and Orphans Fund, in accordance with recent legislation, to general revenue, the annual charge for pensions now being paid out of the Island funds. This will enable the financial year to close with a budget surplus of £57,100, while the general balance sheet of the Colony is anticipated to show a surplus of assets over liabilities amounting to £21,522. Their will, therefore, be no increased taxation. The estimated revenue for 1904-5 is £807,339, and the expenditure £806,913, leaving a small balance to the good.

### New Members of the West India Committee.

The total number of new members elected during the current year now amounts to 120, distributed as follows:—Trinidad, 33; Jamaica, 15; St. Lucia, 12; British Guiana, 9; Dominica, 8; Barbados, 7; Grenada, 3; St. Kitts, 3; Antigua, 2; Tobago, 2; St. Vincent, 1; Nevis, 1; Canada, 1; Home, 20; and Foreign, 3. The next election will be held on Thursday, April 14th. The following new members were elected on March 17th.

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
S. MAYNARD ALLEYNE, Esq.	Elliot G. Louis, Esq.	John T. Haynes, Esq.
RULE ALAN BARCLAY, Esq. (British Guiana)	Guy C. Wyatt, Esq.	H. L. Humphrys, Esq.
JAMES SLATER, Esq. (British Guiana)	Guy C. Wyatt, Esq.	H. L. Humphrys, Esq.
EMILE MURRAY, Esq. (St. Lucia)	Hon. E. Du Boulay,	Hon. S. D. Melville.
JOSEPH HENRY WATSON, Esq. (B. Guiana)	Guy C. Wyatt, Esq.	H. L. Humphrys, Esq.
DR. JOSEPH EDWARD GODFREY, (B. Guiana)	Sir Henry K. Davson,	Guy C. Wyatt, Esq.
His Honour Chief Justice J. B. WALKER, (St. Lucia)	Hon. E. Du Boulay,	Hon. S. D. Melville.
LT.-COL. FREDERICK W. NIND,	Sir Henry K. Davson,	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.



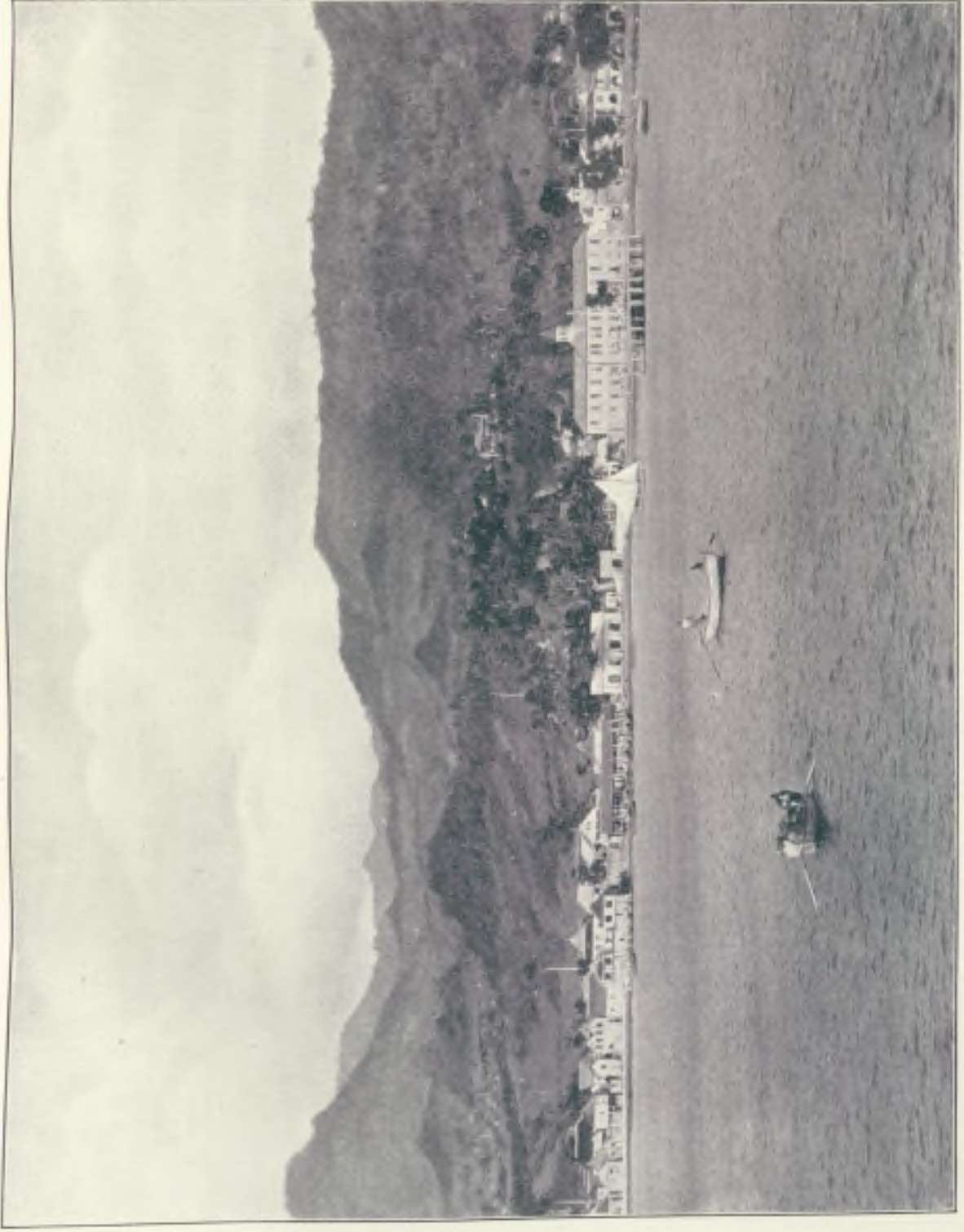


Photo by ALFREDUS E. ARSENAULT.

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## KINGSTOWN, ST. VINCENT.

### Kingstown, St. Vincent.

The town of Kingstown which nestles at the foot of the mountains on the south-west of St. Vincent, of which it is the capital, is one of the most picturesque in the West Indies. Froude likened it to a Norwegian town with its houses along the shore painted in blue, yellow, and pink, with red tiled roofs, and trees coming down to the water's edge. The mountain to the left of our illustration is Mount St. Andrew, the new source of water supply for Kingstown. On the right appears part of Dorsetshire Hill, which in former times was an important military outpost. Near the jetty is one of the sailing boats locally known as Bequia boats, which daily carry passengers and produce between Bequia and St. Vincent.

### Immigration Matters.

The report of the Hon. A. H. Alexander, the Immigration Agent-General of British Guiana for 1902-3 is of exceptional interest, and testifies to the remarkable success of coolie immigration. During the season, three ships arrived at Georgetown from Calcutta with 1947 immigrants, including



(Copyright.)

A Group of Coolies on Windsor Forest Estate, British Guiana.

67 previously resident in the Colony, and 106 for other Colonies, as against 152 and 207 in the previous season. As an example of the thrifty nature of these immigrants, it may be noted that on December 31st, 1902, a sum of £93,879 4s. 10½d. stood to the credit of East Indian immigrants in the Government Savings Bank, an increase of £5466 1s. 8d. as compared with 1901, the number of depositors being 4800. On the same date £7418 11s. 9d. stood to the credit of 90 Chinese. Further evidence of the prosperity of the immigrants is afforded by the statement that 1556 immigrants returning to India remitted £13,018 17s. 10d., and took with them jewellery to the value of £2166 13s. 4d., the sums deposited or remittance being £22,903 6s. 8d. more than in the previous year.

The following letter appeared in the *Daily News* of the 24th inst. :—

Sir.—In your columns of the 4th inst., there appeared a report of an interview between a member of your staff and a "gentleman who has spent many years in the West Indies," as to the conditions of the coolie labour employed there.



The statements made by this gentleman are so grossly unfair and inaccurate that one is inclined to believe that his residence in the West Indies must have been in those Colonies which do not employ coolie labour.

Coolie immigration is conducted under the direct control of the Home and Indian Governments, the coolies are protected and cared for in every way, and it is inconceivable that the immigration system could have continued uninterrupted since 1845 had this not been the case.

In support of my contention, will you allow me to refer you to the report of Surgeon-General D. W. D. Comins, who in 1891 was commissioned by the Indian Government to report upon this immigration? Speaking of British Guiana he said, page 102:—

"As regards the general arrangements made for Indian immigrants, I have nothing but admiration to express. The system has passed through successive stages of improvement until it now stands a pattern to all the world of successful and liberal management."

As to Trinidad, he said, page 50:—

"Of all the Colonies in the West Indies, Trinidad is the favoured home of the Cooly settler, where he can easily and rapidly attain comfortable independence, and even considerable wealth, with corresponding social position."

As an example of the comparative prosperity of the coolie labourer in the West Indies, it is a significant fact that 1,556 immigrants, returning from British Guiana to India in the season 1902-3, remitted £13,018 17s. 10d., and carried with them jewellery to the value of £2,166 13s. 4d., while from Trinidad 750 immigrants returning in 1902 transmitted £9,222; and it may be added that every year a number of repatriated coolies return from India to the West Indies, paying their own passages. On December 31st, 1902, a sum of £93,879 4s. 10½d. stood to the credit of East Indian depositors in the Savings Bank of British Guiana, and £102,629 15s. 3d. in Trinidad. These are no mean sums surely for respectable British subjects whom your interviewed "West Indian" designates by the offensive title of "slaves"?

Yours, etc.,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

### The Homeward Mail.

The news from the West Indies to hand by the Homeward Mail is on the whole distinctly favourable as will be noted from the extracts from the letters of our hon. correspondents which we give below. A general spirit of hopefulness, in marked contrast to the depression of past years, appears to prevail in most of the Colonies. Sir Daniel Morris, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, after touring the northern Islands and addressing a large meeting of planters in St. Lucia on cotton matters, had arrived in St. Vincent. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Tagus," anchored off Plymouth at 4.30 p.m., on Wednesday, March 23rd. The mails were delivered in London first post next day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Royal," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, March 16th.

#### Antigua. The Canadian Preference.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER), March 8th.—Throughout the Island the SUGAR CROP was being started, but some trouble was being experienced with labour owing to prices for cane cutting, which had to be kept low in view of the disastrous price of sugar. The young plant crop was coming up well, ONIONS were not so good in quality as usual, the proportion of mis-shapen and unsaleable ones, being larger than for some years past. Shipments to New York had begun but prices were lower than usual owing to competition with Cuba. The efforts to divert sugar to the United Kingdom in order to induce Canadian refiners to yield some part of the 33½ preference continued, and Mr. A. M. Lee made a spirited speech on the subject before the Agricultural Society.

#### Barbados. Progress of the Crop.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEVNE), March 10th.—The WEATHER had been unusual. Out of Bridgetown it was cool and often cloudy. Light showers had been frequent, so light that they hardly made an impression on the rain gauge but sufficient to prevent the megass drying. No weather could be better for the YOUNG CANES which were growing vigorously. The showers retarded SUGAR-MAKING somewhat, but still, good progress was being made. The yield generally appeared to be 2 hogsheads to 2½ hogsheads per acre and the yield of molasses from the sugar was good. A small quantity of

# The West India Committee.

## Report of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee have pleasure in presenting to Members their Annual Report and Income and Expenditure Account for the year 1903.

### Membership.

During the year 1903, 219 New Members were elected, as compared with 57 in 1902, 40 in 1901, and 42 in 1900. This very satisfactory result may be attributed to a growing recognition of the work which the West India Committee is doing on behalf of the West Indian Colonies, to the acquisition of more commodious premises for the convenience of Members, and to the enlargement of the *West India Committee Circular*. Your Committee have had to deplore the deaths of the Rev. Canon Loraine Estridge, Mr. James Grierson, Mr. A. C. Stewart, Mr. Thomas Clarke, Mr. J. E. Kerr, a Member of the Executive Committee, the Hon. A. Munro, the Hon. Edward G. Todd, for many years their Hon. Correspondent in St. Kitts, and Sir Walter J. Sendall, G.C.M.G., successively Governor of the Windward Islands, Barbados, and British Guiana; which have occurred since last General Meeting.

### Honorary Correspondents.

Your Committee desire to convey their warmest thanks to their various local Committees and the undermentioned Honorary Correspondents who have kept them fully informed as to the requirements of the Colonies which they represent:—

HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER ...	ANTIGUA.	ROBERT CRAIG, Esq. ...	JAMAICA.
HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE ...	BARBADOS.	C. WATSON, Esq. ...	MONTserrat.
A. SUMMERSON, Esq. ...	BRITISH GUIANA.	HON. C. A. SHAND ...	NEVIS.
HON. A. R. USHER ...	BRITISH HONDURAS.	CHARLES A. SMITH, Esq. ...	ST. KITTS.
HON. H. A. A. NICHOLLS, C.M.G.,		HON. E. DE BOULAY ...	ST. LUCIA.
M.D. ...	DOMINICA.	MESSRS D. K. PORTER & Co ...	ST. VINCENT.
E. A. AGAR, Esq. ...		W. J. S. TUCKER, Esq. ...	TOBAGO.
HON. D. S. de FREITAS ...	GRENADA.	HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK ...	
J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq. ...	JAMAICA.	EDGAR TRIPP, Esq. ...	TRINIDAD.

During the year Mr. John Farr was appointed Hon. Correspondent in New York, Mr. R. W. S. Mitchell, C.M.G., in Calcutta, and in view of the desirability and probability of increased trade between the West Indies and the Dominion of Canada, Mr. J. Russel Murray was appointed Hon. Correspondent in Montreal. To these gentlemen also, your Committee desire to convey their thanks. It is proposed also to appoint Hon. Correspondents in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and St. John, New Brunswick.

In addition to those already existing, local branches of the West India Committee have successfully been established in Dominica and Trinidad, and your Committee have kept in close touch with the West India Associations of Glasgow and Liverpool, and the West India Sections of the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool and the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, with whom the interchange of views has been of mutual advantage.

### Testimonial to Sir Nevile Lubbock.

On February 19th, 1903, it was decided to ask Sir Nevile Lubbock to accept a testimonial in recognition of his eminent services on behalf of the West Indian Colonies. Sir Henry K. Davson, Mr. R. Rutherford, and the Secretary were appointed a Sub-Committee to give effect to this determination, and, as a result, Sir Nevile Lubbock was entertained at a Banquet in the Whitehall Rooms on November 25th, when Sir James Fergusson took the chair and there was a large and very representative gathering. Sir Nevile Lubbock was presented with his portrait, specially painted by Professor Hubert von Herkomer, and a set of massive Silver Candelabra and Centrepieces, while Lady Lubbock was pleased to accept a handsome Diamond Crescent. A full report of the Banquet and the auspicious circumstances which led to it, was published in a Special Edition of the *West India Committee Circular*, and a photogravure of the portrait was executed for Members.

### The Knighthood of the Deputy-Chairman.

On November 9th it was announced that the King had been pleased to confer the Honour of Knighthood upon our Deputy-Chairman, Mr. Henry Katz Davson. Since 1845, Sir Henry Davson



has devoted a large share of his time to the promotion of the welfare of the West Indies and the Colony of British Guiana in particular, and while the honour thus conferred on him was so well deserved by him in his private capacity, your Committee feel that the West India Committee have thus received a further mark of Royal Favour, which their members, still mindful of the honour conferred by Her late Majesty Queen Victoria upon their Chairman in 1899, cannot fail to appreciate.

### **The Jamaica Cyclone.**

On August 11th a cyclone of exceptional severity devastated the eastern end of Jamaica. Your Committee on learning that it was not proposed to open a Mansion House Fund, took prompt measures for providing relief for the sufferers. An appeal for funds with this object in view was issued, and thanks to the generosity of the British Public, your Committee were able to transmit to the Colony £6411 1s. 7d., for which they received the thanks of the Government and the People of Jamaica.

### **The Bounty Question.**

The Brussels Convention for the abolition of the Sugar Bounties and Cartels was duly ratified by all the contracting Powers prior to February 1st, 1903, and in accordance with the terms thereof, the abolition of Bounties, which for so many years have been such a serious handicap to the sugar industry of the British West Indies became a *fait accompli* on September 1st, a fact which renders 1903 one of the most important years in the history of our West Indian Colonies. It says much for the pluck and endurance of the West Indian Sugar Producers, that in spite of the tremendous odds which they were compelled to face for nearly thirty-five years, they still export 250,000 tons of sugar. Though the full effect of the Convention will not be felt until the enormous surplus stocks of bounty-fed sugar are exhausted, confidence is being restored to the sugar industry, and capital is being invested on improved processes and machinery, which would not have been the case had the uncertainty caused by the bounties continued.

The Grants-in-Aid which were obtained through the instrumentality of your Committee to enable the Sugar Industry to tide over the period until the Brussels Convention became operative—viz. September 1st, 1903—have for the most part been distributed, but your Committee are still in communication with the Secretary of State regarding the ultimate disposal of the £80,000 ear-marked for Barbados, and utilised in connection with the Plantations-in-Aid Act, and have received the assurance that when it becomes available it will be applied to some object for the good of all connected with the Sugar Industry.

### **The Cotton Industry.**

A noteworthy feature of the year was the revival of the cotton industry in the West Indies which was abandoned early in the nineteenth century when the cultivation of other produce proved more profitable. Since 1901 a shortage of cotton has occurred, involving much distress in Lancashire. The British Cotton Growing Association has been formed with the object of promoting the growth of cotton within the British Empire and to this Association, which in co-operation with the Imperial Department of Agriculture, has been doing praiseworthy work towards the re-establishment of the cotton industry of the West Indies, your Committee have pledged their fullest support. Individually many members of the Committee are turning their attention to the production of this commodity.

### **Mr. Chamberlain's Resignation.**

The campaign inaugurated by Mr. Chamberlain in his speech at Birmingham on May 15th for the reform of the fiscal system of the Mother Country has been closely followed by your Committee. General meetings were held on July 1st and Oct. 15th at which resolutions favouring Mr. Chamberlain's policy were adopted, and on Sept. 28th opportunity was taken to record in a resolution the sense of the Committee of the great services rendered by Mr. Chamberlain to the Empire.

### **The Rum Surtax.**

The injustice of the countervailing duty imposed by the British Government upon British Colonial spirit has engaged the attention of your Committee who are continuing to press the question upon the Government.

## Venezuela and Trinidad.

At the instance of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce your Committee have been in correspondence with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs regarding the 30% differential surtax imposed by the Government of Venezuela against imports from our West Indian Colonies and the closing of ports against the Colonies. The custom houses of Guanta, Puerto Sucre, and Guiria have been re-opened to trade by Decree.

## The Mail Contracts.

In view of the expiration, in June, 1905, of the contracts for the conveyance of the West Indian Mails, your Committee availed themselves of the opportunity, courteously afforded them by the Secretary of State, of laying before the Colonial Office recommendations for their modification in various respects. These met with very general approval in the Colonies.

## Cable Communication.

The inconvenience and loss resulting from the frequent breakdowns in cable communication between various West Indian Colonies were the subject of much correspondence with the Colonial Office and a deputation consisting of Sir Henry Davson, Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock, and the Secretary, waited upon the Departmental Committee sitting at the Colonial Office on the subject, on January 21st, 1904, and urged the desirability of securing an extension of the lines of the Direct West India Cable Company to the Islands and British Guiana and the introduction of wireless telegraphy where practicable.

## Quarantine Regulations.

Your Committee called the attention of the Colonial Office to the anomalous condition of the quarantine regulations in the West Indies, which were the cause of much inconvenience during an epidemic of a mild form of small pox in Barbados, British Guiana, Grenada, and Trinidad, and have pleasure in announcing that a representative of the Local Government Board is now visiting the West Indies with a view to make arrangements for a quarantine conference to be held in Barbados, which will, it is hoped, result in the present quarantine methods in the West Indies being replaced by a more enlightened system of a uniform character.

## Molasses Cattle Foods.

Your Committee urged the Chancellor of the Exchequer to remit the sugar duty in the case of cattle foods manufactured from molasses and other compounds, and it was subsequently announced that such foods as well as molasses intended *bonâ fide* for cattle would be admitted to this country free of duty. A stimulus was thus given to what is likely to prove an important industry in the West Indies.

## West Indian Produce.

Your Committee have had under consideration the possibility of forming an Association under the direct auspices of the West India Committee for promoting the sale of and increasing the demand for all kinds of West Indian produce in this country. The views of the Colonies were ascertained and as they were favourable to the formation of such an association a sub-committee has been appointed to go more closely into the matter. The proposals of your Committee have met with the cordial approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies.

## Lectures.

Your Committee have successfully inaugurated a series of Lectures at the West India Committee Rooms, on matters of interest in connection with the West Indian Colonies. On Tuesday, February 9th, Dr. John S. Flett delivered an interesting address on the "Volcanic Eruptions in the West Indies," Sir Walter J. Sendall presiding; and on March 8th Sir Patrick Manson read a paper on the "Disease Problem of the West Indies," the Duke of Marlborough presiding. The large attendance at these Meetings amply testified to the appreciation of Members of this new move on the part of your Committee.

March 17th, 1904.

Reville Lubbock, *Chairman.*  
Algernon E. Baynall, *Secretary.*





sugar was asked for on the 9th at \$1.45 per 100 lbs., which was 25 cents above the price at which the market opened. The site of the new Library to which Mr. Carnegie had contributed was the subject of much discussion. Most of the hotels were full of visitors and tourists. The annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held on the 3rd inst., Mr. J. C. Lynch, presiding. The death of Mr. Thomas Clarke of Canefield, occurred on the 1st inst., after a long and painful illness. He was interred at Holy Innocent's Churchyard at 11 a.m. on the following morning. The Ottawa Department of Customs had made an important ruling which should stop or reduce the importation into Canada of adulterated molasses. The minimum duty of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  cents per gallon would not apply to molasses containing less than 40 degrees of cane sugar or sucrose after test by direct polarisation. When that test showed under 35 degrees of cane sugar or sucrose the duty would be  $\frac{3}{4}$  cent per lb. under the classification of "molasses not otherwise provided."

#### British Guiana. Exports of Diamonds and Gold.

(A. SUMMERSON, Esq.), March 9th.—The Session of the Combined Court closed on the 7th, and the surtax of 5% on all customs duties was removed. The indenture fee and acreage tax for the year was fixed at \$60 and \$1.50 respectively. At a meeting of the Planters Association on the 2nd inst., the question of having one standard weight and quality for MOLASCUIT was discussed and it was considered that the bags should weigh 168 lbs., and the consistency referred to of the molascuit should not be over 15% water and not under 50% sweetness. Occasional light showers fell in Demerara and Essequibo during the fortnight but more rain was wanted. In Berbice the drought continued and prospects of the autumn crop were being seriously affected. DIAMONDS weighing  $205\frac{1}{2}$  carats and valued at \$2205.20, and gold to the amount of 2,114 ozs. 14 dwts. 20 grs., valued at \$37,182.82 were shipped to England by the mail. The funeral of Mr. T. Garnett who met his death at Plantation Noitgedacht under distressing circumstances took place at sea on March 5th.

#### Dominica. A Successful Agricultural Show

(E. A. AGAR, Esq.) March 9th.—The Agricultural Show was a great success though the exhibits were not so numerous as last year. It was opened on the 24th ult. by His Honour H. Hesketh Bell, who was received by the Hon. James Cox Fillan on behalf of the Committee of the Agricultural Society (Mr. Bell's interesting address appears in the *Dominican* of March 3rd. and *Dominica Guardian*, of March 5th). A feature was the presence of Sir Daniel Morris. The weather of the fortnight had been finer, but useful showers continued to fall and prospects were good.

#### Grenada. The Revived Commercial Body.

Our Hon. Correspondent, Hon. D. S. de Freitas, returned to England by the mail. The Agricultural and Commercial Society was formally organised on the 4th, when the Hon. C. Macaulay Browne, C.M.G., was elected President, and the Hon. D. S. de Freitas and Mr. P. J. Dean, Vice-Presidents, with the Hon. G. S. Seton Browne, Hon. W. S. Comissiong, Hon. F. Gurney, with Mr. E. M. de Freitas, Mr. H. A. Berkeley, Mr. C. J. Bertrand, Mr. E. L. Slinger, Mr. A. W. Lewis, K.C., Mr. G. W. Smith, Mr. Jos. T. de la Mothe, Mr. F. H. Copland, Mr. L. R. Mitchell, and Rev. G. W. Branch, Committee of Management. A memorial protesting against the appointment of Mr. G. Whitfield Smith as Commissioner of Carriacou was being sent to the Secretary of State. The Hon. E. Drayton, Colonial Secretary has been appointed to represent the Colony on the Quarantine Conference.

#### Jamaica. Rain still wanted in Vere

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq.) March 7th.—The effects of the hurricane were now being felt, and it was certain that the Government would have to face a severe deficit at the end of the financial year. (This is dealt with in another column.—Ed.) Fine rains had fallen in some parishes, and as a whole with the exception of Vere there was nothing to complain of. The weather in Vere while good for



reaping, had been unfavourable for the young shoots. Rain was badly wanted for these and for the grass to feed the stock. There was no water for practical purposes in the Canal, and it was feared that the manufacture of SUGAR and RUM in this parish would be 50% below a good average crop. In Westmoreland it was estimated that 5000 tons of sugar would be manufactured, which would be a good deal below last year's crop. A Bill had been introduced into the Legislature to authorise the issue of small notes, say of 5/- and 10/- each, to increase the facilities of paying labourers in agricultural districts. A very successful horse parade took place at the race course, on March 3rd. under the auspices of the Society for the Protection of Animals. The Hon. Sydney Olivier had arrived back in the Island completely restored to health. It was announced that the Verley Fruit Company had been forced into liquidation.

#### Nevis. The Cotton Crop.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) March 9th.—The weather continued favourable and the crop was being reaped pretty generally, though the canes had not yet the appearance of being quite ripe. Mr. H. Crum Ewing, of Messrs. Ewing and Co., had been spending a fortnight in the Island, and it was hoped that his example would be followed by other Proprietors. The COTTON CROP was turning out well in some places and the ginnery was doing good work. The lint appeared to be singularly free from stain.

#### St Kitts. Good promise for 1905.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, Esq.) March 8th.—Reaping was pretty general, and in spite of the protracted rainy season, the density of the cane juice was good. The spring of plants for 1905 crop was excellent, but the Cotton prospects had not materially improved.

#### St. Lucia. Sir D. Morris Lectures on Cotton.

(HON. E. DUBOULAY), March 11th.—The crops were in full swing and the weather was on the whole favourable. An important meeting of the Agricultural Society was held at Castries on February 23rd, Sir George Melville presiding, to hear the views of Sir Daniel Morris on the cotton cultivation. His Grace the Archbishop of Port of Spain arrived in St. Lucia on the 1st inst., and was met by the Rev. Father Tapon. A successful race meeting was held at Choc on the 3rd inst. Mr. William Low of Union Vale had been appointed to represent St. Lucia at the Quarantine Conference.

#### St. Vincent. The Cotton Factory.

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & Co.), March 11th. The first Agricultural Show to be held in St. Vincent under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture was opened on the 10th inst., in convenient grounds at the back of Kingstown. The WEATHER was all that could be desired. Dr. C. W. Branch had been appointed to represent the Colony at the Quarantine Conference. Mr. Law, the contractor for the building of the cotton factory arrived on March 1st., and Mr. Seabrook, the American ginner was prepared to begin operations.

#### Trinidad. Sir A. Moloney returning home.

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK) March 11th.—At the meeting of Council held on the 7th instant, £15,000 was voted for a new steamer much needed for improvement of communications with the Southern Coast of the Island, another £15,000 for some of the expenses of the riot, principally those of cost of the Commission of Enquiry as to the riot, the Commission on the Police, expenses in connection with the Military, temporary offices and their furnishing, and replacing as far as possible the Law Library, but no part of cost of rebuilding the Red House was included. A proposal to raise a loan of £60,000 to establish a Floating Dock here at a cost of £55,000 was postponed until next meeting. At the close of the meeting the Governor announced his departure on the 25th instant on leave of absence, and that Mr. Acting Colonial Secretary Clifford, would act as Governor during his absence. After many weary months of serious inconvenience to trade and shipping, they were at last free of

quarantine, and business was rapidly improving. There was also immediate prospect of resumption of regular trade with the Orinoco and other Venezuelan ports. The fleet of river steamers of the Orinoco Shipping Company, having been purchased by General Corao, who held the concession for the navigation of the open mouths of the Orinoco (in conjunction it was believed with Mr. Robert Henderson of Bolivar), it was expected that the river would be open to traffic in a few days. Trade meantime with the adjoining coast of the mainland was confined more to imports than exports, owing to the extremely heavy duties imposed by the Custom House. This question of duties was referred to by President Castro, in his inaugural address to Congress this year (an article on this subject appears in the *Port of Spain Gazette* of March 11th). At a meeting of the Agricultural Society it was decided to hold an Exhibition in February next, similar to those held several times already at intervals of about three years. The weather was more settled now, showers were much lighter and less frequent, and both Sugar and Cocoa planters found the conditions most favourable for their reappings. They were nearing the end of what is called the "December Crop" of Cocoa, and after this month there would be only small pickings, in fact the crop will be practically at an end. The shipments in February were heavy, 27,800 bags went to New York; 12,700 to Havre and Amsterdam by order; 4,500 to London direct, and 3,000 to Havre with London option. The shipments so far in March were even heavier in proportion. Notwithstanding the fall in the London Market, prices here remained firm, ranging from \$13.50 to \$14.00 for "Estates" and from \$12.50 to \$13.00 for "Ordinary" and with the keen competition now existing, prices are likely to advance, particularly for good "Estates" for the American Market.

### Steamship freights.

We have received the text of a report of a special committee of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce on steamship freights to and from Europe, and more especially in reference to freights on transshipment goods from Venezuela, which was adopted at a meeting of the Chamber held on January 11th, 1904. This report was considered at a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on February 18th, and it was decided to send copies to the various shipping companies connected with the West Indies and to ascertain their views thereon. The report of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce runs as follows:—

"Your Committee find that there has been a gradual and very considerable increase in both outward and inward freights between this port and Europe, and instance the following:—

<b>Freights from Europe.</b>	{	Dry Goods.—8 or 9 years ago was 20s. to 25s., now 35s. to 40s., plus 10 per cent.	
		Boots and Shoes.—Ditto.	
		Rice.—15s., now 17s. 6d.	
<b>Freights to Europe.</b>	{	Sugar was 16s., now 20s. per ton.	Tobacco was 40s., now 65s. per ton.
		Cocoa was 25s. to 30s., now 40s. per ton.	Cedar Logs was 25s., now 30s. per ton.
		Coffee Do. do.	Glance Pitch was 20s., now 25s. per ton.
		Copra was 25s., now 30s.	Manjak Do. do.
		Balata Gum was 30s., now 50s. per ton.	Dry Hides now 60s.
		Rubber now 90s. per ton.	Wet Hides was 9d., now 40s. per ton, or more than 1/-
		Divi-divi was 50s., now 65s. per ton.	

This increase is attributed to various causes, more particularly within the last two or three years to the war in South Africa and the enhanced price of coal, both of which are things of the past; but freights instead of being reduced, have been still further increased. In addition to this it has been ascertained that ports competing with ours for the Venezuelan transshipment trade, are, as a matter of fact, getting produce taken at lower rates than the steamship lines trading here will accept.



The following instances will show the disadvantage in regard to rates under which this port labours in comparison with Demerara and Carupano:—

Balata. Per ton to London.

From Trinidad 50s.; from Demerara 40s.; from Carupano 39s. 10d.

„ Per ton to Amsterdam.

From Trinidad 50s.; from Demerara 40s.; from Carupano 34s. 6d.

Coffee, from Trinidad 40s.; from Carupano 35s.

As a further instance of increased rates of freight charged from this port in comparison with others, we would mention that whilst Manjak pays only 20s. per ton from Barbados, the rate from Trinidad is 25s. per ton. The above are instances which have been brought directly to our notice and we have no doubt if the matter was gone into more exhaustively that many more would be found. It is of the utmost importance to this Colony that the lowest possible rates of freight should be charged and that no other adjacent port should be able to compete on better terms. The existing difference in rates is quite sufficient to divert the transshipment trade from this port altogether, to the great disadvantage of the Colony generally, and unless this be rectified it is out of the question to think that Trinidad is becoming the entrepôt of the Orinoco. It is reported that a combination of steamship owners trading to this port is about to issue a new tariff to come into effect from the 1st January, 1904, in which rates on several items are to be still further increased.

In view of this we recommend that a copy of this report with a protest against such increase be forwarded to the various steamship companies trading here, as well as to others likely to make this island a port of call, and to such other interested parties as it may be considered advisable. We would also recommend that a copy be sent to the Local Government, requesting them to bring influence to bear on the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, subsidized by this and other Colonies, in order to prevent the continual increase on freight rates, also to protest against any preference being given to other ports to the prejudice of ours. Likewise that this request should be borne in mind and given effect to when a new contract is being negotiated.

#### The Rice and Dhol Circular.

In connection with freights on rice, we beg to draw attention to the Rice and Dhol Circular recently received from Demerara and laid on the table, by which the steamship companies seek to escape by combination, their liability on packages landed stained or in bad order. It is manifestly the duty of the steamship companies trading here to protect shippers from bad out-turn of cargo at Liverpool and London *ex* Calcutta steamers. But they seek to avoid this by combining to the detriment of the consignee who has to bear the losses arising from carelessness and rough usage in transit from the East. We also suggest that when produce is shipped to a direct port without options it should be taken at a reduced rate, as transshipment expenses, which are very considerable, are thereby avoided.

We are of opinion that the Chamber should protest against the rates proposed to be charged on balata and rubber, which are altogether out of proportion to their bulk and weight, 50s. per ton being charged on the former and 90s. per ton on the latter. Balata is and has been for some time an important article of export, and rubber is likely in the near future also to be so, as a very considerable area in this Colony is already under cultivation.

We would also point out that the rate of freight charged on divi-divi is practically prohibitive, and the excessive rate charged on dry hides to London, viz. :—60s. per ton, is evidently diverting the trade to Canada and United States, a fact well worthy of the careful consideration of the European steamship lines, when making up their tariff.

In conclusion your Committee would draw special attention to the fact that for many years Trinidad was entirely free of harbour, light and tonnage dues until the Government imposed the latter

in 1896 against the repeated recommendations of the Chamber of Commerce. Even with tonnage dues of 8c. per ton of cargo landed or shipped, Trinidad is still by far the cheapest port in the West Indies. In Demerara the tonnage dues are 25c. per ton and in Barbados 24c. per ton with additional charges for harbour and other dues."

**The Shipping Companies Reply.**

The individual replies of the leading shipping companies connected with the West Indies, were communicated to the Chamber, and the following letter was addressed to the Secretary of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce by the Conference of the West Indian Atlantic Steamship Companies:—

"I am desired by the English lines, forming part of this Conference, who are interested in the Ocean trade with Trinidad, to draw your attention to the following remarks, in reference to the comments contained in the report above mentioned, on the rates of freight charged by the steamers serving your Island,

Taking the freights outward from Europe, which your Committee consider have been considerably increased of late years, I am to mention that the present rates for ordinary merchandises have been ruling now since 1900, and in respect of rough rice and dhol, reduced last year to 16s. 3d. net per ton, the rate leaves but the scantiest remuneration to the carriers. The rates of 20s. and 25s. alluded to by the Committee as existing eight or nine years ago, were quite too unremunerative rates induced by the "rate war" then proceeding between carriers, and they were also co-existent with very much lower prices for coal than have obtained since that period.

The rates to Trinidad, I may say, are not higher than to other West Indian and coast destinations, for instance, Barbados, Demerara (British), to which identical rates apply, and La Guayra, Puerto Cabello, &c. (Foreign), to which places rates are, in most cases, higher.

As regards rates from Trinidad to Europe, it is not found that the figures are in any way to the disadvantage of Trinidad, when compared with the rates for similar produce from other places, more or less adjacent. The rates for cocoa, coffee, balata, and rubber are all practically the same as from the neighbouring coast ports of Venezuela, and in the case of sugar, to which the low rate of 16s. per ton now applies, that rate is considerably less than is charged for the same article from Surinam, Paramaribo.

It has been found that on cargo outward from Europe the ordinary disbursements, incidental to the discharge, &c., of such cargo, amounts to something like 6s. to 7s. per ton, which shows how expensive the Port of Spain is as a place of discharge. On produce homeward to Europe, the expenses to the shippers are also very heavy in many instances. Pilferage also causes considerable loss to the shipowners, and has been the matter of representations from the lines to the Island authorities on more than one occasion.

In conclusion, I am to say that there is no desire on the part of the members of this conference to see rates placed on any other but an equitable footing, due regard being had to a reasonable remuneration being obtained for services rendered."

**The Sugar Counties Agitation, 1864—1903.\***

A RETROSPECT: BY W.P.B.S.

**The Third and Final Stage, 1889—1903—continued.**

On the 27th May, 1902, M. Yves Guyot read a paper on "The Sugar Industry on the Continent," before the Royal Statistical Society. Lord Avebury, the President, being in the chair.

This exposition by M. Yves Guyot must be regarded as one of the ablest papers ever written on the subject. It is a masterpiece of dialectical skill. As one reads his lucid and clear analysis of

\* Continued from "The West India Committee Circular," No. 119.



all the complicated phenomena with which the question was surrounded, and follows the facts so ably marshalled in overwhelming force as to the amount of the bounties and their detrimental influence on international trade; their positive robbery of the home consumers by forcing them to give prices artificially enhanced in order to enable their manufacturers and refiners by means of Cartels to secure business by underselling all competitors; as one reads all this the reflection arises as to the value of the trained mind and literary ability in the settlement of trading and industrial problems and in bringing about public conviction as to the merits of any agitation.

M. Yves Guyot concluded his paper by stating that the success of the sugar conference was the most important achievement of economic liberal policy in Europe since the signing of the commercial treaties of 1860. Nowhere had this system been established for the benefit of the people as a whole. It had always been for the advantage of a small number of manufacturers and landowners who troubled themselves less about obtaining a product to be sold at a profit on its cost price than to receive their bounties. To sell at a loss and obtain one's profit at the cost of the whole of one's countrymen was a political industry with large profits for those who were in it.

In the discussion which followed, Lord Avelbury, who presided, referred to the masterly paper by their friend and expressed his surprise that such a system as had been described should have continued to exist in a country which possessed so wide a franchise as France. Mr. Harold Cox considered that the trouble over the sugar bounties had arisen from the fundamental blunder of approaching economic questions from the point of view of the producer instead of the consumer. Sir Nevile Lubbock replied that the people of a country subsisted by production as well as by consumption and that the consideration of the interests of producers would affirm as a salutary condition "that there should be no artificial interference with the natural conditions of production."

Sir Robert Giffen in the course of his speech made the following admission of having greatly modified the views he once held. He said he gave evidence before the Sugar Committee of 1879 from much the same point of view which Mr. Harold Cox had defended that night, but he was not sure that he would have taken the same line if he had been able to look forward a quarter of a century and see what the result was to be of allowing these bounties to continue. People became wiser as time went on and a good many assumptions which it was perhaps legitimate to make a quarter of a century ago had been falsified by events. Mr. Martineau attributed the success of the Brussels Conference to the energetic action of M. Yves Guyot. Mr. W. P. B. Shephard said he believed he was the first to bring to the notice of the press of this country the new form of aggressive protection by means of export bounties. He was present in 1879 before the Select Committee of the House of Commons when Sir Robert Giffen as a public official of the Board of Trade was called upon to give evidence. Many of the opinions then expressed by Sir Robert Giffen were warmly contested by other witnesses and in the public press. He, the speaker, was however glad to hear that day the modification, almost a recantation, by Sir Robert Giffen of his former opinions.

It is a matter of question as to whether public officials, like the late Lord Farrer and Sir Robert Giffen, when matters of public concern are before them in their official and therefore neutral capacity should do more than state the facts and give the information which their official position enables them to obtain. The complaints of the British refiners and planters, now so fully sustained, were not dealt with at the time by many of our public officials with that freedom from bias which in questions of pure economic principle ought to have been shewn. Principles are not variable and what is assented to to-day ought to have prevailed when the sugar industries showed in the early days of bounties that a policy of *laissez-faire* was connivance with protection.

(TO BE CONTINUED).

### West Indian Interests at Westminster.

#### Bermuda and the Brussels Convention.

In the House of Commons on March 21st, in reply to Mr. C. McARTHUR (Liverpool Exchange), and Mr. GIBSON-BOWLES (King's Lynn) Mr. LYTTELTON said, I may state in the first place that His Majesty's Government have not adhered to the Brussels Convention on behalf of the Crown Colonies, including Bermuda, and that those Colonies are therefore under no obligation to penalise bounty-fed sugar; and secondly, that full information as to the legislation of Bermuda regarding sugar has been duly laid before the Permanent Commission, and that the engagements entered into under the Convention on behalf of the Colony are being scrupulously observed.

#### The Convention and Sugared Products.

On the 24th inst. answering Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.), EARL PERCY said:—The Permanent Commission met on the 10th inst. The question whether the limitation of the surtax provided in Article III. applies to sugared goods was not before the Commission, having been decided in the negative at the previous meeting. The discussion on the question whether a surtax of an amount sufficient to give rise to a bounty is allowable in the case of sugared goods has been adjourned until the next meeting of the Commission on November 10th next, in order to allow time for the collection by the bureau of information and statistics from the different countries which are necessary to enable the Commission to arrive at a decision.

#### The Coolie Immigration Ordinances.

The Immigration Ordinances of British Guiana and Trinidad were repeatedly referred to in Parliament during the past fortnight in connection with the question of the introduction of Chinese Coolies into the Transvaal. On March 22nd, a motion before the Lords expressing disapproval of Chinese immigration into South Africa, was defeated by a majority of 72, and on the same day a vote of censure on the Government for not advising the King to disallow the Chinese Coolie (Transvaal) Ordinance was rejected by 299 votes against 242, a majority of 57. In the *Times* of March 26th is printed a reply from Mr. Lyttelton to Sir M. Bhowndaggee, regarding the provision made for the education of children imported with coolies into the West Indies.

### West Indian Civil Service.

It was announced on March 21st that the King had been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir Cavendish Boyle, K.C.M.G., Governor of Newfoundland, to be Governor of the Colony of Mauritius.

Sir Cavendish Boyle, who succeeds Sir Charles Bruce, was educated at the Charterhouse. He was District Magistrate in the Leeward Islands, 1879; Colonial Secretary, Bermudas, and Registrar-General, 1882; Colonial Secretary, Gibraltar, 1887; Government Secretary, British Guiana, 1894-1900, and Governor of Newfoundland, January 1901.

On March 19th the appointment of Mr. Ernest Bickham Sweet-Escott, C.M.G., Governor of the Seychelles Islands, to be Governor of the Colony of British Honduras was announced.

Mr. Sweet-Escott was educated at Balliol College, Oxford, and his first Colonial appointment was in Mauritius, in 1887. In 1893, he was appointed Acting-Colonial Secretary of British Honduras; and Colonial Secretary in 1894. On various occasions he administered the Government of that Colony, and on November 20th, 1899, he was appointed Governor of the Seychelles.

Sir Gerald Strickland, Governor of the Leeward Islands, His Honour H. Hesketh Bell, C.M.G., Administrator of Dominica, His Honour E. J. Cameron, Administrator of St. Vincent, and His Honour P. C. M. Sheriff, Chief Justice of that Island will shortly be returning home on leave.

Mr. W. H. Patterson has been appointed Curator of Botanic and Experiment Stations in Antigua, in succession to Mr. W. N. Sands, transferred to St. Vincent.

Dr. W. J. Williams has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the Kingston Lunatic Asylum, Jamaica, in succession to Dr. J. W. Praxton, deceased.

Mr. J. W. Wells, Magistrate of Carriacou, died February 1st.

### Notes of Interest.

**THE SUGAR COMMISSION.** After holding several sittings the International Permanent Sugar Commission concluded its deliberations on March 16th. It was decided to meet twice annually—namely, in March and October. Extraordinary meetings may, however, be convened. At the next session, in October, the Commission will discuss the important question of sugar production, which has hitherto given rise to divergent views.

**AS OTHERS SEE US.** <sup>44</sup>There exists in London the West India Committee, a body which never tires of measures to promote the prosperity of the Islands, and which by its activity serves to keep alive the interest of the public in questions affecting Jamaica and its many satellites, including, of



course, British Guiana. The Committee has already done good work, and none better than constantly keeping the claims of the West Indies before the Colonial Office." *The Evening Post*, Yorkshire, March 12th.

**WEST INDIAN CLUB DINNER.** At the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club on March 16th, the following members and guests were present:—Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. C. R. Winn, Mr. H. O. Smith, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. A. M. Gillespie, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson and guest, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. E. Sturridge, Mr. W. C. Powers, Mr. J. Macqueen, Mr. A. Hutchinson, Mr. L. deMercado, Mr. T. W. Arnott, Mr. G. A. Grindle, and Dr. Myers. Mr. Rippon referred sympathetically to the death of Sir Walter Sendall, a Vice-President of the Club.

**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamers after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Yucatan," from Liverpool for Barbados, and Trinidad, April 6th; S.S. "Sibun," from London for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Lucia and Dominica April 6th; S.S. "Crown of Navarre" from Glasgow for Barbados, Trinidad, and Demerara, April 8th; and the R.M.S. "Port Antonio," from Bristol for Jamaica, April 9th. *Information for publication under this head is invited from Shipping Companies.*

**THE W. I. & P. TELEGRAPH CO.** Mr. R. T. Browne, Manager and Secretary of The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., writes to inform us that the General Superintendent of the Company has received a letter from the Colonial Secretary of Barbados, stating that the commercial community gladly recognise the efforts made by them to lessen the delay to traffic, and that the Government have decided in consequence of the facilities given, not to make the customary deduction from the subsidy during the interruption.

**"PROGRESS OF SUGAR."** We are indebted to Mr. William Gillespie, for a well preserved copy of "Cuffy the Negro's Doggerel Description of the Progress of Sugar" (about 1820). The following are two typical stanzas from this pamphlet, which is embellished with highly coloured illustrations.

**Cutting Down.**  
Now comes merry time! Negroes all alive!  
Down we cut the canes, suck the juice and thrive;  
Mule grow fat as hog, though much work he bear; ec;  
Horse and cow grow fat, starving is no there.

**Sugar Bakers.**  
To make sugar white (sure he be a ninny!)  
Blood, and nasty someting, baker now put in-ee;  
Then he pour in pot,—so one loaf he make it;  
Then he sell in shop, dandy grocer take it.

**West Indian Securities.**

				Price.
Colonial Government Inscribed Securities.	Antigua, 4 per cent.	...	Redeemable 1919-44	99-101
	Barbados, 3½ per cent.	...	" 1925-42	95-97
	British Guiana, 4 per cent.	...	" 1935	106-108
	Grenada, 4 per cent.	...	" 1917-42	100-102
	Jamaica, 4 per cent.	...	" 1934	105-107
	St. Lucia, 4 per cent.	...	" 1919-44	100-102
	Trinidad, 4 per cent.	...	" 1917-42	99-101

**Miscellaneous Securities.**

Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Dividend.	
100,000	20	Colonial Bank ...	£6	6 %	47-5½
15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company	60	—	28-30
250,000.	Stock.	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4% 1st Mtge Deb.	100	4½ %	82-86
325,000	Stock.	New Colonial Co., Ltd., 4 % 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4 %	72-74
46,874	5	" " " 5 % Non-Cum. Pref	5	5 %	2-3
360,700.	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb.	100	6 %	91-96
70,000.	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Perpetual Deb. Stock	100	4 %	97-99
31,250	10	" " " " Extension Preference...	10	4 %	7-8
115,000.	Stock.	" " " 7 % Preference	100	Nil	88-93
165,000.	Stock.	" " " Original Stock	100	Nil	15-20
85,800.	100	Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., Mortgage Debs. (1 to 1200) red.	100	4½ %	98-101
60,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ...	£2 10	6 %	—
58,700.	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4½ % 1st Mtge. Deb. (1 to 1200) red.	100	4½ %	98-101
50,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd.	5	5 %	—
80,000.	100	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. 5% Deb	100	5 %	99-102
34,563	10	" " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	10	8s.	57-6½
4,669	10	" " " " " 2nd "	10	—	41-5½
88,321	10	" " " " Ordinary ...	10	—	8-½

Bank of England rate 4 % (changed from 3 % on Sept. 3rd, 1903). 2½ % Consols, 86½ (28.3.04).

Weather Telegrams.

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), March 15th. "Good reaping weather." March 28th. "Slow reaping weather." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), March 18th. "Weather favourable for cultivation." **Trinidad** (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), March 18th. "Weather showery, but not interfering with sugar making."

Exports from Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
	Hhds	lbs	Tons.	Puns		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
<b>Barbados—</b>								
Jan. 1 to Mar. 11, 1904	774	—	—	—	—	3267	—	—
" " 11, 1903	—	—	—	—	—	1136	—	—
<b>British Guiana—</b>	Tons							
Jan. 1 to Mar. 8, 1904	21,387	6729	989	6838	10,160	13	7892	1344
" " 9, 1903	25,798	14,430	83	7802	1424	1358	10,156	969
<b>Jamaica—</b>			Coffee.			Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
			Cwts.	Galls.		Cwts.	Stems.	
Apr. 1 to Feb 20, 1904	9738	18,253	67,366	987,146	14,725,225	63,264	7,444,077	78,471,410
" " 21, 1903	15,655	22,459	88,472	1,600,576	23,266,486	114,224	13,415,080	98,422,087
<b>Trinidad—</b>	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns		Molasses.		Asphalt.
						Puns.	Tons.	Tons
Jan. 1 to Mar 10, 1904	35,070	15,158,050	30,240	—	1,385,340	310	7	62
" " 10, 1903	54,032	13,917,110	2000	25	2,738,100	389	84	47

The Mails.

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Tagus," March 23rd, 1904:—Barbados—** Mr and Mrs and two Misses Thom. Mr H. Pereira, Mr Hawkes, Miss Fogarty, Mr. and Mrs. Stabb, Mr W. H. Greene, Mr J. C. Lynch, Mrs J. Outerbridge, Rev W. J. Macrae, Mr S. C. DaCosta, Mrs. Cameron, Miss Laurie, Capt J. T. Arntzen, Miss A. G. Pontifex, Mr Stone. **Demerara—**Mrs. J. B. Harrison, Mr J. E. Brandon, Mr. J. C. Gibson, Mr Cyril Smart, Hon. and Mrs. J. H. de Junge, Mr and Mrs. G. R. Garnett, Mr. E. Stripp, Mr. H. de Salis, Mr. and Mrs. Bax, Mr and Mrs S. E. Pomiret. **Jamaica—**Capt. McKenzie, Mr and Mrs. H. Howard, Mr. G. Lee, Mrs Marchallock, Mr R. T. Hinckes, Col. Gleig, Miss Gleig, Mr. R. T. Jolly, Mr. J. McCrae, Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Hamilton, Mr. W. Goff, Mr. and Mrs G. Paul, Miss Paul, Mr. E. Ker-Seymour, Mr S. C. S. Smith, Mr. D. S. Smith, Mr. E. Morse, Mr. and Mrs. Chessum, Mr. R. T. Hargreaves, Mr F. Clegg, Mr and Miss Mann, Mrs. Burns, Mr. W. Fyfe, Mr. J. H. Pinckvoss, Mr. R. Dyson, Mr. L. Ewart, Miss Ewart, Mr. Lutwyche, Mr. J. and two Misses Wotherspoon, Mr. C. Falkner, Mr F. Falkner, Major C. H. Johnson, Major J. C. Thompson, Miss Morris, Mr and Mrs W. Henning, Mr. F. Grimwade, Mr. C. Broadbent, Mr. H. and two Misses Jump, Mr G. Chapman, Hon. F. Parker, Mr. E. S. Fox, Mr. B. S. Mendis, Mr E. Tanqueray, Miss Scotham. **Trinidad—**Mr. H. and Miss Burroughs, Mrs. B. Dutton, Major H. J. Madocks, Mr. H. de Castenskold, Mr. B. B. Rice. **Grenada—**Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, Hon. and Mrs. D. S. de Freitas. **St. Kitts—**Mr. F. Godman, Mr. T. Godman, Mrs. Southgate, Mr. D. MacCullam, Mr. H. and two Misses Wyndham. **St. Lucia—**Mrs. Gray, Mr. G. Ponsonby, Mr. H. C. Branch. **Porto Rico—**Mr. and Mr. Chas. Wright, Mr. H. Wright, Mr. W. R. Lawrence.

**Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "La Plata," March 30th, 1904:—Barbados—**Lieut.-Col. E. J. G. Boyce, R.E., Mrs. and three Misses Boyce, Or-Sergt. N. Warwick, R.E., and Mrs. Warwick. **Demerara—**Mr. Alfred Datchelor, Rev. Edmund Legros, Rev. Cathbert Cary-Elwes. **Jamaica—**Mr. William Douglas MacPherson, Mrs. Emma Bunting, Miss Annie Bunting, Miss Isabel Moffat, Deputy Insp.-Gen. M. Fitzgerald, C.M.G., R.N., Mrs. Herbert Norman. **Trinidad—**Mr. F. Farfan. **Antigua—**Mr. Henry Tipping, Mr. W. H. Patterson, and Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. C. Goodwin. **Grenada—**Mr. Geo. Kent, Miss M. Kent, Miss Mary Hagley, Miss D. Hagley. **St. Kitts—**Mr. E. Evelyn.

**Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Tagus," April 13th, 1904:—Demerara—**Mrs. Edith MacAdam, Mr J. D. Smith. **Jamaica—**Miss Jeffrey Smith. **Trinidad—**Mr. Thomas, Miss Buckingham, Rev. Dr. John Morton, Mrs Sarah Morton, Mrs Greig, Mr. McCarthy.

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service — Home Arrivals per R M S. "Port Royal," March 17th, 1904:—****Jamaica—**Mrs. Bruce, Mr. E. R. Browne, Mr. G. E. Britton, Mr. and Mrs. A. Blackie, Mr. W. J. Courtald, Mr. R. B. Cox, Miss A. Clarke, two Misses Croft, Mrs. E. Edwards, Dr. J. Froer, Mr. A. E. Garnett, Mrs. Garnett, Capt. F. A. Irby, Mr. Lyon, Hon. and Mrs. Duff Miller, Capt. Muller, Mr. Norton, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Norris, Mrs. Neville, Capt. Oliver, Mr. Owen, Mr. W. Pratt, Capt. Rhodes, Mr. Allan Robinson, Mr. Rogers, Miss Rogers, Mr. Thompson, Mr R. C. Thomas, Lieut. Kreyer, Capt. C. Willis, Mr. W. West, Dr. Hancocke-Wathen.

**Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," March 26th, 1904:—Jamaica—**Rev. A. L. Bodfish, Mrs. Bodfish, Mrs. Campbell, Miss M. Champness, Mr W. S. Chantrell, Mr W. Everard, Mrs. Harrington, Miss A. Hartwell, Dr. Larmuth, Mr and Mrs Maconochie, Mr K. E. Peers, Mr. Ray Rivett, two Misses Rivett, Mr. P. J. Wayne, Capt. M. White, Mr. C. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Boorman, **PRINCE THOMAS MACKAROOD**

**Advance Bookings per R M S "Port Antonio," April 9th, 1904:—Jamaica—**Capt. Barlow, Mr. and Mrs. Greenhaigh, Mr. H. A. Hood-Daniel, Sir W. D. and Lady Young



## The Produce Markets Summary.

**Sugar—88 per cent Beet.**—Sugar is improving. The favourable features are some reduction in this season's out-turn of Beet Crops, particulars of which are given below, an expanding Consumption throughout the world, and a probable diminution in sowings of beet this spring, the outcome of the ruinous prices at which this crop has had to be sold, probably not much over 8/3, free on board Hamburg without any Bounty, a price that the most inexperienced amongst us must well know, nowhere pays the cost of production and the upkeep of expensive factories. So gloomy have things looked for a long time, that it is not surprising to find Consumers everywhere have been working on minimum stocks, and each revival in demand, small as it has been up to the present, has been accompanied by a gradual enhancement in values, resulting in the improved quotations set forward hereafter. Should the fruit season in Europe and America prove less unfavourable than the one of last summer which was disastrous, consumption may expand still further, and to an important extent, and thus dissipate the glut of Sugar created during past seasons, and rendered artificial through the means of these unnatural influences. Without being too sanguine, it may be hoped therefore that the worst has been passed, and that the future in store for us may be of a less unfavourable nature.

### M. LIGHTS' LATEST ESTIMATES.

CROPS	1903/4.	1902/3.	1901/2.	1900/1.
	5,850,000	5,550,000	6,760,000	5,990,000 Tons.
AVERAGE PRICE OF FIRST SIX MONTHS				
Average prices of Crops, basis 88%	8s. 3½d.	8s. 1d.	6s. 6½d.	9s. 2d.

To-day's quotations of 88% Beet, are as follows:—March, 8s. 6d., May, 8s. 7d., August, 8s. 9½d., and October/December, 8s. 11d.; those of white granulated being respectively 10s. 5½d., 10s. 6d., 10s. 8½d. and 10s. 9d., all f.o.b. Hamburg.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America (uneven dates) are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
Europe	3,100,000	3,000,000	3,140,000	2,480,000	2,300,000 Tons
United States	130,000	180,000	120,000	190,000	140,000 ..
Cuba	250,000	310,000	350,000	190,000	120,000 ..
Cargoes afloat	40,000	30,000	10,000	20,000	30,000 ..
Total	3,520,000	3,520,000	3,620,000	2,880,000	2,590,000 ..
Comparative prices of 88% for 5 years:—					
	8s. 6d.	8s. 2½d.	6s. 7d.	9s. 0½d.	10s. 1½d.

**Crystallized Sugar.**—A steady demand has prevailed during the fortnight, and a fair business has been done chiefly at 14s. 9d., to 15s. for low to fair yellows, the value of average qualities remaining at 15s. The general range is from 14s. 6d. to 16s. "Imitations" are now selling from 14s. 9d. to 15s. also. A cargo of dark crystals would readily command 9s. 3d. on floating terms.

**Molasses Sugar.**—Firm at 11s. to 15s.

**Muscovado.**—Some good prices up to 15s. are being paid for fine lots of Jamaica in small quantities, with brown sorts, from 12s. to 12s. 6d. On floating terms 89 test should command fully 8s. 3d.

**West India Figures since 1st Jan.**

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports to date	8000	3000	8000	8000 Tons
Deliveries ..	10,000	10,000	11,000	9000 ..
Stocks	11,000	22,000	9000	7000 ..

**Rum.**—Some small lots of Demerara have been sold at 7½d. to 8d. and 8½d. to 9d., but business is not general, Importers view still being above those of buyers—at a slight concession, a large business could possibly be done Jamaica remains steady at 1s. 9d. for approved Home Trade Marks. Lecwards range nominally from 7d. to 11d.

**London Figures to date:**

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports Jamaica	510	440	330	1030 Puns
.. Demerara	6900	5100	8800	8500 ..
Stocks Jamaica	7400	8700	5700	6700 ..
.. Demerara	12,400	10,100	9700	9300 ..
Total of all kinds:—Stocks	29,311	29,906		Increase, 305 Puns

**Cocoa.**—There is practically no quotable change in the market, although prices are if anything rather in favour of buyers. Our chief manufacturers are steadily taking off all the West India Cocoa as it arrives, and the following are the quotations of the latest business done: Trinidad "fair collected" 61s., Estate marks, 61s., to 67s. Grenada fair, 54s., fermented, 56s., to 58s., and from other Islands, fair native, 53s. with fermented, 55s. to 60s. African to arrive is quoted at 59s. on full landed terms.

**Stocks in London:—**

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.
	74,000	85,000	85,000	92,000 Barrels

**Coffee.**—Fluctuating. To-day's quotation of Santos is 31s. and of good ordinary Jamaica 30s. **Nutmegs.**—Small sales of West India, 112's at 8½d., and in shell at 6½d. **Pepper.**—Good pale sold at 1s. 10d., red at 1s. 8d., 1s. 9d. **Pimento.**—Very quiet, value of fair 3½. **Cinnet.**—Dull, small sales of Jamaica from 33s. to 41s., and Rhattoon at 31s. 6d.

**Cotton.**—Very unsettled. March delivery American 7½.

**Arrowroot.**—Stocks in London

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
	10,745	13,352	8465	7767	2952 Brls.

Some 700 barrels have been sold during the fortnight chiefly from 1½ to 1¾ with a few packages of fine up to 2½. The value of fair manufacturing remains 1½.

**Lime Juice.**—Firm at 1d. advance, viz., 11d. to 1s. 1d. Concentrated steady, value £12 15s. Distilled Oil, 1s. 4d. Hand Pressed, 2s. 6d., 3s.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

# The . . . West India Committee Circular

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## OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. VII.



Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P.

### Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P.

It is as Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of the Anti-Bounty League, in which position he succeeded the late Colonel Victor Milward, that Mr. W. F. Lawrence is best known to West Indians. It was largely owing to his efforts, and to those of his fellow stalwarts, that the settlement of the Bounty Question was arrived at, and he has since been persistent in his endeavours to secure the removal of the Countervailing Duty, imposed by the Mother Country, on British Colonial spirit. Mr. W. F. Lawrence was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, and has represented the Abercromby division of Liverpool, in Parliament since 1885. Mr. Lawrence owns property in Jamaica, where he has lately paid attention to the cultivation of the banana. He is one of the oldest and most respected members of the West India Committee.

### "Cotton Improvement."

It is very desirable that those Members who wish to attend the meeting at the West India Committee Rooms on Tuesday next, April 19th, when Sir George Watt, Kt., C.I.E.,

M.B., C.M., LL.D., will read a paper on "Cotton Improvement," should make an early application for tickets. Sir Hubert Jerningham will take the chair at 3.45 p.m., and tea will be provided after the lecture.



In view of the great interest now being taken in the revived cotton industry in the West Indies a large attendance is expected. While on this subject, we may say that the news received by the Mail regarding the cotton crop is uniformly satisfactory. Sir Daniel Morris writes to impress upon us that it is the Sea Island variety which should be cultivated in the West Indies. It fetches double the price of any other cotton, the area within which it can be grown is strictly limited, and in a general decline of values the Sea Island will always continue to fetch the best prices. Further, it was originally a native of the West Indies, and already Sea Island cotton recently grown in its old home is regarded as equal to the best grown in the Sea Islands.

The current number of the *Agricultural News* gives much information on this point, and, with that useful publication and the *West India Bulletin*, Vol. IV., Nos. 3 and 4, (which deal exclusively with cotton cultivation) before him, the West Indian Planter should not fail through lack of reliable information. Copies of these publications can be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms.

### The Homeward Mail.

The letters of our esteemed Hon. Correspondents received by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Atrato," which anchored off Plymouth at 4.20 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6th. are again of a hopeful nature. Conditions in the West Indies are undoubtedly improving, the most favourable feature being the increase of trade with the Dominion and the Mother Country. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Antonio," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, March 30th.

#### Antigua. The Canadian Preference.

(HON. A. St.G. SPOONER), March 23rd.—It appeared that the Canadian refiners who rather gave the West Indies to understand that they did not want their muscovado sugar at all when there seemed no other market for it but Canada, had, since there appeared to be a sale for it in the United Kingdom, begun to bid for it to the extent of offering them half the preferential allowance in favour of British grown sugar, a very acceptable concession, and one that might lead sugar back to Canada that would otherwise have been shipped to Britain. Crop had begun generally all over the Island. \$1.45 per 100 lbs. was offered locally for 89% muscos, and 16 cents, package included, for molasses.

#### Barbados. A more promising outlook.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE), March 24th.—A most important rise of sugar during the fortnight to \$1.62½ per 100 lbs. had occurred. This meant an advance of 1s. 9¼d. above the opening price of a month previous, while neither the English nor American market offered any parallel to it. The order came from Halifax, and it was hoped that other markets would follow the advance. If they could only see sugar to \$2.00, and molasses a few cents higher than 14, they would begin to see daylight. Nothing could be better than the weather they were enjoying. The nights were very cool, and the sun in the daytime was tempered by breezes. Light showers fell frequently, which caused distraction to managers in their efforts to keep their fuel dry, but against this must be set the juice they were adding to ratoons and the strengthening of the young canes. The crop was going well, and nowhere was there disappointment. Two hogsheads round, or a fraction under, was the general record, and many had gone beyond 2½ hogsheads. The yield of molasses also was very good. Providence and human skill had done for them all they could this year, and all they had to do was to contend against the machinations of man and find out a market. In respect of the £500,000 for the cultivation of cotton, it was hoped that the West Indies would have a share in it. There was no doubt that Barbados could grow cotton to advantage, but this year they had been handicapped (owing to no fault of the Agricultural Department) by being provided with bad seed, and having no antidote to combat the disease. The quality of the cotton had been excellent, but the quantity very disappointing. The abundant flow of tourists and visitors to the Island since the New Year satisfac-

torily proved that the malevolent reports against its health obtained little credence. All the hotels were full to overflowing and new ones were being started. They awaited with confidence the arrival of the long-delayed Quarantine Commission to report upon their sanitary arrangements. The House of Assembly rejected all the proposed sites for the public library, for which Mr. Carnegie had promised to provide the money, so that matters were at a deadlock.

#### British Guiana. Weather Improving.

(A. SUMMERSON, Esq.), March 23rd.—It was with much regret that they learned by cable of the death of Sir Walter Sendall on the 16th instant. The Chamber of Commerce and the Planters Association joined in cabling an expression of sympathy to Lady Sendall on the 18th. Heavy rains fell on the 11th and 12th inst. and were general throughout the Colony. The heaviest fall was recorded in Berbice, where it was much needed. It had since been showery and favourable generally. Crystals were quoted at \$1.90. At a general meeting on March 10th, Mr. A. M. Ashmore was elected President of the Agricultural Society.

#### Dominica. Sales of Crown Lands

(E. A. AGAR, Esq.) March 25th.—Mr. H. H. Bell, the Administrator had given the figures of the sales of Crown Lands for the past six years as follows:—

Year ...	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Acres ...	64	166	906	372	996	934

In 1900 a large quantity of land was taken up by a Ceylon coffee planter, otherwise the figures showed a steady increase: nearly half the land had been taken up by peasants, a most satisfactory state of things. Crown Lands were sold at 10/- per acre with a survey fee of about 3/4 per acre added. Rain continued to fall and the outlook for the lime planters was increasingly promising.

#### Grenada. The Cocoa Crop.

(W. E. BROADWAY, Esq.) March 25th.—They were having rather an unusual quantity of rain for the time of year and should it thus continue until the rainy season—viz., about the month of June—young cacao and other cultivations on the lower lands would be greatly benefitted and helped on in growth. The last crop of cocoa was 63,000 bags to September 30th, but there was small hope of the further 8000 bags to make up that total for this crop which it was expected would be 3000 bags short.

#### Jamaica. A Proposed Sea-wall.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq.) March 21st.—The writer forwarded a detailed statement of the Estimates for the financial year 1904-5, the Emigrant Protection Law, and a Law to raise £50,000 more for the Vere Irrigation Scheme. In regard to the Emigrant Protection Law, which had passed the Committee stage, strong opposition had been shown to this Bill. The opposition rested principally on three points. (1) No charge should be made to parties who emigrate independently. (2) The charge to labourers taken under contract is excessive. (3) The amounts collected should not go to the immigration fund. The Bill will be re-committed, but the Governor had not yet stated what alterations he would make on these points. The Bill for the issue of small notes had passed the Committee of the House, fixing the notes to be issued at 10/- each. Mr. Olivier had kindly consented to have a conference at the Merchants' Exchange with all parties in the scheme of erecting a sea-wall for Kingston; the meeting was to take place on the 30th.

The weather during the last fortnight had been very favourable, except in Vere which continued dry. There was some talk of utilising Lower Trelawney to start on a large scale the growing of bananas. As far as he could gather he did not think the scheme of forming an Insurance Fund against disasters to the banana industry would materialise. The counter proposition of creating an Agricultural Loan Bank was under public discussion.

#### Montserrat. Cotton and Insect Pests.

(CONRAD WATSON, Esq.) March 23rd. At a meeting of cotton planters, which was presided over by Mr. F. H. Watkins, held at the Court House on the 3rd March it was resolved "That in view of



the late serious ravages by insect pests and fungus disease this meeting should urge the necessity for adopting the measures recommended by the Imperial Department of Agriculture and burning all cotton trees in diseased fields as soon as the crop is gathered."

**St. Kitts. The Canadian Market.**

(CHARLES A. SMITH, Esq.) March 22nd.—Hope was expressed that the Committee would be successful in obtaining recognition of the claims of the West Indies to a portion of the large sum to be raised for growing cotton throughout the Empire. The industry promised to do well in Nevis, and must, therefore, be of great benefit to the small freeholders there. The weather conditions were hardly favourable to sugar-making operations, for although, on the one hand, the canes were ripening under the influence of the long continued high winds, the constant showers retarded grinding very considerably; the young crop, under the influence of the latter were looking well and promising. Those interested in sugar were very gratified to find that our Canadian brothers were showing an inclination (possibly owing to strong representations) to deal in an Imperial spirit with them and were not taking advantage, as indeed they might with every commercial reason have done, of buying their sugar on the parity of the New York figures, brought down, as these had been, by the Reciprocity Treaty with Cuba. That Canada had not done so was a God-send and pointed to the immediate desirability of forming closer commercial relations with their kin in Canada; the Halifax market was, by recent account sales, 14 cents higher than New York, and those who knew predicted that this would be maintained. This was as unexpected as it was welcome.

**Nevis. Cotton Shipments.**

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) March 23rd.—The first shipments of cotton had reached England and the merchants' report was anxiously awaited. Up to the present the ginnery had turned out about 50 bales of 200 lbs. each. The prizes granted by the Imperial Department of Agriculture had been distributed among the peasant growers of cotton and from the list of the winners it was interesting to see how many of the small growers were adjudged deserving. The estates to which advances were made by the Government last year had all of them provided the necessary weighing machines, and the peasant proprietors were adopting the plan of selling their canes by the ton on a sliding scale of prices fixed by the Government; they were then receiving 6/5 per ton, and those who adopted the system appeared well satisfied. The weather had been all that could be desired, nice showers having fallen. There did not appear to be any diminution in the area under cultivation, and the upward tendency in the sugar market was cheering. The successful results achieved by those who planted onions last year would lead to a development in this minor industry; the soil appeared to be especially adapted to the growth of onions and potatoes.

**St. Lucia.**

(HON. E. DUBOULAY), March 25th.—Cropping was in full swing, and the weather was showery.

**St. Vincent. The Governor's Visit.**

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & Co.), March 25th.—The Governor was to arrive in St. Vincent on April 8th, and they were anxious to find out what he intended doing for this much neglected portion of his government. Something had gone wrong with the machinery at the cotton factory, so it would not be opened this month after all. The weather still continued most favourable, and the temperature was delightful.

**Trinidad. Cocoa Prospects Improve**

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK), March 25th.—In the prize list for the next Agricultural Exhibition, the dates for which had been fixed for the 13th to 18th (inclusive) of February, 1905, three prizes had been offered for best samples of cotton ginned, and three for varieties in seed. There was every probability of the cultivation being considerably extended in the near future. The Legislative Council had passed the estimates for the current year, and attention was called to the interesting statement made on that occasion by the acting Colonial Secretary, fully reported in local newspapers of the 22nd

inst. The question of the establishment of a floating dock was again postponed. Sir Alfred Moloney, his family and suite left for England on the 25th March. Mr. Clifford would act as Governor. The state of affairs regarding Venezuela continued unchanged since last mail. Cocoa and other produce continued to arrive from the Main, the proceeds being taken back mostly in gold and but little in goods. It would appear as if there was to be no regular dry season this year. Showers were very frequent, and occasionally heavy. Fortunately the rains were not quite heavy enough to materially affect the work of the sugar factories, while cocoa estates were being greatly benefitted. Pickings which would, with the usual dry weather at this time of the year, have been very small in April, promised now to be larger than was expected, and might continue as a sort of running crop for some weeks more. The fall in London prices had not affected the prices locally, which continued to advance, the previous quotation of \$14 for best Estates had advanced to \$14.40, with a keen competition for the American market. Ordinary red fetched \$12.60 to \$13.00 for shipment to France. A small quantity only of Estates had been sent to London during the fortnight.

### Sugar Industry of the Zambesi.

H.M. Consul at Beira has forwarded to the Foreign Office particulars regarding the Sugar Industry of the Zambesi, from which it seems that it has a prosperous future before it. Started nearly 14 years ago in circumstances of great difficulty, it has succeeded in overcoming many of the obstacles which it was first called upon to face. It has, moreover, proved that, if sufficient capital be provided at the outset, a good return may be looked for. The moist, hot climate appears to be favourable to the rapid development of the cane, whilst the rich, clayey soil is said to be capable of producing results comparable to other countries celebrated for their successful participation in sugar cultivation. Added to this, the proximity of the great river, together with the facility with which the various systems of irrigation may be applied from it, render the cultivation of sugar, if not wholly independent of the somewhat uncertain rainfall, at least in a much better position to guard against the disastrous effects of a lengthy drought. The area of land available for this industry in the valley of the Zambesi is enormous, whilst the composition and character of the soil do not vary. The acquirement of large areas suitable for agricultural purposes would not, moreover, be attended, it is thought, by the difficulties which would be encountered in less remote regions. Of the two large companies now engaged in this pursuit, one is established on the north and one on the south side of the river. They are provided with expensive labour-saving machinery and appliances, and have, apparently, spared no pains to make the production of this valuable commodity one of the most important industries of the East Coast of Africa. At the present time, the land under actual cultivation approximates to 5,000 acres, and is all, needless to say, close to the river. Large forests provide ample timber for building purposes, as well as wood for fuel, the district, moreover, being sufficiently thickly populated to remove all doubt as to the sufficiency and permanence of native labour. The first preparation of the ground takes place in the dry season, between the months of April and November, during which time but little rain falls. Throughout this season a careful and well-organised system of irrigation is essential, in order to produce the best results. The planting of the cane commences with the advent of the rains (usually about December). At the conclusion of the rains, irrigation continues without intermission until the cane is cut in June or early in July. Thereafter, crushing is carried out unceasingly until the end of October, the juice being in its finest condition in August. A well-equipped factory is provided with mills capable of dealing with about 350 tons of cane in the full day of 24 hours. One acre of land is calculated to produce about 15 tons of cane, which in turn yield about 185 lbs. of sugar to the ton.

The sugar is sent for disposal to Portugal, freight, including transport to the coast, amounting to about 43s. per ton. Lisbon takes the entire output, granting a bounty and a reduction of 50 per



cent. of the import duty payable on sugar imported from other countries. In addition to this, further protection has been granted to the Zambesi planters by the increase of duty on foreign sugar entering the ports of the province of Mozambique, this duty having been raised from £3 6s. 8d. to £13 6s. 8d. per ton, or four times the amount. In his concluding remarks, H.M. Consul refers to the difficulties which sugar planters on the Zambesi are, at times, called upon to face in guarding against the ravages of beetles, locusts, and crickets, and also against the losses incurred by the devastations of game and hippopotami.

### The Rum Surtag and Alcohol for Motors.

In a recent circular we adverted to the possibility of the use of alcohol for industrial purposes, and it will be remembered that Mr. Tyrer, reading a paper before the Society of Chemical Industry, urged the removal of the differential duty on spirits when used for manufacturing purposes. In this connection it is worthy of note that Dr. W. R. Ormandy, read a paper to the members of the Automobile Club, on March 24th, the full text of which appears in the *Automobile Club Journal* of March 31st, in the course of which he said that the chemical industries in this country were large consumers of alcohol, and that they would be in so far favourable. The chemical trades, through the London Chamber of Commerce and Society of Chemical Industry, had repeatedly tried to obtain an alteration in the laws relating to the taxation of alcohol, with but limited result. The Manchester Chamber of Commerce, representing as it did probably the largest chemical centre in the country, had naturally taken a forward position in the agitation for cheaper alcohol, and for several months there had been in preparation by that Chamber a still further movement with regard to alcohol, which had culminated in the presentation to the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Great Britain of a resolution requesting the Government to still further consider their position towards users of alcohol for chemical purposes. He showed by statistics and the results of experiments that alcohol was not only a suitable motor fuel, but that in many respects it was the most suitable, and if further proof were needed as to its practical possibilities it could be gathered from the records of those French automobile trials in which alcohol was used, and of which he might recall the consumption trial through Amiens, Arras, Abbeville, and back to Paris, wherein nineteen heavy cars, sixteen light cars, six voiturettes, and six cycles competed. The distance of 453 miles was covered in about 23 hours on a consumption of 20.85 gallons by one car, and in 26½ hours on 18½ gallons by another. Again, M. Farman, on a 35 h.p. Panhard, covered 254½ miles at a rate of 52.2 m.p.h., using alcohol as a fuel.

### The Sugar Bounties Agitation, 1864—1903.\*

A RETROSPECT: BY W.P.B.S.

#### The Third and Final Stage, 1869—1903—continued. Parliament in 1902—1903.

After the many years of public agitation, an international disposition for the suppression of the bounties was created and ultimately resulted in the Brussels Sugar Convention of March the 5th, 1902.

As soon as this Convention was known to have been signed, considerable interest was awakened in both the Houses of Parliament. An informal discussion was started in the House of Lords, on the 10th of March, 1902, by the late Lord Pirbright, *à propos* of the Convention: but as the Convention had only been signed a few days before, and no official papers containing the full text of the treaty had yet been presented to Parliament, the discussion was deemed rather premature, and no general debate ensued.

On the 24th of November, 1902, in the House of Commons, after a general debate, the following resolution was carried on a division by 213 votes against 126 votes:—"That this House approves the policy embodied in the Convention relating to Sugar signed at Brussels on the 5th day of March,

\* Continued from "The West India Committee Circular," No. 120.



Photo by LAURENCE E. ARTHUR.

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ON THE BANKS OF THE ESSEQUIBO,  
BRITISH GUIANA.



1902, and, in the event of that Convention receiving the ratification required to make it binding is prepared to adopt the necessary measures to enable His Majesty to carry out its provisions."

On the 16th of December 1902, a discussion arose on the Convention in the House of Commons, with reference to the interpretation of the most favoured nation article.

On the 28th of May 1903, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Trade (Mr. Bonar Law), presented a Bill to make provision for giving effect to the Convention, signed on the 5th of March 1902. After a Division the Bill was read the first time, there being Ayes 142, and Noes 82.

On the 28th and 29th of July 1903, the Debate on the second reading took place in the House of Commons. On a Division there were Ayes 224, Noes 144.

The Bill was in Committee on the 4th and 5th of August, 1903, and after several divisions reported to the House without amendment, and on the 6th of August 1903, the Bill was read a third time after debate and a division Ayes 119, Noes 57.

In the House of Lords the Bill was read the first time on August 7th 1903, without debate. The second reading on the 10th of August, after a debate was carried by Contents 108, against Not-Contents 16. The Committee stage was negatived: the Standing Order No. 39, was suspended, and the Bill on the same day was read a third time, and on the following day, the 11th of August, 1903, received the Royal Assent.

(TO BE CONTINUED).

### Prædial Larceny.

It will be remembered that in 1902, at the instance of the West India Committee, the Colonial Office proposed to send a Commission to the West Indies to make recommendations for the suppression of prædial larceny, or theft of the growing crops, which has always proved so troublesome to proprietors. Several Colonies, however, did not see their way to provide the necessary funds, and so no further action could then be taken in the matter.

We recently took steps to ascertain whether there was any increase of this form of crime. From the replies received, it would appear that in Barbados it is always present, especially in crop time, when the theft of sugar cane is considerable. In Dominica it is on the increase. A committee has recently been sitting in this Colony to consider the matter, and have issued a number of recommendations, the principal of which are that the provisions of the existing Act be more stringently and expeditiously enforced. That all owners of cocoa trees be registered, the licenses to state approximately the extent of their cacao cultivations and that the licenses be endorsed with the date and amount of each sale. That a fee be charged for each license issued to buyers of cacao, and that, if possible, all cacao and spices should be brought, before sale, to a public weighing-place, where the produce would be weighed by a Government Official. The seller would have to satisfy that officer that he was properly entitled to dispose of the goods, and in that case would receive a permit to that effect. As regards Jamaica it is satisfactory to find that up to August 11th, the date of the hurricane, there was a decided decrease, though after that catastrophe the cases dealt with by the police were naturally more numerous. At the instance of Mr. Ashenheim, the acting Colonial Secretary courteously obtained for us information from the police inspectors of the principal parishes affected, and this is significant of the way in which distress often leads to crime. The following is the number of cases of prædial larceny in six months, before and after the cyclone.

	ST. ANN.	ST. MARY.	PORTLAND.	ST. THOMAS.
Before cyclone	35	47	44	22
After cyclone	151	145	54	21

In British Guiana, prædial larceny is, according to the Demerara *Daily Chronicle*, greatly on the increase in agricultural districts. The very high price which plaintains now fetch makes them a valuable prize to the thief, whilst the farmer feels their loss correspondingly.

### Sugar from Ireland.

We understand that there is some probability of a considerable acreage being devoted to the cultivation of sugar beet near Cork in Ireland, where it has been proved that beet can be grown equal, if not superior, in its saccharine properties to beet grown on the Continent. It has been suggested in some quarters that if the industry is to be encouraged, home-grown sugar should not be made to pay the same tax as sugar imported from abroad. But, at the outset, it may be taken for granted that our sugar-producing Colonies will not tolerate any preference being accorded to home-grown over Colonial sugar, and no apprehension need therefore be felt on that score.

### Essequibo River, British Guiana.

"The Monarch of all he surveys" might well be the title of our full page illustration, though our friend with his dusky attendants is merely a visitor to the Etaballi rapids of the mighty Essequibo River, superintending the preparation of the midday repast. The Essequibo rises in the Acaria mountains, 41 miles north of the equator, and has a course of 620 miles, but, owing to cataracts, it is only navigable by large vessels for fifty miles from its mouth which forms an estuary nearly twenty miles wide. The excursion to the rapids is made from Rockstone which has a good hotel belonging to Messrs. Sproston, Ltd., who carry passengers there by steamer to Wismar on the Demerara river and thence by rail through the tropical forest to the banks of the Essequibo.

### Cocoanut Palm.

The travelling commissioner of *Commercial Intelligence* in the Far East gives an interesting report on the value of the cocoanut palm in Ceylon. The exports of the various products of the cocoanut palm show figures which are totally surprising. While the increase in the value of tea in the seven years ending 1902 was only six per cent., the increase in the different products of the cocoanut palm went up to eighty-six per cent. From all I can gather these figures will be greatly increased in the near future. Everybody is talking "cocoanut" just now, and it will not be surprising to find this swell into a "boom" before long. One is told of large profits being and to be made in cocoanut plantations, and that the industry is a more certain one than tea, besides which the cocoanut attracts planters from the fact that, after a plantation has reached maturity, very little work is needed, as compared with tea. Until the last few years, cocoanut plantations were entirely in the hands of natives, but recently many European planters have gone into this industry. These gentlemen bring more scientific methods into the business, with a corresponding increase in the value and quantity of the produce. More mills for the extraction of oil, manufacture of desiccated cocoanut, extraction of fibre, etc., are being erected. There are already mills for the manufacture of matting, and there is no reason why these should not increase. In 1894 there were imported 487,571 cwts. of cocoanut oil, and in 1898 these figures had decreased to 435,933 cwts. With the exception of 1899, there has since been a steady increase, and in 1903 the figures reached 665,357 cwts. Of this quantity the United Kingdom took 422,024 cwts., United States 107,315 cwts., and the remainder was split up between the other European countries, etc. Like *Oliver Twist*, America is constantly calling for more, and it is safe to say that the export of cocoanut oil to America will rise to big figures. It is surprising that there are no American firms established here to deal with this business. The next item connected with cocoanut is copra. This exhibits a steady increase from 30,642 cwts. in 1894 to 721,575 cwts. in 1903—a remarkable increase. Next we come to desiccated cocoanut. This has risen from 5,722,202 pounds in 1894 to 17,485,369 pounds in 1903. Of this quantity Great Britain took 11,859,475 pounds; America 1,944,102 pounds; and Germany 1,542,298 pounds. Cocoanuts rose from 8,292,699 in 1894 to 13,129,349 in 1903. Great Britain took 9,028,987; America 2,026,814; and Germany 1,368,276. Cocoanut yarn to the extent of 92,124 cwts. was exported in 1903, as against 91,746 cwts. in 1894—



practically stationary. Fibre, however, went from 67,738 cwts. in 1894 to 132,203 cwts. in 1903; rope from 14,416 cwts. in 1894 to 20,638 cwts. in 1903; and poonac, or cattle food, from 165,156 cwts. in 1894 to 399,972 in 1903.

### Colonial Reports—Jamaica.

The report of Sir Augustus W. L. Hemming, Governor, on the Blue Book of Jamaica for 1902-3 (Colonial Reports Annual, No. 414) has been delayed owing to the pressure of work on the staff of the Colonial office consequent on the hurricane of August 11th, 1903. The following is a comparative table of Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the past five years.

Year.	Revenue	Expenditure	
1898-99	£600,271	£630,702	£30,431 Deficit.
1899-00	625,131	593,927	31,204 Surplus.
1900-01	760,386	763,662	3276 Deficit.
1901-02	774,837	751,699	23,138 Surplus.
<b>1902-03</b>	<b>856,514</b>	<b>788,847</b>	<b>67,667 Surplus.</b>

The outstanding deficit of the Colony was reduced to £35,497 at the close of that period. The Island was beginning to recover, if not rapidly, at least surely and steadily, and it was hoped that the ensuing year would have seen the deficit entirely wiped out, but the cyclone of August 11th shattered this hope and rendered its realization hardly possible.

We append a comparative table of the amounts and value of exports of local produce from Jamaica during 1901-02 and 1902-3.

Articles.	1901-1902.		1902-1903.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Cocoa ... Cwt.	39,953	£83,924	31,462	£65,285
Cocoanuts ... No.	17,662,827	61,818	25,623,644	67,903
Coffee ... Cwt.	103,126	152,091	107,855	130,775
Fruit—Bananas, Bunches	11,003,840	825,288	14,184,375	1,134,750
„ Oranges, No.	79,061,650	102,780	98,589,575	101,054
Ginger ... Cwt.	21,347	37,358	29,134	46,615
Logwood ... Tons.	41,107	103,796	37,895	97,106
Pimento... Cwt.	72,080	79,288	114,996	91,997
Rum ... Gals.	1,422,010	124,426	1,927,150	156,581
Sugar ... Cwts.	321,659	136,705	406,455	167,663

“ The banana trade showed an increase of a little over one-third in value, and a little under one-third in amount, and followed increases of like amount recorded in last year's Report. In the last five years the volume of this trade has increased two and a half times. The increase in the year under review amounted to £309,462 in value, or more than three-fourths of the total increase of Island products, but it is re-assuring to note that although the total increase was so large, one-fourth of it arises from the increased export of other products, chief among which increases will be found those in the older staples, sugar and rum. It cannot be said that the expectations as to the export of bananas, somewhat freely held out on the establishment of the Imperial Direct Line of Steamers, have been altogether realised. That bananas can be safely carried to England in a marketable condition has been proved, and for this important result Messrs Elder, Dempster & Co., and Messrs Elders & Fyffes, the fruit company associated with them in the enterprise, are entitled to the credit. It had been expected, however, that immediate development, to the extent of a trade of at least one steamer per week from this Island to England, would have taken place at a comparatively early date, to be followed by an even greater expansion of the trade. This has not yet taken place; but there has been a brisk demand from the United States for all the bananas available, and the absence of additional English competition has thus not been so much felt. It is to be noted that practically the whole of the increased volume of the banana trade has been with America, in vessels which, although receiving postal subsidies from the United States Government, receive no help from the revenues of this Island, and not with Great Britain by the vessels of the line subsidized by both the Colonial and Imperial Governments ”

The value of fruit carried by the Direct Line was £59,921, and by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company £3718.

"Sugar and rum between them accounted for an increase of £63,113. . . . If both these products of the sugar industry be considered, their total will be found to come second in the list of native exports, but even so their value (if the direct value of the product exported be alone taken into account) is not more than one-fourth of that of bananas, and about one-seventh of the total value of the products of the Island. While there is little, if any, profit left for the proprietor at the recent low prices of sugar, the manufacture gives employment to considerable numbers of people, and it was with the view, among others, of preventing the sudden cessation of this large employment of labour that there was made during the year an Imperial grant in aid of the Sugar industry in the West Indies, of which the share allotted to this Colony was £10,000. The best occupation of this amount seemed to be to use it, with other moneys advanced from the Island Treasury to finance those sugar estates which, without the aid of advances, would have been compelled to go out of cultivation. . . . Through the generosity of the Imperial Parliament, sugar estates in this Island have thus been kept alive, but even such help would probably not have been sufficient to bring about this result, considering the precarious state of the industry, had there not also been for the hope of a more staple condition of affairs which was excited by the Brussels Convention, and the consequent effect of the long looked for abolition of sugar bounties in Europe to come into force on the 1st September, 1903. During the many years of weary longing for this result sugar estates in great number have in this Island gone under, and it is earnestly to be hoped that a revival of this ancient industry will now take place."

In concluding his interesting report, Sir Augustus Hemming expresses the belief that the effects of the cyclone will be but temporary, and "unless another such calamity should occur, which is unlikely, the check to the growing prosperity of the Colony will soon be removed, and further and satisfactory progress be resumed. And, although I may not be able to leave the fortunes of Jamaica in as bright a condition as I had hoped, I shall still have the satisfaction of knowing that I have succeeded in retrieving them."

### The Bahamas.

The Annual Report of Sir Gilbert Carter, Governor of the Bahama Islands on the Blue Book of that Colony for 1902 (ed 1905) includes a general descriptive report on the Islands embellished by thirty-one photographs of local scenes and a map. After describing the geographical position and formation of the Bahamas, their soil and its products, their early history and Constitution, Sir Gilbert Carter reviews in detail the condition of each of the islands. The total revenue for the financial year 1902-3 amounted to £72,442 7s. 7d., and that for the previous year to £77,780 1s. 9d., showing a difference of £5337 14s. 2d. in favour of 1901-2. The main falling off came under the head of "Customs" and was due to ordinary vicissitudes of trade, and not to any special conditions affecting the particular year under review. The total expenditure for the year 1902-3 amounted to £74,613 12s. 10d., and that for the previous year to £81,135 8s. 11d., showing an excess of £6521 15s. 1d. in favour of 1901-2. The novel features of this report have naturally attracted much attention in the Press, and we shall not be surprised if the example of Sir Gilbert Carter is followed, as it might with advantage be, by other Colonies in the West Indies.

### Mining Rights in Virgin Gorda.

Notice of tender for a concession to mine in the island of Virgin Gorda on lands formerly the property of the Virgin Gorda Mining Company has been issued by the Government of the Leeward Islands, under date March 7th, in the following terms:—

(1) Tenders will be received by the Government of the Leeward Islands up to 1st July, 1904, at the office of the Colonial Secretary, Antigua, for a concession to mine in the island of Virgin Gorda in the Virgin Islands, British West Indies, on lands formerly the property of the Virgin Gorda Mining Company and now the property of the Government of the Virgin Islands.

(2) The mine is reported to consist of several "stringers" of chalcopryite, carrying copper and possibly gold. Molybdenum exists and grey copper ore has been mined.



Little is known by the Government of the history of the mine. Facilities for working ore are favourable as the main shaft is located close to the seashore and portage would be thus avoided. The main shaft is about 380 feet in depth and is crosscut by five levels east and west. These levels are said to be in ore and upraising is said to have been carried out between the 3rd, 4th, and 5th levels, indicating that the old workings are actually in ore or are following leads which extend from level to level.

(3) Tenderers should state the rent and royalties they are prepared to offer, the period for which they desire the concession granted, and the security to be given for the due performance of the obligations assumed.

(4) The concession would not be transferable and would be subject to cancellation by the Government if at any time the mine should cease to be actively worked.

(5) The acceptance of tenders received will be subject to the final approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Government does not bind itself to accept the highest or any tender.

### Coolie Immigration.

Our letter to the *Daily News* on the subject of Coolie Immigration,\* which appeared after some delay on March 24th, was followed by one from Mr. Shirley on March 25th, in the following terms:—

SIR,—Having read your interview with "a gentleman who has spent many years in the West Indies," in your issue of the 4th, and the unmeasured condemnation of his statements by the Secretary of the West India Committee, kindly permit me to add a word, from personal experience, as to those statements being "grossly unfair and inaccurate." Mr. Aspinall's "official rejoinder" is really nothing more than a general denial of particular charges against the system, coupled with some apparently startling figures of coolie affluence, which, however, under the process of simple division, take on a far less rosy hue.

The sum quoted—£13,018 17s. 10d.—as being remitted to India in 1902-3 by 1556 immigrants, looks a big item, but it must be remembered that no coolie can return until after ten years from British Guiana, and therefore, when worked out, that sum meant that the immigrants went back to India after that period with an average of a little over £8 in their pocket, showing how "easily and rapidly the coolie settler attains comfortable independence and even considerable wealth"!

But how has he managed to get his £8? In scores, yea hundreds, of cases, by ignoring the conditions of civilization, sunning his clothing to a loin cloth, his dwelling to a mud hut, and starving himself to literal skin and bone to save this money, and even then the greater part of it is saved when his five years' apprenticeship has expired, and he is free to work as he chooses, and keep his cow and his few goats, and do anything save leave the Colony. The £93,879 4s. 10½d standing to the credit of East Indian depositors in the Savings Bank of British Guiana should also be read in conjunction with the number of East Indian immigrants there, namely, some 130,000. How much of that sum represents the savings of people on estates (save under the conditions I have specified) can be gathered from the fact that it is stated in the Colony, and has been criticised, but never yet contradicted, that 3,000,000 dollars per year are paid to labourers on plantations, the Government Blue Book showing there are 90,000 of them. Let your readers work that out per head per annum, and they will see for themselves what reliance can be placed upon reports of the coolie being able to "easily and rapidly attain comfortable independence."

Mr. Aspinall says the "coolies are protected and cared for in every way." That may appear on the face of the Ordinance. Your interview shows how it works out in practice. From my personal knowledge, I confirm most emphatically the truth of your published statements save in the one item of flogging. I do not say that that is incorrect. It may be the fact in Jamaica, but it has never come to my knowledge in British Guiana. I have known, however, the coolies "who are protected and cared for in every way" shot down dead, through disturbances arising out of wage injustices, and others wounded, and others flung into prison, and that no later than last year—Yours, etc.,

H. J. SHIRLEY, Late Chairman Congregational Union, British Guiana.

To this the following reply was sent, which the Editor of the *Daily News* did not apparently see his way to publish:

DEAR SIR,—I have read the reply which you published to-day from Mr. H. J. Shirley, to my letter which you were good enough to insert in your issue of yesterday on the subject of Coolie Immigration into the West Indies.

My remarks were entirely based on official statements, and my object was to call attention to the success which has

\* See *West India Committee Circular*, Vol. XIX, page 109.

attended coolie immigration into the British West Indies since its inception. I imagine that your readers will rather accept official statements than those of a zealous partisan, which all connected with British Guiana will recognise your correspondent to be

I am, etc.,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Sec.*

The following letter from Dr. C. E. Macnamara, late Government Medical Officer of British Guiana, was also sent to the *Daily News* but this also failed to appear in the columns of that journal:—

SIR,—Let us be just regarding the "Truth about the Coolies." Mr. Shirley asks us in his letter in your issue of the 25th inst. to accept his calculation that the amount of savings carried back to India by return coolies during 1902-3 works out at £8 per head. He however does not bear in mind that amongst the aggregate of 1556 return immigrants which he quotes, one-third would probably be the professional beggar class; one-third the children and the remaining third comprising the honest workers and their wives. It is this latter class who would be found to have carried back the bulk of the £13,000 to India, probably somewhere about 300 men! I went back to India once with somewhere about 600 return coolies, and my practical experience bears out what I say above, many of my charges individually possessed hundreds of pounds, whilst others had none. Such is the common lot amongst any batch of labourers in any country: some make and save money whilst others don't.

A significant fact, however, as to the coolies own sentiments of their treatment in British Guiana is that many of my coolies returned to the Colony of their own free will, some paying their passage and some entering again upon indenture. The coolies are well treated and well housed—not in mud hovels—on the estates. Their dwellings are built and placed with every consideration to hygiene and sanitation. The estates hospitals are excellent, both in construction and working. I have been Government Medical Officer to some of the largest estates in the Colony, the managers and proprietors of which refused nothing which rendered for the comfort and welfare of their labourers. The mortality amongst these coolies seldom reaches as high as two per cent. per annum. It is interesting to note that the value of property (other than Savings Bank) owned by East Indians in the Colony amounted in the year 1903 to 384,328 dollars, which, considering what is looked upon by these people as a competency, would work out amongst the workers at a very fair figure.

In conclusion, Sir, I must say that I have had some experience of statistics, but never, before reading the letter referred to in the opening part of this one, have I seen such misleading use made of them.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

C. E. MACNAMARA,

Diplomate in State Medicine, late Government Medical Officer in British Guiana.

### The Dominica Agricultural Shows.

(Communicated by Mr. E. A. Agar.)

Six years have now elapsed since the first Agricultural Show was held in Dominica and the annual exhibition may now be considered as one of the events of the year. One of the first acts of the Imperial Department of Agriculture was to make small grants-in-aid to the various islands for the purpose of holding Agricultural Shows as a means of educating the peasant proprietors and stimulating them to produce articles of greater commercial value. The two first shows were run by a committee nominated by the Administrator (the late Mr. P. A. Templer) but since then, on the formation of the Dominica Agricultural Society, this body has undertaken the management and largely supplemented the funds available by setting aside a portion of its grant from the Local Government for this purpose.

The Court House was originally used for holding the Show, but last year, owing to a protracted sitting of the Circuit Court, the Committee at the last moment found themselves houseless, but the situation was saved by Mr. H. A. Frampton, the manager of Messrs. L. Rose & Co., Ltd., who placed the Bath Estate buildings at their disposal, and cleared them at great inconvenience to himself.

The Local Government have now determined to purchase some building that can be erected for the Show, and, as a tentative measure, tents were this year borrowed by the courtesy of the officer commanding the troops in St. Lucia, and set up in the Botanic Station—than which no finer situation could be found in the West Indies.

Immense difficulties attended the first two or three shows. The peasants had an idea that it was merely a Government trick to find new methods of taxation, and that the estate owners took all



money. But gradually things have improved, and in fact one of the most noticeable features is the manner in which all classes co-operate for the success of the show. The island is divided into districts which are worked by a sub-committee under the charge of a district delegate, these sub-committees distribute information, posters, etc., and collect exhibits, which are transported to Roseau free by the coasting steamer "Yare," the sub-inspector of schools allows the use of the various schoolrooms for the holding of meetings and also gives a holiday to the neighbouring schoolmasters and scholars who have a time set aside for visiting the show. The merchants close their stores for one afternoon to allow the local band, the members of which are in their employ, to play. Flags, lamps, tarpaulins, lumber, etc., are freely loaned by those possessing such things, and, of course, all the work done by the committees is gratuitous.



Drying Cocoa—Blenheim Estate, Dominica.

The class list is most extensive one, and latterly has been enlarged to include live stock. Prizes (usually 3/6, 2/6, 1/6) are given to peasant exhibitors, estate owners being given the Agricultural Society's award cards, while a few diplomas of merit are given by the Imperial Department of Agriculture irrespective of the status of the exhibitor or previous prizes won. Messrs. Rowntree & Co., Ltd., of York and Dominica, also give a handsome prize for cured cocoa exhibited by peasants.

Outside the ordinary exhibits there are usually a few good "side-shows." This year may be mentioned the spraying apparatus—from a powerful steam pump to small hand machine—shown by Messrs. L. Rose & Co., Ltd., and worked at intervals during the show, and pottery making by a potter from the north end of the island. How far these shows have as yet acted as an educational agent it is difficult to say; five times as many people exhibited this year as in 1899, while the number of exhibits was only trebled, showing that an attempt is made only to send in their best, and certainly the general standard has improved, although it is doubtful whether much is yet actually grown with a view to

obtaining a prize. Undoubtedly much more care is now taken than formerly to put up exhibits nicely and that alone is to the good; this is especially noticeable in the matter of liquids, clear glass gin flasks (the angles of which catch the light well) clean and well corked, have almost entirely superseded the "Eno's Fruit Salt" bottle with the original label much tarnished by age.

On the whole it may be said that these shows have done real good, if not much as yet, in the way of inducing the peasant to cultivate more carefully or to select varieties of plants with more discrimination. Certainly as a general civilizing agent they have been beneficial; for a few weeks in the year planter and peasant are working together for the common good, and the former will pick up useful hints that would not otherwise be obtained, while the latter will learn to listen to advice without suspecting ulterior motives. As to the individual merit of the Exhibits and their variety, it is impossible



Crushing Limes—Blenheim Estate, Dominica.

to say more than that Sir Daniel Morris expressed himself as being more than satisfied—and Sir Daniel ought to know something about these things.

The illustrations of Crushing Limes and Drying Cocoa are from photographs kindly lent to us by Messrs. Rowntree & Co., the well-known cocoa manufacturers of York; both are typical of the Island of Dominica, and were taken on the Company's Blenheim Estate.

### West Indian Civil Service.

We invite Members to forward to us particulars of movements and appointments of officers of the several West Indian Governments and other persons officially connected with the West Indian Colonies, for insertion under the above heading. For the latter paragraphs we are indebted to the *Morning Post*.

Mr. Edward Vickers, Resident Magistrate for Kingston, Jamaica, has been promoted to the supreme court bench as a Puisne Judge until further orders, to fill the vacancy created by the promotion of Mr. Justice Northcote to the Chief Justiceship of Trinidad.



It was announced on April 4th that the King had approved the appointment of Sir Charles Anthony King-Harman, K.C.M.G., Governor of Sierra Leone, to be his Majesty's High Commissioner in Cyprus, in succession to Sir William Frederick Haynes-Smith, K.C.M.G., whose term of office will shortly expire.

Sir C. A. King-Harman entered the Colonial Service in 1874, as Private Secretary to the Governor of the Bahamas. In 1880, he was appointed Auditor-General of Barbados. He was appointed Administrator of St. Lucia, and in 1900 Governor of Sierra Leone.

In consequence of the promotion of Mr. Vickers, Mr. A. V. Kingdon, Assistant Resident Magistrate for Kingston and Resident Magistrate for St. Andrew, acts as Resident Magistrate for Kingston, and Mr. D. Balfour, Clerk of the Courts, Kingston, takes over the duties of Mr. Kingdon.

Mr. W. E. Davidson, who was to have succeeded Mr. S. Olivier as Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, has, owing to a vacancy having arisen in the Governorship of the Seychelles, been appointed to that office, in place of Mr. E. B. Sweet-Escott, who proceeds to British Honduras.

Sir T. Crossley Rayner, the Attorney-General of British Guiana, will arrive in England on the 2nd of June, on leave of absence extending over several months, during which he will be engaged on the issue of a revised edition of the Laws of British Guiana.

Mr. F. S. Wigley and Mr. B. S. Davis have been appointed members of the Executive Council of the Leeward Islands.

Dr. C. A. H. Thomson becomes district Medical Officer at Falmouth, Jamaica, in place of Dr. M. M. Meikle, who has resigned.

### Notes of Interest.

**PLANTATIONS FOR SALE.** We understand that the firm of Messrs. Richard Ellis & Son, Estate and Land Agents, of 45, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C., have decided to open, at their offices, a special register of Plantations for sale in the West Indies.

**BINDING CASES FOR VOL. XVIII.** Handsome lettered cases for binding the *West India Committee Circular*, Vol. XVIII, can be obtained from the Secretary, price 2/- each, post free. Members can have their copies bound for the inclusive charge of 3/6.

**OVERSEER'S REGISTER.** Estates Managers and Proprietors requiring overseers are informed that arrangements have been made for a list of applicants for such posts to be kept at the West India Committee Rooms. All enquiries regarding it should be addressed to the Secretary, West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

**A SILVER WEDDING.** Sir Daniel Morris and Lady Morris, were the recipients at Chelston, Barbados, of many congratulations, which we cordially endorse, on March 20th, last—their Silver Wedding Day. It is worthy of note that this year Sir Daniel will complete 25 years devoted to the interests of the West Indian Colonies.

**A COLONIAL EXHIBITION.** It is proposed to hold an Exhibition, at which all the Colonies and dependencies of the British Empire, should be represented during the summer of 1905, at the Crystal Palace. A distinguished Advisory Committee is in course of formation upon which the *West India Committee*, will be represented by our Chairman Sir Nevile Lubbock.

**A DESERVING CHARITY.** The support of our members is invited to the London Sale Rooms Benevolent Fund. A Smoking Concert in aid of this deserving charity is to be held at the Holborn Restaurant (King's Hall), on Wednesday, April 20th, when the chair will be taken at 8.30 p.m. by Mr. H. Melvill Woodhouse. Tickets 5/- each may be obtained of Mr. C. W. Engelhardt, Commercial Sale Rooms, E.C.

**THE TURTLE FISHERIES.** The trouble caused by the effect of the Fishing Laws of Nicaragua upon the Turtle Fishing Industry of the Grand Caymans, to which we called the attention of the Foreign Office in June last, has been brought to a head by the seizure of six schooners engaged in the Turtle Fishery, and the imprisonment of their crews. According to cabled advices, it appears that H.M.S., "Retribution" has sailed for the scene of the trouble.

**HISTORY OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.** It is proposed to write a history of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE for publication in the Circular and the Secretary will be glad if members and others will furnish him with any records, notes or information they may have regarding this organisation. The assistance of the West Indian Press who have always shown their readiness to further the work of the Committee is confidently hoped for.

**THE WEST INDIAN CLUB DINNER.** The fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club was held at the club rooms on March 29th, with Mr. A. Bovell in the chair. Amongst those present were, Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. T. Davidson Arnott, Mr. W. W. Arnott, Major MacMahon, Mr. A. Bovell, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. Walter Stewart, Mr. A. Hutchinson, Mr. H. Collis, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. C. Bryce, and Captain Charles Foulkes, R.E.

**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Mira" from Liverpool for Barbados and Trinidad, April 16th; S.S. "Statia," from London for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad and Demerara, April 20th; and the R.M.S. "Port Morant," from Bristol for Jamaica, April 23rd. *Information for publication under this head is invited from Shipping Companies.*

**SUGAR IN INDIA.** According to a General Report, issued by the Indian Statistical Department, on the sugar crop, the cultivation of the sugar cane in India has been decreasing for several years, and for the present season the area is put at £2,106,096 acres, against 2,429,172 acres as the average for the five years ending with 1903. The estimated yield of raw sugar is 37,997,000 cwt., as compared with nearly 41,000,000 cwt. for 1903, and about 45,000,000 cwt. as the average production of the last four years.

**BILLIARD TOURNAMENT.** The Committee of the West Indian Club have decided to arrange a club billiard tournament, and the games will be played on the tables of the Howard Hotel. The entrance fee to the tournament is two shillings and sixpence, and for the purpose of arranging the handicaps, intending competitors will be asked to play trial games on the evenings of Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, April 13th, 14th and 15th, play to commence after eight o'clock p.m. The list of entries closed yesterday. After the handicaps have been determined, competitors will be permitted, within certain time limits, to play off their matches at their own convenience. A trophy will be provided for the winner of the tournament.

**WEST INDIAN SUGAR AND FRUIT.** A return of the exports of sugar and fruit from the British West Indies to England, Canada, and all other countries for the years 1899-1900 and 1902-3 has been published by the Colonial Office as a Parliamentary paper [Cd. 1987]. The total value of the sugar exported to all countries was £2,740,808 in 1899-1900 and £2,101,988 in 1902-3. The figures for the United Kingdom were £619,642 and £434,486 in the two years, and for the United States £2,067,615 and £1,482,033 respectively, thus more than accounting for the total reduction of £638,826. The shipments to Canada, on the other hand, rose from £51,312 to £173,008. The fruit exports amounted to £872,108 in 1899-1900 and £1,362,291 in 1902-3, shipments to all countries, except the foreign West Indies, Venezuela, and France, being increased.

### West Indian Securities.

The quotations of the West Indian Securities which we usually give, have undergone no change since we last went to Press. Consols have risen to 87 $\frac{1}{8}$ . Bank rate 4% (changed from 3% on September 3rd, 1903).

**COLONIAL BANK.**—The report for the half year to December 31st states there is an available balance of £35,374, from which the payment of a dividend of 3 per cent. for the half year ended June 30th last, free of income tax, is proposed, leaving £17,374 to be carried forward. The report adds that the seasons generally throughout the West Indies have been favourable, and the crops of sugar and cocoa now being gathered promise to yield good returns. The course of prices has again been disappointing, and most of the markets for West India products are depressed. The business of the bank has been well maintained, and it has been possible to employ more of its funds in the West Indies, though the effect of the abolition of bounties has not yet been felt to an appreciable extent. The directors have considered it advisable to transfer £50,000 from the reserve to a special reserve to meet possible depreciation on the realisation of investments; this is purely a precautionary measure, and it is hoped that at no distant period a re-transfer of part, if not the whole, of this amount may be effected. Mr. H. H. Dobree who presided at the Annual Meeting on the 7th inst., said that though the improvement in the general condition of the West Indies had been slower than was generally anticipated at the time the Convention came into force, there was a decided improvement, and they had good reason to believe that that improvement would be more strikingly manifest when they had to place the result of the bank's working for the current half-year before the shareholders. They had thought it expedient to provide for the possible loss which might arise by the realisation of their investments. Most banks and financial institutions had been affected by the serious depreciation in the value of gilt-edged securities. It had been met by different concerns in different ways. Some had been fortunate enough to be able to meet it out of surplus current profits, others out of reserves, and others—notably one great institution—by reducing the dividend. They had thought it best to meet it by transferring an amply sufficient sum to cover all probable contingencies from the reserve fund to a special reserve fund. He was confident, however, that should they incur loss by the realisation of any of their investments they would be able to provide for it out of surplus current profits. He trusted that this statement would allay any apprehension there might be in the minds of shareholders as to the reason for the transfer of £50,000 from the reserves. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brodie Hoare, and agreed to.

**BRITISH GUIANA BANK.**—The half-yearly meeting was held in the Bank parlour, Georgetown, on the 15th ultimo, Mr. E. C. Hamley presiding. The Bank earned for the half year \$27,051.80, which was nearly \$3000 less than the profits for the last six months for 1902. The report was adopted, and a dividend at the rate of 1½% for the half year has been declared.



Weather Telegrams.

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), April 11th. "Slow reaping weather." **Trinidad** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), March 30th. "Heavy rains interfering with grinding." April 6th. "Weather is more favourable." (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), March 31st. "Broken weather, crop operations retarded."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
<b>Barbados—</b>	llhds.	lbs.	Tons.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
Jan. 1 to Mar. 24, 1904	2694	—	—	—	—	6789	—	—
" " 24, 1903	8	—	—	—	—	2029	—	—
<b>British Guiana—</b>	Tons.							
Jan. 1 to Mar. 22, 1904	23,201	6729	1090	7060	20,160	13	11,610	2220
" " 23, 1903	29,424	14,430	83	7899	1964	1368	13,527	969
<b>Jamaica—</b>		Cwts.	<b>Coffee.</b>	Galls.		<b>Pimento.</b>	<b>Bananas.</b>	<b>Oranges.</b>
Apr. 1 to Mar. 5, 1904	10,671	18,280	74,486	1,084,934	14,951,697	65,361	7,466,195	78,912,010
" " 7, 1903	16,779	23,527	99,534	1,717,916	24,330,186	116,121	13,836,264	98,805,097
<b>Trinidad—</b>	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		<b>Molasses.</b>	Trcs.	Brls.
Jan. 1 to Mar. 24, 1904	107,997	17,204,680	30,240	28	1,627,740	376	7	62
" " 24, 1903	113,224	15,084,140	2000	26	3,289,325	491	84	47
<b>Grenada—</b>		Bags.	Brls.	<b>SPICE.</b>			<b>Cotton.</b>	<b>Cotton Seed.</b>
Sept. 30 to Mar. 24, 1904	—	55,056	1710	258	Cases	Bags.	Balcs.	Bags
" 30 " 24, 1903	—	49,259	1973	341	215	45	125	580
					551	55	63	838

The Mails.

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," April 6th, 1904:—Barbados.**—Mr. J. Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis, Miss Finch, Miss Fontaine, Mr. and Mrs. Firebrace, Mr. and Mrs. Deighton, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Randall, Miss Marshall, Miss Hombresley, Miss Grell, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Ferris, Mr. Lovell, Rev. and Mrs. Myne, Lord Zouche of Heryngworth, Miss Deighton, Mr. E. Carpenter, Mr. H. Ross, Mr. H. R. Greig, Mr. E. C. Hamley, Mr. J. de Cairos, Mrs. Harding, Mr. G. Codrington, Mr. A. E. Lee, Mr. A. M. Lee, Mr. P. Cary, Mr. A. L. Gentini, Mr. Catlow, Mr. A. M. Nathan. **Jamaica**—Miss Glyn, Mr. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar, Mr. G. G. Hildyard, Mr. M. Llewellyn, Mrs. N. Harman, Mr. and Mrs. V. K. Armitage, Mr. and Mrs. F. Goddard, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Chapman, Mr. A. J. Fergusson, Mr. and Mrs. Nicolls, Rev. Wm. Jack, Mr. and Mrs. Hibbert, Mrs. Joyce, Mr. Justice, Mrs. and Miss Thornton, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Y. Slader, two Misses Chilcott, Mr. G. A. Rock, Mr. Geo. Woodward, Miss Hibbert, Mr. Bell, two Misses Twycross, Miss Loam, Mr. E. Hanbury, Mr. H. Eyre, Mr. and Mrs. R. Brown, Mr. W. Brierley, Mr. G. H. Dunsmure, Mr. H. Brown, Mr. S. Shipton, Mr. J. Pignatelli, Mr. J. Littlewood, Mr. and Mrs. W. Temple, Mr. W. H. Reynolds, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. C. Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Croft, Mrs. Hibbert, Mr. F. Kingsford, Mr. J. H. Rawdling, Mr. G. R. Harding, Mr. Waller, Capt. and Mrs. A. Jones, Mr. A. Kemp, Mr. H. Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. H. Quin, Mr. A. Catlow, Col. and two Misses Irwin. **Trinidad**—Mrs. Reid, Mr. J. Munro, Mr. E. Grell, Miss Fahey, Sir M. Thomson, Mr. Thomson, Miss Gifford, Mr. L. Scherer, His Excellency Sir A. Moloney, Lady and two Misses Moloney, Lady Mary Milbank, Capt. Dutton, Mr. T. C. Fitzherbert.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Tagus," April 13th, 1904:—**Barbados.**—Col. F. C. Trollope, Mr. F. H. Slade. **Demerara.**—Mr. J. Alexander Munt, Mrs. E. MacAdam, Mr. J. D. Smith. **Jamaica.**—Dep. Ins. M. Fitzgerald, Miss Smith. **Trinidad.**—Mr. Thomas, Rev. Dr. J. Morton, Mrs. S. Morton, Miss Buckingham, Mrs. Graig, Mrs. R. H. McCarthy. **Antigua.**—Mr. T. D. Foote. **Dominica.**—Mr. W. Fairbairn. **Grenada.**—Mrs. J. Church. **St. Kitts.**—Miss Cocks. **St. Lucia.**—Conductor and Mrs. Hawtin. **St. Vincent.**—Mr. J. G. Porter, Mrs. Porter.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," April 27th, 1904:—**Barbados.**—Mr. A. Main. **Demerara.**—Miss Helen Rymer. **Jamaica.**—Mr. W. Jackson, Miss Jeffrey-Smith. **St. Kitts.**—Mrs. R. Fresuado.

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," March 30th, 1904:—Jamaica.**—Two Misses Bethell, Sir Fielding and Lady Clarke, Mr. J. M. Christie, Mr. A. T. Cooper, Capt. Dundas, R. N. Mr. D. J. N. Dundas, Mr. A. Dolphy, Mr. C. Danvers, Mrs. Dittus, Mrs. and Miss Dunn, Mr. H. Fletcher, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Goodwin, Mr. Gill, Mr. D. Hooper, Mr. B. Hooper, Miss G. Hardy, Mr. and Miss Hill, Mr. Hairsine, Mr. and Mrs. Lye, Mr. H. Morton, Dr. Miller, Colonel, Mrs., and Miss Malcolm, Mr. and Mrs. A. Melhado, Dr. Noble, Sir H. E. Oakley, Miss Pegler, Mr. P. T. Lync, Mr. W. J. Roberts, Miss Shea, Mr. J. R. Sloan, Miss M. G. Sloan, Mr. Tay, Mr. H. Wharton, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Young, Mr. Davies.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," April 9th, 1904:—**Jamaica.**—Capt. Barlow, Mr. R. H. Gibbon, Mr. A. Greenhalgh, Mr. I. Greenhalgh, Paymaster H. A. Hood-Daniel, R.N.V.R., Mr. C. E. Ireland, Sir W. D. and Lady Young, Mr. W. G. Leaver, Mr. J. des Forges, Mr. D. Anderson, Rev. H. S. McMillen, Mr. C. A. Wilde.

## The Produce Markets Summary.

**Sugar—88 per cent Beet.**—The Market continues to improve by slow but sure degrees, and the outlook is distinctly more encouraging. If Beet sowings are kept within reasonable limits, and if Consumption is maintained on the same improved lines that have obtained since 1st September last, when Continental duties were reduced, and if in addition we have a reasonable summer for the fruit crops, then we may fairly hope that a large inroad will have been made into the excessive carry over of old crop sugar, which according to M. Licht was on the 1st October, 1903, 2,250,000 Tons, an amount too large even for the expanding Consumption. If this proves correct, there is a fair prospect of entering on the new season with a paying and workable price, but there is a lot to be gone through between now and then, and after all, uncertainty will still dominate prices, and the position, improved as it is, still leaves much to be desired for the intervening six months. It will be well not to expect matters to develop too quickly, for the growth will probably be gradual, and therefore all the more sure.

To-day's quotations of 88% Beet are as follows:—April, 8s. 5½d., August, 8s. 8½d., and October/December, 8s. 9½d.; those of White Foreign Granulated being respectively 10s. 5½d., 10s. 8½d., and 10s. 9d., all free on board Hamburg.

**The Visible Supplies** of Sugar in Europe and North America (uneven dates) are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	
Europe	3,100,000	2,990,000	3,120,000	2,550,000	2,310,000	Tons.
United States	140,000	200,000	110,000	190,000	150,000	"
Cuba	270,000	340,000	380,000	220,000	110,000	"
Cargoes afloat	30,000	30,000	10,000	—	30,000	"
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,540,000</b>	<b>3,560,000</b>	<b>3,620,000</b>	<b>2,960,000</b>	<b>2,600,000</b>	"
Comparative prices of 88% Beet for 5 years:—	8s. 5½d.	8s. 3d.	6s. 5½d.	8s. 11½d.	10s. 5d.	

**Crystallised Sugar.**—The Market remains steady, and a fair business is doing from 14s. 9d. for low yellow, up to 15s. 3d. for good sugar, the value of average qualities being 15s., or the same as last Mail. Imitations are selling from 14s. 10½d. to 15s. 1½d. For a cargo of dark crystals on 96 basis not far short of 9s. 6d. could now be obtained on floating terms.

**Molasses Sugar**—Unchanged. Prices range from 11s. to 15s. according to quality.

**Muscovado**—Some small lots of grocery Barbados have realised from 13s. 9d. to 14s. 6d. Refining kinds would meet a ready outlet on the basis of 8s. 6d. for 89 test on floating conditions.

**West India Figures since 1st Jan.**

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	
Imports to date	11,000	4000	10,000	11,000	Tons
Home Consumption	12,000	11,000	12,000	10,000	"
Stocks	11,000	22,000	10,000	9000	"

**Rum.**—There is no change in the position of this Market. Some small lots of Demerara of fine Marks have been sold at 9d., but for ordinary qualities 7½d. to 8d. is the utmost obtainable, and even that not too certain. Importers are still holding. Jamaica moves off slowly at 1s. 9d. for approved Standard Marks of Home Trade Rum. Leewards are nominally worth from 7d. to 11d.

London Figures to date:

	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Imports Jamaica	1130	850	1050	1060	Puns
.. Demerara	6900	6200	9600	9000	"
Stocks Jamaica	7800	8700	6200	6300	"
.. Demerara	12,000	10,300	10,100	9500	"
Total of all kinds:—Stocks	28,562	28,876		Deficiency, 314	Puns

**Cocoa.**—The tone of the Market is quiet, but prices show little variation, being only occasionally in buyers' favour. The latest sales of West India have been on the following basis:—Trinidad "fair collected" 60s., Estate Marks, 61s., to 67s. Grenada fair, 54s., fermented, 56s., to 58s. From other Islands, fair native is worth 53s., and fermented, 55s. to 60s. African to arrive is quoted 59s., "nominal," on full landed terms.

Stocks in London:—

	1904.	1903.	1902	1901
	76,000	83,000	81,000	90,000

**Coffee**—Firm, with constant fluctuation. To-day's quotation of Santos is 34s. 6d., and of good ordinary Jamaica, 40s.

**Nutmegs, Mace, Pimento, and Ginger.**—Markets all closed for Easter. Values approximately the same as last Mail.

**Cotton** has again advanced and declined. The quotation for American, delivery this month, is about 8d. Every day changes.

**Arrowroot.**—There is little business to report, and the price of 1½ for fair manufacturing remains unchanged. The following three months' figures are not unsatisfactory.

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
Imports	3358	4438	5221	4211	8667
Deliveries	5962	3588	4376	4272	4807
Stocks, 31st March	10,029	13,074	8564	8039	6391

**Lime Juice.**—Better, at 1s. to 1s. 2d. Concentrated firmer, at £12 17s. 6d. to £13. Distilled Oil, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d. Hand Pressed, 2s. 9d. to 3s. 3d.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.



# The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XIX.

ENTERED AT  
STATIONERS HALL.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd, 1904.

Special No. 122.

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## OUR CELEBRITIES.

No VIII



Sir George Watt, Kt., C.I.E., M.B., C.M., LL.D.

Reporter on Economic Products to the Government of India

## "Cotton Improvement"

BY

Sir George Watt, Kt.,

C.I.E., M.B., C.M., LL.D.

There was a large and influential attendance at the West India Committee Rooms at 3.45 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19th, when Sir George Watt, Kt., C.I.E., M.B., C.M., LL.D., Reporter on Economic Products to the Government of India, delivered an address entitled "Cotton Improvement." Sir Hubert E. H. Jerminham, K.C.M.G., late Governor of Trinidad, occupied the chair, and among those present were, His Excellency Sir Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G., Lady Moloney, Sir Neville Lubbock, K.C.M.G., Lady Lubbock, Sir C. Bruce, K.C.M.G., Sir F. Fleming, K.C.M.G., Sir Frederick Young, K.C.M.G., Sir George Birdwood, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., LL.D., Sir Henry K. Davson, Mr. G. Leslie Bannerman, Mrs. Bannerman, Mr. J. Brewis, Mr. Cox, Mrs. Daniel, Mr. Neville Dawson, Mr. Edward Easton, Mr. Alexander Elder, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. William B. Hemsley, Dr. T. A. Henry, Mr. J. Hillier, Commander J. Frederick Hodgetts, Mrs. Hodgetts, Mr. Walter B. Kingsford, Miss Knollys, Mr. A. V. Lake, Mr. A. Morier Lee, Miss J. Lubbock, Miss R. M. Lubbock, Mr. Regi-

naid Lubbock, Captain Maling, C.M.G., Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. B. A. Neilson, Mr. H. S. Osment, Mr. J. H. Preston, Miss E. S. Price, Mr. Percy W. Remnant, Mrs. Remnant, Mr. R. Rutherford, Miss W. A. Rutherford, Miss R. C. Scott, Mr. W. P. B. Sheppard, Mr. A. Spooner, Miss Talbot, Mr. Alistair N. Tayler, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

THE CHAIRMAN in opening the proceedings said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—I do not think that Sir George Watt requires any introduction. He is well known as a great authority upon agricultural matters, but it is as the greatest Indian authority that he is best known and we are not, therefore, quite so familiar with his views as we might otherwise be. At any rate he has had in India, during thirty years, a very large experience in all agricultural matters, and especially in the promotion of the growing of cotton, and in the course of these thirty years he has observed a great many faults, botanical faults, which have been introduced in the growing of cotton, and from his lecture, therefore, it seems to me, we shall derive a special interest from the fact that this industry, if ever it grows in the West Indies, which we all hope it will, will enable the West Indies at the outset to avoid some of the faults which have been committed, and necessarily committed, in India. I believe the lecture, to which I hope we shall all give the most careful attention, will likewise prove a most valuable instruction to all of us who have the interest of the West Indies at heart (Hear, hear). I have great pleasure in introducing Sir George Watt.

SIR GEORGE WATT then rose and said: Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen— I propose to lay before you this afternoon some of the leading considerations associated to-day with the very important subject of Cotton Improvement. But as my knowledge and experience have been gained during a residence of some thirty years in India, my remarks (which I venture to think applicable to the entire cotton area of the world) will necessarily have a very special bearing on India. I propose to sketch, as briefly as may be possible, the History of Cotton, the Indian Agricultural and Manufacturing Interests in the fibre, and a few other such aspects of the Cotton Trade as may help to elucidate my more immediate subject, viz., COTTON IMPROVEMENT.

#### 1.—History.

In the whole field of economic science no more remarkable example exists, of a sudden development, than the growth of the cotton industries and trades of Europe and America. The enormous importance of the fibre in the agriculture and commerce of the world at the present day, renders it difficult to believe that only a few hundred years ago, this, the most valuable of all fibres, was unknown to the civilized nations of the West. But no less surprising is it that cotton, which for many centuries has been the staple article of clothing with the people of India and elsewhere in the East, should scarcely find a place in the early classic literatures of these countries. Nearly all the beautiful and useful plants of India, if not of Asia, have had their properties extolled by the Sanskrit poets and indeed are frequently dedicated to the gods, but cotton—the plant above all others which might have been expected to have formed the theme of nature worship—is passed by with but the most casual allusions to its properties. Indeed it is only in modern works that cotton can be said to be unmistakably referred to. But that India must have been at least one of the world's centres where cotton cultivation and manufacture originated spontaneously, is abundantly confirmed by the existence of one if not two truly wild species of the cotton plant (*Gossypium* of botanists) and by the further circumstance that the cultivated cottons of India constitute a perfectly distinct series by themselves, quite independent of the cottons of the other important centres of production.

If there be uncertainty regarding the fibre, actually used in the most ancient times, there can be no doubt as to the existence of an advanced knowledge in the arts of spinning and weaving. In the Rig Veda, for example, the Rishi laments that he knows not the warp and the woof of religious ceremonial. So, again, in the Institutes of Manu regulations are enjoined as to the starching and weighting of



fabrics. But the Sanskrit word translated cotton is *kārpāsī*, from which doubtless has been derived the modern Hindi *kapās* as also the Hebrew *harpās* (the green hangings of Esther). The Arabic *katān* originally denoted flax, but in later times it became cotton and gave to the English language the word Cotton. It is a significant fact that in classic literature, not of India only, but of the whole world, generic rather than specific names were at first given to fibres, just as the word hemp, to the present day, denotes perhaps a dozen widely different fibres. The greatest possible confusion, therefore, exists regarding the earliest separate records of cotton, flax, hemp, silk, and wool. But for our purpose it may suffice to instance a few of the comparatively modern historic facts that undoubtedly refer to cotton, more especially those that have a bearing on the Indian Cotton Cultivation.

*India.*—The Greeks were familiar with cotton cultivated in Bactriana, in the time of Alexander the Great. Theophrastus speaks of both a herbaceous field crop and a tree cotton, especially so in connection with the Isle of Tylos in the Persian Gulf. Toward the close of the first century Arrian described Indian cotton as carried by the Arabs from Broach up the Red Sea to Aduli, and he also speaks of the dyed sheets of Masulipatam as being extensively traded in during that remote period. The muslins of Dacca were known to the Greeks under the name *Gangotiki*—a word thus suggestive of their known production on the banks of the Ganges. Thus it would seem that the arts of spinning and weaving cotton were in India in a high state of perfection two thousand years ago.

*China.*—Turning now to the Far East: most writers are agreed that cotton cultivation was not introduced into China or Japan until about the ninth or tenth centuries of our era. This belief seems to receive confirmation from the fact that China neither possesses any truly indigenous species nor any very distinctive race of cultivated cotton. The plant most generally grown in China, Japan, and Formosa is *Gossypium Nanking*, *Meyen*, a plant that has to be viewed as one of the associated forms with *G. arboreum*, *Lin.* and identical with the cotton grown on the Himalaya and more temperate tracts of Northern and Eastern India. It belongs to the Indian series.

*Europe.*—So also Europe acquired from India its knowledge in very nearly every stage and process of cotton manufacture as it obtained the names of the chief cotton textiles. But cotton was only introduced into England in the 17th century. Camden tells us that "Manchester Cottons," in imitation of "Indian Cottons," were in 1590 made of wool not cotton. Calicos were first imported into England about 1631 from Calicut a town in the Madras Presidency. The trade in these beautiful printed and hand-painted cottons developed rapidly and the clamour against them became so great that in 1721 a statute was passed by England prohibiting their use. All this was changed, however, with the discoveries of Cartwright, Compton, and Arkwright, and with the application of steam-power to the spinning and weaving of cotton in 1786. A thousand and one mechanical contrivances and improved methods appeared in rapid succession. Manchester was in consequence soon placed in such a position of advantage that it was then recognised that the prohibition against imported goods was a violation of the first principles of political economy. It will presently be shown that the cotton plant first grown in Europe belongs to what might be called the Occidental series—one closely allied to, but distinct from, the Oriental assemblage of India and China.

*American Achievements.*—Coincident with the mechanical and manufacturing progression accomplished in Europe, has to be mentioned the agricultural successes of the American and West Indian planters. The year 1621 is that generally accepted when cotton cultivation was commenced in the United States. The seed used is stated to have been procured from the West Indies and from the Levant. The former would most probably have been Sea Island cotton (*G. barbadense*, *Lin. Sp. Pl.*) and the latter the so-called Asiatic cotton (*G. herbaceum*, *Lin.*). In 1733 cotton-growing was commenced in Carolina, and in 1734 the plant was raised in Georgia from seed supplied by Philip Miller of Chelsea—doubtless the plant to which he gave name of *G. hirsutum*, and which Linnæus incorporated with his *Species Plantarum*. The first consignment of cotton from Georgia reached England in 1741.

In the year 1700 the total amount of raw cotton imported by Great Britain was one million pounds; in 1750 three million pounds; and in 1800 fifty one million pounds, of which nearly seven million pounds came from India. About this time England drew her supplies from India, the West Indies, South America, and the Eastern Mediterranean regions. In 1784 a ship arrived at Liverpool with fourteen bales of cotton from the United States, and of that quantity eight bales were confiscated on the ground that so much cotton could not have been produced by the States. In 1786 Sea Island cotton was commenced to be cultivated in Georgia—the seed having been procured from the Bahamas. This was doubtless *G. barbadense*, *Linn. Sp. Pl.* Two years later the first exports to England were made from that stock. In 1790 cotton was successfully grown in South Carolina, and in that year the exports from America to Europe were eighteen bales. In 1791 the total crop of the United States was returned at two million pounds. In 1793 the saw-gin was invented by Whitney. In 1794 the exports of cotton from the United States to Great Britain were returned at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million pounds, and in 1800 at eighteen million pounds. The crop of the United States was in 1801 forty eight million pounds, of which South Carolina contributed 20, Georgia 10, Virginia 5, North Carolina 4, Tennessee 1 million pounds, and the total exports were that year twenty million pounds.

I have mentioned these historic facts since they have an important bearing on the origin of the cottons presently being grown in America. On the discovery of the New World, cotton was found under cultivation, and it has since been satisfactorily established that it very possibly had been grown there from quite as remote an antiquity as in India. Some form or other of cotton was found by the Spaniards from the West Indies to Peru, and from Mexico to Brazil. But it seems fairly certain that the indigenous cultivated species were *G. peruvianum*, *G. mexicanum*, and *G. brasiliense*, and not the forms that are at the present day most extensively grown and most highly prized on the American continent. The most important American cottons of the present day were, as already stated, derived from the West Indies and Europe.

*West Indies.*—It is believed that in 1657 cotton had actually been experimentally grown on some of the sugar estates of Barbados. We also read that early in the 18th century cotton had become an important auxiliary crop in Jamaica, Trinidad and elsewhere in the West Indies. Several writers allude to at least two, if not three, of the best known cotton plants of the world as having been found in a truly wild state in the West Indies. As already indicated, they supplied America with its finest seed, but the cultivation of cotton in these islands seems to have been given up in favour of sugar, thus leaving the American growers an absolutely free market in the British supply. There is nothing to show that the retirement of the West Indies was in any sense due to inability to produce as fine if not finer cottons than those grown in America. On the contrary it seems fairly certain that the most prized cottons of the world (at the present day) all, or nearly all, originated in these islands. The American and West Indian series form an assemblage very distinct from that of the Old World. The leaves are very much larger, broader, nothing like so deeply segmented and the bracteoles much more lucinate than those of India, China, Africa, and Egypt. Being also very highly cultivated states the seeds are mostly naked, after the removal of the long silky floss. But due to their higher cultivation they are collectively much more liable to the ravages of pests and blights than are the Indian cottons. The so-called short staples of the American series are usually longer than the long staples of India, but as manifesting the great progress made by the American farmers it may be added that the short staples of the New World belong for the most part to the Occidental series already mentioned.

The New World it will thus be seen had been rapidly and most successfully established as an important source of supply in competition with the Old, and what was to India an even more serious aspect, the American and West Indian cottons were early recognised as superior to those of Asia. In a remarkable short time, therefore, the whole aspect of the cotton trade of the world changed. India fell into a position of secondary importance. The West Indies gave attention to indigo



in preference to cotton, as their auxilliary crop, but soon abandoned indigo and concentrated attention on sugar. America, on the other hand, gave cotton production a prominent position in its agricultural enterprise, and with surprising rapidity distanced India both in quality and quantity. Instead of furnishing Europe with raw cotton and cotton goods, India now became dependent on England for her own supplies of the finer cotton textiles and a large import trade was in consequence established. The triumph was thus complete of improved mechanical contrivances and intelligent agriculture, over hereditary skill and child-like traditions.



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

President of the British Cotton Growing Association.

*India's Second Life in Cotton.*—But the dawn of India's second life in the cotton industries broke with the establishment of her first steam-power spinning and weaving factories. As in Europe so in India, that new life meant the gradual annihilation of hand-loom weaving, and the concentration of the weavers in the larger towns. It might almost be said that already steam-power, especially in spinning, has driven hand labour out of the market. Large factories have sprung into existence all over India, more especially in Bombay, and are yearly being multiplied. Native capital is being poured into them to an extent not experienced in any other modern industry. It has for example been computed that at present £12,000,000 are invested in the cotton mills of India. They are directly and indirectly giving employment to 350,000 persons, or say one in every 660 of the entire population of India. The outcry occasionally heard against these spinning and weaving mills is purely sentimental. They have checked, and are continuously checking, the importation of foreign cotton goods, woven of foreign cotton, and have thus retained the area of Indian cotton cultivation at approximately double what it would have now become,

had the Indian growers been entirely dependent on the hand-loom weavers for the purchase of their produce. To attempt to bolster up the effete methods and appliances of bygone times (seriously recommended by those presumed to be the friends and advisers of the indigenous handicrafts) would of necessity involve the suppression of national aspirations, and the exposure of India to an even fiercer foreign competition than at present.

*Agricultural Defects.*—However much Indian art and indigenous industries may suffer, progression in line with the manufacturing enterprise of civilization is in the best interests of the country, and should not and indeed cannot be obstructed. But the obstacle to greater success than already achieved, lies not in European competition, but in the defective systems of agriculture that prevail in India, and in the ignorance and poverty of the cultivators.

*India Imports Raw Cotton.*—The most surprising feature of the modern Indian traffic, may be said to be the discovery that the people of India are gradually but surely demanding a higher grade textile than can be produced from the present inferior cotton supplied by the Indian growers. Year

by year India has in consequence to import more and more high-grade cotton from Egypt, so that the future of the industry may very appropriately be described as an agricultural rather than an industrial problem.

*Low Grade Demanded.*—It may confidently be affirmed that, just as England drifted into the production of the higher cotton yarns and the finer cotton goods, due to the liberal supply of superior fibre derived from America, so in the like manner the steam power factories of India drifted naturally into the production of the lower class goods, as a consequence of the inferior cotton grown in India. And this tendency of manufacturing enterprise of necessity reacted on the agricultural interests of India, and degraded rather than improved the staple. If the manufacturer would practically pay no more for a long than for a short staple, the ambition of the Indian cultivator naturally became one of discovering the plant that would give the highest yield of that quality. In consequence, and within the past twenty to thirty years, the fine long stapled cottons of India—the cottons that at one time were much admired and found a ready sale in Europe—have gradually disappeared and a most productive inferior race taken their place. Until quite recently the affirmation was accepted as a truism, that if it paid the cultivator better to produce an inferior rather than a superior grade, he was the best and the only judge. But that the state of affairs should come about in which low grade yarns would be refused both in India and China, and inferior cottons thus become an absolute drug on the market, never seems to have been contemplated as possible. And yet it may unhesitatingly be affirmed that it has actually come about that the future prosperity of the Indian cotton industry turns very largely on whether or not the Indian cultivator can produce a very much superior cotton to that presently being grown in India. It may thus be said that India is at present as keenly interested in the problem of cotton improvement as are Great Britain, the United States, the West Indies, Africa, and Australia.

I now turn to certain

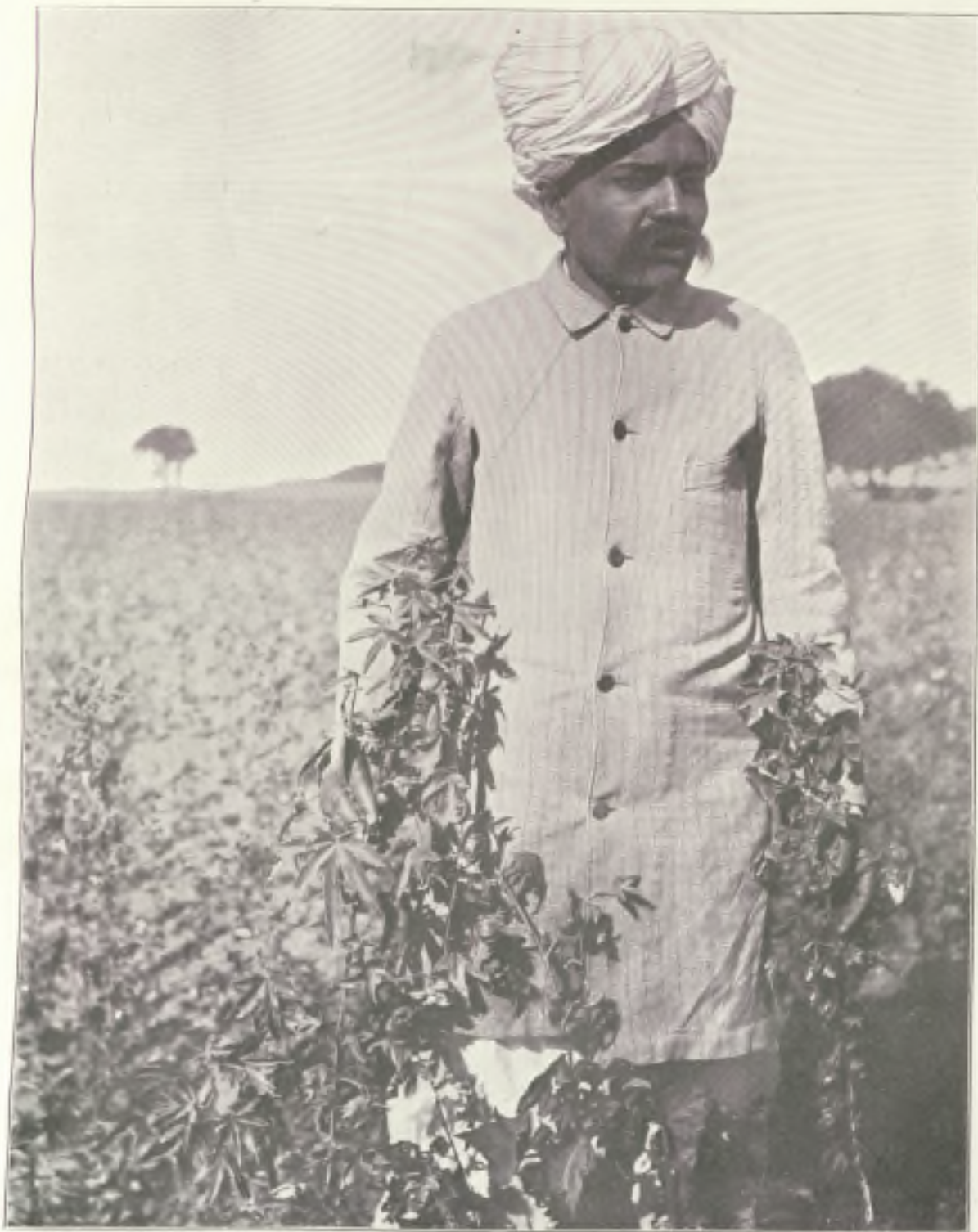
## II—Industrial and Manufacturing Aspects.

The food crops of India occupy something like 192 million acres of the best culturable lands, and the non-food crops have assigned to them only 30 million acres in all. The portion normally under cotton is from  $8\frac{1}{2}$  to 10 million acres in British India, or including the Native States, from 14 to 15 million acres. About one half the total cotton area is located in Bombay and Berar. The other half is made up of, say, one million acres in each of the following provinces:—Madras, the Central Provinces, the United Provinces, and the Punjab, and about 100,000 acres in each of the following Provinces:—Bengal, Assam, Burma, and Sind.

*Indian Production.*—It has been estimated that the Indian yield of cotton is usually from 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million bales (each of 400 lbs.) or say 9,000,000 cwt. of cleaned cotton. A little under half the production is required to feed the Indian steam-power spinning factories, and from the circumstance that approximately the amount represented by the other half is normally exported as raw cotton, it may be inferred that remarkably little cotton is now-a-days spun by hand. In fact the hand loom weavers hardly, if ever, spin their own yarn, but prefer to purchase their supplies from the importers of foreign yarn or the dealers in Indian steam-power yarn.

*Indian Spinning.*—In 1903 the Indian cotton spinning mills produced 560 million pounds of yarn. About 15 per cent. of that quantity, or say  $80\frac{1}{2}$  million pounds were returned as high counts, mostly 31's to 40's. The imports of twists and yarns were in 1888-89,  $52\frac{1}{2}$  million pounds; in 1898-99 they were  $45\frac{1}{2}$  million pounds; and in 1902-3 they had still further declined and were returned at  $33\frac{1}{2}$  million pounds. The expansion of the production of high count yarns is but one of the many evidences of the prosperity of the Indian mills. Although it has witnessed many and severe fluctuations, the Indian cotton industry may be described as highly satisfactory and encouraging. It has passed through many periods of depression, such as the temporary loss of both the supply and demand of India, caused





**Cultivator in the Cotton field in Ikathbiawar.**

Holding in his left hand the Long Staple and in his right the Short Staple Plant of Guzerat.

through famine, the scarcity of labour due to plague, and the partial loss of the foreign demands in consequence of the war in China. But notwithstanding these and such like disadvantages, capital has year by year poured into the industry and mills have multiplied.

*Taxation.*—It would be a digression from my immediate purpose to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the Indian industry in detail, such as its proximity to the supply of raw material, its cheap labour, and its large local and neighbouring foreign markets. So also it would serve no good purpose to raise the controversial issues that centre around the silver currency and the present counter-vailing duties. Suffice it therefore to furnish a few of the more striking particulars. The cotton goods imported into



Cotton being brought home by the Cultivators in Katbiawar.

The Girnar Hills in the distance.

India were for many years subjected to a duty of 5 per cent. This tax existed from long before the Mutiny. It was raised at one time to 10 per cent., at another lowered to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., and finally in 1875 it was still further reduced, viz. to 5 per cent. From 1882 to 1894 India was absolutely a free country. But in the latter year (1894) an import duty was re-imposed on most articles except cotton. The omission of cotton was loudly condemned by the owners of the Indian mills, and in consequence certain duties were subsequently imposed.

The cotton goods and yarns imported into India consist very largely of the finer qualities, whereas those produced in India (as already observed) are mainly of the lower grades. But the medium



qualities overlap each other, and hence an effort was made to remove the supposed protective character of a 5 per cent. import duty on yarn by an excise duty of 5 per cent. on Indian spun medium qualities (such as those above 20's). But it was early felt that this endeavour to equalize the burden of taxation on the two competing sets of manufacturers (Indian and Foreign) was not a success, and hence in 1896 all yarns were exempt, and at the present day a tax of 3½ per cent. on power loom manufactures is collected whether imported or woven locally. It was believed that this new form of tax would act as a countervailing duty in favour of the indigenous or village hand-loom industry.

*Continuous Progression.*—But were the statistician called upon to fix the periods of these extreme variations in taxation, as expressed by the official returns of trade, his attempt to do so would, it is believed, prove a complete failure, since whether taxed or free the expansion of the Indian cotton industry has been very nearly uniform and continuous for many years past.

*Indian Cotton Mills.*—The first cotton mill founded in India was the Fort Gloster (or as it is now called the Bowreah Cotton Mills) near Calcutta. This was established in 1828. Some years later (1851) the Bombay Spinning and Weaving Company opened their mills. Ten years later there were a dozen cotton mills in India. In 1879 the number had increased to 56. In 1896 there were 154, and last year 192 mills, besides a larger number of steam-power ginning and pressing factories. Within the past decade the looms at work in India have been increased by 69 per cent. and the spindles by 52 per cent.

*Value to the Cultivators of Cotton Growing.*—It would be beside my present purpose to even touch on all the important issues of the cotton trade, but there are one or two circumstances of agricultural importance that I desire to state before closing these more or less introductory observations. The area surveyed as under cotton, is usually greater than that actually returned as cropped, due to failure of crops. Cotton is largely grown as a mixed crop, and moreover it occupies the soil for varying periods in different provinces or in accordance with the form of plant cultivated. The most general crop is on the soil for more than one season, and indeed some forms are perennial. From these and such like considerations it is often difficult to give the acreage yield or to forecast the total production. But if we assume that the half annual crop worked up in India, is of equal value with that declared as exported, it may be affirmed that the total value, to the Indian cultivators of the cotton crop, comes to something like 26 crores of rupees, or say seventeen million pounds sterling. The agricultural interests involved, therefore, apart altogether from the capital invested in, and the employment afforded by power-loom factories, are very considerable. Improvement in quality and expansion of production, if such be possible, are therefore problems that interest India very considerably. India at all events cannot risk the loss of any portion of her present agricultural and industrial interests in cotton.

#### Recapitulation.

But, Ladies and Gentlemen, my time is limited, and I must therefore rest satisfied that the observations already made may afford me sufficient data upon which to set forth some of the more important deductions that I desire presently to submit for your consideration. I may therefore conclude the present remarks by the following recapitulation:—

- 1.—The cultivation and manufacture of Cotton have been known and practised in India from comparatively ancient times. It may accordingly be assumed that at least some portion of the stock presently cultivated may have been derived from one or more indigenous species.
- 2.—Some of the finest cottons met with in the world are natives of the West Indies, or at all events were first made known from seed supplied by the West Indies.
- 3.—Cotton cultivation is a comparatively modern industry in China and Japan.
- 4.—With the discoveries made in Europe and America in the 18th century, India lost her pre-eminence in the world's supply of cotton goods, and shortly thereafter became dependent on

England for a large proportion of the cotton cloth requisite for her own necessities.

5.—Subsequently, and with the establishment of power-loom factories in India, a further change took place, namely a demand for inferior staples. This had the immediate and direct effect of lowering the quality of the fibre grown in India.

6.—Recently, however, India has once more began to take a distinct place, as a cotton manufacturing country, and for some few years has indeed successfully contested her own as well as certain foreign markets, against European goods.

7.—Lastly, a new feature has still more recently assumed importance, namely the growth of a taste for better class goods than can be produced from the major portion of the cottons presently grown in India. And this circumstance has originated the most startling departure of all, namely the establishment of an import trade in high-grade raw cottons to be spun and worked up at the Indian mills. If it pays, (as seems to be the case) to carry raw cotton from Egypt to India, to be there manufactured, the future may find India lessening rather than increasing England's supply of the raw material, unless some method be discovered of improving and extending the production of superior grade cottons in India.

### III—Cotton Improvement

I have stated that degeneration of the Indian staple followed on the establishment of steam power spinning. I trust I may in your opinion be able to fully substantiate that statement, but if it be possible for a product to be profitably adapted to a required inferior standard—developed downwards if it may be so expressed—it surely cannot be impossible to reverse the process and develop upwards. For many years past, I have on every occasion upheld the opinion that when India seriously demanded superior grade cottons, and its scientific officers earnestly braced themselves to the task of finding such, progression would be found not only possible but comparatively easy of accomplishment.

*Obstacles.*—But, I would remind you that the agricultural tracts suitable for cotton, so far as India is concerned, are in the hands of peasant farmers, who as a rule are not easily displaced from their hereditary holdings; that all experience has gone to prove that ordinary agricultural operations cannot usually be more profitably conducted by European planters, with large estates, than by the aggregation of peasant cultivators; and hence the chief, if not the only, obstacle to progression lies in the ignorance and poverty of the existing cultivators. All experiments made in India have to be exclusively performed and financed by the Government, and in the hope that the successes attained may be gradually adopted by the people.

*Botanical Facts.*—I need hardly explain that the cotton of commerce is a woolly coating found around the seeds of the species of *Gossypium*—a genus of tropical and sub-tropical plants that belongs to the Natural Order Malvacæ. But it is perhaps not so generally known that *Gossypium* is practically the only genus in the entire *Vegetable Kingdom*, in which the better known forms (or at all events those most frequently mentioned both by scientific and popular writers), are purely and simply cultivated plants. Botanists as a rule refuse to pay any attention to the races or varieties of plants established by planters or gardeners. The scientific names given by botanists to species refer exclusively to wild forms. Cultivation so very frequently changes certain structural formations that widely different looking plants have often to be referred to one and the same species. Gardeners' names as a rule denote the colour or shape of the flower, the markings on the leaves or stems, the succulent and edible developments of the root or fruit, and such like peculiarities. Botanical names are based on structural features intimately associated with the life of the species and therefore rarely subject to change. But in the herbaria of the world, the species of *Gossypium* are grouped under what have to be characterised as quasi-scientific names. These have been given by botanists, during the past 200 years or so, to the cultivated cottons, and the purely wild species, discovered from time to time, have come to be



treated as subordinate curiosities, instead of having been looked to as affording the key for the classification of the cultivated forms.

*Errors in Nomenclature.*—From the very earliest times errors have passed unchallenged from one publication to another, until it has come about that it is very nearly impossible to know what plant a writer refers to when he uses either the so-called botanical or the more general commercial names, for the cultivated cottons of the world. I have repeatedly urged that this state of affairs is the most serious obstacle that exists to progression. It would occupy much time to lay before you anything like a satisfactory statement of the ignorance that prevails, and become invidious to mention modern examples. The argument above all others that I desire to urge on your consideration is the imperative necessity for more critical study of the cultivated cottons of the world as a first stage in all efforts of cotton improvement or of extended rational cotton production. I shall, however, give you briefly one or two illustrations drawn from the publications of the earlier botanical writers.

*Sea Island versus Bourbon.*—In 1753, Linnæus published the first edition of his *Species Plantarum*, and unfortunately in that great work laid the foundation of several of the most serious errors that exist in the literature of *Gossypium*. He gave, for example, the habitat of *G. herbaceum* as America instead of Asia, and associated *G. arboreum* with India instead of Africa. We know that the latter species is cultivated in both these countries, but in Africa only has it been found in a truly wild condition, and we must presume therefore, that its habitat is more likely to be Africa than India. But far more serious was the confusion occasioned by Linnæus when he associated the plants described by his predecessors with specimens he chanced to have in his own herbarium. For example, Plukenet had figured and described a herbaceous annual cotton under the name of *G. barbadense*. His specimen was apparently not seen by Linnæus, but as it is in the Sloane Herbarium (now preserved in the British Museum) it can be inspected and compared with Linnæus' type in the herbarium of the Linnæan Society. Plukenet's plant is doubtless one of the numerous races known as Sea Island, Bamia, and other herbaceous annual field crops. Linnæus appears to have associated that with a plant utterly different both botanically and commercially, namely, Bourbon cotton—a plant very frequently met with as a perennial bush or small tree. But in his herbarium there is also a sheet of *G. obtusifolium*, Roxb. which Linnæus named *G. barbadense*, and Smith corrected into *G. hirsutum*. We are thus driven to designate the Sea Island Cotton as *G. barbadense* Linn. Sp. Pl. non Herb., and to call the Bourbon Cotton *G. barbadense*, Linn. Herb. non Sp. Pl. Many years later Todaro apparently recognised the confusion between the Sea Island and Bourbon cottons and proposed to restrict the name *G. barbadense* to the one, and to give to the other a new name, viz: *G. maritimum*. But unfortunately he reversed the position and applied his new name to Plukenet's plant which should, according to all the rules observed by botanists, be *G. barbadense* proper. It is believed to be the cotton grown very largely in the Southern States, also in Central America, in Porto Rico, Jamaica, and to some extent in Queensland and New South Wales, and was very possibly indigenous to the West Indies.

*Georgian, New Orleans, Uplands, Dharwar, &c.*—But another similar error was made by Linnæus, and one, if anything, even more serious in its subsequent influence on the study of *Gossypium*. Philip Miller in his "Gardeners' Dictionary" had described a cotton raised at the Chelsea Botanic Garden, in 1732, from seed procured apparently from the West Indies. This Linnæus named *G. hirsutum*, and transcribed to his own work Miller's description as defining the plant. He also accepted Tournefort as referring to the same species, and hence incorporated the additional character of the seeds having a greenish fuz underneath the wool. In this Linnæus was probably quite correct, and he was followed both by Thunberg and Roxburgh. But in his own herbarium there are two sheets, one of which, in Linnæus' own handwriting, bears the name *G. hirsutum*, on the other Linnæus wrote *G. barbadense*, but, as already mentioned, this was subsequently corrected by Smith into *G. hirsutum*.

Both these specimens are undoubted examples of the most general Indian form of cotton, the one which Roxburgh called *G. obtusifolium* and some of the manifestations of which he also recognised as forms of *G. herbaceum*. This specially Indian plant was re-named by Todaro as *C. Wightianum* in order to separate it, in all its forms collectively from *G. herbaceum*. It will thus be seen that *G. hirsutum*, a second example of the more important American cottons was hopelessly confused with one of the most prevalent of Indian forms. *G. hirsutum*, *Linn. Sp. Pl. non Herb.* is the Georgian, New Orleans, the Uplands and the Saw-ginned Dharwar cotton of commerce: *G. hirsutum*, *Linn. Herb. non Sp. Pl.*, is the Surat, Berar, &c., cotton of India. Lastly, as already stated, so far as can be discovered the cultivated stock of this plant, met with in America was derived from the West Indies.



Mr. J. A. Button,

Vice-Chairman of the British Cotton Growing Association.

*G. religiosum* or Nankin Cotton.—

But there is still a further error. Linnæus while he possessed no specimen of the true *G. barbadense* of Plukenet (Sea Island cotton) has in his herbarium a sheet which I recognise as being the Bourbon form of *G. barbadense*. Upon that sheet Linnæus wrote the name *G. religiosum*. This was subsequently identified by him with Tournefort's "Xylon Americanum præstantissimum semine virescente"; in his M.S. corrections of his own copy of his great work the reference to Tournefort was however struck out by Linnæus; and still more recently the plant in his herbarium was corrected by Smith into *G. barbadense*. It will thus be seen that the very inception of that most perplexing of all names—*G. religiosum*—was misconception and hopeless ambiguity. The prevalent modern opinion is, however, to follow the association of Tournefort's description and accordingly to identify *G. religiosum*, *Linn. Sp. Pl. (non Herb.)* as a variety of *G. hirsutum*, *Linn. Sp. Pl.* This view was upheld by Roxburgh, who very properly remarked that "*G. religiosum*,

*Willd.*, Nankin or brown cotton is allied to *G. hirsutum*," but he hints that a plant raised from seed obtained from Nankin direct, had proved a different plant. In fact during Roxburgh's time and for many years subsequently any and every *khaki*-coloured cotton was called *G. religiosum* or Nankin cotton. But by some writers *G. arboreum*, from being the cotton recommended to be used by the Brahmans of India, is called *G. religiosum*: so also a form of *G. brasiliense* is frequently called *G. religiosum* on account of its being reported to be found in the gardens near temples.



*Arboreous and Herbaceous.*—So far for the Linnæan errors and ambiguities. But confusion was only confounded by most subsequent writers. Perhaps few stumbling blocks have been more disastrous than the name *G. aboreum*. The species that bears that name botanically was first recognised by Plukenet and correctly transcribed to his great *Species Plantarum* by Linnæus. In the warmer tracts, all the species of cotton become perennial; it is only in regions with a cold winter that they are herbaceous and annual. When found as perennials they either assume the form of large bushes or small trees, or they become climbing shrubs. Where met with in an arboreous condition all cottons, very nearly, have been called *G. arboreum* by unscientific writers.

Of American and West Indian forms the Sea Island (herbaceous) and the Bourbon (arboreous) cottons, preserve a remarkable parallelism with the Surat and other high class cottons of India, and the true arboreous cotton of that country, viz., *G. arboreum*, *Linn.* The perennial aborescent states, in both sets, are the chief manifestations met with in a wild or naturalised condition. They have the young twigs or leaves greenish-purple in colour, are in texture thick, glossy and sub-glabrous, and have the flowers more frequently purple than yellow. These are the peculiarities apparently that led Dr. Buchanan-Hamilton to give (in 1809) the name *G. nigrum-læve* to Bourbon cotton, and hence no doubt the ambiguous name *G. nigrum* used by some writers to arboreous cottons collectively, more especially those with a naked black seed.

The herbaceous forms are usually pale green in colour, are soft, hairy and thin in texture, with the flowers pale yellow and with or without a purple throat, but never entirely purple.

*Kidney or Brazilian Cotton.*—But the arboreous cotton that has given most trouble may be said to be the Kidney or Chain cotton, known also as Brazilian and Pernambuco cotton. By some writers this has been called Ava cotton, and by others claimed to be indigenous to India. It is, so far as India is concerned however, a garden curiosity that has on one or two occasions been found as an escape on road sides or in the jungles around temples, but it is in no sense an indigenous Indian species. It was first figured and described by Plukenet and referred to by Sloane in *The Natural History of Jamaica* (published 1725), but did not attract attention until it was scientifically described by James Macfadyen in his *Flora of Jamaica* (published 1837) under the name of *G. brasiliense*, and by Roxburgh in his *Flora of India* under the name of *G. acuminatum*. Linnæus has in his herbarium a specimen of what I take to be this plant, but it is not named nor is it alluded to in his *Species Plantarum*. Spasmodically this plant has been collected in India very nearly every decade, and its discovery written up in the public press as an indigenous tree cotton of the greatest possible interest and value, but it has made no material progress as a source of commercial supply, nor indeed is ever very likely to do so. Its large boles of agglutinated seeds are, like the Garo hill cotton, very attractive but not profitable, so far as Indian experience goes.

*Temperate Asiatic and European Cotton.*—*G. herbaceum* is the only species of the genus that Linnæus described with, what we are justified in calling, the type of the species in his hands. Unfortunately, however, even with this species he made a mistake, for as already observed, he gave it the habitat of America. In his second edition of the *Species Plantarum* he cites Rumphius as figuring and describing this plant, but omitted to add in consequence, India as an additional habitat.

After examining the cottons preserved in most large herbaria, more especially those that contain the types of the species of *Gossypium*, I have come to the final conclusion that all the plants that unquestionably match the original types of this species have been procured from Spain, Greece, Sicily, Italy, Algiers, the Dardanelles, Turkey, Armenia, Persia, and Afghanistan. No examples of it have been met with by me as coming from any part of India proper. I am disposed, however, to think that much of the cultivated so-called *G. herbaceum* of the more temperate tracts of America may be the true *G. herbaceum* *Linn.*, and we know as a matter of history that the original stock of some proportion of the upland cotton was acquired from the Levant. It is a warm temperate plant that differs as much

from the so-called *G. herbaceum* of India as do any two other cottons that could be mentioned. It was on this account presumably that Todaro proposed the name *G. Wightianum* for the Indian series of cottons that by most botanists have been spoken of as *G. herbaceum*. It will thus be seen that from practical considerations (if not from botanical evidence) the tropical plant allied to *G. herbaceum*, met with in India, should be regarded as very different from the temperate plant of Persia, Arabia, Armenia, Europe, and America. But it was perhaps unfortunate that Todaro multiplied scientific synonyms by making the effort to isolate from each other subsidiary forms with characteristics that clearly had been originated by cultivation, and are preserved exclusively when retained under certain environments. It is perhaps sufficient for all purposes to say that the Indian assemblage



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**View of a Native Cotton Field cleared from virgin soil and planted with American Cotton.**

of varieties and races of cotton, allied to *G. herbaceum*, *Linn.* are sufficiently distinct collectively to warrant their separation from the temperate series. De Candolle would appear to have given them the name *G. indicum*; Dr. Buchanan-Hamilton recognised their independence under the name *G. viridescens* (in contrast with his *G. nigrum*, a name as already stated that he assigned to the sub-glabrous purple coloured arboreal cottons); and Roxburgh took even a more accurate conception when he described and figured his *G. obtusifolium*. The name *G. Wightianum*, proposed by Todaro, was, therefore, very nearly unnecessary, for if he could not see his way to adopt the name *G. obtusifolium* as covering the entire series, it would have been more in accord with botanic usage had he



associated the name of Roxburgh with these plants rather than that of Wight, seeing that Roxburgh's published description was the earliest attempt at their systematic separation.

Speaking generally there may be said to be three great sets of cotton plants met with in India :—

FIRST SERIES. *G. obtusifolium*, *Roxb.* (*G. Wightianum*, *Tod.*) clearly related to *G. herbaceum*, *Linn.* In these the wool is harsh, woolly in texture and of a dull reddish-yellow white, with the fuz or velvet below that is normally of an ashy-grey colour.

SECOND SERIES. *G. arboreum*, *Linn.*, and its associates—the true tree cotton of Asia, Africa and Egypt. In these the wool is silky and pure white, with the fuz greenish-grey in colour.

THIRD SERIES. Exotic cottons cultivated here and there all over the country and in some instances naturalised. The wool is long and silky, of a pure white colour, and the fuz is very often absent.

*Experimental Improvement.*—To improve the staple of cotton in any country there are two directions usually followed :—

- (a) Natural Selection.
- (b) Acclimatisation.

The first principal involved is to recognise that existing stock is not sufficiently suited to requirements as might be ; in other words knowledge of the need for improvement and the direction of improvement, are fundamental principles. The next stage obviously is a keen power of observation in order to perceive indications of improvement on the lines desired. But these are branches of intellectual culture originated and developed by ordinary intelligence and personal advantage. Scientific training is by no means indispensable, though its possession would be highly advantageous.

I have gone into some detail regarding the errors and ambiguities of the literature of cotton, and my object has been to exemplify the necessity for a more accurate and precise basis in order that it may become possible for the inhabitants of one part of the world to take full advantage of the knowledge and experience gained in another, and thus be able to obviate self-evident failure and loss of time. There can be no doubt that each of the far-famed centres of Indian cotton manufacture originated, or were originated, by the existence of specially suitable cottons. These were, doubtless, the final expression of centuries of adaptation and selection. Some of the finer Dacca muslins were woven of yarns that measured 400's to 600's. But Arni, Chanderi, Kota, Rhotak, and Benares were and to some extent are still, each famed for their fine muslins. Dr. James Taylor published in 1851 an exhaustive account of the muslins of Dacca. He tells us that a skein of yarn measured in his presence proved to be 250 miles in length to the pound of cotton. But the cotton spun into yarn of such fineness was not a long-stapled one. Dr. Taylor tells us in fact that it was so short as to be unsuited for machine spinning, but, nevertheless, the Dacca spinners were able to produce a finer result with their own cotton than when furnished (as they were by Dr. Taylor) with the finest long-staple cottons of America. The tendency of the fibre to expand with moisture is, he tells us, the criterion by which the Native spinners judge of the suitability for fine spinning. English yarn, moreover, swells on being bleached while Dacca spun thread shrinks and becomes stronger and finer the more frequently it is bleached. It would thus appear probable that the English spinner may still have something to learn from the handworker and something that might possibly lead to the spinning of considerably shorter staples than are at present considered possible.

*Degeneration and Change.*—But we have in this story of Indian cotton a most instructive example of natural selection. A long staple was apparently not the object aimed at, but rather a fine staple that would shrink on being bleached.

*Herbaceous Red-Flowered Field Crop.*—Not many years ago the cottons of Surat were very much longer in staple than they are to-day. I have no hesitation in making this statement. But we possess circumstantial evidence. Dr. Hove was deputed to India by the British Government in 1787 in order to study the cottons being cultivated in Guzerat. His report was not published until 1851 but he there describes three forms—*first*, a yellow-flowered form which yielded the best staple and was always grown on the low-lying lands: *second*, a red-flowered kind cultivated on the higher sandy soils which afforded a short but fine staple: and *third*, a peculiar cotton met with in Kathiawar. Dr. Hove's botanical specimens may be seen in the British Museum Herbarium and there are two interesting facts regarding them—the red-flowered herbaceous crop is nowhere to be met with in Guzerat at the present day, and the perennial yellow-flowered plant, fairly extensively cultivated in that province, especially in Baroda (*roji* cotton), was apparently not seen by Dr. Hove.

*G. rubicundum* Roxb. *MS. drawing in Kew Library.*—Passing over the entire breadth of India, from West to East, namely, from Guzerat to Dacca, we have a similarly startling fact. Dr. Buchanan-Hamilton, in 1809, collected and described a red-flowered herbaceous plant in Eastern Bengal which he called *G. nigrum* var. *rubicundum*. His specimens of that plant are in the Edinburgh Herbarium. Dr. Buchanan-Hamilton speaks of it as having, in his day, been very common, and extensively cultivated. It does not exist in Bengal at the present day. There can thus be no doubt that a radical change has, from some cause or another, passed over the cotton fields of India.

*G. neglectum*, Tod.—The fine long staples of Guzerat have to a large extent disappeared, and their places been taken by a comparatively new plant. Within the past twenty or thirty years this has passed like a wave over India. It yields prolifically and profitably a harsh woolly short staple. It is botanically a cross between *G. obtusifolium* and *G. arboreum*. Wherever met with it bears the name of some neighbouring district, or is called "foreign cotton" or "English cotton." This is the plant that Todaro described under the name of *G. neglectum*. It is without doubt the direct consequence of the demand created by the steam-power mills of India for cheap short staples, and it was produced by the natural powers of selection possessed and instantly used by the Indian cultivators, when and where their advantage had been fully established. One circumstance is worthy of note: the undoubted examples of this plant that exist in herbaria are all modern. None of them bear dates a century ago. In the illustrations that accompany this paper, the Kathiawar cultivator standing in his field is seen holding in one hand the long shoot of *G. neglectum*, in the other the shorter plant *G. obtusifolium* (*G. Wightianum*). In that province it is customary to find the two plants growing side by side in the same field. The other illustration shows the crop being carried home and stacked and ready to be sold to the dealers. In the illustration also the Girnar Hills are seen in the distance.

*Presence of a Fuz or Under Velvet on the Seed.*—The majority of American writers would seem to regard *G. hirsutum* as only a cultivated state of *G. herbaceum*. It is of course probable that the entire panorama of cultivated cottons are but sports, races, or crosses between two or three species or even between varieties of one species. If such an opinion were established as a fact, then *G. hirsutum* might possibly be found more nearly related to *G. herbaceum* than are any of the other New World forms. So again the argument has been advanced by many writers, that the presence of a fuz or velvet coating on the seeds of *G. hirsutum*, supports the opinion of an Asiatic strain in that plant. But it is just possible that many of the so-called American forms of *G. herbaceum* do not belong to that species at all, but are races of *G. hirsutum*. It is worthy of reiteration that early in the 18th century, when Miller, Linnæus and Tournefort, described *G. hirsutum*, it was spoken of as procured from the West Indies and as possessing a green fuz, and thus long anterior, very possibly to the introduction of *G. herbaceum* into America. In fact it seems fairly certain that the American supply of *G. hirsutum* was from the Chelsea Botanic Gardens and thus from the type stock of the species.



Moreover, it is just possible that the presence of the so-called fuz, in certain forms of *Gossypium*, is only an indication of imperfect cultivation. In the wild species there is no distinction into fuz and floss. The woolly coating of the seeds is simply short and the hairs of irregular length, but not separable into two layers. Cultivation would seem to lengthen a certain proportion of the seed-hairs into the commercial floss, thus leaving the balance to constitute the so-called fuz. A further stage, apparently, is the production of a floss in which all the hairs have elongated uniformly, and at the same time formed an easily separable floss, thus giving a naked seed. In the more typical forms of *G. obtusifolium* the fuz is ashy-white, and the wool white tinted with red. In the more typical forms of *G. arboreum* the fuz is greenish coloured, and the wool silky and pure white. In the hybrids, or perhaps more correctly the crosses between these, every intermediate quality of wool and colour of fuz exists, and cultivation by developing or degrading one or other element of the hybridisation may be observed to change characteristic peculiarities of both fuz and floss.

Hence it follows that the argument, often advanced by American writers, that although, *G. herbaceum* has a grey and *G. hirsutum* a green fuz, the one or the other may be witnessed to change colour under different systems of cultivation, or varying conditions of climate and soil, and are accordingly not specifically distinct, is easily enough explained. It would be absurd to base the scientific distinction of two plants on so unimportant a peculiarity, and moreover one that has obviously been acquired by cultivation. If acquired, it would naturally change under varying systems of treatment without involving both plants being viewed as forms of the same species. But speaking of the colour of the fuz and floss, it is not generally known that most of the undoubtedly wild species of *Gossypium* have rufous coloured hairs, so that the white condition may be viewed as purely a consequence of cultivation. In the degraded condition in which some of the American cottons are met with in India to-day, it is not uncommon to find plants which ordinarily have naked seeds, becoming possessed either of a partial or a complete fuz, and all tending to become rufous in colour.

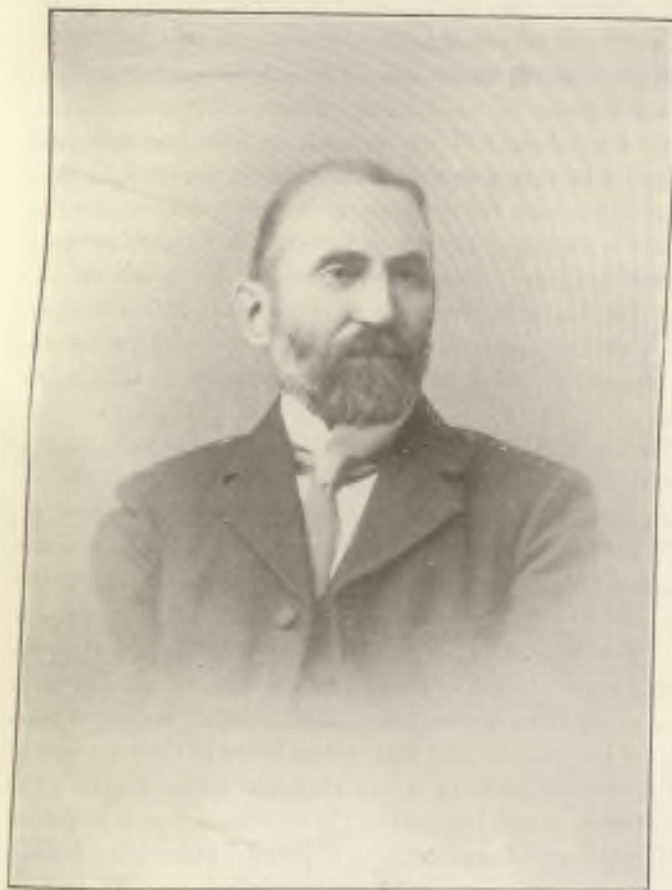
#### Conclusion.

Ladies and gentlemen, your patience I fear must long ago have been exhausted and I hasten therefore to a conclusion. The Government of India tried improvement of cotton by the acclimatisation of the triumphs of other countries for nearly a century. The result may be said to be that every known cotton exists to-day in some part of India. *G. hirsutum* is the Saw-ginned Dhawar cotton of the Deccan. Bourbon cotton is to some extent cultivated in South India. Other forms exist as garden curiosities and a few have escaped into the hedgerows and way-sides: they have been abandoned because found unsuited to India, and thus have become naturalised. But the practical results of a century of acclimatisation have been remarkably little. On three different occasions experiments on a large scale were conducted, but if anything the quality of the Indian staple fell back rather than improved.

On many occasions I have upheld the opinion that by far the most rational and hopeful course would be to attempt improvement by natural selection in direct adaptation to local climatic and soil conditions. For this purpose the indigenous or long acclimatised plants should preferably be used to freshly imported stock. But, as already explained the poverty of the Indian cultivators throws on the Government the entire responsibility of the requisite experiments which to be a success would have to be simultaneously performed in each important cotton growing centre and conducted by trained experts.

One of the foremost contentions that I have endeavoured to press on your attention this afternoon, might be said to be the necessity for more accurate study, botanically and physiologically, of the cultivated and wild species of *Gossypium*. We should not only be able to identify every form of cotton but be in a position to say whether or not cottons proposed to be experimented with in this

country or that stood a reasonable chance of success. We are at present grossly ignorant of the most ordinary particulars regarding the botany and history of the cottons. And this state of affairs cannot be remedied by herbarium work. A survey of the cotton area of the world will have to be personally conducted by one or two experts, followed by searching practical experiments, before we can be in a position to say we know anything of value regarding the cottons of the world. But this much seems fairly certain, from the facts placed before you this afternoon—viz., that *G. barbadense* proper, the Sea Island cotton, if it be not an indigenous species of the West Indies, is at least a cultivated plant that so far as we know came into existence there. It is the plant before all others, therefore, that should, so far as can be judged from our present knowledge, receive the attention of the West Indian Planters.



**Mr. John Atkins, F.C.S.**

Secretary of the British Cotton Growing Association.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think that my duty now is to ask you to give the Lecturer a vote of thanks. If anybody deserves it I believe he does (Hear, hear), because this is probably one of the most important meetings that we have had in the City of London on the great question of Cotton Cultivation, and I do not think it is possible to begin better than by pointing out the enormous difficulties that lie in that cultivation. I will not go into details, it would be presumptuous to do so, inasmuch as it has been pointed out to you that even Linnæus, who is so great an authority on botanical matters, had begun with mistakes which have engendered other mistakes and that the Government of India, after a hundred years cultivation, have come to give the people of India the very worst kind of cotton staple which it is possible for them to have, and, therefore, one of the morals of this Lecture is that we must not follow that example, and that we should certainly start by beginning to study the botany of cotton before we invest a farthing in that industry which is likely to be so productive.

It is perhaps a pity that the lecturer has not given us some ideas, especially in the City of London, as to the prospects, when all his observations have been attended to, of investment in the West

Indies in which, curiously enough, the cotton seems to be indigenous. It is rather a pity that he has not shown what might, with good cultivation, be the return of an estate which is brought up to what he conceives to be the best level of cultivation. And it would be the more interesting to us now that cotton growing and cotton spinning has begun in the West Indies, and I believe in almost every island of the West Indies. (I speak with reserve). Sir Nevile Lubbock might probably confirm that, but in the last report of Sir Daniel Morris, I certainly see that it has begun very favourably in Barbados, Antigua, Nevis, St. Vincent, and even in Trinidad.



Well, such efforts must be encouraged, and I believe the West India Committee are going the right way, by inaugurating lectures of this kind which will be useful to those who invest their money, and will be particularly useful to those who, going out of England, will have the charge of cultivating these estates and making them pay in the end.

We must not forget the markets of America, upon which we so tremendously depend, and which occasionally give us such shocks as we have read of lately in Liverpool and Manchester. It is necessary that England, if this Empire is to be self-supporting, should be able in its staple industry to rely upon the Colonies which can grow cotton, to produce it and deliver it in England, when the Americans choose—which they have a perfect right to do—to make us pay too much for their great staple of cotton. (Hear, hear).

I think that a further lecture on another occasion upon the financial aspect of the great question of cotton growing and cotton cultivation, will be a very desirable addendum to the extremely interesting paper, which we have heard this afternoon, and I think you will all join with me in giving Sir George Watt our very best and most sincere thanks for his able paper. (Cheers.)

MR. A. MORJER LEE: I should like Mr. Chairman, if I am not out of order, to ask one question that springs out of the lecture. We were told that when *Neglectum* established itself to the prejudice of other counts in India as the commercial cotton, the mill owners did not invite the supply of the long staple cotton, giving the preference to the short and worthless *Neglectum*, if I rightly understood the lecturer's remarks. Now, as an intending cotton grower myself, having given orders for planting a considerable area in a small island there, and as the cotton we are all recommended to produce is Sea Island or Long Staple Cotton, I should like to understand why the mill owners of India seem to have favoured the short staple cotton to the long staple cotton, which, as I understand, has been previously somewhat in vogue in India.

SIR GEORGE WATT: Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I can reply to that very easily. The Indian mill owners found that they could not compete against Manchester in the production of the finer goods; they moreover saw that there was a large market in India for the lower class of goods, so consequently the whole of the mills in Bombay and India generally were led to spin the lower counts. They cannot spin the higher counts; the majority of the Bombay mills cannot spin the higher counts at all. You would have to put new machinery into the factories before you could spin them. They run the mills purely and simply for the lower counts. It made no difference to them, therefore, if they got a staple a quarter of inch longer; it did not improve their work in the least; therefore, they would pay no more for it. The cultivators incidentally found that if they could get a short staple it would yield more per acre than the long staple, and that it was more to their interest to grow for the Indian market rather than the Liverpool markets where they had a long staple. The effect of this was practically to bar our cotton coming into Liverpool. There was not a law passed prohibiting it coming into Liverpool, but the Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool practically made it such that it could only be used for upholstering purposes. Consequently India had to look to Germany, where machinery was set up to run for the lower counts and to the Indian market, and they have grown cotton purely and simply for the Continental market.

MR. WILLIAM GILLESPIE: May I ask another question of the lecturer? You indicated, I think, that there was a danger of hybridization. Now, a practical question in the West Indies is this; supposing I for example, being one planter, established a property with Sea Island Cotton and my neighbour perhaps started a plantation near me with some other seed, presumably, for instance, the American seed or the Brazilian, might we not find both our staples injured very seriously by the proximity of the properties?

SIR GEORGE WATT: Certainly that might happen; but what would more likely happen would be the survival of that form best suited to the neighbourhood. You might perhaps find a hybrid more

suited to both neighbourhoods. If your crop was better for your local property your neighbour would very soon abandon his and take to yours, or you would both of you find you had produced a hybrid better suited to your environment than either of the original stocks. I do not think that you would meet with any real difficulty there, but what I said with regard to hybridization was more because it has been stated that you cannot cross-breed cottons. Now, in my opinion there probably is only two species in the whole world of the cultivated cotton. They are crosses; they are none of them hybrids; "hybrid" is too big a word; they are only crosses between varieties; they are not crosses between species even; they are not hybrids. If they were pure hybrids they probably would not be fertile. They are not hybrids but crosses of merely cultivated seeds; therefore, you need not see any danger of that kind; the form most suited to your neighbourhood would survive undoubtedly.

SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK: Before we separate this afternoon I am sure we would wish to pass a very hearty vote of thanks to Sir Hubert Jerningham for taking the chair and coming amongst us. I am sure we all very highly appreciate his kindness in doing so. Sir Hubert has referred to me with regard to the growth of cotton in the West Indies. I certainly can fully confirm what he says. There is no doubt we are making an earnest and a serious attempt to make an experiment of cotton growing and to give it every chance of success. I am bound to say I think we have got a great deal more to learn yet about it. As you know, we are now working in close co-operation with the British Cotton Growing Association, which is doing such a good work, and have asked if it would be possible for more experts to be sent to the West Indian Colonies, a request which is now under consideration. I do not think our planters in the West Indies know as much as they would like to know, and I believe Sir Hubert Jerningham is perfectly right in suggesting that it would be very advantageous if we had another lecture on cotton, going into the methods of growing cotton and the special seeds that the different Colonies should grow, and how the plant is to be treated, and how the different insect pests and the fungus pests are all to be dealt with. I think that that will give us another pleasant afternoon's enjoyment, and I hope we shall be able to arrange for it. I now ask you all to pass a hearty vote of thanks to Sir Hubert Jerningham.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

THE CHAIRMAN: It was very kind of Sir Neville Lubbock to propose a vote of thanks to me, but I do not think that my proposition, that we ought to give a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer, has yet been passed. Perhaps it is not too late, Sir George, to ask you to accept our unanimous vote of thanks. (Hear, hear.)

Tea was then served, and those present had an opportunity in conversation of discussing the lecture, and inspecting the various pictures and specimens submitted by Sir George Watt.

### The British Cotton Growing Association.

The British Cotton Growing Association came into being at a meeting in Manchester, on May 7th, 1902, when a resolution was passed expressing opinion that "the continued prosperity of the British Cotton Industry depends on an increased supply of cotton, and it is desirable that our sources of supply should be extended," and that "in order to attain this end, an Association be formed, to be called the British Cotton Growing Association, with the principal object of extending the growth and cultivation of cotton in British Colonies, Dependencies, and Protectorates." For this purpose a guarantee fund of £50,000 was raised, but it was subsequently decided to appeal for a far larger sum.

The work so far done by the Association in the West Indies, in co-operation with the Imperial Department of Agriculture under Sir Daniel Morris, K.C.M.G., and the local Governments, have been



so fully reported in the *West India Committee Circular* that it is unnecessary to record it in the present special issue, but the occasion is opportune for recording the satisfaction which is felt at the courtesy of the Association in electing to their Executive Committee two nominees—Mr. Edward R. Davson and the Secretary—of the West India Committee. By this appointment a co-operation will be brought about which cannot fail to prove of very great advantage to the movement on foot.

After the conclusion of the ordinary business of the fortnightly Meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Thursday, April 14th, Sir Nevile Lubbock presiding, a deputation of the Association, consisting of Sir Ralph Moore, Mr. J. Arthur Hutton, Vice-Chairman, and Chairman of the West Indies section, and Mr. John C. Atkins, the Secretary, was received, and a discussion took place as to the prospects and progress of the renascent Cotton Industry of British Guiana and the West Indies. Sir Nevile Lubbock expressed the appreciation which was felt by the West India Committee at the election of two of their Members to serve upon the Executive Committee of this very important Association, and while thanking them for their courtesy, assured the representatives that it was the earnest wish of the West India Committee closely to co-operate in their Imperial labours. A discussion ensued, in the course of which the good work being done by Sir Gerald Strickland and Mr. Francis Watts in the Leeward Islands was warmly eulogised, and while it was recognised that the Imperial Department of Agriculture under its able chief, Sir Daniel Morris, was indefatigable in its efforts throughout the West Indies, it was hoped that the example of the Government of the Leeward Islands would be followed by those of the other Colonies.

Opinion was strongly expressed that experts should be sent for at least one season to the various Colonies to give practical advice as to planting, ginning, and baling, and to this suggestion the representatives of the Association promised to give due consideration. The possibility of making arrangements for the purchase of cotton in the Colonies was very fully discussed, and it was agreed that the experts would be able to pass an opinion as to the value of the cotton in the Colonies if they were sent out. Samples of Sea Island cotton from Barbados were shown at the Meeting, and were very favourably commented upon, it being the opinion of the deputation that they were worth at least 16d. per lb.

The Association, which deserves the warmest support, is to be placed on a legal basis, and an application will be made for a Royal Charter—a course which, it is understood, will meet with the approval of the Colonial Office. Profits earned during the first seven years will not be divided among contributors, but devoted to the cause of cotton growing.

Our portraits represent Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G., the President of the British Cotton Growing Association, Mr. J. Arthur Hutton, Vice-Chairman of the Association and Chairman of the West Indies Section, and Mr. John C. Atkins, the courteous Secretary.

"The insufficiency of the supply of raw material upon which the great cotton industry of this country depends has inspired me with deep concern. I trust that the efforts which are being made in various parts of my Empire to increase the area under cultivation may meet with a large amount of success."

—The King's Speech from the Throne, Feb. 2nd, 1904.

The . . .  
**West India Committee Circular**

Vol. XIX.

ENTERED AT  
 STATISTICAL HALL.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26th, 1904.

No. 123.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. IX.



Mr. Hugh Clarence Bourne,  
 Colonial Secretary, Jamaica

Mr. Hugh Clarence Bourne.

Mr. Hugh Clarence Bourne, whose appointment as Colonial Secretary of Jamaica has just been announced, entered the Colonial Service as Registrar General and Examiner of Titles in Trinidad in 1893. He was educated at Balliol College, Oxford. From 1881 to 1884 he was Assistant Secretary to the Charity Organisation Society, and in 1884 he was called to the Bar (Inner Temple). He acted as Judge of the Supreme Court of Trinidad from 1896 to 1898, in which year he became Auditor General of Trinidad and Tobago. In 1899 and 1900 he was Acting Colonial Secretary, and in 1901 he Administered the Government of the Colony for a short period. Since October, 1902, Mr. Bourne has been acting first-class clerk at the Colonial Office.

Improvements in Sugar  
 Manufacture.

We are now in a position to announce that a plant for working the new Naudet process of sugar manufacture is to be installed at Brechin Castle Estate of the Trinidad Estates Co., Ltd., in time for next year's crop. As we pointed out in our *Circular*, No. 120, it is claimed that a very great



saving in the cost of sugar manufacture, beyond that of the most modern machinery which is now used, is obtained by this process, practically all the juice being recovered from the cane. M. Naudet, himself, with Mr. Heriot will visit Trinidad to work the process through the crop, and it is needless to say that the result of the enterprise and initiative of the Trinidad Estates Co., will be most eagerly awaited. To this same company is due the credit of the introduction of steam ploughing in Trinidad. The steam ploughs installed by Mr. Robert Fowler are reported to be doing most excellent work, and great hopes are entertained that an increased yield of cane per acre in the West Indies may result. Another improvement to be noted is the introduction of electrically driven vacuum pans and centrifugals into the Usine St. Madeleine of the New Colonial Co., in Trinidad. These were installed by Messrs. Pott, Cassels and Williamson, and have proved an unqualified success. Not only have they led to a reduction in the amount of labour required, but they appear also to have caused a very considerable saving of steam.

### The Cotton Industry.

A special edition of the *West India Committee Circular*\* containing a verbatim report of Sir George Watts' interesting lecture on "Cotton Improvement" delivered at the Committee Rooms on April 19th and of a meeting between the West India Committee and a deputation of the British Cotton Growing Association having been published, it is unnecessary for us to deal further with the matter in the present *Circular*.

During the week ended April 14th, 42 bales of British West Indian Cotton were landed at Liverpool, 68 at Southampton, and 8 at Bristol—a total of 118 bales—and, according to advices from the West Indies, a considerable increase in this amount may be expected in the near future. The Imperial Department of Agriculture has already received orders for 35,700 lbs. of cotton seed and if all this seed is planted—without taking into account seed from outside sources—it is probable that about 7,000 acres altogether will be placed under cotton in the West Indies, to be reaped early in 1905. The first shipment of cotton from St. Vincent is expected by next mail.

The report of Professor Dunstan to the Board of Trade on the cotton cultivation in the British Empire and in Egypt was issued as a Blue-Book on Saturday. The Professor states that the shortage of cotton has been brought about by various causes, such as deterioration of Indian cotton, replacement of cotton by sugar in the West Indies, and improved cotton fibre in America.

### The Homeward Mail. A more hopeful outlook.

Owing probably to the Easter Holidays and to the fact that the sugar crop was in full swing, the homeward mail was less heavy than usual, but our Hon. Correspondents have favoured us with their usual letters which seem to increase in interest every mail. General satisfaction was expressed at Canada yielding up a considerable portion of the 33½ preference, a course which cannot fail to draw closer the commercial ties between the Dominion and the West Indies. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Orinoco," anchored off Plymouth at 4.20 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20th, and the mails were delivered in London by first post the next day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Morant," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, April 13th. We extract the following notes from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents received per R.M.S. "Orinoco":—

#### Antigua. The Onion Industry.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER), April 6th.—The export of onions seemed to be decidedly on the increase, but still most of the finest onion land on the island had not yet been experimented with. The yield of the sugar crop was generally poor. About a ton per acre seemed to be the average of plants and ratoons. \$1.50 was offering locally for 85° test, and 16 cents, puncheon included, for molasses.

\* *The West India Committee Circular*, No. 122, 15, Seething Lane, E.C., price 6d., post free 7d.

**Barbados. A Produce Exchange contemplated.**

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEVNE), April 7th.—The extension of the Plantations-in-Aid Act for a further period of one year was passed by the Legislative Council on March 29th, and also a Bill relating to the ultimate disposition of the Imperial grant of £80,000 (1902). The object of the Bill was to vest the amount when available in the Governor in Executive Committee upon trust, to be applied with the sanction of the Legislature to such object or objects as would best promote the collective and permanent interest of the sugar interest in the Island. The weather during the fortnight had been most extraordinary; instead of the bright suns and good winds which usually marked crop time, they had a succession of dark days and frequent showers, and in some places heavy rains. On Easter day, rain fell without ceasing from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and some districts had as much as from four to five inches. The following day was also showery. All the estates' yards were soaked, so that it was impossible to dry fuel for several days, and consequently, little progress had been made with the crop. Fuel was very scarce, and many estates had to resort to wood, and some even to coal. It remained to be seen whether these abnormal rains would have any effect on the yield of the canes. It was possible that, in the high land at all events, the canes might throw out shoots, which would have the effect of diminishing the juice. The price of sugar reached \$1.65 on March 31st, but on April 5th was quoted at \$1.60. Molasses had also receded to 13 cents. The portrait of Sir Nevile Lubbock was hanged in a conspicuous position in the Bridgetown Club, and was greatly admired by the members. General regret was felt in the island at the news of the death of Sir Walter Sendall. At a meeting of the Agricultural Society, on April 8th, certain proposals of Mr. J. Baeza for the formation of a Produce Exchange were under consideration, and a committee consisting of the Hon. F. J. Clarke and Mr. H. E. Boyle (the two Vice-Presidents), and Messrs. George A. Sealy, G. L. Pile, and Edward Mahon, was appointed to take the matter into consideration, and co-operate with the Chamber of Commerce in formulating a scheme on the lines suggested by Mr. Baeza.

See  
Law of  
Barbados  
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**British Guiana.**

(A. SUMMERSON, Esq.), April 7th.—A meeting of the Planters' Association was held on March 26th, at which Mr. J. E. Timne was present. The business was purely formal. A short meeting of the Court of Policy was held on March 29th, and a resolution expressing regret at the death of Sir Walter J. Sendall, and sympathy with Lady Sendall in her bereavement, was moved by the Hon. G. Garnett, seconded by Mr. C. P. Gaskin, and ordered to be recorded on the minutes. The departure of the R.M.S. "Solent" was delayed, owing to two cases of small-pox having occurred in the city. Several cases of prædial larceny, which had lately been rather on the increase, had been disposed of by the magistrates. The weather had been somewhat heavy during the early half of the fortnight, but was, at the time of writing, showery and favourable generally. Dr. Rowland, Hon. Secretary of the Berbice Cotton Growers' Committee had contributed to the *Demerara Daily Chronicle* and the *Demerara Argosy* an interesting report regarding cotton cultivation. (This can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms.—Ed.) 3,565 oz. 6 dwt. and 8 grs. of gold, valued at \$61,583.34, was shipped by the R.M.S. "Solent."

**Dominica The Administrator's Return.**

(E. A. AGAR, Esq.) April 6th.—The Legislative Council was opened on March 25th, and the speech of the Administrator showed a most encouraging state of affairs. (A full report appears in the *Dominica Guardian* and the *Dominican*, of April 2nd and March 31st, which can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms.—Ed.) The revenue for the financial year considerably exceeded the estimate, and in spite of many various adverse considerations in 1903, would not fall far short of the total collected in 1902. Lime plantations had almost completely recovered from the disease, thanks to energetic measures for its eradication, the improved cultural methods, and the abundant rains. The telephone system had been largely extended, no less than 75 miles having been added, and various



improved engineering works had been accomplished. The surplus to the credit of the Presidency was expected to amount to £5,000. Numerous new settlers had been attracted to the Island, and the sale of Crown lands continue to be most satisfactory. At a Special Session of the Supreme Court on March 30th, Mr. Harold Alford A. Nicholls, second son of Dr. H. A. A. Nicholls, C.M.G., was admitted temporarily to the Bar of the Presidency, pending his formal admission in July at the full Court in Antigua. His Honour H. Hesketh Bell, C.M.G., the Administrator returned to England by the mail on leave of absence and the Hon. W. H. Porter, was acting as Administrator.

#### Grenada. Continued Wet Weather

(W. E. BROADWAY, Esq.) April 7th.—A rather severe shock of earthquake took place at 4.10 a.m. on Thursday, March 31. An excursion from Trinidad for Easter Monday, bringing a special team of cricketers to play against the Grenada Cricket Club, fell through at the last moment, causing general disappointment in the Island. Rains continued to fall, and the weather was altogether favourable for the planting of ginger, ground provisions, &c., though somewhat unfavourable for sugar grinding. The dry season showed no sign of setting in with the usual severity this year. Fodder for live stock, therefore, was not scarce, and most animals remained in consequence in good condition. The new lighthouse at Point Salines was lighted up on March 21st, giving a brilliant light. Mr. E. M. de Freitas' annual sale of live stock took place at Woodlands, St. George's on March 24th. The Poui tree was in full flower, and showing up grandly in different parts of the Island, with its beautiful mass of yellow flowers.

#### Jamaica. Testimonial to Captain Baker.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq.) April 5th.—Owing to the sitting of the Legislature, Mr. Olivier had to postpone the meeting regarding the sea-wall until the 7th inst. The Currency Bill had passed with a note issue of 10/- and not below. The Emigration Bill passed, fixing the sum to be deposited for each person going to a proclaimed place at 25/-. The weather during the past fortnight had been quite seasonable. The sugar crop would be a short one. Dissatisfaction was felt at the ruinour that it was contemplated to close the mails by the R.M.S.P. Co.'s steamers on the Monday afternoon, instead of practically mid-day on Tuesday, and a meeting had been convened to deal with the matter. (We are informed by the R.M.S.P. Co., that the question is now under the consideration of the Postmaster-General with whom the decision must rest—Ed.) The fund for the presentation of a testimonial to Captain Baker had been closed, and it was decided to present this pioneer of the fruit industry with a service of silver. On March 20th, Mr. T. H. Sharp delivered an interesting lecture at the Collegiate Hall, on "Cotton Cultivation in Jamaica." He himself had put in 150 acres of cotton. The movement on foot for the protection of Jamaica rum against spurious imitations was progressing. It was proposed to institute proceedings in this country through a properly qualified agent under the Merchandise Marks Act from time to time.

#### Nevis Cotton Ginning.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) April 5th.—Sugar manufacture was in full swing and returns were more favourable than last year. The peasant proprietors were all coming into the new system of selling cane by weight, and the only difficulty was in persuading them that they must wait until their crops were matured. During the past week they had experienced exceptionally hot weather for this time of the year, and there was every indication of a downpour, as the clouds appeared to be charged with rain. Cotton ginning was still going forward, and they were anxiously waiting advices as to the prices realised for their first shipment. Much would depend as to the future of this industry upon the report as to the marketable value of the cotton.

#### St. Kitts The Canadian Preference.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, Esq.) April 5th.—The copy of the photogravure of Sir Nevile Lubbock's portrait had been cordially accepted by the Committee of the Public Library, where it would serve by



Photo by ALBERTUS E. AERTSMA.

A STREET SCENE IN ST. JOHN'S,  
ANTIGUA.

Copyright.



its presence on the walls to make the general public of St. Kitts more widely acquainted with the features of one whose untiring efforts on behalf of his fellow colonists could never be over estimated. Reaping was going on generally, though the weather could hardly be styled typical grinding weather. The turn-out was not uniformly satisfactory, in fact, within a space of a few miles one heard of most diverse results. Very considerable gratification was expressed by all classes at the concession granted by the Halifax refiners with regard to the preference, which meant fully 9/- to 10/- per ton, over and above the former inducements to ship to Halifax. The experience of the cotton growers had not, with perhaps a few exceptions, been of the rosier description, and it was hardly possible as yet to say whether the results of the year would induce a larger area to be put under cultivation for next year or not. By early planting and using it as the catch crop, they might have better results than by considering it as the staple crop, but this remained to be proved by experience.

#### St. Lucia.

(HON. E. DuBOULAY), April 8th.—The weather continued to be showery, and while favourable to the growing did not impede the cropping operations.

#### St. Vincent. The Cotton Factory.

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & Co.), April 8th.—The Cotton Factory had been at work for the last two days, and the ginning operations were reported to be exceptionally satisfactory, the factory having in two half days turned out one bale of cotton per hour. The Governor was expected on the 8th, on his first visit for a twelvemonth. The weather for the past fortnight had been bleak and wet; with the result that influenza was prevalent throughout the island.

#### Trinidad. Cocoa Shipments.

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK), April 8th.—Formal permission for the navigation of the Orinoco River was expected by the purchasers of the Orinoco Co.'s fleet in the course of a few days, when the steamers would immediately start running. People recently from Caracas, Bolivar and other places in Venezuela, reported that the condition of the country generally was most deplorable. During the first half of the fortnight the rains became so heavy and continuous that grinding on the sugar estates had to be suspended for some days, but in the second half there was an improvement, and factories resumed work. Cocoa was benefitting very much from the rains, and the pickings up to June and July would be larger than was expected. The shipments for the month of March had also been larger than anticipated, in all, 43,000 bags of Trinidad and 14,000 bags of Venezuelan. The Trinidad Cocoa was shipped as follows:—

For London direct	...	...	...	...	3,000 bags.
„ Havre, option ports...	...	...	...	...	26,272 „
„ New York	...	...	...	...	18,728 „

The larger quantities going to the Continent and New York was attributable to the very low prices ruling in London for Trinidad sorts. It pointed to all the Trinidad estates' marks eventually finding their way to New York, this market now recognising the superiority of good estates Cocoa compared with other sorts. Prices for ordinary were quoted \$13.00, the estates \$13.60.

(EDGAR TRIPP, Esq.), April 8th.—Mr. Gordon had been unanimously re-elected President of the Chamber of Commerce, which body, at the same time, passed a sympathetic and appreciative resolution having special reference to recent occurrences. An illustrated copy of the proceedings of the Agricultural Society had been published, containing an interesting report by Mr. W. E. Smith of his visit to Jamaica as special representative of the Society in connection with the fruit industry. This report was from its practical nature, calculated further to promote the existing tendency in many quarters to engage in the Fruit Industry.\* The writer, as commercial agent for Canada, had sent many representations to the Government of the Dominion regarding the apparent absence of any advantage

\* See page 164.

to the shippers from the preferential tariff, and he was glad to be advised that recent shipments had been sold in Halifax for fully eight cents per 100 lbs. over the New York quotation, and that the refiners had agreed to allow half of the preferential duty on all sugar arriving during the balance of the season. Mr. Norman Lamont was to deliver a lecture that evening on Mr. Chamberlain's proposals as affecting the West Indies.

### Mr. Symington and the Fruit Industry.\*

We learn from Trinidad that the return of Mr. W. Weldon Symington to the Island is awaited with interest. It will be remembered that this gentleman has been assiduous in his efforts to organise the fruit industry for the benefit of the peasant proprietors, and that the success which attended



Loading Bananas into Railway Vans.

earlier experiments prompted the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce and Agricultural Society to pass resolutions expressing the opinion that the Government should be approached with a view to financial assistance being granted to his syndicate, in the shape of a grant-in-aid to defray the initial expenses incurred, it being agreed that the establishment of a fruit industry in Trinidad was a matter of great importance to the entire community. In the course of the speech of the Colonial Secretary of Trinidad on the annual estimates, March 22nd, he said that proposals had been made with a view to securing a guarantee for the permanence of the industrial experiments which Mr. Symington had recently carried out, and that at the proper time the Council would be asked to vote such a sum as might be found necessary for the successful carrying out of the proposals, but that until there was some definite scheme formulated, it was considered premature to ask for any vote. It is in order to further such a scheme that Mr. Symington has recently been in London, and we have reason to believe that his efforts have proved so successful that he will shortly return to Trinidad.

\* For the half-tone block illustrating this article we are indebted to the Editor of *Commercial Intelligence*.



In connection with this matter, we received by a recent mail a copy of the proceedings of the Agricultural Society, containing the report of Mr. W. E. Smith, General Manager of the Trinidad Government Railway, who visited Jamaica as special representative of the society to report on the methods of handling fruit in that Island. The report deals very fully with the extent of the fruit industry, soil, cultivation, transportation, cost of cultivation, and other matters of paramount importance, and is embellished by two admirable illustrations of negroes loading the fruit and packing it into railway vans. As to variety, there appears to be only one in Jamaica, which is called by the generic term "banana," or fruit. It is, says Mr. Smith, "the Martinique Gros Michel, known to Trinidad growers." A very considerable quantity of the red variety is also grown in Jamaica, and is occasionally shipped away, more as a decorative fruit than anything else, realizing fancy prices. Of the smaller kinds of figs he saw very few in any part of the country, and the banana of commerce was not, in his opinion, superior in either size or flavour to the ordinary Gros Michel in Trinidad. With regard, however, to the size of the bunches, *i.e.*, the number of hands, there could be no question that those of Trinidad were inferior, but there was, he believed, no reason why, with proper cultivation, the size of bunches of bananas grown in Trinidad should not rival, and even eclipse, those produced in any of the neighbouring Islands. This should be encouraging reading to Mr. Symington, who will return to Trinidad with the good wishes of the West India Committee.

### A Street Scene in St. John's.

The subject of our full page illustration is typical of the sun-flooded streets of West Indian towns. In the foreground is seen the negro woman carrying, as is her wont, her burden on her head, while outside the business houses are drawn up the buggies, which in Antigua, as in the other Islands are the popular conveyances, and in the shadow of the building on the right may be discerned the inevitable man-in-blue. It seems strange when looking at this picture that sunstroke is almost unknown in the West Indies: but such indeed is the case!

### The Sugar Bounties Agitation, 1864—1903.\*

A RETROSPECT: BY W.P.B.S.

#### The Third and Final Stage, 1889—1903—continued.

It would hardly have come within the limits of this retrospect to have reproduced the speeches delivered in the two Houses of Parliament on the introduction and passage of the Bill to give effect to the Brussels Sugar Convention. The dates on which the debates took place have been given, and to the pages of Hansard for those dates our readers must refer in order to become acquainted with the various and conflicting arguments and views which marked one of the most exhaustive discussions which has taken place in Parliament on any commercial question since the era of Free Trade.

Two rival and opposing impulses joined issue: the one for the consumer alone, the other for the producer and the consumer. The issue was never between free trade and state protection: nor between individualism and collectivism. In this country public opinion has imposed limits on State intervention which are not likely to be exceeded. In other countries the spirit of collectivism organizes a State system of protection to industries which brings the governments into a quasi-partnership with their national industries. The future will alone determine whether industries based on individualism can succeed in holding their own against competing industries based on collectivism. The experience of our Sugar Industries under the Bounty regime does not favour the conclusion that individualism in the form of a one-sided system of *laissez faire* is effective in a competition with a rival industry backed

\* Continued from "The West India Committee Circular," No. 121.

by the collectivism of a system of State protection. But by the Convention the International Sugar Industries have been brought much more under the operation of individualism than they were before.

The Convention, however, does no more than each nation could have done for itself: it embodies a wise determination to dissociate the State from much of its previous arbitrary intervention in the industrial work of sugar production. The only positive international agreement was that which fixed a point of time in order that a change which each contracting Power had power and liberty to make for itself should come into operation simultaneously, and be adhered to for a fixed period. As a mere point of security for the effective operation and performance of this voluntary and valid agreement a penal article was propounded. But this article of penalization was itself within the full power and liberty of each contracting State without any consensual agreement with any other State. Therefore, except for the agreement as to simultaneous action—a point of enormous importance—the Convention does no more than could have been done without it. At the same time it controls this liberty by subjecting the action of each contracting Power to the arbitrament of the Permanent Commission constituted by the Convention.

Hence all the arguments in the course of the parliamentary discussion which were adduced to impugn the Convention as a cause of probable injury to consumers of sugar in this country were absolutely baseless, and without an iota of political or economic validity, unless consumers are to be deemed to have vested rights to enjoy bounties at the expense of taxpayers and producers.

The Act of Parliament which was passed did no more than empower the Crown to give effect to the Convention by our municipal law. It was an enabling power in respect of the penal sanction which was to secure the due performance of an international agreement by preventing outside States from interfering with the industrial interests of the contracting Powers and thus tending to lead them into a breach of, or withdrawal from, the stipulations of the Convention.

The penalty is purely consequential on such acts of Powers outside the Convention, as would be in arbitrary opposition to the policy of the contracting Powers. But for this penal sanction the liberty of the contracting Powers to adopt the policy embodied in the Convention would have been exercised at a disadvantage which no Sovereign State, either alone or in alliance with other sovereignties, need submit to.

These then are the juristical principles upon which the Statesmen of Europe have based the Sugar Convention as a settlement of the so-called Bounty question, and so long as these general principles are accepted in their validity by European governments, so long will the settlement of this protracted and much misconstrued agitation on the sugar bounties endure.

But how does this Convention affect the principle of *laissez-faire*: it enforces it. If two persons each agree to leave one another alone the principle of *laissez-faire* is operative. If one attacks the other the operation of the principle no longer exists. If the one attacked defends himself the principle of *laissez-faire* is vindicated: if he, however, fails to defend himself the situation becomes converted into the exact opposite of *laissez-faire* by the domination of the one who fails to practise it.

This principle must be based on mutuality otherwise its operation ceases. If two nationalities mutually practice the principle of *laissez-faire* in their industrial competition they become homogenous: they are as one nationality. But if one adopts it and the other does not, mutuality is at an end and *laissez-faire* likewise ceases. All this illustration seems childish, but the misconception as to this principle which now prevails in quarters which control public opinion is a dangerous menace to our industrial well-being and must be combated. It has well-nigh proved the ruin of one of our greatest industries.

The sugar bounty agitation has evolved an object lesson which will endure as a warning for the benefit of any of our industries if exposed to the attacks of aggressive foreign protectionism.

(TO BE CONCLUDED.)



### Sugar Cane Experiments.

The report of Mr. Francis Watts, Government Analytical and Agricultural Chemist, on Sugar Cane Experiments in the Leeward Islands has just been published in two parts by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. The first part deals with experiments made in the cultivation and selection of improved varieties, and has three appendices:—(1) on the chemical selection of sugar canes, (2) on the raising of seedling canes in Antigua, (3) on the application of germicides to cane plants before planting.

The experiments have been conducted on seven estates in Antigua, and on eight in St. Kitts. It is important to notice, as an essential feature of the experiments, that the canes have been cultivated throughout in the same manner as the ordinary crop of the estate, so as to allow of a close comparison being instituted between the yields from the canes of the experiment plots and those grown in the ordinary way by the planters of the Colony. The objects of the experiments are (1) to find disease-resistant varieties, (2) to discover a cane the equal to or, perhaps, the superior of the Bourbon, the cultivation of which has had to be abandoned, owing to its susceptibility to fungoid attack.

On the results of this year's experiments in Antigua, the Barbados seedling B. 208 heads the list. In St. Kitts the same variety and the Caledonian Queen occupy the first place, with practically the same amount of cane sugar. In 1900-1, B. 208 was second and first in position in Antigua and St. Kitts respectively, while in 1901-2 it occupied first place in both Islands. Mr. Watts remarks: "This cane, therefore, commends itself highly to planters in these Islands on account of its good field character and the ease with which sugar can be manufactured from it. It also retains its excellent character when judged as a ratoon cane."

The second part deals with the experiments made to ascertain the manurial requirements of the cane. Mr. Watts is of opinion that it is clearly shown by these experiments that planters in the Leeward Islands will find it to their advantage to concentrate their efforts on the preparation of the land before planting canes, and to its improvement by the use of pen manure without the addition of artificial manures. But while it is not considered advisable to recommend the use of artificial manures for plant canes, it is shown that, with ratoon canes, maximum crops can only be obtained by their use, and their application is decidedly remunerative. This announcement is one of great importance to the planters who should not be slow to profit by it. For ratoon canes Mr. Watts recommends an application of 2 to 3 cwt. of nitrate of soda, or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. of sulphate of ammonia, with which may be employed  $\frac{3}{4}$  cwt. of sulphate of potash and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 cwt. of either basic superphosphate or superphosphate.

These publications (the price of which is 1/- each part) reflect the greatest credit upon the compilers, who appear to have sifted the matter even to the minutest detail.

### Early Results of the Brussels Convention.

An article of exceptional interest regarding the early results of the Brussels Convention appears in the *International Sugar Journal* for April. The effect of the Convention on consumers, our Colonies and the refiners is discussed. The present condition of the sugar-trade of the world is still to a considerable extent the old bounty-fed artificial state of things. The excessive stocks are still there, unsold, not yet wanted, and weighing on the market to such an extent that sugar is still to be had everywhere below cost price. Under such circumstances what do the misguided politicians say now? Where is there loss of eight millions a year? They are not ashamed, they make no apologies for their mistake, but cry with as loud a voice as ever, a new cry,—that the price of sugar has been raised in this country and cheapened abroad. This is the new fiction which they hope will be as greedily swallowed as the old one. Probably it will, though anyone connected with the trade knows perfectly well the true answer. Sugar is still below cost price, but not so low as in 1901-02

simply because production was reduced after that season to the extent of 1,250,000 tons,—more than a year before the Convention came into force. It was the excessive stocks and the consequent excessively low price that caused this reduced production, which necessarily brought with it a certain amount of rise in price. A very small rise for such a large reduction in production, and a rise which turned out to be very premature. The consumer is still getting sugar below cost price, and yet the politicians try to represent him as paying through the nose for it. Some of them even try to mix up the small rise of 2s. per cwt. in value with the addition of the duty levied by Sir Michael Hicks Beach in 1901. Even that juggle is thought good enough dust to throw in the eyes of the public.

### Our Membership.

The new List of Members has now been published and posted to all those upon it. It was accompanied by a letter pointing out that inasmuch as the membership totalled 742 and that 120 new members had already been elected during the first three months of the current year it might reasonably be hoped that the membership would soon amount to 1000. Our members made a cordial response and already 22 candidates await election on Thursday, April 28th. The total number elected this year now amounts to 128, distributed as follows:—Trinidad, 34; Jamaica, 15; St. Lucia, 12; British Guiana, 9; Barbados, 8; Dominica, 8; Grenada, 4; St. Kitts, 3; Antigua, 2; Tobago, 2; St. Vincent, 1; Nevis, 1; Canada, 1; Home, 25; and Foreign, 3. The next election will be held on Thursday, April 28th. The following new members were elected on April 14th.

Name.	Proposer.	Secunder.
SIR CHARLES BRUCE, K.C.M.G.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	A. F. McConnell, Esq.
JAMES PEET, Esq. (Trinidad)	Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
T. E. N. DEANE, Esq. (Barbados)	Jos. Connell, Esq., Junr.	T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.
EDWARD EASTON, Esq.	T. J. Wilkinson, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
WALTER B. KINGSFORD, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
ROBERT J. GRAVES, Esq. (Grenada)	Hon. F. Gurney.	H. A. Trotter, Esq.
LT.-COL. CHARLES R. CROSSE	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.
E. C. KER SEYMOUR, Esq.	Cyril Guruey, Esq.	H. A. Trotter, Esq.

### The Annual General Meeting.

Members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE will be held at 15, Seething Lane, at 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 28th, when it is hoped that there will be a large attendance. The agenda are: (1) To adopt the Report and Income and Expenditure Account for 1903; and (2) To elect nine members to the Executive Committee in place of nine retiring by rotation.

### The Launch of the Port Kingston.

The twin screw steamer Port Kingston, the latest addition to the fleet of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service (Limited), of which Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., are managers, was successfully launched and christened at Linthouse, Govan, on Primrose Day, April 19th, by Lady Sarah Wilson, in the absence through indisposition of the Duchess of Marlborough. The Port Kingston is 475 ft. in length, 55 ft. 6 in. in breadth, and 36 ft. in depth. She has a poop, a long bridge house, and a fore-castle on the upper deck—the deck over the bridge-house being carried out to the side, forming a sheltered promenade on each side of the upper deck. Accommodation is provided for 160 first class passengers in state rooms, an unusually large number of which are on deck. Several of the best rooms are so arranged that they may be taken as one suite. The holds insulated for the



carriage of fruit are of a capacity of over 100,000 cubic feet, and are divided up into bins, and refrigerated in the latest and most approved manner. The speed of the vessel will be 17 knots per hour, developing about 10,000 indicated horse power.

Speaking at the luncheon after the launch, Sir Alfred Jones proposed "The Colonial Office." The British people, he said, were now recognising the value of their vast Colonial territories. He was very glad that he had been able to develop the trade with the West Indies to some extent, but it was capable of very much greater development. Lancashire could get cotton from the West Indies, and he would be willing, for a time, to carry the cotton freight free so as to encourage the industry. (Applause.) Besides, the fruit trade, in which the Imperial Line was engaged, could be largely extended. The West Indies had been neglected hitherto by Britain, and torn to pieces by our bounty system, but he was deeply grateful to the Colonial Office for the hearty support it had given to his efforts to develop the trade. The Colonial Office, principally owing to the example of Mr. Chamberlain—(applause)—had given every possible support. The West Indies were getting a little into his firm's debt, but he had no fear of their ability to discharge the debt if only Britain gave the Islands fair play.

The Duke of Marlborough, in replying, said that as an Under-Secretary at the Colonial Office he had the greatest pleasure in being present on that occasion. The ship they had just seen launched would be, he hoped, the means of carrying on to a still greater extent the trade between the Home Country and the West Indian Colonies. The Imperial Direct Line was composed of four ships, and that afternoon the fifth had been floated. He believed Sir Alfred Jones had half-a-million of capital invested in it. Its start was, he thought, due in the first place to the energy of the late Colonial Secretary, Mr. Chamberlain—(applause)—who found in Sir Alfred Jones the man to carry out his ideas. After going in detail into the trade done by the Imperial Direct Line, His Grace referred to the possibility of reviving the sugar and cotton trades in the West Indies. Britain, he said, had agreed with other nations to do away with the system of bounties granted by European countries to their sugar manufacturers. He believed that the sugar plantations of the West Indies would prosper better now that the price of sugar would not fluctuate as it did before. In this great work of promoting trade with the Colonies he would be only too glad to render all the assistance in his power. (Applause.)

Among the other speakers was Mr. A. McDowell Nathan, who said, that the West India sugar planters, were in effect ready to take up Sir Alfred Jones's challenge. That is to say, they saw that in present conditions—with the bounties vanished—sugar ought really to be the staple industry of the West Indies, and with improved factories they could make it pay well. They asked, it was true, for help from their fellow-countrymen, but they were prepared to help themselves too, and to find on their part double the amount of capital which Britons at home might be prepared to invest up to a certain limit in the sugar industry.

Congratulatory telegrams from the Colonial Secretary and the West India Committee were read and the proceedings which were most successful then terminated.

### West Indian Interests at Westminster.

The House of Commons re-assembled after the Easter recess on the 12th inst., and the House of Lords on April 20th.

#### Immigration Ordinances.

The Immigration Ordinances of Trinidad and British Guiana have been published as a Parliamentary Paper. (Cd. 1989), Price 1s. 3d.

**Crown Colonies and the Sugar Convention.**

On the 18th inst. EARL PERCY, answering Mr. GIBSON BOWLES, stated that the Government had not adhered to the Brussels Sugar Convention on behalf of the Crown Colonies, but had pledged them to carry out the obligations of the Convention. The Crown Colonies were bound not to give bounties.

**The Budget. No change in the Sugar Duties.**

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Chancellor of the Exchequer, introduced his first Budget statement on April 19th. He proposed no alteration in the Sugar duties. Sugar yielded in 1903 £290,000 less than was estimated, but that was due to the introduction of refining in bond and not to decreased consumption. He proposed the following increase of taxation: 1d. on the Income tax, an extra 3d. per lb. on tobacco stripped before importation, and an increase of 6d. and 1/- on foreign cigars and cigarettes respectively.

**West Indian Civil Service.**

We invite Members to forward to us particulars of movements and appointments of officers of the several West Indian Governments and other persons officially connected with the West Indian Colonies, for insertion under the above heading. For the following information we are indebted to the *Morning Post*.

Mr. Alistair Cameron has been appointed a member of the General Board of Health in Barbados

Mr. J. S. Wallbridge, Government Medical Officer, British Guiana, has retired from the public service

Mr. W. H. A. Burrowes, Commissary of Taxation, British Guiana, has left the colony on nine months' leave of absence,

Dr. Cyprian Pike has been appointed a Medical Officer of St. Vincent in place of Dr. T. M. R. Leonard, transferred to Grenada

Dr. E. F. Hatton, Medical Officer of Grenada, has been made an official member of the Legislative Council in place of Dr. P. E. M'Load, who has retired

Mr. B. E. Bynoe, M.C.P., Junior Member for St. Joseph, has been appointed a member of the Executive Committee of Barbados, in the place of Mr. J. C. Lynch.

Sir Gerald Strickland, Governor of the Leeward Islands, is coming to England shortly on leave, during which his duties will be performed by Mr. Charles T. Cox, Administrator of St. Kitts.

Mr. Henry A. Harrison, barrister-at-law, of the Inner Temple, who was recently appointed Stipendiary Magistrate of the Couva District of Trinidad, has arrived in the colony and assumed duty.

Mr. W. H. Patterson, formerly connected with the Royal Gardens, Kew, succeeds Mr. W. N. Sands, who has been transferred to St. Vincent, as Curator of the Botanic and Experiment Stations in Antigua

Dr. O. D. Honiball, Government Medical Officer, British Guiana, and Mr. F. A. Gall, Magistrate of the East Coast District of that colony have been granted seven and nine months' leave respectively.

The Postmaster-General of British Guiana, Mr. F. W. Collier has been provisionally appointed a Member of the Court of Policy in the place of the Acting Surgeon General V. Godfrey, who was ill when the mail left.

Mr. G. Whitfield Smith, Travelling Superintendent on the Staff of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, has been appointed Magistrate for the Northern District of Grenada, to reside at Carriacou.

Dr. T. C. Orford, House Surgeon of the Colony and Yaws Hospitals, Grenada, has been promoted to the office of District Medical Officer of the colony, and is succeeded by Dr. T. M. R. Leonard, one of the medical officers of St. Vincent.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. William Grey-Wilson, C.M.G., Governor of the Falkland Islands, to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bahama Islands, in succession to Sir Gilbert Carter, K.C.M.G., whose term of office has expired

Sir Henry M. Jackson, Governor of Fiji, left Melbourne for England on the 4th inst., having been summoned home by telegram. The administration of the Government of Fiji will devolve on Chief Justice C. H. Major, who was formerly connected with the West Indies, and latterly occupied the office of Attorney-General of Grenada.

Mr. C. Alexander Harris, one of the Principal Clerks in the Colonial Office, has been selected for the position of Chief of the British Central African Department which has recently been taken over from the Foreign Office. He was for many years connected with the West Indian Department, and for some time past had charge of the West African Departments

Sir Thomas C. Rayner, Attorney-General of British Guiana, has been formally appointed a Commissioner for the purpose of preparing a new and revised edition of the statute Laws of the colony. He leaves British Guiana on May 19 for England, when Mr. C. S. Davson, the Solicitor-General, will act as Attorney-General, as he has done on several previous occasions

Mr. S. Leslie Thornton, Resident Magistrate of Savanna-la-Mar, Jamaica, has been promoted to a Puisne Judgeship of the Straits Settlements. Prior to proceeding to Jamaica in 1896 Mr. Justice Thornton was connected with the Legal Department of the Straits Settlements, and occupied the offices of Registrar of the Supreme Court, Malacca, and Acting Senior Magistrate of Singapore. During 1894-95 he was Attorney-General, Acting Chief Justice, and Acting Administrator of St. Vincent, West Indies.



## Notes of Interest.

**THE LATE MR. GIDEON POTT.** We have with regret to record the death of one of our Members, Mr. Gideon Pott, of the well known firm of Messrs. Pott, Cassels & Williamson, which occurred very suddenly on Friday the 15th inst.

**MR. W. J. THOMPSON.** We have also to deplore the death, which occurred on the 19th inst., of Mr. William J. Thompson, J.P., founder of the firm of William James and Henry Thompson, Colonial Brokers, Mincing Lane, who was recently elected to Membership of the West India Committee.

**MR. JUSTICE SEMPER.** By the death of Mr. Justice Semper, which took place very recently, the West Indies have lost another staunch supporter. Mr. Justice Semper was one of the original Members of the West Indian Club, and until prevented by failing health, took an active interest in this organisation.

**AN APPOINTMENT FOR MR. OHLSON.** Mr. J. L. Ohlson of the Birkbeck Institute, late Secretary of the West India Committee, is to be congratulated upon his appointment, as Professor of Elocution, to the staff of Mr. Beerbohm Tree's Academy of Dramatic Art, which has just been inaugurated.

**AS OTHERS SEE US.** During the past year the *West India Committee Circular* has been largely extended and improved. It is now a fortnightly publication likely to prove of great value to the West Indies.—*The Agricultural News*. (The Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies.

**IMMIGRATION PROSPECTS.** Our esteemed Hon. Correspondent in Calcutta writes that emigration prospects are still very gloomy owing to three years of most bountiful seasons. Even though there should be a deficient rainfall this year the surplus food supply must be so ample that this season's supply of emigrants would not be affected.

**OVERSEERS REGISTER.** Estates Managers and Proprietors requiring overseers are informed that arrangements have been made for a list of applicants for such posts to be kept at the West India Committee Rooms. All enquiries regarding it should be addressed to the Secretary, West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

**OUR ADVERTISEMENTS.** The remarkable success of the *West India Committee Circular* as an advertising medium is shown by the fact that within twenty four hours of our deciding to issue a special number dealing with Sir George Watt's lecture on "Cotton Improvement," practically the whole of the available space was taken up by our advertisers.

**A LOYAL SUPPORTER.** The genial Mr. F. Nunez Martinez of Barbados, who is paying a visit to this country, is showing a very practical interest in the West India Committee, of which he is a Member, by introducing a large number of candidates for election. His numerous friends will be glad to learn that Mr. Martinez, who has been considerably indisposed since his return to England, is now on the high road to recovery.

**HISTORY OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.** It is proposed to write a history of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE for publication in the Circular and the Secretary will be glad if members and others will furnish him with any records, notes or information they may have regarding this organisation. The assistance of the West Indian Press who have always shown their readiness to further the work of the Committee is confidently hoped for.

**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Crown of Granada" from Glasgow for Barbados, Trinidad, and Demerara, April 28th; S.S. "Savan," from London for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, and Demerara, May 4th; S.S. "Cavalier," from Liverpool for Demerara, May 6th; S.S. "Almerian," from Liverpool for Barbados and Trinidad, May 7th; and the R.M.S. "Port Royal," from Bristol for Jamaica, May 7th. *Information for publication under this head is invited from Shipping Companies.*

**IN DEFENCE OF DOMINICA.** Mr. Harold C. Alford Nicholls has addressed a spirited letter to the *Empire Review* (April) very properly finding fault with a suggestion of Mr. D. W. Prowse, a retired Newfoundland Judge, that Dominica should be ceded to France in order to facilitate the settlement of the Newfoundland question. Dominica is one of the most promising of the British Islands in the West Indies, and bids fair to rank before very long as one of our most important over-sea lesser dominions. The people of Dominica, at any rate, who are among the most loyal of His Majesty's subjects will not readily consent to change their nationality.

**THE WEST INDIAN CLUB DINNER.** At the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club on Wednesday, April 13th, Mr. Arthur Johnson was in the chair. Amongst those present were Mr. A. F. Messer, Mr. A. McD. Nathan, Mr. C. H. Yorke Slader, Dr. Vaughan Jackson, Mr. E. Sturridge, Mr. W. Powers, Mr. W. Bramall, Mr. F. R. Leistikow, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Capt. Charles Foulkes, R.E., Mr. L. de Mercado, Dr. F. Myers, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. E. Perne, Mr. H. O. Smith, Mr. J. Rippon, Sir Alfred Jones, K.C.M.G., Mr. E. B. Ellis, Mr. P. D. Burnett, and R. Schult. Sir Alfred Jones announced his intention of presenting a silver cup for the Club Billiard Tournament.

**SUGAR CONSUMPTION.** The weather in the United Kingdom during the past fortnight has been superb, and the prospects of the fruit crops are in consequence exceptionally promising. If conditions continue to be favourable there should be a bumper fruit crop this year, which should materially assist the consumption of sugar. According to the official figures just published, consumption of sugar on the Continent during March increased to a marked extent, the figures being—

	1904.	1903	
Germany ... ..	84,863	59,391	Tons.
France ... ..	41,000	35,000	"
Austria ... ..	44,000	37,000	"

### West Indian Securities.

Colonial Government Subscribed Securities.		Price.	
		1919-44	1917-42
	Antigua, 4 per cent. ... ..	99-101	
	Barbados, 3½ per cent. ... ..	95-97	
	British Guiana, 4 per cent. ... ..	106-108	
	Grenada, 4 per cent. ... ..	99-101½	
	Jamaica, 4 per cent. ... ..	105-107	
	St. Lucia, 4 per cent. ... ..	100-102	
	Trinidad, 4 per cent. ... ..	100-102	

Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.	Miscellaneous Securities.		Paid.	Dividend.	Price.
100,000	20	Colonial Bank ... ..	£6	6%	4½-5½	
15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ... ..	60	—	28-30	
250,000l.	Stock.	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4% 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4½%	82-86	
325,000	Stock.	New Colonial Co., Ltd., 4% 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4%	72-74	
46,874	5	" " " " 5% Non-Cum. Pref. ... ..	5	5%	2-3	
360,700l.	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb.	100	6%	93-98	
70,000l.	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company 4% Perpetual Deb. Stock	100	4%	97-99	
31,250	10	" " " " Extension Preference ... ..	10	4%	7-8	
115,000l.	Stock.	" " " " 7% Preference ... ..	100	Nil	88-93	
165,000l.	Stock.	" " " " Original Stock ... ..	100	Nil	15-20	
85,800l.	100	Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd. Mortgage Debts (1 to 1200) red. ... ..	100	4½%	98-101	
60,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ... ..	£2 10 0	6%	—	
58,700l.	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4½% 1st Mtge. Deb. (1 to 1200) red. ... ..	100	4½%	98-101	
50,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. ... ..	5	5%	—	
50,000l.	100	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. 5% Deb. ... ..	100	5%	100-103	
34,563	10	" " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref. ... ..	10	8s.	5½-6½	
4,669	10	" " " " " " 2nd " ... ..	10	—	4½-5½	
88,321	10	" " " " " " Ordinary ... ..	10	—	4½	

Bank of England rate 3% (changed from 3½% on April 22nd, and 4% April 14th 1904).  
2½% Consols, 88½. (25.4.04).

**THE DEMERARA RAILWAY COMPANY.**—The audited accounts of the Demerara Railway for the half-year ending December 31st, 1903, to be submitted to the general meeting on Friday next, show gross revenue £24,571 17s. 4d., and gross expenditure £22,181 6s. 4d., and net revenue £2,390 11s. 5d., after deducting the debenture interest (£1,400 os. 0d.) and adding the Government subsidy (£6,250) and the amount brought forward for the preceding half year (£5,140 7s. 8d.) a balance of £12,389 19s. 1d. This will admit of the payment of the full dividend of 4% on the Extension Preference Shares for the half-year, amounting to £6,250, leaving £6,139 19s. 1d. which sum the Directors recommend be carried forward, in view of the expenditure being incurred on new engines and boilers. Owing to the state of his health, Colonel Martindale has found it necessary to retire from the Board. The Directors have accepted his resignation with great regret, and take the opportunity of acknowledging his valuable services to the Company. The Directors have appointed G. J. Wildridge, Esq., to fill the vacancy thus caused.



Weather Telegrams.

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), April 25th. "Good reaping weather." **British Guiana** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), April 15th. "Weather is too wet." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), April 18th. "Too much rain for present requirements, more sunshine wanted." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), April 19th. "Weather bleak and chilly, sunshine wanted." **Trinidad** (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), April 21st. "Weather favourable, crop progressing satisfactorily." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), April 18th, **PORT ANTONIO**: "Fine with few showers." **KINGSTON**: "Overcast, with occasional showers."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
	Hhds.	lbs.	Tons	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
<b>Barbados—</b>								
Jan 1 to April 7, 1904	6604	—	—	—	—	10,137	—	—
" " " 7, 1903	1918	—	—	—	—	6378	—	—
<b>British Guiana—</b>	Tons.							
Jan. 1 to April 5, 1904	23,904	8809	1150	7120	45,960	213	15,175	2226
" " " 7, 1903	30,907	18,330	133	8481	4172	1737	16,936	1709
<b>Jamaica—</b>		Cwts.	Cwts.	Galls.				
Apr 1 to Mar 12, 1904	10,729	18,280	73,190	1,088,745	14,998,797	65,375	7,479,033	78,972,010
" " " 14, 1903	17,325	23,796	102,561	1,750,000	24,637,636	116,947	14,041,026	98,901,397
<b>Trinidad—</b>	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.			Tons.	
Jan. 1 to April 7, 1904	146,347	20,030,890	30,260	28	2,029,240	577	29	36,753
" " " 7, 1903	117,611	16,864,400	2320	26	3,874,625	491	84	30,271

The Mails.

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco," April 20th, 1904:—Barbados—** Mrs. Atkins, Mrs. Gordon, Mr. A. Easty, Miss Rutland, Mrs. Pierer, Mr. G. O'Neal, Captain Haynes, Miss Du Costa, Mr. J. A. Matthews, Mr. J. Cooper, Mr. J. S. Scodden, Mr. A. Browne, Mr. J. Andrews, Mr. R. Kolands. **Demerara—** Mr. W. Durns, Mrs. Dennis, Mr. G. H. Risien, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Waterfield, Rev. Toddings, Dr. and Miss Edmunds, Mrs. Tengely, Rev. Spiers, Mr. B. Lowe, Mr. F. Lowe, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Burrowes, Mr. J. B. Dawson, Mr. J. E. Tinne, Mr. J. S. S. Pearson, Mrs. S. Anderson. **Jamaica—** Miss Barham, Mr. and Mrs. Heron, Mr. Pinedo, Rev. and Mrs. Baker, Canon Ripley, Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Obide, Mrs. B. Take, Mr. A. Almour, Dr. E. Pollard, R.N., Mr. E. Jones, Mr. W. Livingstone, Mr. R. Oates, Mr. J. R. Balfour, Mr. Aldridge, Mrs. Gwyther, Mr. A. J. East, Mrs. R. J. Martin, Mr. J. W. Fraser-Tyler, Mr. C. R. Bartlett, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Selmon, Mrs. J. Bartlet, the Hon. Lillian Henniker, the Hon. V. Henniker, Mr. J. Patch, Mr. and Mrs. Albright, Mr. E. Woodward, Mr. and Miss Lithgow, Mr. G. Bruce, Mr. C. Bruce, Mr. J. M. Carvalho, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Clay, Mr. B. Dimmock, Mr. F. S. Weldon, Rev. J. Cass, Dr. McMullen. **Trinidad—** Mr. R. Short, Mr. A. W. Mecham, Mr. A. Russel, Mrs. T. Vance-Smith, Miss Rust, Mr. W. Hogg, Mr. and Mrs. J. Blair, Capt. Daniel. **Antigua—** Dr. and Mrs. Morris. **Dominica—** Mr. R. D. Ford, Mr. Dingle, Mr. H. Kay, Mr. T. Kay, Dr. Kayser, Mr. Fletcher, Mr. A. Anderson, His Honour H. Bell, C. M. G. **Grenada—** Mr. C. J. Bertrand, Mr. R. J. Graves, Miss Rapier, Mr. T. Wells, Mr. F. A. Ward. **St. Lucia—** Mr. E. C. Beausolil, Mr. F. W. Durant, Mr. W. Barnard, Mr. J. Watkinson, Lt. A. Peel.

**Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," April 27th, 1904:—Barbados—** Mr. A. Main. **Demerara—** Mr. A. Wm. Swain, Mrs. E. Swain, Mr. E. S. Collins, Miss H. Rymer. **Jamaica—** Mr. W. Jackson, Miss J. Smith, Mrs. A. Jones, Mr. A. H. Jones, Rev. T. G. Rathe. **Trinidad—** Mr. A. Schuener. **St. Kitts—** Mrs. R. Fresnedo and child. **St. Lucia—** Mrs. Duray.

**Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," May 11th, 1904:—Barbados—** Miss V. Gauding, Miss M. W. Moore, Miss Martin. **Demerara—** Mr. Geo. Vogel, Rev. W. Andrews, Mrs. R. Andrews, two Misses Andrews, Dr. and Mrs. D. Hill, Mr. B. Greene. **Jamaica—** Mr. and Mrs. Ward.

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," April 13th, 1904:—Jamaica—** Miss A. Anderson, Miss N. Alexander, Miss A. E. Blake, Hon. C. Berry, Mr. and Mrs. D. Campbell, Miss M. Campbell, Mr. W. T. Connelley, Dr. Castle, Mr. and Mrs. W. Dougall, Mr. J. D. Denholm, Mr. F. G. DePass, Miss Greenwood, Mr. Garlick, Miss Kenny, Mr. H. E. Lewis, Mr. H. A. Lindo, Miss M. McPhail, Mr. A. E. McPhail, Mr. J. McPhail, Mrs. H. McCrae, Mr. Mortlock, two Misses McClelland, Miss M. Nuttall, Mr. G. S. Owen, Capt. Pearson, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Robinson, Dr. A. A. Robinson, Mr. C. A. Robinson, Mr. J. Rogers, Miss M. A. Robley, Col. Rauch, Miss Smith, Mr. A. A. Samuel, Mr. H. A. L. Simpson, Mr. Turnbull, Dr. Thomson, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Jones.

**Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," April 24th, 1904:—Jamaica—** Mr. W. D. Anderson, Dr. C. W. M. Castle, Mr. Forrest, Mr. Henderson, Mr. H. E. Large, Mr. S. C. Mortlock, Lieut.-Col. R. J. and Miss Norris, Mr. Z. Smith, Mr. C. A. Strong, Mr. G. Noyelle.

## The Produce Markets Summary.

**Sugar—88 per cent Beet.**—An error crept in the last issue of this "Summary," the nature of which would be at once obvious to any one who follows the general course of supply and demand in Sugar—M. Licht was made to state that the "Visible Supply" on the 1st October was **2,250,000 Tons**. As a matter of fact this was the figure for the 1st November after a full month's working of the Beet crops of 1903/4. The correct figure for the 1st October is **1,419,000 Tons**, and the writer admits the typical error and apologises for it. The remarks bearing on the subject of this large carry over do not need modifying. The last two seasons have flooded Europe with Sugar, and this one, with its increase once again of **300,000 Tons** in Beet, and a similar amount in Cane, will take a lot of dealing with. If Consumption increases **600,000 Tons** during the year, which it probably will, it still leaves the "Visible" for 1st October, 1904, as large as ever. We require **1,000,000 Tons** increase in Consumption this year, to adjust prices in accordance with a profit-earning scale. With good fruit crops this may be reached, and it is to be hoped for all concerned it will.

M. Licht's "Visible Supplies," 1st October—

1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898
<b>1,419,000</b>	<b>1,510,000</b>	<b>760,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>670,000</b>	<b>680,000 Tons</b>

A reduction in sowings for next crop is generally expected, but the amount thereof is quite a matter of uncertainty. A large reduction is expected in Russia, but as this Sugar is excluded under the terms of the Brussels Convention, the question is of more importance to Russia than to any one else. France suggests the next largest curtailment, the other countries being quite uncertain. The per centage, from our point of view, whatever it will be, will apply to the following crops only.

### CONVENTION BEET CROPS.

	1903/4 (estimate)	1902/3	1901/2	1900/01
Germany	1,950,000	1,762,000	2,304,000	1,984,000 Tons
Austria	1,175,000	1,057,000	1,301,000	1,094,000 ..
France	780,000	833,000	1,123,000	1,113,000 ..
Belgium	210,000	215,000	334,000	333,000 ..
Holland	125,000	102,000	203,000	178,000 ..
<b>Total of European crops</b>	<b>4,240,000</b>	<b>3,969,000</b>	<b>5,265,000</b>	<b>4,702,000</b>
	<b>5,850,000</b>	<b>5,550,000</b>	<b>6,760,000</b>	<b>5,990,000</b>

A reduction of 5% in "Convention" countries on this year's yield would thus displace about **200,000 Tons**, whilst a reduction of 7½% on the total European crops would displace about **450,000 Tons**, neither of which amounts are in excess of what is required to equalise Production and Consumption. The future alone will show how this works out. All forecasts as to future Consumption are eminently speculative, but general conditions point to a steady expansion.

The Market continues to improve, and to-day's quotations of 88% Beet are:—April, 8s 7½d, August, 8s 10½d, October/December, 8s 11½d; add January/March, 1905, 9s 1½d, all free on board Hamburg.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America (uneven dates) are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
Europe	2,770,000	2,720,000	2,850,000	2,160,000	1,970,000 Tons
United States	160,000	210,000	110,000	180,000	180,000 ..
Cuba	250,000	350,000	400,000	200,000	100,000 ..
Cargoes afloat	20,000	20,000	10,000	10,000	20,000 ..
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,200,000</b>	<b>3,300,000</b>	<b>3,370,000</b>	<b>2,550,000</b>	<b>2,270,000</b>

Comparative prices of 88% Beet for 5 years:— 8s. 7½d. 8s. 4½d. 6s. 1d. 9s. 1½d. 10s. 4d.

**Crystallised Sugar.**—Yellows are in good demand from 14s 9d to 15s 6d, and the value of average qualities is fully 15s. "Imitations" are quoted 15s to 15s 3d. For a cargo of 90 centrifugals 9s 6d is easily obtainable on floating conditions.

**Molasses Sugar**—Remains steady from 11s 6d to 15s.

**Muscovado**—Small sales of grocery Barbados from 13s to 14s 6d. For 89 test 8s 9d on floating terms can now be obtained from Clyde Cane Sugar Refiners, with business doing thereat.

**West India figures since 1st Jan.**

	1904	1903	1902	1901
Imports to date	14,000	5500	15,000	18,000 Tons.
Home Consumption	14,000	13,000	14,000	13,000 ..
Stocks	12,000	22,000	13,000	13,000 ..

**Rum.**—A moderate business has been done in Home Trade Jamaica at 1s. 9d., indicating a steady price. There is nothing passing in Demerara, and quotations are nominal. Importers are still unwilling to sell. Leewards are worth 7d. to 11d.

Board of Trade Returns for three months:

	1904	1903	1902
Imports	1,942,000	1,806,000	2,042,000 Gallons.
Home Consumption	1,189,000	1,033,000	1,201,000 ..
Stocks 31st Mar	9,950,000	9,946,000	8,092,000 ..

Stocks in London:

	1904	1903	1902	1901
Jamaica	8100	8620	6580	6250 Puns
Demerara	12,170	9960	10,850	10,640 ..
<b>Total of all kinds:—Stocks</b>	<b>28,832</b>	<b>28,378</b>	Increase, 450 Puns.	

**Cocoa.**—There is a fair general demand. Trinidad is in large supply and prices are a shade easier, viz. "fair collected" 60s, Estate Marks, 60s, to 66s. Grenada is 1s. dearer for fermented, viz. 57s. to 58s. 6d., native being unquoted 60s., on full landed terms.

Board of Trade Returns for three months

	1904	1903	1902
Imports	10,536	7977	10,015 Tons.
Home Consumption	6392	5029	8796 ..
Stocks 31 Mar.	6600	6079	5474 ..

Stocks in London:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901
	88,000	87,000	71,000	88,000 Bags.

**Coffee.**—Steady. Good ordinary Jamaica, 60s., and April delivery Santos, 34s. 1½d.

**Rutgers.**—Large sales of West Indian, from 6½d. for 140's up to 2s. 2d. for 59's. **Macc.**—A good business from 1s. 8d to 2s. 2d. **Opimento.**—Steady, at 3½d for fair. **Ginger.**—In more demand at 1s. to 3s. advance. Jamaica sold, lean and common, 31s, to 32s., middling to good middling, 38s to 46s., and fair to good bright, 47s. to 53s.

**Cotton.**—Fluctuating every day. American April delivery, about 7½d. West Indian Sea Island, 13½d. to 16½d.

**Arrowroot.**—There is more doing and about 1200 barrels fair manufacturing have been sold at 1½d.

	1904	1903	1902	1901
Stocks in London—	10,020	13,074	8564	8039

**Lime Juice.**—Fair to fine, 1s. to 1s. 3d. Concentrated, £13 nominal. Distilled Oil, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d. Hand Pressed, unchanged at 2s. 9d. to 3s. 3d.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.



# The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XIX.

ENTERED AT  
STATIONERS HALL.

TUESDAY, MAY 10th, 1904.

No. 124.

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## OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. X.



Mr. Wallwyn P. B. Shepheard, M.B.

### Mr. Wallwyn Poyer B. Shepheard

The author of the retrospect of the Bounty Question, concluded in this issue, became a member of our Committee in January, 1872, and has since actively fought for the cause of the West Indies. In 1875 he wrote a pamphlet entitled "A Free Trade Problem in connection with the Sugar Convention of 1874," and a paper on "The Economic operation of the Foreign Sugar Bounties" read before the Social Science Congress in 1878. The Most Favoured Nation Article was in 1879 the subject of a joint opinion by the late Professor Sheldon Amos and Mr. Shepheard whose view that a duty to countervail an export bounty would be no violation of that Article was subsequently upheld by the law officers of the Crown.

During the agitation which began in 1878, he was hon. adviser to the Workmen's Association for the Abolition of the Bounties, and in 1880 assisted in founding the National Anti-Bounty League, of which for some years he and the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne were honorary secretaries. At the Colonial Exhibition of 1886 Mr. Shepheard served on the Committee for the West Indies. The experience then gained originated the Cane Sugar Union

and kindred organizations formed to draw attention to the merits of Cane sugar. He gave evidence before the Royal Commission of 1896, and in 1898 was elected Chairman of the West Indian Club, which office he held until 1903 when he was succeeded by Sir Neville Lubbock.

To the *Journal of the Society of Comparative Legislation*, since its establishment in 1894 Mr. Shephard has contributed abstracts of the legislation of several West Indian Colonies, as well as articles on "Suzerainty," "Confederation in the West Indies," and "The Most Favoured Nation Clause."

Mr. Shephard was educated at Merchant Taylors' School, and, after some few years' experience in the actuarial and other work of a large life assurance office, was admitted a fellow-commoner of Jesus College, Cambridge; he graduated in Moral Science Honours, and in 1871 was called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. Mr. Shephard, with his brother-in-law Mr. J. Poyer Poyer, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge, is interested in the West Indies through family property in Barbados.

### The Homeward Mail—Favourable Progress continues.

The story of the fortnight ended April 22nd in the West Indies, as summarised by the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, is again of a cheering nature. The most notable feature is Mr. Alleyne's estimate of the Barbados sugar crop, which he places at 70,000 to 75,000 hogsheads, a figure which has only been exceeded in 1888 and 1890, when the crops were 72,489 and 85,223 hogsheads respectively. Cotton promised well and the shipments of Bananas from Barbados and St. Vincent had been favourably reported upon. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Trent," anchored off Plymouth at 1.50 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4th, and the mails were delivered in London by first post the next day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Royal," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, April 27th. We extract the following notes from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents received per R.M.S. "Trent":—

#### Antigua. Young Canes show Promise.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER). April 20th.—The sugar crop was standing out indifferently on the whole, and would not, it seemed, average more than about one ton of sugar per acre. There appeared to be some difficulty in places in getting a satisfactory polarization. The sugar was more inclined to be gummy than usual, owing, no doubt, to an irregular season. The young crop looked very well. Prices ran at \$1.50 for 89% sugar, and 14 cents, package included, for molasses. Onions continued to be shipped in some quantity, and the industry was extending to the lands naturally best suited to the crop, which hitherto had not been planted in onions. With further extension in this direction, there was no doubt that Antigua would be able to produce a considerable export of this crop. Unfortunately, the only kind of onion, so far successfully raised in the Island, did not keep well, and thus the marketing of any large crop, if raised, might possibly be accompanied by low prices due to a glut in local markets. The yield of cotton seemed rather lighter than was expected, but the quality was good.

#### Barbados. A "Bumper" Crop Estimate.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE), April 21.—With the exception of a little rain on the 10th, the weather for the fortnight had been beautifully fine with hot suns and good breezes. Advantage had been taken of it to press on with sugar making and planters had been everywhere busy. The yield continued good and it was very similar in all parts of the Island. A crop of 70,000 to 75,000 hogsheads might be looked for. It was very encouraging to read by last mail of the greatly increased consumption of beet sugar in France, Germany and other countries, as well as the decrease in sowing estimated by Herr Licht. He trusted, all these favourable symptoms might operate to help the price of their staple in the near future. At that time the advance in beet to 8s 7½d had not been echoed in Barbados, and molasses continued at the very low price of 12½ cents. The young canes were healthy and vigorous and made a beautiful show. The Legislative Session expired on April 12th, and it was probable that new writs for the House of Assembly would be issued towards the end of May. The Quarantine Conference was to be opened by the Governor on Monday. The cotton crop for the season had been almost fully gathered and fields were blooming again. The reports concerning the recent banana shipments were more satisfactory, fewer bunches having suffered on the voyage. The Hon. Dr. Sealy, of Hill View, had made a successful experiment with the cultivation of English potatoes. The Agricultural Society had decided to vacate their present quarters and share the building of the Chamber of Commerce on the wharf. The annual Oxford and Cambridge dinner was held at the Bridgetown Club, on April 9th, Canon Bindley presiding, when 28 gentlemen were present.

#### British Guiana. The Export of Gold.

(A. SUMMERSON, ESQ.) April 21st.—The Governor had been on a visit to Berbice. They were getting too much rain and cultivation generally needed all the sunshine it could get for the next few weeks. The May and June canes were making fair progress but were still short for their age. 3,382 ozs. 3 dwts. 5 grs. of gold valued at \$59,020.98 were entered



at the Custom House in April for shipment per R.M.S. "Eden." Refining crystals were quoted at \$2.05. The Governor had offered a prize of £100 for the first person who would manufacture in British Guiana, for export and sale, from cassava grown in the Colony, one ton of tapioca of good commercial value.

#### British Honduras

(HON. A. R. USHER) April 21st.—The weather had been exceedingly bad lately and all wood cutting operations had been completely stopped by the recent rains which were unprecedented for the time of the year. The appointment of Mr. Sweet-Escott as Governor appeared to have given general satisfaction to a large number of the inhabitants and a great deal was expected of him with regard to the general development of the Colony, and no doubt was entertained that with the able assistance of Mr. Cork, the Colonial Secretary, something would be done shortly after his arrival to put the roads of the Colony, which were much in need of attention, in a satisfactory state. Mr. C. R. Usher, the Surveyor-General had resigned his appointment as from the 30th June next, and the Secretary of State had been asked to appoint his successor.

#### Dominica. Scale Blight Checked.

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.), April 21st.—The weather continued rainy, and the spring was the wettest that had been experienced for some years. This had effectually checked the scale blight that did some damage to the lime cultivations last year. The Legislative Council met on March 29th, and passed the estimates for 1904-5. The Council had passed a measure largely reducing the export duties on essential oils manufactured in the Island.

#### Jamaica. Rain still wanted in Vere.

(J. J. ASHENHEIM, ESQ.), April 18th.—The weather in Trclawney and Vere had been very dry, and rain was greatly needed. If the May seasons were missed, the outlook for the next sugar crop would be gloomy. In other parishes the weather had been seasonable, though in St. Elizabeth and Manchester, there had possibly been too much rain. Bananas were coming in in small quantity, which would increase weekly, but reaping would not be in full swing before the end of July. Ginger was coming in freely, and the crop would be an average one.

#### Grenada. A satisfactory Cocoa Crop.

(P. J. DEAN, ESQ.) April 20th.—So far, the cocoa crop had been satisfactory, shipments from the 1st October, 1903 to that date, totalled 57,402 bags against 54,534 for the corresponding period preceding, but a falling off would take place in the next five months, and it was expected that the total would be about the same as the last crop. The weather had not been seasonable. Constant rains had fallen, and if they continued, would bring on fair pickings in June and July. Nutmeg shipments were below last year's, but the deficiency would be made up during the next two months.

#### Montserrat. A fortunate Absence of Fungus.

(CONRAD WATSON, ESQ.), April 20th.—The weather for the past fortnight had been cloudy, and unfavourable for reaping. The canes this year were particularly free from rind fungus, and the juice was of good quality.

#### Nevis. Turning the Corner.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND), April 18th.—The country presented a beautiful aspect, none of the cane fields having as yet become dry. It really looked as if the turning point in Nevis's long spell of depression had been reached. The planters who cultivated cotton on the most approved principles were giving practical illustrations of the fact that success can only be attained by proper application. The result achieved by the few would, he hoped, incite the many to similar efforts in the near future, and there were so many acres of valuable land awaiting proper cultivation that there was no fear of the two industries, cotton and sugar, clashing. Regarding the rainfall; as the nigger said, "there was not too much, but assez bien."

#### St. Kitts. Grinding Progressing.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, ESQ.), April 19th.—Grinding was going on rapidly, and on the windward side of the Island good returns were being made.

#### St. Lucia. Favourable Weather.

(HON. E. DuBOULAY), April 22nd.—The weather was favourable to cropping, which was going on well.

#### St. Vincent. Banana Shipments.

(Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co.), April 22nd.—The Governor had paid a flying visit from the Friday night to the following Tuesday, but expressed no intention to assist in reorganizing the estates in the Carib country, even to the extent of providing a water supply. The Department of Agriculture made by the Mail the first shipment of cotton ginned at the new factory. Some trial shipments of bananas had been made by the Royal Mail steamers to Plymouth, and from advices received it appeared they arrived in excellent condition. Some crates which were sent straight through to Scotland were favourably reported on. If this could be done by ordinary Mail Steamer, what an opening it would be for the trade if special steamers were put on!

### Trinidad. The Fruit Industry.

(Hon. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK), April 22nd.—In the place of Mr. W. G. Gordon, Mr. Prudhomme David had been appointed to the Legislative Council. By those who know him, Mr. David was spoken of as a man of ability and strong common sense. The report of the committee appointed to consider the reorganisation of the police force of the Colony was laid on the table, and was to be discussed at the next meeting. A committee had reported in favour of raising a loan for providing a floating dock in the harbour. The *Port of Spain Gazette* of the 21st April contained a copy of the concession granted to General Coran for the navigation of the Orinoco river, but no date had been mentioned for the commencing of the service. The weather had been most favourable during the last fortnight for sugar making. The falling off in receipts indicated clearly that the principal cocoa crop was rapidly approaching its end, but the favourable weather of the last two months had left the cultivation in such a healthy condition, that fairly large pickings might be anticipated in June and July. Prices had fallen, owing to the cessation of the demand for the United States. Estates cocoa might be quoted at \$13, and the ordinary, for which there was always a demand, at \$12.70.

(EDGAR TRIPP, Esq.), April 22nd.—Much gratification was expressed at the news that Mr. Symington had arranged to continue the good work of his fruit syndicate, and would shortly return to the Colony. Arrangements had been made for the regular supply of the Gros Michel banana suckers by each Mail steamer from Jamaica, and the somewhat limited supplies obtainable were all booked in advance, and eagerly purchased by people anxious to assure themselves of the fair prospects of fruit cultivation.

### Canada and the West Indies.

Our Honorary Correspondent in Montreal, Mr. J. Russell Murray, writes that general business has continued quiet during April, and this is probably largely due to the continued cold spring, though everything points to an early re-awakening of trade. There is very little to report at the present moment regarding West Indian trade with Canada, but an earnest desire exists to see improvement in the means of communication between the West Indies and the Dominion, with a view to the establishment of a fruit trade. The value of imports of sugar to Canada during January for the two years 1903 and 1904 were as follows:—

	1903.	1904.
Great Britain...	\$5,671	\$5,188
United States	10,083	5,193
Belgium	—	80,703
British Guiana	—	142,727
British West Indies...	31,328	94,992
Germany	273,618	—
Other countries	7,397	27,106

The above figures speak for themselves and indicate the results of the German surtax and the possibilities for the development of the West Indian trade with the Dominion.

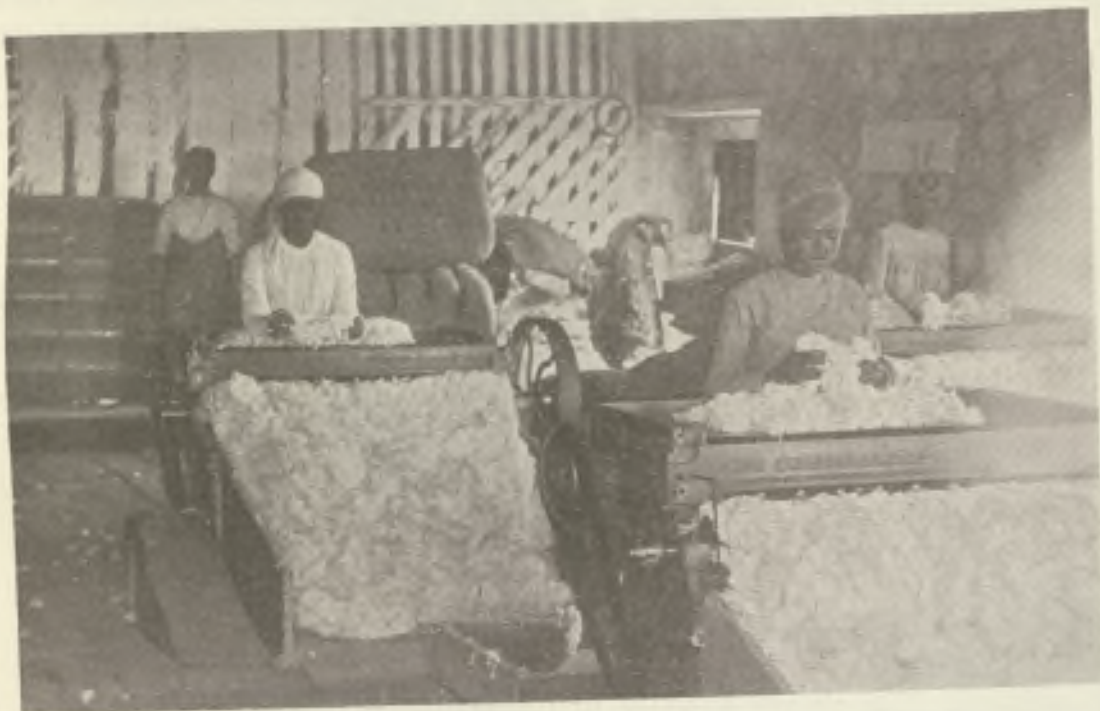
### The Cotton Industry—A Practical Offer.

Mr. Edward R. Davson, one of the representatives of the West India Committee on the Executive of the British Cotton Growing Association has written to the Chairman of the Berbice Cotton Association making a practical offer which should definitely clear up the question as to whether cotton should be developed on the large plantation, or the small proprietary system, which latter appears to be the accepted one in West Africa. Mr. Davson is having five acres of land sown in cotton on Providence Estate, British Guiana, which will be cultivated with ordinary estate labour, and of which an account and analysis of expenditure will be carefully kept. At the end of twelve months, he hopes to be able to show the comparative figures of profit and expenditure between this and an equal acreage of sugar canes. He offers to give out five acres of land at a nominal rent to five reliable peasant farmers, and to grant them every facility for growing cotton, so that they may be able to till the land with as little financial risk as possible, and he hopes thereby, at the end of twelve months, to have sufficient data to calculate what the cost, including rent, would be to an ordinary peasant farmer, and to compare the advantages of this form of cultivation with the estate system. If these peasant



farmers are successful, it is hoped that the experiment will afford encouragement to others to take up cotton growing with more enthusiasm, and to show more appreciation for the good work which the Barbice Cotton Association is trying to do.

The total imports into the United Kingdom of West Indian cotton during the four months ended April 30th last, amounted to 404 bales, and during the week ended May 5th, 53 bales were imported, the average price obtained being 14d. to 16½d. The first large shipment from St. Vincent came forward by the R.M.S. "Trent," and consisted of 39 bales containing 12,799 lbs. The reports to hand as to the quality of the staple are uniformly satisfactory. A further meeting between representatives of the British Cotton Growing Association and the West India Committee, is to be held on Thursday, May 12th, when several matters of importance will be discussed, the principal being the desirability of sending experts to the West Indies.



**Ginning Cotton at Dagenham, Montserrat.**

The Dagenham Estate Cotton Factory has four gins, (three of which are shown in the illustration), worked by a 12½ h.p. oil engine on the lower floor. The bales in the background are of 600 lbs. gross each. We are indebted for this illustration to Mr. Conrad Watson, our esteemed correspondent in Montserrat.

It will be noted that in the Cotton debate in the House of Commons, on April 27th (see p. 189), Mr. Peel (Manchester, S.) urged that the efforts of the Government to foster the Cotton Growing Industry should not be confined to Africa, and in this connection the offer of Mr. Davson is opportune, and will, we hope, lead to greater attention being called to the West Indies as a cotton producing area.

#### **Mr. Martineau on the Sugar Convention.**

Mr. George Martineau has contributed to the Journal of the Royal Economic Society an interesting article on the Brussels Sugar Convention. Beginning with the proposals of Mr. Gladstone in 1864, for taking international steps for abolishing bounties on exportation of refined sugar, Mr.

Martineau gives a concise history of what has come to be called "The Sugar Question," which furnishes a valuable object lesson on many points of vital interest, now that Fiscal Policy is becoming the great battlefield of the day. Having dealt with the history of the question, he proceeds to describe the various forms of bounty, and to analyse *seriatim* the principal articles of the Sugar Convention. Mr. Martineau points out that the cost of producing beetroot sugar may be taken as an average for European countries at somewhere between 9s. and 10s. per cwt., while the cost of producing cane sugar in tropical countries ranges from 8s. to 9s. per cwt. If bounties had continued long enough, the actual sources of supply would have been dried up, and bounty-fed producers would have been left with a monopoly, but as matters stand, the cane sugar producers will undoubtedly have a great revival. They wanted security—a fair field and no favour—and could not get it. Now that it has at last been given to them they will no longer hesitate to invest capital in their industry. They can, with good appliances, produce a great deal more sugar per acre than their European competitors. There is, therefore, every prospect of their reducing still further their cost of production, which already stands 1s. per cwt. below that of Europe. The competition between cane and beetroot promises, therefore, to be healthy and keen. The only hope for the beetroot industry is largely increased consumption in their own countries, now that, bounties being abolished, not only heavy surtaxes disappear but also excessive duties can be reduced.

### Consumption of Sugar.

The following figures show the consumption of Sugar in the principal European countries which were signatories of the Brussels Convention, for the first seven months of the campaign, September, 1903, to March, 1904, inclusive, compared with corresponding period of last year.

	1903-4.		1902-3.
France	446,052	Tons.	270,298
Germany	675,519	"	484,243
Austria-Hungary	300,474	"	246,142
Belgium	53,804	"	35,000
Great Britain	801,877	"	803,789
Holland	57,232	"	44,143
	2,334,958	"	1,883,615

It will be seen that the increase in five months amounts to 451,343 tons.

### Cacao Imports to the United States.

Figures compiled by the United States Department of Commerce and Labour show that the importation of cacao has grown from 9,000,000 lbs. in 1883 to 24,000,000 lbs. in 1893 and 63,000,000 lbs. in 1903. The value of importations of cacao in crude form has grown from £200,000 in 1883 to £800,000 in 1893 and nearly £1,600,000 in 1903. Meantime the importation of manufactured cacao and chocolate has fallen from 1,467,977 lbs. in 1897, valued at £47,963 to 690,824 in 1902, valued at £28,964 approximate. Both cacao and coffee have grown rapidly in favour in the United States in recent years, as against tea, which showed no material increase. The coffee importations grew from 515,000,000 lbs. in 1883 to 1,092,000,000 lbs. in 1902 and 915,066,380 lbs. in 1903, those of tea amounted to 73,000,000 in 1883 and only 75,000,000 in 1902, but in 1903 were 108,000,000. Thus the growth in the importation of cacao has been more rapid proportionately than that of coffee and much more rapid than that of tea. Other evidence of the growth and popularity of cacao and its product, chocolate, in the United States is in the fact that the number of cacao and chocolate manufacturing establishments reported in the census of 1880 was 7; in 1890, 11, and in 1900, 24, while the capital employed increased from £106,100 to £1,378,146.



Supplement to "THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR," No. 124, May 10th 1904



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PHOTO BY ALBERTON K. ARTHUR.

## GRENADA'S SUNNY RIVIERA.

### A Generous Gift to Grenada.

In memory of their late father, Mr. Jonas Browne, the Hon. C. Macaulay Browne and Mr. George Gunton Browne have erected on Point Salines, Grenada, a light house, which has been gratefully accepted by the community of the Island, who have, through the Legislative Council recorded their thanks in the following resolution, passed on the 13th day of April.

"Be it resolved by the Legislative Council of Grenada that this Council desires, on behalf of the community, to place on record its appreciation of the service rendered not only to the Colony but to trade and shipping interests in the West Indies generally by the erection on Point Salines of a Lighthouse, with Keeper's quarters, &c., at the cost of the Hon. C. Macaulay Browne, C.M.G., and George Gunton Browne, Esq., of 37, Mincing Lane, London, who have, the Council is informed, presented the light, with its adjacent buildings and land, to the Colony in memory of their late father, Jonas Browne, Esq., deceased, and of his long connection with the Island."

We can imagine no more fitting memorial of the distinguished dead than one of this character. The idea was, we believe, put into the heads of the generous donors by the wreck of the S.S. "Orinoco" a few years ago, and the need of a lighthouse has since been emphasised by the grounding of a French mail steamer near this spot. The light is a brilliant one, and has been reported upon very favourably by Captain Savory, Commander of H.M.S. "Pallas," who sighted it at a distance of nineteen miles in clear weather, and fourteen miles on a showery night.

Port Salines is the south-western extremity of the Island of Grenada, and is more treacherous to mariners than the beautiful coast immediately to the north of St. George's, of which we give an illustration in the present number.

### The Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee was held on Thursday the 28th April, at 3 o'clock, at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C., Sir Neville Lubbock, K.C.M.G., the Chairman, presiding. There were also present Sir Henry K. Davson, Deputy Chairman, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Mr. Cyril Gurney and Mr. R. Rutherford, Trustees and Hon. Treasurers, Sir Charles Bruce, G.C.M.G., Col. Sir Roper Parkington, J.P., D.L., Mr. W. E. Atkinson, Mr. C. Algernon Campbell, Mr. T. DuBuisson, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. E. C. Hamley, Mr. Henry Langridge, Mr. A. M. Lee, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. F. Nunez Martinez, Mr. A. McD. Nathan, Mr. C. A. Philip, Mr. H. J. Previté, Mr. Joseph Rippon, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, M.A., Mr. W. W. Symington, J.P., Mr. H. A. Trotter, Mr. W. J. S. Tucker, Mr. A. F. Turnbull, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, representatives of Messrs. Thomas Lowndes & Co., Messrs. Smith Bros. & Co., and The Standard Life Assurance Co., and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I should like, if you will allow me, to make a few remarks regarding the Annual Report, although it touches very fully on the matters with which we have dealt during the past year. In the first place we may congratulate ourselves upon the number of new Members. During the first four months of the present year we have already elected 162 new Members, and we hope that you will do all in your power to increase our numbers and to bring our Membership in the near future to one thousand at least.

Then we have as usual, I am sorry to say, to regret the loss of some of our Members. In the first place I should like to say how much we all feel the death of Sir Walter Sendall. As you all know he was Governor of Barbados, and subsequently Governor of British Guiana, and I may say that up to the time of his death he continued to take a deep interest in all matters connected with the West Indies. He was present at a meeting in these rooms within a very few weeks of his death, and I am sure we all very much regret his loss. Then I am sorry to say that since this report was printed we have lost two other valuable Members, Mr. Gideon Pott, of Messrs. Pott, Cassels & Williamson,



and Mr. W. J. Thompson, a gentleman who was very well known and greatly respected in the City, the head of the firm of Messrs. W. J. & Henry Thompson, of Mincing Lane.

The next point I wish to say a word about is regarding our Honorary Correspondents, by whom we are very well served. We have recently appointed one in New York, and more recently still we have appointed a correspondent in Montreal. We still hope to appoint correspondents in Halifax and St. John's, and I think it is a matter of some importance that we should be well represented in Canada, because, as you all know, the trade between the West Indies and Canada is increasing very rapidly. Canada is now taking the bulk of our sugar, and I have no doubt the effect of her taking our sugar so much more largely than she used to will lead to a very much larger trade back from Canada to the West Indies. The preferential treatment which Canada has given to British products is now telling very much in our favour in the West Indies, and if we can continue to get the preference we are now getting, it will be a matter of very great importance to the West Indies, and will, I am sure, lead gradually to almost the whole of the trade being done with Canada in the future; so it is important that we should be well represented there.

Then you will notice a few words in the Report in regard to the testimonial which my West Indian friends were kind enough to give me. I have already, at the dinner they gave me, thanked them to the best of my ability, and in the *Circular* I have done so, but I am very glad to have this opportunity of expressing again how deeply sensible I am of the kindness of all my West Indian friends in having given me such a magnificent testimonial as they did.

Then I think you will all feel that a great honour was done to the West India Committee by granting a Knighthood to our Deputy-Chairman, Sir Henry Davson (Hear, hear). I am sure we all congratulate him on the honour that was done to him, and I think we all feel that a great honour has been conferred on the West India Committee.

I think I ought to say just one word about the Jamaica Cyclone. It has become, as tropical matters do become, a matter of ancient history—although it happened so few months ago. I am very glad to hear that the effects of that cyclone are very nearly worn off by this time. We have, also, reason to believe that the Fund which we were the means of collecting for Jamaica did an immense deal of good, and was in fact sufficient to meet the immediate emergency which arose.

There is another point of some importance to us, and that is the question of Cotton-growing in the West Indies. I do not know whether all of you, or many of you, attended the meeting we had the other day at which Sir George Watt gave us a very interesting lecture on Cotton growing, but it does seem likely to become an important crop in the West Indies, particularly in some of the Islands like Barbados, Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, and St. Vincent. I have no doubt that a serious attempt is being made to give the growth of cotton every chance in the West Indies, and we intend to do all we can to encourage it and give it every assistance in our power.

Then, I may tell you, we have sent in a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with regard to the surtax on rum. The points to which we have especially called his attention in that letter are these: In consequence of rum having to pay a surtax of 4d. a gallon, apart altogether from the duty of 11s., this surtax of 4d. a gallon absolutely prevents rum being sold for methylating purposes. Now, with rum at its present price, it would be of immense advantage to us if it could be used for methylation, because if we could sell 1000 or 2000 puncheons, away from the market, for methylation, we should certainly raise the price of the whole of the remainder. It appears that the quantity of rum that can be used for drinking purposes is strictly limited, and no reduction in the market price has the slightest effect in increasing the consumption, because the price is such a small one as compared with the duty. If we gave our rum for nothing it would mean that the buyer would pay 11s. for his rum instead of 11s. 8d.; therefore, you can see that no reduction we can make can ever increase the consumption for drinking purposes. But if we could reduce the stocks by getting rid of

a large portion of them for methylation it would be a great boon. We have some reason to believe that now that motors are being so largely used, rum would be a useful fuel for motors. At the present price it would be somewhat less than half the price of the petrol that is now being used, and at a difference of half the cost we are advised that there would be some demand for it. It is quite suitable for the purpose, so I think it is an important matter upon which we have approached the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Then I ought to say one word about the trade between Venezuela and Trinidad. It is a matter which concerns Trinidad very considerably, and although we have been having these disputes with Venezuela lately, and the West India Committee have done all they could to call the attention of the Government to the fact of the iniquity of this 30 per cent. extra duty which is imposed on Trinidad goods by Venezuela, so far nothing has been done, and the 30 per cent. of preferential duties still remain. We shall continue from time to time to bring the matter before the attention of the Government, and I hope that one of these days we may get something done.

Another matter of interest to the West Indies is the question of cables. We are still awaiting the report of the Departmental Committee which has been appointed to go into the matter, and we have some hopes that that report will recommend an extension of the lines of the Direct West India Cable Company.

You have, perhaps, all noticed in the papers to-day that a Conference is now sitting at Barbados to take into consideration the question of Quarantine in the different West Indian Colonies. There was a great deal of friction last year; I think it was in consequence of the different quarantine regulations, and there seemed to have been a good deal of jealousy between the different Islands. If all that can be removed and some general uniform system arrived at it will no doubt be an advantage to the trade of all the West Indian Colonies. We all know that the trade of some of the Islands was very seriously hampered last year by the quarantine regulations.

Then I ought perhaps just to allude to the question of molasses cattle foods. There does not appear to be so much demand for them at the moment now that grass is growing, and food of other descriptions is available, but there was a considerable demand last winter, and I think the experience of everybody was that where a farmer came and took our molasses cattle food he almost invariably came back. I think it may be said that the molasses cattle food has given great satisfaction, and there is every promise of its being a very great success, and thus affording a great relief to the overstocked rum market.

You will all have seen that we started holding lectures here in this room. We have already had three, and I have no doubt our energetic Secretary will be able to secure some other lecturers, and that we shall continue from time to time to have papers read on a variety of interesting subjects. So far they have been a very great success. The room has been very well filled every time. Sir Daniel Morris is coming over here almost immediately, I understand, and I have no doubt we shall ask him, and we hope that he will agree, to give us a lecture on agricultural matters generally in the West Indies, upon his arrival.

In conclusion I need only say just one word about the Imperial Department of Agriculture. They are continuing their work very steadily; they are working very energetically, and I think that they have already done a great deal of good to the West Indies, and I have no doubt they will do a great deal more. We all know that Sir Daniel Morris is brimful of energy, and that he is doing the best he can, and I am sure we are all very much obliged to him in connection with the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

I am glad to say that Mr. Symington, who is shortly returning to Trinidad, does seem to be making some progress in his idea of promoting and encouraging the growth of fruit, particularly in Trinidad. There seem signs that we shall be very shortly receiving appreciable quantities of fruit from



that Island. I think we are all agreed that Mr. Symington deserves every encouragement, and I am sure so far as the West India Committee can help him, they will be always ready to do so (Hear, hear). It only remains now for me to move the adoption of the report and accounts.

SIR HENRY DAVSON (Deputy Chairman): Gentleman, I once heard a Chairman congratulate a meeting that there was nothing to report, because, he said, when there was nothing to report it showed that everything was going on smoothly. He may have been right from his point of view, but it is entirely from a different standpoint that I rise to second the resolution that has been proposed by our Chairman. He has had a good deal to report, and report in this case certainly means progress. Our energetic Secretary has placed the retrospect of the past year under different headings with the same clearness and lucidity that characterises all that emanates from his pen. We see at a glance what has been done. Foremost amongst these is the abolition of the sugar bounties which came into operation last autumn, and with which the name of our Chairman will always be associated. It is the removal of the great barrier which has existed for so many years to our progress in sugar. Final results are still in the future, but I feel confident in saying that it is in the very near future. I am sure before very long we shall see higher prices and a great consumption of sugar.

There are other things in the report that I do not think I need enter into, but I must remark on the increased growth of our *Circular*, which has been so ably edited by our Secretary, Mr. Aspinall, and on the increase in number and importance of our members. We are now a body recognised in a way that we have never been recognised before (Hear, hear.) We are an influential body, and I think we are doing a great deal of good to the West Indies and to the Colonies generally for whom we have worked so long (Hear, hear).

Our *Circular* I think I ought to allude to. It is now a well recognised publication, and every one who comes across it reads it, ably edited as it is, with very great interest. Finally, gentlemen, we have to day amongst us our Chairman in the best of health and spirits, notwithstanding the arduous duties he has conducted for so many years to the great benefit of the Committee and the West Indies generally. I think I need say no more in seconding the resolution. (Cheers.) The resolution was then put to the meeting and unanimously adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We have now to elect nine members of the Executive Committee in the place of nine retiring by rotation. Those retiring by rotation under Rule 6, are:—Mr. H. H. Dobree, Mr. Thomas Du Buisson, Mr. Alex. Crum Ewing, Mr. G. MacGregor Frame, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. H. Hales, Mr. A. M. Lee, and Mr. Frederick Lubbock. All those nine, with the exception of Mr. Goodwin, who does not wish to be re-elected, submit themselves for re-election; I beg to propose, therefore, that these eight gentlemen be re-elected members of the Executive Committee. The resolution was seconded by Sir Henry Davson, put to the meeting and unanimously adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: In the place of Mr. Goodwin I wish to move that Mr. George Christall be elected a member of the Executive Committee. I may just perhaps mention that Trinidad is not very strongly represented on our Executive Committee, and Mr. Christall has lately taken up a large interest in that Island. He is very energetic, and I think he will be a most useful member to us, and I am very glad that he has consented, in the event of your appointing him, to act. I beg to move that Mr. George Christall be elected a member of the Executive Committee. The resolution was seconded by Sir Henry Davson, put to the meeting and unanimously adopted.

SIR CHARLES BRUCE: I hope I shall not be thought out of order if I rise to move a very hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman. Perhaps I may avail myself of this opportunity to add to what Sir Henry Davson has said about Sir Nevile Lubbock's services on the West India Committee, that in the Colony of which I have recently been Governor, the Colony of Mauritius, the services of the West India Committee, and especially of Sir Nevile Lubbock, in the matter of the sugar industry, are

very largely appreciated. I can assure the meeting that everything that relates to the proceedings of the West India Committee, and all that has been done during the last many years is very thoroughly appreciated in the Colonies also outside of the West Indies altogether. Personally, I avail myself of this opportunity of expressing my great gratification that Sir Nevile Lubbock and Sir Henry Davson who have been my friends for several years, should have received some public recognition of their great services. (Hear, hear.)

I can say that the honour which has been accorded to Sir Henry Davson is a very considerable one, because it has fallen to my lot for many years occasionally to recommend those who have done good service in the Colonies for some mark of His Majesty's favour, and I can say it is extremely hard to get. Therefore I am satisfied that the honours which have been done to Sir Nevile Lubbock and Sir Henry Davson show a very great appreciation on the part of His Majesty's Government of the services which they have rendered towards us all. (Hear, hear.)

MR. HENRY LANGRIDGE: I have been asked to second the vote of thanks to the Chairman, and as I have known and respected him a very great number of years I have very great pleasure in doing so. He has acted as Chairman with great advantage to the West India Committee. During all the long years of comparative darkness and gloom that have existed we have had a very able Chairman and Vice-Chairman at our head. I will not detain you as we are all business men and many of us are thinking about going away, so I beg to second the proposal of the vote of thanks to the Chairman for his great assistance in the chair at all times. (Cheers.) The resolution was put to the meeting and carried by acclamation.

The Chairman and the Deputy-Chairman having returned thanks the meeting then terminated.

### The Sugar Bounties Agitation, 1864—1903.\*

A RETROSPECT: BY WALLWYN POYER B. SHEPHEARD.

Imperial Act 3, Edward 7, cap. 21 (11th August, 1903).

The Sugar Convention Act, 1903, after reciting the conclusion of the Convention of the 5th March, 1902, between His Majesty the King and divers foreign powers and the provisions under Article 7 for the establishment of a Permanent Commission charged with watching the execution of the Convention, enacted as follows:—

*Powers with respect to Bounty-free Sugar.*—(1) Where it is reported by the Permanent Commission that any direct or indirect bounty is granted in any foreign country on the production or export of sugars, His Majesty may, by Order in Council, make a prohibition order, that is to say, an order prohibiting sugar from that foreign country to be imported or brought into the United Kingdom, subject to any provision which may be made by Parliament in lieu of such prohibition to impose a special duty on such sugar in accordance with the Convention. (2) While any prohibition order is in force the laws relating to Customs shall apply as if the sugar in respect of which the Order is made were specified in the table of prohibitions and restrictions inwards contained in section forty two of the Customs Consolidation Act, 1876 39 & 40 *Vict.*, c. 36.—(3) His Majesty may, by Order in Council, make such regulations as appear to him necessary, in relation to any Order under this section, and may by those regulations in particular require the origin of all sugar imported or brought into the United Kingdom, whether in transit or otherwise, to be proved by such certificate or other evidence as may be provided in the Order. (4) An Order made under this section shall not apply to molasses nor, except as expressly mentioned in this section, to sugar in transit. (5) Any share of the expenses on account of the organisation and working of the Permanent Commission as determined in pursuance of the Convention, and any expenses incurred in connection with the attendance of delegates at the Commission, shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament.

*Regulations as to Sugar Refineries and Factories.*—His Majesty may, by Order in Council, declare that every sugar factory and sugar refinery and factory for the extraction of sugar from molasses in the United Kingdom shall be subject to the supervision either of the Commissioners of Customs or of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue; and those Commissioners may respectively make regulations: (a) for prohibiting the carrying on of any such factory or refinery otherwise than by persons authorised, and in premises approved, by the Commissioners and, if required, entered for the purpose;

\* Concluded from "The West India Committee Circular," No. 123.



and for giving officers of the Commissioners powers of entry into any part of the premises at any time; and (b) for securing the payment of duty (including any charge which there is power to make under the law for the time being in force, on the delivery of goods for home consumption), and regulating the time and mode of, and the general arrangements to be made for, that payment, and for preventing any claim to drawback where duty has not been paid, and for regulating the removal of any sugar to or from the premises the storage of finished sugar, and the return of sugar for the purpose of further refinement; and (c) for making such entries in relation to the various processes in the manufacture of sugar as may be required by the Commissioners, and for enabling the officers of the Commissioners to inspect those entries; and 26 & 27 Vict. c. 7 (d) for applying any provisions of the laws of Customs (including the Manufactured Tobacco Act, 1863) or of the laws of Excise; and (e) for attaching penalties not exceeding fifty pounds to any breach of or failure to comply with any regulation made under this section, and providing for the recovery and application of the penalty, and for the forfeiture of any article in respect of which any offence against the regulations is committed; and the duties payable under the Finance Act, 1901, or any Act amending that Act, shall be taken on the delivery of any article from the factory or refinery, and shall be the same as those payable on the like articles on importation.

*Revocation of Orders and Saving.*—(1) His Majesty may by Order in Council revoke, alter, or add to any Order in Council made under this Act.—(2) Nothing in the Act shall apply to glucose.

*Short Title.*—This Act may be cited as the Sugar Convention Act, 1903.

It will be noted that the Act is dependent on the Convention; this was the result of a compromise with political expediency, for the original aim of the agitation was to obtain an Act imposing countervailing duties against foreign export bounties with absolute liberty and control over the countervailing duties whilst leaving foreign States either to have their bounties intercepted for our revenue to the relief of our taxation; or, to pass such laws as would to our satisfaction abolish them. It is doubtful, however, whether prohibition could have been the penalty by such an Act; it might have proved too drastic an interference with our supply of sugar; an objection not apparent in the case of a Convention where the penalty would be operative only against the few Powers remaining outside.

When by international agreement all the chief sources of the world's sugar supply carry on their industry without bounties, the existence of prohibition or countervailing duties against imports from other sources tends by the security thereby afforded against the arbitrary interference of bounties, to increase, rather than to diminish, the aggregate supply. In the present Convention the penalty of absolute prohibition is without grounds of objection so far as our consumers are concerned, and is perhaps a simpler and more effective method than the imposition of countervailing duties, to secure the object of the convention. At the same time it must be borne in mind that prohibition is political force and not the economic adjustment of countervailing duties.

The agitation is now ended. It has shown that for some forty years our imperial sugar industries have had to contend for their very industrial existence against the beet sugar industries of the Continent backed by the long purse of the foreign governments. Only those who have borne the burthen of this long struggle can realise its labours, its anxieties and its heavy and unmerited losses. These have been unjustly inflicted because the present settlement of the question is founded on economic principles as well established at the outset as at the close of the agitation, and our previous successive governments had each as much power and opportunity as the present for securing the abolition of the bounties.

But in some high official circles the great principles upon which the English economists founded that commercial policy,—commonly designated as free trade,—were disregarded. Hence this protracted settlement of a question which could have been disposed of by the Sugar Convention of 1864, if our Government had not been influenced by the invalid economic theories of some prominent officials. The West Indies have had to undergo one of the severest tests of their natural fitness for sugar production which could possibly have been devised; they have had to compete all these years subject to the exaction of providing out of their private resources the full competing equivalent of the foreign State bounties.

In the early Latin Charters constituting our Colonies we find that the laws were to be made "de et cum consilio, assensu et approbatione liberorum tenentium, etc.:" that in fact all that the Crown

could recognise by way of right, or grant by way of privilege was within the Charter, subject to the one great reservation of the primary allegiance as expressed by the following words:—"Salva semper fide et ligeantia, ac dominio directo, nobis, heredibus, et successoribus nostris debitis."

It was this tie of primary allegiance, and its ever loyal observance by the West Indian Colonies which prevented a movement in favour of annexation to the United States being started, as the only apparent means, which the supineness of British Governments had left them, of escaping the ruin to their staple industry threatened and so nearly accomplished by the foreign bounty system.

THE END.

### New Members of the West India Committee.

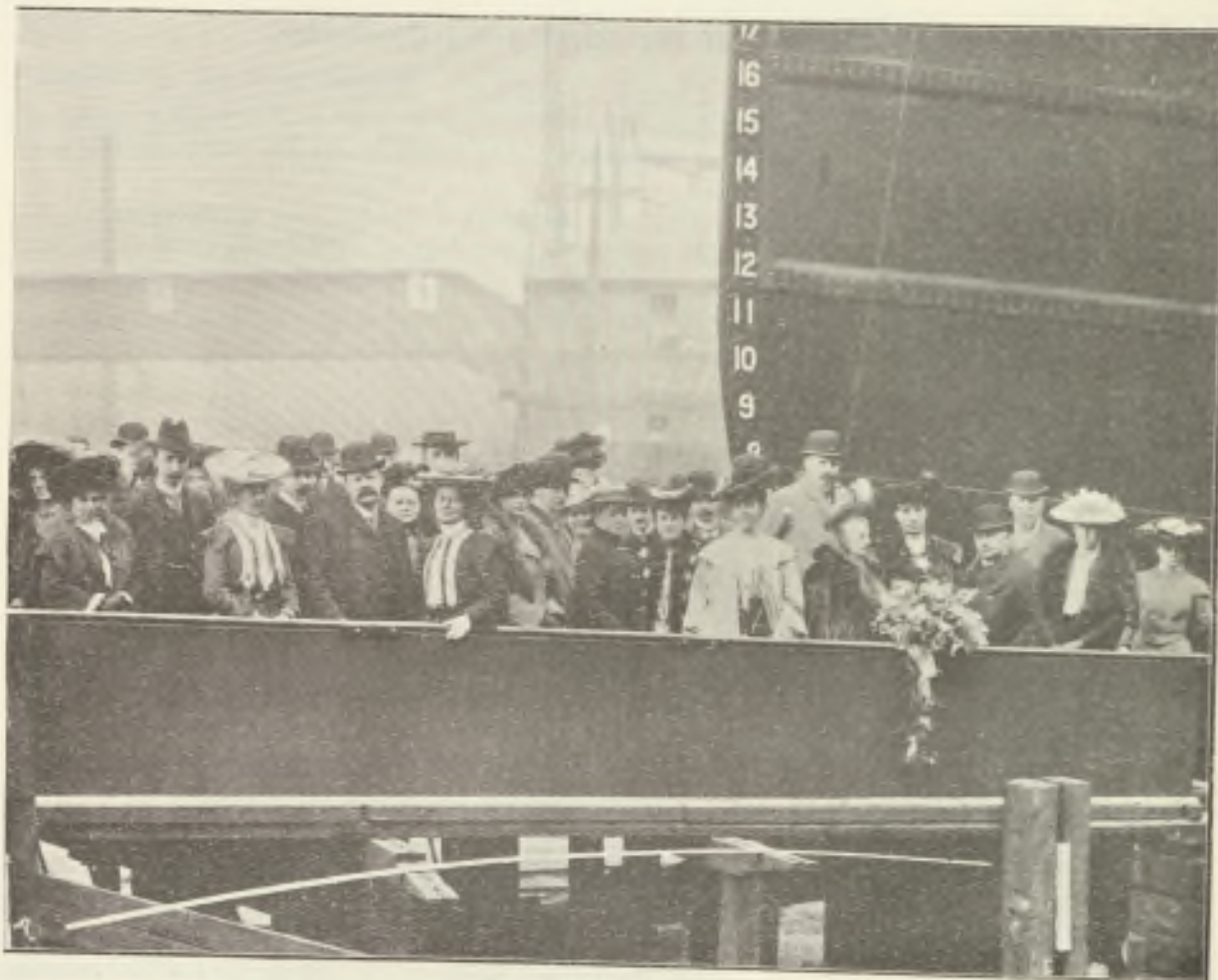
By the election on Thursday, April 28th of thirty six influential Members, our numbers have been brought to 786, and if every Member will endeavour, as we hope he will do, to introduce at least one candidate, our numbers should soon reach 1000. The following are the names of the new Members.

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
VICOMTE DE LA CHAPELLE	F. Nunez Martinez, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
SIR THOMAS DEWAR, M.P., J.P.	" "	" "
MESSRS. HALLOWES & TOSETTI	" "	" "
MESSRS. G. B. KENT & SONS	" "	" "
MESSRS. JEWSBURY & BROWN	" "	" "
MESSRS. SIMON MAY & Co.	" "	" "
HENRY PEREIRA, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	" "
L. GUGGENHEIM, Esq.	" "	" "
T. DAVIDSON ARNOTT (Trinidad)	" "	" "
JAMES A. HUGHES, Esq.	" "	" "
MESSRS. T. P. COOK & Co.	" "	" "
DR. HASTINGS STEWART	" "	" "
MESSRS. JOHN WISDEN & Co.	" "	" "
JOSEPH MOORE, Esq.	" "	" "
JOHN L. GROSSMITH, Esq.	" "	" "
CHARLES M. TREVOR, Esq.	" "	" "
HERMAN PINEDO, Esq.	" "	" "
LOUIS LANGFIER, Esq.	" "	" "
CHEVALIER P. TEOFANI	" "	" "
JOSEPH SHORE, Esq. (Jamaica)	W. F. Lawrence, Esq., M.P.	Wm. Gillespie, Esq.
MESSRS. SHORTER & Co.	H. Langridge, Esq.	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.
H. E. LEWIS, Esq. (Jamaica)	William Gillespie, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
ABDY F. ANDERSON, Esq. (Dominica)	R. Rutherford, Esq.	Duncan Mackintosh, Esq.
C. I. NICHOLSON, Esq. (Jamaica)	Robert Craig, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
FRED W. SCOTT, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
P. H. GREG, Esq. (Jamaica)	Cyril Gurney, Esq.	H. A. Trotter, Esq.
WM. DURNO, Esq. (British Guiana)	C. Algernon Campbell, Esq.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.
G. E. JARVIS, Esq.	Sam Browne, Esq.	M. H. Smith, Esq.
MESSRS. POTT, CASSELS & WILLIAMSON	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Sir Henry K. Davson
THE ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Sir Henry K. Davson
W. E. WARN, Esq. (British Guiana)	Sir Henry K. Davson	Wm. W. Craib, Esq.
LT.-COL. WM. G. DAWKINS	Wm. Gillespie, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson
J. R. C. GORDON, Esq. (British Guiana)	Sir Henry K. Davson	Wm. W. Craib, Esq.
JOHN BURNS SYME, Esq. (British Guiana)	Sir Henry K. Davson	Wm. W. Craib, Esq.
HERBERT E. M. JACKMAN, Esq. (B. Guiana)	A. Summerson, Esq.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.
DAVID L. SLINGER, Esq. (Grenada)	A. Wellesley Lewis, Esq., K.C.	Stephen Ewen, Esq.



### A Cargo Steamer for the West Indies.

On April 28th, the "Parana," a new cargo vessel for the River Plate trade, built for the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, was successfully launched at the yard of Messrs. Workman, Clarke and Co., Ltd., and on the following day the S.S. "Conway" for the West Indian line took the water from the yard of Messrs. W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., and was christened by Lady Noble. The vessel is of 2670 tons gross register, and is a three-deck cargo steamer, 328 feet long, 43 feet 9 inches broad, and 25 feet 10 inches in depth; and, with a view to making her speed performance at sea as economical as possible, she has a somewhat finer model than is generally found among vessels



By kind permission of

#### At the Launch of the R.M.S. "Conway."

The Shipping World.

Among the distinguished Company will be recognised Lady Noble, holding a bouquet of flowers, with Mr. Owen Phillips, the Chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, immediately behind in a light coat.

of her class. Her speed will be  $11\frac{1}{2}$  knots, and all the fittings now considered necessary in first-class cargo steamers are provided. After the launch, refreshments were served and the usual toasts were honoured. Mr. Owen Phillips, J.P., Chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., said that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. was the premier British shipping company, having been established by royal charter by Queen Victoria two years after she came to the throne, and this was now the sixty-

sixth year of the Company's existence. The Company might truly be called one of the links of the Empire, as it was granted a royal charter especially to carry the mails direct from England to our British West Indian Colonies, and they had now carried the mails to and from the Colonies with regularity and efficiency over that long period. The Royal Mail Company had prospered when the British West Indian Colonies were prospering, and had suffered with them when they had suffered. Their only regret was that the sums now received by the Company for carrying the mails were so inadequate to the work done that it was not in their power to render still more assistance. The vessel that had been launched that day was named "Conway," after a former vessel of that name which was built by the Company in 1847, fifty-seven years ago, and was a paddle steamer built of wood. He hoped that the new vessel, which was intended for the British West Indian fast cargo service might be equally as fortunate as its predecessor. This was the first steamer that the Royal Mail had had built on the Tyne for many years, and he trusted that it would be a credit, not only to its owners, but to the famous firm of Messrs. Armstrong, the builders. He accompanied with the toast the name of his friend, Colonel Swan, and he knew they would agree with him when he said that the vessels which the Armstrong firm had built in the past had been a credit to them, and that their reputation as builders, not only of vessels of war, but of vessels for general purposes, was second to none. (Applause.)

### West Indian Interests at Westminster.

#### Jamaica Match Factory.

Mr. M'KENNA asked the Secretary for the Colonies whether his attention had been drawn to the statement in the report of the Governor of Jamaica that it was clear that the single match factory working in the Island still enjoyed a considerable amount of protection at the expense of the general revenue and the consumers of matches; and whether he could state what public services the owner of this factory had rendered which entitled him to this favour.

Mr. LYTTLETON: The present excise duty on matches in Jamaica was established by a Colonial Ordinance of 1901. The Secretary of State pointed out at the time that the duty was not as high as had been recommended by Sir David Barbour. I do not regard the present position of this question as wholly satisfactory, and am communicating with the Governor on the subject.

#### Indentured Labour.

SIR C. DILKE having asked whether he would lay before the House a return showing in what cases and on what grounds the Government of India had since the date of the Commission of inquiry into the coolie system in British Guiana, appointed in 1870, forbidden, or, having once allowed, had stopped the export of indentured Indian coolie labour to foreign countries or to British Colonies. Mr. BRODRICK stated on May 5th, that the only cases since 1870 in which the export of indentured Indian labour, after having once been allowed, had been stopped by the Government of India had been those of certain foreign colonies, and the cases of refusal by the Government of India to permit immigration had been confined to foreign countries and did not include any British Colonies. In view of international susceptibilities, it would not be expedient to publish the correspondence showing the grounds on which the action was taken.

#### Cotton Growing in the British Empire.

On April 27th, Mr. J. RUTHERFORD moved, and Mr. FIELDEN seconded, a resolution calling upon the Government to use every endeavour to encourage the growth of cotton in those districts in Africa which are under British influence. After speeches in support of the motion by Mr. EMMOTT and Mr. S. SMITH, Mr. PEEL suggested that the finer qualities of cotton could be obtained from the West Indies, and he asked that the efforts of the Government to foster the cotton-growing industry should not be confined to Africa. He moved an amendment, which was agreed to, enlarging the scope of the resolution in accordance with this demand, and recommending the establishment of experimental farms in suitable cotton-growing districts.

Mr. LYTTLETON thought he should be able to show that the Government were endeavouring to advance cotton cultivation in many parts of the Empire. In fact, the success which had already attended their efforts justified great hopes for the future. There was a genuine peril in the dependence of the cotton industry for its supply of raw material on one country, which, though friendly, was still a foreign country, and he was informed that at no distant time America would require the whole of its cotton for its own purposes. In the past, while we had not hesitated to spend vast sums in acquiring territories, we had often grudged the expenditure of a few hundreds for the purpose of ascertaining how these



territories could be made to pay. Fortunately, it was now recognised that that was not a wise policy. He described briefly what was being done experimentally for the development of cotton-growing in Egypt, in the Sudan, in the West Indies, in Rhodesia, and in British Central Africa, and then drew special attention to the great success that had attended the experiments carried out in Lagos, South Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. It had already been proved that large quantities of good and serviceable cotton could be produced at remunerative prices in those regions. The Government and the Cotton Growing Association had come to the conclusion that the matter could now be advanced from the experimental to the commercial stage. It had that very day been arranged between the Colonial Department and the Association that for three years the latter should contribute £30,000 a year for the development of the industry, and that the three Colonies should on their side contribute £6,500 a year for three years. Land would be conveyed to the Association on easy terms, railway facilities would be given free of cost, and he believed that the Elder, Dempster Line had offered free freights for some time for the goods sent home. Any profit made by the Association in the next five years would be used in promoting the industry. After other speeches the resolution was agreed to.

### West Indian Civil Service.

We invite Members to forward to us particulars of movements and appointments of officers of the several West Indian Governments and other persons officially connected with the West Indian Colonies, for insertion under the above heading. For much of the following information we are indebted to the *Morning Post*.

Mr. J. N. Weeks has been promoted Chief Clerk in the San Fernando Post Office, Trinidad.

Sir Daniel Morris, K.C.M.G., is expected home on leave of absence about the middle of June.

Dr. O. D. Honiball, Government Medical Officer, British Guiana, has arrived in England on leave.

Mr. E. Rutter Jones, of the Treasury Department of Antigua, has been promoted to the office of Assistant Treasurer of St. Kitts.

His Excellency Sir Gerald Strickland, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Leeward Islands, is on his way home to England, via the United States, on leave of absence.

Mr. R. J. Clinckett, Official Assignee, Barbados, has left the Colony on leave, during which Mr. C. J. Winter, of the Provost Marshal's Department, acts for him.

Mr. Frank Fowler, Commissioner of Lands and Mines, British Guiana, has proceeded to Canada on leave. Mr. G. D. Bayley has taken over his duties temporarily.

Mr. Charles Dowding, Deputy Harbour Master of British Guiana, has been transferred to the Customs Department, in place of Mr. J. W. Cullingford, who has retired on pension.

Sir David Palmer Ross, Surgeon-General of British Guiana, who has been granted a further extension of leave on account of ill-health, will retire from the Service on pension in August.

Mr. E. J. Cameron, Administrator of St. Vincent, is coming to England on six months' leave during which Mr. E. D. Laborde, Chief of Police, St. Lucia, is to administer the Government.

Mr. P. M. C. Sheriff, Chief Justice of St. Vincent, West Indies, who is coming to England on six months' leave, has been made an Official Member of the Legislative Council of that Colony.

Following on the re-organisation of the Staff of the Government Laboratory, British Guiana, Mr. P. V. Garraway has been appointed Second Assistant Analyst and Mr. W. C. Campbell, Clerical Assistant.

The post of Resident Magistrate, Kingston, Jamaica, has been given to Mr. A. V. Kingdon, the Resident Magistrate of St. Andrew. He will continue to hold his present office in addition to that of Resident Magistrate of Kingston.

Mr. Edward Vickers, Resident Magistrate, Kingston, Jamaica, who has been acting as Junior Puisne Judge of that Colony, has been confirmed in the appointment in succession to Mr. Justice Lumb, who becomes Senior Puisne Judge.

Mr. P. N. H. Jones is acting as Director of Public Works, Hong Kong, during the absence on leave of the Hon. William Chatham. Mr. Jones was, until last year, Engineer in Charge of the Water and Sewerage Works in Trinidad.

The Hon. H. K. Pison Schooles has taken over the duties of Acting Chief Justice of Jamaica during the absence of Sir Fielding Clarke, who is in England. Mr. T. B. Oughton acts as Attorney-General and Mr. J. F. Cargill as Solicitor-General.

### Notes of Interest.

**THE CHAIRMAN** Mr. Owen Philipps, Chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, who is **OF THE R.M.S.P. Co.** a Justice of Peace for the County of the City of Glasgow, has just been placed on the Commission of the Peace for Pembrokeshire, of which County he is High-Sheriff.

**OBITUARY.** We regret to have to record the death of Mr. Donald MacCalman, which took place on April 19th. The business of D. MacCalman & Co., so long carried on by him in Glasgow, has been acquired by his nephew, Mr. George MacCalman, and will be continued under the old name of D. MacCalman & Co.

**BISHOP MITCHINSON** The Venerable Bishop of Gloucester has appointed the Right Rev. Dr. Mitchinson, Assistant Bishop of Peterborough and Master of Pembroke, whose name is familiar to West Indians in connection with Codrington College, Barbados, to be his Assistant Bishop, in addition to Bishop Marsden.

**OUR CHAIRMAN** Admirable reproductions of Professor von Herkomer's portrait of Sir Nevile "ON THE LINE." Lubbock, which occupies a prominent position on the line in Room VIII. at the Royal Academy this year, appears in *Royal Academy Pictures, Part I., Pictures of 1904, and Royal Academy and New Gallery Pictures.*

**A 12 H.P. MOTOR FOR BARBADOS.** A 12 h.p. Darracq car, with an experienced chauffeur, go to Barbados by Wednesday's Mail, the owner being the enterprising Mr. F. Nunez Martinez, who may claim to be the pioneer of motoring in the West Indies. Mr. Martinez represents in the West Indies many influential houses to whom his business capacity is a bye-word.

**AS OTHERS SEE US.** "The Secretary of the West India Committee hopes that the membership will soon reach a round thousand. It certainly should do so; for there must be more than 1000 persons in this country interested in the finances and industries of the West Indies: and the Committee works hard and successfully to promote the welfare of the Colonies."—*The Financial News*, May 3rd, 1904.

**GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY.** We are indebted to Mr. Edward Easton for a well-preserved copy of the map of the Island of Barbados, made by Staff-Commander J. Parsons, R.N., in 1869, and also for a copy of the geological map of the Island, which was published by authority of the Barbadian Legislature in 1890. We again take the opportunity of reminding members that we shall be grateful for gifts of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, for our Library, which is steadily increasing in importance.

**GERMANY AND THE SUGAR CONVENTION.** In the course of the debate on the sugar taxes in the Reichstag on May 2nd, Baron von Stengel, Secretary of State of the Imperial Treasury, gave statistics showing that in the first year during which the Brussels Sugar Convention was in force Germany's exports of sugar showed only a very slight decrease, while, on the other hand, the home sale had increased. If, he said, the Convention resulted in the production of sugar being kept within proper limits it would be a blessing to the beet-growing industry.

**THE WEST INDIAN CLUB DINNER.** The fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club was held on Wednesday, April 27th, when Mr. R. Rutherford was in the chair. Amongst those present were the Hon. D. S. de Freitas, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. C. R. Winn, Mr. P. D. Burnett, Dr. F. Myers, Mr. E. Mitchell, Mr. A. Hirsch, Mr. F. W. Scott, Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. E. Sturridge, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. H. O. Smith, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. H. E. Lewis, Mr. de Pass, Mr. A. M. Gillespie, Mr. R. Schult, and Mr. H. Bailey.

**RICE MILLS OF THE U.S.** The attention of the West India Section of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce was recently called to the fact that the American rice mills are making great preparation for the treatment of rice, with a view to supplying a sufficient quantity to meet the entire consumption of Cuba and Porto Rico. It was pointed out that this would seriously injure the rice trade with Burma, and the Section decided to watch the matter carefully, and if necessary to make representations later in the proper quarter.

**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Indianapolis" from Glasgow for Barbados, Trinidad, and Demerara, May 16th; S.S. "Salybia," from London for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, and Demerara, May 18th; S.S. "Barbadian," from Liverpool for Barbados and Trinidad, May 18th; and the R.M.S. "Port Antonio," from Bristol for Jamaica, May 21st. *Information for publication under this head is invited from Shipping Companies.*

**SUGAR BEET IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.** Sir Nevile Lubbock in a letter to "The International Sugar Journal" for May, corrects a serious error made by the writer of an article on "The Progress of Experimental Sugar Beet Culture in the United Kingdom" to the effect that home-grown sugar would by the Brussels Convention be entitled to a remission of 2/6 per cwt. from the tax levied by the country of its origin, whereas, as Sir Nevile Lubbock points out, the Convention simply stipulates that no customs duty shall exceed the excise duty by more than 2/6 per cwt. and that in this country there is not the likelihood of any Government reducing the excise duty on sugar below the customs duty.



## West Indian Securities.

Colonial Government Inscribed Securities.				Price.
	Antigua, 4 per cent.	...	Redeemable 1919-44	100-102
	Barbados, 3½ per cent.	...	" 1925-42	96-98
	British Guiana, 4 per cent.	...	" 1935	106-108
	Grenada, 4 per cent.	...	" 1917-42	100-102
	Jamaica, 4 per cent.	...	" 1934	105-107
	St. Lucia, 4 per cent.	...	" 1919-44	100-102
	Trinidad, 4 per cent.	...	" 1917-42	101-103

Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.	Miscellaneous Securities.	Paid.	Dividend.	
100,000	20	Colonial Bank ...	£0	6 %	5 5½
15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company	60	—	28-30
250,000	Stock.	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4% 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4½ %	82-86
325,000	Stock.	New Colonial Co., Ltd., 4 % 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red	100	4 %	72-74
46,874	5	" " " " 5 % Non-Cum. Pref.	5	5 %	2-3
360,700.	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb	100	6 %	93-98
70,000	Stock	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Perpetual Deb. Stock	100	4 %	96-98½
31,250	10	" " " " Extension Preference...	10	4 %	7-8
115,000.	Stock.	" " " " 7% Preference	100	Nil.	88-93
165,000	Stock	" " " " Original Stock	100	Nil.	15-20
85,800	100	Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., Mortgage Debs. (1 to 1200) red.	100	4½ %	98-101
60,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ...	£2 10 0	6 %	—
58,700.	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4½% 1st Mtge. Deb (1 to 1200) red.	100	4½ %	98-101
50,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. ...	5	5 %	—
80,000.	100	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. 5% Deb	100	5 %	100-103
34,563	10	" " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	10	8s.	53-63
4,669	10	" " " " " 2nd "	10	—	4½-5½
88,321	10	" " " " Ordinary ...	10	—	1-1

Bank of England rate 3% (changed from 3½% on April 22nd, 1904). 2½% Consols, 89½. (8.5.04).

## The West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

The Directors of this Company recommend the payment of a dividend of 6s per share on account of arrears on the first preference shares.

## Demerara Railway Company

At the ordinary half-yearly General Meeting of the Demerara Railway Company on Friday, April 20th, Mr. R. A. Robertson presiding, the Report and half-yearly statement of accounts, a summary of which appeared in last issue, were unanimously adopted. The Chairman said that he had recently spent three weeks in Demerara, and was on the whole able to form a very favourable impression of the property.

## The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The annual report of the Board of Directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, for the year 1903, which will be submitted to the proprietors at the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 11th, states that trade with the West Indies has continued in a depressed condition, and that rates of freight, both outwards and homewards have in many instances been unremunerative. The action taken by the Colonial Office, in conjunction with the Imperial Department of Agriculture, for the development of the industries of the West Indies, which it is hoped will help to restore these Colonies to their former prosperity, will continue to receive the warm co-operation of the Court, who in this connection have had pleasure in carrying free of freight, trial shipments of fruit, cotton, and machinery. The receipts show an increase over those of the previous year (in which were included special earnings in respect of Government transport services), and after charging £54,288 8s 8d for depreciation on the fleet and property, and transferring £12,043 to the insurance fund (making that fund £210,000), there remains a balance of £5,277 14s 2d, which the Court recommend should be carried forward. The Court are pleased to state that the company's operations are gradually being strengthened, and the business is being put on a more satisfactory footing. The improvement as far as the accounts show is not large, and does not, therefore, admit of so large a provision for depreciation as the Court would desire, yet the amount written off is more than in the year 1902. It is expected that the construction of the Panama Canal will shortly be resumed and that the work will lead to an increased traffic by the company's mails and cargo lines. The company's cargo service (as apart from the mail service) to and from the West Indies has recently been re-organised, and this revision should, in time, prove advantageous to the Company. This service has been suffering from irregularity of sailings, and in order to obviate this, the Directors have had to charter, from time to time, a large number of cargo steamers. In addition to the sale of the steamers "Avon" and "Para," previously reported, the steamers "Ebro" and "Minho," which could not be advantageously employed on the company's routes have been disposed of. On the Brazil and River Plate route the improvements introduced in the mail steamers are gradually attracting passengers, while the business reports from Argentina continue satisfactory. Looking however to the competition with foreign subsidised lines, the Court recognise that this trade can only be retained and developed by the acquisition of new and economical steamers, for both passenger and cargo purposes, and therefore, in addition to the three large cargo steamers, "Parana," "Pardo," and "Potaro," to which reference was made in the last interim report, they have recently, after careful consideration, arranged for the construction at Belfast, by Messrs Harland and Wolff, of a powerful twin-screw mail steamer, of 9,000 tons gross register. This vessel will be named the "Aragon." The Court feel that by adopting a progressive policy and by taking these steps for the maintenance and development of the company's business, they are acting in the best interests of the proprietors, and that the result will prove beneficial to them.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), May 2nd. "Heavy rains generally throughout the Island." British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), May 6th. "Weather still too heavy for cultivation." Trinidad (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 6th. "Weather continues favourable." Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), May 3rd. PORT ANTONIO: "Fine, with showers." KINGSTON: "Fine, with few light showers." May 9th. PORT ANTONIO: "Fine, with few showers." KINGSTON: "Fine, with few showers."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
	Hlds.	lbs.	Tons.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
Barbados—								
Jan. 1 to April 21, 1904	9815	—	—	—	—	14,445	—	—
" " 21, 1903	4658	—	—	—	—	8603	—	—
British Guiana—	Tons.							
Jan. 1 to April 19, 1904	24,538	11,809	1280	7536	46,040	213	18,557	2430
" " 20, 1903	31,859	18,330	146	9295	4532	1737	21,895	1014
Jamaica—		Cwts.	Coffee.	Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
			Cwts.			Cwts.	Bunches.	
Apr. 1 to Mar 26, 1904	12,257	18,389	74,723	1,209,207	15,085,447	65,629	7,499,258	79,119,510
" " 28, 1903	18,582	24,278	110,928	1,832,019	25,957,536	119,662	14,543,789	99,047,797
Trinidad—	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.
						Puns.	Tons.	
Jan. 1 to April 21, 1904	199,770	21,892,430	33,440	—	2,756,425	931	29	44,015
" " 21, 1903	192,708	18,755,650	34,800	26	4,531,187	583	85	37,483

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," May 4th, 1904:—Barbados.—Mrs. E. Branch, Mr. G. Branch, Miss Piggott, Mrs. J. W. C. Catford, three Misses Catford, Mr. M. Teesdale, Mr. and Mrs. W. McLaren, Mr. A. Peel, Mr. T. B. Clarke-Thornhill, Miss Willis, Mr. R. Kearns, Mrs. R. P. Elliott, Dr. Elliott, Mrs. Barron, Mr. R. Davies, Mr. F. Willman, Dr. J. A. Pybus, Mr. T. Wilson Demerara.—Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Field, Dr. D. H. Niball, Mr. S. J. Bullen, Mr. R. Haensch, Dr. Mrs. and Miss Fernandes, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Rice, Miss C. Mann, Mr. W. E. Hyder, Mrs. Dacent Jamaica.—Rev. and Mrs. G. McNeill, Mrs. G. Hargreaves, Mr. and Miss Casseres, Mr. and Miss Crum Ewing, the Hon. Evelyn Ellis, Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Black, Mr. and Mrs. L. Ashenheim, Mrs. G. I. De Cordova, Captain H. C. Stuart, Mr. T. Shields, Miss H. C. D. McArthur, Miss M. F. Ravenhill, Mr. and Mrs. K. Melhado, Mrs. and two Misses Bucher, Miss A. Isler, Mr. E. Greg, Miss I. Mills, Mr. and Mrs. W. Morrison, Mrs. Bell, Mr. L. Bell, Miss Cribbs, Mr. H. E. Friese, Mr. N. Smith, Mr. T. Ramsden, Mrs. Sexton, Miss M. Whittle, Mr. and Mrs. H. Berger, Rev. H. M. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. G. Kayne, Miss V. M. Delgado, Miss M. B. Croll Trinidad.—Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Reid, Dr. and Mrs. G. S. Seccombe, Mr. B. G. White, Mr. C. Waridel, Mr. J. Cipriani, His Honor Judge and Mrs. Routledge, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Scott, Miss L. H. Sutherland, Mrs. and Miss Holler, Mr. J. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. T. Wilson, Dr. E. J. Hammond, Mr. A. M. Low, Mr. G. Brown, Mr. N. Lamont, Mr. Albert T. Hammond, Mr. J. Miller, Jun. Dominica.—Mr. H. A. G. Hompray, Miss E. Frampton, Rev. F. Swenne, St. Kitts.—Mr. Wilmot Fretz, Mrs. A. Edwards, Mr. and Mr. G. C. Buxton St. Lucia.—Mr. Justin Devaux, Mr. G. Devaux, J. Geeleher, Mr. J. Goodman, Mr. A. Barnard.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," May 11th, 1904:—Barbados.—Miss N. Gooding, Lieut. E. V. Moore, Mr. H. Lloyd, Mr. H. E. G. Boyle, Miss M. W. Moore, Miss Martin, Lt.-Col. Boyce, R. E. Demerara.—Mr. A. E. Perkins, Mr. C. H. Stuart, Mr. G. H. Ribier, Mr. E. Harper, Rev. and Mrs. R. Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. D. Hill, Mr. B. Greene, Mr. G. Vogel Jamaica.—Mr. F. N. Martinez, Mrs. F. Woolward, Rev. M. Maund, Mr. Wm. Carnegie, Dr. F. Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Ward Trinidad.—Mr. J. E. Bower, Mr. J. Bowen, Miss M. Ulrich Antigua.—Mr. F. Gomez St. Lucia.—Lieut. M. A. Jackson, R. G. A.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," May 25th, 1904:—Demerara.—Mr. J. Perkins Jamaica.—Hon. H. Clarence and Mrs. Bourne, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Grayson Antigua.—Mrs. Jarvis, Miss G. Shepherd.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," April 27th, 1904:—Jamaica.—Mr. A. M. Ashton, Mr. Ashton, Jun., Dr. G. M. Andre, Capt. and Mrs. Barnard, Lieut. Ball, Mr. A. B. Cordey, Mrs. W. Clark, Miss M. deAlcazar, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Evans, Miss R. Felix, Mrs. and Miss Forster, Miss D. Faveol, Mrs. and Miss Fox, Miss V. Gardner, Rev. and Mrs. Hodges, Mrs. Harrington, Miss Hopley, Mr. H. W. Hill, Mrs. Humphry, Mrs. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Jacobsen, Mr. A. Jersey, Dr. Larmuth, Miss F. Mullen, Mr. A. H. Page, two Misses Rivett, Dr. A. Riley, Mr. A. H. Stockley, Mr. F. C. Stocker, two Misses Scott, Mr. A. Simpson, Miss Saunders, Mrs. Schlund, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. P. J. Wayne, Mr. R. H. Williams, Mr. E. C. Burke, Mr. W. Evans, Mr. F. Reeve.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," May 7th, 1904:—Jamaica.—Dr. E. H. Cooke, Lieut. J. H. Drake, Mr. T. A. Marsh, Dr. and Mrs. J. R. McCrindle, Mr. T. Oliver, Miss M. Hynes, Mr. H. Segree, Mr. G. Park.



### The Produce Markets Summary.

**Sugar—88 per cent Beet.**—Prices continue to steadily improve and the maintained increase in Continental Consumption is a valuable asset. If to this we are favoured with good fruit crops in Europe and America, a record expansion of Consumption may well be the main feature of the season 1903-4. Considering the increase of 500,000 to 600,000 tons Cane and Beet united in the crops of this season compared with last, we shall need a large distribution, and it is not unreasonable to hope that the "Visible Supply" which was given by M. Licht on the 1st October, 1903, at 1,419,000 tons, may by the 1st October, 1904, be reduced to 1,000,000 tons. Plenty of sugar no doubt, but not an overwhelming amount considering the increasing population of the world, before a portion of whom sugar has been placed since the 1st September last on a more favourable basis of prices, which have led to the increased Continental Consumption, previously alluded to. On the subject of sowings no further light has been shed; at the end of the present month a clearer indication will be available, for which we must be content and wait. It may be interesting to consider the position of Stocks in Convention Countries on the 1st of October, for the last five years as given by M. Licht. The last two years will show the excess created by Bounty-fed and Kartel manipulated crops.

		CONVENTION STOCKS, 1st October.				
		1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Germany	...	292,000	395,000	148,000	41,000	110,000 Tons
Austria	...	47,000	130,000	86,000	50,000	30,000 ..
France	...	458,000	324,000	116,000	105,000	216,000 ..
Holland	...	13,000	42,000	3,000	2,000	..
Belgium	...	104,000	93,000	11,000	5,000	12,000 ..
England	...	124,000	138,000	92,000	40,000	44,000 ..
		<b>1,038,000</b>	<b>1,122,000</b>	<b>456,000</b>	<b>243,000</b>	<b>412,000</b> ..

It is not surprising that prices are still below the natural cost of production with all this surplus sugar still undigested. Fortunately the legislation, tardy as it has been, brought about by the Brussels Convention, will render a permanent continuation of this condition of things practically impossible, and Cane Sugar Growers may well look forward to times of prosperity in the future.

Prices of 88% Beet are now as follows:—May, 9s. August, 9s 1½d., October/December, 9s. 1½d.; January/March, 1905, 9s. 3½d., with May, 1905, delivery 9s. 5½d., all free on board Hamburg

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America (uneven dates) are as follows:—

		1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
Europe	...	2,760,000	2,730,000	2,860,000	2,160,000	1,980,000 Tons
United States	...	190,000	250,000	130,000	220,000	180,000 ..
Cuba	...	240,000	370,000	430,000	190,000	100,000 ..
Cargoes afloat	...	20,000	20,000	10,000	—	20,000 ..
Total		<b>3,210,000</b>	<b>3,370,000</b>	<b>3,430,000</b>	<b>2,570,000</b>	<b>2,280,000</b> ..
Comparative prices of 88% Beet for 5 years:—		<b>9s.</b>	<b>8s. 3½d.</b>	<b>6s. 4½d.</b>	<b>9s. 4½d.</b>	<b>10s. 5d.</b>

**Vacuum Pan Sugar**—Following the general course of prices, this sugar has advanced 6d. during the fortnight with a large business done. Low to good yellow is now worth 15s. 3d. to 15s. 9d., with average qualities 15s. 6d. and good sugar 16s. A cargo of 96 test to refiners should now command about 10s. on floating terms.

**Molasses Sugar** is firm at 11s. 6d. to 15s.

**Muscovado**—Moderate sales of grocery Barbados have been made at 13s. to 14s. For 89 test to refiners about 9s. should now be obtainable on floating condition.

		1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.
West India figures since 1st Jan.					
Imports to date	...	17,000	7,000	19,000	21,000 Tons.
Home Consumption	...	16,000	15,000	15,000	14,000 ..
Stocks	...	<b>14,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>16,000</b> ..

**Rum.**—Steady for Jamaica with business at 1s. 9d. for fair Standard Home Trade Marks, and better qualities in proportion. Moderate sales of Demerara chiefly at 8d. but Importers generally do not offer their holdings. Leewards are worth 7d. to 11d.

Stocks in London:		1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Jamaica	...	7800	9600	6800	7400 Puns.
Demerara	...	12,000	9900	10,000	10,400 ..
Total of all kinds:—		28,178	29,128	...	Deficiency 950 Puns.

**Cocoa.**—A steady demand continues to be experienced for West India kinds, prices of Trinidad however being fully 1s. lower, those of Grenada and other Island Cocoa on the contrary being 6d. to 1s. dearer. Closing quotations are, Trinidad fair collected 59s., Estate Marks, 59s. to 65s., Grenada, 54s. for fair Native, with fermented 57s. to 59s. From other Islands fair Native is worth 53s. and fermented 56s. to 60s. African to arrive is quoted 60s. on full landed terms.

**Coffee.**—Fluctuating every day. May delivery Santos, 32s. 3d., and good ordinary Jamaica on the spot 39s.

**Antmegs.**—West India selling well, 62's 1s. 11d., 90's 1s. 120's 7d., smalls 5d. to 5½d., and in shell 5½d.  
**Rice.**—Steady. Pale sold 1s. 9d. to 1s. 11d., red 1s. 7d. to 1s. 8d., and broken 1s. 6d., to 1s. 7d.  
**Pimento.**—Lower, fair sold at 3½d.  
**Ginger.**—A good business done in Jamaica from 34s. to 57s., according to quality, with Rhatoon 31s. to 34s.

**Arrowroot.**—Steady with sales of about 800 Barrels fair manufacturing at 1½d.

London Figures to 30th April—		1904	1903	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	...	5354	4468	6572	5859	12,954 Brls.
Deliveries	...	8068	5487	6076	5603	6082 ..
Stocks	...	9922	11,205	8215	8356	9403 ..

**Line Juice.**—Firm at, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 5d. Concentrated, easier at £12 15s. to £13. Distilled Oil, unchanged at 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d. Hand Pressed, nominal at 2s. 9d. to 3s. 3d.

For COTTON, see Special Article, page 178.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

# The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XIX.

ENTERED AT  
STATIONERS HALL.

TUESDAY, MAY 24th, 1904.

No. 125.

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## OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XI.



Mr. Spencer Henry Curtis.

## Mr. Spencer Henry Curtis.

No member of The West India Committee is more highly respected in the City of London than Mr. Spencer Henry Curtis. He is one of the most active of our body, and it is hard to believe that fifty years have elapsed since he first entered the City, and became connected with the firm of Messrs. Bosanquet & Madden, West India Merchants. In 1861 upon the retirement of Mr. Bosanquet senior, he became a partner of that firm, the name of which was subsequently altered to Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co., and at a later date, when the late Mr. Quintin Hogg severed his connection with the West Indies, to Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co. Mr. Curtis has been a member of the Board of the Colonial Bank, for thirty-six years, and a director of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. since 1878. He is Chairman of the Indemnity Marine Assurance Co., a J.P. for Hertfordshire and Middlesex, and a Trustee and Hon. Treasurer of The West India Committee. He has many friends in the West Indies, in the welfare of which he is deeply interested, and he is deservedly popular on both sides of the water.



### The Cotton Industry.

Sir Daniel Morris, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, who should arrive in London on June 16th, has consented to deliver a lecture at the West India Committee Rooms soon after his arrival, upon the subject of the Agricultural Industries of the West Indies, with special reference to cotton.

The whole of the Barbados cotton crop which has now come in, has fetched good prices, though, for some reason or other, the cotton received from some of the other Islands has not been quite up to the mark, thus emphasising the need, to which we have so frequently of late called attention, of the despatch of more experts to the West Indies. During the fortnight ended May 19th, 212 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom, the prices realized being, Sea Island (Barbados) 14d. to 16½d., and Carriacou 7¾d. to 8¾d.

We are not surprised to find that Mr. Edward R. Davson's offer to give out five acres of land to peasant proprietors, to be planted in cotton, while five acres are also planted on Providence Estate, in order to test the relative merits of cotton growing by peasant proprietors and on the estate system, has been accepted by Dr. Rowland, Chairman of the Berbice Cotton Growing Association. The trouble which has so far faced the Berbice Association is the difficulty of draining the land, but, as Dr. Rowland points out, this is now obviated by Mr. Davson's offer, the result of which will be awaited with deep interest.

A further meeting between Sir Ralph Moor, Mr. J. A. Hutton, and Mr. John C. Atkins, representatives of the British Cotton Growing Association and Sir Henry K. Davson, Mr. R. Rutherford, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, representing The West India Committee, was held on May 12th. Special reference was made to the encouragement of the cotton industry among peasant proprietors in Trinidad, and the possibility of the establishment of an experimental farm in British Guiana was discussed.

### The Proposed Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

Certain proposals for the holding of a Colonial and Indian Exhibition at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, in 1905, have recently been under consideration of the West India Committee. An advance prospectus was sent to our Hon. Correspondents, and from the replies received it would seem that the Colonies are likely to favour the scheme.

It is now eighteen years since an Imperial Exhibition of the magnitude of that proposed by the Crystal Palace Company was held in any portion of the United Kingdom. The Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1886 was visited by 5,550,745 persons, although at that date the advantages, political, commercial and social, to the Mother Country, of the outlying parts of the Empire, and their vast importance to its power and prestige were only partially understood. Since 1886 the population of the Colonies and their trade with the United Kingdom, have largely increased, the Commercial Treaties between the United Kingdom, Belgium and Germany (which prevented preferential trading) have been denounced; favourable tariffs have in some instances been adopted; and the armed forces of the various Colonies and Dependencies have fought side by side with those of the United Kingdom in South Africa and China. At the present moment the food of this country is largely obtained from the Colonies, although in 1886 such imports were almost unknown. It is only necessary to allude to the large increase since 1886 in the shipments from Canada, Australia, and India, of wheat, meat, butter, cheese, game, and poultry; to the movement now on foot for obtaining cotton from British sources, and to the increased trade between the West Indies and the Mother Country. About the commercial advantages of the proposed Exhibition there is no room for difference of opinion since it will show the Merchants and Manufacturers of this country, that although in the past it has been the practice to rely for supplies upon foreign countries, there is no necessity to continue this policy for the future.

**Our Membership—800 now exceeded.**

Our Membership now exceeds 800, and we hope that every Member will, by introducing fresh candidates, help to bring it up to one thousand in the near future. As regards the New Members elected this year to date, Trinidad leads the way with 36; Jamaica has 23; British Guiana, 17; St. Lucia, 16; Dominica, 9; Barbados, 8; Grenada 6; St. Kitts, 3; Antigua, 2; Tobago, 2; Nevis, 1; St. Vincent, 1; while 59, though not resident in the West Indies are directly interested in the welfare of those Colonies. The following were elected on May 12th:—

NAME.	Proposer	Seconder.
IAN Z. MALCOLM, ESQ., M.P.	The Hon. M. W. Ridley, M.P.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
MESSRS. J. SAMUEL & CO.	F. N. Martinez, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
MESSRS. BRANDON & CO. (Jamaica)	Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G.	Messrs. E. D. & F. Man.
K. L. MACDONALD, ESQ.	A. E. Messer, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson
MESSRS. W. HINTON & SONS	R. Rutherford, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
THE MERCHANT BANKING CO., LTD.	Sir Henry K. Davson	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
W. W. WYNNE, ESQ. (Jamaica)	Robert Craig, Esq.	H. A. Trotter, Esq.
A. K. F. DUNCAN, ESQ. (British Guiana)	A. Summerson, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
F. N. BILLIAM, ESQ. (British Guiana)	A. Summerson, Esq.	J. H. Scrutton, Esq.
G. S. HUDSON, ESQ. (St. Lucia)	Hon. E. DuBoulay	Hon. S. D. Melville
H. BELMAR, ESQ. (St. Lucia)	" "	" "
MESSRS. MACFARLANE, MOFFAT & CO. (St. Lucia)	" "	" "
HON. J. E. M. SALMON (St. Lucia)	" "	" "
W. A. DOUGLAS, ESQ. (British Guiana)	Sir Henry K. Davson	E. R. Davson, Esq.
W. H. LEWIS, ESQ.	F. N. Martinez, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
MESSRS. HANCOCK & CORFIELD, LTD.	" "	" "
WILLIAM MORRISON, ESQ. (Jamaica)	J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.	" "
MESSRS. CORINALDI & ASHENHEIM (Jamaica)	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
CLEMENT J. BERTRAND, ESQ. (Grenada)	Hon. D. S. de Freitas.	H. A. Trotter, Esq.

**American v. British Machinery.**

Mr. Robert Graham, writing from Ponce, Porto Rico, under date April 11th, to the *Louisiana Planter* finds fault with an article which recently appeared in that journal in which it was claimed that American machinery was superior to that of British make. "As to the American machinery being lighter, I quite agree; this can be seen plainly in the scrap heaps on all places that have lately introduced it here; as to its being better and higher finished, that is a great mistake; on the contrary, the finishing, both as regards quantity and quality, has to be done by the purchaser during the erection. A large factory here put up lately with American capital, American talent, American manufactured machinery, American mechanics and American directing engineers, took off its first crop last year with great difficulty, doing only about half the work it ought to do, considering that it cost about two million dollars. The less than half crop made last year added about eighty tons to the scrap heap, and money sufficient to build a fair sized factory has been spent on it to get it ready for the present crop, but the breakage still continues, though not to such an extent as formerly. Another factory, two crops older than the one just mentioned, entirely under American control from the designing of the machinery to the bagging of the sugar, is just getting its head above a sea of breakdowns and difficulties, but will still have to spend a fortune to get the place into safe and economical working order. The capital lost through defective designing and building of the machinery amounts to many hundred of thousands of dollars, and could never have occurred with British made machinery."



### The Effect of Countervailing the Bounties.

The following table showing the percentage of beet and cane imports into the United States during the past ten years affords remarkable vindication of the efficacy of countervailing duties.

Year.	Beet.	Cane	Total	Percentage.	
				Beet	Cane.
1894	150.089	1.891.293	2.041.382	8	92
1895	99.750	1.644.471	1.744.221	6	94
1896	523.225	1.432.197	1.955.422	27	73
1897	757.880	1,292,723	2.050.603	37	63
1898	236.324	1.477.287	1.713.611	14	86
1899	296.456	1.903.418	2.199.874	10	90
1900	532.456	1.346.058	1.878.514	29	71
1901	299.854	1.556.252	1.856.106	17	83
1902	149.364	1.767.470	1.916.835	8	92
1903	15.177	1.649.259	1.664.436	1	99

### Cocoanuts in British Guiana.

One of our Members, the Hon. B. Howell Jones, whose long residence in British Guiana, and wide experience in various branches of cultivation entitle his opinions to respect, has been interviewed by the *Demerara Daily Chronicle* as to the past history, present condition, and future prospects of the cocoanut in British Guiana. In the early part of last century there were some very large cocoanut estates in the Colony. At that time cocoanuts were largely exported to England as dunnage, being packed between the hogsheads of sugar to prevent them rolling about. There appears to have been no regular manufacture of oil and fibre until later years. Later, when improved methods of sugar manufacture were introduced, and sugar was sent home in bags, the export of cocoanuts ceased to a large extent. Mr. William Smith started the manufacture of cocoanut oil and fibre on a large scale at Fortitude, afterwards removing his works to Mahaicony. The present proprietors of cocoanut estates have been content to sell the nuts to coolies for the manufacture by hand of oil, but the extension of cultivation has led to a fall in price, and other markets must be found, either by export or the manufacture of copra or desiccated cocoanut (copra being the kernel of the nut broken up and either sun or artificially dried). There are many different kinds of cocoanuts, and little is known of them, but they are now being tabulated by the United States Board of Agriculture.

In selecting the site for a cocoanut plantation, light sandy soil near the sea-coast should be chosen, and in the opinion of Mr. Jones no place in the world is better suited for cocoanuts than the foreshores of British Guiana. Nuts should be planted in nurseries in blocks of, say, 500 each and should be half covered over with light mould between each nut. In four months time the young shoots should appear, and two or three months later the plants are ready to be transplanted. The cocoanut requires much careful cultivation, and this unfortunately is not always given it in the West Indies. With care, Mr. Jones is convinced that the cultivation of the cocoanut can be made one of most reliable and profitable minor industries of British Guiana.

### The Best Banana.

Under the above heading, the *Field of May* 14th, discusses the merits of bananas from various parts of the world. While it is held that the Canary banana is of finer quality than that from Jamaica, the Barbados bananas are reported to be even better still. They are known as the Chinese or Dwarf bananas, also as Governor or Cavendish bananas. The plants producing them are short in stature, with stout stems, and thus are capable of withstanding fairly strong winds. Even in English hothouses clusters of this variety have been grown weighing over 100 lbs., and of splendid quality. They produce large bunches, with sometimes 200 to 250 "fingers" or single fruits in each bunch.



Photo by ALBERTUS E. AERTSMA.

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CARTING THE CANE TOPS, ST. KITTS.



The flavour is much liked in the British market, where they are preferred to the Martinique or Gros Michel bananas exported from Jamaica. A market banana, like any other fruit, must be of good size, shape, and colour when ripe, and more especially must it be rich in sugar and possess a nice aroma. Large coarse fruits, with a rank, herbaceous flavour, of which there are many kinds used cooked as vegetables in warm countries, are of no use as raw or dessert fruits. At present there is but little fear of the banana trade being overdone, at any rate so long as the retail price of 1s. per dozen fingers or fruits is maintained in the shops. Apart from the appetising flavour and nutritious quality of this fruit as consumed in its raw state, it lends itself to delicate cookery in many different ways.

### The Tariff Reform Movement.

On the night of May 12th Mr. Chamberlain addressed the Birmingham Liberal Unionists, and devoted his remarks almost exclusively to the question of fiscal policy. After referring to his speech of twelve months ago in which he raised the question, he said he now addressed them as a private member, and could speak his mind without reserve and place before them a new unauthorized programme. He had twice before placed before the people a programme a little in advance of the official one, and had lived to see those programmes carried into effect; and therefore he was not disconcerted when he was told, on returning from his holiday, that his policy had been defeated. Was not this too premature? The question could not be disposed of by the waving of old rags and the clattering of worn-out pans; it would remain till it was no longer a question, but a fact. Many people had made up their minds that we would no longer allow our foreign competitors indefinitely to take advantage of our generosity, which they absolutely refused to reciprocate. The Unionist party in the House of Commons was pledged to the policy of retaliation, and this had made an impression abroad. Which nation threatened us now? They must not, however, rest upon their oars. He wished they could have a *referendum* to-morrow, and vote as to whether they would have the change in the fiscal system which he had proposed. He believed that there would be a great majority in favour of the change. He doubted, however, whether that would be the issue at the next election. After defending the introduction of Chinese labour into the Transvaal and the Licensing Bill, he said the Government might have to suffer for its virtues; but perhaps their cause would not suffer if there was a change of scene, new actors, and a new piece which would soon be hissed off the stage. The next election might go against them, but let them hold their banner high, and the nation would flock to the standard. Mr. Chamberlain closed, after urging that the issue was one of the unity of the Empire, by declaring that he had had two great objects, from which he had never swerved—the increase of the greatness of the Empire and the elevation of the masses. A report of Mr. Chamberlain's speech appears in the *Times* of May 13th.

At the evening sitting of the House of Commons on May 18th, Mr. Black moved his motion to the effect that the House, believing that the protective taxation of food would be burdensome to the people and injurious to the Empire, welcomed the declarations of Ministers that the Government was opposed to such taxation. Mr. Goschen seconded the motion. Mr. Wyndham moved, as an amendment, that it was unnecessary to discuss the question of Fiscal Reform and the Sheffield declaration of the Prime Minister, inasmuch as no proposals would be laid before the present Parliament, and expressing confidence in the Government. Among the subsequent speakers were Lord Hugh Cecil and Mr. Asquith, who supported the motion, and Sir M. Hicks Beach, Mr. Chamberlain, and Mr. Balfour, who spoke in favour of the amendment. On a division, the motion was rejected by 306 to 251 votes.

### Notable Additions to our Library.

Our library has recently been enriched by many notable additions, and we hope that the list of these which we give will be an incentive to many of our friends to send us copies of their works, or of





- A SHORT HISTORY OF BARBADOS. From its first Discovery and Settlement to the end of the year 1767. London, 1768
- A NARRATIVE OF THE OFFICIAL CONDUCT OF VALENTINE MORRIS, ESQ., late Captain-General, Governor-in-Chief, &c., &c., of the Island of St. Vincent and its Dependencies. Written by himself. London, 1787.
- A PHILOSOPHICAL AND POLITICAL HISTORY of the settlements and trade of the Europeans in the East and West Indies. Revised, augmented and published in ten volumes, by the Abbe Raynal. London, 1788. Presented by Mr. William Gillespie.
- A HISTORY OF THE WEST INDIES, containing the Natural, Civil, and Ecclesiastical History of each Island. By Thomas Coke, LL.D. Three Vols. Liverpool, 1808.
- CUPPY THE NEGRO'S DOGGREL DESCRIPTION OF the progress of Sugar. London about 1820. Presented by Mr. William Gillespie.
- A TOUR THROUGH THE ISLAND OF JAMAICA. From the Western to the Eastern end in the year 1823. By Cymric R. Williams. London, 1826.
- SIX MONTHS IN THE WEST INDIES IN 1825. By Henry Nelson Coleridge, M.A. London, 1832.
- JOURNAL OF A WEST INDIAN PROPRIETOR, kept during a residence in the Island of Jamaica. By the late Matthew Gregory Lewis, Esq., M.P. London, 1834.
- A TWELVE MONTH'S RESIDENCE IN THE WEST INDIES, during the transition from Slavery to Apprenticeship, with incidental notices of the state of society, prospects, and natural resources of Jamaica and other Islands. By R. K. Madden, M.D. London, 1835.
- THE WEST INDIA SKETCH BOOK, Two Vols. Second Edition, with additional illustrations. London, 1835.
- THE WEST INDIES: The Natural and Physical History of the Windward and Leeward Colonies. By Sir Andrew Halliday, K.H., M.D., F.R.S.E. London, 1837.
- JAMAICA—ITS PAST AND PRESENT STATE. By James M. Philippo of Spanish Town, Jamaica. London, 1843.
- ANTIGUA AND THE ANTIQUANS. A full account of the Colony from the time of the Caribs to the present day. Two Vols. 1844.
- ST. LUCIA: HISTORICAL, STATISTICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE. By Henry H. Breen, Esq., thirteen years a resident in the Island. London, 1844.
- THE SUGAR PLANTER'S MANUAL: being a treatise on the art of obtaining sugar from the Sugar Cane. By W. J. Evans, M.D. London, 1847.
- JAMAICA IN 1850: OR, the effects of sixteen years of Freedom in a Slave Colony. By John Bigelow. New York and London, 1851.
- FIVE YEARS' RESIDENCE IN THE WEST INDIES. By Charles William Day, Esq. Two Vols. London, 1852.
- THE WEST INDIES BEFORE AND SINCE SLAVE EMANCIPATION, comprising the Windward and Leeward Islands' military command. By John Davy, M.D., F.R.S., &c., Inspector-General of Army Hospitals. London, 1854.
- LETTERS FROM JAMAICA "The Land of Streams and Woods" Edinburgh, 1873
- ANDREWS' ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE WEST INDIES. Two Vols.

### Carting the Cane Tops, St. Kitts.

That there is room for improvement in the methods of sugar manufacture in some of the smaller islands must be admitted, but, now that confidence is restored by the abolition of the bounties, it behoves proprietors to introduce more modern machinery and bring their appliances up to date. An admirable start in this direction has been made in Antigua where the Belvidere Factory has been opened and the new central factory at Gunthorpes is well in hand. Many monuments of antiquity are to be seen in these Islands in the shape of the dismantled windmills, such as appears in our full-page illustration, recalling to mind those dotted about the heights of Cintra, near Lisbon. The fabric of these quondam windmills now serve sometimes as water-tanks and sometimes as pens, where the cattle lazily chew the cane tops carted by their companions of the stall.

### The Soufriere Eruption Fund.

Of the grand total of the Eruption Fund opened by the Mansion House in 1902, it appears that £27,830 3s. 5d. still remains available. In an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette of St. Vincent, dated May 2nd, it was notified that the Governor had nominated the following committee to consider and report upon the various suggestions for the utilization of the large balance of this Eruption Fund which were made at a meeting at the Court House, on April 11th: Mr. Charles J. Simmons, *Chairman*, Mr. Joseph B. Bonadie, Mr. P. I. Frederick, Mr. S. S. Garrett, Mr. J. G. W. Hazell, Mr. Thomas Kydd, Mr. J. D. McCoy, Mr. David Marks, Mr. J. G. Morgan, Mr. E. A. Richards, Mr. Alexander Smith, Mr. J. E. Sprott. Among the suggestions were "the making of a

tunnel through Kingston Hill," "the acquisition of lands for the purpose of planting cotton and allotting them to purchasers of the middle class," and "providing a water supply for the Carib country." It is to be hoped that the meeting of this committee will lead to the distribution of the large balance available in a just and equitable manner.

### The Quarantine Conference.

The Quarantine Conference began its sittings in Barbados on April 25th, at 10 o'clock, proceedings being opened by His Excellency Sir Frederick Hodgson, Governor of the Colony. On the motion of the Hon. A. A. Nicholls it was decided to hold the sittings *in camera*, as is the practice



The Quarantine Conference at Barbados.

Left to Right.—Standing: 1, Dr. Fritz (Leeward Islands); 2, Mr. Edward Drayton, C.M.G. (Windward Islands); 3, Dr. John Hutson (Barbados); 4, Mr. William Low (Windward Islands); 5, Mr. W. H. Alder, Secretary. Sitting: 1, Mr. Wayham (Leeward Islands); 2, Dr. H. A. Alfred Nicholls, C.M.G. (Leeward Islands); 3, Dr. Donovan (Jamaica); 4, Dr. Theodore Thomson (of the Local Government Board of England and Wales); 5, Mr. W. H. Stoker, R.C., President (Barbados); 6, Dr. de Wolf (Trinidad); 7, Mr. R. H. McCarthy (Trinidad); 8, Dr. C. W. Branch (Windward Islands); 9, Dr. J. E. Godfre. (British Guiana); 10, Mr. G. H. Richter (British Guiana).

in International Sanitary Conventions, a course which cannot but be considered a wise one. We understand that the delegates were unanimous in their recommendation for the sweeping away of the mediæval regulations now in force, and the substitution therefor of measures more in accord with recent progress in sanitary science.

### The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

Presiding over the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, on May 11th Mr. Owen Philipps said that the net result of the year's trading in 1903 was slightly better



than for the previous year, but the actual results were much more encouraging than they appeared by the accounts, as during the last two years under the old *régime* the company earned considerable sums for transport services in connection with the late South African War. In the past year they had no corresponding "windfall," but by economy and careful attention to the business this had been more than made up by increased profit on the regular business of the company. The West Indian Colonies had been passing through a period of trade depression, but he hoped, now that the sugar bounties had been abolished, that better times might be seen for these Colonies. The West India Committee, a most representative and useful body, had done much good work by keeping before the Government and people of this country the claims of the West Indies. The Colonial Office continued to take a keen and active interest in everything which appeared likely to develop the latent resources of these old British Colonies, both by encouraging new and reviving old industries. Owing to the shortage in the world's supply of cotton the price had advanced considerably, and the Imperial Department of Agriculture had been making serious attempts to restart this old industry in the West Indies. The board had at all times assisted, in whatever way they could, the efforts of the Colonial Office in developing the industries of the West Indies, and it was to be hoped that the company's services to these Colonies would not be overlooked when the Government came to deal with the terms of a renewal of the mail contract. When he became chairman of the company and examined into the requirements of the West India mail contracts made in September, 1900, by the late management, he found that for the service for which they had to provide the subsidies were altogether inadequate, and that their operations, bearing in mind the extent of the intercolonial services, could not be carried on except at a heavy annual loss.

#### The Company was established by Royal Charter

66 years ago to carry the mails from Great Britain to the West Indies, and for many years after, they received £240,000 per annum for doing so, whereas at the present time, with their improved transatlantic direct service to Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica, and Colon, and three expensive intercolonial mail services, they received little more than one-third of that sum. This, with the freight and passage money earned, was not sufficient to pay the expenses of the mail services, and nothing whatever was left for interest on the proprietors' capital employed. The present contract would expire in June, 1905, and he was most desirous that the company, which for 65 years had given an excellent mail service to the West Indies, should continue their good services to these Islands, but he hoped that when the existing contract expired his Majesty's Government, in conjunction with the Governments of the Colonies, would not forget these services, and would see that it was in the best interests of the Mother Country and of the Colonies that the steamship company which had for so many years formed the connecting link between them should be properly remunerated.

At their last meeting he spoke somewhat fully on the question of the new Royal charter, in connexion with which he regretted that there had been some delay, but he had recently heard from their legal advisers that the Crown authorities had now been able to deal with the matter. He therefore hoped soon to be in a position to give the proprietors some information as to the directors' arrangements for providing fresh capital, but until the charter was granted he could say nothing further on this subject. The board were watching with great interest the experiments now being made in steam turbine engines for marine purposes, and should they prove satisfactory the system would be adopted by them for certain purposes. Alluding to the Port of London Bill, he stated that the company's mail steamers sailed weekly from Southampton, but they had regular lines of fast freight steamers which left London every week, and they were therefore keenly interested in having the affairs of this great port placed in the hands of one competent authority on which shipowners should be fairly represented. Many improvements had been introduced into the company's general service—such as a greatly improved scale of victualling, and many other attractions had been introduced which were

gradually, but surely tending to make their passenger service a highly popular one. If the proprietors would have patience, no effort on the part of his colleagues and himself would be spared to restore the business to its former prosperity without writing down the capital of the company. Their earnings continued to show a steady increase, and the goodwill of the business was also becoming more valuable. After expressing warm appreciation of the services of the staff, he concluded by moving the adoption of the report.

The Deputy-Chairman (Sir James Fergusson, M.P.), in seconding the motion, observed that the directors had the greatest confidence in the chairman's business capacity, and they were very sensible of his earnest endeavours to put the company's affairs on a sound and permanent footing. Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock, and Mr. Alfred S. Williams, were re-elected directors, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

### The Homeward Mail.—A Quick Run of "La Plata."

Although she left Barbados twelve hours late, owing to having to take in a heavy cargo and a large number of passengers, the R.M.S. "La Plata" arrived at Plymouth seven hours before her contract time, having made up thirteen hours on the voyage. The annual exodus from the West Indies appears to be beginning, and a number of well-known names will be recognised in the list of passengers, among them being Dr. Theodore Thomson, the expert who attended the quarantine conference, the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, and Mr. Charles J. P. Cave, who, during his visit to Barbados, made some interesting meteorological observations by means of kites. He reached a height of about 5000 feet above the sea, and recorded a temperature of 57°. The weather, it will be noted, was during the fortnight generally favourable, and cultivation was satisfactory. The R.M.S. "La Plata," anchored off Plymouth at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18th, and the mails were delivered in London by first post the next day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Antonio," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, May 11th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents received per R.M.S. "La Plata":—

#### Antigua—The New Belvidere Factory.

(Hon. A. St. G. SPOONER), May 4th.—Just before leaving the Island for a well-earned holiday at home, His Excellency Sir Gerald Strickland, accompanied by Lady Edeline Strickland, had started the new mill and engine of the Belvidere Sugar Factory. The engine was dedicated in the customary manner by Lady Edeline Strickland to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, to whom they owed so much, and to whom in the first place the factory owed its existence. The starting of the factory marked an epoch in the Island's history, as it was the first erected in Antigua provided with anything more than a three-roller mill and with a triple effect. The mill was a five-roller one, by Messrs. John McNeil & Co., of Glasgow, and the triple effect was by the Mirreles Watson Co., also of Glasgow. The local price offering for musco sugar was \$1 60, and molasses 14 cents, puncheon included.

#### Barbados—The Fire at Applewhaite's.

(Hon. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE), May 6th.—The quarantine conference concluded its labours on May 6th. Their meetings, which had been conducted in private, under the chairmanship of the Attorney-General, Mr. Stoker, had been very harmonious, and would doubtless lead to very beneficial results. Early on Sunday morning, April 24th, there had been a very serious fire at Applewhaite's Plantation, by which the boiling-house and stancheon room were totally destroyed, as well as 146 hogsheads of sugar. Both premises and produce were insured. It was supposed that flames, escaping from the damper, must have ignited some inflammable substance near by. On April 26th there was probably the heaviest rainfall that had ever been recorded for a day in that month. Five, six, seven, and even eight inches had fallen in different parts of the Island in twelve hours, whereas the total rainfall for the month rarely exceeded three inches. There had been little wash, however, and beyond retarding sugar-making for a few days, it had done no harm. Since then, the weather had been bright and seasonable, and great progress had been made in the crop. The yield continued good, and the Island was certain to make a large crop. They had been much cheered by the gradual rise in the price of beet, which then stood at 9s. The New York market had also risen to 3½. In spite of this, buyers were only offering \$1.65 for muscovado, and \$2.05 for dark crystals, molasses at 12½.



**British Guiana—Cocoanuts at Mahaicony.**

(A. SUMMERSON, ESQ.), May 5th.—There was nothing doing in sugar. Crystals might be quoted at \$2 10. The weather during the fortnight had been too heavy in Essequibo and Demerara. In Berbice the rainfall had been lighter, and cultivation there was making good progress. The Governor had returned from Mahaicony after an absence of eleven days in Berbice; he visited the Coconut Plantation of Mr. W. Smith and expressed himself freely as to the possibilities of coconut cultivation if systematically taken in hand.

**British Honduras—Mahogany and Logwood.**

(HON. A. R. USHER), May 5th.—His Honour the Chief Justice, W. I. Lewis, had gone to England, and the following appointments had been made in consequence:—Hon. F. M. Maxwell, Attorney-General, to be Chief Justice, Hon. S. G. Woods, M.L.C., to be Acting Attorney-General, Mr. S. Wolffsohn to act provisionally as member of Legislative Council, in place of Mr. S. G. Woods. The weather had been more settled during the past fortnight, and operations of getting out mahogany and logwood had re-commenced.

**Dominica—Dry Weather.**

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.), May 2nd.—Bishop Mather, of the diocese of Antigua, had resigned. The local Legislature had passed a Bill giving to the Roman Catholic body a street in Roseau; this street was not much frequented, and lay between the cathedral and presbytery. A Bill had also been passed to purchase a piece of land for a new quarantine station, the present one being in a most unsuitable position. The weather for the past fortnight had been dry.

**Jamaica—The Vere Irrigation Scheme.**

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, ESQ.), May 2nd.—The weather generally had been favourable, and in some parts of the Island heavy rains had been enjoyed. Vere was, however, still dry, with the exception of two showers. A report on the financial working of the Vere Irrigation scheme showed that in consequence of the inability to put on all the supplies through failure of the water supply, the revenue had fallen short of the amount required to meet loan charges and maintenance of the works to 31st March, 1904, by £432 6s. 1d. This deficit should, however, be wiped out during the present financial year, the estimates being: Revenue, £3,703 2s. 6d. Expenditure, £2802 9s. 8d. (Loan Charges, £1,800. Maintenance of Works, 1,002 9s. 8d.), leaving a surplus of £900 12s. 10d. less the deficit of 1903-4, £432 6s. 1d., which left a nett estimated surplus of £468 6s. 9d.

**Nevis—Successful Cane Farming.**

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND), May 4th.—The planters were busy with their sugar crops, and the output would be considerably in excess of last year's. The peasants were delighted with the new system of selling their canes, and were at that time receiving 6s. 8d. per ton. The planters also preferred this method, and it simplified matters a great deal in the boiling house. Ground provisions were very plentiful, which cheapened living very much among the lower classes. There was still a considerable quantity of cotton remaining to be ginned owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining a supply of wood for fuel at the ginney. An aermotor or oil engine would be much more effective. The Administrator, Mr. Cox, was going up to Antigua by Royal Mail steamer on May 4th, to take up the reins of Government during Sir Gerald Strickland's absence on leave. The irregularity with which they had, during the past few months, received the English mails had proved a grave source of inconvenience, as, with no cable, they were never able to ascertain when the steamer would arrive. The weather since last mail had been all the planters could desire, light showers and hot sun.

**St. Kitts—Cane Fire at Cranston's.**

(CHARLES A. SMITH, ESQ.), May 3rd.—Reaping was going on rapidly, and, except for a few estates which were making sugar suitable for the London market, all of their sugars were being sent to Halifax, being attracted there by the preference given them. A large cane fire, which covered eighty-two acres of canes, had occurred at "Cranston's" Estate during the last week of April. It was the work of an incendiary, and, with the high wind blowing at the time, the damage done had been very considerable. Mr. S. R. Mercer (one of our Members), the owner of the estate, had the sympathy of the entire community in the loss he has sustained. The weather for the past week had been very favourable for reaping, and the young crops were healthy and vigorous.

**St. Lucia—Weather Dry.**

(HON. F. DUBOULAY), May 6th.—The weather was rather dry, and the crops were coming to a close. Dr. Galgey had been appointed an official member of the Legislative Council.

**St. Vincent.**

(Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co.), May 6th.—The Governor had appointed a committee, composed of all classes, to advise him as to the best way of disposing of the remaining £28,000 of the Eruption Relief Fund. The weather had been very dry for the past fortnight, which had interfered somewhat with arrowroot digging and the planting of cotton, but was favourable for sugar making.

**Trinidad—Cocoa Shipments.**

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FESWICK), May 6th.—A start had at last been made with the re-building of the Red House. Considerable improvements on the old building were being planned, both in its outward appearance and in its internal

arrangements and accommodation. The rate of two per cent. had been collected for the current year without much trouble, except such as was caused by no notices of amounts due having been issued, and by the Treasury being quite unprepared to grant receipts for monies paid. Trade with Venezuela was still in the same unsatisfactory condition as it had been for so long. There were indications that the relations between Venezuela and Colombia were greatly improved, and there was a possibility of the many matters of disagreement between those countries being arranged shortly in a friendly manner. General Reyes, the new President of Colombia, visited Caracas on his recent journey from Europe to Bogota, and was most cordially received by President Castro and the people of Caracas and La Guaira. It was thought that General Corao, who had recently acquired the Orinoco Shipping Co.'s rights for navigating the Orinoco was about to proceed to Bogota as Minister Plenipotentiary to arrange all differences. If this mission succeeded, the Orinoco would be practically a free highway, but it was doubtful if President Castro would not prevent Trinidad from participating in the advantages. So far no passengers or cargo were allowed to be taken from there direct, and the running of the steamers was not to be allowed until the Custom House and other requirements to constitute Amacuro a port of entry and clearance were provided. The inaction of our Foreign Office in regard to the interests of Trinidad and other British West Indies was inexplicable. The weather though very unsettled was still fairly favourable for sugar manufacture and factories were nearing the end of their work for this season. The cocoa estates also found the weather favourable for them, but the quantity of cocoa coming to market was very small. Prices were about the same as last reported.

### West Indian Interests at Westminster.

#### The British Guiana Immigration Ordinance.

In reply to Sir H. Fowler, Mr. BALFOUR on May 12th said the British Guiana Immigration Ordinance was enacted in 1891 by the local Legislature. It was not, however, previously submitted or approved by the Colonial Office, or by the then Secretary for the Colonies, Lord Knutsford. It was suspended by Lord Knutsford, but not, as he was informed, on the initiative of the Indian Government, which appeared to be the suggestion of the right hon. gentleman. It was first allowed to come into operation by Mr. Gladstone's Government in 1894. The Act was both consolidating and amending.

#### The Crown Agents.

The emoluments and administration of the Department of the Crown Agent for the Colonies have recently been the subject of much discussion in Parliament in connection with the decision that the Transvaal must obtain supplies through the Crown Agents. On May 13th Mr. LYTELTON said that papers were in course of preparation on the subject. These returns would furnish a great deal of information, but it would be quite impracticable to give a return of all the Crown Agents' separate transactions for any year. There was no person employed in the Crown Agents' Office who received any payment charged on any vote of Parliament, as the whole remuneration of the Agents and their staff was paid out of a fund derived from the authorised commissions and fees paid out by the Colonial Governments for whom they acted.

### Notes of Interest.

**A NEW K.C.** Mr. R. Aucher S. Warner, brother of the famous "Plum," has taken silk, having been called within the Bar in Trinidad, where he has long resided.

**THE POINT SALINES LIGHT.** In the paragraph regarding the new lighthouse at Point Salines, Grenada, we omitted to mention that Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co. generously carried out all the material freight free, by their Direct Line steamer.

**TWO APPOINTMENTS.** Sir Hubert E. H. Jerningham has been appointed representative of Great Britain upon the International Colonial Institute. The President of the Board of Education has appointed Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., to be a Member of the Teachers' Registration Council.

**THE JAMAICA DIRECT SERVICE.** Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. announce that until further notice, the steamers of the Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service will leave Kingston, Jamaica, on their homeward journey, a day earlier than advertised in their sailing lists, that is to say, they will sail on alternative Wednesdays instead of Thursdays.

**A QUAIN ORDER IN THE PUNJAB.** The Sanitary Commissioner, Punjab, having reported that the cultivation of rice, sugar cane, maize, and chari crops within certain portions of the limits of the Amritsar Municipality is injurious to the health of persons dwelling in the neighbourhood, the Lieutenant-Governor has decided to prohibit the cultivation of such crops within the areas specified.—*The Friend of India*, April 28th.

**INDIAN SUGAR DUTIES.** Special duties are announced by the Finance Department to be imposed from the 1st instant upon refined and unrefined sugar imported into India from Russia and the Argentine Republic, and upon candy sugar from Denmark. This rate is Rs. 9-10 per cwt. for refined sugar, and Rs. 6 per cwt. on unrefined sugar from Russia; and Rs. 5-7 and Rs. 4 on refined and unrefined sugar, respectively, from the Argentine Republic.



**OBITUARY** We have with deep regret to record the deaths of two of our Members, which have occurred during the past fortnight, Mr. H. E. Boyle, of Bannatyne, Barbados, which was announced in the first week of May, and Mr. Allan Belfield, which took place on this side on May 18th. For a great number of years Mr. Belfield was one of the trusted representatives in Barbados of the old firm of Messrs. Thomas Daniel & Co., and having retired from that position, he returned to this country last year in enfeebled health. Mr. Belfield married a daughter of the late Hon. Grant E. Thomas, M.D., of Villa Nova, Haynesfield, Barbados, but was left a widower last year.

**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Magician" from Liverpool for Barbados and Trinidad, May 28th; S.S. "Sarstoon," from London for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, and Demerara, June 1st; S.S. "Pocklington," from Liverpool for Demerara, about June 3rd; S.S. "Torgorm" for Antigua, Barbados, Trinidad and Demerara, first week in June; and the R.M.S. "Port Morant," from Avonmouth, Bristol for Jamaica, June 4th. *Information for publication under this head is invited from Shipping Companies.*

**CANADA AND JAMAICA.** The Dominion Government has, it is stated, decided to assist a proposal for the establishment of permanent Canadian show rooms in Jamaica. The samples of the products and manufactures of the Dominion will be exhibited, and there will be representatives to answer enquiries and make explanations to buyers. It is believed that much of the trade that goes from the West Indies to the United States will be transferred to Canada. It is suggested that if the venture proves successful similar exhibits may be provided throughout the Empire by all the Colonies so as to facilitate mutual commercial intercourse to the exclusion of foreign trade.

**THE WEST INDIAN CLUB DINNER.** The fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club was held on Wednesday, May 11th, when the Hon. D. S. de Freitas was in the chair. Amongst those present were Mr. A. E. Aspinall, Mr. G. Short, Mr. E. Sturridge, Mr. W. Morrison, Mr. H. H. Etheridge, Mr. G. Jacobs, Mr. W. O. Benckendorff, Mr. J. Houghton, Mr. R. W. Espeut, Mr. C. J. Bertrand, Mr. J. Challenor Lynch, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. H. Bailey, Mr. Lewis Ashenheim, Mr. H. Powell Rees, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. H. Holyoake, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. A. M. Gillespie, Capt. Foulkes, Mr. Arthur Hutchinson, Mr. Lionel de Mercado, Mr. G. A. Grindle, Mr. A. McD. Nathan, Mr. W. W. Symington, Mr. F. W. Scott, and Mr. J. F. Linn.

**RUBBER FROM THE EAST.** Several experts have lately visited the East to enquire into the prospects of rubber. Rubber from Ceylon and the Malay Peninsula has attracted great attention and it is acquiring an important place in the market. M. Octave Collet, a rubber expert now in Ceylon, is of opinion that in future Ceylon and the Straits will become the chief sources of supply. Rubber from the Malay States has proved to be 14 to 16 per cent. better than the best Para, and with improved cultivation it should be 20 per cent. better. The industry is gaining a firm footing in the Malay Peninsula, and Ceylon planters are enthusiastically taking it up. Considering the consistently good prices paid for rubber and the increasing demand, it fully warrants the attention planters are paying to it. Scientifically cultivated, the rubber grown in the Straits Settlements and Ceylon commands a better price than the South American or African product, and there is no danger of over production or competition from the coarser and inferior rubber obtained in the forests of the Congo or Brazil.—*The Englishman*, April 28th.

### West Indian Civil Service.

We invite Members to forward to us particulars of movements and appointments of officers of the several West Indian Governments and other persons officially connected with the West Indian Colonies, for insertion under the above heading. For much of the following information we are indebted to the *Morning Post*.

Mr. Cyrus P. David has been made a Member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad.

His Excellency, Sir Gerald Strickland, Governor of the Leeward Islands, has arrived in England on leave of absence.

Mr. G. Whitfield Smith has been selected for the office of Police Magistrate of the Third District of St. Vincent, West Indies.

Mr. G. Ball Greene, of the Government Secretariat of British Guiana, leaves England on the 25th inst. to resume his duties.

Mr. H. E. W. Grant, Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretariat of British Honduras, has been granted an extension of his leave for three months.

Mr. W. C. Harragin, Stipendiary Magistrate, British Guiana, has been granted an extension of leave for three months from the 16th of next month.

Sir Daniel Morris, Commissioner of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, will arrive in England in June on leave of absence.

Mr. F. C. Wells-Durrant, Magistrate of St. Lucia, has resigned his office, and Mr. W. V. Degazon, barrister-at-law, has been appointed to act until further orders.

## West Indian Securities.

						Price
Colonial Government Inscribed Securities.		Antigua, 4 per cent.	...	...	...	Redeemable 1919-44 ... 101 103
		Barbados, 3½ per cent.	...	...	...	.. 1925-42 ... 97 99
		British Guiana, 4 per cent.	...	...	...	.. 1935 ... 106 108
		Grenada, 4 per cent.	...	...	...	.. 1917-42 ... 101 103
		Jamaica, 4 per cent.	...	...	...	.. 1934 ... 106 108
		St. Lucia, 4 per cent.	...	...	...	.. 1919-44 ... 101 103
		Trinidad, 4 per cent.	...	...	...	.. 1917-42 ... 101 103
		Miscellaneous Securities.		Paid.	Dividend.	
Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.	Colonial Bank ...	...	£6	6 %	5-5½
100,000	20	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company	...	60	—	27 29
15,000	100	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4% 1st Mtge Deb	...	100	4½ %	82 86
250,000	Stock	New Colonial Co., Ltd., 4% 1st Mtge Deb Stock red	...	100	4 %	72 74
325,000	Stock	" " " " 5% Non-Cum Pref	...	5	5 %	2 3
46,874	5	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb	...	100	6 %	93 98
360,700	100	Demerara Railway Company 4% Perpetual Deb. Stock	...	100	4 %	96 98
70,000	Stock	" " " " Extension Preference...	...	10	4 %	7-8rd
31,250	10	" " " " 7% Preference	...	100	Nil	88 93
115,000	Stock	" " " " Original Stock	...	100	Nil	15-20
165,000	Stock	Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., Mortgage Debs. (1 to 1200) red.	...	100	4½ %	99 102
85,800	100	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd ...	...	£2 10 0	6 %	—
60,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4½ 1st Mtge. Deb. (1 to 1200) red	...	100	4½ %	99 102
58,700	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd.	...	5	5 %	—
50,000	5	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd 5% Deb	...	100	5 %	100 103
90,000	100	" " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	...	10	8s.	6-6½
34,563	10	" " " " " 2nd "	...	10	—	5 6
4,669	10	" " " " Ordinary ...	...	10	—	7-1
88,321	10					

Bank of England rate 3% (changed from 3½% on April 22nd, 1904). 2½% Consols, 90½. (20.5.04).

## Port Mourant, Ltd.

A Company entitled "Port Mourant, Ltd." with capital £25,010 in £1 shares (10 Preference) was registered on May 6th, to take over the sugar estate of Port Mourant on the Corentine Coast, Berbice, British Guiana. Major-General J. M. C. Galloway and Lieut.-Col. F. Galloway are Governing Directors, and there is no initial public issue.

## Messrs. Thos. Daniel &amp; Co., Ltd.

The eleventh annual report of Mr. Herbert Jackson, the liquidator of this company, for 1903, shows a profit on the actual working of company's business of £133 0s. 4d., but after charging interest on liens annually payable in Barbados, the net result of the year was a loss of £1450 15s. 11d. This is attributable to excessive shortage of the Barbados crop and the disappointingly low prices, and may even be deemed not unsatisfactory having in view the condition of the sugar trade. The company's cocoa estate in Trinidad still continues to make satisfactory progress and again shows an increased profit, and the attorney in Barbados has turned his attention to the cultivation of cotton on some of the company's estates. In consequence of the continued depressed state of the sugar trade it was impossible to make any important realisations during the year. The total sum realised up to the 30th September, 1903, is therefore as follows:—

Realisations to September 30th, 1902, as per last report	...	...	...	£120,430 10 5
Realisations during the year ending September 30th, 1903	...	...	...	2,673 3 6

Total realisations to September 30th, 1903, as shown in the Receiver and Manager's

Balance Sheet	...	...	...	£132,103 13 11
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## The West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

According to the report of the Directors, which was adopted unanimously on May 18th, the Accounts for the six months ended 31st Dec., 1903, show the amount to credit of revenue to be £32,399 13s. 7d., against £31,062 17s. 6d. for the corresponding half-year of 1902. The expenses have been £25,243 8s. 1d., against £20,679 4s. 5d., leaving a balance of £7,156 5s. 6d., to which is added £1,854 18s. 6d. interest on investments, and £2,068 9s. 1d. brought from last account, making a total of £11,079 13s. 1d., from which it is proposed to pay 6s. per share on account of arrears of dividend to 31st December, 1903, on the first preference shares, and to carry the balance of £710 15s. 1d. to current half-year's account. It will be observed that the Revenue Account has been credited with the sum of £1485 13s. 11d., being a balance after the closing of the accounts attendant upon the loss of the S.S. "Grapple," and also with £1500 accumulated after adjustment in respect of income tax, but now no longer required. The Directors regret to report that, without these transfers, the profits for the half-year would not have enabled them to recommend the payment of 6s. per share on account of arrears of dividend on the first preference shares. The expenses of repairing cables during the half-year amounted to £10,251 7s. 6d., being £2576 10s. 2d. in excess of those for the corresponding period, attributable to a larger quantity of cable having been used in repairs. A further sum of £934 0s. 11d. has been charged to reserve for cable used in the partial renewal of the St. Lucia-St. Vincent section, which, it will be remembered, was interrupted by volcanic disturbances in May, 1902, and, after being repaired, was again interrupted by the same cause in the following September. After much difficulty, this section was successfully repaired in February last.

At the ordinary general meeting on May 18th, Mr. Walter B. Kingsford, presiding, said for several years their difficulties had been greatly increased by competition at three points of their system—namely, at Martinique and Guadeloupe, at Panama and Colon, and at Jamaica. The competition at Jamaica was established and was maintained by an



Imperial subsidy. They were now threatened with further competition from this source, the object being to push a cable into the heart of the company's system and to obtain the subsidies at present paid to them. Their capital was £1,275,000, and was held by over 1800 shareholders. He was convinced that it would be altogether contrary to public policy that the Imperial Government should do anything to endanger this large and important undertaking, and he was fully supported in this opinion by the inter-departmental committee on the cable communications of the Empire. In their report that committee stated "We remain firmly convinced that it is of paramount importance to this country so to direct its telegraphic policy that the great network of British-owned submarine cables which extends over the world shall continue to be remunerative to those whose enterprise has created it."

**Weather Telegrams.**

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), May 9th. "Good reaping weather." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), May 17th. "Weather has been finer since last message and is generally favourable for cultivation and grinding." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), May 17th. "Weather favourable for cultivation." **Trinidad** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 17th. "Weather continues favourable." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), May 16th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "Fine, clear." **KINGSTON**: "Fine, clear."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
	llhds.	lbs	Tons.	Puns.		Pins	Ozs.	Carats.
<b>Barbados—</b>								
Jan. 1 to May 5, 1904	12,743	—	—	—	—	19,753	—	—
" " " 5, 1903	6546	—	—	—	—	13,058	—	—
<b>British Guiana—</b>	Tons							
Jan. 1 to May 2, 1904	25,098	11,809	1360	8125	93,540	441	22,305	3003
" " " 5, 1903	33,961	21,030	146	9319	4532	2096	25,550	2121
<b>Jamaica—</b>		Cwts.	Cwts.	Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
						Cwts.	Stems	
Apr. 1 to April 9, 1904	18	28	648	81,964	8600	—	3356	3500
" " " 11, 1903	551	224	1024	123,029	1,000,950	483	527,503	67,100
<b>Trinidad—</b>	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.	Tres	Brls.
						Pins		
Jan. 1 to May 4, 1904	216,205	23,000,900	46,240	—	3,192,025	1067	29	89
" " " 4, 1903	257,250	19,479,680	34,800	46	4,244,887	1132	85	47
								Asphalt
								Tons.
								54,267
								42,363

**The Mails.**

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "La Plata," May 18th, 1904:—Barbados—** Mr. and Mrs. Packer, Mr. W. H. A. Foster, Mr. H. L. Garrett, Mr. J. Waring, Mr. G. F. Nichols, Dr. T. Thomson, Mrs. E. C. Cummins, Mrs. C. F. Hoad, Mr. J. Alvarez, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Baker, Hon. W. H. Whyham, Mr. J. B. Rutledge, Mrs. G. B. Austin, Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay, Hon. A. C. Donsonby, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. P. Cave, Miss Kerr. **Demerara.**—Mrs. Morrison, Mr. C. Barrett, Mr. J. Singer, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Woodroffe, Mr. and Mrs. Smellie, two Misses Simpson, Mr. J. S. Gamble, Mr. A. K. F. Duncan, Miss M. A. Bratt. **Jamaica.**—Miss Aitken, Mr. E. Clarke, Dr. P. M. Ragg, Mrs. H. Hollis, Mr. C. G. Kerr, Mr. E. W. Lucie-Smith, Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Wortley, Mr. G. A. Douglas, Mr. W. Douglas, Mr. E. T. Carpenter, Mr. P. Morris, Mrs. Morris, Miss H. M. Sinclair, Mr. Bholu, Capt. Joyce, Mr. N. Juridani, Mr. E. Abood, Mr. I. Hornaza, Master W. Morris, Hon. Miss C. Lister, Mrs. H. Norman, Mr. L. Pickering, Capt. Stewart. **Trinidad.**—Mr. and Mrs. Stone, Mrs. R. and two Misses Henderson, Miss A. Scott, Mr. W. Leslie, Mr. A. Mendel, Miss C. Agatini, Mr. and Mrs. S. Ulrich, Miss Ulrich, Mrs. Wm. Ulrich, two Misses Todd, Mrs. J. B. Todd, Miss M. Solis, Mr. E. Jones, Lieut. Deans, Mr. O. C. Fitzgerald, Mr. and Mrs. de Laperousse, Miss de Laperousse, Mr. J. Thomas, Mr. E. Pitts, Mr. E. E. Coryat, Miss Weld. **Antigua.**—Mrs. W. H. Whyham, Mr. W. B. Fairbairne. **Dominica.**—Capt. and Mrs. Harrison, Mr. E. A. Agar, Dr. and Mrs. Williams. **Grenada.**—Mr. G. S. Smith, Mr. F. W. Bell, Miss Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Strass. **St. Kitts.**—Mr. E. Evelyn. **St. Lucia.**—Mr. and Mrs. Hudson.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," May 25th, 1904:—**Barbados.**—Lieut.-Col. E. J. G. Boyce, R.E. **Demerara.**—Mr. G. R. Garnett, Mr. W. B. Dierden. **Jamaica.**—Mr. C. R. Wynn, Mr. E. M. Davies, Mr. H. W. Doutridge, Hon. H. Clarence and Mrs. Bourne, Mr. and Mrs. Grayson. **Trinidad.**—Mr. A. E. H. Dussek, Mr. W. Spalter. **Antigua.**—Mrs. Jarvis, Miss G. Shepherd.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "La Plata," June 8th, 1904:—**Barbados.**—Mr. F. H. Bowring, Mr. E. A. Bowring, Mr. P. K. Hannay. **Demerara.**—Mr. J. Perkins. **Jamaica.**—Mr. and Mrs. Heron. **St. Kitts.**—Rev. A. Watt.

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," May 11th, 1904:—** **Jamaica.**—Mr. D. Anderson, Mrs. W. Anderson, Mr. E. Betesh, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hirscoe, Mrs. A. B. Brown, Mr. E. Benjamin, Mr. Chantrell, Lieut. and Mrs. R. G. Collins, Mrs. Chapman, Miss Chambers, Mr. G. H. Deer, two Misses Douglas, Mr. A. Greenhalgh, Mr. J. Greenhalgh, Lieut. Hunt, Mr. L. A. Isaacs, Mrs. and Miss Laing, Major and Mrs. Molesworth, Mr. and Miss Morris, Rev. J. D. MacNee, Mrs. MacNee, Mr. J. M. MacGregor, Miss E. Napier, Miss Oakeley, two Misses Philips, Lieut. Rowe, Mrs. and Miss Sewell, Miss Walker, Mr. Whiteside, Mr. and Mrs. Wright, Miss Younger, Sir Win. and Lady Young, Mr. J. W. Grant, Mrs. Lavery, Miss M. Richardson.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," May 21st, 1904:—**Jamaica.**—Mr. W. P. Connolly, Mr. F. G. H. de Pass, Mr. A. Hall, Mr. J. M. Jennings, Rev. and Mrs. W. F. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. G. Nutt, Mr. A. A. Samuel, Mr. H. A. L. Simpson, Capt. Thomas, Mr. H. H. Sturmer, Mr. H. Bailey.

## The Produce Markets Summary.

**Sugar—88 per cent Beet**—Consumption on the Continent is still expanding, and with good fruit crops in Europe and America it is quite possible distribution this year may show an increase of 1,000,000 Tons over the last, when conditions in every point were undoubtedly less favourable. It is this feature that is powerful in influencing the Market and causing the advancing prices of Sugar. Another element is the general belief that the total sowings of Beet for Crop 1904/5 will show a useful reduction, and in this connection the following figures, compiled by the syndicate of German producers, for what they are worth, tend to confirm this impression.

CONVENTION COUNTRIES		COMPARATIVE ASSUMED BEET SOWINGS.	
		1903/4.	1904/5
Germany	+++	415,000	411,000
Austria	+++	309,000	321,000
France	+++	234,000	189,000
Belgium	+++	59,000	45,000
Holland	+++	40,000	35,000
		<b>1,057,000</b>	<b>1,001,000</b>
Outside Countries.			
Russia	+++	535,000	487,000
Sweden	+++	27,000	25,000
Denmark	+++	14,000	14,000
		<b>576,000</b>	<b>526,000</b>
<b>Total in Europe</b>		<b>1,633,000</b>	<b>1,527,000</b>

From this it will be seen that the reduction for the entire of Europe amounts to about 6½ per cent, which can displace 300,000 to 400,000 Tons of Sugar, according to weight and richness of the roots. All this tends to point that sooner or later we must reach the natural cost of production, which, with reasonable profit and renewal contingencies, cannot safely be placed below 10s. free on board Hamburg, basis 88. The position is one of much encouragement for West Indian Proprietors, and it may well be hoped that the adverse influences surrounding this industry have passed away, so far as one can see, for ever. Prices of 88% Beet on May 21st were:—May, 9s. 6½d. August, 9s. 8d. and Oct./Dec. 9s. 6½d.; with May, 1905, 9s. 10½d., all f.o.b. Hamburg. It will, perhaps, be well not to expect the 10s. basis 88 to come too quickly, there is plenty of Sugar for the next few months. It would be wiser to look for the better prices later in the year, although "Sentiment" may force them on at an earlier date.

**The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America on May 13th are as follows:—**

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	
Europe	2,650,000	2,650,000	2,780,000	2,070,000	1,880,000	Tons
United States	200,000	250,000	130,000	220,000	180,000	"
Cuba	220,000	370,000	140,000	180,000	90,000	"
Cargoes afloat	20,000	20,000	20,000	—	10,000	"
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,090,000</b>	<b>3,290,000</b>	<b>3,370,000</b>	<b>2,470,000</b>	<b>2,160,000</b>	"
Comparative prices of 88% Beet for 5 years:—		9s. 4½d.	8s. 4½d.	6s. 3½d.	9s. 8½d.	10s. 6½d.

**Vacuum Pan Sugar**—A further advance of 9d. has been established in this sugar and a considerable business has been done, prices closing at 16s. to 16s. 6d. for low to good yellow, with average qualities 16s. 3d. Distribution is well maintained. For a cargo of dark crystals 10s. 6d. should be obtainable on floating terms. **Molasses Sugar**—In good demand from 11s. 6d. to 15s. **Muscovado**—Small sales of grocery Barbados from 13s. 6d. to 14s. For refining sugar on 89 test 9s. 4½d. has been paid on floating conditions and that price, to possibly a shade over, is still obtainable.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.		1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports to date	+++	19,000	9000	23,000	23,000
Home Consumption	+++	18,000	17,000	17,000	15,000
Stocks	..	<b>14,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 4 months		1904	1903	1902.
Imports	+++	2,189,000	2,310,000	3,244,000
Home Consumption	+++	1,516,000	1,359,000	1,560,000
Stocks 30th April	+++	9,697,000	9,964,000	3,212,000
Stocks in London:		1904	1903	1901
Jamaica	+++	7600	9600	8100
Demerara	+++	11,600	9400	7400
Total of all kinds:—	+++	27,464	28,145	3900

There has been a fair business doing in Home Trade Jamaica's at 1s. 9d. and upwards indicating steady prices. Demerara remains neglected, but some few lots of picked marks have been sold from 8d. to 8½d. the nominal quotation for fair Rum being 7½d. Leewards are quoted at 7d. to 11d.

Cocoa.—Board of Trade Returns for four months		1904	1903	1902.
Imports	+++	12,466	10,029	11,750
Home Consumption	+++	7878	6812	10,429
Stocks 30th April	+++	6164	6041	4890
Stocks in London:—		1904	1903	1901
		97,000	85,000	67,000

The market is practically unchanged. Trinidad is in large supply and is difficult to move, even at a further concession, useful Estate Cocoa offering at 60s. without attracting buyers. Grenada is steady, also other Island Coconuts, and closing quotations are, Trinidad fair collected 59s., Estate Marks, 59s. to 65s., Grenada, fair, 54s., fermented, 57s. to 59s. From other Islands fair Native is worth 53s. and fermented 56s. to 60s. African to arrive is quoted 58s. on full landed terms.

**Coffee**—With many fluctuations Santos closes at 32s. 6d. for this month's delivery, and good ordinary Jamaica on the spot 39s. **Nutmegs**—Sales of West India 91's 9½d., 103's 9d., 119's wormy and split, 6½d., 142's shrivelled, 4½d. **Pepper**—A few sold from 1s. 8d. to 2s., with broken 1s. 6d. **Pimento**—Dull, fair about 3½d. **Singer**—Full sales of Jamaica at generally steady prices, bold 40s., middling to fair 41s. to 48s., ordinary from 34s. upwards and Khatoon 32s. to 34s. **Arrowroot**—Steady, with business in fair manufacturing at 1½d., and some better quality 1½d.

Stocks in London:		1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900
		<b>9922</b>	<b>11205</b>	<b>9215</b>	<b>8356</b>	<b>9403</b>

**Lime Juice**—Scarce, value 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d. Concentrated, better at £13 to £13 5s. Distilled Oil, quiet at 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d. Hand Pressed, slow at 2s. 9d. to 3s. 3d.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.



The . . .  
**West India Committee Circular**

Vol. XIX.

ENTERED AT  
 STATIONERS HALL.

TUESDAY, JUNE 7th, 1904.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No XIII.



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Sir Henry Moore Jackson, K.C.M.G.,  
 Governor of Trinidad.

Sir Henry Moore Jackson,  
 K.C.M.G.

The new Governor of Trinidad, whose appointment was announced on May 30th, is the youngest son of the Right Rev. W. W. Jackson, Bishop of Antigua. He was educated at Marlborough, Clifton, and Woolwich, and after serving for fifteen years in the Royal Artillery retired as captain in 1885. He is by no means a stranger to Trinidad for from 1874 to 1876 he was private secretary and A.D.C. to Sir Henry Irving, the then Governor of that Island. From 1877 to 1879 he acted in the same capacity for Sir John Glover, Governor of Newfoundland, and the following year found him Commandant of the Sierra Leone police, while in 1881 he became A.D.C. and private secretary to the Governor, Sir Arthur Havelock. He was appointed Commissioner for Turks and Caicos Islands in 1885, and in 1890 was transferred as Colonial Secretary to the Bahamas. After serving for seven years as Colonial Secretary of Gibraltar he was appointed Governor of the Leeward Islands, where he enjoyed great popularity during his very brief visit, and whence in less than a year he was transferred to Fiji, to succeed Sir G. T. M. O'Brien.

### The Report of the Quarantine Conference.

We have received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies a copy of the Report of the delegates to the Quarantine Conference which met at Barbados on April 25th last. In a covering letter, Mr. Jytteleton informs us that the Colonial Legislatures will be invited to adopt the excellent results, and we hope that they will not fail to do so, and so put an end to the inconvenience and confusion brought about by the obsolete regulations hitherto in force.

A Convention which is called "The West Indian Inter-Colonial Sanitary Convention," was unanimously agreed to, to which the several Governments represented—Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica, the Leeward Islands, the Windward Islands, and Trinidad, will be asked to adhere. It provides for the repeal of the existing quarantine enactments and the adoption of quarantine regulations in full accord with the recent improvements in sanitary science. Each Colony is to notify to other Colonies the first appearance of cholera, plague, yellow fever, and small-pox, and to furnish full details of the progress of the disease week by week. The Convention will remain in force for five years from the date of the coming into operation of the confirmatory legislation. During that period no alteration or amendment is to be made without the consent of all the Colonies. The Convention will be renewed quinquennially without formal extension, unless one of the signatory Colonies signifies its intention of withdrawing within six months of the expiration of the quinquennial period.

Four important recommendations accompany the Report :

(1) The appointment of a Central Quarantine authority, consisting of a representative of each signatory Colony and a President to be appointed by the Secretary of State, to ensure due observance of the Convention and to settle disputes : such authority to meet upon requisition of two Colonies.

(2) The provision by each Colony of an observation station and isolation hospital adequate in size and equipment to the volume of the passenger traffic of each Colony.

(3) No fees to be payable by passengers for medical supervision.

(4) A law to be adopted making the notification of cholera, plague, yellow fever, and small-pox compulsory. (Typhus fever, enteric fever, cerebro-spinal fever, scarlet fever, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, chicken-pox, and dengue are not classified as infectious or contagious diseases in the regulations).

A memorandum signed by Dr. J. A. de Wolf, Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, and Dr. John Thomson on methods of disinfection is annexed to the Report, which speaks in high praise of Dr. Thomson, the expert, whose knowledge of the details of the subjects discussed was freely placed at the disposal of the Conference.

### The Cotton Industry.

Sea Island Cotton in sufficient quantities to plant 7000 acres, has now been obtained for the West Indies. As we have so often pointed out, this is the kind of cotton which seems particularly suited to the Islands, and the cultivation of which should be most encouraged. Indeed, the cotton grown in Barbados and some of the other Islands obtains a higher price than even the best Georgia and Florida long stapled cotton, and it is stated that, owing to cheaper and more reliable labour, cotton can be produced in the West Indies at a lower cost than anywhere in the United States, so that the outlook as a whole for cotton in these Colonies must be considered distinctly promising. So far, the cotton from some of the smaller Islands has not proved of quite such good quality as that from Barbados, which appears to possess lustre and strength of greater degree than that from many of its neighbours. But, with the new seed now being distributed, which is of the very best quality, it is



hoped that the characteristics observed in the Barbados cotton will also be noticeable in the cotton grown at St. Vincent, Antigua, and St. Kitts.

During the fortnight ended June 2nd, 181 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom, and sales were effected at the following prices: West Indian Sea Island, 11½d; medium fine, 14d.; fine, 15d.; extra fine, 16d. per lb. No sales of Carriacou have been made during the fortnight.

### Sir Daniel Morris' Lecture, June 23rd.

We have pleasure in announcing that Sir Daniel Morris, Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, who should arrive in this country on June 16th, has consented to deliver a lecture at THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ROOMS, at 3 p.m., on Thursday, June 23rd, on "The Agricultural Industries of the West Indies," with special reference to cotton.

Six years have now elapsed since the Imperial Department of Agriculture, over which Sir Daniel Morris has so ably presided since its inception, came into existence as a result of the report of the Royal Commission of 1897, and as this will be Sir Daniel Morris' first public utterance in this country since then, his review of six years work in the West Indies will be awaited with exceptional interest, and the attendance at the lecture is likely to be a large one.

It is admitted that the Department of Agriculture has been no small factor in the revival of agriculture which is happily being witnessed in the West Indies, and there is no doubt that Sir Daniel Morris will be accorded a hearty welcome. Tickets (free), the number of which must necessarily be strictly limited, can now be obtained from the Secretary of The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

### West Indian Fruit at Regent's Park.

It is very desirable that no opportunity should be lost of bringing the produce of the West Indies before the British public, and Members will be glad to learn that THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE have arranged an exhibit of tropical fruit at the Grand Horticultural Exhibition, which was opened under the auspices of the Royal Botanic Society at their gardens at Regent's Park yesterday. The exhibit includes pineapples from Antigua, bananas from Barbados, bananas, grape-fruit, and mangoes from Jamaica, and lime-fruit from Dominica; the principal exhibitors being the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, Messrs. Elders & Fyffes, Ltd., Messrs. Rose & Co., Ltd., Messrs. William Pink & Sons, of Portsmouth, and Mr. Arthur F. Turnbull. The gardens will be open every day until June 11th, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Admission 1s. (Wednesday, 2s. 6d.) and the grounds will be illuminated at dusk. Tickets can be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms.

### Consumption of Sugar.

The consumption of sugar in the principal European countries which were signatories of the Brussels Convention shows an increase of 545,563 tons, for the first eight months—September, 1903, to April, 1904—of the current campaign compared with the corresponding period of last year. The actual figures are as follows:—

	1903-4	1902-3
France ...	489,099 Tons	304,871 Tons.
Germany ...	747,093 "	538,424 "
Austria-Hungary ...	338,413 "	278,088 "
Belgium ...	58,900 "	40,000 "
Great Britain ...	972,632 "	907,990 "
Holland ...	59,735 "	50,936 "
	2,665,872 "	2,120,309 "

### Improvement in Sugar Production.

We are indebted to Mr. F. I. Scard, Vice-President of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana, for the following notes on improvement in sugar cultivation which deserve the careful attention of planters and manufacturers of sugar.

The prospect of a stable market for British sugars in the Home Country is now in view as the result of the abolition of the Continental sugar bounties. The ultimate effect, however, it is realised, will not necessarily be the raising of the price of sugar to any appreciable extent, but rather a steadiness unknown, in fact impossible to it, under that system. The value of sugar will now follow natural laws of supply and demand; and, as cane sugar can be produced below the natural cost of beet, it follows that the competition in future will be, *not* between cane and beet, but between cane and cane. Amid these circumstances it becomes more than ever important that planters should do their utmost to reduce the cost of production; and the following remarks are put forward with the view of pointing out the probable main lines on which reduction in the cost of production may be made.

#### Cultivation of Sugar Cane.

Other things being equal, it may be taken as an axiom that the larger the estate the less the cost per ton of the canes grown. Although tillage, manures, &c., are items which vary directly with acreage, there are many others, such as staff expenses, which become relatively much less as the crop increases, and thus reduce the cost as a whole. The extent to which cultivation can be profitably extended, is, however, dependent on many conditions, and chief among these is the labour question. Coolie labour, where employed, and this is certainly an essential factor in the well-being of an estate in Trinidad and British Guiana, is costly, and there is little chance of its being reduced. It may be safely stated, indeed, that at the present moment, including hospital accommodation, housing, &c., \$8.00 per ton is a low estimate of its cost to the planter in the latter Colony. Apart from this, Government restrictions as to numbers of Coolies imported practically limits the area of an estate, or makes its extension a slow process. The degree, therefore, to which development can be economically conducted must be subordinated to other considerations, such as the supply of outside labour, fertility of soil, natural advantages of position, &c. These play an important part in the question and generally determine the degree of expansion. It is, however, possible to imagine a case in which the extra cost of growing cane might be more than compensated for by cheapness of manufacture, facilities of shipping, &c., and development justified. Given manual labour only, however, the size to which the cultivation of an estate can be extended may be taken as generally regulated by the labour supply, and this naturally introduces the question of mechanical substitutes for field labour. It is, there is little doubt, in this direction that any very material reduction on the cost of growing canes must be looked for.

The items in this category would include *Tillage, Cane Cutting, and Loading*, and of these the first promises most.

Of course a certain amount of manual labour is essential to cultivation, but I feel sure that many of the operations of tillage can be satisfactorily and economically carried out mechanically. So far as British Guiana is concerned, a good deal has been already done in that Colony to demonstrate its feasibility, in spite of the special conditions of cultivation obtaining there, and to prove the fallacy of the objections which have been from time to time raised to it; while the work now going on in Trinidad should do much to show its practicability for the alluvial lands of that Island.

By the adoption of mechanical tillage, not only would the work in every probability be done cheaper, but what is of the greatest importance, at the proper time and in the proper manner. I take it that there are, at any rate in the Colonies just mentioned, few estates at the present moment in a position to duly follow up the reaping with suitable tillage, and for tracts of land to remain





Photo by ALBERTUS E. ASPERLID.

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A CORNER OF THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS.

untilled, until, perhaps, the end of a long grinding, means not only the shortening of the period available for growth, but also deprives the soil of the benefit derived from being properly opened up during the dry season.

It has been argued against the adoption of mechanical tillage that a considerable amount of labour would still be required for cane cutting in the probable event of no suitable labour saving appliance being found for the latter. This would be so, but the general economy effected by the mechanical tillage would admit of a wage being paid for outside labour, which would not only attract the latter, but permanently improve the relationship between peasant and planter. Sufficient outside labour for this congenial work almost invariably exists, although not to be counted upon as a factor for general purposes. Anyhow, as I have said above, it is not a mere question of wages, but of other equally, or if not more, important considerations.

#### Mechanical Cane Cutting

presents the most difficult problem. From the lying down habit of the Bourbon cane unless an upright cane of a new variety be adopted, there is little hope of anything being done in this direction in British Guiana. Should the canes be carried mechanically from the field, the present operation of cane cutting would be much simplified, and it is here, in this department and in the loading of the punts, that some feasible scheme may be confidently looked for. There are so many methods extant of dealing with loads, such as bundles of canes, by transportable plants that I do not imagine much difficulty would arise in the selection and adaptation of a suitable one. At any rate, as said above, this is a matter which if dealt with would much simplify the question of cane cutting.

A prominent factor in low cost of production is, of course, a large *yield per acre*, and a substantial increase on the present returns would do as much as anything in this direction. As mentioned above, tillage and reaping at proper seasons, rendered possible by labour-saving appliances and adequate factory power, together with good drainage, especially in British Guiana, would certainly tend to increase yield. The factory should be so proportioned as to take off the cane at the most suitable economic season, while mechanical tillage would secure the proper treatment of the soil at the proper time.

Great promise also exists of the discovery of a cane superior to the Bourbon for British Guiana needs. At present, however, this is not in sight, and all that can be done is to utilise those seedling canes which will grow profitably on soils and under conditions unfavourable to the Bourbon, and thus help to raise the general average yield to a point above that which it would reach with the Bourbon alone. Meanwhile, the search for the ideal cane can be left to those scientists who have been, and are, actively prosecuting their researches in this direction.

#### The present system of Manuring

is mostly based upon extensive experiments, and is evidently that most suited to West Indian soils. What is wanted to give full value to it, is efficient cultivation, and what has been said above as to these bears upon this point. The subject has been so thoroughly thrashed out that there is but little hope of a better system being arrived at as the result of further experiment.

(TO BE CONTINUED).

#### Confectioners' Conference in Manchester.

A Conference of the United Kingdom Confectioners' Association was held in Manchester on May 18th. A discussion took place on the effects of the sugar duty upon the confectionery and preserving industries and the operations of the Sugar Convention Act. The Chairman said that there could be no doubt that the duty had had disastrous effects upon the trade, while the Convention Act was playing directly into the hands of foreign confectionery manufacturers, to the detriment of home



producers. Mr. Granger (Stockport) pointed out that the British manufacturers were being adversely handicapped by the surtax which the contracting States applied to the various descriptions of sugar or sugared goods imported into their respective territories. Mr. Edwards (Leicester) suggested that there should be a tax, in addition to the ordinary sugar tax, equivalent to the increased price of sugar, in consequence of the abolition of the bounty, placed upon foreign manufactured goods. The Chairman said this was an important matter, as a large quantity of foreign made confectionery was being imported into this country, and it was for us in this country to see that the foreigners did not take an undue advantage of the Sugar Convention Act. Mr. Granger said we must see that the surtax applied in foreign countries was not so large that it became tantamount to a bounty. The Chairman stated that the Manufacturing Confectioners' Alliance had been in communication with the Board of Trade on the subject, and it had been pointed out that, as several of the delegates of the Permanent Commission established under the Brussels Sugar Convention had not received complete instructions from their Governments, further discussion on the point was postponed to the next meeting of the Commission, to be held in October next. In the meantime His Majesty's Government had been invited to furnish, for the information of the Commission, a list of the various sugared products to which they attached the greatest importance as regarded the question of surtax. Before further action was taken, it was decided to write to the Board of Trade inquiring as to what surtax was allowed by the contracting States as the result of the Sugar Convention, and how it applied to home consumption of sugar, raw sugar, exported sugar, and manufactured confectionery (sweets).

### The Public Buildings, Barbados.

In the eastern wing of the Public Buildings in Bridgetown, Barbados, are the Council and Assembly Rooms. They are substantially built of coral rock, hewn locally. The Assembly Room has stained glass windows containing portraits of the Sovereigns of England from James I. to Her late Majesty Queen Victoria. In the western wing, which does not appear in our illustration, the Post Office, the Treasury, and Customs department are located. Barbados is justly proud of having representative institutions, and has for two and a half centuries elected her House of Assembly.

### New Members of The West India Committee.

The Membership of The West India Committee continues to show a most satisfactory expansion, thanks to the loyal assistance of our Members, and although only five months of the year have elapsed, 197 new candidates have been elected during this period. Of these, 36 are resident in Trinidad; while Jamaica has 25; British Guiana, 20; St. Lucia, 16; Dominica, 9; Barbados, 8; Grenada, 6; St. Kitts, 3; Antigua, 2; Tobago, 2; Nevis, 1; St. Vincent, 1. The next election will be held on Thursday, June 9th, at 3 p.m. The following were elected on May 26th:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
MESSRS. ANDERSON, WEBER & SMITH	Messrs. Jonas Browne & Son	R. Rutherford, Esq.
MESSRS. LEWIS & PEAT	Messrs. Jonas Browne & Son	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
MESSRS. HAWKINS & TIPSON	William Gillespie, Esq.	Arthur Johnson, Esq.
Maj.-Gen., J. M. C. GALLOWAY	F. V. McConnell, Esq.	A. J. McConnell, Esq.
Lt.-Col. FRANK GALLOWAY	F. V. McConnell, Esq.	A. J. McConnell, Esq.
R. E. BRASSINGTON, Esq. (British Guiana)	R. G. Duncan, Esq.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.
SIR WILLIAM WILLCOCKS, K.C.M.G.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
E. D. ROWLAND, Esq., M.B., C.M. (B. Guiana)	Sir Henry K. Davson	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
Col. E. D. MALCOLM of POLTALLOCH, C.B.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
ASTON W. GARDNER, Esq. (Jamaica)	Hon. Oscar Marescaux	E. Luxmoore Marshall, Esq.
J. R. PARNELL, Esq. (British Guiana)	J. H. Watson, Esq.	H. L. Humphrys, Esq.
JAMES MORRISON, Esq. (Jamaica)	E. Luxmoore Marshall, Esq.	H. A. Trotter, Esq.
E. F. THOMAS ROSS, Esq.	J. Herbert Scrutton, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
F. HENRY NORTON, Esq.	J. Herbert Scrutton, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.

### A West Indian "Celebrity at Home."

Our Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, was the subject of the familiar "Celebrities at Home" article in the *World* of May 24th. An interesting description of Sir Nevile Lubbock's house, No. 65, Earl's Court Square, is given and the writer goes on to say—"Sir Nevile Lubbock, a brother of Lord Avebury, is the third son of the late Sir John William Lubbock, of Lamas and High Elms, Vice-President and Treasurer of the Royal Society, and Vice-Chancellor of London University. Sir Nevile, who was born in 1839, was educated at Eton, and on leaving school went at once into the City. Sir John William Lubbock, however, did not take his third son into his well-known bank, but established him in a small mercantile business, and in this way Sir Nevile Lubbock came into association with the firm of Cavan & Co., who some half-century ago were one of the largest West Indian houses. All the estates of this firm in Trinidad and British Guiana as well as a large factory in Porto Rico, were taken over by the Colonial Company, which after re-construction became in 1898 the New Colonial Company, with handsome offices in Eastcheap. In connection with sugar estates in which he was thus interested Sir Nevile Lubbock paid many visits of inspection to the West Indies and Demerara. Subsequently he became a member of The West India Committee, of which in 1884 he was chosen chairman. Among the signal services rendered by him to the West Indies was his introduction of the central factory system, a modification of the method of manufacture in vogue, and much more scientific. He also introduced cane-farming into the Island of Trinidad. Before Sir Nevile's time sugar was produced only on a few big estates. At the present moment there are from seven thousand to eight thousand peasant farmers each cultivating from three to five acres apiece, who grow cane, with perhaps half-a-dozen men who farm as much as a hundred and fifty acres. On two occasions Sir Nevile Lubbock was sent by the British Government to America to assist and advise our Ambassador at Washington in the negotiations for a Reciprocity Treaty with reference to the West Indies. One of our difficulties at that time was that England had treaties with Belgium and Germany by which none of our Colonies could make arrangements with other countries in which Belgium and Germany were not entitled to share. This was the rock on which the negotiations split, despite all Sir Nevile's efforts; but happily the objectionable treaties are now abrogated.

In the opinion of West Indians at least, the chief service rendered by Sir Nevile Lubbock has been his constant and unwearied efforts to get the sugar bounties abolished. For thirty years he carried on the fight with the different Governments of the day, a fight at last rewarded with victory when the Brussels Convention, which came into operation on September 1st last year, was signed in 1902. Sir Nevile's work was recognised by a striking testimonial from West Indians in London and in the Colonies. On November 25th, 1903, at a large and representative banquet in the Whitehall Rooms, Sir James Fergusson presiding, he was presented with a portrait of himself painted by Professor von Herkomer, together with a handsome service of plate, and a diamond brooch for Lady Lubbock, "in recognition of his eminent services on behalf of the West Indian Colonies." It is small wonder West Indians were grateful. For a quarter of a century they had had to contend against the heavy handicap which had been placed upon them by the bounties of foreign States. "During the whole of that intense anxiety," said Sir Henry Davson at the banquet, "an anxiety bordering on despair, it was Sir Nevile Lubbock's voice that cheered us; it was Sir Nevile Lubbock's skill and experience and indomitable pluck that led us on until the Conference at Brussels. The details of what transpired at that Conference are unknown to us, but this we do know—we know that Sir Nevile Lubbock was there as the expert adviser of the British delegates on behalf of the West Indies." Indeed, it was Sir Nevile's good sense and tact which brought the Colonial Office and The West India Committee into cordial relations with each other. "That cordiality," said the Duke of Marlborough at the recent West Indian Club dinner, "which still exists, has been largely due to the confidence and respect we have all entertained for Sir Nevile Lubbock.



Sir Nevile Lubbock, after being for some time Deputy Governor, became this year Governor of the Royal Exchange. He is a director of the London and India Docks Company, and for about twenty years past has been a director of the Colonial Bank. He received his K.C.M.G. in 1899, in recognition of his services as Chairman of The West India Committee. Sir Nevile has been twice married, his first wife being a daughter of Mr. Western Wood, and his second wife a daughter of Sir John Herschel. Although he is not a specialist like his distinguished brother, Lord Avebury, he takes a keen general interest in scientific matters. He is fond of hunting and shooting in moderation, and plays golf, while the collection of books and violins has been one of the recreations of his busy life."

### Publications Received.

We invite Members to send us copies of their works or of publications respecting the West Indies, photographs of scenery, etc., for our Library, which will be duly acknowledged under this heading from time to time.

#### **The British Guiana Directory, 1904.**

It would be difficult to suggest how this most useful work of reference could be improved upon. But it is more than a work of reference, it is a record—historical, geographical, and statistical—of our Colony in South America. It is interesting to compare its 630 pages with the earliest number of the Directory in the Library of The West India Committee, which bears the date 1863, and comprises only 146 pages. Everyone interested in or connected with British Guiana should apply to the proprietors of the *Daily Chronicle*, Georgetown, Demerara, for a copy of the British Guiana Directory, 1904, if they have not done so already.

#### **West Indian Bulletin.\***

We have received by the mail the first number of Volume V. of the *West Indian Bulletin* (the journal of the Imperial Agricultural Department of the West Indies), which, like its predecessors, is full of interest to West Indian planters and tropical agriculturists generally. Mr. W. R. Buttenshaw, Scientific Assistant to the Department, contributes an article on "West Indian Starches." Mr. R. R. Hall and Mr. J. R. Bovell write on "Experiments with Sweet Potatoes at Barbados," and there are articles also on the Fruit Industry of Jamaica (Mr. W. E. Smith's of Trinidad recent report), the "Lemon Industry of Sicily," "The Birds of St. Vincent," and the "Naudet Process for Extracting and Purifying Cane Juice."

#### **The Agricultural News.†**

"The trade in Cassava Products," "Sugar Cane Experiments in Barbados," and "Tinning Pineapples," are dealt with in the current number of the fortnightly review of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies. The annual subscription for this publication is only 3s. 3d. post free, and we may remind our readers that it is obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms.

#### **Proceedings of the Agricultural Society, Trinidad.**

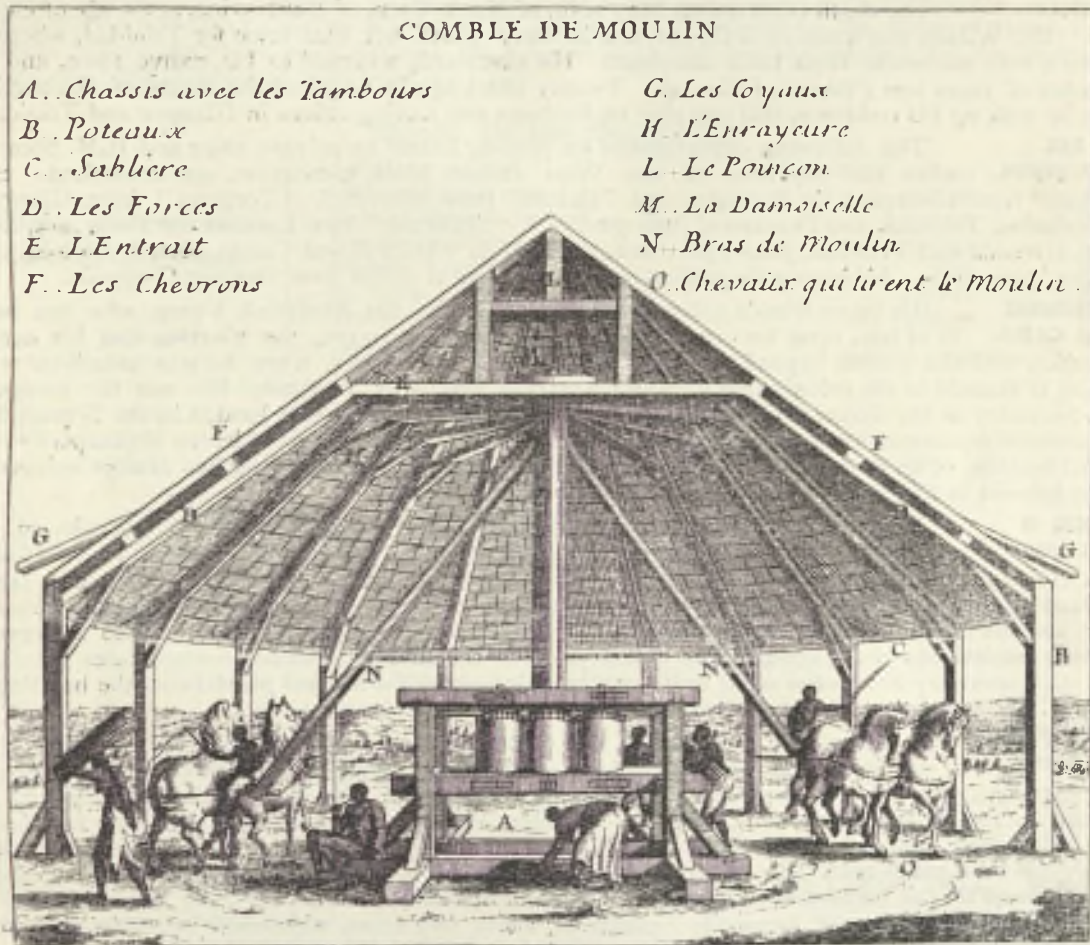
This deals with a meeting held on April 12th, when it was decided to hold the next Agricultural Show on 13th to 18th February, 1905. Approval was expressed of the recommendation contained in the report of Mr. W. E. Smith, that one hundred acres of St. Augustin lands should be allotted for banana cultivation. Mr. T. J. St. Hill presented an interesting paper on the Cotton Industry, which is printed (Society Paper, No. 217). The report of the committee on certain proposals of the Antigua Agricultural Society to divert Muscovado sugar from the Canadian market until they were accorded a large share of the 33 $\frac{1}{4}$  preference was adopted. The committee decided that they could not approve of the proposal of the Antigua Society, believing that the desired result would be better attained by repeated representation.

\* *West Indian Bulletin*, Vol. V., No. 1, obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 6d., post free 8d.

† *The Agricultural News*, Vol. III., No. 35, obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 1d., post free 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

**Our Western Empire.**

The objects of this journal which is published on the 15th of every month, is to develop trade between Great Britain, Canada and the West Indies, and a leading article is devoted to this subject, while the full text is given of a lecture by Mr. W. Griffith, Secretary, High Commissioner's office, on "Canada and Great Britain," which was delivered at the Society of Arts on May 3rd.—*Our Western Empire*, price 6d., 1, Lombard Court, E.C.



**A Sugar Mill in 1696.**

This is a form of Sugar Cape Mill in use in Martinique and Guadeloupe when Pere Labat visited the West Indies in 1696. The progress in sugar manufacture in 200 years will be realized by comparing this picture with some of those in our advertisement columns.

**Notes of Interest.**

**FILING CASES** Spring back cases for filing *The West India Committee Circular* can be obtained at FOR "CIRCULARS" 2/6 each, or post free 3/-. These will be found a great convenience.

**COMPRESSED TRINIDAD ASPHALT.** At the recent lettings of paving contracts in the City of Westminster the only tenders accepted for Compressed Asphalt were those of the Trinidad Lake Asphalt Paving Company, Limited.

**THE JAMAICA TOURIST TRADE.** From December last year to the middle of April the three principal hotels in Jamaica registered 6,000 visitors, and the smaller establishments brought the total up to 7,500. It is estimated the tourists must have spent a considerable sum in the island.



**AS OTHERS SEE US.** "At the present moment The West India Committee is an institution that 'everybody who is anybody' ought to support, . . . . the Committee is doing a vast deal of good for the West Indies in a persistent, pushful, and tactful way, and it behoves us all to give it whatever support we can in its excellent work." *The Mirror*, Trinidad, May 12th 1904.

**PICTURE POST CARDS.** There must be among the readers of *The West India Committee Circular* a large number of collectors of picture post cards, and to these, the cards with views of the West India Committee Rooms, which are presented with this issue, will be doubtless welcome. Further copies can be obtained from the Secretary, 1½d. post free, or 8d. per dozen. Members might well send them to their friends and invite them to join The West India Committee.

**OBITUARY.** The death occurred on May 26th, of Mr. Wilson, of Bantaskine, at the age of eighty years. Mr. Wilson was a native of Govan, and in early youth left that town for Trinidad, where he became a very successful West India merchant. He afterwards returned to his native town, and for a number of years was Provost of Govan. Twenty years ago he acquired the estate of Bantaskine, where he took up his residence, still carrying on business and having offices in Glasgow and Trinidad.

**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Cuban" from Liverpool, for Barbados and Trinidad, June 8th; S.S. "Torgorm" from Glasgow, for Barbados, Trinidad, and Demerara, June 9th; S.S. "Spheroid" from London, for Demerara, Barbados, Grenada and Trinidad, June 15th; and, the R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Bristol, for Kingston Jamaica, June 18th. *Information for publication under this head is invited from Shipping Companies.*

**SIR FREDERICK YOUNG, K.C.M.G.** His many friends will congratulate, as we do, Sir Frederick Young, who has been ill of late, upon his convalescence. He is now nearing the nineties, and his active connection with the Britain beyond the seas dates back to the thirties, when he was associated with Gibbon Wakefield in the colonisation of South Australia and New Zealand. He was the energetic Hon. Secretary of the Colonial Institute during its early years when it was located in the Strand, and he maintains a paternal interest in its welfare now that it has reached the haven of prosperity in a palatial building of its own in Northumberland Avenue. Sir Frederick Young has always evinced a keen interest in the work of the West India Committee.

**SUGAR IN ZULULAND.** Tenders are being invited for the erection of a sugar factory at Amatikulu, on the Zululand coast. The idea apparently is that a central factory should be established under Government auspices for the use of the settlers whom it is hoped to attract to these coast lands. The land on this part of the coast is reputed to be suitable in an eminent degree for the cultivation of sugar, and the intention of the Government is, it is understood, to lease plots of land to Europeans who may be desirous of engaging in this industry. The scheme, it is stated contemplates provision for a main tramway line to the sugar mill, with branch lines to the several plantations, the building of which will be on terms to be mutually arranged.

**CASSAVA STARCH IN JAMAICA.** In its issue of 26th March, the *Jamaica Daily Telegraph* refers to the efforts that are being made in that island to establish an export business in cassava starch, and more particularly to the trial shipments that have been made by a firm who have started a factory for the manufacture of this starch at Longville, Clarendon, and adds that this firm have just received a cable report from Manchester on the result of the tests to which the cassava starch made at their factory has been subjected. The results of the trial have been very satisfactory, and they have been asked to send at the earliest opportunity fifty tons, for which a price of £10 per ton in Bristol is offered. The cultivation at Longville consists of about fifty acres, which will be ready for starch making this season. The capacity of the plant is about 150 tons per annum.

**THE "CHAMBERLAIN" MILL, ANTIGUA.** The writer of the "Sub Rosa" notes in the *Morning Leader* of May 30th, makes merry at the expense of our Antigua correspondent, who said in our last issue that the engine of the Belvidere Sugar Factory was "dedicated in the customary manner to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain." He confesses he does not know what is meant by the phrase. "For the word 'dedicate' has a variety of meanings, and is similar to, though not quite the same as 'to devote solemnly,' 'to consecrate,' 'to hallow.' How does one hallow an engine? Is the ceremony of a religious nature, similar to consecration, or is it bacchanalian in character, implying the consumption of rum? Are the various parts of the engines—cylinders, pistons, wheels, valves, and so forth—blessed in the name of Joseph? Is music included in the ceremony. Do they dance round the engine, beating the tom-tom and sounding the shawm? Probably the business included a collection on behalf of the Tariff Reform League. I wonder if the boiler as well as the engine, was dedicated."

**THE WEST INDIAN CLUB DINNER.** The fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club was held at the Club Rooms on Wednesday, May 25th. Sir Alfred Jones presided, and was supported by Sir Gilbert Carter, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bahama Islands, Sir Gerald Strickland,

Governor of the Leeward Islands, Sir Ralph Moor, Ex-High Commissioner of Southern Nigeria, and many representative West Indians. The Club Rooms were filled to their utmost capacity, seventy-seven Members and their guests being present.

At the conclusion of dinner the company adjourned to the billiard room, where the final of the billiard tournament was played off between Captain Charles H. Foulkes (scratch) and Mr. Arthur Johnson (25), the former winning an intensely exciting game by the narrow margin of nine points. Sir Alfred Jones then presented Captain Foulkes with the Challenge Cup which he has given to the Club and the Silver Cup given by the Club to the winner of this year's tournament. Mr. A. McD. Nathan proposed a vote of thanks to Sir Alfred Jones which was carried with enthusiasm. A cordial vote of thanks was also passed to Mr. J. W. M. Jarrett, the proprietor of the Howard Hotel, for his kindness in arranging with such success the handicaps in the tournament and for his courtesy in putting the billiard tables at the use of the Club.

**West Indian Securities.**

		Price.
<b>Colonial Government Subscribed Securities</b>	Antigua, 4 per cent. ... ..	Redeemable 1919-44 ... <b>101-103</b>
	Barbados, 3½ per cent. ... ..	" 1925-42 ... <b>97-99</b>
	British Guiana, 4 per cent. ... ..	" 1935 ... <b>106-108</b>
	Grenada, 4 per cent. ... ..	" 1917-42 ... <b>101-103</b>
	Jamaica, 4 per cent. ... ..	" 1934 ... <b>106-108</b>
	St. Lucia, 4 per cent. ... ..	" 1919-44 ... <b>101-103</b>
	Trinidad, 4 per cent. ... ..	" 1917-42 ... <b>101-103</b>

**Miscellaneous Securities.**

Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Dividend.	
100,000	20	Colonial Bank ... ..	£6	6 %	5-5½
15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ... ..	60	—	26-28
250,000	Stock.	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4% 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4½ %	82-86
325,000	Stock.	New Colonial Co., Ltd. 4 % 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4 %	72-74
46,874	5	" " " 5 % Non-Cum. Pref. ... ..	5	5 %	2-3
360,700	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb. ... ..	100	6 %	93-98
70,000	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Perpetual Deb. Stock	100	4 %	96-98
31,250	10	" " " " Extension Preference ... ..	10	4 %	7-8
115,000	Stock.	" " " 7 % Preference ... ..	100	Nil	88-93
165,000	Stock.	" " " Original Stock ... ..	100	Nil	15-20
85,800	100	Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., Mortgage Debs. (1 to 1200) red. ... ..	100	4½ %	100-103
60,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ... ..	£2 10 0	6 %	—
58,700	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4½% 1st Mtge. Deb. (1 to 1200) red. ... ..	100	4½ %	100-103
50,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. ... ..	5	5 %	—
80,000	100	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. 5% Deb. ... ..	100	5 %	100-103
34,563	10	" " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref. ... ..	10	8s.	5½-8½xd
4,669	10	" " " " " 2nd " ... ..	10	—	5-6
88,321	10	" " " " Ordinary ... ..	10	—	½-1

Bank of England rate 3% (changed from 3½% on April 22nd, 1904). 2½% Consols, 90<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>. (6.6.04).

**T. K. Bellis Turtle Company.**

The directors of the T. K. Bellis Turtle Company, Ltd. have declared a dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares to 31st December last, carrying forward sufficient to cover the 6 per cent. dividend on the preference shares for the ensuing year.

**West Indian Civil Service.**

We invite Members to forward to us particulars of movements and appointments of officers of the several West Indian Governments and other persons officially connected with the West Indian Colonies, for insertion under the above heading. For much of the following information we are indebted to the *Morning Post*.

Mr. B. Gainfort, Commissary of Taxation, British Guiana, has been re-appointed a Member of the Board of Agriculture.

An extension of leave of absence for three months on half salary, has been granted Mr W. C. Harragin, Stipendiary Magistrate of British Guiana

Mr. Martin J. Camacho, barrister-at-law, has accepted the Acting City Magistracy, Antigua, during the absence on leave of the Hon. W. H. Whyham.

Mr. H. Pickwood, of the Customs Department of British Honduras, has accepted an appointment under the Government of British Central Africa



The Hon. A. W. Holmes & Court, who, recently retired on pension from the office of Surveyor of Public Works, Antigua, has accepted the Boatswainship of H. M. Dockyard at English Harbour.

Sir C. A. King-Harman, the recently appointed High Commissioner for Cyprus, is to leave Sierra Leone for England on the 1st of June, and will go on short leave prior to taking up the duties of his new office.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Everard Ferdinand im Thurn, C. B., C. M. G., Lieutenant-Governor and Colonial Secretary of Ceylon, to be Governor of Fiji, and his Majesty's High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, in succession to Sir. Henry Moore Jackson, whose appointment to be Governor of the Colony of Trinidad is recorded elsewhere.

### The Homeward Mail.

The Homeward Mail brought with it, besides very favourable news regarding the crops and general outlook, several of our Members whom we welcome back to the Mother Country. Colonel Frank C. Trollope, Mr. E. L. Atkinson, Mr. S. Henderson, the Hon. Jas. A. de Wolf, Mr. John Hinkson, the Hon. E. G. Bennet, K.C., and Dr. G. L. Latour, are among the home arrivals.

The R.M.S. "Tagus," anchored off Plymouth at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1st, and the mails were delivered in London by first post next day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Morant," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Tuesday, May 24th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents received per R.M.S. "Tagus."

#### Antigua—Crop ending.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER), May 18th.—The weather continued dry and favourable for reaping. Most estates were rapidly getting through the crop. The local price for sugar was 81 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  for 89°. There was no quotation for molasses, as planters were refusing to sell at the buyer's prices. The new Belvidere factory had made a good start, and everything was progressing smoothly.

The death of Mr. M. B. D. Eldridge, the Harbour Master of Antigua, who was on his way to England for the benefit of his health occurred on May 5th with painful suddenness, on board the "Eden," when off Dominica.

#### Barbados—The Colony's Finances.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNB), May 19th.—Mr. Baeza's proposals for the formation of a Produce Exchange had not yet been fully discussed by the Agricultural Society, and their discussion would be delayed as the meeting on May 20th would probably be adjourned at once out of respect to the memory of Mr. H. E. Boyle, one of the Vice-Presidents, whose lamented death took place on May 9th. The general feeling seemed to be that there was not much improvement to be gained by altering the method of selling sugar, but that the sale of molasses was very unsatisfactory, as they were entirely in the dark as to what was the real market value of molasses in Canada.

Good reaping weather had prevailed throughout the fortnight, and hardly any rain had fallen. Satisfactory progress had therefore been made with the crop, and some estates had already finished their work. The yield continued good, and had not been affected by the heavy rain on April 26th. There appeared no reason to reduce the estimate of the island crop made a few mails ago\*. The gradual and cheering rise of the price of beet in England had at last been followed by the New York market, which had risen to 3 $\frac{3}{16}$ . On May 17th, \$1.75 had been offered for Muscovado sugar, and \$2.15 for dark crystals. Molasses had not altered for the past six weeks, and remained at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Bananas were coming on well, and it was hoped that henceforward largely increased shipments would be sent. Sugar was quoted on May 26th at \$1.80 for muscovado, and \$2.25 for dark crystals, molasses at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

The writs for the new House of Assembly were to be issued on May 26th, and would be made returnable on June 14th.

A large cane fire had occurred on Sturges Estate, the property of Mr. Samuel Parris, on the night of May 16th. The boiling house at Applewhaithe's which was destroyed by fire on April 23rd, had been reconstructed and suitably improved, and reaping operations had begun on that estate. The rains had facilitated the planting of Indian corn, yams, and potatoes. Yams were very plentiful. Influenza was prevalent, otherwise the health of the Island was good.

The financial report of the Auditor General for the quarter ended 31st December last, as published in the *Official Gazette*, showed that the balance in the Treasury on the 30th September, 1903, was £1,570 8s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and the receipts for the quarter amounted to £43,794 5s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., making a total of £45,364 13s. 10d. The expenditure for the quarter was £37,417 9s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and the balance on 31st December, was £7,947 3s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., made up as follows:—£5,786 15s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the hands of the Treasurer, £1,960 8s., in the hands of the Crown Agents and £200 advanced to Dr. Manning.

#### British Guiana—Prædial Larceny on the Increase.

(A. SUMMERSON, Esq.), May 18th.—Judging from the reports in the papers there seemed to be an increase in the cases of prædial larceny, and the farmers in the West Coast district had sent in a petition to the Governor in Council, asking that the district be declared so that the Magistrates could inflict the cat.

\* 70,000 and 80,000 bagsheads.

Mr. Bassel Winter, M.C.P., for N.W. Essequibo, died at Coffee Grove, Essequibo, on May 12th. It was proposed to nominate Mr. R. G. Duncan for the vacancy in the Court of Policy. There had been a meeting of the Legislature on May 13th. (A report of this meeting appears in the *Demerara Daily Chronicle*, May 18th, and can be seen at the Committee Rooms). A Commission was sitting on "Tobacco Growing and Manufacturing" in the Colony, and another Commission was to be appointed to inquire into the system under which Tonnage and Harbour Dues were levied on some, but not other, shipping visiting this port.

A good many estates had started sugar making for short grinding. Crystals, after hardening in the early part of the fortnight, when \$2 17 would perhaps have been given, had again weakened, the quotation that day was \$2 10 to \$2 15. This drop was due to orders from Canada having been all executed, and anything that was bought at that time being for July shipment. The weather was fine and bright with occasional showers, favourable generally.

A consignment of 7,384 diamonds to the Mazaruni Co., Ltd., weighing 477½ carats, from Putareng Creek, was entered on May 17th, at the offices of the Commissioner of Lands and Mines.

#### Dominica—Imports and Exports, 1902=3.

(A. K. AGAR, Esq.), May 17th.—The weather was very hot and dry, and the coast estates were beginning to want rain. Shipping of green limes to New York was in full swing, the S.S. "Fontabelle" having taken 13,000 barrels on May 12th. Preparations were being made for the school children to celebrate Empire Day in a suitable fashion, their programme including athletic sports, and refreshments at the Botanic Station.

Mr. E. A. Agar, our Hon. Correspondent, who is at present in this country, has favoured us with a carefully prepared table, showing the exports and imports of Dominica for the years 1902 and 1903, which can be inspected at the West India Committee Rooms. From this it appears that the principal products, cocoa and limes, have fallen off considerably. In the case of the former this is entirely, and in the case of latter largely, due to the hurricanes of August last year. A blight also affected the lime trees seriously, but up to the present this shows little signs of reappearing. The balance of the rum trade, small as it is, is now in favour of the exports.

Whalers are now beginning to call at Dominica to tranship their oil into steamers, and this business promises to increase largely. The value of the whale oil in transit amounted in 1903 to £11,196. The falling off which has occurred in manufactured goods is attributed to the merchants overstocking themselves in 1902, rather than to a decrease in purchasing power of the Island. The steady influx of capital counterbalanced the decrease of exports. In spite of the year 1903 having been almost a disastrous one, the revenue exceeded the expenditure. The following were the principal items of export during the year 1903: Bay leaves, 174 bales, valued at £783; logwood and divi-divi, 34 cords £68; fresh fruit to the value of £4,501; preserved fruits (including tamarinds and pickled limes), 762 barrels, of the value of £322; lime juice, raw, 129,316 gallons, valued at £4,849; lime juice, concentrated, 6,670 gallons, £14,175; essential oils, 3,087 gallons, of the value of £1,544; sugar, crystallized, 225 tons, value at £1,890.

The exports of fresh fruit included bananas, cocoanuts, limes, mangoes, pine-apples, etc.; and the essential oils, bay, lime, and orange. The bay oil valued at £35 was, however, not the product of the Island.

#### Grenada—A New Cotton Factory.

(W. E. BROADWAY, Esq.), May 19th.—On Thursday, May 12th, the "Eagle" cotton gin and the "Cardwell" press was formally opened in the presence of Sir Robert B. Llewelyn, Governor of the Windward Islands, Lady Llewelyn, Sir Daniel Morris, Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture in the West Indies, and several gentlemen interested in the cotton industry. Among those present were the Hon. D. T. Tudor, Acting Colonial Secretary, Hon. C. Macaulay Browne, President of the newly formed Agricultural and Commercial Society, and Mr. P. J. Deane, one of the two Vice-Presidents of that Society. This gin and haling press had been imported from the United States of America and erected by Mr. L. R. Mitchell, a large cocoa proprietor of Grenada, on the eastern side of the Carenage, St. George's. The Imperial Commissioner addressed a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society later in the day.

Seed of Sea Island cotton had been imported by the Agricultural and Commercial Society and the Botanic Station for general distribution. The weather had been dry and hot during the past week. The health of the Colony was unusually favourable, upon the authority of the Hon. S. Hutton, senior medical Government officer.

His Grace the Archbishop of Port of Spain had visited the Colony on two occasions in April and May, to carry out confirmation rites throughout the Island and Carriacou. Over a thousand candidates were confirmed. Whit Monday and the following day would witness a revival of races on the Grand Anse Course. It was predicted that it would be a successful meeting.

#### Jamaica—Were still dry.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq.), May 16th.—The weather generally had been very seasonable, except in Vere. Upper Clarendon was having heavy rains. Up to the 13th, the seasons had not yet touched Vere. Mr. Olivier paid a visit on May 13th to the Vere irrigation works; a slight interruption had occurred, owing to the breaking of a bank at St. Ann's gully, but this would be repaired shortly, when it was hoped that the canal would work perfectly well. The supply of water in the river was increasing.



The Legislature was to open on the 18th to complete its labours. The honey crop was practically gathered, but there might be another gathering in the autumn. The present yield exceeded that of last year by 20 to 25 %, but was still below the average.

Mr. William Seabrook, the cotton expert, was paying a visit to the Island. At Hartlands, which he visited, accompanied by the Hon. William Fawcett, he fitted up a steam gin on Mr. Furzedon's property.

Mr. Ashenheim has transmitted a copy of the Jamaica Rum Protection Bill, which was awaiting the assent of the Governor. It provides for the appointment of a properly qualified person to institute proceedings and undertake the prosecution in the United Kingdom of offences under the Merchandise Marks Act, so far as they apply to Jamaica rum. The expenses are to be provided by an export duty of 10d. on every puncheon of rum, to be levied at the port of shipment. (This Bill can be seen at The West India Committee Rooms.)

A meeting of the Agricultural Society was held on May 18th, the matters dealt with being the sheep industry and horse breeding. At present sheep were imported for the troops, but it was hoped to make the Island self supporting in this connection. A resolution of thanks to the retiring Governor, Sir Augustus Hemming for the interest which he had taken in the affairs of the Society, and wishing him long life and happiness, was carried with enthusiasm.

A farewell dinner to Sir Augustus Hemming, was given by the cricketers of Jamaica on May 17th.

#### Montserrat—Increased acreage in Cotton.

(C. WATSON, Esq.), May 17th.—The weather for the past fortnight had been hot and dry, retarding the preparation of land for cotton cultivation. On May 14th, the Commissioner gave a lecture on "Cotton Cultivation," to an appreciative audience; he dealt with the details of cultivation, and the cost of same. In spite of the last cotton crop not having been very successful, a larger acreage would be planted this year.

Mr. Watson forwarded a copy of Act No. 4, of 1904, Leeward Islands, to regulate the advances in the cotton industry and a form of application for loan. (This can be seen at The West India Committee Rooms.) It would appear that the applications for loans under this Act are inconsiderable. Those who can give the security required do not ask for the loan, and those who would be glad of it, even at 7 %, are unable to give the security required.

#### Nevis—An Annual "Arbor Day."

(Hon. C. A. SHAND), May 16th.—It was gratifying to be able to report that their first shipment of cotton had resulted most satisfactorily, the prices realised being from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d. per lb. The effect of this information had been towards a marked development in the industry, and it would not be surprising were 800 to 1000 acres to be sown for 1905. The peasants who had been successful in last year's competition for prizes were all applying for more seed to plant afresh, and he was glad to say that this new industry was working hand in hand with sugar, which was still looked upon as *the Phoenix* among crops, bound to rise out of its own ashes. The trifling disagreements between sellers and buyers under the new system of purchasing canes by weight, had been met by mutual concessions, and everything was working satisfactorily. The new departure was accepted by all parties as distinctly and mutually beneficial.

At the last Agricultural Society's meeting it had been arranged to have an annual Arbor day on His Majesty's birthday, and also to initiate an Agricultural Show either at the end of 1904 or beginning of 1905, under the auspices of the Society. They expected to ship about 120 bales of cotton averaging 180 lbs., which was not bad for a first venture, representing as it did something like £2000 value. There was no doubt that this output would have been doubled had the proper attention been given to cultivation, but the truth was that the industry was rushed at the last moment, and suffered consequently. The Sugar crop was in full swing, and some Estates were doing very much better than last year, while none, probably, were doing worse. Some molasses had gone from Nevis to the United Kingdom.

#### St. Kitts—Lack of Shipping Facilities.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, Esq.), May 17th.—Some refreshing showers had fallen at the end of the past week, which were very general, and the young crops were in consequence looking very promising. Shippers were again finding great inconvenience through the want of space for the despatch of sugar by the Pickford and Black Line to Halifax. It was anticipated that they would be better served this year, but as far as St. Kitts was concerned, the present service left something to be desired. Cotton ginning was progressing at Spooners (Mr. Wade's private gin) and outsiders were embracing the opportunity of getting their cotton attended to.

#### St. Vincent—Capital for Cotton required.

(Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co.), May 20th.—There was plenty of land available in St. Vincent suitable for cotton growing, and it was hoped that capital and energy would be forthcoming to make it a success.

#### Trinidad—A Dinner to Mr. Gordon.

(EDGAR TRIPP, Esq.), May 20th.—A committee had been formed by many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bourne, to greet them when passing through Trinidad, on June 7th, and to present an address of congratulation to the former upon his appointment as Colonial Secretary of Jamaica. The Members of the Chamber of Commerce gave a dinner to their president, Mr. Gordon Gordon, on May 17th, previous to his departure on a visit to Europe. The Hon. George Goodwill, Vice-president, occupied the Chair, and fifty-five members were present, including the Acting

Governor, and the function was in every way most successful. In the Naparima districts and Savana Grande, the weather conditions during the fortnight were all that could be desired, rains at intervals being followed by fine sunny days. The sugar crop was expected to be not quite so large as that of last season. Cocoa cultivation looked fairly well, but in some districts moderate rains would prove very beneficial. Very restricted supplies were being marketed and no increase of importance was expected until towards October, when the next picking was, if the weather conditions continued favourable, likely to be commenced.

**Weather Telegrams.**

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), May 24th. "Light partial showers." June 6th. "Seasonable weather." **British Guiana** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 31st. "Fine, with occasional light showers." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), June 3rd. "Weather too wet in Essequibo, favourable in Berbice." **Trinidad** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 31st. "Showery and unsettled." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), June 2nd. **PORT ANTONIO**: "Fine." **KINGSTON**: "Overcast, frequent showers." June 6th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "Fine, occasional rains." **KINGSTON**: "Overcast, rain occasionally."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
	Hhds.	lbs.	Tons.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
<b>Barbados—</b>								
Jan. 1 to May 19, 1904	20,176	—	—	—	—	24,038	—	—
.. .. 19, 1903	8929	—	—	—	—	16,288	—	—
<b>British Guiana—</b>	Tons.							
Jan. 1 to May 17, 1904	25,614	21,324	1360	8301	131,344	441	25,771	3374
.. .. 19, 1903	33,980	25,510	146	9794	4532	2098	29,852	2859
<b>Jamaica—</b>		Cwts.	Coffee.	Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
			Cwts.			Cwts.	Bunches.	
Apr. 1 to April 30, 1904	1445	1195	4873	255,115	266,730	732	54,190	345,300
.. .. May 2, 1903	2981	1148	2739	170,239	2,396,150	1338	1,567,119	399,050
<b>Trinidad—</b>	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.
						Puns.	Tons.	
Jan. 1 to May 18, 1904	286,572	24,384,630	52,480	50	3,330,925	1167	89	50,387
.. .. 18, 1903	283,304	20,184,840	34,800	108	5,496,987	1410	85	49,800
<b>Grenada—</b>		Bags	SPICE.				Cotton.	Cotton Seed
			Brls.	4 Brls.	Cases	Bags	Bales.	Bags
Sept. 30 to May 18, 1904	—	60,309	2313	376	294	58	597	3751
.. 30 .. 18, 1903	—	56,775	2397	398	600	63	757	4779

**The Mails.**

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.**—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Tagus," June 1st, 1904: **Barbados**—Mr. J. M. Lash, Mr. R. J. Clinckett, Mr. John Hinkson, Mr. G. W. Hutchinson, three Misses Hutson, Mr. and Mrs. H. Hobson, Mrs. and Miss Gardiner Austin, Rev. W. Lowndes, Capt. A. R. Fellowes, Mrs. Clarke, Col. F. C. Trollope; Mrs. Whitfield, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Henderson, **Demerara**—Mr. J. J. Chapman, Mr. C. L. Bouisson, Mr. M. Rodrigues, Mr. Tack, Mr. W. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Gibson, Mr. G. Bettencourt, Mrs. Annesley, Sir T. C. and Lady Kayner, Very Rev. Dean and Mrs. Caswell, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Williams, Mr. A. C. O'Dowd, Mr. R. Van Gember, Mr. D. H. McGowan, **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. Guppy, Mr. and Mrs. J. de Leon, Mr. F. E. Reed, Mrs. Henry, Mr. E. X. Leon, Mr. and Mrs. Pfeucker, Mr. and Mrs. T. Rousseau, three Misses Rousseau, Capt. R. R. Neeld, R.N., Mrs. R. R. Neeld, Lord Coyngham, Mr. G. B. Tunstall-Moore, Mrs. Gobel, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Jones, Rev. T. Rathe, Mr. and Mrs. A. Bunting, Mrs. J. H. Moffat, **Trinidad**—Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. and Miss Kirton, Mr. and Mrs. W. Gordon, Mr. S. Henderson, Mr. L. Medina, Mr. J. Grant, Mrs. Geo. Grell, Mr. Twose, Mr. and Mrs. G. Taylor, Dr. De Wolf, Mr. E. Ghigo, Rev. Canon and Mrs. Hombersley, Mrs. T. S. Allison, **Dominica**—Miss G. Porter, **Grenada**—Dr. and Mrs. Latour, His Honour Judge, Mrs. and Miss Tarring, Mr. V. Smith, Miss I. Steele, **St. Kitts**—Rev. and Mrs. Evered, **St. Lucia**—Mr. Geo. Melville, Hon. E. G. Bennett, K.C., Mr. H. Barnard, Mr. A. Barnard, Miss F. Hendy, **St. Vincent**—Mr. Mackie, Mr. and Miss Porter.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "La Plata," June 8th, 1904:—**Barbados**—Mr. F. H. Bowring, Mr. E. A. Bowring, Mr. P. K. Hannay, **Demerara**—Dr. and Mrs. Massiah, Mr. J. Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, Mr. G. Sharples, **Jamaica**—Mr. H. Heron, Mrs. E. Heron, Mr. E. Clarke, **Trinidad**—Mr. P. Burnett, **St. Kitts**—Rev. A. Watt, Miss A. Mitchell, Mrs. Root, **St. Vincent**—Mr. A. J. Smith, Mrs. E. L. Smith.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Tagus," June 22nd, 1904:—**Barbados**—Mr. R. L'Amey, **Demerara**—Mr. H. T. King, **Jamaica**—Dr. A. Motta, Miss N. Lloyd, **Trinidad**—Mr. J. Cipriani, **Grenada**—Mr. R. Ferguson.

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service**—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," May 24th, 1904:—**Jamaica**—Rev. Mother X. Bryson, Mr. H. M. Beaverstock, Miss D. E. Brett, Capt. Barlow, Sister A. Clare, Major Carey, Capt. G. Dobson, Mr. H. A. Hood Daniel, Lieut. Fitzgerald, Miss Hislop, Mr. R. E. Large, Mr. W. C. Logan, Mr. Sidgwick, Mr. Z. Smith, Mr. W. W. Wynne, Mr. R. Wynne, Mr. R. M. Brown, Mr. R. Kerr.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," June 4th, 1904:—**Jamaica**—Mr. W. Dolphy, Mr. and Mrs. W. Dougall, Mr. Kirkland, Mr. and Miss Leblond, Mr. H. E. Lewis, Mr. W. Porter, Mr. E. H. Sockett, Mr. J. F. Watson.



## The Produce Markets Summary.

**Sugar—88 per cent Beet**—The abolition of the Sugar Bounties with their Satellites, the iniquitous Kartels, is slowly but surely fulfilling all that was predicted by those who assisted in getting this measure passed by the British Legislature. Already is seen the necessity of keeping supplies within reasonable bounds, so that Continental Producers may obtain 10/- basis 88, which price is undoubtedly necessary if machinery is kept up-to-date and a fair living wage realised by the capitalists engaged in this trade. In confirmation of this, sowings for 1904-5 are on a basis that should produce 300,000 to 400,000 tons less sugar than during this season. Prices too are slowly emerging from the absolutely impossible basis of the last few years, and to-day's price of 9s 2½d compares favourably with that of the 1st September last when the terms of the Brussels Convention became operative. It may be interesting to put on record the quotations of 88% on that date for the last three years:—

1903. 8s. 5½d.	1902 6s.	1901 8s
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There is still further ground for improvement which will probably come in due course, until 10s. is reached. The "jam and pickle" makers who are always disclaiming against this wise and just legislation have absolutely no reason in their arguments, so far as this natural rise in prices is concerned. What has really affected them has been the imposition of our Customs Duties, rendered necessary for revenue purposes and in this they are no worse off than the rest of the public, who have the burden to bear but who do not proclaim their woes to the whole world. Some day, no doubt, these duties may be modified but scarcely abolished and no one will welcome the relief more than the British Colonial Sugar Producers. It is often said extravagant prices may follow the abolition of bounties. This is not so. At any moment the beet producers can repeat and exceed the crop of 1901-2, which was over 6,800,000 tons and this will always serve as a corrective to undue inflation. Crop 1902-3 gave us 5,550,000 tons and the present one should supply 5,850,000 tons, so there is ample room for expansion, should cane sugar, by any unforeseen climatic reasons make default. Of course, a bad beet crop would materially affect prices in a similar way, but such a condition would only be temporary and not ultimately affect the sugar average of the future.

**The Visible Supplies** of Sugar in Europe and North America on uneven dates are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	
Europe	2,470,000	2,510,000	2,600,000	1,830,000	1,680,000	Tons
United States	220,000	300,000	140,000	240,000	180,000	"
Cuba	220,000	350,000	440,000	170,000	80,000	"
Cargoes afloat	30,000	40,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	"
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,940,000</b>	<b>3,200,000</b>	<b>3,200,000</b>	<b>2,260,000</b>	<b>1,960,000</b>	"

Comparative prices of 88% Beet for 5 years:—

The closing quotations of 88% are June 9s 2½d., Aug. 9s. 4d., Oct./Dec. 9s. 5d., Jan./Mar. 1905 9s. 6½d., and May 9s. 8½d., all free on board Hamburg.

**Vacuum Pan Sugar**—A fair business has again been done in this sugar at steady prices and the value of average qualities remains 16s. 3d. Recently the market has assumed a quieter tone, in sympathy with some decline in the price of Foreign Granulated and this may possibly be continued for some little time unless the market for beet takes another upward movement. For a cargo of dark crystals 10s. 6d. should be obtainable on floating terms, basis 96.

**Melasses Sugar** continues in good demand from 11s. 6d. to 15s.

**Muscovado**.—Small sales of grocery are taking place from 13s. 6d. to 14s. 6d., and 89 test for refiners use has recently been sold at 9s. 6d. on floating terms.

**West India Figures since 1st Jan.**

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901	
Imports to date	24,000	11,000	28,000	28,000	Tons
Home Consumption	20,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	"
Stocks	17,000	22,000	22,000	21,000	"

**Rum**.—Jamaica remains firm and with a good demand at 10. 9d. for home trade marks, Importers now trying to get a shade over. Demerara has been freely sold from 7d. to 7½d., chiefly the former price, with one fine mark at 8½d. and the quotation for fair rum does not now exceed 7d. Leewards may still be quoted 7d. to 10d. Home consumption during the first five months of the year, as shown in the following table displays a remarkable shrinkage which no doubt largely accounts for the decline in prices.

London—Home Consumption

	1904.	1903	1902	1901
Jamaica	2817	3070	3221	3343
Demerara	2891	4996	5411	5507
Stocks in London:				
Jamaica	8400	9500	8300	7900
Demerara	11,300	8900	9100	8800

**Cocoa**.—The market is dull and prices in many cases mark a further decline, Trinidad is fully 1s. lower, fair collected not being worth more than 58s., and estate cocoa 58s. to 63s. for ordinary to fine. Grenada is 6d. to 1s. lower for fermented at 57s. to 58s.; but fair native at 54s., being scarce, is steady. From other Islands native cocoa remains 53s. and fermented cocoa 56s. to 59s. African to arrive is quoted 58s. on full landed terms.

Stocks in London:—

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.
	11,000	84,000	65,000	95,000

**Coffee**—Tone dull. This month's delivery of Santos is quoted 31s., and the value of good ordinary Jamaica is 38s. on the spot.

**Spices**—No auctions have been held during the fortnight and prices are nominally the same as last mail.

**Arrowroot**—Only a small business has been done in fair manufacturing at 1½d. Deliveries so far are good.

London figures since 1st January	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
Imports...	6853	5450	8246	10,263	16,021
Deliveries	9567	6392	7361	7485	7212
Stocks 31st May	9922	11,282	8604	10,878	11,340

**Lime Juice**.—A fair business from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d. and small lots up to 1s. 6d. Distilled oil, unchanged at 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d. Hand Pressed quoted at 2s. 9d. to 3s. 3d. Concentrated steady at £13 5s.

For Cotton, see Special Article, page 212.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

# The . . . West India Committee Circular

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## OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XIV



George Martineau, Esq., C.B.

### Mr. George Martineau, C.B.

A factor which contributed largely to the success of the Anti Bounty movement was the staunch co-operation between the West Indian Planters and Merchants and the British Sugar Refiners. With the prospects of the sugar industry improving as the result of that movement, the moment is suitable for presenting to our Members the features of Mr. George Martineau who represented the Refiners in the arduous struggle which ended in well-earned victory last year.

Mr. Martineau became a sugar refiner in 1856, when he came of age, and in 1864 he first championed the cause of the Refiners in connection with the Sugar Duties. In 1872 the first pinch of the Bounties was felt and the Refiners appointed a Committee with Mr. Martineau, who was well qualified by his chemical knowledge of beet sugar and a visit to the principal beet-growing countries, as Secretary. Ceaseless representations followed, and at no less than five Sugar Conferences, at Paris in 1876 and 1877, and at Brussels in 1875, 1898, and 1902, Mr. Martineau acted as expert adviser to the British Delegates, and on the Permanent Commission at



Brussels he now looks after our interests. The King rewarded him for his services by making him a C.B. in 1902, and in the following year he was the recipient of a handsome testimonial from the Refiners. West Indians, as well as the Refiners, are grateful for all he has done for them.

### The Quarantine Conference.

The report of the delegates to the Quarantine Conference, a summary of which we gave in our last issue, has now been published in the West Indies. It remains for the Colonies to adopt the necessary legislation to give effect to the excellent recommendations made. We hope that in this matter they will shew the same unanimity as their delegates did at the Conference. That it will be in their best interests, collective as well as individual to do so, there can be no doubt. At a meeting of the Executive of The West India Committee on June 9th, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:—

“That The West India Committee has learnt with satisfaction that a Convention was agreed to unanimously by representatives of all the West Indian Colonies on May 6th, 1904, with a view to the adoption of uniform quarantine regulations in accord with recent progress in sanitary science, being confident that this West Indian Inter-Colonial Sanitary Convention will, if ratified by the several Colonies concerned, obviate the inconvenience and loss to trade which has arisen through the existing arrangements.”

### Sir Daniel Morris' Lecture.

Owing to the very large demand for tickets for Sir Daniel Morris' lecture on Thursday next, The West India Committee have been obliged to engage a special room for the occasion and the meeting will accordingly be held at the “Ship and Turtle,” Leadenhall Street. Sir Nevile Lubbock will take the chair at 3 p.m., and a large attendance is expected.

Additional interest will be given to the meeting by the presence of Field Marshal Sir Henry Norman, who was chairman of the Royal Commission of 1897 to which Sir Daniel Morris acted as adviser. Sir Augustus Hemming, Governor of Jamaica, Sir Henry M. Jackson, Governor of Trinidad, Sir Gerald Strickland, Governor of the Leeward Islands, Sir Edward Wingfield, a former Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, Sir Charles Bruce, Sir William Robinson, Sir James Hay, Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, the Administrator of Dominica, and Mr. Edward J. Cameron, Administrator of St. Vincent have also accepted invitations to attend. Every available ticket for this lecture has now been disposed of and no further applications can therefore be entertained as the seating capacity of the room is limited to 220. It is proposed to publish a full report of the meeting in a special illustrated number of *The West India Committee Circular*, a feature of which will be a descriptive article regarding the West Indian exhibit at the recent Horticultural Exhibition at the Botanical Gardens, to which reference is made elsewhere.

### The Cotton Industry.

It is satisfactory to find that, in spite of the improved prospects of the sugar industry in the West Indies, planters continue to take a deep interest in the resuscitated cotton industry: we feel that they are doing well to realize that it is not a wise policy to confine their attention to a single industry.

We recently enquired of our correspondents, whether in their opinion, the despatch of more cotton experts to the West Indies would be desirable, and the replies received are in favour of this course being adopted. In Antigua, the Imperial Department of Agriculture is considering the advisability of establishing small experimental plots of Sea Island cotton on different estates, and our correspondent thinks that the visit of an expert to show planters what are the chief points in cotton and how to judge them would be of great assistance.

Barbados has been lucky in having the services of Mr. Seabrook, the American cotton expert, who has, however, now returned to America. What appears to be wanted is men with practical

knowledge of growing, ginning, and baling of cotton, and we hope that the British Cotton Association, who are doing such excellent work, may see their way to help in this direction. The Association has decided to contribute £50 to the Berbice Cotton Growing Association to be given in prizes for cotton cultivation.

From January to the end of May 225,224 lbs. of cotton seed have been ginned in the Barbados factory, yielding 64,909 lbs. or 28.82 per cent. of lint, and 156,990 lbs., of seed. The loss during ginning amounted to 3,325 lbs. or nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the total weight of seed cotton. Of the seed, 55,105 lbs. have been crushed, and 12,284 lbs. belonging principally to peasant proprietors, have been shipped. The cost of crushing seed at 6 cents. per 100 lbs. was £6 17s. 9d. Some very fine samples of Sea Island seed cotton and Sea Island lint from Barbados can be seen at The West India Committee Rooms.

A further pamphlet, devoted to cotton cultivation, is in course of preparation, and will shortly be issued by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. This pamphlet will be arranged in the form of an A.B.C. of cotton growing, and is intended for the use of peasant proprietors, small settlers, and others who require information in a simple and popular style.

During the fortnight ended June 16th, 301 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom, sales being effected at the following prices: West Indian, 6.75-5.79d.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 14d.; fine, 15d.; extra fine, 16d. per lb. One bale of Barbados cotton realised as much as 18d. per lb.

Further reference to the cotton industry will be found in the letters of our Hon. Correspondents quoted on page 237 and it will be noted that the Carriacou cotton crop is expected this year to amount to nearly 1,000 bales, the last crop having been 1,025 bales.

### New Members of The West India Committee.

As regards new Members elected this year, Trinidad still leads the way with **36** to her credit; Jamaica comes next with **27**; British Guiana has **23**; St. Lucia, **16**; Dominica, **9**; Barbados, **8**; Grenada, **6**; St. Kitts, **3**; Antigua, **2**; Tobago, **2**; Nevis, **1**; St. Vincent, **1**. The next election of Members will be held on Thursday, July 7th.

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
Messrs. NIEMANN & Co.	G. Gunton Browne, Esq.	Messrs. Gillespie Bros. & Co.
HORACE DEIGHTON, Esq., M.A. (Barbados)	Elliott G. Louis, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
H. I. H. HOOD DANIEL, Esq. (Jamaica)	H. A. Hood Daniel, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
EDWARD J. CALEY, Esq.	W. W. Symington, Esq., J.P.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
EDWARD F. DVETT, Esq. (Montserrat)	A. L. Wykham, Esq. M.D.	Conrad Watson, Esq.
E. J. BARZA, Esq. (Barbados)	Elliott G. Louis, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
CAPT. A. R. FELLOWES (Barbados)	Lt.-Col. F. C. Trollope	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.
R. N. HODGES, Esq.	W. W. Symington, Esq., J.P.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
THE FLOATING DOCK CO. OF ST. THOMAS, Ltd.	Audley C. Miles, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
J. P. GUN-MUNRO, Esq. (Grenada)	C. J. Bertrand, Esq.	Arthur Johnson, Esq.
J. C. COODE, Esq.	Arthur N. Lubbock, Esq.	George Christall, Esq.
J. DE LEON, Esq. (Jamaica)	Arthur Johnson, Esq.	W. Gillespie, Esq.

### The Brussels Sugar Commission.

Further findings of the Permanent Commission established under the Sugar Convention, with reports of the British Delegate, Sir Henry Bergne, have been published as a Parliamentary Paper (cd. 2094). The principal matter dealt with by the Commission was the attitude of Russia with regard to the exportation of her sugar. The Russian Government sent two delegates to Brussels in order



to furnish further information in regard to her proposal that the Penal Clause should cease to apply to Russian sugar on condition that the export to Europe should be limited to a certain extent.

An inconclusive exchange of views took place, but it appeared that the delegates were not empowered to make any definite fresh proposals. Sir Henry Bergne made a declaration that the British Government were of opinion that the Russian proposal was entirely inconsistent with the provisions of the Brussels Convention and that it was impossible therefore to accept it.

The Commission again affirmed during this session that the Russian system, as it exists, does give rise to a bounty; but it was agreed for the present not to fix the exact amount thereof, on the ground that it depended on various elements liable to fluctuation, which could not be estimated as fixed quantities. The rate fixed in the United States continues, therefore, to apply.

The Sugar Laws of Great Britain and her Colonies came under review and the French delegate pointed out that in British Honduras, Ceylon and Grenada the surtax—viz., the Customs duty in the absence of Excise duty—exceeded the figure fixed by Act III. of the Convention, but the consideration of this matter was adjourned, as Sir Henry Bergne pointed out that these Colonies were practically non-exporting as regards sugar and no bounty could therefore arise.

But, upon the consideration of the laws of Canada, Australia and South Africa it was decided that bounties existed in all three cases and the following rates of countervailing duties per 100 kilos were fixed.

		Fr.		Fr.
Canada ... ..	Raw Sugar ... ..	Nil	Refined Sugar ... ..	3.63
South African Customs Union ... ..	Raw Sugar ... ..	2.05	Refined Sugar ... ..	3.89
Commonwealth of Australia ... ..	Raw Sugar ... ..	0.94	Refined Sugar ... ..	5.62

Sir Henry Bergne refrained from discussing this question, but confined himself to reading the declaration made when the British Government deposited the ratification of the Convention, that in no case could she apply a countervailing duty or impose prohibition on sugar coming from her self-governing Colonies.

### Consumption of Sugar.

The consumption of sugar in the principal European countries which were signatories of the Brussels Convention, for the month of May, showed an increase of 71,779 tons compared with May 1903. For the first nine months—September, 1903, to May, 1904—of the campaign, the total increase amounted to 631,507 tons, compared with the corresponding figures for 1902-3, the actual figures as given in Mr. F. O. Licht's monthly report being:—

	1904	1903	1902	1903/4	1902/3	1901/2	
Germany ... ..	77,731	57,340	61,431	828,862	601,434	547,842	Tons.
Austria ... ..	35,463	31,275	32,950	373,876	309,363	292,047	"
France ... ..	52,360	32,953	40,354	602,596	375,933	370,358	"
Holland ... ..	7,230	4,870	9,165	74,629	63,274	81,161	"
Belgium ... ..	5,719	3,159	7,433	75,057	53,688	52,909	"
England ... ..	177,460	159,626	93,119	1,253,107	1,177,925	1,486,369	"
Total	355,963	289,223	244,452	3,208,127	2,581,617	2,830,686	"
America ... ..	159,781	154,742	136,366	1,290,524	1,285,527	1,119,882	"
Total	515,744	443,965	380,818	4,498,651	3,867,144	3,950,568	"

### The Canadian Sugar Bounties.

Mr. Lyttelton has forwarded to the Dominion Government a copy of the following letter which we addressed to him on the 14th inst. on the subject of the Canadian Sugar Bounties.



Photo by ANDRÉAS F. JARDINIER.

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**DIVING BOYS,  
ST. PIERRE, MARTINIQUE.**



SIR.—We are informed that a Bill has been introduced into the Legislature of the Province of Ontario, Canada, with the object of increasing the bounties on Sugar Beets grown within the Province.

2. By the Act 1 Edw VII. Cap II. of the Ontario Legislature a special fund, amounting to \$225,000 was set apart to be distributed over three years, for the purpose of encouraging the growth of sugar beets, and the establishment of factories within the Province of Ontario for the manufacture of refined sugar therefrom. It is now proposed to increase this bounty by \$150,000 to be spread over five years.

3. It is obvious that this action of the Ontario Legislature must prove a serious menace to the trade between Canada and the West Indies, the development of which is so much to be desired, and it is therefore unnecessary to emphasise this point.

4. But it is in connection with the Brussels Convention that the greatest danger lies. For very many years, bounties dislocated the sugar industry of the world, but were at last put an end to by the consent of the leading European powers, by means of what is known as the Brussels Convention, 1902. Now, contrary to the views expressed by all the Powers participating in that Convention, Canada is setting a baneful example by inaugurating anew this pernicious system.

5. The surtax agreed upon by the Brussels Convention of 5 francs per 100 kilos should surely be sufficient protection to Canada's home beet industry, and at any rate it can hardly be maintained that an industry can be on a sound footing if it requires greater protection than this.

6. That she is technically acting within her rights cannot be gainsaid, but we feel none the less that her action is most deeply to be regretted, inasmuch as it is likely to lead to difficulties in the future, and we trust therefore that His Majesty's Government may see their way to call the attention of the Canadian Government to the matter.

We have, &c.,

N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman*.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary*.

### The United States Polariscopic Test.

The decision of the Court of Appeal in the appeal of the United States Government against the ruling of the United States Circuit Court in favour of the sugar importers in connection with the polariscopic test for sugar, to which we referred in our *Circular* of June 8th, 1903 (No. 98, page 3), has been given against the latter, who will probably take the case to the Supreme Court.

It will be remembered that the question arose from the Treasury's action in deciding that the temperature at which the test is made must be taken into consideration—the standard temperature being fixed at 25 degrees C, or 67 degrees F, and a correction be made in the polariscope for any temperature above or below it. As the Custom's test would be taken on the average at a higher temperature than this, the correction would be against the importer. The amount involved is large and the question of the greatest importance to both parties.

The point in dispute is as to whether the term "Polariscopic Test" in the Tariff Act means the ordinary trade test, or one aiming at scientific accuracy, the importers holding that the former, on which the sugar is bought, should be the one used for customs purposes.

### Improvement in Sugar Production.\*

#### Cane Transportation.

In connection with the factory a cheap *Transport* service is a *sine qua non*, and with the exception of British Guiana, the problem should be one with but little difficulty. Trucks, which while not so large as to be unwieldy and yet sized so as to reduce the cost of handling to the lowest practicable figure, simple mechanical hoists for ready loading, with cane feeders for charging the mill carriers, are already in evidence and form part of the system of a modern factory. The item of haulage by steam power is, however, somewhat costly, and the substitution of some description of motor, oil, spirit driven, or electric, is indicated, most probably the latter, as a further step in economy.

\* Concluded from *Circular* No. 126.

In British Guiana, on the other hand, the conditions obtaining present considerable and serious obstacles to cheap production from extension of cultivation. Water carriage is well adapted to small estates, but for large factories is far too slow, the necessarily limited size of canals precluding the use of tugs. To substitute tram lines for these canals would be out of the question, but it is possible that, with trenches as now used for cane punts, the dams might still be utilised for hauling, with light lines run along them for the motor. This would appear to be the only method whereby the British Guiana transport could be improved so as to be adapted to large factories. Apart from its unwieldiness, the present system is against the mill being supplied with fresh canes, the importance of which in sugar making is not to be over estimated. One of the greatest wants in fact, in that Colony, is some improvement in the transport system.

As regards the factory, *per se*, the lines of economy in manufacture, both as regards *labour* and *appliances*, are well known. Further saving, however, may be looked for in the substitution of electricity for steam as the motive power of the factory. Not only would the simplicity of detail thus arrived at tend to economy, but megass would be liberated which would not only give power sufficient to carry the sugar extraction from the cane further than can be profitably done at present, but also in every probability to run the transport also. In this way any diffusion or quasi-diffusion processes hitherto barred on the score of labour and fuel would be rendered possible, and in this respect the adaptation of electricity to factory wants promises more than anything else to bring about cheaper production in the manufacturing department.

In connection with the *chemical processes* there does not seem to be any prospect of very great improvement so far as the sugar making itself is concerned. Practically there has been no advance in this respect since the early days of cane sugar. Cane juice lends itself to simple treatment, and if sound, works well with lime alone used in clarification. The sugar making process is one of successive crystallisation, and as such there must be some residual sugar left in the mother-liquor, the molasses. Of the sugar present in the juice, eighty five per cent., reckoned as chemically pure sugar, can be recovered with the use of lime alone, and so far as experiment has gone, the cost of chemicals to obtain a better clarification, with a view to further recovery, has been found to be prohibitive, and unless some compound, quite insoluble in water, of sugar with a body cheap enough to justify use is discovered, there is little or nothing to anticipate in the way of advance in this direction.

New ways of disposal of the by-product—the molasses—offer much more promise. The manufacture of cattle food is already diminishing the make of rum, and there is great likelihood of other forms of spirit, available for motors, etc., still further cutting down its output. Probably other ways will also be found to make a marketable product from molasses in some form or other, and the sum total of the above should have the effect of materially increasing the value of the molasses, and thus cheapening the cost of production of the sugar.

Summing up the above, it would appear that the lines of economy in production lie in:—

1. Judicious extension of cultivation. (This of course includes the central factory system).
2. Introduction of mechanical substitutes for manual labour in the departments of *Tillage, cane cutting, cane loading, and cane transporting.*
3. Utilisation of suitable seedling canes.
4. Substitution of electricity for steam as a motive power in the factory.
5. Better disposal of the by-product, molasses, than at present.

As matters now stand, the West Indian cane grower—provided his house is in order—need fear no beet competition. Cane competition, however, as mentioned at the commencement of the above remarks will be a far more serious matter. The Home market, the only market that will remain for the sugar of British producers, will soon receive the product of new factories from all parts of the tropical world, and the fact of beet being practically out of it, will be poor satisfaction to the West



Indian proprietor unless he is able to maintain his own position, which can only be done by losing no opportunity of cheapening production.

The abolition of the sugar bounties cannot, *per se*, raise the price of sugar, which will now follow the natural cost of production, based on the utilisation of modern means of progress.

### Rum as an Illuminant and Source of Power.

Professor J. B. Harrison, Government Analyst of British Guiana, has furnished to the Government an important report on the use of White Rum as a source of power and an illuminant and this is now published for general information, in the hope that it may lead to a more general demand in the Colony for white spirits for those purposes.

Theoretically, alcohol has only three-fifths of the thermal value of petroleum, but for motor purposes it has been found that 28 per cent. of the theoretical efficiency of alcohol can be attained as against a maximum of 15 per cent. in the case of petroleum products.

The results of experiments in France, Germany and Austria are given. At a price of about 14 cents per gallon it has been proved in Germany that alcohol can compete economically with steam and other agents in engines of less than 20 h.p. In France, it appears that the (monetary) efficiency of a mixture of alcohol and 18 per cent. of petroleum spirit is almost equal to that of petrol. In Austria, as the result of tests made on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, it has been recommended that cheap denatured spirit, specially suitable for motors, be prepared by mixing 100 litres of alcohol with 5 litres of petroleum spirit, 0.5 litre of pyridine or some heavy oil containing ketones, and 0.2 gm. of Methyl Violet in alcohol solution as a means of identification.

For lighting purposes with incandescent lamps, alcohol has been found to be much superior to petroleum. With alcohol at 22 cents per gallon, with one form of lamp of German construction, a light of 85 candle power has been obtained at a cost of  $\frac{2}{3}$  cent. per hour, while another form—the so-called arc lamp—gives a light of 550 candle-power at two-thirds the cost of an electric light of the same power at Berlin rates.

Professor Harrison points out that in British Guiana alcohol occupies a more favourable position than in Germany, France and Austria, with respect to petroleum spirit, the cost of the latter being high in a tropical climate.

### Dinner to Sir Gerald Strickland.

There was a large attendance of members at the West Indian Club Dinner on June 8th, when Sir Gerald Strickland, Governor of the Leeward Islands was the guest of the evening. Sir Nevile Lubbock presided and among those present were—Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Sir Henry Davson, Sir Alfred L. Jones, His Honour Judge Nunan, Mr. Owen Phillips, Mr. H. H. Etheridge, Mr. F. Stewart Longford, Mr. E. Alberga, Mr. R. E. H. Melhado, Mr. L. MacKinnon, Mr. H. F. Previté, Mr. H. O. Smith, Mr. E. Sturridge, Mr. R. E. Harris, Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Capt. Voules, Mr. J. C. Atkins, Mr. W. J. Howard, Mr. J. C. Hopkins, Mr. G. M. Lemonius, Mr. E. B. Ellis, Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. T. B. Younger, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. F. W. Scott. Mr. Chas. Wilson, Mr. A. M. Gillespie, Mr. H. E. Lewis, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. J. de Leon, Mr. A. McD. Nathan, Dr. Vaughan Jackson, Mr. L. Ashenheim, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. A. Finn, (H. B. M's Consul, Chicago), Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. C. J. Bertrand, Mr. J. Gun-Munro, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. A. Hirsch, Mr. John Nash, Mr. J. W. Clarke, Mr. R. L. Forbes, Mr. W. W. Symington, Mr. T. DuBuisson, Mr. H. B. Rendall and Capt. G. Molyneux-Montgomery.

SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, in proposing the health of the "Guest of the Evening," said that he expressed the gratitude which all those interested in the Leeward Islands felt for the energetic services rendered to the Colony by Sir Gerald Strickland. He specially alluded to the great interest which Sir

Gerald had shown in the industries of the Colony, and the efforts which he had made to promote them in every way within his power. They felt more grateful to Sir Gerald on this account, as the experience of the West Indies generally was that their industries were more harassed than assisted by Governors as a general rule. While pointing out the great interest which Sir Gerald had shown in the establishment of two central sugar factories, one of which is already at work and the other expected to be at the commencement of the next crop, he alluded to the efforts which Sir Gerald had made in the promotion of cotton growing.

SIR GERALD STRICKLAND heartily thanked the members of the Club for the encouraging way in which the toast had been received and expressed his gratification at being invited to join the West Indian Club which carried the political work of The West India Committee forward into a different sphere, amidst the pleasantest social surroundings, where a Colonial Governor could give some account of his stewardship, and receive advice and information from the best authorities, without taking part in anything controversial.

He could not accept for himself all the credit of the two Antigua Central Factories which Sir Neville Lubbock had enthusiastically attributed to him, because success was due in the first place to the permanent officials of the Colonial Office and to previous Governors who had laid the foundations on which he had built up a sound scheme; moreover, the Hon. Francis Watts had given to him and to the Colony assistance for which no praise was too high and no Governor could continue to enjoy such valuable co-operation from all his colleagues in the administration if he lost such an opportunity to show his sincere gratitude towards his loyal supporters (cheers); last, but not least, the credit of establishing Central Factories on a sound financial basis was due to the West Indian merchants led by Mr. Lee and Mr. Du Buisson, who had risked putting more of their capital into sugar when this article was at the bottom of a falling market, and were now about to be rewarded by the rapidly improving tendency of prices and the increased confidence in the future of the cane sugar industry which have developed since the abolition of the bounties. He trusted this improvement in prices would not check the movement towards the combination of small estates to get better machinery.

Sir Gerald confidently expressed the view that the two modern Antigua Factories were able to defy competition, however low sugar might fall, and that the opportunities for a similar enterprise in St. Kitts were even more alluring to the well informed capitalist. The Muscovado industry had held its own at St. Kitts in bad times, notwithstanding that 50 per cent. more raw material is used above what is required to make grey crystals; there could, therefore, be no doubt as to the high profits within the grasp of a well-managed central factory, if in erecting it all waste of money and watering of capital were rigorously guarded against and further estates in full cultivation were within easy reach. He thanked Mr. Lee and the other merchants, who had erected factories, for the confidence shown in the speaker when they had signed contracts giving the Governor arbitrary powers to regulate the relations between the planters and the factories, even to the extent of imposing heavy fines and inspecting accounts.

The prospects of the British Cotton Growing Association in the Leeward Islands were very promising. There would undoubtedly be a steady profit for those who planted the best cotton under the best system of organization. Sugar, however, should still be the staple of the West Indies, and should be grown where there were lands of high fertility and cheap labour to collect. Cotton crops should be so regulated that they would come into season to be picked at the "off" time, when the demand for labour on sugar plantations was slack.

In conclusion, Sir Gerald pointed out that our sugar Colonies must be ready to compete in all the markets of the world, and that although in some few very favoured soils the wasteful open kettle struggled on for very low returns, the natural price of sugar over any considerable area should be set down at the equivalent of £10 a ton for grey crystals; but to make a profit at this price required combination,



up-to-date machinery, and hard work and devotion to duty on the part of all concerned. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, on his historical visit to the Colonies, had given a brilliant example as to how the highest in the State should spare no effort to learn the views and promote the interests of those they governed, and Sir Gerald Strickland considered it the first duty of a Governor to follow this Royal example, and to impress on merchants and planters as well as on members of the Service, that every one in a Colony must work as hard as they have strength to work if either they or their enterprise is to stand the modern competition.

### Colonial Nursing Association.

Earl Grey, presiding on June 8th at the Annual Meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association at Sunderland House, summarised the beginnings, ideals and achievements of the association, which has now one hundred and nine nurses at work, eighty of them selected at the request of the Government. In a word, he said, the association was fulfilling the rôle, and assuming the dignity almost, of a department of the State. The fact that it had a large staff working with the full co-operation and approval of the Colonial Office, established, he thought, a claim on the support of every public-spirited individual. Such support was required to provide outfits and to cover the cost of passage and the medical examination of candidates. The Duke of Marlborough, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, said that evidence of the usefulness of the association was constantly being received.

The speakers who followed him—the Earl of Westmeath, Lady Lugard, Sir G. Carter, Sir Colin Scott-Moncrieff, Sir Charles Bruce, and Sir Matthew Nathan—bore testimony to the work done. It is in this Association that Lady Sendall has taken such a deep interest and we shall be glad to forward to the proper quarter any subscriptions which may be sent to us towards so good a work.

### Publications Received.

We invite Members to send us copies of their works or of publications respecting the West Indies, photographs of scenery, etc., for our Library, which will be duly acknowledged under this heading from time to time.

#### The Agricultural News.

Number 56, Volume III. (obtainable at The West India Committee Rooms, 1d., post free, 1½d.). An interesting number containing a summary of Sir Daniel Morris' address on Minor Industries in Barbados (cotton, fruit, and onions), articles on Sugar Cane Experiments in Cuba and British Guiana, Cotton Notes, and the usual familiar features of this useful publication.

### The Homeward Mail.

Every summer now brings a larger number of visitors to The West India Committee Rooms from the West Indies, and during the past fortnight we have been honoured by visits from, among others, Mr. F. I. Scard, Mr. H. S. Osment, Mr. W. W. Symington, Mr. R. Melhado, the Hon D. S. de Freitas, Mr. W. W. Wynne, Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, Mr. E. A. Agar, Mr. Ellis Grell, His Honour H. Hesketh Bell, Mr. Emanuel Leon, Mr. V. E. Manton and Captain J. B. Saunders, while we have to welcome home by the R.M.S. "Atrato," Mr. Randolph Rust, Mr. David L. Slinger, the Hon. W. K. Chandler, Mr. L. J. Lange, and Mr. A. Wellesley Lewis. The news by the mail is again of a very satisfactory nature, and the outlook is undoubtedly brighter than it has been for many years past. The expected has taken place, and the abolition of the bounties is leading to a restoration of confidence throughout the Islands.

The R.M.S. "Atrato," anchored off Plymouth at 10 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15th, but only part of the mails were delivered in London by first post next day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Royal," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Tuesday, June

7th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents received per R.M.S. "Atrato."

#### Antigua—The Onion Industry.

(Hon. A. ST. G. SPOONER), May 31st.—Part of the machinery for the larger central sugar factory had arrived, and was being hauled to the site by a traction engine.

The weather remained very dry and windy, favourable for reaping, but less so for the young crop. As much of the sugar was now going to Canada, the facilities for shipment of onions to the United States had become more uncertain, and without regular communication and fixed days for departure it would be impossible to develop the onion industry very fully, as New York was the largest and most dependable market. For 89° sugar \$1.90 was being offered locally, and molasses was selling slowly at 13 cents, puncheon included. Crop was coming to a close generally, and estates were grinding slowly so as to save stock food, cane tops, and also in view of the rising price of sugar.

#### Barbados—Favourable Prospects for Sugar.

(Hon. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE), June 2nd.—The weather for May had been very seasonable, only light showers having fallen, the total rainfall amounting to 1½ to 2½ inches. Great progress had therefore been made in sugar making, and many of the estates had closed crops, some at high figures. There seemed every probability of the estimate of 75,000 hogsheads being reached. Prices offered for Muscovado during the past week touched \$1.85, but had since receded to \$1.75. Dark crystals were quoted at \$2.15, and molasses 15 cents.

In exactly four weeks from the date of the disastrous fire at Applewhite's, sugar making was resumed in entirely new buildings, a very smart bit of work, reflecting great credit on the manager, Mr. G. Edghill, and his subordinates.

The death was announced of Canon Evan Sealy, who recently resigned the rectorship of St. John owing to failing health. The Rev. Canon Bindley, Principal of Codrington College, returned home for the long vacation by the Mail.

A small cargo of 1500 tons of sugar had been sent direct to Greenock by the S.S. "Belinden."

At the Planter's Hall, on May 31st, Sir Daniel Morris impressed on those present the value of cotton, banana, and onion industries as auxiliaries to sugar. Meanwhile, banana cultivation was being steadily extended, and might be considered to have passed out of the experimental stage.

Loans to the extent of £51,850 under the provisions of the Plantations-in-Aid Act, on the security of crops to be reaped in 1905, were applied for and notice was given of loans to be obtained under the Agricultural Aids Act, 1887-1902, to the extent of £17,300 during the fortnight.

(We have to congratulate our esteemed Hon. Correspondent, Mr. Forster M. Alleyne, upon his election to the office of Vice-President of the Agricultural Society, in the place of the late Mr. H. E. Boyle.—ED.)

#### British Guiana—Diamond Shipments.

(A. SUMMERSON, Esq.), June 2nd.—The weather was fine with occasional showers, but there had been too much rain on the Essequibo coast. The sugar market had advanced little during the fortnight, and the last quotation was \$2.20 to \$2.22½. Grinding operations were progressing favourably, and the cane juice was reported to be good, but the canes were short, and the returns on most estates were disappointing. The young canes showed a healthy growth.

A consignment of 1556 diamonds to the Henery Diamond Syndicate, weighing 106 carats, was entered on May 26th at the office of the Commissioner of Lands and Mines, from the Massaruni district. 3576 diamonds, weighing 522½ carats, were also entered on behalf of the British Guiana Diamond Syndicate, in the same district.

General regret was felt at the death of Sir David Palmer Ross, Surgeon-General of the Colony, which took place on May 30th, in his 62nd year. Also at the death of the Venerable Archdeacon Wyatt, the father of one of our most active Members, Mr. Guy C. Wyatt.

Mr. Tack, a representative of a well-known firm of tobacco manufacturers in England, had given evidence before the Tobacco Commission, and expressed opinion that the soil and climate of British Guiana were suitable for tobacco growing, and he had seen good tobacco in Leguan, Morahanna, and the N.W. District. What was wanted, was an expert to cure and manufacture the leaf.

#### British Honduras—River Improvements.

(Hon. A. R. USHER), May 26th.—The weather had been very unsettled and a great deal of rain had fallen lately, and floods were reported in several rivers. The Legislative Council had recently voted \$10,000.00 for the dredging of a channel in British waters at the Rio Hondo, the northern boundary of the Colony. At present vessels had to pass through Mexican waters to enter the Rio Hondo and were subject to detention and search, which was undesirable.

The Government were also asking for about \$17,000.00 to make the Belize River navigable for light draught steamers up to the Big Falls, and if they were successful in this, it would be a great convenience to the public.

#### Dominica—Dry Windy Weather.

(E. A. AGAR, Esq.) May 31st. The weather continued dry, with high winds from the south. Empire Day was celebrated in Roseau in a most fitting manner; the weather was excellent and the proceedings were in every way



successful (By a printer's error the quantity of concentrated lime juice exported from Dominica in 1903 was given as 6670 gallons instead of 66,700 gallons valued at £14,175, the actual amount—E6)

#### Grenada—Carriacou Cotton Crops.

June 2nd Sir Daniel Morris had paid a visit to the Island and attended a meeting of the Agricultural Society on May 13th. The Governor, Sir Robert B. Llewellyn, left the Island on May 31st, in H.M.S. "Tribune," for St. Lucia and St. Vincent for six weeks.

Mr L. R. Mitchell had, at his own cost, erected a cotton gin and press on the Carenage, St. George's, and it was formally opened on May 12th. It was thought that this would give an impetus to the cotton industry in the Island. From Carriacou 751 bales of cotton had been shipped so far this year, and it was expected that the total would reach nearly one thousand bales, the last crop from the Island having been 1025 bales. Cocoa shipments to date amounted to 62,085 bags, against a total to September 30th last year of 63,018 bags, and there was every appearance that there would be an excess this year of two thousand bags. The shipments of nutmegs and maize were behind those of last year, but at the end of crop the deficiency, it was expected, would be made up.

The Grand Anse race meeting took place on Monday, the 23rd, in beautiful weather. Mr. Steadman Glean had been appointed to take charge of the water works and to carry out the intended improvements.

#### Jamaica—The Return of Sir Augustus Hemming.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq.), May 30th—The fortnight had been uneventful. The new cotton gin, erected by Mr. C. T. Fursdon at Hartlands, was inaugurated on the 26th May, when some cotton grown by Mr. J. Shore of Little River was ginned. The Hon. Sydney Olivier, Acting Governor, was present, and the experiment was most satisfactory. The company present were afterwards taken over the cotton fields by Mr. J. Dadd, a Syrian gentleman, who had had much experience in cotton-growing, and who was engaged by Mr. Fursdon. Mr. Olivier was administering the government of the Colony pending the appointment of the new Governor.

Estimates placed the pimento crop at 60,000 bags for the coming season. The Island had enjoyed almost generally "fair seasons" during the fortnight. The upper part of the parish of Clarendon had received a liberal rainfall, but the lower portion, where the sugar estates were situated, except for a few light showers, was still dry. If the sugar estates got rain in June the situation would be saved, but if that month failed to give liberal rains to Vere, the outlook for the young crop there would be gloomy. Bananas were beginning once more to go forward, and the quantities were increasing weekly, but the crop would not be in full swing before the middle of August. Business was dull in the Island, and money scarce.

The following is a Summary of persons working on relief works for the week ended 7th May, 1904:—

St. Andrew	++	135	++	against	++	140 on 30/4/04
Portland	++	2,163	++	"	++	2,067 "
St. Mary	++	1,079	++	"	++	1,404 "
St. Catherine	...	138	++	"	++	103 "
Total...	...	3,535				3,714

After six years' service as Governor of Jamaica, Sir Augustus Hemming returned to England by the S.S. "Port Royal," on May 4th. Prior to his departure, a reception was held at the Town Hall, when he took leave of the citizens of Jamaica. An address was presented on behalf of the citizens of Kingston, and a number of influential citizens were present. The stores in the city were decorated with flags and bunting in honour of the occasion.

#### Montserrat—A Cotton Expert Wanted.

(C. WATSON, Esq.), June 1st—The weather continued dry, and cotton could not therefore be planted yet. What was wanted was a practical field expert, with experience in the diseases of cotton and the method of cultivation.

#### Nevis—The Improvement in Sugar.

(Hon. C. A. SHAND), June 1st.—Planters were naturally jubilant at the improved tendency of the sugar market, and it was to be hoped that no check in the development of the cotton industry would result. Planters should certainly continue to combine other industries with the old staple sugar. What the Island required was a central factory, and now that the peasant proprietors had fallen into the way of selling their canes by weight, they were gradually awaking to the advantages to be derived from growing a larger tonnage of cane to the acre, and this would, it was hoped, induce them to give greater attention to the tillage. With the assistance of tramways, one large factory could deal with the whole crop of the island, and if a small Molasses plant could be erected also, it would be of great benefit to all concerned. The weather had been dry, with very high winds, and soaking showers would be acceptable.

#### St. Kitts—Sugar for Canada.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, Esq.), May 31st—A considerable portion of the cotton crop was ready for shipment. Some estates had already finished grinding sugar for this crop, but in those parts of the Island where the rains were sufficient to grow a crop, owing to their lateness, the yield had only recently shown signs of being satisfactory. Messrs. Pickford and Black were to be congratulated on having provided a steamer capable of taking all the stored sugars of St. Kitts to Canada, in time to meet the market.

**St. Lucia—Military Works Suspended.**

The Governor, Sir Robert Llewelyn, arrived on a visit to the island on May 31st. The military authorities have received a telegram to stop all military works, but the reason for this was not stated.

**Trinidad—Proposed Reciprocity with Canada.**

(Hon. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK), June 3rd.—The Agricultural Society and the Chamber of Commerce had passed resolutions asking the Governor to re-open negotiations with the Canadian Government, with a view of entering into reciprocal arrangements with the Dominion, on lines similar to those proposed in 1900.

The question of prædial larceny demanded continual attention. Two men recently got heavy sentences for assault on the owner of a garden, who endeavoured to protect his produce from being pillaged by them. By letters received from Caracas, it seemed that the state of the country was still bad, and little hope was entertained of any immediate improvement.

A decree had been issued opening the River Orinoco again to trade as from June 1st, but ships could only clear at the new port of Amacura. The decree further ordered that all goods from Europe, or elsewhere abroad must pay, in addition to the Venezuelan War Tax (30%), and Territorial Duties (12½% and 25%), the additional 30% levied on all goods direct from Trinidad. Another port, Tucacas, had been opened between Puerto Cabello and Coro, controlling all the imports into the states of Lara and Carabobo.

Although it was supposed to be the wet season, the weather differed very slightly from that of the last six months. A day or two of more or less heavy rain was followed by dry, hot, and dusty spells. The sugar crop might be said to be finished. The cocoa estates were benefitting greatly by the alternate sunshine and shower.

Cocoa was coming in slowly, but fair quantities were arriving from Manzanilla and Sangre Grande. The shipments of cocoa for the month of May were:—London, direct, 4000 bags; Havre, with option for other ports, 7000 bags; New York, 3600 bags; total, 14,600 bags. Local prices for good "Estates," \$12.30. "Ordinary," \$12.00.

**Notes of Interest.**

**FILING CASES FOR "CIRCULARS"** Spring back cases for *filing The West India Committee Circular* can be obtained at 2/6 each, or post free 3/-. These will be found a great convenience.

**A PORTRAIT OF OUR CHAIRMAN.** An excellent reproduction of Professor von Herkomer's portrait of Sir Nevile Lubbock appears in the *Magazine of Commerce* for June. Our Chairman's career is described under the heading of "Who's Who" in this tastefully got up publication.

**MOLASSES FOR CANADA.** According to a telegram received by Lord Strathcona from the Minister of Customs at Ottawa, it is proposed to admit Molasses imported direct from British preferential countries free. This is good news for the West Indies.

**THE LATE GOVERNOR OF TRINIDAD.** Sir Alfred and Lady Moloney, have taken Ingatestone Hall, Essex, and are in residence there. Ingatestone is one of the most charming old country houses in England, and possesses a secret chamber. The Hall was the seat of the Petre family for several centuries.

**THE R.M.S.P. CO.** The R.M.S.P. Company's, "La Plata" is fully maintaining her newly acquired reputation for speed. According to a cable received as we go to press, she arrived at Barbados, on June 19th, eighteen hours early. The Homeward R.M.S. "Orinoco" on the other hand sailed eighteen hours late, her arrival at Trinidad being delayed by bad weather.

**A "BOOK OF THE WEST INDIES."** Messrs. Charles Birchall, Ltd., are arranging to publish a "Book of the West Indies" at the beginning of September this year. Mr. F. Dodsworth is the compiler, and among the contributors will be the Hon. H. Hesketh Bell, C.M.G., the Hon. Sidney Olivier, C.M.G., Prof. Carmody, F.I.C., F.C.S., and Mr. J. Sterns Fadelle, B.Sc.

**PRÆDIAL LARCENY.** The question of prædial larceny, or theft of the growing crops, continues to engage the attention of The West India Committee. A letter on the subject has been addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, containing certain proposals which it is hoped may lead to a diminution of this form of crime which is proving a serious handicap to the agricultural industries of the West Indies.

**IS SACCHARINE A POISON?** According to the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, it would appear from the investigations of Professor Dr. Julius Stoklasa, of Prague, that saccharine, contrary to general opinion, is an actual poison to those suffering from diabetes. Dr. Stoklasa considers that the action of the enzymes, the agents which determine the fermentation, become paralysed through the influence of saccharine, whilst in cases of diabetes it is important to stimulate the enfeebled action of the enzymes of the pancreatic glands, muscles, etc.



**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Orion" from Liverpool for St. Lucia, Barbados, and Trinidad, June 29th; S.S. "Saba" from London, for Demerara, Barbados, Grenada, and Trinidad, June 30th; S.S. "Indus" from Liverpool for Demerara, July 2nd; and, the R.M.S. "Port Antonio" from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, July 2nd. *Information for publication under this head is invited from Shipping Companies.*

**SACCHARINE OR GLYCERINE?** The *Louisiana Planter* states that some refined glycerine landed recently in New York was classified by the appraisers as saccharine, from the fact that, although the article was a compound, saccharine, was its chief constituent from a money value point of view, and under the law, such a constituent determined the classification of the entire article, unless it was otherwise enumerated. The 20 per cent. of saccharine contained in this article had a greater value than the 80 per cent. of glycerine, and hence it was classed as saccharine. The importers protested, but their protest was over-ruled.

**OBITUARY.** Members will learn with regret of the death of one of their number, the Rev. Robert Hart, which took place on June 10th, at Greenstead Green, Essex, at the age of 71. The Rev. Robert Hart was formerly Spencer scholar of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1860, being placed among the junior optimes in the Mathematical Tripos. He was ordained deacon and priest the same year by the Bishop of Rochester, who was then responsible for Herts and Essex. In 1868 he was appointed to the vicarage of Takely, Essex, which he held for over 28 years. From 1871 to 1892 he was diocesan inspector of schools, and was rural dean of Newport from 1886 to 1896. He was appointed to the vicarage of St. James's, Greenstead Green, near Halstead, by the late Bishop Festing in 1897, and held that benefice till his death. He was interested in Barbados, and was a loyal supporter of The West India Committee.

### West Indian Interests at Westminster.

#### The Crown Agents.

In the House of Lords on June 10th, Lord Portsmouth moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to enquire into the system by which the Crown Agents for the Colonies were paid, and their methods of transacting the duties attached to their office. Lord Grey supported the motion. The Duke of Marlborough said that on Imperial grounds it was not unimportant that the Colonies should have a common business centre. Under the present system the Crown Agents could buy in the cheapest market and they possessed a power of control over the manufacturers which would be unattainable by one representative if each Colony selected its own agent. The Government did not consider there was sufficient ground for the holding of a Government enquiry. The motion was negatived.

#### The British Guiana Immigration Ordinance, 1891.

Copy of correspondence between the India Office and the Colonial Office with reference to the British Guiana Ordinance, 1891, has been published (No. 185) at the instance of Sir Henry Fowler. This deals with the publication of Surgeon-Major Conins' Report, in forwarding which the Government of India on September 20th, 1893, expressed to the India Office gratification at the excellence of the arrangements for the convenience and comfort of immigrants during their term of indenture in British Guiana. Various amendments to the Ordinance of 1891 were suggested and these were adopted to a large extent in the Ordinance 16 of 1894.

#### The Findings of the Sugar Commission.

Earl Percy (Kensington, S.), answering Mr. Gibson Bowles, on June 13th, said,—The Permanent Commission, at its sittings in October, declared that the Russian system does give rise to a bounty. The word "not" in the report of the proceedings just laid before Parliament is an unfortunate typographical error, but the meaning is apparent from the context.\* In the case of the Customs duties fixed for Australian sugars, the rate of 0.94f. appears in the hon. member's question by a similar typographical error as 9.94. (Laughter.) The question of the surtax leviable by contracting States on sugared products is still before the Permanent Commission, and the discussion has been adjourned to the next session of the Commission. The Sugar Convention was ratified under the explicit declaration that His Majesty's Government would not consent, under any circumstances, to be bound to penalize bounty-fed sugar imported into the United Kingdom from any of the self-governing colonies.

\* Our Summary on page 229 deals with the corrected copy. ED.

### West Indian Civil Service.

We invite Members to forward to us particulars of movements and appointments of officers of the several West Indian Governments and other persons officially connected with the West Indian Colonies, for insertion under the above heading. For much of the following information we are indebted to the *Morning Post*.

Mr. A. W. Miller has been appointed an official member of the Legislative Council of Dominica.

Mr. E. F. Wright, Inspector-General of Police, Jamaica, having left the Colony on leave, the duties of his office are being performed by Inspector T. Alexander.

Mr. W. Thompson, of the Treasury Department, Antigua, has taken over in conjunction with his own duties those of Harbour Master, in consequence of the death of Mr. M. D. B. Eldridge.

Mr. Anthony de Freitas, who is acting as Chief Justice of St. Lucia, is to be appointed Magistrate of the First Division of that Colony in place of Mr. F. C. Wells Durrant who has resigned.

Mr. A. G. W. Choppin, Stipendiary Magistrate of British Guiana and Acting Government Agent of the North-Western District, has been granted an extension of leave for six months from July 22nd.

Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque takes charge of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies during the absence on leave of Sir Daniel Morris, who arrived in England on Wednesday last.

Major de Renzy is to discharge the duties of Inspector-General of Police of British Guiana during the leave of absence of Colonel S. Lushington, and Inspector L. L. Kerr, of Berbice, is transferred to Georgetown to act as Chief County Inspector.

Mr. E. J. Cameron, Administrator of St. Vincent, has arrived in England on leave of absence. Mr. E. D. Laborde, Chief of Police of St. Lucia, has at present taken over the duties of Acting Colonial Secretary, and will later on become Acting Administrator.

Chief Justice C. J. Tarring, of Grenada, West Indies, has come home on leave, during which the Hon. D. T. Tudor, the Attorney-General, acts as Chief Justice, Mr. William Clark as Attorney-General, and the Hon. J. S. Martin as Police Magistrate of the Southern District.

In consequence of the death of Sir David Palmer Ross and the vacancy thus caused in the office of Surgeon-General of British Guiana, Dr. J. E. Godfrey, who for the past six years has been the Medical Inspector of that Colony, has been promoted to the higher office. He entered the service of British Guiana in 1883, and has already acted as Surgeon-General on several occasions.

### West Indian Securities.

				Price.			
Colonial Government Inscribed Securities		Antigua, 4 per cent. ... ..	Redeemable 1919-44 ...	101-103			
		Barbados, 3½ per cent. ... ..	" 1925-42 ...	98-100			
		British Guiana, 4 per cent. ... ..	" 1935 ...	106-108nd			
		Grenada, 4 per cent. ... ..	" 1917-42 ...	101-103			
		Jamaica, 4 per cent. ... ..	" 1934 ...	106-108			
		St. Lucia, 4 per cent. ... ..	" 1919-44 ...	101-103			
		Trinidad, 4 per cent. ... ..	" 1917-42 ...	101-103			
Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.	Miscellaneous Securities.					
			Paid.	Dividend.			
		100,000	20	Colonial Bank ... ..	£6	6 %	5-5½
		15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ... ..	60	—	25-27
		250,000	Stock.	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4% 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4½ %	82-86
		325,000	Stock.	New Colonial Co., Ltd., 4 % 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4 %	72-74
		46,874	5	" " " 5 % Non-Cum Pref. ... ..	5	5 %	2-3
		360,700.	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb. ... ..	100	6 %	93-98
		70,000.	Stock	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Perpetual Deb. Stock	100	4 %	96-98
		31,250	10	" " " Extension Preference ... ..	10	4 %	7-8
		115,000.	Stock.	" " " 7 % Preference ... ..	100	Nil	88-93
		165,000.	Stock.	" " " Original Stock ... ..	100	Nil	15-20
		85,800.	100	Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., Mortgage Debts, (1 to 1200) red. ... ..	100	4½ %	103
		60,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ... ..	£2 10 0	6 %	—
		58,700.	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4½% 1st Mtge. Deb. (1 to 1200) red. ... ..	100	4½ %	100-103
		50,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. ... ..	5	5 %	—
		80,000.	100	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. 5% Deb. ... ..	100	5 %	100-103
		31,563	10	" " " " " 0% Cum. 1st Pref. ... ..	10	8s.	5½-6½
		4,669	10	" " " " " " 2nd " ... ..	10	—	5-6
		88,321	10	" " " " " " Ordinary ... ..	10	—	—

Bank of England rate 3% (changed from 3½% on April 22nd, 1904). 2½% Consols, 90½. (20.6.04).



Weather Telegrams.

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), June 20th "Light partial showers." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), June 17th "Too much rain for present requirements, more sunshine wanted" **Trinidad** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), June 7th. "Rainy season has set in" **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended June 2nd. **PORT ANTONIO**: "Fine, very little rain" **KINGSTON**: "Overcast, few good showers" June 6th "Season's rain falling to-day." June 13th. "Heaviest rains Jamaica for years since 9th. fall about twenty inches. Weather still threatening" June 14th. "Further reported floods general. Trains delayed" **PORT ANTONIO**: Montego Bay, "Heavy storm, Black River, 13th inst. Weather appears clearing" **St. Thomas**, Clarendon, suffered most. **Banana** losses light" June 15th "Owing to heavy storm at Santiago de Cuba, telegrams for places beyond, via Hayti and Key West, will be subject to delay. The via Bermuda is working as usual" June 19th at 3 3 a.m. "Very sharp shock earthquake felt at Kingston. Lasted 12 seconds. No damage reported"

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds
	Hhds.	lbs.	Tons.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats
<b>Barbados—</b>								
Jan. 1 to June 3, 1904	27,496	—	—	—	—	27,514	—	—
" " 3, 1903	43,925	—	—	—	—	19,120	—	—
<b>British Guiana—</b>	Tons.							
Jan. 1 to May 31, 1904	25,617	25,204	1440	£355	131,344	441	28,917	4447
" June 2, 1903	40,074	29,512	146	10,125	4532	2098	33,676	2859
<b>Jamaica—</b>		Cwts.	Coffee.	Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
			Cwts.			Cwts.	Bunches.	
Apr. 1 to May 14, 1904	1573	1745	5754	298,628	288,980	2098	92,940	360,600
" " 16, 1903	4116	3242	6214	314,664	3,714,602	1849	2,322,673	540,800
<b>Trinidad—</b>	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.
						Puns.	Tons.	Tons.
Jan 1 to June 1, 1904	308,803	25,469,570	52,795	50	3,789,925	1309	29	89
" " 1, 1903	317,528	21,508,890	34,920	158	5,926,227	2021	35	133

The Mails.

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," June 15th, 1904:—Barbados—** Sir Daniel and Lady Morris, the Hon. W. K. Chandler, C.M.G., Mrs. Alone, Hon. W. H. Stoker, Mrs. J. B. Thelwall, Rev. and Mrs. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Gall, Capt. G. Sceales, Mr. A. Norfolk. **Demerara—** Mr. C. A. Legge, Mr. E. J. A. Bugle, Dr. Hoase, Mr. A. Mackey, Mr. M. Gomes, Mr. W. S. Anderson, Mr. J. E. Kidman, Mr. and Mrs. Laing, Mr. P. Hemery, Mr. G. E. Anderson, Mr. L. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Wright, Mrs. M. Gomes, Mr. J. A. Laing, Mr. A. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Pereira, Mr. G. Sandford. **Jamaica—** Mrs. and Miss C. Anderson, Mrs. E. A. Cundall, Mrs. Pringle, Mr. B. Stuart, Mr. and Mrs. Sheriff, Mr. D. T. Seaton, Mr. R. E. Seaton, Mrs. and Miss S. C. Hurke, Mrs. Borup, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Rennie, Mr. and Miss Conran, Mr. C. M. Sherlock, Mrs. W. H. Reeves, Miss H. Tuckett, Rev. G. Bathurst Hall, Mr. and Mrs. James, Dr. C. E. and Mrs. Harvey, Miss E. M. Bourke, Miss Marie Bourke, Mr. Guy D. Bentley, Mr. C. H. Ward, Rev. T. P. and Mrs. George, Miss James, Mr. P. H. M. James, Mr. S. M. H. James, Mr. V. E. Manton, Lieut. A. Deas. **Trinidad—** Capt. J. B. and Mrs. Saunders, Mr. Caracciolo, Mr. O. Harley, Mrs. Northcote, Mrs. Lambie, Rev. Father Donegan, V.G., Mr. F. J. McLeod, Mrs. N. and Miss E. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. R. Rust, Mr. W. J. Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Stollmeyer, Miss Meecham, Mr. C. C. Stollmeyer, Miss de Montbrun, Mr. and Mrs. Balfour, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Todd, Mr. Wm. Dunlop, Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Lange, Mrs. R. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. R. Casale. **Antigua—** Mr. J. S. Macdonald. **Dominica—** Mr. F. Potter, Mr. J. Jones. **Grenada—** Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Slinger, Mrs. A. W. and Miss Lewis. **St. Lucia—** Mr. and Mrs. J. Burnand, Mr. P. L. Bellevue, Mrs. W. Boase, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Moore. **St. Vincent—** His Honour E. J. Cameron, Mr. J. R. Nairn.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," June 22nd, 1904:—**Barbados—** Mr. R. L. Amy. **Demerara—** Mr. H. T. King, Mr. J. Hill, Mr. J. Litt. **Jamaica—** Miss N. Lloyd, Mr. A. Notta, Mr. R. Saunders, Miss H. Notta, Mr. W. W. Symington, J.P., Mr. and Mrs. Brown. **Trinidad—** Mr. J. Cipriani, Mr. A. E. Barthes, Mr. Tappin. **Antigua—** Miss A. E. Walter. **Dominica—** Mr. C. M. Blandy. **Grenada—** Mr. R. Ferguson.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," July 6th, 1904:—**Barbados—** Mrs. W. K. Chandler, Capt. and Mrs. P. O. Hazleton. **Demerara—** Mr. S. Oliver. **Jamaica—** Rev. W. and Miss Kilburn, Mrs. and Miss Eve, Miss Hemingway. **Antigua—** Mr. and Mrs. R. McDonald.

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," June 7th, 1904:—** **Jamaica—** Miss Brand, Mrs. Craig, Mr. Everard, Mrs. Fawcett, His Excellency Sir Augustus and Lady Hemming, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Hamilton, Mr. Henderson, Mr. H. C. Hesilton, Rev. J. and Mrs. Hunter, Dr. Joslen, Mr. F. Kemble, Mr. J. A. Marsh, Lieut. Maddick, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Morais, Rev. A. W. and Mrs. Meredith, Mr. C. P. Nosworthy, Mr. T. Oliver, Mr. D. T. S. Robertson, Mr. C. A. Strong, Rev. Swaby, Mrs. Vernon, Miss D. Verley, Mrs. and Miss Vickers, Mrs. J. R. Williams, Capt. R. White.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," June 18th, 1904:—**Jamaica—** Miss D. W. Capper, Mr. B. F. Chester, Mr. T. W. Clarke, Mr. J. M. Hall, Mr. H. E. Lewis, Mr. H. A. Lindo, Mr. and Mrs. F. Lye, Mr. J. S. McTairsh, Miss C. Pearman, Mrs. Pillinger, Mr. D. J. Tait, Dr. M. White.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," July 2nd, 1904:—**Jamaica—** Lt.-Col. and Mrs. H. W. S. Large, Two Misses Phillips, Rev. J. F. Gartshore, Dr. Buckley, Mr. Sturridge.

## The Produce Markets Summary.

**Sugar**—The figures of Consumption published on the Continent must not be taken too literally, as like all figures they are apt to err. This much, however, may be said of them that they more or less faithfully indicate a steady increase in Consumption such as was generally expected, through the reduced Excise Taxes imposed on sugar in those Countries, as arranged at the Brussels Conference. Of course it is more or less a leap in the dark to attempt to fix a figure for this year's increase in the known world's Consumption, but given good fruit crops in Europe and America, it may not be over sanguine to estimate this increase at 1,000,000 tons. Adopting this possible figure, the situation seems to stand as follows, eliminating odd thousands of tons which are nothing when dealing with crops, say 10,000,000 tons. According to M. Licht the visible supply on the 1st October, 1903, was say 1,400,000 tons. If to this we add 4,350,000 tons as this year's Cane crops and 5,850,000 tons for Beet, we reach a total available supply for this season of 11,600,000 tons. Taking the Consumption for the year with the increase indicated above at 10,600,000 tons, we leave off on the 1st October, 1904, with a possible visible supply of 1,000,000 tons. Plenty of sugar no doubt to start a new crop with. But if one cares to continue the speculative theory of supply and demand for another year, the figures become more interesting. Assuming that we are not going to have another increase in Consumption on the present increase, which is quite possible, the problem would work out as follows:—Assumed visible 1st October, 1904, 1,000,000 tons. Probable Cane Crops 4,500,000 tons. Possible Beet Crops 5,600,000 tons. Total Supply 11,100,000 tons. Deduct this year's Consumption only, say 10,600,000 tons and we arrive at an imaginary visible supply of 500,000 tons on the 1st October, 1905. If this does not warrant an average of 10s. basis 88 per cent. next year, what will? The writer accepts no responsibility for these sketchy figures, but they may possibly be found not far off the mark when the time comes, even allowing for the inevitable unforeseen which is always turning up.

In the meantime the market is unhinged by speculative realisations and the prices of 88% are as follows:—June 9s. 1½d., Aug. 9s. 2½d., Oct./Dec. 9s. 4½d., Jan./Mar. 9s. 6½d., and May 9s. 8d., all free on board Hamburg.

**The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America on uneven dates are as follows:—**

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	
Europe	2,170,000	2,190,000	2,320,000	1,480,000	1,320,000	Tons
United States	220,000	330,000	120,000	270,000	160,000	"
Cuba	190,000	340,000	430,000	150,000	60,000	"
Cargoes afloat	20,000	40,000	20,000	70,000	10,000	"
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,600,000</b>	<b>2,900,000</b>	<b>2,890,000</b>	<b>1,910,000</b>	<b>1,550,000</b>	

Comparative prices of 88% Beet for 5 years:— 9s. 1½d., 7s. 10½d., 6s. 2d., 9s. 3½d., 10s. 11½d.

**Vacuum Pan Sugar**.—The market has been quiet, and sales for the moment are small. In sympathy with the decline of 6d. in Continental white sugar, prices of yellows have temporarily weakened, and average qualities can barely be quoted over 15s. 9d. An improved demand may be expected before long. For a cargo of 96 test not over 10s. 3d. could be obtained on floating conditions.

**Molasses Sugar**.—In active demand from 11s. 6d. to 15s. and still very scarce.

**Muscovado**.—Slow of sale and very little done. Some 89 test has been sold to refiners at 9s. 3d. on floating terms, and later at 9s. 1½d.

**West India Figures since 1st Jan.**

	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Imports to date	27,000	14,000	36,000	35,000	Tons
Home Consumption	22,000	20,000	20,000	18,000	"
Stocks	17,000	23,000	28,000	25,000	"

**RUM**.—Board of Trade Stocks 31st May:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Stocks in London:	9,811,000	9,793,000	8,604,000	7,686,000	Gallons
Jamaica	9200	9300	8900	9000	Puns.
Demerara	10,700	7700	9000	8200	"
Total of all kinds	28,017	26,455	Excess 1562	Puns.	

Importers of Demerara continuing to meet the market large sales, aggregating 3000 Puns, have again taken place from 7d. to 7½d., the former price being the value of fair marks, but not easily obtainable. Jamaica is a shade firmer with business in Home Trade Marks at 1s. 9½d. and upwards, Leewards remaining nominally at 7d. to 10d., Stocks in the Country remain excessive and Consumption lags behind.

**Cocoa**.—Board of Trade Returns for five months:

	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Imports	14,402	12,396	13,126	11,431	Tons
Home Consumption	9096	8746	11,555	9649	"
Stocks 31st May	6576	5873	4211	7189	"
Stocks in London	92,000	84,000	63,000	99,000	Bags

The market continues dull, and prices are generally in buyers' favour, with a very slow demand. Fine Estate Trinidad is offering at 61s. without attracting buyers, and good fermented Grenada cannot be quoted over 57s. The closing quotations, which are partly nominal, are Trinidad fair collected, 58s.; Estate Marks, 58s. to 62s. Grenada fermented, 56s. to 57s.; fair Native, 53s., and from other Islands, fermented, 55s. to 57s.; with Native about 51s. African to arrive, is quoted nominally 58s. on full landed terms.

**Coffee**.—Quiet. Good ordinary Jamaica is quoted 37s. and Santos for this month's delivery 32s. 9d.

**Spices**.—**Nutmegs**.—Large sales of West India, 57's 2s. 3d.; 75's 1s. 4d.; 100's 9d.; 128's 6d. to 7d.; 140's 6d. to 6½d. **Pepper**.—Easier, pale sold at 1s. 8d. to 2s. 1d., reddish 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. and broken 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d. **Pimento**.—Difficult to sell, fair nominally 3d.  **Ginger**.—About steady, sales of Jamaica middling to good middling 40s. to 45s.; common to low middling 33s. 6d. to 39s. and Rhatoon 32s. to 33s.

**Arrowroot**.—Steady. Sales of about 1500 barrels, St. Vincent, chiefly at 1½d. for fair manufacturing.

**Lime Juice**.—Supplies short, market firm small business 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. Hand Pressed nominal 2s. 9d. to 3s. 3d. Concentrated steady at £13 5s.

For **Cotton**, see Special Article, page 228

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.



# The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XIX.

ENTERED AT  
STATIONERS HALL.

TUESDAY, JUNE 28th, 1904.

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## OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XV.



Sir Daniel Morris, K.C.M.G.

Morris as Commissioner, a post which it is hoped he will continue to fill for many years to come. Sir Daniel Morris has contributed much to the literature of agricultural science. In recognition of his services he has received numerous distinctions, the most noteworthy being his Knighthood (K.C.M.G.), by the King in 1903. He is a Member of the Executive Council of the Leeward Islands, and on June 21st last, the University of Durham conferred on him the degree of D.C.L., in recognition of his services to the West Indies.

## Sir Daniel Morris, K.C.M.G.

The Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies was born in Wales sixty years ago. He was educated at Cheltenham, the Royal College of Science, and Trinity College, Dublin, where he took first class in Natural Science honours, and was also Gold Medallist. In 1877 Sir, then Mr., Daniel Morris became Assistant Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Ceylon, and as such was publicly thanked and received a handsome honorarium for his investigations regarding coffee leaf disease. Jamaica claimed him as Director of her Botanic Department in 1879. He explored Honduras in 1882, and in the following year reported on the resources of St. Helena. Three years later he was made Assistant Director of Kew Gardens. He was back in the West Indies on a special mission in 1890-91, and visited the Bahamas in 1895. Thanks to Mr. Chamberlain, he toured the West Indies with the Royal Commission of 1896-7 as scientific adviser, and his separate report remains one of exceptional value. On September 1st, 1898, the Imperial Department of Agriculture came into being, with Dr. Daniel

### To our Readers.

Our object in presenting to our readers the present special issue of *The West India Committee Circular* is to place on record the useful work done by the Imperial Department of Agriculture during the first six years of its existence. In his lecture under the auspices of The West India Committee on June 23rd the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies gave an interesting account of the progress of Agriculture in that part of the Empire since the inauguration of the Department, which many who were prevented from being present will now have an opportunity of reading at their leisure.

To Sir Daniel Morris we owe our best thanks for his courtesy in correcting, as he has done, our report of his lecture, and we have also to make a cordial acknowledgment to Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, the Administrator of Dominica, for an article regarding the Imperial Road of that Island, which forms a further feature of interest in the *Circular*. Reference is made to the dinner given to Sir Daniel Morris by the West Indian Club, and an account will also be found of the successful exhibition of West Indian fruit, at the Botanic Gardens, on June 6th to 11th, which resulted in the award to The West India Committee of a large silver medal for tropical fruit carried by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

H. E. H.



**"The Agricultural Industries of the West Indies."**

A LECTURE DELIVERED ON JUNE 23RD, 1903.

BY

Sir Daniel Morris, K.C.M.G.,

IMPERIAL COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE WEST INDIES.

Sir Nevile Lubbock presided at a very largely attended meeting of The West India Committee, at the "Ship and Turtle," Leadenhall Street, at 3 p.m., on Thursday, June 23rd, when Sir Daniel Morris, Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies delivered a most interesting address on the subject of the Agricultural Industries of the West Indies. The names of the distinguished company present, which was of a very representative nature will be found on a subsequent page. In opening the proceedings, the chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen—I am sure we shall all agree that after the very important and arduous work which Sir Daniel Morris has been carrying out in the West Indies during the last six years he has very well earned his holiday (hear, hear). I am sure that we all hope that he will have full enjoyment of it, and that when it is over he will return to the West Indies like a giant refreshed. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking Sir Daniel for the very ready way in which he has responded to the invitation of The West India Committee to come here to read us a paper. The large attendance here this afternoon shows the great interest which is taken in the matters which are more immediately under his charge in the West Indies, and no doubt we shall be well rewarded with a very interesting paper. I do not propose to detain you longer now, but will ask Sir Daniel to be good enough to read his paper.

SIR DANIEL MORRIS, who was greeted with cheers, then rose and said: Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have prepared a short paper giving an outline of some of the results of the work with which I have been concerned in the West Indies during the last six years, but I cannot hope in the short time at my disposal to enter fully into details. I understand, however, from the Secretary, that my paper in full will be published in *The West India Committee Circular*. You will, therefore, be able to refer to facts and figures which I shall be unable to bring before you in my address this afternoon.

There appears to be a general impression that most of the land in the West Indies has already been taken up, and that very little remains for the prosecution of new industries. I do not think that this is borne out by my own observations, nor by the figures which have been supplied from time to time by the several Colonies concerned. According to information supplied to the Royal Commission the total area of all the British West Indies, including British Guiana, is over 70 million acres. British Guiana looms so large in this calculation—it is nearly the size of Hungary—that we may for the present exclude it. Further, the greater part of British Guiana is practically undeveloped. The portion of it actually under cultivation is about the size of the county of Surrey. In the West Indian Islands alone there is a total area of five million acres. Of this, the area returned as under cultivation is 1,300,000 acres. If we allow for such areas as are in swamps, in rocky and other useless land, it is probable from the figures supplied to the Royal Commission, that there still remain about two million acres of land in the West Indies suitable for bearing crops of some kind. It is important for us to remember that there are in those Islands areas of land still available for cultivation amounting to something like two million acres. The idea that the West Indies are played out or that they cannot compete with

other countries because of want of land is, I believe, erroneous. In regard to cotton for instance, great efforts are being made to develop cotton growing in West Africa, because it is thought that the area for cotton growing in the West Indies is comparatively small. Taking into consideration the considerable area of land suitable for cotton growing and the organised character of agricultural operations in the West Indies, possibly there is no other part of the world where cotton growing on a large scale could be more quickly developed. It is true that the whole of the vast area to which I have referred is not suitable for bearing large crops of sugar and cacao or remunerative crops of bananas and other fruits, but there are many other industries capable of being started on such lands, and it is a part of the work of the Imperial Department of Agriculture to carry on experiments and develop industries on remunerative lines. Even the poorest lands in the West Indies are capable, at least, of producing sisal hemp, an article in great demand for rope making.

The wider interest now being taken in the West Indies is regarded as having begun with the appointment of the West India Royal Commission of 1896, but more particularly to the carrying out of the recommendations of that Commission under the supreme direction of Mr. Chamberlain, to whom not only the West Indies, but the Colonies generally, owe a large debt of gratitude (cheers). In order to relieve the depression then existing in the West Indies the Royal Commission recommended that active steps be taken to improve the sugar industry by scientific methods of cultivation and the establishment of central factories, to encourage subsidiary industries in suitable localities, the establishment of a central authority in agricultural matters and in the promotion of a general scheme of agricultural education.

In 1898 a vote was passed by Parliament providing an Imperial grant of £17,420 for the purposes above-mentioned. It is the object of my address to give some of the results of the expenditure of that grant as affecting the welfare and prosperity of the West Indies.

#### The Imperial Department of Agriculture.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture has its head-quarters at Barbados. The Commissioner resides there when not on tour in the other Islands. He has a staff of scientific men who are available for research work in any part of the West Indies. Each Island has its own local Department of Agriculture. The total number of officers employed in connection with the work of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in the West Indies is forty two. The Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture is directly in charge of research work and experiments in the Windward Islands and Barbados, and is consulting officer to the Governments of Jamaica, British Guiana, and Trinidad. Grants for the maintenance of botanic and experiment stations and sample plots, for the maintenance of agricultural schools, for prizes at agricultural shows, for the introduction of stock, and for the encouragement of agricultural education in elementary and secondary schools are made, to a more or less extent to all the Colonies, and progress reports giving the principal results are published annually for the information and guidance of those concerned. Four conferences of agricultural and educational officers, together with representatives of the principal Agricultural Societies, have been held at Barbados. It is proposed that the next conference will be held at Trinidad. I have already been assured that the Government and the Agricultural Society in that Colony will do all that it is possible to make the conference a success.

I may mention in regard to these conferences, as also in respect of all experimental work carried on by the Department, that an essential feature in it is to secure the hearty co-operation of the members of the planting community, and keep closely in touch with their requirements.

The experiments in aid of the Sugar Industry are devoted to raising new varieties of canes for the purpose of increasing the yield of sugar per acre and in obtaining canes of a disease-resisting



character; also in testing the relative value of manures, and the most economical methods of cultivation, and the general treatment of cane plants. By means of the Imperial Grants the experiments originally started at Barbados, British Guiana, and Antigua, have been extended and improved. The annual Grants-in-aid of the Sugar Industry amount to about £4000. The portion allotted to British Guiana is £550 and this is supplemented by an appreciable amount contributed from Colonial funds. The sugar-cane experiments of British Guiana are under the charge of Professor Harrison who with Mr. Bovell had already started valuable sugar cane experiments at Barbados. I regard the money spent in connection with the sugar cane experiments at British Guiana as giving possibly the best return of any in the West Indies. The experiments at Barbados are under the charge of Professor d'Albuquerque and Mr. Bovell, and those in the Leeward Islands are under the charge of Mr. Francis Watts and the Agricultural officers at Antigua and St. Kitts. I estimate that altogether there are about 500 acres under sugar cane experiments in the West Indies at the present time.

#### Seedling Cane Results.

It is an important feature in all the sugar cane experiments carried on by the Imperial Department of Agriculture that the canes are cultivated in the same manner as the ordinary crop of the estate, so as to institute a close comparison on the most practical basis between these canes and those ordinarily grown on the estate. It may be mentioned that the expenses of cultivating sugar canes at the experiment stations on estates are borne by the planters themselves. A very considerable number of new canes are raised every year. Only very few of these prove worthy of being cultivated on a large scale. Some of the new seedling canes have proved of great value not only in the West Indies but also in Louisiana, Cuba, Natal, Mauritius, and Queensland. The work of raising seedling canes is still however in the experimental stage, but it is full of promise in the future. The area planted in new seedling canes at British Guiana has steadily increased, and now comprises about 13,000 acres. In Barbados and Antigua, owing to the occurrence of disease in the Bourbon cane, seedling and other canes are almost exclusively cultivated. On regular plantations in the West Indies the total areas of seedling and other canes than Bourbon, may be placed at about 30,000 acres. The yield of seedling canes has in many cases exceeded that of the Bourbon cane. On one large plantation in British Guiana the results in favour of seedling canes during the last three years have averaged 20 per cent.

The plantation referred to is the "Diamond," and the particulars furnished by the manager, Mr. John M. Fleming, are as follows:—

	1901.			1902			1903.		
	Acres.	Tons	Aver.	Acres.	Tons	Aver	Acres	Tons	Aver
Bourbon	2,912·208	6,735	2·31	2,791·062	6,464	2·31	2,895·067	7,194	2·48
Seedlings	1,073·082	3,215	2·99	1,317·277	3,706	2·81	1,879·267	5,331	2·83
Total ...	3,985·290	9,950	2·49	4,109·039	10,170	2·47	4,775·034	12,525	2·62
Seedlings better by	20 per cent.			21 per cent			14 per cent.		

The West Indian seedling canes that appear to suit the circumstances of Louisiana are Demerara canes No. 95 and No. 74. The planters in that part of the world are of opinion that "both these canes are superior to the home canes."

In Cuba, Barbados seedling canes No. 208 and No. 157 are regarded as giving good results; while in Queensland B. No. 147 gave the highest "possible obtainable cane sugar," viz.: 23·40 per cent. (*Agricultural News*, June 4th, 1904).

### The Abolition of Sugar Bounties.

A factor of great importance in regard to the future of the sugar industry is the removal of the Continental sugar bounties. Everyone interested in the welfare of the West Indies fully appreciates the active part taken by our Chairman, and those associated with him, in obtaining the abolition of the sugar bounties (cheers). Already a much more hopeful feeling prevails in regard to sugar growing in the West Indies and the prospects are possibly more encouraging than they have been for many years. A prominent member of The West India Committee has shown his confidence in the improved prospects of sugar growing by enlarging his possessions in British Guiana, the machinery on two of the largest estates in that Colony have lately been improved, while at Antigua Sir Gerald Strickland has been successful in affording assistance in starting two sugar factories which will prove of great service in that Island. There is also the hope that the Naudet system, which appears to combine the best results of crushing and maceration, may assist in reducing the cost of production. I understand that the new process is to be tried on a fairly large scale at Trinidad during the next crop.

There can be no doubt that in several of the West Indian Colonies the prospects for sugar growing are capable of being rendered as promising as anywhere in the tropics. There are extensive tracts of land in Jamaica, British Guiana, and Trinidad, where the soil is particularly well suited to the sugar cane and where with good cultivation and a moderate quantity of manure the yield of sugar, now bounties are removed, would be likely to prove remunerative. The great point in favour of sugar cultivation, where it can be successfully carried on, is that it employs a very large amount of labour and gives employment also to various tradesmen, and circulates a considerable amount of money amongst the general community. There appears to be something specially favourable to sugar in the atmosphere of the West Indies and in the disposition of the negro population towards it. One of the difficulties that the Imperial Department of Agriculture meets with in its endeavour to promote minor industries is the strong predilection of the negro to plant nothing but the sugar cane. In spite of getting the poorest results from the cultivation of the cane in the exhausted soil of their provision grounds, the negro still prefers to plant sugar cane rather than cotton. "In the sugar-cane," he says, "I get something to eat; I cannot eat cotton, I therefore plant cane." It may be that it is merely a matter of sentiment, but in any case where sugar can be made to pay better than anything else there is no reason why that cultivation should not be continued. What, however, is claimed is that by growing cotton in suitable localities, the people in the West Indies might obtain the same results in eight months from cotton as they obtain from sugar cane in sixteen months.

### The Resuscitated Cotton Industry.

Experiments in cultivating cotton were started by the Imperial Department of Agriculture in 1900. Since then with the valuable support of the British Cotton Growing Association, the experiments have been extended over nearly every portion of the West Indies. The area planted in 1902 was 400 acres, in 1903 4,000 acres, this year (1904) seed has already been distributed sufficient to plant 8,000 acres. There are 15 cotton ginneries already established and turning out cotton of high quality. On regular plantations the pioneers in cotton growing in the West Indies were Messrs. Sendall & Wade who have control of estates at Montserrat and St. Kitts. It is interesting to note that most of the cotton ginneries have been erected and brought into successful working within the last eighteen months. The largest ginnery is at St. Vincent. This is a three-storied building with eight gins driven by steam power and capable of turning out twelve to fifteen bales of cotton per day. The variety of cotton proposed to be planted in the West Indies is the Sea Island Cotton. This is the very best class of cotton and usually obtains higher prices than any other. It is supposed to be a native of the West Indies and on that account it should prove specially suitable for cultivation in those Islands. It is characteristic of Sea Island cotton that it cannot be grown except within the influence of sea air. It



has been proved that, even in Georgia and Florida, Sea Island cotton soon deteriorates and fresh seed has to be obtained from the Sea Islands. I believe that by establishing a market for a special class of cotton like Sea Island, the West Indies need have little fear from the competition of other countries as they cannot grow Sea Island cotton and must confine themselves to short staple cotton which is the ordinary class of cotton grown over the vast area of the cotton belt in the United States of America. The Sea Island cotton that is now in the course of being shipped from the West Indies in commercial quantities has obtained prices in advance of those of any other country. About 250 bales of Sea Island Cotton have lately reached this country from Barbados and the prices obtained in Manchester have ranged from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 4½d. per pound. One bale of exceptionally fine Barbados cotton was sold at 1s. 6d. per pound. (cheers). The account sales of Barbados cotton to date are given in the last number of the *Agricultural News* (June 4th). Should the trials in cotton growing during the next season prove satisfactory there is little doubt that there will be a large extension of cotton planting during the next few years. After careful enquiry in the Southern States of America I am satisfied that cotton can be grown at a cheaper rate in the West Indies than in the Sea Islands. The labour in the West Indies is not only cheaper but is of a more reliable character. For instance, cotton can be picked in the West Indies at one half the price that it can be picked in the Sea Islands; and it can be ginned at about two-thirds the cost in the Sea Islands. Fuller information in regard to the cultivation of cotton in the West Indies may be obtained from the *West Indian Bulletin* (Vol. IV., No. 4), and a pamphlet entitled "The A.B.C. of Cotton Planting," has recently been issued by the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

#### The Subsidiary Industries.

Cacao, rice, fruit, limes are amongst the most important industries next to sugar. Experiments in the field treatment of manuring cacao and limes are being carried on at Grenada and Dominica. The very extensive fruit industry of Jamaica of the annual value of nearly a million sterling has received a considerable impetus by the establishment of the Direct Line of steamers between that Island and the United Kingdom; and for this we are indebted to the enterprise and energy of Sir Alfred Jones (cheers). It must be gratifying to the people of Jamaica to find that by means of the new Direct Line of steamers their banana industry is safeguarded, to some extent at least, from its entire dependence on the American Market. There is little doubt that the fruit trade between Jamaica and the United Kingdom will greatly increase because the people in this country are prepared to take very kindly to bananas and there is no doubt that if the large Jamaica bananas are placed within reach of all classes of the community at about a halfpenny each, the demand in the course of a few years will be enormous. As you are aware, a serious attempt is being made to export bananas and other fruit from Trinidad. So far the experiments have not proved so successful as could be wished, but now that the Government is affording assistance to the industry and the Royal Mail Company is making especial arrangements for carrying the fruit, it is probable that the trade will ultimately prove successful.

A very interesting banana industry has lately been taken up at Barbados. The kind of banana cultivated there is exactly similar to the Canary banana, but, owing to some special features in the soil and climate the Barbados banana is regarded as superior to the Canary banana, and a keen demand at good prices has arisen for it. In fact I am assured that the bananas that are shipped from Barbados are the finest in the English market (cheers). These bananas are very carefully gathered at the right stage for shipment. They are wrapped in cotton wool, then in paper, and carefully packed in crates, so that they arrive in this country in splendid order. In all the shipments that have been made from Barbados during the last six months only twenty-three bunches failed to arrive in good condition. The average price received by the growers was 4s. 1½d. per bunch for large bunches and 3s. 5½d. for the smaller bunches.

The export of oranges from Jamaica for some years has been on a considerable scale, and now that greater care is being taken in selecting and marketing the fruit there is no reason why the trade might not be very considerably increased in value. Pineapples have been produced on a fairly large scale at Antigua. The fruit is intrinsically of good quality, and in flavour, when at its best, it approaches the much esteemed Ripley pine of Jamaica. For export purposes possibly the best pine of all is the Smooth Cayenne. This is now being largely cultivated at Jamaica, and more recently some very fine fruit has been grown at Dominica and St. Vincent.

#### Experiments with English Potatoes.

Experiments have been carried on for some years with the view of growing English or Irish potatoes for export. On the high lands of Jamaica and other parts of the West Indies excellent English potatoes are capable of being grown. The difficulty hitherto has been that seed potatoes exactly suited to the tropics are not obtainable early enough in the season. Arrangements have now been made to obtain seed potatoes of the variety known as "Bliss Triumph" about the end of August of each year. If planted, say, at the beginning of September the potatoes would have time to grow before the setting in of the dry season, and they would be the first to come into the market in New York and London. In an experiment carried on at Barbados by Dr. John Sealy, the net profit averaged £7 13s. 4d. per acre. This shows the cultivation of English potatoes in the West Indies could be carried on at a profit even to meet local requirements.

An onion industry has for some time been carried on at Antigua, similar to the very considerable industry at Bermuda, to supply the New York market. The seed is obtained from the Canary Islands in August. The onions are ready to be shipped in January and February. As the West Indian onions can be placed on the New York market at least a month before those grown at Bermuda, there is an opportunity for a comparatively large trade. As showing that even in such a small matter as the growth of onions there is something to be made out of it, it is on record that Bermuda in one year exported spring onions to New York to the value of £84,000! In some respects the West Indies might be regarded as the Channel Islands of the United States, and although all our commodities, with the one exception of bananas are subject to an import duty at New York and elsewhere, we may still be able to carry on a fairly remunerative trade, in spite of this disadvantage.

With regard to the cultivation of onions as a minor industry, Mr. Watts mentioned that at Antigua onions were grown entirely on the cane banks, and received no particular attention after they were once planted out. Therefore, whatever money was made out of them was purely profit. It may be added that the onions and the sugar cane appeared to grow happily side by side. As far as Mr. Watts' experience went, the growing of onions on the banks of the cane fields did not appreciably affect the canes. It certainly did not decrease the yield in sugar.

#### System of Agricultural Education.

The question of establishing a sound system of agricultural education is regarded as essential to the success of the West Indies as agricultural communities. There is possibly no subject deserving of closer attention than the steps necessary to bring the youth of all classes into close touch and sympathy with agricultural matters. This lies at the root of all efforts to obtain a thoroughly intelligent people to undertake the cultivation of fruit and other products requiring skilful and apt attention. In the first place the teachers of elementary schools in the West Indies have received a course of instruction in the elements of agriculture and been passed through a practical training in the care and treatment of plants. In most of the Colonies, except possibly in Jamaica, where there are nearly 700 teachers in charge of elementary schools, the greater part of the teachers in the West Indies have now completed the course of lectures and practical training. The teaching in the elementary schools





**A QUAIN MAP OF BARBADOS.**

This remarkable map of Barbados was published in London in 1657, 32 years after the Island first became a British Colony. Barbados was nominally taken possession of in 1603 by some men from an English Ship, the "Olive Blossom," who set up a cross near the spot where James' Town or Holstowen, was afterwards built, and inscribed on a tree "James, King of England, and of this Island." The first settlement of the Island was made at the end of 1624 or the beginning of 1625, when Sir William Courteen sent out some settlers, who established themselves on the forward coast, and founded the little settlement of James' Town. This is the earliest map of Barbados extant.

begins with object lessons and passes on to the experimental growing of plants in pots and boxes, and eventually to the establishment of small plots known as school gardens. A text book prepared by Mr. Francis Watts, entitled "Nature Teaching" has been published by the Department for the guidance of teachers in the West Indies. Taken as a whole I regret however to state that agricultural education in the West Indies during the last six years has not made the progress that was anticipated. There is still a strong tendency to keep the curriculum too closely to mere book work and the grants offered for the encouragement of the teachers taking up agriculture are not sufficient to induce them to devote time and attention to the subject. In some Colonies agriculture is placed in the same category as English Grammar, and little or no provision is made for the purchase of pots and boxes and for the few tools that are necessary for carrying on garden operations. It is hoped that the progress during the next few years will be on a larger and more successful scale. The teachers themselves have taken a very deep interest in agricultural teaching, but it is impossible for them to devote any considerable portion of their time to the subject unless the code in force provides for payments in proportion to the time to be devoted to it. At St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica agricultural training schools are maintained by the Department for selected pupils, preferably the sons of small landowners who intend to adopt a planting career. The pupils at the agricultural schools are required to attend for a period of three or five years depending on their age at the time of admission. The training is of a thoroughly practical character and is intended to fit them for service as overseers and managers of estates, or to start cultivation on their own account. There is little doubt that in course of time the young men trained at these agricultural schools will prove of great value in raising the standard of cultivation of various crops and improve the general quality of the produce.

Agricultural education in secondary schools and colleges is encouraged by grants to secure the services of lecturers in agriculture, and for scholarships to boys who intend to follow agriculture as a profession. There are two scholarships of the value of £75 each offered for competition in the Windward and Leeward Islands, while at St. Kitts, Antigua, Barbados, and other Islands, 30 local scholarships of the value of £10 each are offered to the sons of planters on the results of competitive examinations. Another system of agricultural education suited to the requirements of small cultivators is afforded by means of travelling agricultural instructors who regularly visit each district, hold meetings in school rooms and elsewhere and visit the cultivated areas in the neighbourhood. The services of the agricultural instructors, now that their mission is fully understood, are greatly appreciated by all classes of the community. The agricultural instructors also advise as to the work carried on at the school gardens and on the sample or illustration plots maintained by the Department in the out districts of each Island.

#### The Publications of the Department of Agriculture.

The Department issues a popular fortnightly review of Tropical Agriculture entitled *Agricultural News*. This is widely distributed through every portion of the West Indies, and the information contained in it, which is plainly worded and exactly adapted to the requirements of the West Indies, is greatly appreciated. A quarterly scientific journal, known as the *West Indian Bulletin* is also published by the Department. This contains standard articles dealing with West Indian subjects, and is intended to assist in the general improvement of the staple products of these Colonies. In addition, a pamphlet series is issued containing a summary of information, in a popular form, of the results of experiments with sugar cane, cacao, limes, cotton, onions, bee-keeping, the care of poultry, and the treatment of fungoid and insect pests. The series now consists of thirty two sets of pamphlets on special subjects. There are also published annual progress reports on the botanic and experiment stations, the agricultural schools, the teaching of agriculture in elementary schools,



and the work of the agricultural instructors in each Island. The average number of separate publications issued by the Department in each year is about 15,000. There are agents appointed for the sale of the publications of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in every portion of the West Indies. The London agents are Messrs. Dulau & Co., 37, Soho Square, W. The publications of the Department are also regularly filed at the rooms of The West India Committee, and copies may be obtained on application to the Secretary, whose valuable services in this connection are greatly appreciated.

#### Concluding Remarks.

In concluding this sketch of the organisation and work of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in the West Indies during the last few years, I would quote the following remarks by Mr. Francis Watts: "These Colonies, as agricultural communities, had struggled along for many years without a central authority, but now that that authority had been established, its value was becoming more and more apparent every day, and he hoped that by its good work, which was beginning to bear fruit, it would soon be universally recognised to be an absolutely essential part of the machinery if agriculture in these Colonies was to be kept to the high level which it had reached in other countries where similar Departments had long since been established."

I may also be excused for quoting from a general review of the work of the Department that appeared in the *Barbados Agricultural Reporter* of June 4th last. "Speaking generally then, the influence of the Department of Agriculture may be said to extend from British Guiana to Jamaica and to the whole chain of islands from Trinidad to the Virgin Islands and we have no hesitation in saying that that influence is wholesome and helpful. Sir Daniel Morris, aided by his competent staff, has worked energetically and successfully ever since the establishment of the Department of Agriculture, to effect the improvement of agriculture, to encourage the development of the resources of the several Colonies under the control of his Department, and to promote the industrial welfare of all the Colonies within its sphere of influence, not excepting even the Bermudas, whither a member of the staff, Dr. Longfield Smith, went recently to deliver lectures on Agricultural Science. The department has come to be a vital element of West Indian agriculture, the removal of which would create a great void. The secret of its success lies in the thoroughness of its organisation and that thoroughness is due to the organiser, Sir Daniel Morris, who has worked earnestly and faithfully and has attained a great measure of success in the arduous task set him of advising the planters of these Colonies as to the best means of mending their broken fortunes."

Quoting again from Mr. Watts:—"Of more importance than all, are the changes induced insensibly in the members of the community generally. The work of the trained officers of the Department by its constant, steady operation has a wider and deeper influence than an uninterested observer may imagine. Under this influence ideas are stimulated, good ones encouraged and faulty ones corrected or disposed of, so that there results a general progressive tendency, the origin of which cannot be readily or definitely traced, but which in its result upon the welfare of a community is perhaps of equal, or even greater importance than the conscious, definite efforts of the Department" (cheers).

#### Importance of continuing the Work of the Department.

It is impossible that this work should suddenly come to an end. Perhaps one of the best means for securing its continuance would be for each of the larger Colonies to supplement the Imperial grant by substantial contributions from local funds. This is already being done at British Guiana and to some extent at Trinidad and Jamaica. It would still be desirable that the administration as at present be entrusted to the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture. It is evident that without a

directing head it will be impossible to secure united action in Colonies so varied in their conditions and resources. The time must arrive, when in spite of the separate history and traditions of the different communities in the West Indies, when agriculturally at all events, they must unite or (to use a word not popular in some West Indian circles) confederate, or they will fail to attain to that degree of effort which is necessary for their highest prosperity (cheers).

THE CHAIRMAN: I have received through the secretary a telegram from Sir Henry Norman expressing his great regret that he is unable to be here this afternoon. We all know the great interest Sir Henry Norman has always shown in the West Indies, and I am quite certain he would have come if he possibly could. Sir Augustus Hemming also wishes me to express his regret to Sir Daniel Morris that he is unable to attend. Sir Daniel Morris has authorised me to say that if any lady or gentleman would like to ask him any questions he will be happy to answer them to the best of his ability. (After a pause.) As nobody seems inclined to ask any questions I will ask Sir Gerald Strickland to move what we are all anxious to extend to him, a hearty vote of thanks to Sir Daniel Morris. (hear, hear).

**Sir Gerald Strickland Moves a Vote of Thanks.**

SIR GERALD STRICKLAND: It is a great pleasure to me to be invited by the Chairman of The West India Committee, Sir Nevile Lubbock, to propose a vote of thanks to Sir Daniel Morris for his most interesting lecture, and I feel that the pleasure is shared by all who are present here, and have appreciated the scope, the importance and the thoroughness of the Imperial work which is elucidated in this paper (hear, hear). I also propose this vote with deep gratitude, which I hope will be shared by every one who has at heart the prosperity of these tropical Colonies, because I have been myself a pupil, and have listened with advantage, as others have done to-day, to the teaching which Sir Daniel Morris has inculcated, not only upon State-aided students of agricultural schools in distant Islands, but also on others who are responsible for the increasing productiveness of the West Indies. Sir Daniel Morris has commanded sympathy in his work, and he has spread, by his example, precepts of cordially working together, to attain the best results procurable from the forces of nature, most valuable to a Governor who, previous to his assumption of office, knew less about sugar, cotton, or cocoa than the youngest agricultural scholar.

Sir Daniel Morris made an allusion in the few words by which he introduced this paper, to the economic regeneration of the West Indies which followed the Royal Commission; this creation of an Imperial Department of Agriculture is however, but one step, one example, of the gospel of efficiency which Mr. Chamberlain heralded and instilled throughout the Colonial Empire (cheers), and so thoroughly has Mr. Chamberlain's spirit of work captured men's minds throughout the whole Colonial service, that this yearning for the best work still continues to grow.

We are, in these West Indian Colonies, dependent on agriculture, and directly in competition with other tropical lands for the markets of the world. Whether we grow sugar to compete against German beet, or cocoa to compete against what is coming from Africa, or whether our aim be cotton to offer raw material to Lancashire, success can only be assured by having the best advice, a reliable organisation, and the never failing devotion to duty of both leaders and followers.

In this organisation of experts, known as the Imperial Department of Agriculture, every man has to be carefully selected, as well as trained, and he has to give his advice in an acceptable form to a whole group of Colonies and separate Administrations. But

**It is not enough to have the best advice,**

the important point is to convince others to follow it. The planters in the West Indies were at first somewhat disposed to inform Sir Daniel Morris that they did not want any of his scientific deductions; because they knew all that local experience could teach. By degrees they have come round to



appreciate the co-ordinated experience of others. I know of old estates where sugar cane could no longer be grown, because the popular variety had become a chronic prey to incurable disease, which are now thriving because Sir Daniel Morris succeeded in popularising a "disease-resisting" cane, with which money has been made even in the worst of bad times.

The former position as regards these varieties of sugar cane might be compared to that of a farmer in a home county who restricted his stock to Shetland cattle with long horns, and small sheep with black faces (laughter).

If by such improvements this Imperial Department of Agriculture has not saved the sugar Colonies—as I think is the case—it has certainly put them in a condition to compete, and to compete successfully, with the thoroughly organised efforts of other Empires.

The great importance of the Imperial organisation happily entrusted to Sir Daniel Morris, is proved by the earnest attention here to-day of those who have come to listen to this paper on the actual development of high technical knowledge and its application: this makes us realise that knowledge is power and wealth, and your sympathy for this continued application of knowledge means a great deal to our future. A few of those present have sugar plantations; some are going to grow cotton; probably many have investments in the West Indies by which wealth is directly or indirectly brought back home, but I trust we all are determined to hold the West Indies and to hold the Empire, not merely for the present, but for what we can make of it in the future.

#### **An Opening for Capitalists.**

To get the best we can for ourselves, for our country, and for our posterity, is the sentiment which leads Britons across the ocean: the West Indies offer enticing opportunities where younger sons and small capitalists can rapidly improve their position; in the West Indies land can be purchased cheaply, and vast tracts are available which can produce three or four times the return to be expected in England, and finally in the West Indies any well conducted business in the produce of the soil may be expected to yield at least five per cent. above "Bank rate."

To encourage others to make the best of these opportunities, we are bound to show our appreciation of the scientific way of doing it, I therefore propose a hearty vote of thanks to Sir Daniel Morris (cheers).

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks which has been proposed by Sir Gerald Strickland. I do not propose to detain you at any length this afternoon, but there are just one or two things I would like to say in regard to Sir Daniel Morris' very interesting paper. In the first place I was exceedingly gratified to hear the words of praise which he gave to Professor Harrison. Many of us, those at any rate who have any connection with Demerara, know the very many years of hard and useful work that he has done in the Colony, and I am afraid that perhaps the work has not always been so fully appreciated on this side as it might have been. I was therefore especially pleased, and I am sure that Professor Harrison will be exceedingly pleased, to hear the words of praise which have fallen from Sir Daniel Morris to-day, and which, I am sure are thoroughly well deserved (cheers).

May I briefly refer to the move being made in the West Indies just now for closer reciprocity with Canada? I was rather struck by Sir Daniel Morris pointing out that we are still very largely dependent on the United States for the sale of fruit, and so long as this continues, so long as Jamaica is dependent upon the United States largely, we must approach the question of reciprocity with Canada very cautiously, because it would be a very serious blow to Jamaica to have the United States markets shut down upon her fruit all at once. I hope the time will come when we may be able to make a safe arrangement with Canada, but I am a little doubtful whether we ought not still to be a little patient for probably another year or two.

I should like to say how entirely I agree with Sir Daniel Morris in what he said about the educational value of the work that this Agricultural Department is doing in the West Indies. To my mind, that value is not confined to the work that is done in the schools; I think that the mere fact that all the information which is being disseminated amongst those who are cultivating their own small plots, is of immense educational value in itself, and therefore I quite concur in all Sir Daniel said in this respect. I quite agree also with Sir Daniel Morris in this, that it would be a very great pity if at the end of the ten years for which the Imperial Grant was made, the work that he has inaugurated, and has got to such an advanced stage, should be stopped. For my own part I think wonders have been done in what after all is a very short time. Six years is a very short time indeed, and I might even say that ten years is a very short time in which to expect any very important results. We ought at least to continue to work for 25 years, and I think that then we might look back and feel satisfied that we had done so. I have very great pleasure in seconding this vote of thanks to Sir Daniel Morris, (hear, hear).

The resolution was put to the meeting and unanimously adopted.

#### Sir Daniel Morris' Reply.

SIR DANIEL MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you extremely for the cordial vote of thanks to me for my paper this afternoon, and I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to thank publicly those Governors with whom I have been associated in my work in the West Indies, for the very generous and hearty support they have always given to me. I must mention I notice gentlemen present who have on many occasions assisted me in my work, and besides the Governors, the Administrators, and many holding official positions in the West Indies who have at all times given me the most cordial support in my efforts. The fact is that without their support and co-operation and that of the planters it would have been impossible to carry on the work in which I have been engaged.

I wish particularly to thank the members of The West India Committee for all that they have done to advance the interests of my Department on this side. They have very kindly taken charge of the publications of the Department. They keep them filed at their office and they are always willing to do what they can to allow people to consult the publications and also to obtain copies of any numbers or any parts that they may require for their own use. Ladies and Gentlemen, it has been a great pleasure to me to attend this afternoon and I assure you that I am greatly encouraged in regard to my efforts on behalf of the West Indies. It is a long time since I began my work there, but an afternoon like this makes up a good deal for anything that I may have undergone while promoting the welfare of those splendid Colonies (cheers).

SIR CHARLES BRUCE: Ladies and Gentlemen, I am now going to ask you to vote your cordial thanks to Sir Nevile Lubbock for presiding on this occasion. If I have any claim to your indulgence in addressing you to-day it must be in the fact that for over 36 years I have been a resident in the tropical Colonies and for over 20 years I have had a main hand in the administration of many sugar producing Colonies. I was going to say that for 35 years I have been a pupil of Sir Daniel Morris, but it occurs to me that he might object to it being thought that he was the age I am. At all events I can safely say that for over a quarter of a century I have been a pupil of Sir Daniel Morris (hear, hear), and the school in which I have sat as his pupil was a very large one, for I had among my fellow pupils all those who are interested in the agricultural development of the Crown Colonies of the Empire (hear, hear). On behalf of the large body of old schoolboys who studied under Sir Daniel Morris I give him my hearty thanks.



But while we have been studying the development of sugar and other industries under Sir Daniel Morris, the West Indies, and I think I may add all the tropical Colonies, have had another master and that other master has been Sir Nevile Lubbock (cheers). I have had the pleasure of knowing Sir Nevile Lubbock's work for certainly over 20 or 25 years, and I can safely say that not only in the West Indies, to which reference has been made exclusively to-day, but also in the great sugar producing Colony of Mauritius, and the other parts of the Empire with which I have been connected, Sir Nevile Lubbock has always been recognised as a master. I believe that all who are present, and all whom they represent, will heartily agree in what I am saying, and although I have retired from the service of the State I am more than glad to have had an opportunity this day of thanking Sir Daniel Morris and of thanking Sir Nevile Lubbock for all the good work they have done. I ask you therefore to vote your heartiest and most cordial thanks to Sir Nevile Lubbock for presiding here to-day (hear, hear).

The resolution was put to the meeting and carried by acclamation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen,—I will not detain you much longer: but I wish just to thank Sir Charles Bruce for the kind words he said about me, and you, for the kind manner in which you have received his proposal. I am very glad to be able to say from what I hear on all sides that there is a much more hopeful feeling throughout the West Indies, and, for my own part I really think we have turned the corner at last, and that we may look for a time of greater prosperity than we have seen for many years.

The proceedings then terminated, but many of the ladies and gentlemen present proceeded to The West India Committee Rooms at 15, Seething Lane, where over a cup of tea, the interesting statements of the lecturer and others were discussed in conversation.

### The Company present on June 23rd.

The following is a list of those who were present at the lecture:—Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., Chairman of The West India Committee, Sir Daniel Morris, K.C.M.G., Sir Henry K. Davson, Deputy-Chairman of The West India Committee, Sir Henry M. Jackson, K.C.M.G., Governor of Trinidad, Sir Gerald Strickland, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Leeward Islands, Mr. E. B. Sweet Escott, C.M.G., Governor of British Honduras, Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, C.M.G., Administrator of Dominica, Mr. E. J. Cameron, Administrator of St. Vincent, Mr. Ralph C. Williams, C.M.G., Resident Commissioner of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, Sir Charles Bruce, G.C.M.G., Sir James Fergusson, Bart., M.P., G.C.S.I., Sir James Hay, K.C.M.G., Lady Hay, Sir Alfred Jones, K.C.M.G., Lady Morris, Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., Sir Edward Wingfield, K.C.B., Sir Frederick Young, K.C.M.G., Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., Mr. Ian Z. Malcolm, M.P., Mr. W. H. Stoker, K.C., Attorney-General of Barbados, Hon. E. G. Bennett, K.C., Col. Malcolm of Poltalloch, C.B., Col. A. H. Nourse, Lt.-Col. W. G. Dawkins, Captain Hicks, Captain Maling, C.M.G., Mrs. Maling, Captain G. Molyneux-Montgomerie, Captain J. B. Saunders, Mr. Herbert Maddick, A.D.C., Mr. Arthur A. Pearson, C.M.G., Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C., F.C.S., Mr. J. F. Abraham, Mr. E. A. Agar, Mrs. Dowell-Akerman, Mr. A. F. Anderson, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. W. N. Armour, Mr. W. E. Atkinson, Mr. H. William Bailey (Messrs. Thomas Lowndes and Co.), Mr. W. G. Baker, M.A., Mr. G. Leslie Bannerman, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. C. J. Bertrand, Mr. Edgar P. Bidwell, Dr. Carl Bovallius, Mr. George Brown (Messrs. Thom and Cameron), Mr. George G. Browne, Mr. R. T. Browne, Mr. G. F. Burn, Mrs. George Burn, Mrs. Burn, Mr. George Carrington, Mr. S. N. Carvalho, Mr. H. D. Cattle, Mr. C. Kinloch Cooke, Mr. P. O. Cornwall, Mr. W. I. Cox, Messrs. Crosfields, Ltd., Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Mr. C. Czarnikow, Mrs. Henry Daniels, Mr. Ivan B. Davson, Mr. G. H. Dawson, Mr. Neville Dawson, Mr. J. F. de Leon, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. H. Devaux,

Dr. James A. de Wolfe, Mr. T. Du Buisson, Mr. Alex. K. F. Duncan, Mr. William Durno, Mr. Edward Easton, Mr. E. W. Edsall, Mr. W. G. Edwards, Mr. Alexander Elder, Junr., Miss Eversley, Messrs. C. W. Eves & Co., Ltd., Mr. Humphrey Crum Ewing, Mr. Morris Fletcher, Mrs. Fletcher, Messrs. Frame & Co., Mr. A. E. Gay, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. A. M. Gillespie, Mr. D. B. Gillespie, Mr. William Gillespie, Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, Mr. George Grant, Messrs. C. W. & W. Gray, Mr. Lewis Gray, Mr. J. P. Gun-Munro, Mr. H. Hales, Mr. A. T. Hammond, Mr. Robert Harvey, Mr. A. E. Hawes, Mr. P. Heriot, Mr. R. N. Hodges, Mrs. Hodges, Mr. George S. Hudson, Mr. George Hughes, Mr. John Hughes, Mrs. Hutton, Mr. W. E. Jackson, Mr. Llewellyn Jones, Mr. L. A. Kestin, Miss Kielhorn, Mr. Walter B. Kingsford, Mr. Edward Kynaston, Messrs. Labouchere & Co., Mr. A. V. Lake, Mr. Norman Lamont, Mr. A. M. Lee, Mr. R. G. Lee, Mr. Emanuel X. Leon, Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock, Miss MacDonald, Mr. V. E. Manton, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. E. Martens, Mr. R. E. H. Melhado, Mr. Joseph Moore, Mr. A. J. Nash (R.M.S.P. Co.), Mr. B. A. Neilson, Messrs. Kerr Newton & Co., Mr. C. D. O'Bryan (St. Lucia Usines and Estates Co.), Mr. H. S. Osment, Mr. Edward Packard, Mr. Walter G. T. Packard, Mr. C. A. Philip, Mr. Edward Pratt, Mr. Frank Preston, Mr. Henry F. Previte, Mr. John Price, Miss E. S. Price, Mr. P. W. Remnant, Mr. Joseph Rippon, Mrs. Rippon, Mr. Hugh G. Rose, Mr. F. W. Roworth, Mr. Randolph Rust, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. G. T. St. Aubyn, Mr. Charles Schiff, Mr. Fred W. Scott, Miss R. C. Scott, Mr. J. Herbert Scrutton, Mr. H. Martin Sells, Mrs. Senhouse, Mr. Wallwyn P. B. Sheppard, M.A., Mrs. Sheppard, Mr. W. Arthur P. Sheppard, Mr. David L. Slinger, Mr. Gerald Smith, Mr. Harold Hamel Smith, Mr. Howard K. F. Smith, Mr. H. O. Smith, Mr. J. Walter Smith, Mr. H. D. Spooner, Mr. C. Moody Stuart, Mr. H. Swales, Messrs. W. H. & J. Thompson, Mr. James R. Thursfield, Mr. J. C. G. Tibbs (Messrs. Artime & Co.), Mr. Hubert Titmas, Mr. Arthur F. Turnbull, Mr. A. Waterfield, Miss Webber, Mr. Edward T. Whitaker, Mr. F. J. Whitmore (Messrs. J. Travers and Sons, Ltd.), Mr. William H. Whyham, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, Miss Wilkinson, Mr. Charles Wilson, Mr. W. H. Woodroffe, Mr. W. W. Wynne, Mr. T. B. Younger, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

### The Imperial Road in Dominica,

(Communicated by His Honour H. Hesketh Bell, C.M.G., Administrator).

Unlike most of the other British islands in the West Indies, Dominica possesses, in its virgin lands of the interior, an "undeveloped estate" of great value. The old sugar plantations that were strung along the seaboard are being rapidly transformed into valuable estates of cocoa and limes, but these probably do not represent one quarter of the total area of the island. The whole of the interior is, generally speaking, in the same condition as when Columbus discovered the Leeward Islands, and remains covered with primeval forest. This condition is due to various causes. While Barbados, St. Kitts, Guadeloupe, Martinique, and all the other neighbouring islands were converted, during the 16th and 17th centuries, into flourishing settlements, and were cultivated almost to the last acre, Dominica remained practically untouched by the white adventurer, and consequently missed the Golden Age of the sugar-islands. The European powers, that fought and intrigued for the possession of the Antilles, seem to have felt certain qualms of conscience over the natives who were being systematically exterminated, and Dominica was set aside, by the provisions of the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, as a "neutral island," to serve as a reserve for the surviving Caribs. The island was, however, far too fertile to remain indefinitely the happy hunting ground of the savage, and in spite of treaties, French and English settlers from time to time, surreptitiously established themselves on the coastline and held their ground against the aggrieved Caribs. Gradually these plantations assumed



such dimensions that both the British and French Governments aimed at absorption. Sometimes the English would be beaten and the French settlers would annex their estates; a year or two later, this would be reversed by the fortune of war, and so the pendulum would swing backwards and forwards for the benefit of anyone, except the unfortunate Caribs.

From 1756 to 1805, the island was the constant bone of contention between the British and the French, and not only was the tenure of land very insecure from lack of a settled Government, but



[Copyright]

The Imperial Road, Dominica.

[E. FENTON.]

it was doubly so owing to the constant incursions of the Caribs and Maroon slaves, who boldly held the whole of the interior against the encroachments of white men of any nation.

When, at last, the savages had been definitely tamed, crushed, and confined to a meagre reserve on the western shore of the island, the "good old days" of the West Indies had already begun to fade. The abolition of slavery, the decrease in the price of sugar, and the depreciation of values generally put a check on any great desire for the acquisition of new and uncleared lands. The planters of Dominica felt satisfied with the possession of their estates on the seaboard, and the whole of the

fertile valleys and mountains of the interior remained unworked and untrodden, save by native squatters and sportsmen in search of such game as the forests afford.

Time after time, since then, has the potential value of the interior been brought to the notice of the Government, and projects have more than once been made for turning it to account. The absolute lack of roads and the want of capital, however, always proved a bar to any such developments, and it was not until Mr. Chamberlain, in 1898, obtained from Parliament a Grant in aid of roads and land settlement, that the Government found itself in a position to render accessible a part of the fertile area that has been, for so long, lying waste and unproductive.

From Roseau, the chief town and principal seaport on the leeward coast, the "Imperial Road" runs for seventeen miles to a point in the very centre of the island, known as Bassinville. For the first five or six miles of its course, it is practicable for wheeled traffic, while the remainder is what may be termed a first class bridle-road, having such a gradient as to be ultimately fit for wheeled traffic. Starting from sea-level, the road ascends gradually, through a fertile valley, to a governing-point at an altitude of nearly 1800 feet. Here it renders accessible many thousand acres of good land suitable for coffee, rubber, vanilla, oranges, nutmegs, and such other products as thrive best in a climate that can almost be called temperate. During the last three years experiments on a considerable scale have been made in the cultivations above mentioned, and, with the exception of coffee, the results are very encouraging. With regard to oranges, especially, over 30 acres have been planted with seedless and other kinds of the best varieties. The three-year-old trees have already begun to bear, and the groves are remarkably free from scale-blight or any of the other pests that usually trouble orange growers. The fruit will mature very early and at a time when the northern markets offer high prices. Experts consider that these high-lands of the interior can hardly be surpassed for citrus culture. The cultivations of vanilla and nutmegs are also promising. English vegetables, notably carrots, onions, turnips, beans, etc., grow luxuriantly, and it ought to be possible for settlers in this district to supply, at a cheap rate, the markets of St. Lucia, Barbados, and other islands where a considerable demand exists for such garden-truck.

From the governing-point at 1800 feet, the road descends gradually into the great punch-bowl which comprises the interior of Dominica, and, as it proceeds to a lower level, opens up a great area that is eminently suited for the cultivation of cocoa. Several new settlers have taken up considerable blocks of land along this road, and the young cocoa bears striking evidence of the fertility of the soil. All this land was formerly known collectively as the "Layou Flats" and its potentialities have formed the theme of all those who visited the locality.

The Imperial Road, for the present, stops at Bassinville, and will be extended when the demand for more land arises. In the meantime, another road, starting from Layou, a good shipping-place on the leeward coast, is being constructed and pushed up the Layou valley towards Bassinville, where it will ultimately connect with the Imperial road. Several settlers have already taken up land in this direction, and are vigorously planting cocoa and limes.

The whole of the interior of Dominica appears to be well adapted to the growth of rubber. For nine miles along the Imperial road, rubber trees of the *Castilloa* and *Frutunia* varieties have been set out, and it will shortly be possible to ascertain which kind seems most suited to Dominica, and at what altitude it thrives best. Some *Castilloa* trees, planted two years ago, at an altitude of 1800 feet and in a very exposed situation, are already eleven feet high, vigorous and of sturdy growth. It is believed that Dominica offers many advantages for rubber-growing over other tropical districts under foreign Governments, and it is hoped that capitalists will turn their attention to the island. The labour supply is fairly good, cheap and reliable, and healthy young Englishmen, fond of a planter's



life, might do much worse than make a venture in the Crown lands of Dominica. Copies of "Notes on Dominica, and Hints to Intending Settlers" can be obtained from the Secretary of the West India Committee, or from the West Indian Department at the Colonial Office.

### A Large Silver Medal for West Indian Fruit.

Only a few days notice that there was to be a Colonial Section at the Grand Horticultural Exhibition at the Botanical Gardens from June 6th to 11th was given to The West India Committee, and it was not, therefore, possible to write to our Hon. Correspondents in the West Indies and arrange



**West Indian Fruit Exhibit.**

This picture shows a corner of The West India Committee's Exhibit at the Grand Horticultural Exhibition at the beautiful gardens of the Royal Botanic Society, June 6th to 11th. A large silver medal was awarded to The West India Committee for the fruit which was carried by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. This stall attracted more attention than any other in the Colonial Section.

for a display on the scale we could have wished. However, we communicated with some of our Members who are in the habit of receiving or carrying consignments of fruit, and the outcome was that we were able to get together an exhibit of such merit that it was awarded a large Silver Medal. The credit for this is mainly due to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, by whom the bulk of the fruit was carried, the terms of the award being somewhat ambiguously phrased "Large Silver Medal for

tropical fruit carried by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, awarded to The West India Committee."

This result must be considered eminently satisfactory and especially so to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, as showing how well in the opinion of experts West Indian Fruit travels in their steamers to this Country under perfectly normal conditions. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's exhibit was of a representative description comprising as it did bananas, grape fruit, limes, mangoes, oranges, pineapples, sapodillas and yams carried by the R.M.S. *Tagus*, which arrived at Southampton on the preceding Thursday. All were in good condition and commanded much attention from the numerous visitors to the Show, many of whom had never seen such tropical fruits as limes and sapodillas. It was curious to notice that limes were taken for small lemons by the unsophisticated, and we must endeavour at future Exhibitions of this nature to obtain a sufficient quantity of this fruit to enable us to distribute it and so help, as we are anxious to do, to popularise it, being confident that those who have all tasted limes are bound to ask for more.

Mr. Arthur F. Turnbull showed Antigua pineapples, and must be congratulated upon his efforts to work up a new market for this fruit, for his samples of which he is, we understand, to receive a certificate of merit. Messrs. Elders and Fyffes had a good display of Jamaica bananas and grape fruit, and a special table was devoted to fresh limes, lime juice and lime juice cordial, lent by the well known firm, Messrs. L. Rose & Co., Ltd.

In the year 1902-3 the value of fruit exported to the United Kingdom for the West Indies was £142,008 compared with £45,646 in 1899-1900. The trade was stimulated in 1901 by the establishment of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service which carries large quantities of fruit from Jamaica to Bristol, and with the increasing activity of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co., who carry fruit from all the islands of the West Indies, the prospects point to a still greater increase in the next few years. The enormous quantity of fruit which now goes from the West Indies to the United States—the annual value is over a million sterling—shows what an opening there is in this direction.

### Our Membership.

Owing to the lecture on Thursday, June 23rd, there was no meeting of the Executive Committee and consequently no election on that day. Our Membership now considerably exceeds 800 and we hope that our members will avail themselves of the candidature forms which are enclosed with the present *Circular* and propose for membership their friends who are interested in the West Indian Colonies. We shall then soon reach the membership of 1000 as we are anxious to do. The next election will take place on Thursday, July 7th, and we have already 20 candidates awaiting election on that day.

### The West Indian Club entertains Sir Daniel Morris.

Sir Daniel Morris was the principal guest at a dinner given by the West Indian Club at the Howard Hotel, Norfolk Street, on Wednesday, June 22nd. Hon. Arthur Ponsonby, vice-president of the club, presided, and the company included Sir Gerald Strickland, Governor of the Leeward Islands; Sir Alfred Jones, president of the British Cotton Growing Association; Mr. C. P. Lucas, C.B., Assistant Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Hon. W. H. Stoker, K.C., president of the West Indian Quarantine Conference; His Honour E. J. Cameron, Administrator of St. Vincent;



Captain Maling, C.M.G., formerly Administrator of St. Vincent; Mr. Owen Philipps, chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company; Captain Maddick, A.D.C. to the Governor of Jamaica; Sir Thomas Esmond, Bart., M.P., Dr. Theodore Thomson, Mr. W. P. B. Sheppard, vice-president of the club, Capt. G. Molyneux-Montgomerie, His Honour Mr. Justice Nunan, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. Boswell Tucker, Mr. Ambrose Gosling, Mr. C. G. Croft, Mr. H. Crum Ewing, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. A. M. Gillespie, Mr. F. S. Langford, Mr. H. H. Etheridge, Mr. Louis Hanshell, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. J. W. Peil, Mr. G. H. H. Pile, Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. H. J. Read, Mr. G. S. Hudson, Mr. L. E. Hudson, Mr. A. E. Gay, Mr. Desnoes, Mr. R. K. S. Jacobson, Mr. C. V. Lindo, Mr. A. Elder, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. A. Hirsch, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. J. C. Lynch, Mr. C. Scott, Mr. A. M. Nathan, Mr. C. G. C. Kerr, Mr. E. Alberga, Mr. F. R. Leistikow, Mr. Abraham, Mr. A. C. Cross, Capt. J. B. Saunders, Mr. H. A. Hickman, Mr. J. W. Clark, Mr. A. W. Lloyd, Mr. W. H. Wiles, Mr. A. J. Nash, Mr. A. Nash, Mr. H. Bailey, Mr. E. B. Ellis, Capt. Voules, Mr. E. O. Johnson, Mr. A. F. Turnbull, Mr. C. M. Sherlock, Mr. A. M. Sherlock, Mr. A. Cory Davies, Mr. Lionel de Mercado, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. R. E. H. Melhado, Mr. H. S. Osment, Mr. H. F. Grierson, Mr. E. O. Goss, Mr. W. Garrett, Capt. Charles Foulkes, R.E., Mr. A. Hutchinson, Mr. E. T. Carpenter, Mr. Spencer Carpenter, Mr. C. R. Winn, Mr. A. Home, and Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Hon. Secretary.

Sir Daniel Morris's health was proposed by the chairman, and Sir Alfred Jones, speaking in support of the toast, said that no man had done more to aid the scientific culture of sugar, the development of West Indian fruit, and the planting and growing of cotton, with a view to making the Empire independent of foreign cotton, than their guest. Sir Daniel Morris, in reply, said that his faith in the future success of the West Indies had never wavered, and, although when he was selected six years ago to undertake the work of carrying out the recommendations of the Royal Commission, he had serious misgivings, he was glad to say cotton had made very promising progress. Three years ago they started with 400 acres; that number then rose to 3,000 acres and the next year they would have 8,000 acres under cultivation. Barbados cotton was obtaining the highest prices in the world, and all they had to do to ensure success was to keep up the good quality of the cotton.



The . . .  
**West India Committee Circular**

Vol. XIX.

ENTERED AT  
 STATIONERS HALL.

TUESDAY, JULY 5th, 1904.

Subscription £1 1s. per ann. post. No. 129.  
 Free. Published fortnightly.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XVI.



Mr. Arthur Summerson.

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Our esteemed Honorary Correspondent in British Guiana is a typical Yorkshireman; he left his native heath in 1871 for Demerara, and in August of that year entered into the employment of the Colonial Company, whose agency was then managed by Mr. Hadow. He is now the agent and one of the attorneys of the New Colonial Company which he has served, with its predecessor, faithfully for thirty three years. For many years he has acted as our Hon. Correspondent in British Guiana, and he was confirmed in that appointment when The West India Committee was re-organised in 1898. He is deservedly popular in the Georgetown Club, of which he is a Member. He holds several local directorships, and is Chairman of the Board of local Directors of the Demerara Railway Company. He is a Managing Director of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana, a Member of Council of the Chamber of Commerce, and Secretary of the British Guiana Planters' Association, which was established in the same year in which he first went to British Guiana. In 1890

he married Miss Asquith, who also comes from Yorkshire, and he resides in a handsome house, "Roraima," overlooking the Georgetown Cricket Club ground.



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he married Miss Asquith, who also comes from Yorkshire, and he resides in a handsome house, "Koraima," overlooking the Georgetown Cricket Club ground.

### Prædial Larceny.

Every mail brings evidence of the increase of prædial larceny in the West Indies. In British Guiana a petition has been forwarded to the Governor from the Village Conference held at New Amsterdam, stating that prædial larceny is committed to an alarming extent; that it is greatly on the increase; and that it is a serious drawback to agricultural pursuits throughout the Colony, and urging that the penalty for the offence should be increased. Mr. Robert L. Young, Agricultural Instructor, in his report on the conditions in St. Ann, Jamaica, refers to the inauguration of the Court at Cave Valley as a red letter day. "It is a well-known fact, that to punish prædial larceny in such out of the way places, is beyond the reach of the poor planters. The distance of travelling, the conveyance of witnesses and other contingent expenses make it too expensive a luxury; with the result that the peasant proprietor in nine cases out of ten takes the law into his hands and deals with the thief in a summary manner and in some cases, when the thief happens to be a man with some influential relatives, a small vendetta is got up on his behalf. The younger generation, rather than have to contend with such nuisances, either sell out or abandon cultivation and drift to the towns. The growing of ground provisions is entirely abandoned in these same districts, and if prædial larceny continues at the present rate, even banana cultivation will have to go."

This is a very serious state of affairs, and we feel that the time has come when a further determined effort should be made by the Colonies to stamp out prædial larceny, and we are convinced that united and uniform action on the part of the Colonies is necessary for this purpose. We addressed the following letter to the Secretary of State on June 1st, and we hope that our action in the matter will be approved of and supported in the Colonies.

#### The West India Committee to the Colonial Office.

June 1st, 1904

SIR—We had the honour on March 26th, 1901, to address Mr. Chamberlain, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of prædial larceny, or theft of the growing crops, a crime which has been of late years very prevalent in British Guiana and the West Indies, and has formed a serious hindrance to agriculture, affecting as it does especially the small cocoa growers, the peasant proprietors, and the development of the minor industries.

We forwarded copies of resolutions on this subject passed in British Guiana, Antigua, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, and Trinidad, calling for an enquiry to be instituted with a view to devising means to put a stop to this wide spread evil, and for the adoption of remedial measures.

We suggested that this question was of sufficient importance to merit the appointment of a Commissioner to enquire into its extent and effect, and who might recommend measures for its suppression.

Mr. Chamberlain was subsequently pleased to take this matter into his consideration, and in 1902 he invited the Colonies to contribute towards the cost of the despatch of such a Commission. Many of the Colonies, however, did not see their way to vote the necessary funds for this purpose, and for the time being no further steps were taken in the matter.

From enquiries which we have recently made, it would appear that there has been no abatement of this prædial larceny, and that in many Colonies this form of crime is on the increase. We therefore think that the moment is opportune for further considering what can be done to check this demoralising state of affairs.

We have the honour to transmit herewith an extract from the *Port of Spain Gazette*, Trinidad, of April 29th\* of the current year, from which it would seem that the objection to the despatch of a Commissioner from this side would be his lack of local knowledge, and the very practical suggestion is made that a local West Indian Conference might be convened, with a view to the presentation of some scheme for the remedy of the evil.

The importance of this question is amply shown by a summary of the replies to our enquiries which were published in *The West India Committee Circular*, No. 121, page 127, a copy of which we have the honour to transmit,\* and you will note that in the leading article of the *Port of Spain Gazette* referred to, it is stated that prædial larceny "is doing much, and will yet do more, to retard, if not to destroy, our chances of successfully starting a number of agricultural enterprises that would add greatly to the prosperity of the labouring, working, and planting classes of every one of the Islands concerned."

\* Not reprinted in the present *West India Committee Circular*.



We therefore venture respectfully to ask if you will be pleased to communicate with the Governments concerned, and to consider the possibility of convening such a Conference, which might, we suggest, be held on the lines of the recent Quarantine Conference, for the success of which we have every reason to hope.

We have, &c.,

NEVILLE LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

#### The Colonial Office to The West India Committee

18th June, 1904.

SIR—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant in which it is suggested that the question of prædial larceny should be discussed at a local Conference in the West Indies, organized in the same manner as the recent Quarantine Conference.

(2) I am to inform you that Mr. Lyttelton will bear this suggestion in mind, in case a suitable opportunity should arise for taking action upon it hereafter.

I am, etc.,

C. P. LUCAS.

#### The Cotton Industry.

The Homeward Mail has brought us further copies of the correspondence which has passed between Mr. Edward R. Davson and Dr. Rowland, the Chairman of the Berbice Cotton Growing Association, with reference to the former's offer to peasants of five acres of land free of rent for twelve months, empoldered, drained, and fenced against cattle, together with free cotton seed, transport of raw cotton by rail to Amsterdam, free ginning, free freight home, and a guarantee to give 9 cents per lb. of clean lint on the spot, and the balance of the net selling price on receipt of account sales. It is a matter for great regret that, so far, no peasants have come forward to accept this offer, which was made not only with the object of encouraging the cotton industry among peasant proprietors, but also of testing the respective merits of cotton growing on the large estate system and the peasant proprietor system which prevails in West Africa. This result must be particularly disheartening to Dr. Rowland, who has done so much to promote the cotton industry in Berbice.

The owners of sugar estates are, however, giving cotton a fair trial, and at Port Mourant 300 lbs. have been sent to be ginned by the Berbice Association. Three acres are planted in cotton at Bath, four and a half acres at Providence, and three acres at Springlands, where the cultivation is said to be promising.

With reference to the shipment of Sea Island cotton from the West Indies there are two points, we are informed by the Imperial Commissioner, that require to receive special attention. The first of these is the packing. This is generally much too loose, and in consequence the freight rates for next season may have to be raised. It is well known that Sea Island cotton will not bear the heavy pressure that is employed for compressing short staple cotton, but there is no doubt that the West Indian Sea Island cotton will stand, without injury, much greater pressure than is used at present, and it would be in the interest of the growers that this should be borne in mind. The next point is that to obtain the best prices for West Indian Sea Island cotton, for the present at least, it should be consigned to the British Cotton Growing Association. The Association, through its brokers, has established a special market for West Indian cotton, and the high prices now ruling are obtainable only where the shipments are placed in the hands of firms who make a speciality of this class of cotton, and who have the confidence of manufacturers who require long staple cotton of the best quality. The shipment of small independent lots of West Indian Sea Island cotton is therefore to be deprecated as calculated to injure the industry.

During the fortnight ended June 30th, 195 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom (London 154 bales, Southampton 30, Bristol 11), sales being effected at the following prices: West Indian, 5.91-6.38d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 14d.; fine, 15d.; extra fine, 16d. per lb.

This is the first year of the experiments with Sea Island cotton in St. Vincent. We are glad, however, to learn that at the recent sales at Manchester the St. Vincent Sea Island cotton has fetched from 14d. to 15d. per lb. This is a very gratifying result, and especially so in view of the desirability of the development of a successful cotton industry in that island. The cotton ginning factory in St. Vincent, erected by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, is regarded as the finest in the West Indies.

### The Carenage, Grenada.

Our full page illustration should prove of considerable topical interest, as the sloop which figures in it is the H.M.S. "Buzzard," which now lies in the Thames, off the Victoria Embankment, and is used as the training ship of the Royal Naval Volunteers. The torpedo boat destroyer in the foreground is H.M.S. "Quail," which is also well-known in the ports and harbours of the West Indies. The inner harbour or Carenage of St. George's, Grenada, is one of the most beautiful in the West Indies. It is also one of the most convenient, as it has a depth of water sufficient to allow vessels of a considerable size to come alongside the quay. The heights in the background are known as Richmond Hill. This view is taken from a now dismantled fort which dominates the entrance to the harbour.

### West Indian Fruit.

A feature of the Banquet given by Mr. Lyttelton at the Colonial Office on the occasion of the celebration of the King's Birthday on June 24th was a selection of West Indian fruit, presented by the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture. This consisted of a fine bunch of Barbados bananas, and a selection of small Cayenne pine apples grown in the Island of Dominica. The Barbados bananas are a special sort and are sent over carefully packed in cotton wool in wooden crates. The flavour is said to be superior to that of any other bananas that reach this country. The pineapples were greatly appreciated and their commercial value is shown by the fact that Messrs. George Munro, Ltd., who recently sold two crates, reported that it was the best fruit they had so far received from the West Indies, and that if similar fruit, carefully packed so as to protect both the crown and fruit, were regularly shipped from the West Indies, a good trade might be done in them. Of the first consignment, above referred to, every fruit arrived in excellent condition and fetched an average net price of 4s. each.

At the dinner given in his honour by the West Indian Club on June 22nd, Sir Daniel Morris presented a fine sample of Lychee fruit from the West Indies. This is a native of China and is highly esteemed, possibly next to the Mangosteen, for flavour and delicacy. So far, the Lychee has not been exported from the West Indies, although fine large trees are to be found in some of the Islands. The fruit successfully brought over by the donor was grown under the care of Mr. J. H. Hart, F.L.S., at the beautiful Botanic Gardens at Trinidad. Mr. Hart mentions that this is only the third time in seventeen years that the Trinidad trees have fruited. Possibly by a system of skilful control and irrigation the tree may be induced to become more prolific and produce regularly large crops of one of the most delicious fruits of the tropics.

The Commissioner also brought home with him two specimens of the tuberculated Iguanas (*Iguana tuberculata*) from Montserrat, which he has presented to the Zoological Society of London. The animals stood the journey well and arrived in excellent condition. The larger one is about 3 feet long and is regarded as a valuable addition to the reptile house at the Zoo.

### Our Special Circular.

The lecture delivered by the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture at the "Ship and Turtle" on June 23rd, having been fully dealt with in a special edition of *The West India Committee Circular*, which was posted to members on Tuesday last, it is unnecessary for us to comment further upon the



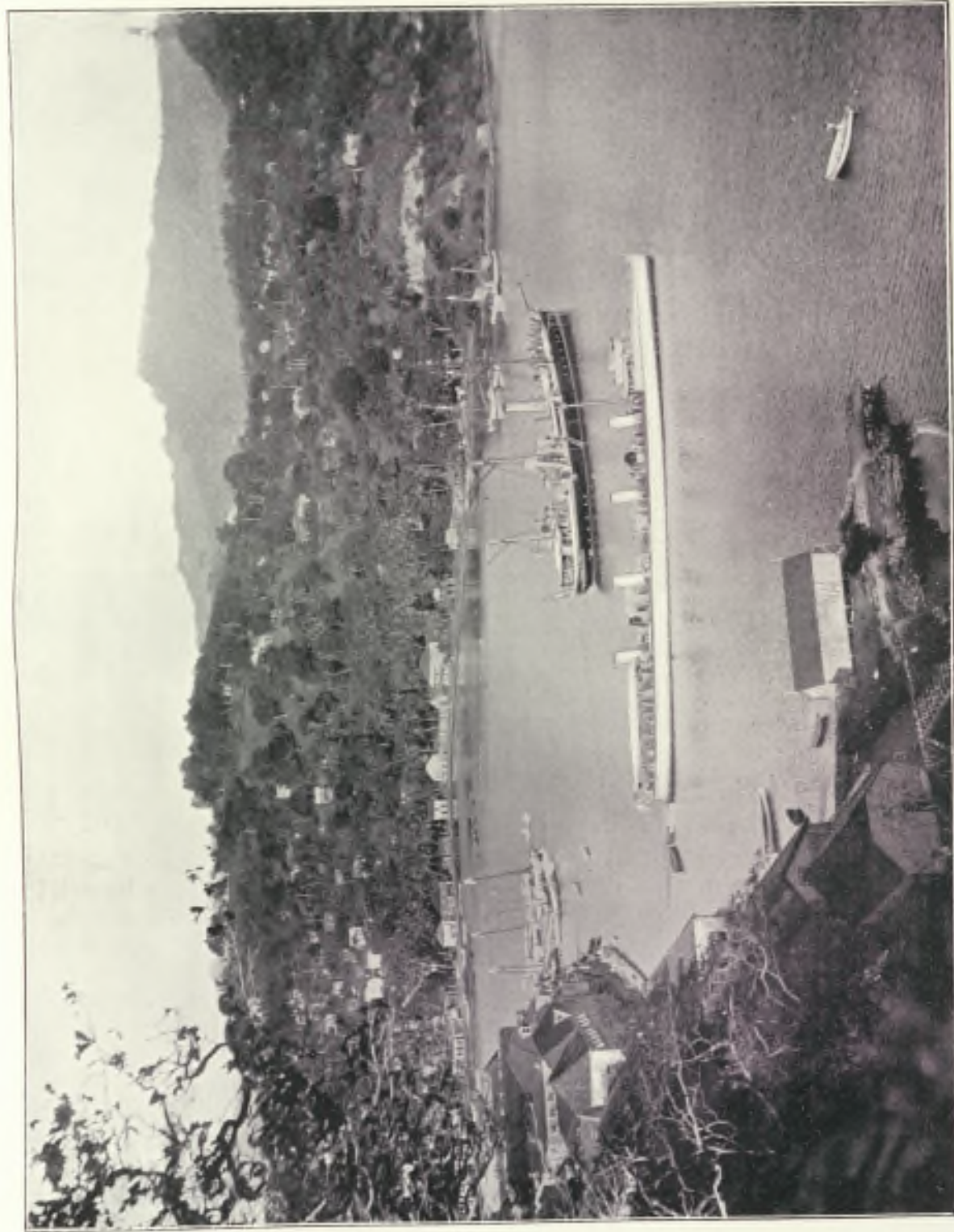


Photo by ALBERTUS E. ARNDT.

THE CARENAGE, ST. GEORGE'S, GRENADA.

very successful meeting, which was certainly the largest held by The West India Committee of late years. There can be no doubt that the opportunity of meeting together in this way is greatly appreciated by members, and it is therefore proposed to arrange for further lectures as opportunity arises.

The special issue of *The West India Committee Circular*, which contained several illustrations, including a reproduction of a quaint seventeenth century map of Barbados, met with such a demand that already almost the whole edition is disposed of, a matter for congratulations to those advertisers who availed themselves of the space offered. While touching on this matter, we would call the attention of our readers to a special feature of our advertisement columns which is headed, "Where to obtain West Indian Produce." This will in future be a regular feature, and will, we hope, prove advantageous not only to producers but also to consumers who are desirous of obtaining genuine West Indian Produce. Those interested in the West Indies must undoubtedly be anxious to support the Colonies by using their produce, and as we are constantly being asked where Cane Sugar, Jamaica Cigars, etc., etc., can be obtained, it is with a view to supply this information that the column referred to has been devised. We cannot help having a lurking suspicion that in the households of many of our 800 members, foreign beet sugar is still used to the exclusion of pure and wholesome cane sugar. This should not be the case and we hope therefore that members will cause enquiry to be made, and insist upon being supplied with pure cane sugar themselves and advise their friends to adopt a similar course. This is the best form of support they can give the cane sugar movement at the present time.

#### **Birthday Honours.**

We have to congratulate Mr. George Townsend Fenwick, the senior unofficial member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago and our Hon. Correspondent, upon his appointment to be a C.M.G., on the occasion of the celebration of the King's Birthday. Another of our members Mr. William Herbert Greaves, K.C., Chief Justice of Barbados, receives the honour of Knighthood. The other recipients of Birthday honours include Colonel A. E. Codrington, who is made a C.B., (Colonel Codrington, is a descendent of the famous benefactor of Barbados, Sir Christopher Codrington. He signed the successful appeal on behalf of Codrington College, in April, 1899), Mr. Patrick Lawlor Dillon, Comptroller of Customs; Mr. Harry Innis Perking, Assistant Commissioner of Lands and Mines in British Guiana, and Mr. Frederick Henry Watkins, Commissioner of Montserrat who are now entitled to I.S.O. after their names. To all these gentlemen we offer our sincere congratulations.

#### **Mr. Chamberlain on Tropical Disease.**

Mr. Chamberlain was, on June 30th, the guest of the evening at a banquet given in London by the Royal Institute of Public Health in recognition of his services to preventive and tropical medicine during his period of office as Colonial Secretary. Professor W. R. Smith presided. Mr. Chamberlain said that from such a gathering nothing but good could result, since it called public attention to the importance, magnitude, and necessity of the work which they had at heart. He believed that we were on the eve of great discoveries which might relieve the human race from some of the latest scourges which had affected it. The work of the beginning of the century just entered upon was the consolidation of the Empire. Wherever British rule was established every man could count upon the security of life and property. He warmly eulogised the efforts of Sir Patrick Manson, Major Ronald Ross, and Professor Haffkine and others who had devoted their time to the work of research which would, he believed, in course of time make tropical climates a place where the white man could live in comfort. Mr. Balfour said that they were doing honour to a man who more than any other British statesman had been able to further the cause which they had at heart. That he was the greatest Colonial Minister they had ever had was not questioned even by his enemies, and his work at the Colonial Office would have an effect which would never die.



### The Rum Surtax.

The question of the Rum Surtax continues to engage the attention of The West India Committee, and on July 4th, the following letter on the subject appeared in the *Times*:—

The West India Committee, June 28th, 1904.

Sir,—Replying to Mr. Brand in the House of Commons on June 20th, the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that: "If methylated spirit were imported from the Colonies it would pay a duty of 11s. 5d. per gallon; but as a matter of fact none is imported."

The reason why no methylated spirit is imported from the Colonies is obvious. Though intrinsically worth 7d. or 8d. a gallon, it is subject to what amounts to a prohibitive duty of 11s. 5d. a gallon, while methylated spirit manufactured in this country is duty free.

It is hardly surprising in the face of this fact that the West Indies are crying out against this aggressive form of protection accorded to distillers in this country against their colonial kinsmen.

Trusting to your courtesy for the insertion of this letter in your valued columns,—We are, &c.

N. LUBBOCK, Chairman.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

### Coolie Immigration into the West Indies.

For the purpose of reference we have compiled the following table showing the number of coolie immigrants introduced each year into British Guiana, Trinidad, St. Lucia, and Jamaica, since the coolie immigration was commenced in 1838.

	B. Guiana.	Trinidad.	Jamaica	St. Lucia.		B. Guiana.	Trinidad.	Jamaica.	St. Lucia.
1838	406	—	—	—	1874	8301	1713	1356	—
1845	816	225	—	—	1875	3887	3266	1250	—
1846	4019	2412	—	—	1876	8384	1516	748	—
1847	3461	2042	2400	—	1877	3982	1596	—	—
1848	3545	626	—	—	1878	8118	3036	895	580
1849	—	—	—	—	1879	6426	2103	167	221
1850	—	—	—	—	1880	4506	3105	747	67
1851	517	176	—	—	1881	4355	2639	504	316
1852	2805	1322	—	—	1882	3166	2599	—	—
1853	2021	1980	—	—	1883	3016	2049	396	—
1854	1562	673	—	—	1884	2731	3136	—	616
1855	2342	290	—	—	1885	6209	1684	601	306
1856	1258	608	—	—	1886	4796	2164	—	—
1857	2596	1374	—	—	1887	3928	2147	—	—
1858	1404	2017	—	—	1888	2771	1836	—	—
1859	3426	3288	—	579	1889	3573	3224	—	—
1860	5450	2160	592	709	1890	3432	2875	—	—
1861	3737	2541	1521	—	1891	5229	3164	2136	554
1862	5625	1587	1982	320	1892	5072	2620	—	—
1863	2354	1793	540	—	1893	4693	1818	484	—
1864	2709	947	—	—	1894	5932	2519	—	—
1865	3216	2711	—	—	1895	7114	2766	698	—
1866	2526	473	—	—	1896	2474	3086	—	—
1867	3909	3266	1625	—	1897	2494	1834	—	—
1868	2528	1365	—	—	1898	1202	1292	—	—
1869	7168	3328	1393	—	1899	2399	1684	615	—
1870	4943	1890	906	—	1900	4301	1827	661	—
1871	2706	1508	1354	—	1901	4470	—	—	—
1872	3556	3606	1188	—	1902	4245	2553	—	—
1873	3656 *	2889	1518	—	1903	1947	2348	—	—

\* From January 1st to June 30th. Subsequent figures are for the season ended in the year given.

### Colonial Reports—Leeward Islands.

Although it is dated December 21st, 1903, the interesting report (No. 416) of Mr. E. St. John Branch, Colonial Secretary, on the Blue Book of the Leeward Islands for the year 1902-3, has only just made its belated appearance, fifteen months after the close of the financial year. No explanation of the delay, which minimises to a large extent the usefulness of this publication, is given.

The total revenue of the Colony for the year was £128,354, as against £123,450 in 1901-2. The expenditure totalled £134,895, exceeding that for the previous year by £1998.

The financial results in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis were more satisfactory than for several years past. The excess of expenditure over revenue in the former being £2,597, as compared with



Photo by ALGERNON E. INFISALL.

H.M.S. "Buzzard."

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This sloop was for many years on the North American station, and is well known in the ports and harbours of the West Indies. She has had her boilers removed, and now lies in the Thames above Blackfriars Bridge as depicted in this photograph, and is used as the training ship of the Royal Naval Volunteers. It is interesting to compare this picture with our full-page illustration, in which H.M.S. "Buzzard" appears amid very different surroundings.

£6,466 in 1902-3. In St. Kitts-Nevis the excess of assets over liabilities at the close of the year was £2,600. The prosperity of the Island of Dominica is steadily increasing; the surplus of revenue over expenditure for the year was £626, in spite of an expenditure of £1,871 for extraordinary works. Montserrat still requires a considerable amount of aid from the Imperial Government to meet its expenditure. The Imperial Grants-in-Aid of revenue amounted during the year to £4,750 or about 76 per cent. of the total revenue from ordinary sources.

The Grant-in-Aid of the Sugar Cane Industry was paid in two instalments to those who undertook to keep their estates in full cane cultivation during the years 1902 and 1903. The acreage of land



under sugar cane cultivation was returned for the year 1902 at 15,130 acres, and this allowed of a payment on each occasion of 8s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per acre. From the amounts receivable by estates owners the land taxes for the years 1902 and 1903 were deducted.

The following is a comparative table of revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years:—

	Revenue 1902=3				1901=2.			
Antigua ...	£46,395	0 8	£128,354	3 8	£42,067	9 1	£123,450	6 1
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	42,772	14 5			43,792	10 3		
Dominica ...	31,044	15 0			29,598	8 6		
Montserrat ...	6,293	10 7			6,196	4 11		
Virgin Islands ...	1,848	3 0			1,795	13 4		
<b>Expenditure.</b>								
Antigua ...	£48,992	2 10	£134,895	5 0	£48,513	19 4	£132,896	18 1
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	43,713	6 5			44,134	13 6		
Dominica ...	30,418	16 1			28,012	8 9		
Montserrat ...	9,916	15 8			10,312	5 7		
Virgin Islands ...	1,854	4 0			1,923	10 11		

The total value of the exports from the Colony during the year under review was £317,835, as against £307,344 in 1901. The total exports to the United Kingdom show an increase of £17,918 over 1901. This satisfactory result is due chiefly to the increased exportation to the Mother Country of fruit, both fresh and preserved, especially from the Presidency of Dominica. The large increase of £81,540 in the value of the exports to British Colonies is accounted for by the increased amount of sugar shipped to British North America, causing a corresponding decrease of £91,079 in the exports to the United States.

### Publications Received.

We have to thank Mr. William Gillespie for a further gift of five volumes for our Library.

These comprise:—

- A VOYAGE TO THE WEST INDIES: containing various observations made during a residence in Barbadoes and several of the Leeward Islands; with some notices and illustrations relative to the City of Paramarabo, in Surinam, with engravings. By John Augustine Waller, Surgeon R.N. London: Sir Richard Phillips & Co., 1820.
- NOTES ON HAITI, made during a residence in that Republic by Charles Mackenzie, Esq., F.R.S., F.L.S., late His Majesty's Consul-General in Haiti. *Two Vols.* London: Henry Colburn and Richard Beatty, 1830.
- A YOUNG SQUIRE OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY. From the Papers (A.D. 1676-1686) of Christopher Jeaffreson, of Dullingham House, Cambridgeshire. Edited by John Condy Jeaffreson. London: Hurst & Blackett, 1878.

We have also to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications:—

- DEBATES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, JAN.-DEC., 1903. This volume of the local Hansard, which has just been published in Trinidad, will be found very valuable for the purpose of reference. It would be well if the other Colonies were to follow the example of Trinidad, and publish similar reports of their debates.
- THE LAWS OF BARRADOS, 1903, 38—1904, 20. This volume includes a table showing the effect of the legislation on the Statutes of the Island, and an index by Sir W. H. Greaves, Chief Justice of the Colony.
- MANURIAL EXPERIMENTS WITH SUGAR CANE. This pamphlet, No. 30, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture (obtainable at The West India Committee Rooms, price 4d., post free 5d.) contains a summary of the results of manurial experiments carried on under the direction of the Department at Antigua, and St. Kitts-Nevis during the year 1902-3. It forms a summary of the large official report which was recently noticed in these columns. Mr. Watts is of the opinion that it will not be found to pay to apply artificial manures to plant canes in the Leeward Islands, but that planters are advised to concentrate all their efforts on the preparation of the soil by cultivation and the use of pen manure. With ratoons, however, the case is different. Maximum crops can only be obtained by the use of artificial manures; for these Mr. Watts recommends the application of 2 to 3 cwt. of nitrate of soda, or 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. of sulphate of ammonia, with which  $\frac{3}{4}$ -cwt. of sulphate of potash and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 cwt. of either basic superphosphate or superphosphate may be employed with advantage. It is clearly proved by these experiments that nitrogen, in a rapidly acting form, is required for ratoons. Valuable information is put forward in the appendix on the relationship between tonnage of cane and the pounds of sucrose in the juice. Mr. Watts states: "It is probable that we shall in the future make our comparisons in manurial experiments on the basis of tons of cane rather than of pounds of sucrose."

- THE AGRICULTURAL NEWS.** No. 57 of the third volume of this publication (obtainable at The West India Committee Rooms, price 1d., post free 1½d.) contains much matter of interest to planters. Among the subjects dealt with are "Agricultural Education in Trinidad," "Treatment of Wounds in Cacao Plantations," "Crates for Barbados Bananas," "Cotton Notes," etc., etc.
- THE EMPIRE REVIEW.** The July number of this Imperial magazine, has as a frontispiece, a handsome photogravure of Lord Strathcona. The Empire Review is edited by Mr. C. Kinloch Cooke, who has done so much through the Press for our West Indian Colonies, and it should find a place on the table of every West Indian household. THE EMPIRE REVIEW. London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd. One Shilling net.
- JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLONIAL INSTITUTE.** This monthly periodical, which is edited by Mr. J. S. O'Halloran, Secretary of the Institute, contains the papers read before members during June. These include the "Newfoundland Shore Question" by Sir Cavendish Boyle. A special feature of this Journal is the review of new books relating to the Colonies by the talented Mr. James R. Boose, Librarian. Journal of the Royal Colonial Institute, Northumberland Avenue, 6d.
- THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR JOURNAL.** The July number (67, vol. 6), Altrincham, Manchester, 12s. per annum, post free, has many articles of exceptional interest, the most interesting being one on the relative merits of cane and beet sugar. A recent attack against Demerara sugar is dealt with, and the report of Mr. F. W. Richardson, of Bradford, a well-known consulting chemist who has made a special study of sugar, is given. Mr. Richardson expresses full agreement with an article on the subject by Mr. Arthur Morris, published in *The Epicure* of March, 1899, in the course of which he said; "That cane and beetroot sugar are practically identical seems to be the very general opinion of well informed men. There is a difference, and it is all in favour of the product of the cane. A single instance will show that it is not merely a question of prejudice. Alkaline carbonates, even in very small quantities, have a marked effect upon the flavour of many beverages which it is usual to sweeten with sugar. For example, two samples of the same blend of tea, brewed under exactly the same conditions, with the single exception that one is infused with pure water and the other with a solution of carbonate of soda in a thousand parts of water, gives beverages differing widely in tastes and in aroma. It follows that tea sweetened with sugar containing an alkaline carbonate will not be the same beverage as that made with a sugar free from such admixture. The same effect is noticeable in coffee, and in several other sweetened drinks. Thus it is not merely the fancy of the epicure (and that is important enough) that tells him that cane sugar is the superior article."

### West Indian Civil Service.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making the following table of movements of civil servants in, and connected with, the British West Indies as full and complete as possible.

#### Antigua.

Mr. Donald McDonald has been appointed a Lieutenant in the St. John's Infantry Company of the Antigua Defence Force from the 3rd June.

#### Barbados.

Mr. F. H. Sealey, Revising Officer, has been granted an extension of four months' leave of absence from June 6th.

Mr. G. A. Goodman, K.C., has been appointed Acting Attorney-General from June 6th.

Mr. W. G. Mahon is appointed to act as Clerk to the General Board of Health.

The Hon. W. K. Chandler has been granted two months' leave of absence from June 4th.

Mr. E. L. Skeete, Acting Superintendent of Dodd's Reformatory, Barbados, has been granted seven months' leave of absence from June 18th, during which period Mr. W. C. Smith will act in his place.

Mr. W. R. Buttenshaw, Scientific Assistant on the staff of the Department of Agriculture, left Barbados on June 13th on an official visit to St. Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat, Antigua, and St. Kitts.

Mr. P. M. C. Sheriff, Chief Justice of St. Vincent, arrived at Barbados on the 4th inst., from Jamaica en route for Southampton. The Chief Justice was accompanied by Mrs. Sheriff and daughter.

During the absence of Sir Daniel Morris from the West Indies, Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque will sign on behalf of the Commissioner, and attend to matters connected with the Department.

#### British Guiana.

Mr. E. H. King, Government Officer, Department of Lands and Mines, has been appointed a member of the Local Board of Guardians for the Demerara River Fiscal District.

Mr. P. Hemery has been granted eight months' leave from May 24th. During his absence Mr. F. M. Bury will act as Assistant Receiver General.

Mr. J. K. D. Hill has been appointed Registering and Returning Officer for an electoral district of New Amsterdam.

Mr. R. T. Wright has been granted six months' leave of absence, during which period Mr. L. H. J. Tinney will act in his place.

#### Dominica.

Mr. Edward J. Cameron, Administrator of Dominica, who is at present in this country, has been granted six months' leave of absence from June 4th. Mr. Edward D. Laborde has assumed the administration of the Government.

#### Jamaica.

Mr. E. J. Andrews, Chief Clerk in the Treasury of Jamaica, has been promoted to the office of Treasurer, Manager of the Government Savings' Bank, and Stamp Commissioner of Jamaica.

Dr. D. J. Williams has succeeded the late Dr. J. W. Plaxton as Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, Jamaica.

Mr. T. J. Harris, Agricultural Instructor and Assistant Superintendent at Hope Gardens, Jamaica, has been selected for the post of Superintendent of Public Gardens in Bermuda.



Mr. G. A. Goodman, Solicitor-General, to act as a Commissioner under the Plantations-in-Aid Acts, 1902, 1903, and 1904.

Mr. R. T. Wright, Harbour Master, has been granted leave of absence for three months on full salary, with three months extension on half salary. Mr. L. H. J. Tinney will act for Mr. Wright, and Mr. C. Dowding as Deputy Harbour Master.

#### St. Lucia.

Captain H. R. V. deBury, R. G. A., has been appointed to act as Chief of Police and Inspector of Prisons *vice* the Hon. E. D. Laborde, I. S. O., who is absent from the Colony.

The Hon. Mark Kerr, Treasurer, has returned from leave of absence, and resumed the duties of his office.

#### St. Vincent.

Mr. John Henry Gooding has been appointed Special Constable to reside and act in the Island of Bequia.

An extension of three months' leave from June 1st has been granted to Mr. G. F. Grant, Colonial Postmaster.

Mr. W. J. Lawrence, Superintendent of Public Works, arrived at St. Vincent on June 3rd, and left on the 7th ult.

Mr. F. W. Griffith is acting as Inspector of Police, St. Vincent, in place of Captain Calder. He has re-organised the Police Band which had fallen through, and appointed Sergt. Roberts bandmaster.

#### Trinidad.

Mr. E. Agostini, of Trinidad, of the Audit Office, has been transferred to the post of Paymaster in the Receiver-General's department.

During the absence from Trinidad of Dr. J. A. de Wolfe, Surgeon-General, who is at present in England, Dr. C. F. Knox will act as Surgeon-General, Dr. J. W. Eakin as District Medical Officer, Port of Spain, North, and Dr. E. Inskip Read as District Medical Officer, Port of Spain, South.

### West Indian Interests at Westminster.

#### The Prohibitory Duty on Colonial Spirits

On June 20th Mr. Brand (Cambridgeshire, Wisbech), asked the Chancellor of Exchequer if methylated spirits, when imported from our Colonies, pay a duty of 11s. 4d. per proof gallon, whilst methylated spirits produced at home pay no duty but receive a drawback of 4d. per proof gallon; and, if so, whether any alteration will be proposed in regard to these duties. The Chancellor of the Exchequer in reply said: If methylated spirits were imported from the Colonies, it would pay a duty of 11s. 5d. per gallon; but as a matter of fact there is none imported. Spirits used for methylation in this country are taken out of bond, duty-free, and no allowance is given except in case of exportation, when an allowance of 3d. per gallon on the quantity of spirits methylated is given in respect of the excise restrictions on the manufacture of spirit.

#### Cuban and West Indian Sugar.

Mr. G. Bowles on June 20th asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs if his Majesty's Government had considered the effect of the Reciprocity Treaty between the United States and Cuba, giving a considerable tariff preference to Cuban sugars over others, and had they come to any, and, if so, what, conclusion as to its effect upon the export to the United States of sugar from the British West Indian Colonies. Lord Percy—the answer to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. The tendency of the preference will, doubtless, be to put British West Indian sugar at a disadvantage, as compared with Cuban sugar, in the markets of the United States. Representations have been made to the United States Government on the general effect of Reciprocity Convention on the trade of the United Kingdom. The Convention of Commerce upon which these representations were based does not, however, secure Most Favoured Nation treatment for the West Indian Colonies, and no reply has been received indicating the prospect of an arrangement more favourable to British trade.

### Notes of Interest.

**FILING CASES** Spring back cases for filing *The West India Committee Circular* can be obtained at FOR "CIRCULARS" 2/6 each, or post free 3/-. These will be found a great convenience.

**A CONTRADICTION.** We are asked by Mr. William M. P. Shields, to contradict the statement which has appeared in the West Indian Press, to the effect that he has been appointed to the management of a sugar factory in Peru.

**CYCLONE AT COLON.** We are advised by cable that the R.M.S. "La Plata" encountered weather of exceptional severity off Colon on her outward voyage. Captain Newton, commander of the vessel, had the misfortune to break both his legs, and had to be left behind at Colon, where he is progressing favourably.

**SUGAR CANE MATS.** A new straw for ladies' hats will shortly be tried in Paris. The new straw is prepared from the leaf of the sugar-cane when green and newly cut. It is said that the straw may be prepared by hand, but the operation is slow. When a suitable machine has been adapted to the work, the straw will be very cheaply obtained.—*St. James's Gazette.*

**THE R.M.S.P. COMPANY.** The increase in the fleet of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. proceeds apace. In addition to the S.S. "Caroni" a fine cargo steamer of 2670 tons register, which was launched at Waller, Newcastle, on June 15th, the S.S. "Pardo" 6000 tons, for the River Plate trade, left the ways at Belfast on June 30th.

**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Crown of Navarre" from Glasgow for Barbados, Trinidad and Demerara, July 9th; S.S. "Yucatan" from Liverpool, for Barbados and Trinidad, July 9th; S.S. "Statia" from London, for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad and Demerara, July 13th; and the R.M.S. "Port Morant" from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, July 16th. *Information for publication under this head is invited from Shipping Companies.*

**THE NAUDET SUGAR PROCESS.** The Leon Say Sugar Company who have already two cane sugar factories working the patent Naudet process of sugar manufacture, to which we referred in our Circulars No. 120 and 123, have ordered the machinery for a third plant, which will be the largest of this description yet constructed, as each cell of the battery is to contain 90 hectolitres of juice. A French company have ordered a Naudet plant for Porto Rico. In this case, each cell will contain about 50 hectolitres of juice, which is the same quantity as is provided for in the plant to be erected in the Caroni Factory, Trinidad, by the well-known firm of sugar engineers, Messrs McOnie Harvey & Co.

**THE SYMINGTON FRUIT SYNDICATE.** Mr. W. W. Symington, the progress of whose proposals for the development of the fruit industry of Trinidad has been recorded from time to time in *The West India Committee Circular*, sailed for Trinidad in the R.M.S. "Atrato" on June 22nd. The Legislative Council of Trinidad on June 6th approved the grant of £1,000 to the Symington West Indian Fruit Syndicate, and a further annual guarantee of a sum equal to half the amount of the gross losses for the year, but not exceeding in any case £1,000, a condition attached to the grant being that the Governor could lay before the Legislative Council for approval, prior to its execution, whatever contract of guarantee might be agreed upon between the Company and the Government.

**BRITISH GUIANA AND BRAZIL.** The arbitration award by the King of Italy regarding the boundary between British Guiana and Brazil, involves some 11,000 square miles of territory, in the S.W. portion of British Guiana. The effect of the award is to give about five-eighths of the disputed territory to Great Britain, and three-eighths to Brazil. The most important and interesting point involved is Pirara, which, with Lake Amuca, may be said to be the real situation of the Spanish El Dorado. The north-western portion of the disputed area has been awarded to Brazil. This is a mountainous region inhabited by the Makusi nation. The portion which goes to Great Britain is the north-eastern part of the disputed area, a country having similar characteristics to that which has been awarded to Brazil, and practically the whole of the southern region of fine savannah country, the loss of which would have proved a very serious matter for British Guiana. This portion is inhabited by the great Wapisianana tribe, who are extremely attached to British rule.

### The Homeward Mail.

The weather during the fortnight ended June 16th, as reviewed by our Hon. Correspondents, was very variable—Antigua, Barbados, Montserrat, Nevis, and St. Kitts needed rain badly, while in Grenada and Jamaica it had fallen too heavily. Otherwise, the situation was favourable. The R.M.S. "Orinoco," which anchored off Plymouth on Thursday, June 30th, brought with her several of our Members, to whom we extend a cordial welcome. Hon. E. DuBoulay, our esteemed Correspondent for St. Lucia, Hon. C. Macaulay Browne, Capt. W. H. Owen, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. W. A. Douglas, Mr. T. N. Aguilar, Mr. A. S. Aguilar, Mr. J. Wilson, Mr. H. D. Scudamore, and Captain J. T. Hamlyn were all passengers. The mails were delivered at 6 p.m. on June the 30th. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Services R.M.S. "Port Antonio," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Tuesday, June 21st. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received per R.M.S. "Orinoco."

#### Antigua—Weather too Dry.

(Hon. A. ST. G. SPOONER) June 15th. The young canes were holding out very fairly so far, but their growth was retarded by the weather, which was very dry and windy, only 8 to 12 inches of rain having fallen since the new year. Muscovado sugar was fetching \$1.75, but there were no offers for molasses. An outlet for this article was badly needed, and possibly it might be found in the manufacture of Molascuit, if the necessary plant could be introduced. Every estate had both constituents for the manufacture of this commodity in abundance this crop.



**Barbados—The Legislative Session Opened.**

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEVINE) June 17th—The Legislative Session was opened by the Governor on June 14th. In his speech, which is fully reported in the local press, he referred to the improved state of the finances of the Island, the continuance of the Plantations-in-Aid Act, the Quarantine Commission, the Railway, and many other items of interest.

With reference to the £80,000 Grant-in-Aid, he said that he had placed a scheme for central factories in the hands of the Secretary of State for consideration when the time arrived, but the best ways of finally dealing with the Grant could not be taken into consideration until it was on the eve of becoming available.

The Secretary of State had disallowed the Act assented to on February 8th for the payment of £250 to the Solicitor-General on the grounds that it was a law not embodying any principle, but authorising the payment from public funds of a particular sum of money to a particular man, and attaching a salary to a particular office not in virtue of the duties of that office, but in respect of certain conditions which had no connection with its specific duties.

Only a few light showers had fallen during the past six weeks, so that general rains would be welcome to all except those who had not yet finished crop, of whom there would be very few after the present week. The good yield had continued up to the end, and many estates had made record crops. The young canes as a rule were green and vigorous, but in some parts of St. Philip they were showing signs of distress, and in that parish rain was badly wanted. Prices had declined 15 cents per 100 lbs., but molasses had made a slight advance of 1 cent per gallon. Provision crops were full of promise, and there should be a fair crop of corn and potatoes in the next few months. No large increase in acreage under cotton was anticipated, though it would undoubtedly exceed last year's. Bananas were doing well. June 8th was duly observed as Commemoration Day at Codrington College.

**British Guiana—Mr. Duncan elected M.C.P.**

(A. SUMMERSON, Esq.) June 15th—No meetings of the Legislature were held during the fortnight. Mr. R. G. Duncan was elected Member of the Court of Policy for the North-Western Essequibo district on June 6th by a majority of 108 (Duncan 153, Mendonca 45).

The weather during the fortnight had been too wet in Essequibo and Demerara. In the Berbice River district it had been showery and favourable, while on the Corentyne Coast it had been too dry and showers were needed.

Sales of refining crystals had been made at \$2 75, the market having gone back.

**Grenada—The Agricultural Society.**

(W. E. BROADWAY, Esq.) June 16th—The purchase of cotton seed from the Botanic station had been very limited, and upwards of 1000 lbs. were awaiting purchasers. The constant reply of the peasantry to persuasion to grow cotton was, that they believed more in cane, and that if there were a few sugar mills about they would then eagerly plant canes. Ginning during the past week has been carried on at Mr. L. R. Mitchell's cotton ginning and boiling factory, St. George's, the material coming principally from Carriacou. Mr. Mitchell was advertising in the local press that he "would undertake to gin and furnish materials for packing, including delivery to agents for shipment, for the sum of three farthings per lb. lint," and that "special terms would be made with small growers in Carriacou and the Grenadines."

Mr. C. F. Anton, late Treasurer, had been appointed Secretary of the newly formed Agricultural and Commercial Society of Grenada. The President was the Hon. C. Macaulay Browne, C.M.G., and the two Vice-Presidents were the Hon. D. S. de Freitas, our Hon. Correspondent in Grenada (now visiting England), who represented the purely agricultural or planting interests, and Mr. P. J. Dean (of Messrs. Martin, Dean & Co.), representing the interests of the merchants. Mr. Macaulay Browne was leaving for England on June 17th.

During the past fortnight high winds had prevailed, accompanied by much rain, but no reports had been received that damage to any extent had been done by the wind in any part of the Colony.

(P. J. DEAN, Esq.) June 16th—The prospects of early pickings of cocoa in September and October were encouraging. Last year's crop had already been exceeded by 1000 bags, and there seemed some prospect of the total being more than 65,000 bags.

**Jamaica—The Heavy Rains.**

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq.) June 13th—Heavy seasons had been experienced during the past week. These rains had been general all over the Island, and had been accompanied by high winds. The seasons were not yet over. The Island telegraph had been interrupted, and the railway line damaged to some extent. Cultivation had suffered to a certain extent from the heavy rains, but as far as could be ascertained the damage had not been any more than ordinarily accompanied regular seasons, and if no more came, the good result from the rains would far outweigh the damage done. Cotton figured for the first time in the Colony's exports, the quantity being 1348 lbs.

**Montserrat—Distribution of Cotton Seed.**

(CONRAD WATSON, Esq.) June 14th.—Rain was badly wanted, the weather being so dry that land could not be cultivated for planting cotton. The selected cotton seed obtained by the Imperial Department of Agriculture had arrived, and had been distributed to those who had applied for it.

**Nevis—Rain much Needed.**

(Hon. C. A. SHANN) June 13th.—The weather had continued exceptionally dry, and rain was much needed to render it possible for the cotton crop, 1905, to be established. A large acreage was being prepared, and considering the satisfactory results attained by the initial shipments, there was every prospect of this new industry having come to stay. The dry weather had enabled planters to make good progress in the sugar crop, and the advance in price was an incentive to the increase of the present area of cultivation.

The Agricultural Society was flourishing, and at a meeting on June 9th, seventeen members were present, a good number, considering that most were busy with crop operations. Two new members were elected, and sub-committees appointed to arrange for the Agricultural Show, January, 1905, prepare the prize lists, and select a suitable site. In Nevis, where peasant proprietors had become so large a factor in the prosperity of the Island, and were devoting their attention to the development of new industries and stock raising of all sorts, an Agricultural Show could not fail to be productive of most valuable results. As the mail closed, a heavy shower of rain was falling.

**St. Kitts—Death of the United States Consul.**

(CHARLES A. SMITH, Esq.) June 14th.—The Island had sustained a sad loss in the death of the United States consul, Dr. J. Haven, during his tenure of office. The hospitality of the Doctor and his accomplished partner were recognised throughout the West Indies. His remains went to Chicago.

The weather continued dry with high winds, and the crops were rapidly nearing completion. A few light showers would, however, be welcome for the young crop, and for the establishment of green dressings.

**St. Vincent—The Eruption Relief Fund.**

(Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co.) June 17th.—No positive news had yet been published concerning the suggestions made by the Committee appointed by the Governor to make suggestions regarding the disposal of the £25,000 balance of the monies subscribed by the British public and others for the relief of the sufferers from the volcanic eruptions. Mr. John G. Hazel, who was a member of this Committee, retired after the second meeting, in consequence of the refusal of the Chairman to place on the suggestion paper a motion, made and seconded, suggesting that £3,000 of the £25,000 should be devoted to the re-establishment of the water supply in the Carib country. Hardly any portion of the money had been spent towards the recovery of that portion of the Island, which had been computed at one third, where the land was most productive, comprising on the north side of the mountain that extensive acreage alluded to by Captain Young in his report, which he strongly advised the Government to acquire. Mr. Hazel was strongly of opinion that a goodly portion of the surplus in hand should be spent in recovering the devastated portion of the Island, the undulating lands of the Carib country, which had in the past figured as the back-bone of industry and trade, and furnished employment to hundreds of labourers. He strongly disapproved of part of this fund, which was subscribed for the relief of sufferers, being devoted to such purposes as the building of a library.

The weather continued unsettled and unseasonable. Most of the estates had finished their crops, but the yield this year of sugar and arrowroot generally had been disappointing.

The *St. Vincent Government Gazette* for June 9th, gives the following statement of Expenditure for the Soufriere Eruption Fund to April 30th 1904

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1. Burying dead bodies ... ..	172	18	0	16. Compensation to Crown Land Holders	1625	7	10
2. .. .. stock ... ..	37	18	7	17. Erection of Camden Park Bridge ...	408	14	8
3. Medical Aid ... ..	589	15	7	18. Gratuities for Special Services... ..	350	2	2
4. Clothing ... ..	497	3	5	19. Sum transferred to Special Fund to be expended on Experimental Cotton Cultivation ... ..	2000	0	0
5. Food and Doles, and Distribution Expenses ... ..	7256	17	6	20. Sum transferred to Special Fund for Establishment of a Fruit and Vegetable Service between this Colony and Grenada ... ..	120	0	0
6. Temporary Shelter ... ..	603	1	0	21. Miscellaneous (this includes, Cost of Telegrams £209 0 3; Captain Young's expenses £274 5 0; Cost of remitting £25,000 for investment £250 0 0). ... ..	1129	5	11
7. Landing and storing Supplies ... ..	110	10	8				
8. Transport of Supplies ... ..	226	3	1				
9. Purchase of land for persons who lived near the Volcano ... ..	4244	12	5				
10. Purchase of Materials for Houses on acquired lands and cost of erection... ..	13,743	7	10				
11. Relief works, roads, &c ... ..	4258	17	10				
12. .. .. Georgetown Waterworks	10	11	3				
13. Pay of Special Constables ... ..	15	18	0				
14. Compensation for Losses ... ..	3540	10	2				
15. Settlement of Claims for Losses ... ..	6120	15	4				
					17,062	11	3

**Trinidad—Confidence in the Cacao Industry.**

Hon. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C M G) June 17th. The Agricultural Society, on June 15th, received most favourably the proposals for holding a Colonial Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in 1905, and resolved to bring the matter before the Legislative Council with a view to a vote in aid. Both the Acting Governor and the Acting Colonial Secretary



expressed keenest interest in the subject, and would do their best to make Trinidad's exhibit a credit to the Colony, should the Exhibition actually take place

No change had taken place in Venezuelan affairs since the last mail

The wet season might be said to have set in: heavy showers were rather more frequent than during the past two months, and spells of dry, breezy days continued. All the sugar factories had ceased grinding the canes, and were now finishing with the boiling. Alternate sunshine and shower had kept the cacao plantations bearing much later than usual, and fair deliveries were still made. The continued Continental demand at present low prices had kept the market very firm for ordinary grades, and in spite of the fair deliveries, there seemed little prospect of the prices declining. Sales had been made at 55 cents c/f Havre, but buyers declined to repeat the purchase. Local prices might be quoted at \$12.20 for "Ordinary," and \$12.30 to \$12.40 for "Estates," according to quality. The supply of Venezuelan had fallen off considerably, but prices remained the same as last reported.

That great confidence was felt in the Trinidad cacao industry was manifested by the number of strangers who had already invested, or were seeking to invest capital in it. Some important investments of the kind had been made quite recently, and early in the month the "La Concord" estate in the ward of Manzanilla, with an acreage of 336, and containing about 60,000 bearing trees, with a fair quantity of young trees not yet bearing, the property of Mr. Charlene, deceased, had been sold to two resident Trinidadians for \$96,184.

(EDGAR TRIPP, Esq.) June 16th —Banana cultivation was finding increasing favour in the eyes of persons seeking new local industries.

		West Indian Securities.			Price.
Colonial Government Inscribed Securities		Antigua, 4 per cent. ... ..	Redeemable 1919-44 ...	---	101-103
		Barbados, 3½ per cent. ... ..	.. 1925-42 ...	---	98-100
		British Guiana, 4 per cent. ... ..	.. 1935 ...	---	106-108
		Grenada, 4 per cent. ... ..	.. 1917-42 ...	---	101-103
		Jamaica, 4 per cent. ... ..	.. 1934 ...	---	106-108
		St. Lucia, 4 per cent. ... ..	.. 1919-44 ...	---	101-103
		Trinidad, 4 per cent. ... ..	.. 1917-42 ...	---	101-103
		Miscellaneous Securities.			
Percent Amount.	Stock or Share.		Date.	Dividend.	
100,000	20	Colonial Bank ... ..	£6	6 %	41-51
15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ... ..	60	—	25-27
250,000.	Stock.	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4% 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4½ %	82-86
325,000	Stock.	New Colonial Co., Ltd. 4% 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4 %	70-72xd
46,874	5	" " " " 5% Non-Cum. Pref. ... ..	5	5 %	3-4
360,700.	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb. ...	100	6 %	91-97xd
70,000.	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company 4% Perpetual Deb. Stock	100	4 %	96-98
31,250	10	" " " " " Extension Preference...	10	4 %	7-8
115,000	Stock.	" " " " " 7% Preference ... ..	100	Nil.	88-93
165,000.	Stock	" " " " " Original Stock ... ..	100	Nil.	15-20
81,800	100	Direct West India Cable Co. 4½% Reg. Debts. (within Nos 1 to 1200) red. ... ..	100	4½ %	99-101xd
60,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ... ..	£2 10 0	6 %	—
54,700.	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4½% 1st Mtge. Deb. (within 1 to 1200) red. ... ..	100	4½ %	99-101xd
50,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. ... ..	5	5 %	—
80,000.	100	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. 5% Deb ... ..	100	5 %	101-104
34,563	10	" " " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref. ... ..	10	8s.	6½-6¾
4,669	10	" " " " " " 2nd " ... ..	10	—	5-6
88,321	10	" " " " " Ordinary ... ..	10	—	8-½

Bank of England rate 3% (changed from 3½% on April 22nd, 1904). 2½% Consols, 90¼. (4.7.04.)

#### West Indian Sisal Company, Ltd.

Registered on June 17th, by Wainwright & Pollock, 1 Church Court, Clement's Lane, E.C., with a capital of £6000, in £1 shares. Objects: To acquire and develop the property now owned by the West Caicos Sisal Hemp Company in the West Indies (such property consisting of about 3768 acres in the Island of Caicos, held in fee simple from the Crown), with the business of sisal producers and merchants carried on by the said company, to grow, manufacture, prepare for market, import, export, and deal in sisal, ramie, cotton and other fibrous substances, and to carry on the general business of planters, shippers, merchants, storekeepers, etc. No initial public issue of shares. Issues of £15,000 First and £25,000 Second Mortgage Debentures are contemplated, and the First Debentures are offered to the public. Minimum Debenture subscription, £10,000. Trustees for the First Mortgage Debenture-holders: Earl Kilmorey and the Hon. L. M. O'Brien. The first directors are R. G. Lee and C. C. Penney. Qualification (except directors appointed by signatories), £100 First Mortgage Debentures. Remuneration, £100 each per annum. Registered office, 1 Church court, Clement's Lane, E.C.

**Weather Telegrams.**

**British Guiana** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), June 29th. "Fine and favourable for growing crop." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ended June 15th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "Heavy rain with squalls for three days, weather clearing." **KINGSTON**: Idem.

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.	Cotton.
	Hhds.	lbs.	Tons.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.	lbs.
<b>Barbados—</b>									
Jan. 1 to June 16, '04	29,208	—	—	—	—	34,041	—	—	—
.. .. 16, '03	18,664	—	—	—	—	21,110	—	—	—
<b>British Guiana—</b>	Tons.								
Jan. 1 to June 14, '04	27,207	33,987	1771	9171	152,540	441	33,091	4506	—
.. .. 16, '03	43,938	58,802	115	11,285	4582	3380	36,701	4105	—
<b>Jamaica—</b>		Cwts.	Cwts.	Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.	
Apr. 1 to May 28, '04	2823	4666	6569	477,312	502,530	2979	179,650	399,900	1348
.. .. 30, '03	5040	5383	7687	416,520	4,647,652	3269	2,988,824	765,500	—
<b>Trinidad—</b>	Hags.	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.	Trcs.	lbs.	Copra.
Jan. 1 to June 16, '04	362,871	26,686,940	52,795	75	3,892,425	1309	29	89	58,220
.. .. 16, '03	325,801	22,660,380	34,920	158	6,082,627	2308	147	140	8384
<b>Grenada—</b>		Bags.	lbs.	½ Bris.	Cases		Hags.	Cotton Seed.	Cotton.
Sept. 30 to June 16, '04	—	64,064	2864	463	365		81	6303	983
.. 30 .. 16, '03	—	59,938	2982	519	710		62	6281	865

**The Mails.**

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco," June 30th, 1904: Barbados.**—Capt W. H. Owen, R.N.R., Dr. H. G. Boyle, Miss E. Alleyne, Mr. F. W. Fitzgerald, Mr. W. Meal, Mr. R. W. M. Colson, Mr. E. B. and Mrs. Skeete, Miss C. G. Skeete, Mr. E. L. Skeete, Rev. Canon Bindley, Mr. C. S. and Mrs. Kysh. **Demetara.**—Mr. E. Rae Davson, Mr. J. G. Henriques, Mr. C. A. Comach, Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez, Mr. C. O. and Mrs. Rainer, Mr. W. Douglas, Mr. H. J. Taylor, Mr. A. P. Sherlock, Mr. W. Chapman. **Jamaica,** Capt S. Smeeton, U.S.O., Mrs. and Miss Smeeton, Mr. and Mrs. Lyon Hall, Mrs. Dewar, Mr. H. Hoskins, Lieut. P. & Beckett, Mr. L. J. Stone, Mr. and Miss Hitchins, Mr. F. R. Ward, Mr. Greenway, Rev. and Mrs. Baillie, Mrs. Reed, Miss Joseph, Mr. T. N. Aguilar, Mr. A. S. Aguilar, Miss Aguilar, Mrs. and Miss Constantine, Mrs. Plaxton, Mr. W. Gillard, Miss L. Williams. **Trinidad.**—Mr. Frank Bullen, F.R.G.S., Miss Taylor, Mr. A. E. Dussek, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Schoener, Mr. and Mrs. Glendinning, Mrs. Mole, Mr. and Mrs. Arbuckle, Capt Hamlyn, Mr. and Mrs. McLeod, Mr. Norgayray, Mr. F. Molina, Mr. H. D. Scudamore, Mr. S. Haynes, Mr. Carston, Mr. Blackie, Mrs. Doonly, Rev. Canon Knight, Mr. Biden, Dr. G. D. Cooper, Mr. Duncanson. **Dominica,**—Mrs. E. A. Agar, Mrs. Ogilvy. **Grenada.**—Hon. C. M. Browne, C.M.G., Mrs. Browne, Mr. J. W. Cathcart, Mr. P. Henderson. **St. Lucia,** Hon. E. M. DuBoulay.

**Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," July 6th, 1904: Barbados.**—Capt and Mrs. Hazleton, Lieut. Petterson, R.N.R. **Demetara.**—Mr. S. Oliver. **Jamaica.**—Mrs. and Miss Eve, Rev. W. and Miss Kilburn, Miss Hemingway, Mrs. R. Andrews, Miss McCrea, Mr. N. Frederick. **Trinidad.**—Mr. L. Medina. **Antigua.**—Mr. and Mrs. McDonald.

**Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," July 20th, 1904: Barbados.**—Dr. and Mrs. W. K. Chandler, Mrs. C. F. Hoad. **Trinidad.**—Mr. J. Stewart, Mr. A. Russell.

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," June 21st, 1904: Jamaica.**—Lieut. and Mrs. Cox, Major Ditmas, Miss E. Dyce, Mr. Gillies, Miss Graham, Mr. J. Henderson, Mrs. D. Henderson, Capt Hauch, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. J. M. Jennings, Col., Mrs. and Miss Kenny, Mrs. Lawson, Mr. and Mrs. MacLavery, Miss Marie Solomon, Mr. Sherlock, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, Mr. R. Thomson, Lieut. and Mrs. Wallace, Major and Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Clarke, Miss Europe, Miss Facey, Mr. Lusan, Mr. Mitchell.

**Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," July 2nd, 1904: Jamaica.**—Master Buckley, Lieut. Bull, Mrs. McCrea, Rev. J. F. Gartshore, Mr. B. Hutchinson, Capt. Hauck, Mr. and Mrs. Nippiard, two Misses Phillips, Mr. J. O'H. Pearman, Dr. A. W. Thomson, Sergt. Cotter, Mr. E. Wright, Mr. J. Lewis, Mr. A. W. T. Minchin.



## The Produce Markets Summary.

**Sugar.**—We have now completed nine months of the season 1903-4, starting from the 1st October last, and the course of prices, with the usual fluctuations incidental to a market ruled by dealings in time bargains, has been, on the whole, satisfactory. We commenced the season with 88% beet at 8s. 9d. It has now reached 9s. 4½d., with every indication later on of attaining 10s., a price that is necessary if profits are to be made in the Beet industry as also in that of Cane Sugar. The most interesting feature has been the great increase in consumption on the Continent where Sugar is no longer at a prohibitive price, and with the abundant fruit crops in Europe and possibly in America, the remaining three important months of the season should add materially to this increase, and secure the figure of 1,000,000 tons generally accepted as the excess in consumption over last year. If this is reached we start the season of 1904-5 in October next in an undoubtedly sound position, which should furnish us with a minimum average of 10s. for the twelve months, and as much more as the vicissitudes of a market like Sugar will justify.

All sorts of opinions are hazarded about America having to come to Europe for Sugar, which possibly she may. Her orders would be acceptable, as we have quite enough on this side of the Atlantic. Purchases for this destination, if made to any large extent, would doubtless influence prices in a favourable direction whilst they were being executed, but after all it would be only a transfer of Sugar from Europe to America, and would not ultimately affect the visible supply on the 1st October next, which will probably stand at the ample figure of 1,000,000 tons. If this view is a correct one, it seems probable that the better prices will display themselves later in the year and during next spring and summer, rather than during the next few months. There is ample of Sugar to go round for the rest of this season, and in three months time we shall have the new beet root crops available. Welcome as an immediate rise would be, it is perhaps wiser not to expect it too soon, for if any shortage of supplies should take place for 1904-5 it would be only in the second half of the period that this deficiency, if it arises, would make itself felt.

The market fluctuates every hour. The moments quotations of 88% are:—July 9s. 4½d., Aug. 9s. 5½d., Oct./Dec. 9s. 6d., Jan./Mar. 9s. 8d., and May 9s. 10½d., all free on board Hamburg.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America on uneven dates are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	Tons
Europe	2,180,000	2,200,000	2,330,000	1,450,000	1,310,000	
United States	210,000	320,000	130,000	290,000	150,000	
Cuba	150,000	340,000	410,000	130,000	40,000	
Cargoes afloat	20,000	30,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,560,000</b>	<b>2,890,000</b>	<b>2,880,000</b>	<b>1,880,000</b>	<b>1,510,000</b>	

Comparative prices of 88% Beet for 5 years:—  
 1904 9s. 4½d., 1903 7s. 9½d., 1902 5s. 11½d., 1901 9s. 3d., 1900 11s. 5½d.

**Vacuum Pan Sugar.**—Moderate sales only have been made of Crystallised during the fortnight, the Trade still working on the large purchases made in April and May. These must be now coming to an end, and more business may soon be expected. In the meantime prices remain steady with a general range of 15s. 6d. to 16s. 6d., average qualities standing at 15s. 9d. A cargo of 96 test should command 10s. 3d. on floating terms.

**Molasses Sugar.**—Is still in good demand from 11s. 6d. to 15s., and is scarce.

**Muscovado.**—Very little doing in grocery on the spot. For 89 test to out-port refiners, 9s. 3d. on floating terms should now be obtainable.

**West India figures since 1st Jan. 1904**

	1904	1903	1902	1901	Tons
Imports to date	30,000	16,000	40,000	38,000	
Deliveries	23,000	21,000	21,000	20,000	
Stocks	18,000	24,000	31,000	27,000	

**Rum.**—Stocks in London:

	1904	1903	1902	1901	Puns.
Jamaica	9800	9300	9600	9400	
Demerara	10,500	7700	9000	7900	
Total of all kinds:—	28,360	26,742			Excess 1618 Puns.

The Demerara market remains stagnant with large quantities of last seasons crop still offering at 7d., a price which does not attract buyers in the face of probable early arrivals of summer Rum. One small fine mark recently sold at 8½d. Jamaica also is dull with a quotation of 1s. 9½d. for fair Standard Home Trade Marks, not too easily obtainable, however. Leewards remain nominally 7d. to 10d. There is no improvement to note in Consumption, nor is any expected till the autumn and winter.

**Cocon.**—Stocks in London:

	1904	1903	1902	1901	Bags
	95,000	81,000	62,000	104,000	

The tone of the market continues dull, but prices are fairly steady. At this special season of the year activity is not looked for, but later on there must be more business. Crops are abundant and supplies fully equal to all requirements. The small business recently done in West India kinds has been at the following quotations: Trinidad, fair collected, 58s.; Estate Marks, 58s. to 62s.; Grenada fair Native, 54s.; and fermented, 56s. to 57s. From other Islands fermented has sold from 53s. to 58s., and Native 50s. to 57s. The nominal quotation for African to arrive is 58s. on full landed terms.

**Coffee.**—Irregular. Good ordinary Jamaica is quoted 36s. and Santos for this month's delivery 33s. 1½d.

**Nutmegs.**—About steady. Sales of West India at 2s. 7d. for 54's, 100's at 8½d.; 150's at 5d.; and in shell 5d. to 5½d. **Black.**—Easier, good pale sold at 1s. 7d. to 1s. 8d., red 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d., with broken 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. **Pimento.**—Very difficult of sale at 2½d. for fair. **Guinger.**—Dull, fair bright realised 44s. to 46s.; middling to good middling 40s. 6d. to 43s. 6d., ordinary 34s., small and dark 31s. to 32s.

**Arrowroot.**—Slow of sale, and only small transactions in manufacturing at 1½d.

Stocks in London 1st June:

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
	9922	11,282	8604	10,878	11,340

Barrels.

**Lime Juice.**—Firm at 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. Concentrated value £13 10s. Distilled oil unchanged at 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d. Hand pressed no alteration, value 2s. 9d. to 3s. 3d.

For Cotton, see Special Article, page 265.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

# The . . . West India Committee Circular

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## OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XVII.



Sir Frederic M. Hodgson, K.C.M.G.,  
Governor of British Guiana.

Sir F. Hodgson was, in 1882, Postmaster-General of the Colony to which he now returns as Governor. In 1888 he was appointed Colonial Secretary of the Gold Coast, and Governor of that Colony in 1898. He has been Governor of Barbados since 1900.

## Our New Governors.

During the past fortnight, the game of General Post with our Governors has proceeded with remarkably activity. We do not propose at the present time to discuss the merits of the new appointments. Time alone will show how far they are justified. Meanwhile, we desire to convey to the new Governors our heartiest good wishes and hopes that their tenure of office may be marked by the increasing prosperity of our West Indian Colonies.

The following is a list of the present Governors and Administrators of the West Indian Colonies, the new appointments being denoted by an asterisk.

JAMAICA	Sir J. Alex. Swettenham, K.C.M.G.*
TURKS & CAICOS IS.	William Douglas Young, Esq.
BRITISH HONDURAS	E. B. Sweet Escott, Esq., C.M.G.*
BRITISH GUIANA	Sir Frederic M. Hodgson, K.C.M.G.*
BAHAMA ISLANDS	Vacant
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	Sir Henry M. Jackson, K.C.M.G.*
BARBADOS	Sir Gilbert T. Carter, K.C.M.G.*
WINDWARD ISLANDS—	
GRENADA	Sir Robert B. Llewelyn, K.C.M.G.
ST. VINCENT	Edward J. Cameron, Esq.
ST. LUCIA	Sir George Melville, K.C.M.G.
LEEWARD ISLANDS—	
ANTIGUA	Sir C. Courtenay Knollys, K.C.M.G.*
MONTSERRAT	F. H. Watkins, Esq., I.S.O.
ST. KITTS-NEVIS	Robert Bromley, Esq.*
VIRGIN ISLANDS	N. G. Cookman, Esq.
DOMINICA	H. Hesketh Bell, Esq., C.M.G.
BERMUDA ISLANDS	Lt.-Gen. Sir H. L. Geary, K.C.B.



### The Sugar Crops of the World.

The following estimate of the entire sugar production of the world is given in Messrs. Willett & Gray's current Circular, dated July 30th. The compilers of this table have included those crops which have hitherto been ignored in statistics, and the figures include local consumption of home production wherever known.

	1903-04.	1902-03.	1901-02.	1900-01.
United States—Louisiana	215,000	300,000	321,676	270,338
Porto Rico	126,000	85,000	85,000	80,000
Hawaiian Islands	343,000	391,062	317,509	321,462
Cuba, <i>crop</i>	1,000,000	998,878	850,181	635,856
British West Indies—Trinidad, <i>exports</i>	49,000	45,000	51,077	52,673
Barbados, <i>exports</i>	70,000	33,000	43,750	55,360
Jamaica, <i>exports</i>	13,058	18,772	15,843	17,059
Antigua and St. Kitts	19,000	18,000	19,000	21,579
French West Indies—Martinique, <i>exports</i>	25,000	29,035	34,942	39,750
Guadeloupe	40,000	38,000	41,000	39,000
Danish West Indies—St. Croix	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
Haiti and San Dominigo	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
Lesser Antilles, not named above	13,000	12,000	15,000	15,000
Mexico, <i>crop</i>	120,000	112,679	103,110	95,000
Central America—Guatemala, <i>crop</i>	10,000	10,000	10,000	9,000
San Salvador, <i>crop</i>	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Nicaragua, <i>crop</i>	4,000	4,500	4,500	3,500
Costa Rica, <i>crop</i>	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
South America—British Guiana (Demerara) <i>exports</i>	125,000	121,570	123,967	84,559
Dutch Guiana (Surinam) <i>crop</i>	13,000	13,046	12,750	13,000
Venezuela	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Peru, <i>crop</i>	140,000	140,000	138,000	135,000
Argentine Republic, <i>crop</i>	140,719	130,000	135,000	114,252
Brazil, <i>crop</i>	227,000	187,500	349,088	308,011
<b>Total in America</b>	<b>2,762,777</b>	<b>2,758,042</b>	<b>2,741,393</b>	<b>2,380,399</b>
Asia—British India, <i>exports</i>	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Siam (consignment, 30,000 tons, mostly imported)	—	—	—	—
Java, <i>crop</i>	885,561	842,812	767,130	709,928
Japan (consignment 170,000 tons, mostly imported)	—	—	—	—
Philippine Islands, <i>exports</i>	100,000	90,000	78,637	55,400
China (consignment large, mostly imported)	—	—	—	—
<b>Total in Asia</b>	<b>1,000,561</b>	<b>947,812</b>	<b>860,767</b>	<b>780,328</b>
Australia and Polynesia—Queensland	94,000	76,626	120,858	92,554
New South Wales	20,000	21,000	18,000	19,000
Fiji Islands, <i>exports</i>	50,000	35,500	31,000	33,000
<b>Total in Australia and Polynesia</b>	<b>164,000</b>	<b>133,126</b>	<b>169,858</b>	<b>144,554</b>
Africa—Egypt, <i>crop</i>	90,000	87,500	98,000	94,880
Mauritius	205,000	150,349	147,828	175,267
Reunion	25,000	39,624	33,098	42,631
<b>Total in Africa</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>277,473</b>	<b>278,926</b>	<b>312,778</b>
Europe—Spain	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000
<b>Total cane sugar production (W. &amp; G.)</b>	<b>4,275,338</b>	<b>4,144,453</b>	<b>4,078,944</b>	<b>3,646,059</b>
Europe beet sugar production (F. O. Licht)	5,850,000	5,552,167	6,760,356	5,990,089
United States beet sugar production (W. & G.)	208,135	195,463	163,126	76,859
<b>Grand total, cane and beet sugar—Tons</b>	<b>10,333,473</b>	<b>9,892,083</b>	<b>11,002,426</b>	<b>9,712,998</b>
Estimated increase in the world's production	441,390	—	—	—

### How Cane Differs from Beet.

Messrs. Crosfields, Ltd., the well-known refiners of cane sugar, have issued a circular giving the text of a letter received from Mr. Richardson, F.I.C., F.C.S., Consulting Chemist and Analyst for Bradford and Dewsbury, with regard to the difference between cane and beet sugar. In this, Mr. Richardson states that before beets were generally known, cane sugar was the only sweetening material used by the householder, and the chemists of the time always used the expression "cane

sugar" as indicative of the chief constituent of the commercial article. When a substance identical with the sweetening principle present in sugar cane was found to exist in other natural products, for example in the cereals—barley, &c.—the chemist still continued to use the term "cane sugar," though it was obviously a misnomer, and when beet sugar came into vogue its amount in the article itself or in the solutions made therefrom was always included under the term "cane sugar." Commercial cane and beet sugars contain absolutely the same sweetening principle, but this is always associated with a small proportion of other substances which communicate a peculiar and indefinable taste, mostly appreciable only to the expert sugar merchant.

"I have before me a good cane sugar and a good beet sugar; both show 99 per cent. of pure sugar, known to the chemist as 'sucrose,' but there remains one per cent. of other substances, which give distinctive tastes to these two articles. In hot liquids, such as freshly-made tea for example, this peculiar and distinctive taste becomes very marked. When one considers how the merest fraction of a fraction of a per cent. of ethers in wines gives a flavour and a 'bouquet,' which enable the connoisseur to at once distinguish between vintages of very different values, it will readily be seen that considerably less than one per cent. of organic material in sugars may communicate very perceptibly different tastes to the expert. Indeed the chemical substances giving the real taste to a variety of foods and beverages are almost always present in very small quantity. This is the case with tea, coffee, cacao, beer, wine and spirits."

## OUR CELEBRITIES,

No. XVIII.



Sir Gerald Strickland, K.C.M.G.,  
Governor of Tasmania.

Sir Gerald Strickland comes of a family whose members have served Crown and Country with hardly any break for twenty-five generations. He is certainly one of the most energetic and painstaking representatives of the King who has ever administered the Government of the Leeward Islands, and such an active Governor can be spared by the West Indies.

Mr. Richardson added that he was in thorough agreement with an article on "Cane *v.* Beet," which appeared in the *Epicure* of March, 1899, from the pen of Mr. Arthur Morris. In this article the following statements appear:—

"All commercial sugars, in fact, are the chemical compound  $C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$ , plus certain commercially inseparable chemical impurities. The difference between cane and beet sugar is thus due to two distinct causes. The more important consists in the proportion of extractives, many of which have a powerful and characteristic taste, found in the molasses, and some of these cling to the refined sugar. It is beyond the refiner's power to prevent it. The other circumstance influencing the taste of beet sugar is the large amount of carbonates of potash and soda which it contains as compared with cane sugar. These carbonates exert indirectly a distinct effect upon the flavour of the sugar.

"That cane and beetroot sugar are practically identical seems to be the very general opinion of well-informed men. There is a difference, and it is all in favour of the product of the cane. A single instance will show that it is not merely a question of prejudice. Alkaline carbonates, even in very small quantities, have a marked effect upon the flavour of many beverages which it is usual to sweeten with sugar. For example, two samples of the same blend of tea, brewed under exactly the same conditions, with the single exception that one is infused with pure water and the other with a solution of carbonate of soda in a thousand parts of water, gives beverages differing widely in taste and in aroma. It follows that tea sweetened with sugar containing



an alkaline carbonate will not be the same beverage as that made with a sugar free from such admixture. The same effect is noticeable in coffee, and in several other sweetened drinks. Thus it is not merely the fancy of the epicure (and that is important enough) that tells him that cane sugar is the superior article."

### Rum as a Source of Power.

Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. F. I. Scard and the Secretary have been nominated to serve on the Joint Committee of the Society of Chemical Industry and of the Chemical Section of the London Chamber of Commerce appointed to consider the possibility of obtaining the use of pure alcohol under certain restrictions for manufacturing purposes without payment of duty.

This special committee was first appointed in 1902 and has among its members Sir William Ramsay, President of the Society of Chemical Industry, and Mr. John C. Umney, President of the Chemical Trade Section of the London Chamber of Commerce.

In committee on the Finance Bill Mr. Sadler intends to move a new clause abolishing the duty on alcohol which has been "suitably denatured and rendered impotent and which is required for motive power, lighting, heating, and manufacturing purposes," and providing that "absolute alcohol shall also be exempt from duty when employed in manufacturing operations where it can be proved to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue that denaturing agents would prevent its use."

### Cotton Growing in the West Indies.

Sir Gerald Strickland and Sir Daniel Morris visited Manchester on July 6th and addressed a meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce on the prospects of Cotton Growing in the West Indies. Sir Alfred Jones, president of the British Cotton Growing Association, occupied the chair, and among those present were Sir Ralph Moor, Mr. Robert Bromley, Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, Mr. Edward R. Davson and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall (representing The West India Committee), Mr. J. E. Newton, Mr. E. Stansfield, Mr. W. Howarth, Mr. Wolstenholme, and Mr. John C. Atkins.

SIR DANIEL MORRIS reminded his hearers that the West Indies 250 years ago supplied nearly 70 per cent of all the cotton that came to this country, and said the reason that state of things did not continue was that sugar gave a much larger profit. But the cotton industry survived in the one small island of Carriacou. Circumstances were favourable to the growing of cotton in the West Indies on a fairly large scale. Firstly, the land in the West Indies was nearly all cleared, and the lie and situation of the land were all favourable to the cultivation of cotton. The soil and climate were specially suitable. The next point was that there was an adequate supply of good labour, and of a class that was much more reliable and decidedly better and cheaper than in the Southern States of America. They found that they could gin the cotton at two-thirds the cost of ginning it in the Sea Islands. He was satisfied that, as far as the planters were concerned, they should within the next few years have put in between twenty and thirty thousand acres of cotton. (Hear, hear). And as there was something like two million acres in the West Indies suitable for cultivation that were not under cultivation, there was room for far greater expansion than people imagined. He hoped the result of a larger knowledge of the subject would be that capitalists would be encouraged to embark in the growing of cotton. There was no reason why spinners should not combine and try to grow their own cotton as well as spin it.

SIR GERALD STRICKLAND said that in the West Indies they naturally wanted as high a price as they could get, but there was something more which the British Cotton Growing Association could assist them in obtaining—they wanted a steady price and not the violent fluctuations of late years, calculated to throw the whole industry into disorder (hear, hear). They wanted the producer and the consumer to be brought into direct contact with each other. He urged upon them the great importance of continuing the work of the Association. They must not drop it even if things were



Photo by AUGUSTUS E. JERVIS.

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THE PALM-FRINGED SHORE OF CHOISEUIL,  
ST. LUCIA.



mending (applause); they must not allow the boom of sugar now going on in the West Indies to crush out their movement. The two businesses could very well be co-ordinated and worked side by side on business lines (hear, hear). Let the philanthropic idea continue, but at the same time let there be a business element behind it; let there be a profit to Lancashire but a greater profit perhaps to the West Indies (applause). He suggested that some co-operative system should be introduced under which buyers should go out from this country to purchase the cotton for cash. Such a system he believed would give confidence to the small farmers, thus leading to an extension of the industry and establishing it on a permanent basis (applause).

Mr. EDWARD R. DAVSON said that he only returned from the West Indies three days ago, and he was very uncertain whether the people of Lancashire fully realised the vast possibilities of the land awaiting development in cotton growing out there, especially in the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Tobago, and British Guiana, where the industry was yet in its infancy. There was still much ignorance in the West Indies regarding all that pertained to cotton growing, and he welcomed the decision of the Association to ask for the appointment of two more experts under the Department of Agriculture who would demonstrate the best sort of cotton to grow and the best way to grow it. He was sure that the money spent by the Association in the West Indies would come back a hundred-fold for the benefit both of the people of Lancashire and the people of the West Indies.

## OUR CELEBRITIES,

No. XIX.



Sir Gilbert T. Carter, K.C.M.G.,  
Governor of Barbados.

Sir Gilbert Carter was born in 1849, and entered the Royal Navy in May, 1864. He served on the Gold Coast during part of the Ashanti Campaign. He was private secretary to the Governor of the Leeward Islands in 1875; Collector of Customs and Treasurer to the Gold Coast in 1879, and Treasurer and Postmaster of Gambia in 1882. He was Governor of Lagos from 1890 to 1896, and has been Governor of the Bahamas since 1898.

On the same day, a meeting of the West Indies section of the British Cotton Growing Association was held, those present being Sir Alfred L. Jones, in the chair, Sir Gerald Strickland, Sir Daniel Morris, Sir Ralph Moore, Mr. Robert Bromley, Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. A. E. Aspinall, Mr. H. Bell, Mr. B. Crapper, Mr. A. H. Gill, Mr. W. Howarth, Mr. J. E. Newton, Mr. E. L. Oliver, Mr. I. C. Waterhouse, Mr. C. Wolstenholme, and Mr. John C. Atkins, secretary. After a long discussion it was decided that it would be very desirable to send out two cotton experts under the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and it was resolved to approach the Colonial Office on the subject.

Mr. Wolstenholme then drew attention to the desirability of aiming at greater uniformity with regard to the size of bales. Bales coming forward from the West Indies measured 170 to 180 feet to the ton weight, and he considered that the measurement should be reduced to 150 feet to the ton weight, and that all tares should be of uniform weight. The Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture promised that this should receive attention. The Members after the discussion of many points affecting the future of the cotton industry then adjourned to the Albion Hotel, where they were entertained at a luncheon by Sir Alfred Jones.

On July 6th, Sir Gerald Strickland and Sir Daniel Morris addressed a meeting held under the auspices of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce at the Exchange Station Hotel.

During the fortnight ended July 14th, 520 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom, sales being effected at the following prices: West Indian, 5.38d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 14½d., fine, 15d., extra fine, 16d. per lb.

### New Members of the West India Committee.

By the election on July 7th of the 32 new members whose names are given below, The West India Committee is brought within **150** of the membership of **1000** to which it is desired to attain. During the present year **241** new members have been elected. Of these, **39** are from Trinidad; **29** from Jamaica; **26** from British Guiana; **18** from St. Lucia; **15** from Barbados; **12** from Dominica; **7** from Grenada; **3** from Antigua; **3** from Montserrat; **3** from St. Kitts; **3** from Tobago; **2** from St. Vincent; and **1** from Nevis.

We hope that our members will, by bringing forward candidates for election, help us to bring the total membership of The West India Committee up to **1000**. The following are the names of those who were elected on July 7th:—

NAME	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
C. BERG, Esq. (St. Thomas)	Audley C. Miles, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
SIR AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING, G.C.M.G.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
E. A. BUGLE, Esq., B.A. (British Guiana)	G. C. A. Wyatt, Esq.	Cecil Morris, Esq.
FREDERICK DRIVER, Esq. (Montserrat)	C. Watson, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
F. H. WATKINS, Esq., I.S.O. (Montserrat)	C. Watson, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
C. A. T. FURSDEN, Esq. (Jamaica)	Edward B. Lynch, Esq.	J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.
THOMAS BOWEN, Esq. (Barbados)	Sam Browne, Esq.	T. Wm. Wilkinson, Esq.
T. SINCLAIR BROWNE, Esq. Barbados)	Sam Browne, Esq.	T. Wm. Wilkinson, Esq.
EDWARD B. SKEETE, Esq. (Barbados)	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne	T. Wm. Wilkinson, Esq.
FRANCIS POTTER, Esq. (Dominica)	Hon. H. A. Nicholls, C.M.G., M.D.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
J. P. TULLOCH, Esq., M.D. (Trinidad)	Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G.	William Gillespie, Esq.
G. B. R. BURTON, Esq., M.A. (Barbados)	Elliot G. Louis, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
REYNOLD A. MAHON, Esq. (Barbados)	Elliot G. Louis, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
V. E. MANTON, Esq. (Jamaica)	Emanuel X. Leon, Esq.	Arthur F. Turnbull, Esq.
CH. C. STOLLMAYER, Esq. (Trinidad)	G. G. Browne, Esq.	H. F. Previté, Esq.
MESSRS. WILLIAM PINK & SONS	R. Rutherford, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
L. R. MITCHELL, Esq. (Grenada)	Cyril Gurney, Esq.	H. A. Trotter, Esq.
WM. MORRIS FLETCHER, Esq. (Dominica)	Abdy F. Anderson, Esq.	Arthur F. Turnbull, Esq.
CARL BOVALLIUS, Esq., Ph.D. (Trinidad)	Sir E. Noël Walker, K.C.M.G.	William Gillespie, Esq.
IVAN B. DAVSON, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.
HON. W. H. STOKER, K.C. (Barbados)	R. Rutherford, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
CAPT. HARRY M. DAVSON, R.H.A.	Sir Henry K. Davson	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.
A. R. C. MALLET, Esq. (Dominica)	Hon. H. A. Nicholls, C.M.G., M.D.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
J. H. HAZELL, SONS & Co. (St. Vincent)	H. H. Dobree, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
W. DEGAZON, Esq. (St. Lucia)	Hon. E. du Boulay	Hon. S. D. Melville.
ROBERT STRANG, Esq. (British Guiana)	A. McConnell, Esq.	Edward R. Davson, Esq.
A. F. PALMER Esq. (St. Lucia)	Hon. E. du Boulay	Hon. S. D. Melville.
W. B. JANGLEY, Esq. (Antigua)	Dr. A. L. Wykham	G. B. Mason, Esq., L.R.C.P.
A. E. DUSSEK, Esq.	E. Tripp, Esq.	William Gillespie, Esq.
EDWARD KEENS, Esq. (Tobago)	Edward R. Davson, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
A. F. C. WEBER, Esq. (British Guiana)	Edward R. Davson, Esq.	E. D. Rowland, Esq., M.B., C.M.
E. L. SKEETE, Esq. (Barbados)	Hon. E. du Boulay	R. Rutherford, Esq.



### The Palm-Fringed Shore of Choiseuil.

The coconut palm has a natural predilection for the sea shore, and is seen at its best on such sandy beaches as that of Choiseuil depicted in our illustration. The palms rise in slender columns to from 60 to 70 feet in height, and standing out as they do clearly defined against the deep blue sky add in no small measure to the exquisite beauty of tropical scenery. Choiseuil is a small town on the leeward coast of St. Lucia, and is reached by a little local steamer of the Royal Mail Company, which plies between Castries, the capital, and Vieuxfort at the southern extremity of the island.

### The Tariff Reform Movement.

Mr. Chamberlain was entertained, on the evening of July 8th, by those members of the House of Commons who are in general sympathy with his policy of preferential trade within the Empire. Sir Herbert Maxwell presided, and the number of Members of Parliament present or being prevented from attending had expressed their sympathy was as many as 200. In reply to the toast of his health, Mr. Chamberlain claimed that the gathering was a demonstration unique in his Parliamentary experience. After a generous tribute to Mr. Balfour, Mr. Chamberlain said that they met as those who were determined, so far as in them lay, to keep the present Government in power as long as

possible and as long as they themselves felt that they could continue to render service to the country. The gathering was a demonstration in favour of an ideal—the consolidation of our race and the union of the British Empire. He was a fiscal reformer mainly because he was an Imperialist. The economic question was a secondary consideration. Commenting on the failure of the predictions of the Manchester school, he pointed out that the whole civilized world had rejected the policy which we had adopted and had prospered under conditions that we were led to believe would bring about absolute ruin. He had come to the conclusion that if we continued to drift much longer we should find it impossible to secure employment for our increasing population. While there was yet time the different parts of the Empire must be drawn more closely together. We must follow the example of the United States and make a united Empire of our distant sister States. The foundations of the Empire of the future must be laid at the present time, for the opportunity might never recur. Let us call the Colonies to our council and make some arrangements, mutually beneficial, which would develop our trade with our best customers and at the same time people and make prosperous the whole Empire. (A full report of Mr. Chamberlain's speech appears in the *Times* of July 9th.)

### OUR CELEBRITIES,

No. XX.



**Sir C. Courtenay Knollys, K.C.M.G.,**  
Governor of the Leeward Islands.

Sir C. C. Knollys was born in 1849, and educated at Magdalen College, Oxford. His Colonial record is as follows: Sub-Receiver, Trinidad, 1874; Auditor-General, Barbados, 1879; Colonial Secretary, Barbados, 1883; Colonial Secretary, Trinidad, 1894.

At an enthusiastic meeting of the Liberal Unionist Council on July 14th, Mr. Chamberlain was elected President, and Lord Lansdowne and Lord Selborne Vice-Presidents. A resolution was then carried to the effect that the council believed that the time had come for a complete reform of our fiscal system, approved of the demand made by the Prime Minister for increased powers to deal with hostile tariffs and the practice of dumping, and expressed its hope that the ties of sympathy which already united the British Empire might be strengthened by a commercial union with the Colonies, based on preferential arrangements between them and the Mother Country.

In the evening a great demonstration was held at the Albert Hall, at which Mr. Chamberlain was the principal speaker. The object of the Liberal Unionist Council which had been reconstituted that day was primarily, he said, the maintenance of the union between England and Ireland under the control of one supreme Parliament. In the present circumstances there was nothing to justify them in laying down their arms or relaxing their vigilance. The Liberal Unionist Council, he continued, was less bigoted than the adherents of a worn-out creed, who refused to inquire into a system which was in vogue sixty years ago. The meeting of the morning had gone a little further than the Prime Minister, and had appealed to the Government to see whether it might not yet be possible to draw the Empire more closely together. As the controversy proceeded two great issues emerged—one as to whether they were always to go on being content to be shut out from foreign markets while welcoming competitors to these shores; the other—to him the one issue of the time—whether they should take advantage of the friendly disposition of their Colonies, and, by a rearrangement of taxation which would add nothing to the cost of living, bring about a closer intercourse with their kinsfolk. The Liberal Unionists of the council appealed to the Government—they did not dictate to them—and they promised them their support if they would march in front of them to victory. Nor did they ask for a hurried decision. They had confidence in the nation. Lord Tennyson moved a resolution expressing confidence in the Government, congratulating them on the recent agreement with France, and approving their fiscal policy. The resolution was carried, and was acknowledged by Lord Lansdowne, who said that it would greatly strengthen the hands of the Prime Minister. He added that he could conceive no more stirring ideal than that which Mr. Chamberlain had submitted. Mr. Lyttelton also acknowledged the resolution, and proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Chamberlain. (A full report of these meetings appears in the *Times* of July 15th.)

### The Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

A meeting of the members of the Advisory Committee of the Crystal Palace Colonial and Indian Exhibition interested in the Crown Colonies was held on July 14th. It was reported that the proposals, a précis of which has already appeared in *The West India Committee Circular*, were being very favourably entertained by the Colonies. As regards the West Indies, Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad have already signified their desire of participating, and we are now waiting to learn what measure of support will be forthcoming from those Colonies before applying for space.

In Barbados the Governor has appointed a Committee to deal with the matter, with the Hon. F. J. Clarke as Chairman, and we hope that the other Colonies desirous of exhibiting will take similar steps.

### Cassava Flour.

The following is a London report upon samples of cassava meal for Jamaica:—"The cassava flour is certainly a very nice article and superior to most of the cassava flour I have had before. My results agreed very closely with yours, viz., starch 77 per cent., and moisture 13 per cent. I suppose your "glucose value" is simply the starch and hydration. This substance would be a suitable material for glucose and should command about 10s. per ton more than Borneo sago flour for this purpose. This would make its market value round about £5 10s. per ton as competing with rough sago and tapioca



flours, but as I mentioned in my last letter the fact that several of the largest glucose makers have put up plant to treat the whole maize, separating oil, husk, gluten, etc., and converting the starch at once into glucose—will make the demand for flours for glucose manufacture less certain. Still I am inclined to think that there should be a market for a limited amount of this flour, and it is quite possible a demand for it for other purposes might arise if the quality were similar to this sample.”

**Colonial Reports—British Honduras.**

The report of Mr. P. C. Cork, the Administrator of the Government of British Honduras, on the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1903, states that the future prospects of the Colony are entirely dependent on the judicious opening up of its fertile land by efficient means of communication. The year under review has been utilised to strengthen the position of the Colony and enable its future prospects to be brightened. The tide of prosperity which commenced in the latter part of the year 1902 continued unabated during the year, and full employment was obtainable by labourers and others. In the Government revenues an increased surplus of \$125,464 remained at the end of the year. The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years.

Revenue.			Expenditure.			
1899	++	\$250,458	1899	---	\$262,413	\$11,955 Deficit.
1900	++	289,727	1900	---	246,201	43,526 Surplus.
1900-1	++	292,689	1900-1	---	249,186	43,503 "
1901-2	---	272,142	1901-2	---	256,910	15,232 "
1902-3	---	259,600	1902-3	---	252,242	7,358 "

**OUR CELEBRITIES,**

No. XXI.



**E. M. Sweet Escott, Esq., C.M.G.,**  
Governor of British Honduras.

Born in 1857, Mr. Escott was educated at Bath, and Balliol, Oxford. He went to Mauritius in 1881, and became Colonial Secretary of British Honduras in 1894. He was made Administrator of the Seychelles in 1899, and Governor in 1903.

**West Indian Club Dinner.**

Sir Nevile Lubbock presided, on July 7th, at the dinner of the West Indian Club given in honour of Sir Henry Jackson, who has just been appointed Governor of Trinidad, and Sir Cavendish Boyle, Governor of Mauritius. Among those present were Lord Stanmore, Sir Augustus Hemming, Sir J. S. Hay, Sir Henry Davson, Hon. Arthur Ponsonby, Hon. Cyril Ponsonby, Sir M. Mitchell Thomson, Hon. J. J. Brown, His Honour Justice St. Aubyn, Mr. W. H. Stoker, K.C., Mr. R. Chamney, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. Chas. Wilson, Mr. J. J. Sabey, Mr. C. W. Stevens, Mr. J. A. Sellers, Mr. Jas. Wilson, Dr. D. Honiball, Mr. W. H. Woodroffe, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. Geo. Christall, Mr. W. M. Thomson, Mr. H. Carter, Mr. V. E. Manton, Mr. R. Rust, Mr. C. G. C. Kerr, Mr. Jas. Miller, Mr. E. E. Barnett, Mr. C. A. Clark, Mr. C. M. Sherlock, Mr. A. M. Sherlock, Mr. B. Norton, Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. J. L. Wingate, Mr. G. A. Morais, Mr. H. Bailey, Mr. J. de Leon, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. Spencer Carpenter, Dr. E. Sturridge, Dr. Davenport, Mr. T. D. Arnott, Mr. W. Morison, Mr. A. Cory Davies, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. W. A. M.

Goode, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. A. Hirsch, Mr. Edward Carpenter, Mr. E. T. Carpenter, Mr. H. Wormald, Mr. F. J. MacLeod, Mr. Ellis Grell, Mr. T. B. Younger, Mr. F. A. Ware, Mr. F. W. Scott, Mr. G. Hughes, Mr. E. Alberga, Mr. H. M. Woodhouse, Mr. A. F. Turnbull, Mr. H. H. Etheridge, Mr. Owen Philipps, and Mr. A. M. Nathan. The chairman, having given the customary loyal toasts, proposed that of "Sir Henry Jackson." He said that there were a great many interests involved in Trinidad, and if any one of these interests were to become supreme and get hold of the reins of government the other interests would show great resentment. Sir Henry Jackson was going out to do justice to all these interests. Sir Henry Jackson, in responding, said he took it as a very high honour to be asked to undertake the government of a Colony which he knew well and to which he was sincerely attached. He was going out with the desire to do the very best he could for the people of Trinidad. Every interest would receive from him the fullest consideration and weight. Sir Cavendish Boyle, in responding to the toast of his health, proposed by Sir Henry Davson, referred to his appointment in the Mauritius and expressed pleasure that he was going back to sugar. From his long colonial experience he had often thought it would be a good thing if they went a little further than Mr. Chamberlain and, beyond thinking imperially, felt colonially. He had been connected with the Colonies for twenty-five years, and the longer he was in them the more he should try to feel colonially. Sir Augustus Hemming and Lord Stanmore were among the subsequent speakers.

### Publications Received.

**THE LOUISIANA PLANTER AND SUGAR MANUFACTURER.** With its issue for July 2nd the *Louisiana Planter and Sugar Manufacturer* enters on the seventeenth year of its existence and presents itself to its readers in an improved form. This well-known Journal is now embellished with several admirable half-tone illustrations.

**KALHELA: A WEST INDIAN STORY.\*** Mr. Bowen tells in verse several stories of which he says in a preface "Thoughtfully founded upon fact are all of them: Fourteen poetic leaves round a prosaic stem!"

The writer evidently disapproves of coolie immigration, and his description of British Guiana as "a land of painful glory," where

"Hun human bees that take the leaven  
From golden field and by unfrugal toil  
Make fat their masters on a foreign soil"

will hardly commend itself to those closely connected with the Colony! But the stories are pretty, though sad, and merit perusal.

**A B.C. OF COTTON PLANTING** (Imperial Department of Agriculture Pamphlet Series No. 31, obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 4d., post free 4½d.) This little book is intended for the use of cotton growers in the West Indies in order to assist them in selecting the right kind of land for growing cotton, and to afford information as to the manner in which the land ought to be treated in order to produce large crops. It also affords hints as to the successive steps to be followed while the cotton is growing, and especially in dealing with the cotton worm and other enemies. In all cases of difficulty, cotton growers are recommended to apply without delay to the local officers of the Department, who are prepared to assist them to the utmost of their power.

**THE AGRICULTURAL NEWS, Vol. III, No. 58** (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 1d., post free, 1½d.) An editorial deals with the treatment of plant diseases. Details are given of a scheme for the improvement of the sugar industry in Jamaica. It is proposed to utilise the £10,000 Grant-in-aid for the establishment of a Department for the conduct of experiments in sugar cane cultivation and rum manufacture. The laboratory is to be enlarged at a cost of £1000; machinery will cost another £1000; another £1000 will be devoted to the installation of a modification of distillery plants on sugar estates; £100 is to be devoted to providing ten scholarships at £10 each for a three weeks course at the laboratory. The cost of running the Department will be £1400 a year, and it is estimated that the Grant will last for six years.

**A NATURALIST IN THE GUIANAS †** Mr. André, a distinguished naturalist, deals in this volume with his journeys up the Caura River, a tributary of the mighty Orinoco. His first visit to the river lasted from September, 1897, until May, 1898, and he was so encouraged by the results of this expedition that in 1900 he again ascended the river, and succeeded in penetrating the interior to within five degrees of the equator. As Mr. J. Scott Keltie points out in the preface, in no region of the world is travelling more full of incident and more prolific in perilous adventure than to the dense tropical forests and along the mighty streams of the still practically virgin areas which form so large a part of the South American Continent. Life at Ciudad-Bolívar is dealt with in one chapter, and an account of the cock-fighting, which is the national sport, and the training of the game-cocks is particularly interesting. From the settlement of La Prision, a fairly large clearing below the Mura Rapids, planted in rice, sugar-cane and tobacco, very important expeditions were made. The furthest point reached was Améha, a mountain which presents an impregnable front. An attempt was made to ascend it, but it failed, and as the river was rising daily and there was some fear of the party being cut off at the falls of Para, they were compelled to return. Then came a chapter of accidents. On April 27th, in a few short seconds the work of months was lost, the bigger of the two

\* *Kalhela: A West Indian Story*, by Charles Inniss Bowen. London, 1904: The Walter Scott Publishing Co., Ltd. 1/- net.

† *A Naturalist in the Guianas*, by Eugène André, F.R.G.S., F.Z.S., M.S.A. London: Messrs. Smith, Elder & Co. 14/- net.



boats of the expedition was wrecked and the collection of birds, trophies, samples, &c., collected on the journey up and at Amcha, and, most valuable of all, the author's writing case and journal containing extensive notes and a series of views of Amcha, Arichi and Arawa were gone for ever. The closing chapters deal with the return of the party, sick and weary, with only one boat so small that part of the men had to tramp through the forest to meet the others at nightfall. At last, the two parties were compelled to separate.

"Hallooing a last adieu to the poor fellows standing on the rocks to see us off, who had many a weary mile of fever-breeding forest to tramp through, we were carried away by the swift current and soon lost sight of them."

The survivors, who numbered six only, reached La Prison on May 25th, but nothing more has since been heard of the other members of that ill-fated expedition. A map is given showing the routes of the expedition, and there are also thirty-two excellent illustrations from photographs and two coloured plates. A comparison between two portraits of the author, before and after the expedition, helps to make one realise the terrible privations he and his little band suffered.

### West Indian Civil Service.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making the following table of movements of civil servants in, and connected with, the British West Indies as full and complete as possible. The following appointments have been gazetted:—

Sir Gerald Strickland, K.C.M.G. (Governor of the Leeward Islands), to be Governor of Tasmania, on the retirement of Sir Arthur Havelock, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.

Sir James Alexander Swettenham, K.C.M.G. (Governor of British Guiana), to be Governor-in-Chief of Jamaica and its Dependencies, on the retirement of Sir Augustus Hemming, G.C.M.G.

Sir James A. Swettenham was born in 1846, and educated at Clare College, Cambridge. He entered the Ceylon Civil Service in 1868, was appointed Receiver-General of Cyprus in 1881, and returned to Ceylon as Auditor-General in 1891. He became Colonial Secretary of the Straits Settlements in 1895, and was transferred to British Guiana in 1901. We regret that we are unable to give his portrait, indeed we have it on the best authority that there is none extant. We hope the photographers in Jamaica will speedily make good this omission.

Sir Clement Courtenay Knollys, K.C.M.G., at present Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago, to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of the Leeward Islands, in succession to Sir Gerald Strickland, appointed to be Governor of Tasmania.

Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G. (Governor of Barbados) to be Governor of British Guiana, in succession to Sir James Alexander Swettenham, who has been appointed Governor of Jamaica.

Sir Thomas Gilbert Carter, K.C.M.G. (Governor of the Bahama Islands) to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Barbados on the transfer of Sir Frederic Hodgson to the Governorship of British Guiana.

Mr. Robert Bromley, a former Secretary of Mr. Chamberlain, has been appointed Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis in the place of Mr. Charles T. Cox, who succeeds Mr. A. M. Ashmore as Government Secretary of British Guiana.

The Hon. Sydney Olivier, on vacating the post of Colonial Secretary (now administering the Government) of Jamaica, will resume his duties at the Colonial Office.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Leslie Probyn, C.M.G., Secretary to the Administration of the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria, to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Sierra Leone, in succession to Sir Charles King Harman, who has been appointed High Commissioner of Cyprus. Mr. Probyn was formerly Attorney-General of Grenada, where he acted as Colonial Secretary and administered the Government upon several occasions. Sir Charles King Harman was Administrator of St. Lucia from 1897 to 1900.

The Hon. J. J. Comacho and the Hon. Donald McDonald have been appointed Members of the Quarantine Board of Antigua.

Mr. J. S. Udall, B.A., has been appointed Chief Justice of the Colony of the Leeward Islands.

The Hon. W. P. Leacock, Mr. J. C. Lynch, Mr. G. A. Goodman, Mr. J. W. C. Catford, and Mr. B. E. Bynoe have been appointed Members of the Executive Committee, Barbados. During the absence of Mr. J. C. Lynch, Mr. C. J. Greenidge will act in his place.

Mr. E. L. Skeete, Acting Superintendent of Dodd's Reformatory, Barbados, who is at present in this country, has been granted seven months' leave of absence from June 18th. Mr. W. C. Smith is now acting as Superintendent.

Dr. T. S. Browne, Surgeon to the Police, Harbour Police and Fire Brigade, and Medical Assessor of Barbados, has been granted six months' leave of absence from July 1st, during which time Dr. F. C. H. Bowen will act in his stead.

Mr. D. J. Kitchen, Surveyor of Shipping, Barbados, has been given four months' leave from June 30th.

Mr. C. A. Comach, of the Treasury, British Guiana, has been granted leave of absence for six months from June 16th.

Mr. J. Brice and Mr. J. T. Stoute have been appointed members of the Local Board of Guardians for the East Coast Fiscal District, British Guiana.

Mr. W. Morison, Financial Representative for Essequibo, has been granted four months' leave from June 30th.

Mr. E. R. D. Moulder, B.A., has returned to the Colony, and resumed duties as Assistant Master of Queen's College, British Guiana, on the 8th June.

Mr. J. Spencer Hollings has been appointed temporarily and provisionally as Agricultural Instructor in Nevis.

The Hon. E. du Boulay, unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of St. Lucia, has been granted leave of absence from June 18th, and is at present in Paris.

Mr. J. T. Rosseau has been re-appointed Stipendiary Justice of the Peace and Warden of Tobago.

Mr. C. S. Rogers, Forest Officer, Trinidad, has been granted leave of absence from July 1st.

Mr. W. E. Smith, General Manager of Railways in Trinidad has been granted leave of absence from July 2nd Mr. Marwood will act as General Manager and Mr. Morcom as Traffic Manager.

ERRATA—By an unfortunate error Mr. E. J. Cameron was referred to in our last issue as Administrator of Dominica instead of St. Vincent. Mr. H. Hesketh Bell is, of course, the Administrator of Dominica.

### Notes of Interest.

**WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.** Owing to pressure on our space, we are compelled to hold over our usual list of West Indian securities. The Bank rate remains 3% (changed from 3½% on April 22nd, 1904), and Consols (2½%) are quoted 88½ as we go to press.

**SUGAR FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.** An Order in Council dated 23rd June, 1904, has been published, providing, that from and after the 1st August next, all sugar from the Dominican Republic (not including molasses and sugar sweetened products) shall be prohibited to be imported into the United Kingdom, except in transit.

**CANE versus BEET.** In a letter signed "C. H. O.," which appeared in the *Liverpool Courier* of July 9th, there is the following passage: "I wish to say that the largest consumers of sugar, viz., jam makers, sweet makers, &c., prefer cane sugar to beet. I, myself, have had very heavy losses through the impurities contained in the beet sugar."

**"PLUM" TO VISIT WEST INDIES.** We are glad to learn that there is every prospect of another team of English amateur cricketers visiting the West Indies during the coming winter. We understand that Mr. Pelham F. Warner has kindly undertaken to god-father the team, and should his arrangements permit, he will captain the team in the West Indies.

**THE R.M.S. "PORT KINGSTON."** The trial trip of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's new steamer, "Port Kingston," took place on July 12th in brilliant weather. The vessel was first sent over the measured mile, and the speed attained exceeded that which was expected. On the second run she developed a speed of 19 knots, the mean speed being 18.53.

**SUGAR STATISTICS.** A meeting of the Statistical Sub-Committee of The West India Committee was held on July 13th, when it was reported that a satisfactory number of replies had been received to the circular letter of April last, inviting Members to submit statistics of their last crop. It is proposed to circulate these for the private information and mutual benefit of those who furnished the information.

**LATE FEE MAIL LETTERS.** For the convenience of Members wishing to post letters for the outgoing West Indian Mail at the last possible moment, arrangements have been made for a messenger to leave The West India Committee Rooms on the day of the departure of the Mail at 12.30 p.m., with letters for posting at Waterloo Station. All such letters must bear the late fee of 2d., in addition to the ordinary postage.

**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Savan" from London for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad and Demerara, July 27th; S.S. "Chancellor" from Liverpool for St. Lucia, Barbados and Trinidad, July 30th. Letters for Grenada and Trinidad posted on Wednesday, July 20th, and possibly on Saturday, July 23rd, marked "via New York," will go forward by the S.S. "Maraval," from New York, on July 30th, and will be delivered in Grenada on August 8th, and Trinidad on August 9th. The usual postage of 1d. suffices. *Information for publication under this head is invited from Shipping Companies.*

**SUGAR CANE HATS.** We briefly referred in our last issue to the manufacture of straw hats from sugar cane. According to the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, two very smart ladies' hats, the straw of which was remarkably fine, brilliant, and light, were recently brought home from the Island of Reunion. The straw is prepared simply by hand, and is obtained by smoothing out the nerve of the green leaf freshly cut. Monsieur J. Delon, a merchant of Saint Denis, was the first to think of manufacturing from the cane leaf a straw for hats and other objects. An excellent reception has been accorded in France to the new product, which is much in favour at Reunion, and the French manufacturers are disposed to make considerable use of it. Monsieur Delon is endeavouring to find means of mechanically defibrating the leaves; the picking by hand is comparatively onerous and slow.

### The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company is to be congratulated upon the quick voyage of the R.M.S. "Trent." She left Barbados at 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 2nd, and reached Plymouth at 12.15 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13th, and the mails were delivered in London by first post on the following morning. Among the homeward passengers were Colonel the Hon. C. J. Ward, C.M.G.,



Mr. S. Browne, Mr. William Morison, Mr. C. S. Rogers, Mr. W. G. Kay, Mr. A. Cameron and Mr. Carl de Verteuil. Mr. Adam Smith, the Hon. Secretary of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, is also among the visitors to the Mother Country. Antigua, Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis still complained of the drought when the mail left. Our action regarding the Canadian Sugar Bounties appears to meet with general approval in the Colonies. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Services R.M.S. "Port Morant," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Monday, July 4th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received per R.M.S. "Trent."

#### **Antigua—Progress with the Sugar Factory.**

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) June 28th. The severe drought still continued, the rainfall during the fortnight amounting to a few parts only.

The iron building for the new central factory was being erected and the boilers and some of the machinery were on the spot. The Belvidere factory had so far purchased 886 tons of peasant-grown canes, the price paid for them, in May, being 8s 2d per ton. There was little doubt that the quantity of peasant-grown canes would increase considerably, especially if improved methods of haulage were made available for the use of the peasants.

Sugar was at present being sold to local exporters and molasses was finding buyers at 13 cents, package included.

#### **Barbados—Some Record Crops.**

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE) July 1st.—Reaping was all but over, only a few estates having any canes still standing. The yield on most had continued good up to the last, and many of them had made record crops, notably the Belle, Niels, Carrington, Four Square, Hannays, Lower Creys, Lancaster, Blowers, Hampton, Ruby, though no doubt there were many others. This was interesting, because it proved that the seedling canes in a good year would challenge comparison with the Bourbon in its best days, where soil and tillage were good. Shipments had only amounted to about 35,000 hogsheads at the end of that week, so that a great deal of sugar must have been held if the estimated crop had been made. Rain fell to the extent of about one inch on Sunday, June 19th, when the "Orinoco" was leaving and the "La Plata" coming in; and the two ships were in the bay for some hours together. The "La Plata" was rapidly losing her reputation as a slow steamer, but they did not want her out on a Sunday. During the past week there had been some showers, but a good rain of two or three inches was what was wanted, for most of the canes had already had their manure. The young canes were holding well, and the rain on the 19th greatly revived those in St. Philip, but it was high time that heavier rains came on, and it was to be hoped that they were not far off.

The Governor had appointed a Committee of which the writer was a member, and the Hon. F. J. Clarke, chairman, to take steps in the matter of the Colonial Exhibition at the Crystal Palace. Doubtless they would begin work very soon.

The Governor was to receive on Tuesday, July 5th, the reply of the Council to his address. In this, satisfaction was expressed at the successful working of the Plantations-in-Aid scheme, initiated by his Excellency. Thanks were recorded to the Imperial Commissioner for the services rendered in connection with the cotton, banana, and other subsidiary industries, and it was stated that the experiment being made to introduce Barbados sugar, molasses, and rum into the West African markets could not fail, if successful, to be of great advantage to the Colony. Hope was expressed that some means might be found to obviate such a calamity as the stopping of the Railway, and regret that the proposal to employ Barbadian labour in South Africa had been abandoned also found voice. The question of finding employment for the surplus population of the Island gave rise periodically to some anxiety, and it was therefore a pity that so favourable an opportunity as this could not be made use of. It seemed to the Council that, having regard to the standard of the Barbadian labourer, such a scheme would have worked to the advantage of both Colonies.

Mr. William Bowring, a member of The West India Committee, was married on June 29th to Violet Emmeline Ione, eldest daughter of Darnley C. Da Costa, Esq., who is also one of our members.

#### **British Guiana—Prædial Larceny.**

(A. SUMMERSON, Esq.) June 30th.—The weather had been wet in the early part of the fortnight in Demerara and Essequibo. During the past week it had been fine and favourable generally to cultivation. In Berbice it had been showery and favourable, though on the Corentyn coast the showers had been too light.

About 2500 tons of sugar had been sold during the fortnight at prices ranging from \$2 12½ to \$2 17½.

The return of the Crown Lands under cultivation showed a total acreage of 6462 as compared with 5828 at the last inspection. The largest increase had taken place in the Pomeroon district, where 3694 acres were being cultivated as against 2981. As the outcome of the villagers petition from the West Coast district, a proclamation had been published in the *Official Gazette* declaring the West Coast to be a proclaimed district under the Summary Conviction Offences Ordinance, 1893. This would enable the magistrate of the district to punish prædial thieves with flogging as well as imprisonment. The proclamation would remain in force for six months.

#### **British Honduras—Unsettled Weather.**

(HON. A. R. USHER) June 30th.—The weather had been very unsettled, and continual rains had caused the whole country to be flooded.

Mr E. B. Sweet-Escott, the newly-appointed Governor, was not expected at the Colony until early in November. The Secretary of State for the Colonies had accepted the resignation of Mr C. R. Usher, Surveyor General, whose successor would be appointed shortly.

#### Dominica—Proposed Produce Association.

(A. K. AGAR, Esq.) June 28th.—A new bridge over the Check Hall River, about three miles north of Roseau, was opened on June 24th, and would prove of great convenience to travellers. A General Meeting of the Agricultural Society was held on June 25th, at which various business was disposed of. A scheme for a Produce Association was discussed, but found to be impracticable.

The Government was taking steps to inaugurate an Arbor Day in the Island, but the movement did not meet with much general support, as many people considered that such a day was not wanted in such a well-wooded island as Dominica. The fortnight had been dry except for two days' rain, with very high winds on the 16th.

#### Grenada—Favourable Weather.

(P. J. DEAN, Esq.) June 30th.—Fine weather had continued. There had been showers on most days and the prospects were encouraging. Sir Robert Llewelyn, the Governor, returned to Grenada by H.M.S. "Tribune" on June 26th, after a three weeks visit to St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

#### Jamaica—Exodus of Labourers.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq.) June 27th.—Up to June 4th, 2975 persons were employed at the relief works of St. Annes, Portland, St. Mary and St. Catherine, as compared with 2650 during the week ended May 28th.

The question of the steady exodus of labourers from Jamaica had assumed a grave aspect, and public attention was being called to a serious consideration of the situation.

The weather had been favourable since last mail. The recent rains had saved the Vere crop, but more regular showers were needed; however, there were indications of sufficient to ensure a good crop of sugar and rum.

#### Nevis—A Serious Drought.

(Hon. C. ARTHUR SHAND) June 27th.—The Island had been passing through a period of drought which had already caused grave anxiety, and the growing crops, which two months ago gave promise of great things, were now scorched and suffering. There had been indications of rain, but the high winds prevailing had driven the clouds seawards. A good area of land had been prepared for cotton, but until copious showers saturated the soil, no one dared risk planting.

A very good programme had been formulated for the Agricultural Show, which, with proper support, should prove a grand success. The live stock would be an especial feature in the show, as the success of the stock imported by the Imperial Department of Agriculture had been considerable, and the mules, sheep, goats and poultry throughout the Island had been enormously improved thereby.

Up to that time about 22,000 lbs. of lint had been ginned, and there was still some more to come in. The difficulty in obtaining an adequate supply of seasoned fuel (wood) had most adversely affected the success of the ginning, and it was obvious that some other motive power would have to be substituted if the venture was to be made a success.

#### St. Kitts—The Completion of the Crop.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, Esq.) June 29th.—The dry weather still continued, and as it had conduced to rapid progress in reaping most estates were within a week or two of the completion of their crop. A few showers were still wanted for the later plantings and supplyings. The prolonged drought had prevented any cotton planting operations during May and June, which was unfortunate.

#### St. Lucia—Sale of Crown Lands.

On June 25th, 23 lots of Crown lands put up for auction realized £347 7s. for a total of 130½ acres. The highest amount obtainable for a five acre lot was £37 10s. and the lowest £7 10s.

#### St. Vincent—Extension of Cotton Cultivation.

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & Co.) July 1st.—All planters interested in cotton were doing their utmost to get in a big acreage before the end of August, and if everything went well the Island would ship quite a quantity of cotton next year. The new crop on some estates looked very promising and healthy.

The weather for the last fortnight had been most unsettled, with heavy squalls of rain and wind, but for the time of year it was remarkably cool.

#### Trinidad—Railway Extension.

(Hon. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C.M.G.) July 1st.—The Maintenance Engineer had submitted a report as to the necessity for further extending the railway system of the Colony. (A copy can be seen at The West India Committee Rooms). The question was one of considerable importance, so it had been referred to a strong Committee, comprising the Acting Governor, Chairman, the Director of Public Works, the General Manager of Railways, the Sub-Intendant of Crown Lands, the Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G., the Hon. R. A. S. Warner, K.C., the Hon. R. de Verteuil, the Hon. W. S. Robertson, and Mr. C. L. Dyett. A preliminary meeting to decide upon the plan of campaign was held on June 28th, and pending the next meeting, the Government were collecting the necessary information. A letter had been addressed to the Acting Governor by the representatives of the various shipping companies trading to Venezuela, calling attention to the difficulties and inconveniences caused to the trade of Trinidad with Venezuela by the establishment of the so-called port of Amacura as the port of transshipment and entry for the adjacent coast and the river Orinoco.



Some changes had been made recently in the Legislative Council. Mr Warner left the Unofficial side for a time to act as Solicitor-General. Mr Leotaud retired and was replaced by Mr W. C. Dyett. The writer's term of office, which expired on July 2nd, had been renewed for another five years. Mr Leotaud had served in the Council since 1888, and had always taken a keen interest in the Colony. His colleagues noted with satisfaction that His Majesty the King had been pleased to permit him to retain his title of Honourable for the rest of his life.

There had been some heavy showers during the fornight, but for the most part the weather had been dry, hot and dusty. Since the preceding day it had turned wet again. The cacao crop should be a fine one. The writer was returning by the Mail on July 15th.

**Weather Telegrams.**

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), July 5th. "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." July 12th. "Fine rains generally throughout the Island."  
**British Guiana**, July 5th. "Finer weather since last message." **Jamaica**, Week ended June 30th.  
**PORT ANTONIO**: "Rainy, two fine days." **KINGSTON**: "Fine." Week ended July 7th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "Heavy rains three days, otherwise fine." **KINGSTON**: "Fine, temperature 82°."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.	Cotton.
	11bds.	lbs.	Tons.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.	lbs.
<b>Barbados—</b>									
Jan. 1 to June 30, '04	33,462	—	—	—	—	37,619	—	—	—
" " 30, '03	23,823	—	—	—	—	22,639	—	—	—
<b>British Guiana—</b>	Tons								
Jan. 1 to June 28, '04	33,036	39,367	1930	9902	161,640	613	36,271	4890	—
" " July 1, '03	44,900	65,042	198	11,824	4672	3387	40,482	4139	—
<b>Jamaica—</b>		Cwts.	Coffee.	Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.	
			Cwts.			Cwts.	Stems.		
Apr. 1 to June 4, '04	3062	5646	7062	497,714	581,180	3140	223,689	491,950	1348
" " 6, '03	5742	5972	8164	444,117	5,161,252	3534	3,294,121	929,550	—
<b>Trinidad—</b>	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.	Copra.
						Puns.	Tres.	Brls.	Tons.
Jan. 1 to June 30, '04	368,962	28,219,320	53,755	100	4,000,628	1512	29	89	63,283
" " 30, '03	344,674	23,265,410	34,920	158	7,097,602	2918	178	106	80,614

**The Mails.**

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," July 13th, 1904—Barbados—** Rev. and Mrs. A. F. Bond, Mr. H. de la Mothe, two Misses de la Mothe, Mr. A. Cameron, Dr. and Mrs. T. S. Browne, Mr. S. Browne, Mr. S. M. Adye-Curran, Mrs. Dickson, Miss C. M. Alleyne, Mrs. Carrington, Miss I. Carrington, Mr. A. Conti, Miss H. Maunde-Thompson, Mr. W. Coghill, Mrs. Joliffe, Mr. E. A. Robinson, Captain H. W. Ramsing  
**Demerara—** Colonel S. Lushington, R. A., Mrs. Lushington, His Honour Chief Justice Sir H. A. Bovell, Lady Bovell, Mr. C. Wieting, Junr., Dr. and Mrs. G. H. Conyers, Mr. W. Morrison, His Honour Mr. Justice J. E. Hewick, Mrs. and Miss R. Trotter, Miss M. Wyatt, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Sowdan, Mrs. Davis, Miss C. Fry, Madame C. Genon, Mr. P. L. Tengely, Mr. and Mrs. J. Badcock  
**Jamaica—** Lieut. Col. the Hon. C. J. Ward, C.M.G., Mrs. and Miss Ward, Mrs. G. McGrath, Dr. and Mrs. H. Castle, Dr. and Mrs. O. Malabre, Miss J. Malabre, Miss C. Anderson, Mr. W. C. Branday, Miss M. Branday, Miss H. M. Vickers, Miss E. Simms, Mr. C. F. Pengelley, Mr. C. E. Pengelley, Mr. W. G. Pengelley, Miss A. S. Marvin, Mr. J. A. Goodin, two Misses Farquharson, Rev. and Mrs. J. D. Ellis, two Misses Ellis, Miss Lillian B. Coke, Mr. and Mrs. James B. Stiven, Rev. F. Ross, M.A., Mr. H. Cyril Littlejohn, Mr. H. Melville Littlejohn, Mr. and Mrs. D. Ward, Mr. R. Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. J. Williams  
**Trinidad—** Mr. S. B. and Miss A. Hammond, Mr. J. Smith, Mrs. Agostini, Mr. and Miss Bain, Mrs. Haynes, Mr. and Mrs. C. de Verteuil, three Misses de Verteuil, His Honour Chief Justice E. Northcote, Mrs. C. F. Stollmeyer, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Permuy, two Misses Permuy, Mr. R. Ulrich, Mr. C. Rogers, Miss F. Buncle, Mr. A. S. Kernahan, Mr. J. A. Rapsey, Mr. G. White, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Kay, Mr. Henry Bell, Mrs. Calvert, Miss E. M. Calvert, Mrs. Romero, Mr. W. H. Delano, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Smith, Henry J. Lamb, R.N., William D. Day, R.N.  
**Antigua—** Mrs. J. H. Bridger, His Honour Chief Justice J. E. Udal  
**Grenada—** Mr. and Mrs. R. I. Ferguson, Miss Forester  
**St. Lucia—** Mrs. Walker, Mr. J. W. Girard, Captain and Mrs. O. Carey, Mrs. W. G. Brake, Mrs. Young  
**St. Vincent—** Mr. and Mrs. T. Wales

**Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," July 20th, 1904—Barbados—** Mrs. F. Hoad  
**Jamaica—** G. H. Payne, R.N., Mr. H. Pinedo, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Morris, Dr. and Miss George  
**Trinidad—** Capt. Richter  
**Grenada—** Mr. R. J. Graves.

**Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," August 3rd, 1904—Demerara—** Sergt. and Mrs. J. Farrel, Mrs. Richter, Mr. A. Richter, Mr. H. Richter, Mr. Fonseca  
**Jamaica—** Mr. Eve, Miss I. Mills  
**Trinidad—** Miss M. Rajas, Dr. Kenny, Mrs. P. Prada, Miss M. Smith, Mr. and Miss McLeod  
**St. Lucia—** Sergt. and Mrs. Westlake

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," July 4th, 1904—**  
**Jamaica—** Dr. and Mrs. Crosswell, Mrs. C. Reid Campbell, Lieut. Child, Capt. Harvest, Miss Latham, Lieut. W. C. Macfie, R.F., Mr. J. Morrison, Mrs. and Miss Lamont Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Maconochie, Mr. S. S. Steadman, Mr. M. C. Swinhoe, Mr. J. F. Watson, Miss S. Walker, Lieut. Wilson, Captain and Mrs. Young, Mr. E. F. Stewart

**Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," July 16th, 1904—Jamaica—** Miss D. Anderson, Mr. A. N. Dixon, Mr. F. Frampton, Mr. C. Harrison, Lieut. Hunt, Mr. L. A. Isaacs, Mr. W. Jones, Mr. Lancaster, Mr. J. MacGregor, Mr. and Mrs. A. Melhado, Lieut. P. H. Rowe, Mrs. L. Rowles, Mr. D. T. S. Robertson, Mr. J. Rogers, Mr. C. Ricketts, Miss E. Stuart, Mr. and Mrs. A. Stewart, Mr. W. C. Spencer, Sergt. and Mrs. J. Shotton

## The Produce Markets Summary.

**Sugar.**—The abundant fruit crops in Europe must be powerfully influencing consumption, and the apathetic condition of the general market must be taken in conjunction with the large trade done in the months of April and May last, when, without doubt, preservers and others freely supplied their prospective requirements which led to the rise in prices created during those months. It is in no wise any indication of reduced use of sugar. On the contrary, a large distribution is undoubtedly taking place, usefully strengthening the market which is now well on to the cost of production, "cum profit." What further upward movement may take place is a question for the future, and any prophecy is problematical and beyond the functions of the writer of this "Summary." In the meantime the growing beet crops are believed to be in a satisfactory position, and the indications still point to a carry over of 1 000 000 tons on the 1st October, an amount of sugar quite ample to start a new season with, even allowing for the recent expansion in consumption. It is suggested that there is less land brought under cultivation on the Continent for 1904-5 than during 1903-4, and this probably is so. On the other hand, allowance must be made for an increase in Cane, partly owing to the working of the stand over canes in Cuba and the natural tendency to expansion everywhere now Sugar cultivation is placed on a sound basis through the abolition of the iniquitous Bounty system. It would seem probable, therefore, that the production of sugar for next season, speaking broadly, would be sufficient for the known world's use, but 10s basis 88 would appear to be necessary to ensure this supply being kept up, and it is this figure that seems generally admitted to be the probable "average" for the next few years at least, if one dare look so far ahead in an article like sugar which is always full of unpleasant surprises.

In the meantime, quotations are slowly creeping up and at the moment are as follows:—July 9s 8½d, Aug. 9s 8½d, Sept. 9s 9½d, Oct./Dec. 9s 9d, Jan./Mar. 9s 10½d, and May 10s 0½d basis 88, and all free on board Hamburg.

**The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America on uneven dates are as follows:—**

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	
Europe	1,830,000	1,940,000	2,070,000	1,150,000	990,000	Tons
United States	210,000	320,000	140,000	300,000	150,000	..
Cuba	130,000	300,000	380,000	120,000	20,000	..
Cargoes afloat	70,000	60,000	50,000	90,000	60,000	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,240,000</b>	<b>2,620,000</b>	<b>2,640,000</b>	<b>1,660,000</b>	<b>1 220,000</b>	<b>..</b>

Comparative prices of 88% Beet for 5 years — 9s. 8½d. 7s. 11½d. 5s. 11½d. 9s. 4½d. 11s. 9d.

**Vacuum Pan Sugar**—There has been more doing in Crystallised recently, and the value of average qualities has again advanced to 16s, with a general range of 15s. 9d. to 16s 9d. Deliveries continue large, as the statement at foot will show. A cargo of 96 test should command 10s. 6d. on floating terms, if not more.

**Molasses Sugar**—In good demand from 11s 6d. to 15s. Supplies wanted.

**Muscovado.**—Grocery kinds dull, and scarcely any business to report. For 89 test to Clyde Refiners, 9s 6d. should be obtainable on floating terms.

**West India Figures since 1st Jan.**

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	
Imports to date	31,000	18,000	46,000	40,000	Tons
Deliveries	26,000	23,000	23,000	22,000	..
Stocks	17,000	24,000	35,000	27,000	..

**Num.**—Board of Trade Returns for 6 months:

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	
Home Consumption	1,971,000	1,862,000	2,089,000	2,089,000	Gallons.
Stocks 30th June	9,917,000	9,802,000	8,687,000	8,687,000	..

**Stocks in London:**

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	
Jamaica	9900	10,400	9800	9800	Puns.
Demerara	9800	7500	8400	7400	..
Total of all kinds:—	27,610	27,596	Excess 14 Puns		

A few little lots of Demerara have been sold at 7d., but there is no general trade, and the old stocks still remain on hand. In Jamaica a fair business has been done on the basis of 1s 9½d for Standard Home Trade Marks. Leewards are quoted nominally 7d to 10d., according to quality.

**Cocoa.**—Board of Trade Returns for six months

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	
Imports...	16,865	14,275	14,309	14,309	Tons.
Home Consumption	11,319	10,205	12,422	12,422	..
Stocks 30th June	6550	5716	4104	4104	..
<b>Stocks in London</b>	<b>96 000</b>	<b>79 000</b>	<b>67 000</b>	<b>107 000</b>	<b>Bags.</b>

The market remains very dull and prices have an easier tendency. Stocks are ample for all requirements and crops generally are abundant. The latest sales of West India have been on the following terms: Trinidad, fair collected, 58s; Estate Cocoa, 58s. to 62s; Grenada fair Native, 53s; and fermented, 56s to 57s 6d. From other Islands Native Cocoa is selling at 49s to 51s, and fermented 53s to 58s. The nominal quotation for African to arrive is 58s on full landed terms, but there is no business passing.

**Coffee**—Steady. The value of good ordinary Jamaica remains 36s. Santos for this month's delivery is quoted 33s. 0d.

**Nutmegs**—Steady. Good sales of West Indian 66's, 1s 9d; 86's, 1s; 94's, 9½d.; 114's, 7½d; 127's, 6d.; 150's, 5½d. **Mace**—Quiet, fair to good pale, 1s 3d to 1s 5d.; red, 1s 2d to 1s 3d. **Pimento**—More demand. Fair sold at 3d. **Ginger**—Quiet. Jamaica sold fair to good bright, 45s to 50s.; common to middling, 33s to 38s. 6d.

**Arrowroot**—Dull, only a few packages sold during the fortnight. Fair to good manufacturing remains nominally 1½, but without attracting buyers.

**London figures to 1st July**

	1904	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports...	9573	6640	9798	12,001	19,618
Deliveries	12,292	7141	8364	9989	8360
Stocks	9917	11,923	9153	10,112	13,789

**Lime Juice**—Scarce, value 1s. 3d. Concentrated unchanged at £13 10s. Distilled oil firmer, buyers at 1s 6d Hand Pressed quiet at 2s. 9d. to 3s. 3d.

For Cotton, see Special Article, pages 282-284.

**Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.**



# The . . . West India Committee Circular

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## OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XXII.



Mr. Robert Rutherford.

### Mr. Robert Rutherford.

In 1743 there was established in London the firm of Lascelles & Maxwell, West India Merchants, trading with Barbados and Jamaica. This firm, which now bears the name of Wilkinson & Gaviller and confines its attention almost entirely to Barbados, admitted as a partner in 1882 Mr. Robert Rutherford, who came to London ten years previously.

Mr. Rutherford's advent to London synchronised with the development of a vigorous campaign against the Foreign Sugar Bounties and he displayed an active interest in the Anti-Bounty movement, serving as Hon. Treasurer of the Anti-Bounty League from 1898 to 1904. In 1896 he gave evidence before the West India Commission. He took a prominent part in the re-organisation of the West India Committee in 1898, and as its Hon. Treasurer shows unflagging energy and admirable tact with those delinquents in arrears of subscription. To him the removal to larger rooms at 15 Seething Lane is due, and he is not without hope that he may see the West India Committee housed in still more commodious premises. Our Celebrity was a member of the sub-committee appointed at the instance of Mr. A. C. Ponsonby, which success-

fully averted the threatened closing of Codrington College, Barbados, in 1899. He has paid frequent visits to the West Indies, and also to the United States and Canada, being a firm believer in the development of trade between the West Indies and the Dominion. His name has been prominently

associated with the endeavours which have been and are still being actively conducted with a view to further the demand for cane sugar instead of beet. He leaves no stone unturned to promote the welfare of the West Indies, and, believing that this may be accomplished by social as well as business means, he promoted, with Lord Stamford and Dr. Anderson, the despatch of Mr. Slade Lucas' cricket team, the first to visit the West Indies, in 1895, and assisted at the formation of the West Indian Club, on the Committee of which he has sat since its inauguration in 1898.

### Venezuela and Trinidad.

The relations between Venezuela and Trinidad continue to form the subject of correspondence between The West India Committee and the Colonial Office. A further letter was addressed to Mr. Lyttelton on July 20th, in which it was pointed out that the situation continues to be serious, inasmuch as Venezuela still prohibits the transshipment of cargo at Trinidad for Venezuelan ports by imposing the additional extra duty of 30 per cent. on such cargo. The new port of Cristobal Colon in Amacuro Bay, opposite Port of Spain, has now been opened, and all cargo for Ciudad Bolivar must be transhipped at Carupano or La Guayra. Cristobal Colon has recently been visited by representatives of the various shipping companies trading to Port of Spain, and has been condemned by them as unsuitable. Mr. Lyttelton has replied that the matter is receiving the full attention of His Majesty's Government. In Trinidad it is rumoured that President Castro will visit the Island on his way from La Guayra to Bolivar, but it is considered unlikely that he will do so. It is hoped that no stone will be left unturned to secure an amicable settlement of a question which so seriously interferes with the trade of Trinidad.

### The Cotton Industry in the West Indies.

The West India Committee has addressed a letter to the Colonial Office with reference to the despatch of more cotton experts to the West Indies. At present, the revival of the cotton industry is practically confined to Barbados, the Leeward Islands, and St. Vincent, and it is felt that if Sir Daniel Morris could receive the assistance of two more experts it would undoubtedly lead to cotton growing being taken up more energetically in British Guiana, Jamaica, Trinidad, and the Windward Islands, which offer very large areas of land admirably suited to the cultivation of cotton. It may be added that the action of the Committee in this respect is taken in close co-operation with the British Cotton Growing Association. The following is the text of the letter which is dated July 28th:—

SIR, During the past two years very excellent results have attended the efforts which have been made to revive the cotton industry in the West Indies. For this, the credit is largely due to the Imperial Department of Agriculture and to the British Cotton Growing Association.

The revival of this once staple industry has been especially noticeable in Barbados and the Leeward Islands, which are, perhaps, more immediately under the supervision of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and from the eminently satisfactory results which have been attained in those Colonies it may safely be assumed that cotton would do equally well in other parts of the West Indies, where, it must be borne in mind, 2,000,000 cultivable acres await development. Unfortunately, however, it is to be feared that the Department of Agriculture has hardly a sufficiently large staff to permit experts to reside in those other parts, notably British Guiana, Jamaica, Trinidad, Tobago, and the Windward Islands, where they might study the local conditions, and demonstrate in a practical manner to the people what varieties of cotton should be grown and how they might best be cultivated.

British Guiana, as you, Sir, are doubtless aware, was once a very large cotton producing country, and although some of the front lands which were formerly cotton estates are now abandoned, there still remains a large amount of land on empoldered estates, which, for various reasons, cannot be planted in sugar cane, but which could very easily be taken up for cotton, and there are also the smaller allotments belonging to the peasantry.



I am, therefore, respectfully to suggest that an expert should be settled in Demerara or Berbice, British Guiana, and that, in addition to visiting those estates on which cotton may be grown, he should lease some acres of suitable land and superintend the establishment of an experimental farm under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture. Such expert should sub-lease small portions of this land to different men, who might grow cotton under his instruction and supervision, and they in turn should be encouraged to settle later on in different parts of the Colony where their knowledge of cotton growing would be a help and an example to their neighbours. My Committee believe, Sir, that in this way only will an impetus be given to the cotton industry in British Guiana.

With regard to Trinidad, Tobago, and the Windward Islands, my Committee understand that these are admirably suited for the small capitalists, and they are not without hope that if young and energetic men with a moderate capital were encouraged to go out and settle in these parts, they would find the undertaking a very profitable one. I may mention to you, Sir, that my Committee have already been approached by several such men, but lack of knowledge and the absence of the necessary organisation locally have hitherto prevented the development of the idea.

I am, therefore, to suggest that an expert should also be settled in Trinidad, where there is reason to believe that the cotton industry would be readily taken up by both planters and peasants, and that he should pay visits of reasonable length to the surrounding Islands, where he might superintend the establishment of experimental farms, and also give special attention to developing the facilities for the settlement of small capitalists. Such expert might also visit Jamaica.

I am to express the opinion that, should the appointment of such experts be made, several years would be saved in the development of the cotton industry in these Colonies, and my Committee go even further and state that cotton growing will make very little headway unless some such assistance is forthcoming for the Imperial Department of Agriculture. I am also to add that in stating this my Committee voice the opinion of those in the Colonies who are anxious to assist in the development of this very important industry.

I venture, therefore, to hope that you will see your way to secure for the West Indies such augmentation of the funds of the Imperial Department of Agriculture as will enable that Department to provide two such Cotton experts.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

We reproduce from the *Times* of July 21st the following article which gives a very accurate review of the progress of the cotton industry in the West Indies, though according to the latest advices the acreage under cultivation in 1905 is likely to be nearer 10,000 than 7000:—

“It is satisfactory to report that the experimental cultivation of cotton in the West Indies has proved a success, and that the industry is now established on a commercial basis. Plantations exist in Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Montserrat, Antigua, St. Kitts, Trinidad, and the smaller islands, while plots have also been started in Jamaica and British Guiana. The total area estimated to be under cultivation is 4000 acres. During the season just ended Barbados alone shipped, up to March 31st, 244 bales and two bags of cotton, weighing 61,000 lb., and the gins have been busy since. The Imperial Department of Agriculture, which has the work in hand, has orders from planters for Sea Island seed sufficient to plant 7000 acres, and as this quantity has been paid for the presumption is that it will be used. In Jamaica, where the pioneer work is being carried out by the Board of Agriculture, enough seed has been disposed of to plant 500 acres. A number of Syrians, who are acquainted with cotton-growing in Egypt, are engaged in the cultivation there. Central factories for ginning and pressing the cotton have been erected in the various islands, and a cotton gin expert from the Sea Islands has just completed four months' work on the machines, all of which are now in perfect working order. He states that the factory in St. Vincent is the best arranged and best equipped he has ever seen. A nine-hours' run of the six gins yielded 3800 lb. of lint, in Barbados, where the methods and appliances are not so scientifically complete, a similar run gave from 1500 lb. to 1600 lb. There are a few private ginneries, but the majority are Government undertakings carried on under the direction of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. The cotton is ginned, baled, and shipped for the planters for 3 c. per lb. of lint; seed cotton is also purchased at the rate of 4 c. per lb.,

which is equivalent to payment at the rate of about 11d. per lb. for the lint in the Liverpool market. The prices obtained for the Sea Island cotton have been highly satisfactory. One recent consignment from Barbados was valued at from 16d. to 17d. per lb., another averaged just under 15d., the highest price being 16½d., and the lowest 13d. Prices current exhibited in Barbados at the same time showed that Sea Island cotton was being quoted in Savannah at from 10d. to 12½d., but this was evidently the price for common lint, as the last crop on the Sea Islands brought from 30 c. to 35 c.—this, of course, representing the result of 30 odd years of careful selection and cultivation. The figures given are sufficient to indicate that West Indian cotton, grown from Sea Island seed, is capable of yielding a return quite equal to the finest product of America. It is calculated that, the yield of lint being assumed to be 204 lb. per acre—the average in America—and the total cost of placing it in the Liverpool market 7d. per lb. for cotton fetching 12d. per lb., the net profit would be at the rate of £5 2s. per acre. Labour is cheaper in the West Indies than in the Southern States; the cotton gin expert referred to was amazed at the low value of the labour in Barbados.

"Sir Daniel Morris, the head of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, is of opinion that the only cotton that should be grown in the West Indies is the Sea Island variety, which, it is well known, is a native of these islands. Other varieties are therefore being eliminated. Some planters favour the Upland, and even the indigenous varieties which are still found growing wild, but it will undoubtedly prove more advantageous to devote attention only to the highly cultivated long-staple Sea Island cotton. The area throughout the world suitable for the growth of Upland is unlimited; that able to produce Sea Island is strictly limited. The latter fetches double the price of any other cotton, and, like Blue Mountain coffee, will remain unaffected by future fluctuations of the market. A sample of the native cotton of Jamaica has been sent to England and pronounced very fine, being valued at 14d. per lb. It is a cotton which appears to resist insect pests, and many think that a first-class variety might be evolved from it. The experiments in the island, however, are being made with Sea Island seed, and it will probably be found wiser to begin where the Sea Island planters have left off than to engage in experiments which may not prove successful.

"Many difficulties have naturally been encountered in establishing the industry, owing largely to the inexperience and ignorance of the growers, the most formidable being the attack of the cotton worm. Remedies were not at hand, and loss was sustained, but the planters are now forearmed, and they believe themselves able to cope with any similar emergency. Every assistance is rendered to growers by the Imperial Agricultural Department, which has published and circulated an extensive literature on the subject. One of Sir Daniel Morris's latest ideas is to send the officers of the department to the various islands to deliver popular lectures on the industry with magic-lantern illustrations. He recommends, however, that only capable planters should go in for cotton-growing at present, and advises those who wish to come out to the West Indies to embark on planting on a large scale, to pay a visit first to St. Vincent, and study the conditions and opportunities there. Great credit is due to him for his indefatigable efforts to promote the industry during the past four years. West Indian planters are not very ready to strike out on new lines, and, but for the steady persistence and influence of the department, aided by practical assistance from the British Cotton Growers' Association and The West India Committee, it is doubtful whether the present important results would have been achieved."

During the fortnight ended July 28th, 115 bales of West Indian Cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. As we go to press we learn that sales of St. Vincent Sea Island cotton have been effected through the British Cotton Growing Association at 15½d. per lb., and Barbados Sea Island at 16½d. per lb. The latter is reported to be very fine. West Indian is quoted 4.25d. to 5.25d. per lb.

### Consumption of Sugar.

The consumption of sugar in the principal European countries which were signatories of the Brussels Convention continues to show remarkable expansion. According to the figures given by the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* the increase for the first ten months of the campaign, September 1903 to June 1904, amounted to **662,156** tons, the estimated figures being:—

	1903-4.	1902-1.
France	594,418 Tons.	349,653 Tons.
Germany	912,474 "	650,886 "
Austria-Hungary	411,370 "	339,786 "
Belgium	71,543 "	50,000 "
Great Britain	1,256,897 "	1,205,988 "
Holland	72,440 "	60,673 "
	<b>3,319,142</b> "	<b>2,656,986</b> "



### How Cane Differs from Beet.

Under this head Mr. F. I. Scard writes us—"The remarks of Messrs. Richardson & Morris quoted by you in your last mail's issue are of special interest to me, inasmuch as the question of the sweetness of sugar came forcibly before my notice upwards of twenty years ago. The late Mr. E. E. Francis, the then Government Chemist of British Guiana, was anxious at that time to obtain a sample of chemically pure sugar for use for polariscopic corrections. We accordingly procured some ordinary Demerara crystals washed until practically white in centrifugals, and purified these by successive crystallisations and washings with alcohol and ether. The final product, small in grain, was chemically and physically cane sugar, *but was quite tasteless*. We came, therefore, to the conclusion that the sweetness of ordinary cane sugar was due to some flavouring constituent of the cane juice still clinging to the sugar—in other words, that sweetness was an impurity and not a property of sugar.

The superiority claimed for cane sugar is quite explicable looked at in this light. In the preparation of raw cane sugar—apart from the question of Demerara yellow crystals, where special procedure is adopted to preserve the flavouring characteristics of the juice—a comparatively small amount of lime is used. The flavour of the juice is thus less destroyed than with the beet processes, and in this way whether alkaline carbonates are present or not, the sweetness of beet sugar is inferior to that of the cane. Comparison as regards smell between raw cane and raw beet shows this to a very marked extent."

### Sugar in India.

In an article on the Trade of India, 1903-4, in the Financial Supplement to the *Times* of July 25th, it is stated that although India has not adhered to the Brussels Sugar Convention, its provisions have shaped her policy. The additional duties to strengthen the original countervailing duties were especially effective in checking the influx of German and Austro-Hungarian sugars, which last year amounted to little more than ten per cent. of the imports of those sugars two years previously. The trade with Austria-Hungary, however, has shown signs of revival, for out of 299,000 cwt. received therefrom in 1903-4, no less than 254,000 cwt. came in February and March, 1904. Belgium and Holland have sent considerable supplies of beet sugar within the last two years. But while the future of beet sugar in the Indian market is uncertain, there can be no doubt of the great progress of Mauritius and Java cane sugars. The former has increased from 1,794,000 cwt. to 2,620,000 cwt. in five years, the latter from 163,000 cwt. to 1,265,000 cwt. The Java sugar has forged ahead owing to enlarged output and improved manufacture, and to the low price at which it can be laid down in India. Much larger supplies of sugar arrived from the United Kingdom, consisting partly of Cuban and other West Indian sugars brought here to be refined. During the last five years imports of sugar into India have increased 58 per cent., probably because the beet and other imported sugars are better refined than the native sugars and popular prejudices against foreign sugars are vanishing. The imports of 1903-4—5,970,000 cwt. of refined sugar—constituted a record.

### The Manufacture of Rum.

Many people suppose that rum made from cane juice must necessarily be of finer flavour than, or of a superior quality to, rum made from molasses, skimmings, &c. This is, however, far from being the case; as it is first necessary for all the saccharose of the cane juice to be inverted or transformed into glucose, before the sugar it contains can be converted into alcohol. With cane juice, fermentation generally takes a longer time than with molasses, as the latter contains but a minimum amount of saccharose or sucrose, and a maximum amount of glucose, which is already in a state fit for

fermentation, while in cane juice the exact reverse occurs, as it contains a maximum of sucrose and a minimum of glucose, and the sucrose has to be converted into glucose before rapid fermentation can take place, and the sugar it contains in the form of glucose converted into alcohol. An examination into the methods adopted in Jamaica and Trinidad distilleries appears to show that a great loss of spirit occurs in the making of high flavoured rum, and some makers argue that what is gained in quality is lost in quantity.

Given a pure cultivation of the ferment which produces flavour, it is reasonable to suppose that waste might easily be abolished; but of course, it may ultimately be proved that the character and growth of the ferment is such that it cannot possibly be produced in any other way than under the conditions existent on estates producing high flavoured rum. The flavour of beer, wine, butter, cheese, &c., &c., is a factor known to be controlled by fermentation organisms or bacteria. Why rum should be an exception, and why pure cultures of the ferment producing high flavoured rum have not been produced, is due, it appears, through its value not being fully recognised. There is little doubt, however, from recent research, that flavour does not depend upon the form of sugar material, but on the organism or ferment used for its conversion into alcohol, as different flavours are obtainable by the use of different kinds of ferment. The subject was taken up some years ago in Jamaica and Trinidad, and in the *Bulletin* for 1897 and 1898 articles appeared on the subject which discussed the matter, and the subject is now again being prominently discussed in a neighbouring Colony. The principal object of such enquiries is to find such ferments as will permanently give desired flavours. Given the proper ferment there appears to be no reason why Trinidad should not make rum of as high a flavour as Jamaica, and that Jamaica should be able to make all her rum of one quality or standard, which is far from being the case at present. The matter being now again under consideration, Trinidad distilleries will watch with interest the progress made under Jamaica conditions, and wish their neighbours every success. The ferment which occurs naturally in the liquor or wash in Trinidad distilleries is one capable of attenuating a liquor of a density of 1060, to a density of 1004, in forty-eight hours, and this gives when distilled a return of one per cent. alcohol for every five points of attenuation. A properly fermented wash made up on Trinidad lines should give 11 per cent. of alcohol when started at a specific gravity of 1060. The ferment is very rapid in its action, as may be seen by the vats boiling as if heated by a steam coil, during the process of filling and before they are half full. This ferment gives a large quantity of clean spirit, absolutely wanting in flavour. If it were possible to find a ferment giving a high flavour with as large a return of alcohol, our distillers would be highly pleased, as it would mean a considerable increase in their returns.—*Bulletin of the Botanical Department, Trinidad.*

### Codrington College, Barbados.

Codrington College is the oldest and, one might add the only, University of the West Indies. It was founded by Christopher Codrington, the Captain-General of the Leeward Islands, who, on his death in 1710, bequeathed two sugar estates, "Consetts" and "Codrington" (now called "College" and "Society") to the S.P.G., in trust for the maintenance of professors and scholars to study "Divinity," "Physics," and "Chirurgery." A walk of twenty minutes up the hillside from "Bath" Station, on the threatened Bridgetown and St. Andrews Railway, brings one to the handsome College building, which bears a marked resemblance to the so-called New Buildings of Magdalen College, Oxford. In front of the college is a broad lake, behind which rises a hill whereon is perched the "Society" Chapel, and a cairn of stones surmounted by a granite cross in memory of Bishop Rawle, a former principal.

But the feature of this seat of learning is the magnificent cabbage palms by which it is surrounded. The avenue which forms the subject of our full-page illustration, leads up the hill from



the portico which divides the College Hall from the Chapel. The trees raise their stately heads to an enormous height, and many of them must, at the lowest computation, be over 100 years old. No one will regret a visit to this beautiful spot.

### Colonial Reports—Bermuda.

In his report (No. 418) on the Blue Book of Bermuda for 1903, Mr. Hutson, the Colonial Secretary, states that the general prosperity of the Islands appeared to be on the increase during 1903.

The quantity of exports of the Colony, which are mainly agricultural products, is practically the same as it was ten years ago, while the revenue derived from Customs receipts has increased considerably. The revenue and expenditure for the past two years was as follows:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.
1903 ... ..	£57,169	£55,503	£1666
1902 ... ..	56,666	52,308	4358

The principal exports are onions, potatoes, and bulbs, the bulk of which go to the United States. The manufacture of arrowroot was at one time an important industry in this Colony. The arrowroot manufactured in the Colony by the latest approved methods is of an excellent quality and commands a good price in home and foreign markets. It is being placed on such markets at the present date in attractive packages, and in small quantities, with distinctive labels as to origin, and it is hoped that the demand for this excellent product will materially increase. Several thousand panama-hat plants were raised from seed and distributed throughout the Colony. It remains to be seen whether these tropical palms, *Carludovica palmata*, will become established in these Islands. A serious attempt is also being made to grow and cure tobacco, and a sample has been sent to the Imperial Institute for analysis and report.

### The West Indies in 1903.

The following review of the history of British Guiana and the West Indies for 1903 is extracted from *The Annual Register*, a review of public events at home and abroad, which has been published every year since 1758. Though the writer would not appear to be so accurately informed as he might be—he states for example that 12,000 acres were under cotton cultivation in August—we give the article as it stands, believing that it will be of interest to many of our members.

“The commercial and social condition of this group of Possessions (or of the British portion of them) remained the same as in the previous year, but there was more confident hope of the resuscitation of the sugar industry. British Guiana was marking time, and the like observation applies to Dutch and French Guiana. Each section of this tropical region is auriferous, but capital is lacking for extensive operation of the gold industry. With the object of attracting prospectors the Government of British Guiana issued in 1903 a handbook of information on the gold, diamond and forest industries of the country. In 1902-3 the gold export was 104,525 ounces, and 162,892 diamonds have been found in the Mazaruni and 788 in the Potaro Rivers districts, and others have been found elsewhere, showing that the diamond drift covers a wide area.

“Barbados suffered during 1902-3 from small-pox and drought, and the sugar crop for 1903 was disappointing, the value being estimated at only £337,645 as against a yearly average for the previous ten years of £615,509. An attempt is being made to revive the cotton industry, and some 12,000 acres were under cultivation in August. Assistance to the extent of £80,000 has been granted to the sugar-planting industry of the Colony from the Imperial Exchequer. The year closed with brighter prospects for the island. In Trinidad there was somewhat serious rioting in the Port of Spain, and special commissioners (Sir C. Clementi Smith, Sir H. Evan James and Mr. S. C. Macaskie, K.C.) inquired into the affair. The rioting arose out of legislative proceedings in connection with the

passing of a water works ordinance, against which an inflammatory agitation had been carried on, chiefly by coloured persons—an agitation which the Government had weakly ignored. The report censured the Administration and the agitation alike, supported the firing upon the mob, but condemned acts of brutality (if not murder) by the police when not under the control of responsible officers. It declared that the Executive Government had failed to take adequate measures to correct the misrepresentations about the water ordinance with a view to allay the public excitement, and that there had been a most deplorable and unjustifiable delay in prosecuting the rioters and those responsible for inciting the riot. Among the recommendations made were that the police should be re-organised, the water works question inquired into by a select committee, and that legislation be introduced prohibiting the gathering of crowds about the Legislative Council Chamber, and dealing with offences committed by the Press, which in Trinidad is largely under the control of men of colour, unqualified for the profession of journalism. Certain persons were dismissed from the service of the Government, to whom Mr. Chamberlain addressed a peremptory despatch based on the findings of the Commission. The condition of Trinidad in 1902-3 was unprecedentedly prosperous. The revenue was £788,404, the expenditure £737,045. The value of the total exports increased by £26,530, and of the imports by £336,000. Imports were £2,672,087, and exports £2,472,181. Trinidad, indeed, promises to become increasingly important and wealthy, for it is the least dependent of any of our West Indian possessions upon a single product—sugar.

“Of Tobago there is nothing to report. Grenada is progressing; Dominica shows a recovery in agricultural prosperity, and generally throughout the West Indies advance is being made in extending the system of peasant proprietorship and in educating the negroes to make the best use of their land. The Agricultural Department, under Sir D. Morris, is doing valuable work on the lines of the Report of the Royal Commission of 1898, and, broadly speaking, there is less reason than ever to despair of the economic future of the British West Indies, particularly if the result of the Sugar Convention should enable the Colonies to obtain a higher price for their sugar—a matter still somewhat in doubt. In the meantime the sugar planters have been in receipt of Government help, pending the operation of the Convention, a total grant of £250,000 voted by the Imperial Parliament in 1902, being apportioned in aid of the sugar-growing industry, according to the needs of the several Colonies engaged therein. Jamaica was the scene of a disastrously severe hurricane on August 11th, enormous damage being done to the plantations, the towns, and the shipping in the harbours. Kingston felt the full force of the cyclone. Seventy persons lost their lives, and large numbers of peasant fruit-growers had their plantations swept bare and the buildings wrecked. A fund was opened by The West India Committee for the relief of the sufferers, and generous assistance afforded from England and from neighbouring Colonies. It may be worth while to mention that labour conditions in the West Indies are likely to be affected by the construction of the Isthmian Canal under United States auspices. An enormous labour force will be required, and the British West Indies are certain to be regarded as a recruiting ground, and may, to the extent of the recruiting, find their development retarded. Some of the West Indian Governments are revising their emigration laws with the object of protecting the contract labourer, if not of minimising the expected exodus.”

### Is the British Guiana Climate Changing?

A correspondent, who has been long resident in British Guiana, writes:—“I have been much impressed of recent years with the tendency to greater rainfall in the Colony during the first six months of the year, and a comparison of the averages of many years bears out this impression. This is shown in the following chart of the rainfall curves for the last sixteen years as compared with that of the previous twenty four years.



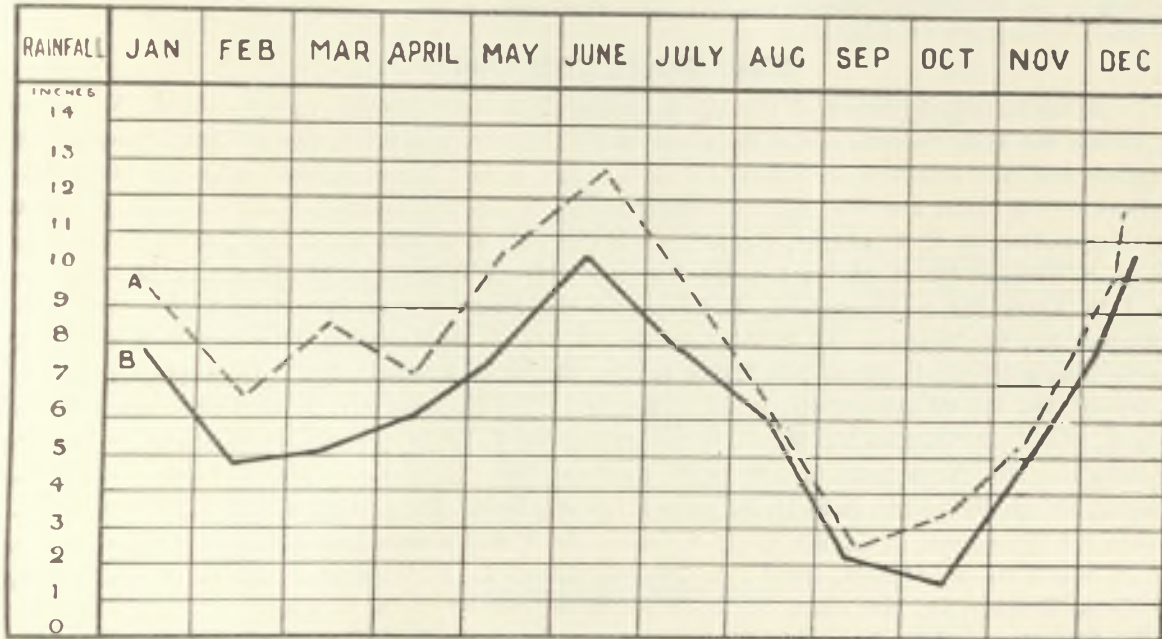


Photo by ALBERTUS E. ABRISALE.

**THE STately AVENUE OF PALMS,  
CODRINGTON COLLEGE, BARBADOS.**

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This question of rainfall during the first six months of the year has a most important bearing on the growth of the young canes. It is quite possible that the change above indicated may not be general in the three counties, and it would be of great interest if further information on this point could be given by your British Guiana correspondent."



A — Mean for 16 years, 1888-1903 B — Mean for 24 years, 1864-1887

### New Members of the West India Committee.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive Committee on Thursday, July 21st last, the following new members were elected to The West India Committee:—

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
ROBERT G. M. MITCHELL, ESQ.	Sir Henry K. Davson.	C. Algernon Campbell, Esq.
MRS. ALICE M. BATEMAN	Dr. W. K. Chandler, LL.D., C.M.G.	E. A. de Pass, Esq.
MESSRS. MACKENZIE & KIRTON (Trinidad)	Edgar Tripp, Esq.	George Grell, Esq.
CAPT. W. W. RHODES (Jamaica)	Sir A. Hemming, G.C.M.G.	Hon. O. Marescaux
CAPT. IRWIN C. MALING, C.M.G.	H. S. Osment, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
HIS HON. MR. JUSTICE G. P. ST. AUBYN	H. S. Osment, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
CAPT. W. JAMESON CALDER (St. Vincent)	H. S. Osment, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson

The Homeward Mail has brought us a large number of candidates for election, and it is hoped that they will be considerably added to before the next election, which will take place on Thursday next, August 5th. This year's new members include 40 from Trinidad; 30 from Jamaica; 26 from British Guiana; 18 from St. Lucia; 15 from Barbados; 12 from Dominica; 7 from Grenada; 3 from Antigua; 3 from Montserrat; 3 from St. Kitts; 3 from St. Vincent; 3 from Tobago; 1 from Nevis; and 1 from Turks Islands.

### The West India Association of Glasgow.

Our friends in the West Indies will be glad to know that it has been decided to revive the West India Association of Glasgow, which for so many years has been working in co-operation with The West India Committee and the West India Association of Liverpool on behalf of the West



Indian Colonies. A meeting was held at noon on Wednesday, July 27th, at 111, Bath Street, Glasgow, when there was a large attendance of Members. Mr. Alexander Crum-Ewing was unanimously elected Chairman of the Association, and Mr. Humphrey Crum-Ewing, Deputy-Chairman. A strong Executive Committee was then appointed to draw up a constitution, which will be laid before a further meeting of the West India Association, to be held at an early date.

### West Indian Club Dinner.

At the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club on Wednesday, July 20th, Mr. W. Athel M. Goode, the Hon. Secretary, was the guest of the evening, and there was a large attendance of Members and their friends to do honour to the occasion, among those present being Sir Henry K. Davson, in the chair, the Marquis de Vilallobar, Sir Thomas Esmonde, M.P. Col. Sir J. Roper Parkington, Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Capt. I. C. Maling, Mr. Owen Philipps, Mr. Justice St. Aubyn, Mr. H. S. Osment, Mr. A. M. Nathan, Dr. Passmore, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Dunlop, Mr. J. W. Clark, Mr. S. Browne, Mr. E. Carpenter, Mr. Frank Berger, Mr. H. O. Smith, Mr. H. C. Robinson, Mr. W. Morrison, Mr. E. W. Lucie-Smith, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. L. J. Stone, Mr. Harry Berger, Mr. A. de Mercado, Mr. T. Davidson Arnott, Dr. D. Arnott, Mr. W. W. Arnott, Mr. W. H. Wiles, Mr. C. P. Douglas, Mr. E. H. Bell, Capt. Davson, R.H.A., Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. J. W. M. Jarrett, Mr. C. Cary Elwes, Mr. Ernest Perne, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. R. K. S. Jacobsen, Mr. E. N. Leon, Mr. H. L. Carter, Mr. L. Hudson, Mr. H. Bailey, Mr. R. E. H. Melhado, Mr. J. McDonald, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. G. Douglas, Capt. Calder, Mr. Macmaster, K.C., Mr. G. S. Browne, Mr. T. S. Browne, Mr. R. Seton, Mr. J. de Leon, Mr. D. Seton, Mr. E. Alberga, Mr. V. A. Desnoes, Lieut. L. P. Anderson, Mr. C. Innes Bowen, Mr. Orton Bradley, Dr. McCullum, Mr. A. Hutchinson, and Mr. E. A. de Pass.

After the usual loyal toast, the Chairman rose and said that he had received several letters from those who were unable to be present upon this auspicious occasion, including their Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, who was abroad, and Mr. C. P. Lucas, who expressed his appreciation of the kindness he had received from the Club and its Hon. Secretary. The West Indian Club had fully justified its existence and was assisting at making the West Indies better known among the people at home. There was a large number of gentlemen interested in the West Indies in this country, and he urged them to come forward and help on the extremely useful work which was being done by this social organisation. It had proved itself self-supporting upon what was practically a nominal subscription, and more than this, it had succeeded in bringing to England the first cricket and shooting teams which had ever visited the Mother Country, and it had, moreover, done much other worthy work in assisting to raise money for the West Indies in times of distress. The excellent attendance at the fortnightly Club dinners was a very complete justification for the West Indian Club's existence. Thanks largely to the indefatigable Hon. Secretary, the membership of the Club in British Guiana was 68; Trinidad, 47; Barbados, 42; and in Jamaica, 112; while in Grenada it had gone up this year from 10 to 24. He therefore confidently asked those present to join with him in drinking the health of the Hon. Secretary. When Mr. Goode accepted this laborious post some two years ago, the Club membership was about 260; it was now 531 (cheers). Such a remarkable increase needed no comment. It was more than proof of the energy and the consummate tact which would carry them on eventually to a membership of 1000 (cheers).

The toast having been drunk with enthusiasm, Mr. Goode, who was greeted with cheers, said that the members had given him two things which made life worth living—appreciation and sympathy. The result of the efforts he had been able to put forward had fallen far short of his own ideal, and all his good intentions would have been purposeless without the loyal, and he might add almost affectionate, support of the members during the past few years. He paid a tribute to the

work of the Hon. Treasurer who rendered always good-naturedly ungrudging services to the Club; he referred to Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock (cheers). At the root of all that increase of strength which had come to them there was, he was certain, the immeasurable potency of increased intercourse and sympathy between all West Indians. He did sincerely believe that the Club had been the means of spreading much good-fellowship, and had given the man who came home a welcome. That was the keynote of their success. In conclusion he thanked them most cordially for the honour which they had done him that night.

Mr. A. C. Ponsonby then proposed the health of the Chairman, which was cordially drunk, and Sir Henry Davson having replied, those present adjourned to the Club room, where the remainder of a very pleasant evening was spent.

### The West India Mail Service.

The Postmaster-General has given notice that on October 1st next, he will be ready to receive tenders from such persons as may be willing to contract for the conveyance of His Majesty's mails by steamships, once a fortnight, from July 1st, 1905, between a port in the United Kingdom and the West Indies. The West India service at present maintained consists of a main line to and from Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica, and Colon, and branch lines between Barbados and Demerara, Trinidad, the Windward and Leeward Islands. The tenders should be for a service of five and a half years' duration, expiring on the 16th of January, 1911. No contract will be with any firm the majority of the members of which are not British subjects, or with any Company which has not a majority of British subjects upon its Board of Directors. No tender will be received after one o'clock on the 1st of October next. Printed forms of tender, setting forth alternative conditions, may be obtained on application, personal or written, at the Secretary's Office, General Post Office, London. Every tender must be addressed to the Secretary of the Post Office, London, and must bear, outside the envelope, the words, "Tender for the West India Mail Service."

### Publications Received.

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, etc., for our Library. Such gifts will be duly acknowledged from time to time in this column.

THE AGRICULTURAL NEWS, Vol. III, No. 59 (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 1d., post free, 1 1/2d.) This number contains an article regarding the desirability of fumigating imported plants with a view to prevent the introduction of insect pests. Particulars are given as to how this should be done. Rabbit-keeping in the West Indies is dealt with by Mr. John Barclay, the Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society. Details of the proposals for manurial experiments with Cotton to be carried out by the Imperial Department of Agriculture and the planters are furnished in this number.

We have to thank Mr. W. P. Eversley for the following volume:—

THE HISTORY OF BARBADOS, by Sir Robert H. Schomburgk, Kt. London: Longman, Brown, Green & Longmans, 1847. This is a very well-preserved copy of this standard work regarding our ever British Colony in the Caribbean.

We have also to thank Mrs. Charles Leslie for a copy of

A JOURNAL OF A RESIDENCE AMONG NEGROES IN THE WEST INDIES, by the late Matthew Gregory Lewis, Esq., M.P. London: John Murray, 1845. This comprises the journals of two residences in Jamaica, 1815-16 and 1817. They were printed from the manuscript of Mr. Lewis, who died at sea on the voyage home from the West Indies in the year 1818.

### West Indian Interests at Westminster.

A Commercial Alcohol Committee to be Appointed.

In Committee on the Finance Bill on Wednesday, July 20th, Mr. Scott-Montagu moved a new clause providing that alcohol which had been suitably denatured and rendered unpotable and was required for motive power, lighting, heating, and manufacturing purposes should be sold without payment of any duty or tax, and that absolute alcohol should also be exempt from duty when employed in manufacturing operations where it could be proved to the Commissioners that denaturing agents would prevent its use. He also asked that a committee should be appointed to investigate the subject. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that he could not accept the clause as it stood on the paper,



but he would accept the suggestion to have a committee appointed to look into the matter. The enquiry of this committee would be extended also to the exemption of alcohol for use in various trades. The clause was then withdrawn.

Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C., Mr. Edward R. Davson, and the Secretary attended a meeting of the Joint Committee of the Society of Chemical Industry and Chemical Trade Section of the London Chamber of Commerce, on Tuesday, July 26th on behalf of The West India Committee. Much satisfaction was expressed at the Chancellor of Exchequer consenting to hold this enquiry, and hope was expressed that the interests of the Colonies would not be overlooked.

#### The British Guiana Immigration Ordinance.

On the Colonial Office vote on July 21st, a debate was initiated on the subject of Chinese labour, in the course of which Sir H. Fowler explained that if the Transvaal Ordinance had been in all essentials the same as the British Guiana Labour Ordinance, he would have been satisfied. He argued that the Ordinance set up an element of slavery, while the British Guiana Ordinance did not do so. Mr. Chamberlain said that the British Guiana and Trinidad Ordinances had been valuable and beneficial both to the Colonies in which they had been passed and to the natives imported.

#### The Sugar Duties.

Mr. Channing moved the repeal of Section II. of the Finance Act, 1901, imposing the sugar duty, in Committee on the Finance Bill on July 25th. He said that it was an economic injustice on the poor, a tax on the raw materials of most important industries, on which it inflicted a deadly injury, and that it had been doubly oppressive owing to the Sugar Convention. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that it was impossible, and would be ruinous to the credit of the country, to forego so large a portion of the revenue as £6,000,000, which is what the sugar duty was yielding at the present time. He was surprised that any hon. member should appear to think it necessary or desirable that the industries of this country should be bolstered up by any system of artificial cheapness in regard to their raw material. The clause was negatived by a majority of 77 (124—201).

#### Crown Agents' Commission.

A return has been issued to Parliament showing the total amount, including loans, on which any commission has been charged or received by the Crown Agents for the Colonies during each of the last five years. The figures regarding the West Indies are as follows:—

Colony, Protectorate, or other Account	Commercial, Railway, and General Business. Total Cost of "Stores purchased and shipped."			Crown Agents' Commission charged thereon.			Financial, Loan, and Miscellaneous Business.			Commission or other Charges levied thereon.			Total Debited			Total Commission, &c., received		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Antigua ... ..	3,199	0	0	31	19	2	58,807	0	0	40	11	11	62,006	0	0	72	11	1
Bahamas ... ..	1,089	0	0	10	17	4	21,919	0	0	63	16	6	23,008	0	0	74	13	10
Barbados ... ..	3,543	0	0	35	7	11	151,061	0	0	95	12	4	154,604	0	0	131	0	3
British Guiana ...	8,558	0	0	85	11	1	635,030	0	0	286	4	2	643,588	0	0	371	15	3
British Honduras ...	2,307	0	0	23	0	8	25,286	0	0	10	0	0	27,593	0	0	33	0	8
Dominica ... ..	1,513	0	0	15	1	8	14,922	0	0	35	8	0	16,435	0	0	50	9	8
Grenada ... ..	2,220	0	0	22	2	3	38,860	0	0	22	6	5	41,080	0	0	44	8	8
Jamaica ... ..	36,819	0	0	368	2	1	545,499	0	0	865	19	11	582,318	0	0	1234	2	0
Leeward Islands ...	375	0	0	3	14	7	11,747	0	0	1	7	0	12,122	0	0	5	1	7
Montserrat ... ..	768	0	0	7	13	3	6,962	0	0	39	12	7	7,730	0	0	47	5	10
St. Kitts and Nevis ...	1,798	0	0	17	19	4	16,551	0	0	43	7	11	18,349	0	0	61	7	3
St. Lucia ... ..	1,949	0	0	19	9	4	53,128	0	0	62	13	3	55,077	0	0	82	2	7
St. Vincent ... ..	1,334	0	0	13	7	11	111,169	0	0	8	19	3	112,503	0	0	22	7	8
Trinidad ... ..	44,040	0	0	440	7	0	564,629	0	0	373	13	3	608,669	0	0	814	0	3
Tobago ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	301	0	0	—	—	—	301	0	0	—	—	—
Turks Islands ... ..	76	0	0	0	14	11	4,672	0	0	1	2	6	4,748	0	0	1	17	5
Virgin Islands ... ..	173	0	0	1	14	1	771	0	0	—	—	—	944	0	0	1	14	1
<b>WEST INDIAN GRANTS ACCOUNT—</b>																		
Deficiency in Revenue ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	44,230	0	0	—	—	—	44,230	0	0	—	—	—
Sugar Industries ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	139,511	0	0	—	—	—	139,511	0	0	—	—	—
Central Sugar Factories ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	269	0	0	—	—	—	269	0	0	—	—	—
Steamer Subsidies ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	47,794	0	0	—	—	—	47,794	0	0	—	—	—

From the foregoing figures, which are for the year 1903, it will be seen that the total commission received by the Crown Agents for the West Indies during that year amounted to £3051 10s.

### West Indian Civil Service.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making the following table of movements of Civil Servants in, and connected with, the British West Indies as full and complete as possible.

The following dates have been provisionally fixed for the departure of the new Governors to their seats of Government: SIR HENRY JACKSON, Trinidad, August 17th; SIR C. C. KNOLLYS, Leeward Islands, September 14th; SIR J. ALEXANDER SWETTENHAM, Jamaica, September 22nd; SIR FREDERIC HODGSON, British Guiana, September 28th; SIR GILBERT T. CARTER, Barbados, September 28th; Mr. E. SWEET-ESCOTT, British Honduras, early in October.

MR. W. GREY-WILSON is now the Governor of the Bahamas

DR. ROBERT STEPHEN EARL is the present Commissioner of the Virgin Islands

MR. W. L. C. PHILLIPS' appointment as Colonial Treasurer of Barbados has been confirmed

MR. J. R. M. CAVE, Inspector of the Water-works Department, Barbados, has resumed his duties

LT.-GEN. SIR R. M. STEWART has succeeded Lt Gen. Sir H. L. Geary as Governor of Bermuda.

THE HON. JOSEPH EDWARD GODFREY, M.B., C.M., has been appointed Surgeon-General of British Guiana

THE HON. GEORGE GARNETT, has been re-appointed a member of the Central Board of Health for British Guiana

THE HON. E. M. DE FREITAS, and Mr. J. R. Mitchell have been appointed members of the Board of Education for Grenada.

MR. J. LANDRETH SMITH, Assistant Superintendent of Works, has been appointed Commissioner of Crown Lands for Grenada.

MR. J. H. CONYERS, Government Medical Officer, British Guiana, has been granted 12 months leave of absence from the Colony.

THE HON. W. M. GORDON, and the Hon. R. H. McCarthy have been appointed to act as members of the College Council, Trinidad

THE HON. A. WAERNER, K.C., will act as Solicitor-General for Trinidad, while the Hon. Edgar Agostini, K.C., is acting as Puisne Judge

MR. JUSTICE J. E. HEWICK, Puisne Judge, has been granted vacation leave of absence from British Guiana on full salary for three months from July 1st.

We regret to have to announce the death, which took place on the 12th ultimo, of Mr. A. H. Hicks-Bratt, formerly in the British Guiana Civil Service.

MR. C. J. GREENIDGE, M.C.P., has been appointed a member of the Executive Committee, Barbados, in the place of Mr. B. E. Bynoe, who has vacated his seat

MR. R. E. BRASSINGTON, has been made a member of the Local Board of Guardians for the North Essequibo Fiscal District, in the place of Mr. J. L. Stoute.

MR. J. S. GORDON, Government Officer of the Department of Lands and Mines, New Amsterdam, has returned to British Guiana from leave of absence and resumed the duties of his office on July 6th.

THE GOVERNOR of British Guiana has appointed Mr. Lloyd Dornford, to be Inspector of Roads, and Mr. B. Gainfort to be a First Grade Commissary, consequent on the retirement of Mr. F. E. King from the Public Service of the Colony.

### Notes of Interest.

**FILING CASES.** Spring back cases for *filing The West India Committee Circular* can be obtained at 2/6 each, or post free 3/-. These will be found a great convenience.

**FREE SUGAR** A Law, dated July 5th, has been promulgated in France, exempting from duty sugar used for the feeding of live stock. A corresponding Law exempts from duty sugar used in breweries.

**THE GRANT-IN-AID OF SUGAR, 1902.** The Westmoreland Sugar Planters Association, Jamaica, passed a resolution, on July 7th, protesting against the manner in which it is proposed to utilise the £10,000 Grant-in-aid (1902), a summary of which appeared in *The West India Committee Circular*, No. 130, page 288.



**A RESULT OF BOUNTY ABOLITION.** As a result of the abolition of bounties new machinery is now being introduced into the West Indies. The St. Lucia Usines and Estates Company have, we are informed, placed an order with the Mirrlees Watson Co., Ltd., Glasgow, for a powerful grinding plant for their Roseau factory.

**BRISTOL REFINERY TO BE REOPENED.** As further evidence of the beneficial results of the Sugar Bounties Convention it may be stated that the Bristol sugar refinery which suspended operations many years ago, will recommence melting almost immediately. The refinery, which was once very prosperous, is known as the Old Market Refinery.

**OVERSEER'S REGISTER.** Estates Managers and Proprietors requiring overseers are informed that arrangements have been made for a list of applicants for such posts to be kept at The West India Committee Rooms. All enquiries regarding it should be addressed to the Secretary, West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

**LATE FEE MAIL LETTERS.** For the convenience of Members wishing to post letters for the outgoing West Indian Mail at the last possible moment, arrangements have been made for a messenger to leave The West India Committee Rooms on the day of the departure of the Mail at 12.30 p.m., with letters for posting at Waterloo Station. All such letters must bear the late fee of 2d., in addition to the ordinary postage.

**HISTORY OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.** It is proposed to write a history of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE for publication in the Circular and the Secretary will be glad if members and others will furnish him with any records, notes or information they may have regarding this organisation. The assistance of the West Indian Press who have always shown their readiness to further the work of the Committee is confidently hoped for.

**JAMAICA RELIEF FUND.** No copy of the final statement of the receipts and disbursements of this fund has yet reached us, although it is said to have been laid before the final meeting of the Hurricane Relief Committee during June last. This is disappointing and a little disheartening. Mr. Lyttelton has not received a copy of the statement either, but he has promised to ask the Governor of Jamaica for one by next mail.

**THE CANADIAN BOUNTIES.** Mr. J. Russell Murray, our Hon. Correspondent in Montreal, writes to us that the prospects of beet culture in the Province of Ontario cannot be said to have improved, two factories having closed down recently, notwithstanding the Canadian Bounty of 50 c. per 100 lbs. and the import tariff for refined sugars of \$1.24½ per 100 lbs., making a practical protection of \$1.74½ per 100 lbs. The Bounty is to be continued for another two years, viz., 1905 and 1906.

**ANOTHER FRUIT EXHIBITION.** The West India Committee have been invited, and have consented, to undertake the entire organisation of a West India exhibit at an Exhibition of the Royal Horticultural Society, to be held in their new hall at Vincent Square, Westminster, on December 13th and 14th next. With plenty of time before them to make the necessary arrangements, a very representative exhibit from the various Colonies should result. A letter on the subject has been addressed to our Hon. Correspondents.

**THE BARBADOS RAILWAY.** We are informed by the liquidator of the Bridgetown and St. Andrew's Railway Company, Barbados, that it has been decided that unless a sale of the railway is effected by September 30th, trains will cease running by October 15th, and that even if a subsidy is granted the Company will not be disposed to continue operations, as it would be of no use unless further capital is expended, and this the present Company will not undertake to find. A deputation of leading planters and others waited on the Governor in Barbados on July 12th, to urge that a subsidy might be granted in order to prevent the abandonment of the concern. The Governor stated that as

soon as a Company was formed to take over the railway he would recommend a subsidy of £1000 per annum.

**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Darren" from Liverpool for Kingston, Jamaica, August 4th; S.S. "Almerian" from Liverpool for Barbados and Trinidad, August 10th; S.S. "Cheniston" from London for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad and Demerara, August 10th; and the R.M.S. "Port Antonio" from Bristol for Kingston, Jamaica, on August 13th. Letters for Grenada and Trinidad posted on August 3rd and possibly August 5th, marked "via New York," will go forward by S.S. "Grenada" from New York and be delivered in Grenada on August 22nd, and Trinidad on August 23rd. The usual postage of 1d. suffices. *Information for publication under this head is invited from Shipping Companies.*

**WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.** The Eastern Telegraph Company intend to make use of wireless telegraphy. Some of the outlying islands of the Azores are to be placed in wireless telegraphic communication. Owing to the nature of the bottom and the landing places of these islands, it is not considered suitable to make the connection by cable, nor would the traffic warrant expenditure on this account. The Directors do not think that the wireless system can compete with submarine cable for long distances. As regards the West Indies, we understand that tenders have been invited for a service of wireless telegraphy between Trinidad and Tobago, while, as we have already stated, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Montserrat and Antigua will be connected up as soon as funds permit. The report of the Departmental Cable Committee is still under consideration.

**TO FIGHT THE BOLLWEEVIL.** It will be remembered that some time ago we mentioned that an ant had been found in Mexico which is a deadly enemy to the bollweevil, and that it was purposed to introduce it in the afflicted parts in the United States. It seems that Texas, which has suffered most from the bollweevil, is vigorously protesting against the introduction of the ant, contending that it will multiply enormously, and while possibly minimising the effect of the bollweevil, will affect one of the principal weak points of the cotton supply, viz., the supply of labour, the cotton plant being mostly attended to by negroes who are, in such a tropical climate, so lightly clothed that the ant will not only be a considerable inconvenience, but an absolute danger to the picker. It is understood that should the Texas Courts decide in favour of the planters who are protesting, the insect will be tried in Louisiana.—*Cotton.*

### The Homeward Mail.

We were advised by Cable on the 23rd ult., of the death of Captain Newton of the R.M.S. "La Plata," which occurred at Colon, as the result of the accident which he sustained when the vessel encountered a severe storm off that port on her outward voyage. Captain Newton was deservedly popular as Commander of the R.M.S. "Eden," and subsequently the R.M.S. "La Plata," and much sympathy will be felt with his relatives. Under the command of Captain C. Cottman, the "La Plata" well maintained her reputation for speed and anchored off Plymouth at 3.45 p.m. on July 27th, the mails being delivered by first post on July 28th. The very general regret at the departure of the Governors and the appreciation of the services which they have rendered to the respective Colonies, as expressed by our Hon. Correspondents, should be a matter for congratulations not only to the Governors themselves, but also to the Colonial Office with whom the responsibility for the appointments lies. The climatic conditions throughout the West Indies were perhaps more favourable than during the preceding fortnight: but still, rain was needed in many localities. As befits a Colony of her size and status, Trinidad seems disposed to arrange for an elaborate display at the forthcoming Colonial and Indian Exhibition and a Committee has been appointed to look into the



matter. The Barbados Committee met on the day of the departure of the mail. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Royal," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth at 10.50 a.m. on Tuesday, July 19th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received per R.M.S. "La Plata."

#### Antigua—A Eulogy of Sir G. Strickland.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER). July 13th—The announcement that Sir Gerald Strickland would not return to the Colony was received with very great regret in Antigua. It had rarely been their good luck to be governed by an energetic, practical business man, who had considered the progress of the Colony under his charge his first and most important duty. When a Governor took the strenuous interest in his work that Sir Gerald did, the example permeated throughout every class of the community and progress could be the only result. No one in Antigua doubted that, but for their late Governor, they would never have seen the establishment of the two central factories, and possibly the cotton factories also. Sir Gerald would carry with him to Tasmania the very best wishes of the community.

The weather remained seriously dry, indeed unless they soon got soaking rains the outlook for the next crop would be very gloomy. In some parts of the Island the people had considerable difficulty in getting drinking water.

Molasses had gone up to 14 cents a gallon, puncheon included, owing to the Barbados supply proving less than was expected in Canada. The crop was practically all reaped.

#### Barbados—Praise for Sir J. Hodgson.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE). July 15th—The news of the transference of their Governor to British Guiana had been received with very great regret throughout this Island. He had worked unceasingly for its good, and made many improvements during his short administration, throughout the whole of which they had been passing through a very arduous crisis.

Nice showers had fallen during the fortnight, and, indeed, heavy ones in some places. The north of the Island had been most favoured. Everything was beautifully green, and the rain had been sufficient to make the canes begin to take up their foreign manure. There must be a good deal of sugar held on estates, as shipments were only proceeding slowly. The expected rise in London and New York had at length taken place, and on the 12th \$1.90 was offered for Muscovado, and \$2.30 for dark Crystals. A good many sales were effected. A misprint occurred in Circular 127, where Molasses was quoted at 15 cents, a price it had not reached this crop.

The Bridgetown and St. Andrew's Railway Company having placed themselves in the hands of a liquidator, and the liquidator having instructed the Manager to cease running trains after the crop, a large and influential deputation had waited on the Governor on Tuesday, July 12th, to urge him to promote a bill in Executive Committee to grant a subsidy of £1,000 per annum to a new Company, to assist them to raise capital to re-open the line, and to run it with motor-locomotives—at all events, out of crop-time. The Governor had received the deputation very sympathetically, and promised to bring the matter forward. (An account appears in the "*Barbados Advocate*" of July 15th. Ed.)

The annual ploughing match had been held at Hannays on the 14th ultimo, and was largely attended. The show of stock, especially the mules, had been particularly good, and the judges had found it a difficult task to make their decisions. The Governor was present and distributed the prizes in the afternoon.

#### British Guiana—Regret at Mr. Ashmore's Departure.

(A. SUMMERSON, Esq.) July 13th.—Mr. Ashmore's removal to Ceylon at the present time was regretted by all. The Combined Court was summoned to meet on the 22nd inst. The Governor had been on a visit to the Corentyne district, Berbice.

Nothing was doing in crystals. Small lots had been sold at \$2.20, but prices had hardened since then in reponse to the cabled advance of beet.

A couple of days' heavy rain had fallen during the fortnight, rather too much for some estates in Essequibo, otherwise it had been generally favourable.

#### Dominica—Lime Shipments.

(A. K. AGAR, Esq.) July 12th.—The Acting Governor paid a visit to Dominica on June 30th, chartering the coasting steamer "Yare" to return to Antigua on July 2nd. A meeting of the Executive Council was held during his stay.

Prices for green limes continued to hold, and large shipments were being prepared for consignment by the Quebec boat on the 16th.

Good rains had fallen, and cultivation generally was looking splendid.

#### Grenada—A Heavy Storm of Rain.

(P. J. DEAN, Esq.) July 14th.—The past fortnight had witnessed a continuance of good, seasonable weather, with heavy rains on July 9th and 10th, on which days there was a fall of four inches in some parts of the Island. The cacao trees were showing a very good appearance, and with a continuance of this weather, pickings might be expected in November.

The St. George's Club had been installed with acetylene gas, which was giving great satisfaction, and it was hoped that more might be seen of this addition to comfort in the Island.

(W. E. BROADWAY, Esq.) July 14th.—On July 9th and 10th very heavy and boisterous weather was experienced throughout the Island, the rains causing land slides, and blocking drains and roads, as is usual under such conditions. The health of the Colony was in a normal condition.

The Assizes had been held at St. George's during the latter part of June, and were presided over by the Hon. T. D. Tudor, acting as Chief Justice during the absence from the Colony of His Honour Mr. C. J. Tarring, the Chief Justice.

The question of elementary education was being warmly discussed in the *Federalist and Grenada People*, a local newspaper. A small daily paper, the *Excelsior*, had been started in St. George's at the price of one half-penny per issue. The Editor was Mr. Preston B. Clements. A lecture on the Russo-Japanese war had been given by Mr. Septimus Wells, Editor of the *St. George's Chronicle*, at Gouyave (Charlottetown), St. John's, on Monday, July 11th. Interest was added to the lecture by lantern slides prepared by Mr. Inledon Smith, a well-known local artist. The "Creole Pharmacy," St. George's, until recently belonging to the late Mr. Tobias Robertson, had been acquired by Mr. T. W. M. Powell, who was a hospital dispenser in the Government service for six years.

A Japanese bazaar, under the auspices of the Wesleyans, had been held recently at York House, St. George's. It was opened by His Excellency the Governor, on the 6th ult. The results had been satisfactory.

#### Jamaica—The Pimento Crop.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq.) July 11th.—Good rains had fallen during the past fortnight, except in Vere. Rain was needed in this parish, and the prospects of the coming crop had become doubtful in the absence of seasonable weather.

The total production of the pimento crop was estimated at:—

North side, 35,000 bags; South side, 20,000 to 25,000 bags. Total production, 55,000 to 60,000 bags.

#### Montserrat—Continued Drought.

(CONRAD WATSON, Esq.) July 13th.—The drought continued, and some difficulty was being experienced in procuring fodder for stock, the high winds of the past fortnight having dried all vegetation.

#### Nevis—Forest Protection.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) July 12th.—The weather had been distressingly dry since the last Mail, and planters were getting exceedingly anxious. A vote was taken at the Council on July 11th, to provide the necessary machinery for putting into operation the ordinance for the preservation of forests. The denudation of wooded tracks on the higher elevations had no doubt tended to evil consequences as regards rainfall, distribution of moisture, etc., and the absence of any check upon wash at the times of heavy rains had also had fatal consequences. The Government action deserved the support of all who had the best future interests of the Presidency at heart.

Crop was practically finished, but a fair lot of sugar still remained in hand. The last Royal Mail steamer carried a good shipment of Nevis cotton (54 hales), and the total output would fully mount up to the original estimate.

#### St. Kitts—The Cotton Crop.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, Esq.) July 12th.—A few welcome showers had fallen during the fortnight, but as crops might be said to be completed, a continuance of them was anxiously looked for. The young crop had held out well during the drought, and adequate rains were required to force it on.

The dry weather in May and June had prevented a satisfactory start being made with cotton, so good showers were now much needed to permit of planting operations being commenced. The cotton crop of St. Kitts for the current year had now been ginned, and amounted to nearly 24,000 lbs. of lint. As the bulk of the crop had been shipped, a word of praise was due to Messrs. Pickford & Black for their steamer service during the season. With the exception of a short time in May, ample opportunities had been provided, and this in spite of the fact that a good deal of sugar intended for the United Kingdom was diverted as the season went on, to Halifax, owing to its superior attractions.

Their Administrator, Mr. Cox, now acting as Governor, was leaving with general regret for British Guiana. That his five years' tenure of office should have marked him for promotion at the Colonial Office was acknowledged on all hands, and his advancement in the service was very gratifying to all in St. Kitts, inasmuch as he was a native of that Island.

#### St. Lucia—Beneficial Weather.

HON. SYDNEY D. MELVILLE), July 14th.—Windy weather had continued with good rains, which were highly beneficial to the growing crop.

#### St. Vincent—The Eruption Relief Fund.

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & Co.), July 15th.—According to the local papers it appeared that the Governor had again intimated that it was not the intention of the Government to assist in the restoration of the Carib Country, which was recognised to be the most important district in the Island, and he even stated that the Government would not put back the canal so strongly recommended by the People's Committee.

The weather for the last fortnight had been very boisterous with heavy winds and rains, but very beneficial to the growing crops.



### Trinidad—The Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

(EDGAR TRIPP, Esq.), July 15th—Mr. Fenwick had been the recipient of hearty congratulations upon the honour recently conferred upon him by His Majesty. No one could be found to deny the marked ability he had brought to bear on all public matters, and the keen interest and attention he had devoted over a period of many years to all questions affecting the welfare of the Colony. His services merited the distinction, and even those opposed to him admitted that he had earned it.

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C.M.G.) July 15th—At a meeting of the Legislative Council on July 11th, the Governor moved that the invitation to take part in the Crystal Palace Colonial Exhibition be accepted, and proposed a vote of £2500 to meet the necessary expenses. It was decided to appoint a special Committee to consider the matter and form some estimate of the probable cost of being well represented.

The situation with regard to Venezuela remained practically unchanged. There was some talk of President Castro spending a day or two in Trinidad on his way from La Guayra to Bolivar.

That much talked of Ordinance, the Waterworks Bill, was in Committee, and likely to be passed at the next sitting.

Some heavy rains had fallen during the fortnight, and some districts had been extensively flooded. More moderate weather had prevailed during the past few days, and vegetation was looking healthy and vigorous.

In spite of the heavy rains which had somewhat retarded pickings, shipments had been made on a fairly large scale. Prices had been well maintained by European buying and there seemed no chance of a decline. Sales of La Paix at 55s. c.f. had been made for Havre, and La Belle Alliance at 56s. Ordinary descriptions were in strong demand. Venezuelan qualities were still in small supply, and \$12.65 was readily obtainable.

	Trinidad.	Venezuela.
Shipped to 20th June ... ..	168,198	30,336
.. 30th June to 15th July, for New York ... ..	943	296
.. .. .. Europe ... ..	11,915	1,251
	181,056	31,883

### West Indian Securities.

Colonial Government Inscribed Securities		Price.
Antigua, 4 per cent. ... ..	Redeemable 1919-44 ... ..	101-103
Barbados, 3½ per cent. ... ..	.. .. ..	98-100
British Guiana, 4 per cent. ... ..	.. .. ..	106-108
Grenada, 4 per cent. ... ..	.. .. ..	101-103
Jamaica, 4 per cent. ... ..	.. .. ..	104-106
St. Lucia, 4 per cent. ... ..	.. .. ..	100-102
Trinidad, 4 per cent. ... ..	.. .. ..	101-103

Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.	Miscellaneous Securities.	Paid.	Dividend.	
100,000	20	Colonial Bank ... ..	£6	6 %	43-5½
15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ... ..	60	—	24-28
223,575½	Stock	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4% 1st Mtge Deb	100	4½ %	83-85
46,874	5	New Colonial Co., Ltd., 5 % Non-Cum Pref. ... ..	5	5 %	3-4
347,500½	Stock.	" " " 4 % 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red	100	4 %	70-72
357,700½	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb. ... ..	100	6 %	91-97
165,000½	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock ... ..	100	Nil.	15-20
115,000½	Stock	" " " 7 % Preference ... ..	100	Nil.	88-93
31,250	10	" " " 4 % Extension Preference ... ..	10	4 %	7-8
70,000½	Stock	" " " Perpetual Deb. Stock ... ..	100	4 %	96-98
81,800½	100	Direct West India Cable Co., 4½% Reg. Debts. (within Nos. 1 to 1200) red. ... ..	100	4½ %	99-101
60,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ... ..	£2 10 0	6 %	—
54,700½	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4½% 1st Mtge. Deb. (within 1 to 1200) red. ... ..	100	4½ %	99-101
50,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. ... ..	5	5 %	—
88,321	10	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. Ordinary ... ..	10	—	2-3
34,563	10	" " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref. ... ..	10	6s	6½-6¾
4,669	10	" " " " 2nd " ... ..	10	—	5-6
90,000½	100	" " " " 5% Deb. ... ..	100	5 %	99-102

Bank of England rate 3% (changed from 3½% on April 22nd, 1904). 2½% Consols, 88<sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub>. (30.7.04.)

\*. An anonymous writer from British Guiana points out to us that the amount of the 4% Ext. Pref. Capital of the Demerara Railway is £312,500. This is so. It will be noted that following the practice of the Stock Exchange Daily Official List we give, in the case of Shares, the number and not the value. (E.D.)

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), July 19th. "Light, partial showers." British Guiana (New Colonial Co.), July 27th. "Weather showery and favourable for cultivation."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.	Cotton.
Barbados—	Hhds.	lbs.	Tons	Puns		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats	lbs
Jan 1 to July 15, '04	38,409	—	—	—	—	40,292	—	—	—
" " " 15, '03	24,511	—	—	—	—	24,700	—	—	—
British Guiana—	Tons.								
Jan 1 to July 12, '04	36,852	52,106	2558	11,284	161,640	913	39,248	5011	—
" " " 14, '03	54,517	86,932	—	12,864	4684	3387	44,248	4306	—
Jamaica—		Cwts.	Coffee.	Galls		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.	
Apr 1 to June 18, '04	3402	8294	7237	571,010	661,830	4047	341,448	505,450	1796
" " " 20, '03	6481	7802	9084	517,610	6,192,237	4205	4,043,216	1,502,300	—
Trinidad—	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.	Copra.
Jan. 1 to July 14, '04	372,200	30,322,870	56,315	100	4,063,425	1702	Tons 27 Bris. 58	70,201	8483
" " " 14, '03	362,650	24,025,140	36,040	208	7,169,202	2908	Tons 178 Bris. 161	91,787	—
Grenada—		Bags.	Bris.	½ Bris.	SPICE.	Cases.	Bags.	Cotton Seed.	Cotton.
Oct 1 to July 15, '04	—	65,251	3292	542	478	—	96	6533	1021
" " " 15, '03	—	62,117	3238	627	743	—	71	7125	1023

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "La Plata," July 27th, 1904:—Barbados—Mr Chas B de Souza, Mr and Mrs. C. J. Greenidge, Mr. R. H. Smith, Miss James, Mr P. K. Hannay, Mr E. A. Bowring, Mr F. H. Bowring, Miss E. L. Bowring, Mr Chas McNeil, Mr E. Hargreave, Mr O. T. Gustafson, Mr Peter Wedrick, Mr. N. Solty, Mr and Mrs Mutel. Demerara—Mr. James C. Tengeley, Mr R. P. Stewart, Mr J. Solomon, Mr M. Clarke, Mr A. H. Baker, Rev J. G. Pearson, Hon and Mrs. A. M. Ashmore, Miss Barry, Mr J. S. Johnson, Mrs. and Miss Anson, Miss Magahan. Jamaica—Mr. K. Hollis, Mr. Alfred Pawsey, Mrs Samman, Mr. Walker, Capt. Holthius, two Misses Cover, Rev. and Mrs. Lund, Mr. C. M. Sandford, Mrs P. Larsen, Rev. T. J. Turley, Lieut. Hamilton, Mr S. Pearce, Dr H. H. Serpell, Major N. P. Davies. Trinidad—Mr. B. Tomassi, Mrs A. de Casalta, Mrs A. Savary, Miss M. Savary, four Misses Wharton, Mrs Messervy, Mr J. B. D. Sellier, Mr Sellier, Miss Wink, Mrs. J. P. Riddell, Mrs and Miss Legge, Mr and Mrs Hafatan, Mr Felix Tatin, Miss M. Fuller, Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. James Peet, Hon G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G., Hon W. S. Robertson, Mr A. E. Barthes. Antigua—Mr and Mrs Robert Bryson, Mr Joseph T. Dew, Mr Thomas Fisher, Mr William Hart, Jun., Mr C. Dew. Grenada—Mrs Macintosh, Mr. John Barclay, Mr. R. G. de Gale. St. Kitts—Mrs. C. T. Cox, Mrs Weiss, Miss Klessel, Mrs Root.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," August 3rd, 1904:—Barbados—Mr A. P. Manning. Demerara—Mrs. K. Weber, Sergt. and Mrs. J. Farril, Mrs Richter, Mr A. Richter, Mr. H. Richter, Miss Richter, Mr. Fonseca, Mr. Stewart Nicholson, Mr B. Jardine, Mr Jas Persand. Jamaica—Mr Eve, Miss I. Mills, Mr Littlejohn, Mr. F. Reeves, Miss A. M. Reece, Mr. W. Smith, Lt-Col M. B. Johnston, Rev G. B. Hall, Mr. C. Relph. Trinidad—Mr. Wm Eccles, Miss M. Rojas, Dr. Kenny, Mrs and Miss Prada, Miss M. Smith. St. Lucia—Lieut. and Mrs Westlake.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "La Plata," August 17th, 1904:—Demerara—Mr J. Fernandez. Trinidad—Mr. F. I. and Miss McLeod, Mrs. E. F. Stone.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Tagus," August 31st, 1904:—Barbados—Mrs Johnson, Mr., Mrs and Miss Deighton. Demerara—Mr Wm Douglas. Trinidad—Mrs P. Alvarado, Mr and Mrs. Schoener.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service. Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," July 19th, 1904:—Jamaica—Miss Ashby, Mr. E. H. Bell, Mr C. F. Brymer, Mr D. W. Brooks, Mr O. Crowden, Miss L. H. Carier, Mrs Douet, Mr G. Douet, Mr C. Douet, Mr A. Flinslie, Lieut. Forshaw, Mr Isaac Fox, Mr. Harold Fox, Mr. Greenhough, Mr O. C. Houchen, Mrs Nethersole, Mr. C. G. Nicholson, Mr and Mrs. Rudolph H. Otto, Mr W. T. Porter, Capt Sandys, Hon. T. H. Sharp, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Vernon Simpson, Mr. Leonard Simpson, Mr. W. Thwaites, Col. F. B. and Mrs. White.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," July 30th, 1904:—Jamaica—Mr McMahon, Mr. G. A. Morais, Mr and Mrs G. J. Neale, Mr H. C. Heselton, Mr C. S. Moseley, Mr. E. Gideon, Mrs Lees, Mr. J. G. Watson, Col. Rauch, Mr. H. W. Wedderburn, Mr. R. L. Nosworthy, Mr. and Mrs. Briscoe, Miss Cook, Miss G. Cook, Rev. J. W. Grant.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," August 13th, 1904:—Jamaica—Mr. Bathgate, Miss Mary Cover, Miss Maud Cover, Mr. F. Chisman, Mr. W. Fairbairn, Miss May Wood, Mr. Parmiter, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Hide.



## The Produce Markets Summary.

**Sugar.**—The position of Sugar is becoming interesting, and it will be curious to see how the prognostications of the "bull" party work out. So far, much has been in their favour, the large increase in Consumption so frequently referred to, the believed reduced sowings of beet on the Continent for next season, the long continued drought greatly delaying the forwarding of sugar to the shipping ports through the low state of the rivers, and the possible injury to the growing crops through lack of the usual moisture, all these points have been useful in manipulating the rise in sugar, which is already of no mean extent. If we compare to-day's price of 88%, viz : 9s. 9d., with the quotations of 7s. 11½d. and 5s. 11½d., ruling respectively at this date on the two preceding years, it will give a pretty general idea as to what this rise already is. Of course, the main incentive has been the abolition of the Bounties necessitating a price of 10s. basis 88, to cover all contingencies. This price is looming large for the future, and although it does not satisfy the "bull" clique, it may take some very exceptional circumstances to warrant a higher range, except for a few quickly passing weeks. Although our visible supply is running well down, as it was known it must do, there is no scarcity of sugar, nor will there be for the remainder of this season, whatever the next may reveal. All, therefore, would seem to rest on next year's supplies, which of Cane bid fair to show a steady increase, whilst of Beet no one can venture any figure till quite the end of October, when the crop has been a full month in operation. It will be wise in these early days to disregard all interested prophecies and to remember that there is a large section of the speculative operators who are looking for great things during the next season, and who will listen to no arguments, however temperately worded, that do not harmonise with their sanguine expectations. Let it be remembered that sugar now yields, or should yield, a profit to all concerned, and the Continental growers in next spring will not hesitate in their sowings to try and participate in these profits, at least whilst they last. We shall want more sugar during 1905/6, but 1904/5 seems amply provided for, as does indeed the closing season of 1903/4.

In the meantime, quotations of 88% free on board Hamburg, are as follows:—July 9s. 9d., Oct./Dec. 9s. 12d., Jan./Mar. 10s. 1d., and May 10s. 3d.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America on uneven dates are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	
Europe ... ..	1,810,000	1,950,000	2,060,000	1,140,000	980,000	Tons
United States ... ..	190,000	330,000	130,000	270,000	140,000	"
Cuba ... ..	120,000	300,000	360,000	110,000	20,000	"
Cargoes afloat ... ..	70,000	60,000	50,000	90,000	60,000	"
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>2,190,000</b>	<b>2,640,000</b>	<b>2,600,000</b>	<b>1,610,000</b>	<b>1,200,000</b>	<b>..</b>

Comparative prices of 88% Beet for 5 years:— 9s. 9d. 7s. 11½d. 5s. 11½d. 9s. 5d. 12s. 3d.

**Vacuum Pan Sugar.**—A good business has again been done in Crystallised at a further advance of 3d., and average qualities are selling at 16s. 3d., with a general range of 16s. to 17s. Deliveries continue large. For a cargo of 96 test to Refiners, 10s. 6d. on floating terms is about value.

**Molasses Sugar.**—In good demand from 11s. 6d. to 15s., according to quality.

**Muscovado.**—Very little doing in grocery, and prices nominal. For 89 test to Refiners, 9s. 6d. on floating terms remains the approximate value.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	
Imports to date ...	34,000	18,000	50,000	41,000	Tons
Deliveries ... ..	28,000	25,000	24,000	24,000	"
Stocks ... ..	18,000	22,000	37,000	26,000	"

Rum.—Stocks in London:	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	
Jamaica ... ..	10,800	10,700	11,000	10,100	Puns.
Demerara ... ..	9800	7100	8700	7700	"
Total of all kinds:—	28,600	27,700			Excess 960 Puns

The low prices recently accepted for Demerara seem to have attracted buyers, and fully 1000 Puns have been sold during the fortnight chiefly at 7d., with a few better quality at 7½d., which has to some extent reduced the holdings of last season's production, and imparted a less depressed feeling to the market. Jamaica is slow of sale at 1s. 9½d. for approved Standard Home Trade Marks. Leewards remain nominally 7d. to 10d., according to quality.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London ... ..	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	
	100,000	78,000	71,000	111,000	Bags

The market remains quiet, but prices of West India are fairly steady. Trinidad has met a rather better demand for good Estate Cocoa at 60s., which is practically the top price, except for a few isolated fine marks. Grenada is selling fairly well, Native Cocoa at 53s. to 54s., and Fermented 56s. to 57s. 6d., other kinds unaltered. Quotations now are: Trinidad, fair collected, 58s., Estate Marks, 58s. to 62s.; Grenada, fair Native, 53s., Fermented, 56s. to 57s. 6d. From other Islands, fair Native is worth about 51s. and Fermented, 54s. to 57s. The hot weather, as usual, is for the moment curtailing the use of cocoa.

**Coffee.**—Fluctuating as usual. Santos for August delivery is quoted 33s. 6d., and good ordinary Jamaica, on the spot, 36s.

**Nutmegs.**—About steady. Sales of West India 65's, 1s. 8d.; 85's, 11d.; 105's, 8d.; 125's, 6½d.; and in shell from 5d. to 6d. **Nice.**—Firmer, fair to good pale sold at 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d.; red, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d.; and broken, 1s. to 1s. 1d. **Peppercorn.**—Very quiet at the quotation of 3d. for fair. **Oil.**—Slow. Small sales of ordinary to middling, 32s. to 36s.

Arrowroot.—A dull market with only small sales of manufacturing at 1½d., with a few better quality at 1¾d.	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Stocks in London:	9917	11,923	9153	10,112	13,789	Barrels.

**Lime Juice.**—Quotation, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d. In fair demand, sales limited, owing to short supply. Concentrated, small business done £14. Distilled oil firm at 1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d. Hand Pressed, nominal.

For Cotton, see Special Article, pages 296-298

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

# The . . . West India Committee Circular

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## OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XXIII.



The Hon. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., M.D.

## The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

August 15th, 1904.

**I**T WAS with the liveliest satisfaction that we were able to announce on Thursday last that the King had granted a Charter of Incorporation to The West India Committee by letters patent under the Great Seal, dated August 4th, 1904. Pending a General Meeting, which it is proposed to hold in the Autumn, when the Royal Charter will be laid before Members, we defer further comment regarding this mark of distinction bestowed upon our Association and confine ourselves to conveying to Members our heartiest congratulations.

**W**ITH every prospect of fair prices in the sugar market for some time to come, we cannot too strongly urge upon the West Indian proprietors the necessity for seizing the opportunity which clearances will afford of doing their utmost to strengthen their position, and that of the West Indian sugar industry generally, by improving their properties, both as regards factory and cultivation. It is too much, we are afraid, a feature of life in the tropics to



deal only with the present, and to be blind, to a greater or less extent, to the progress of events in the outside world. Climate and life in the tropics are anything but favourable to the exercise of cool reason, and the glitter of profitable prices is too often taken as indicating a permanent instead of a passing condition. We do not hesitate to say that, in many instances—and we allude especially to Barbados and the smaller Islands—the occasional paying price of sugar has, during the last twenty years, actually retarded the development of the industry. The necessity for improvement seems to many to disappear with the appearance of profits, and schemes for cheapening production are dropped, or, at any rate, only kept alive in a half-hearted manner. As has been pointed out in a previous issue of the *West India Committee Circular*, the competition which the West Indies will have to face will not be that of the beet industry alone, but principally of cane from other and newer sugar-producing countries. Unless, therefore, the West Indian proprietor puts his house in order while the opportunity is presenting itself, there may be no further chance given him of doing so. A start has been made in the right direction by the erection of a small Central Factory in Antigua, and we cannot too strongly urge that the Barbados Central Factory schemes should once more be taken up and carried to a satisfactory end. It has been too much the custom, in dealing with Central Factories in the smaller Islands, to treat the question as being one still in the experimental stage. The lines, however, on which they should be constructed and organised are so very well known that the questions left to be decided are purely local and should admit of easy and satisfactory settlement. The Factory question is but one of the points in which the position of the sugar industry can be strengthened, and we sincerely trust that the golden opportunity which is now presenting itself will not be allowed to pass by without its being fully utilised. It is needless to say that any assistance that The West India Committee can give in the way of obtaining information, will be at the disposal of the Planters.

**The Hon. W. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., M.D.**

Our Celebrity was born in London in 1851 and received his education at the University of Aberdeen where he took honours in medicine, proceeding to the degrees of M.B. and C.M. in 1873 and M.D. two years later. In 1877 he married the third daughter of John Corney Crompton, J.P., of Dominica, in which Island he has resided ever since. In the same year he was appointed Medical Superintendent of the Yaws Hospital; he became Medical Officer of Public Institutions in 1880, and Health Officer in 1897. He sat as Crown nominee in the Legislative Assembly from 1875 to 1877, and was appointed Official Member of the Legislative Council in 1898. Dr. Nicholls is corresponding and honorary member of many learned societies, and is Chairman of the Dominica branch of The West India Committee the formation of which was due to his energy, coupled with that of the Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. A. Agar. In 1891 he received the appointment of Special Commissioner to enquire into the prevalence of that terrible disease "Yaws" in the West Indies, and received the thanks of the Secretary of State for his report which was published as a Blue Book. He is the author of several publications, the most notable being his "Text Book on Tropical Agriculture" for which he gained a prize of £100 offered by the Government of Jamaica. The late Queen made him a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1896 in recognition of his services to Dominica. Proud when visiting the West Indies stayed at his house and was much struck by his ability.

**The St. Vincent Soufriere Eruption Fund.**

There is some pardonable anxiety on the part of many subscribers to the Fund opened by the Lord Mayor on May 14th, 1902, "for the relief of the terrible distress prevailing among the inhabitants of St. Vincent consequent upon the Eruption of Soufriere" in that month, to know how the

very large balance, amounting to over £25,000, will be disposed of. From all sources, £77,474 11s. 7d. were collected, and up to July 20th last the disbursements amounted to £47,768 12s. 6d. On May 2nd, the Governor of the Windward Islands appointed a special Committee to consider and report upon various suggestions for the utilisation of the balance which were made at a meeting of the Court House, Kingstown, on April 11th. We have asked Mr. Lyttelton for a copy of this report. According to advices received by the homeward mail, we understand that the recommendations include :

1. £3000 to be spent on a new road across the north of the Island to replace the road over the Soufriere, and the Crown lands adjacent to be sold at a nominal price.
2. £3000 to be applied for the up-keep of bye-ways and erection of bridges. Bridges over the Lambou and Union Rivers to be taken in hand at an early date.
3. £10,000 to be used for acquisition of land for small settlers, the money to be treated as a loan to the Government at 3%. The sites to be (1) near Kingston; (2) Carib Country; (3) Leeward District; (4) Marriaqua.
4. £5000 to be set aside for making loans for improving the industries of the Colony.
5. £3000 to be invested, and the interest to be used for the up-keep of a free library, for which a gift should be solicited from Mr. Carnegie.
6. £1000 to be granted to the Imperial Department of Agriculture for purchase of stock to improve the breed of animals in the Colony.
7. Substantial aid to be given towards repairing the canal in the Carib county, the sum to be provided from interest accrued and to accrue from moneys invested, upon the Messrs Porter satisfying the Government of their intention to re-establish their Carib county estates.

How far these recommendations will commend themselves to the authorities, it is too soon to determine. While we are strongly in favour of the balance of the fund being applied in such a manner as will lead to the employment of the people, for instance, the re-opening of the Carib canal, we cannot urge too strongly that the intention of the donors should be clearly borne in mind, the more especially as any misapplication of this fund would inevitably prejudice any future appeal which it may be necessary to make to the generous British public.

### Seedling Canes in Trinidad.

The experiments with seedling canes were continued in Trinidad by Mr. J. H. Hart in 1903-4 with satisfactory results. From the seedlings raised at St. Clair there is now a selection of canes which class themselves with some of the best raised in other Colonies. Through the kindness of Professor Harrison and Dr. F. Watts, Mr. Hart has been able to procure type specimens of a few varieties grown in Demerara and Antigua. Grown in Barbados, the Trinidad canes have proved true to the value shown by the local examination, and in some cases they have shown to even better advantage. It was suggested by a leading planter that trials should be made of canes planted in alternate rows, and in accordance therewith the Aranguez Bourbon and the Caledonian Queen were planted side by side in long rows. It was soon discovered that the Caledonian Queen was much the stronger of the two varieties, and the result of the yield, with the analysis, made this still more apparent. Caledonian Queen yielded at the rate of 35 tons to the acre while the Bourbon only gave 3.8 tons, the percentage of sucrose of the former being 18.9 and of the latter 15.45. Another Bourbon which is of a different character, yielded at the rate of 25.87 tons to the acre, but it was planted adjacent to weaker varieties, which in some measure accounts for its better yield. The yield in sucrose of this variety of Bourbon was 17.14. The difference in the sucrose yield of the two Bourbons is to be clearly accounted for by their individual characteristics, taken together with the conditions of environment. During the experiments at St. Clair, a sample of Bourbon plants which were selected and presented to the department by the late Mr. J. S. Wilson of Aranguez estate were taken as a standard. For several years the analysis of this cane showed results below that of the regular yield of Bourbon canes on estates in other parts of the Island and it was therefore considered questionable whether there was complete identity between the Bourbon as grown on different



estates or not. With a view of testing this point Mr. Hart secured plants of the Bourbon grown on one of the Colonial Company's estates through the kindness of Mr. P. Abel, the attorney of the Company. The difference between the appearance of the two canes, and the results of their analysis was equally striking. In the former the colour of the cane was essentially distinct, the Colonial Company's cane being a much brighter and cleaner yellow than the Aranguéz. The habit, weight per acre, and yield of sugar were also strongly in contrast.

The analytical results are briefly as follows:—

BOURBON.	Per cent. Sucrose.	Per cent. Glucose.	lbs. per gallon Sucrose	lbs. per gallon Glucose.	Estimated sugar, tons per acre.	Specific gravity.	Season, May, 1903.
Colonial Coy's. Cane ...	17.14	1.25	1.849	.125	3.15	1078	
Aranguéz ...	15.45	1.40	1.656	.140	.38	1072	
Caledonian Queen ...	18.09	0.50	1.953	.050	4.11	1079	

In previous years the result of the Aranguéz yield was similar, but the estimated yield of sugar for 1903 must not be taken as an accurate one for this variety, as it happens to be based on the returns of an experimental plot, planted in a particular manner, which allowed one cane to take advantage of another. Caledonian Queen and Bourbon were planted in alternate rows, as suggested by an experienced planter; the result being that the former overgrew the latter. The result is seen in the fact that while the Caledonian is much over average as to weight per acre, the Bourbon is much under average. The Caledonian Queen practically overgrew and robbed the Bourbon of its nutriment to such a degree that Mr. Hart estimated that the area on which the calculations should have been based, should have been increased by one-fortieth, and the area upon which the Bourbon was grown decreased by the same amount. Although on the field one-twentieth of an acre of each cane was planted, yet practically the ground occupied by each was Caledonian Queen three-fortieths, Bourbon one-fortieth, an adjustment which will make a considerable difference in the estimate of value of the canes as shown by the analytical returns. The Caledonian Queen gave a yield side by side with the Bourbon as seen in the table.

These experiments appeared to Mr. Hart to show that in what are known as Bourbon canes two distinct varieties have been secured, and he is of opinion that there is not only one, but dozens of different kinds of so-called Bourbon canes and this hypothesis would well explain the variable results obtained by different estates.

### The Cotton Industry in the West Indies.

Mr. Oliver and Mr. Eckersley, of the British Cotton Growing Association are to visit the West Indies in October to report on the development of the cotton industry, and to give advice as to the best kinds of cotton to grow. This is just what is wanted, and these two gentlemen will doubtless receive a hearty welcome in the Colonies. The British Cotton Growing Association has, we understand, been granted a Royal Charter, and this should ensure its stability and the permanence of a movement which deserves all possible support. The news by the Mail is of an encouraging nature, the planters are increasing their cultivation, and Mr. J. R. Bovell, the acting superintendent of the Department of Agriculture, writes that in the end it is quite possible that 1600 to 1700 acres may be under cultivation in Barbados alone.

During the fortnight ended August 11th, 136 bales of West Indian Cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. The latest quotations are: West Indian, 4.00d.-6.24d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 14d. per lb.; fine, 15d. per lb.; extra fine, 16d. per lb.

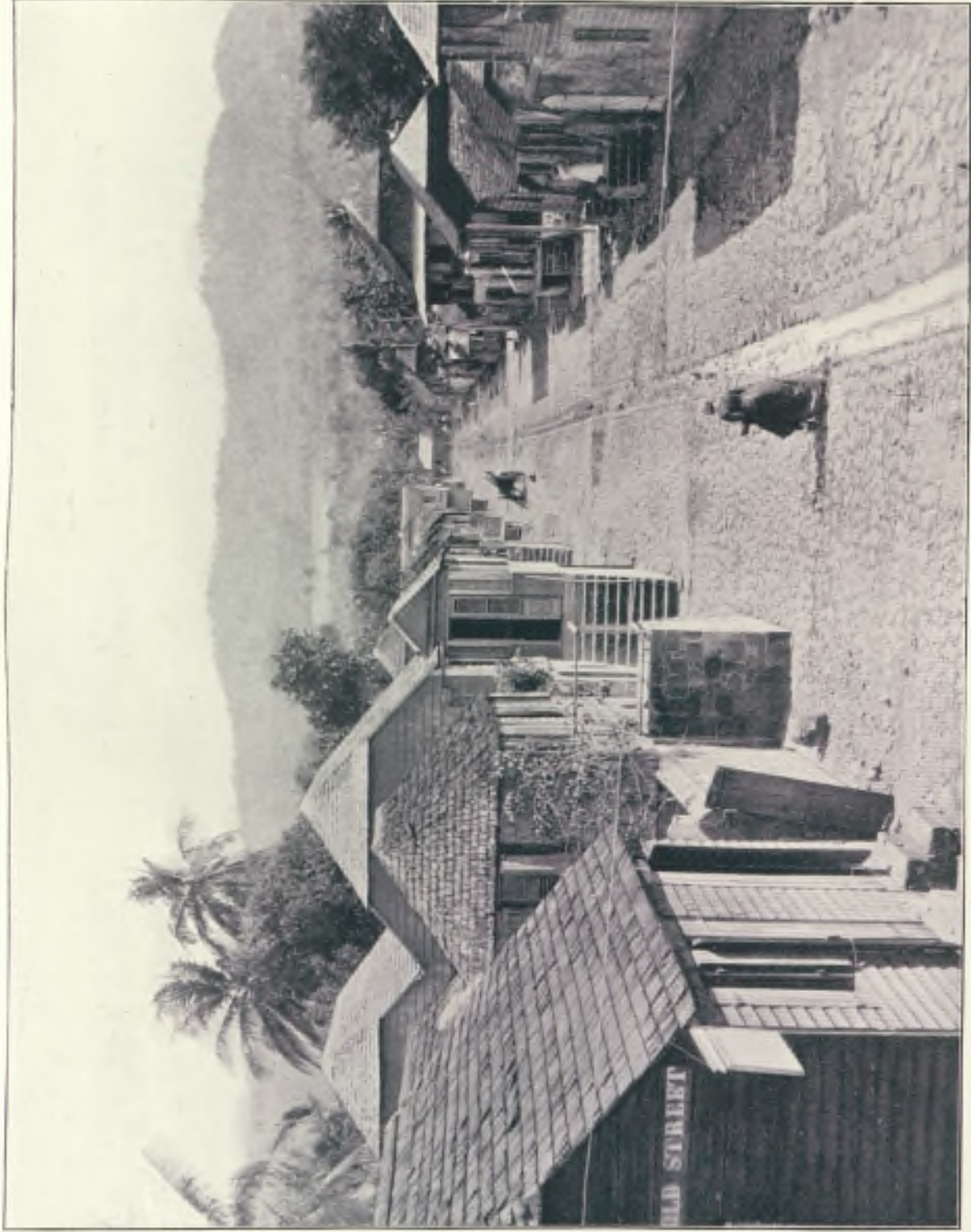


Photo by ALBERTUS E. AUSTIN.

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A TYPICAL STREET IN ROSEAU,  
DOMINICA.



**The Colonial and Indian Exhibition, 1905.**

The arrangements for the forthcoming Colonial and Indian exhibition to be held at the Crystal Palace next summer, are progressing satisfactorily. An official exhibit is expected from India. Southern Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Rhodesia, and British Central Africa have already agreed to exhibit. New South Wales and New Zealand are both negotiating for space, and Victoria has lodged an application. As regards the West Indies, influential committees have been appointed in Barbados and Trinidad to deal with the matter, and in the former Colony a provisional, but very comprehensive, list of exhibits has already been drawn up. Jamaica and Dominica have practically decided to exhibit, and in the others the question of representation is under consideration. British Guiana is the only Colony which has so far declined to exhibit, but we hope the decision is not absolutely final.

**The Cost of Planting in Dominica.**

Mr. E. A. Agar, our Hon. Correspondent in Dominica, who is at present in this country, has sent us the following figures—based on practical experience—showing the cost of cultivation of Crown lands in the Colony which he represents. We reproduce these figures believing that they will prove useful to intending settlers, from whom we continue to receive a number of enquiries.

Expenses.		Returns.	
	£ s d.	£ s d.	£ s d.
<b>FIRST YEAR—</b>			
To 200 acres at 10s. ...	100 0 0		
.. Fees ...	40 0 0		
.. House, &c ...	100 0 0		
.. Horse, Donkey, &c. ...	30 0 0		
.. Clearing 40 acres and planting 20 in cacao and 20 in limes with the necessary shade plants, &c ...	200 0 0		
.. Weeding at 10s per acre ...	20 0 0		
.. Staff, &c. ...	50 0 0		
.. Living Expenses ...	80 0 0		
			620 0 0
<b>SECOND YEAR—</b>			
To Weeding 40 acres at 30s. ...	60 0 0		
.. Staff and Sundries ...	75 0 0		
.. Living Expenses ...	80 0 0		
			215 0 0
<b>THIRD YEAR—</b>			
To Total Expenses ...	215 0 0		215 0 0
<b>FOURTH YEAR—</b>			
To Total Expenses ...	215 0 0		
.. Temporary Lime Works ...	120 0 0		335 0 0
			By 4 hogsheads Concentrated Lime Juice... 40 0 0
<b>FIFTH YEAR—</b>			
To Total Expenses ...	230 0 0		
.. Cacao Drying House ...	100 0 0		330 0 0
			By 12 hhds Con. Lime Juice... 120 0 0
<b>SIXTH YEAR—</b>			
To Total Expenses ...	250 0 0		
			.. 6 bags Cacao ... 27 0 0
			By 24 hhds. Con. Lime Juice... 240 0 0
			.. 12 bags Cacao ... 54 0 0
			294 0 0
<b>Total Expenditure over 6 years ...</b>	£1965 0 0		
<b>Proceeds of Sale of Produce ...</b>	481 0 0		
	£1484 0 0		£481 0 0

When the trees are in full bearing, the limes should yield two hogsheads of concentrated lime juice per acre of a total value of £400, and the cacao five bags per acre valued at £450, making a total of £850 per annum. The actual yearly expenditure on the estate, leaving out living expenses, should not exceed £250. As the lime crop increased the works would have to be extended, but if well constructed in the first instance, a comparatively small outlay only would be incurred. "Catch-crops" have been left out of account; at present no remunerative crop of this description has been found, but experiments are being conducted with various kinds, and should these be successful the cost of establishing an estate will be greatly reduced. It is always advisable to purchase considerably more land than is required for immediate cultivation, as this enables the planter to select the very best soils

and also gives scope for extending the plantation, as the first lands come into bearing. Cacao is a more remunerative crop than limes, but takes longer to come into bearing and requires a much richer soil.

### Canada and British Molasses.

The following is an extract from a memorandum issued by the Canadian Department of Customs, dated Ottawa, June 28th, 1904, relating to the free importation of machinery and molasses:

"Machinery of every kind and structural iron and steel when imported, under regulations to be made by the Minister of Customs, for use in the construction and equipment of factories for the manufacture of sugar from beetroot, until the first day of April, 1905."

"Molasses, the produce of any British country entitled to the benefits of the British Preferential Tariff, when produced from sugar cane and imported direct by vessel from the country of production in the original package in which it was placed at the point of production and not afterwards subjected to any process of treating or mixing; the package also to be free: provided, however, that this shall not apply to molasses to be used for the purpose of distillation."

### The Trade of Trinidad.

The Government Statist of Trinidad, in his report for 1902-3 recently laid before the Legislative Council states: "Speaking roughly, about one-third of the trade of Trinidad is done with the United Kingdom, while one-half is divided almost equally between the United States and Venezuela, so that these three countries account for five-sixths of our commerce. Business relations with Venezuela, our nearest neighbour, are, however, somewhat erratic, being dependent upon the varying moods of that country on the subject of revolutions, prohibitive tariffs, &c. Trade with Great Britain is practically stationary, while that with the United States has increased over 41.4 per cent. compared with the average of the five years 1886-1890. The comparative proximity of the latter country, coupled with direct, regular and frequent steam communication gives it an advantage which has led the way to brisker commercial relations. But it may be also that the audacity of Uncle Sam in pushing his wares has helped to oust the more conservative British manufacturer. 'Tell us what you have and what you pay for it, and its shortcomings,' writes an enterprising Yankee firm, 'and we will make you a superior article to exactly suit your tastes and requirements, at a lower price.' This is the sort of bait that is held out, and as it possibly tends to drive British goods from the market, home manufacturers might well consider this point."

### Trinidad Cacao.

Mr. J. H. Hart, the superintendent of the Botanical Department, Trinidad, in his annual report for the year ended March 31st, 1904, states that the experiment plot of Cacao fruited well this season, and was instructive to growers, by showing the characters of the several varieties and species cultivated. Among these are to be seen the (yellow and red) Trinidad Criollo, showing white seeds, Venezuelan Cacao of a fine type, also white seeded in the main, *Theobroma Pentagona*, or "Alligator" Cacao introduced from Nicaragua, Nicaraguan Criollo, and selected Forestero from one of the finest Trinidad estates. A small sample of chocolate made from the Venezuelan type gives a clue to the reason why it is in special demand, and usually obtains high prices from the manufacturers. It is seen to produce a bean giving a beautiful colour, which has a very distinct and high class flavour, without a trace of the bitter quality generally found in ordinary cacao. One tree of *Theobroma angustifolia* has this year borne its first fruit. This is the Monkey Cacao of Central America, useless for commercial purposes, and only of interest at present from a botanical standpoint. Several trees of *Theobroma bicolor* are now well established and regularly produce fruit annually.



### New Members of The West India Committee.

Concurrently with the announcement which we make elsewhere regarding the grant of a Charter of Incorporation to The West India Committee, we are able to record a further satisfactory increase in Membership. On August 4th the following 25 new Members were elected.

Name.	Proposer.	Secunder.
THOMAS H. SHARP, Esq. (Jamaica)	Messrs. Brandon & Co.	E. D. F. Man, Esq.
A. C. DRYSDALE, Esq. (St. Lucia)	Hon. E. duBoulay	Hon. S. D. Melville.
A. TAUREL, Esq. (Trinidad)	Messrs Macfarlane, Moffatt & Co.	Hon. S. D. Melville.
GEORGE GILES, Esq. (British Guiana)	John Brice, Esq.	Richard Lloyd, Esq.
GEORGE WILLIAM MALCOLM, Esq.	John McNeil, Esq.	Mewburn Garnett, Esq.
WILLIAM ASHLEY BOVELL, Esq. (Barbados)	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne	E. B. Skeete, Esq.
Major ROBERT JOHNSTONE (Trinidad)	Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G.	J. D. Sellier, Esq.
His Honour E. A. NORTHICOTE, L.L.B., Chief Justice (Trinidad)	" "	" "
The Hon. DENIS SLYNE (Trinidad)	" "	" "
Chevalier HUGO HOFFMAN (Trinidad)	" "	Arthur F. Turnbull, Esq.
JOHN HINCHLEY HART, Esq., F.I.S. (Trinidad)	" "	Edward R. Davson, Esq.
A. D. MACRAE, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	J. D. Sellier, Esq.
GEORGE F. BUSHIE, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	J. D. Sellier, Esq.
LOUIS BERNARD, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	Arthur N. Lubbock, Esq.
JOSEPH GIOANETTI, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	Arthur N. Lubbock, Esq.
VICTOR de VERTEUIL, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	J. D. Sellier, Esq.
LOUIS J. ALSTON, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	H. A. Trotter, Esq.
A. P. MAINGOT, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	J. D. Sellier, Esq.
JOHN DALGLEISH, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	R. Rutherford, Esq.
LEONARD MANNING HOBSON, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	R. Rutherford, Esq.
Major JAS. HENRY COLLENS, V.D. (Trinidad)	" "	W. P. B. Sheppard, Esq.
ROBERT J. CHAPMAN, Esq.	Carl de Verteuil, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
E. A. ROBINSON, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	" "
J. P. BAIN, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	" "
C. J. GREENIDGE, Esq. (Barbados)	Herbert Scrutton, Esq.	Fred Scrutton, Esq.

Of those elected during the current year 58 are from Trinidad; 31 from Jamaica; 28 from British Guiana; 19 from St. Lucia; 16 from Barbados; 12 from Dominica; 7 from Grenada; 3 from Antigua; 3 from Montserrat; 3 from St. Kitts; 3 from St. Vincent; 3 from Tobago; 1 from Nevis; and 1 from Turks Islands.

### The West India Mail Service.

In our last issue we stated that tenders had been invited by the Postmaster-General for the West Indian Mail Service, the present contract for which expires on June 31st next. We have now before us the form of tender and are glad to find that many of the suggestions regarding the mail service which we made in a letter to the Secretary of State on December 3rd last, have been adopted. The itinerary of the contract of September, 1900, as amended, remains unchanged as we recommended it should be, and in accordance with our representations that efficient and increased cold storage accommodation and increased facilities for the conveyance of fruit should be provided, the following new clause is inserted:—

We offer to provide on the Steam-ships provided for the conveyance of the Mails adequate cold storage space for the conveyance of fruit and other perishable cargo for an additional payment of £ per annum. We

also offer for an additional payment of £            to provide such cold storage space as aforesaid upon Steam-ships other than those provided for the conveyance of Mails capable of an average speed of not less than            knots an hour and sailing at least once in every fortnight from            in the West Indian Colonies to            in the United Kingdom and calling in both directions at the following ports (that is to say) :—

A new feature is that the parties tendering may suggest for consideration any alterations in the routes to be followed by the Mail ships, the number of the branch lines, the size or speed of the Mail ships, or the conditions of the contract. The contractors may also specify in such letter the maximum rates they will charge for the carriage of fruit and other perishable cargo, and whether or not they will land and embark passengers and their personal luggage free of charge at ports of call. The master and officers of the Mail ships and at least three-fourths of the crews have to be British subjects, and the contractors may not sell any Mail ship to any body or person other than the Admiralty without first giving the Admiralty a reasonable opportunity of purchasing the same.

Such in the main are the alterations made. The speed remains the same, viz. 13½ knots as the minimum (which has been the speed since the direct boat went to Trinidad) on the main line, 10 knots between Barbados and Demerara, and 8½ knots on the other inter-colonial routes.

### The Tariff Reform Movement.

Mr. Chamberlain resumed his fiscal campaign on August 4th by addressing an immense gathering, largely composed of agriculturists, at Welbeck Abbey. The Duke of Portland presided. Mr. Chamberlain, after reminding his hearers that any benefit conferred on the manufacturing population must also be good for agriculturists, proceeded to consider the general position, maintaining that under free trade foreign protected countries had progressed much more quickly than we had, and we had lost our old supremacy. The Government had taken note of this state of things and proposed a policy of retaliation. That was a very good policy as far as it went, but where did agriculture come in? Their opponents said agriculturists had nothing to complain of. If that were true he should be very glad; but was it true? Mr. Chamberlain cited facts and figures to show the decline in agriculture, and enumerated some of Mr. Cobden's predictions on the subject which he said had been falsified. Neither the farmer nor the labourer could be satisfied with the existing state of things. He did not think he need preach to the farmer; it was to the labourer that he desired to address himself. Laying emphasis on the fact that agricultural labourers now had a vote and must be consulted on this question, Mr. Chamberlain reviewed the benefits conferred on that class during recent years by Unionist Governments. He did not ask for gratitude, but he asked them to believe that his proposals would do still more for them than had yet been done. He contended that the high price of corn was not the cause of the distress among labourers at the time when free trade was adopted, but the lack of employment and the lowness of wages; and what was wanted was more employment and better wages. The real point was, would his proposals improve the condition of the farmer, and so enable him to improve the condition of the labourer? He wanted to extend to agriculture the same advantages which the Government promised to manufactures. He proposed to put a 2s. duty on corn; to put on flour such a duty that the whole of the milling of wheat would be done in this country; and a 5 per cent. duty on meat, dairy produce, preserved milk, poultry, eggs, vegetables, and fruits. These duties might slightly raise the price of the articles affected, but that would enable the farmer to increase his production. After referring to the case of France as showing the advantages conferred on agriculture by a policy of protection, Mr. Chamberlain pointed out that the duties he proposed would be paid by the foreigner, and the money thus raised would go to reduce the cost of tea, sugar, and, he hoped, tobacco. They could afford to take off 4½d. a lb. on tea, and ½d. a lb. on sugar, which was half the tax. The watch-word of his new policy would be "More profit for the farmer, more employment for the labourer, and cheaper food for his family."



Mr. Chamberlain closed by reminding his hearers that his policy was not merely economic, but Imperial, dwelling on the offer of reciprocal preference made by the Colonies, and urging that we should meet them half-way, and so effectually unite the Empire. (A full report of Mr. Chamberlain's speech appears in the *Times* of August 5th.)

### Publications Received.

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, etc., for our Library. We have to acknowledge with thanks, the receipt of the following:—

THE AGRICULTURAL NEWS, Vol. III, No. 60 (obtainable at The West India Committee Rooms, price 1d. post free, 1½d.) A leading article in this publication deals with Sir Daniel Morris's address delivered to The West India Committee on June 23rd. Some interesting statistics are given regarding the yield of cacao in Dominica, and there is also a useful article on rubber planting in Ceylon.

REPORTS ON THE BOTANICAL STATION, AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL, AND EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS, DOMINICA, 1903/4 (Obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 6d.) The total expenditure at the Station during the year was £895. There was a decrease in the number of lime plants distributed, but a largely increased demand for cacao, rubber, nutmeg, and orange plants, indicating that these plants are likely to be cultivated widely in Dominica. In the experiment plots, there was a noticeable decline in the yield of cacao. This is attributed to unfavourable seasons.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOTANICAL DEPARTMENT, TRINIDAD. This is the annual report of Mr. J. Hinchley Hart, Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Gardens, and deals with many subjects of great importance to planters, notably, experiments with seedling canes, rubber, timber and shade trees, cotton, and a host of minor industries.

THE GLITTERING ROAD by W. A. Mackenzie (Ward Lock and Co., Ltd., New York and Melbourne, 6/-). This book which is dedicated to Sir Alfred Jones, deals with the future of "Palmetto" the Isle of Palms. The Island is dominated by Hispaniola and the young Queen is exiled. Hector Grant, a journalist who finds life dull in London, determines in search of adventure and also for love of the Queen to endeavour to free it. Acting on the maxim, "Give people the impression that you're going to win and you remove half the probable obstacles," he obtains the help of Thomas Smith the "Orange King" (can this be Sir Alfred Jones?) and they start together for Palmetto. The preparations being completed, the Queen, who has grown to love the hero, arrives at the Island; all are her friends but one, an influential Palmetto woman, Asunta, who has also fallen in love with Grant, but has disgusted him by her conduct. A stirring account is given of the subsequent revolt, which, thanks to Grant and, to the Orange King, is successful. The story of how, his work being finished, Grant "the stranger" must return to London, how the Queen, the last of her race, resolves to part from him and live only for her people, and how, on the eve of Grant's departure, Asunta takes her revenge, brings to an end a book which is interesting throughout, and should prove especially so to visitors to the West Indies.

### Letter to the Editor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR.—I am pleased to see the announcement on page 308 of your latest *Circular*, dated 2nd August, 1904, that it is proposed to write a history of your honourable and most useful Committee, which has done so much for the abolition of Bounties. And further (at the top of the same page) the announcement that, as a result of this abolition, new machinery is being introduced into the West Indies.

Although the question of their abolition was virtually settled more than two years ago, the evil principle of the Bounties had, like all other evil principles, many long-surviving friends and supporters, who in this instance, and not so very long ago, exerted themselves to the utmost in a Parliamentary debate to prolong the injustice, if possible for ever!

Obstruction and false prophecy have to a certain extent retarded the improvement that might have been expected to result more quickly from the new departure two years ago, from a complicated false system to a sound and true one, in the sugar trade of the world. But one of our old poets declared very truly, "God's mill grinds slow, but sure."

A kind friend (one who knows) has drawn my attention to a very interesting article, headed "The Sugar Market," that appeared in *The Statist* of the 23rd ult. I hope I may be pardoned for quoting the first few opening and most important lines:—

"In all its varied history the sugar market has probably never before presented a more interesting problem than at present. An almost mysterious power, insidious and invisible, appears to be exerting an irresistible force, with startling effect. Like a thief in the night, the Colossus of consumption crawls upon the hapless consumer, to find him unarmed and unprepared. Therein lies the key of the situation—an entire exhaustion of invisible supplies in the chief consuming centres."

Continental consumers appear to be rapidly learning to use more sugar as an important article of their daily food, at its reduced and natural price, now that the Bounties are abolished. Before long we are likely to require much greater quantities from our own possessions in other parts of the world, and to furnish much increased employment for shipping; whereas the Bounty-fed Beet sugar, during its prolonged monopoly under a false system, was ferried across the narrow sea in a few hours.

Mr. Chamberlain, during his eight years' tenure of office as Colonial Secretary, the best one who ever held it, did more than any other statesman to bring about the abolition of strange and unnatural Bounty system. The cessation of it will do much to justify, "in a nation's eyes," his new Fiscal Policy.

I beg to remain always,

Stratford, Essex.

Yours respectfully,

August 4th, 1904.

GEORGE SHUTE.

### West Indian Interests at Westminster.

#### A Suggested Imperial Fiscal Conference

On August 10th, SIR H. VINCENT asked the First Lord of the Treasury to consider the advisability of calling an Imperial conference to inquire into the fiscal position of the Empire, and MR. C. M'ARTHUR suggested inquiry by a Royal Commission, upon which Colonial representatives would serve, as to the measures needful to enable the United Kingdom and the Colonies to co-operate for the defence of Imperial trade and for the promotion of freer trade within the Empire. MR. BALFOUR in his answer reminded the House that in the last few years there had been two conferences with the representatives of the self-governing Colonies. In his opinion these conferences constituted one of the greatest additions ever made to the machinery of the Empire, and he hoped they would be frequently repeated. He did not, however, propose to take any steps in the matter at present.

#### A Return containing some Useful Statistics.

A return has been issued to Parliament at the instance of Sir John Colomb showing the public Expenditure; the total value of imports and exports (by sea); expenditure on, or contributions to, the cost of the provision and maintenance of the Royal Navy; and the percentage proportion such expenditure or contribution bears to the total public expenditure and to the total value of imports and exports (by sea) in each of the various portions of the British Empire for the latest year for which figures are available. From this it appears that India and the self-governing Colonies contribute £384,604 towards the Navy, an amount representing '09 per cent. of their total value of imports and exports (by sea). Other British possessions contribute nothing.

The total public expenditure of the West Indian Colonies and total value of their imports and exports including bullion and specie is given in this Return as follows:—

	Total Public Expenditure (a)	Total Value of Imports and Exports (by sea) including Bullion and Specie		Total Public Expenditure (a)	Total Value of Imports and Exports (by sea) including Bullion and Specie.
Bermuda ... ..	£48,308	£920,801	Leeward Islands (b):—		
British Honduras (b) ... ..	51,850	532,392	Virgin Islands ... ..	£1,854	£7,186
Bahamas (b) ... ..	74,614	513,699	St. Kitts-Nevis ... ..	43,713	278,681
Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	8,006	64,844	Antigua ... ..	48,992	252,248
Jamaica (year ended 31st March 1903) ... ..	889,720	4,321,832	Montserrat ... ..	9,917	33,314
St. Lucia (b) ... ..	66,408	399,782	Dominica ... ..	30,419	169,531
St. Vincent (b) ... ..	28,390	123,217	Trinidad and Tobago (year ended 31st March, 1903) ... ..	705,180	5,144,268
Barbados (b) ... ..	194,346	1,465,144	British Guiana (year ended 31st March, 1903)... ..	501,704	3,128,441
Grenada (b) ... ..	68,649	549,710			

(a) Exclusive of loans raised and repaid, as far as ascertainable

(b) The figures for expenditure are for the year ended 31st March, 1904.

### West Indian Civil Service.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our table of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

MR. H. HESKETH BELL, Administrator of Dominica, returns to the West Indies by to-morrow's mail, and will administer the general Government of the Leeward Islands until the arrival of Sir C. Courtenay Knollys.

MR. K. J. GREAVES, Police Magistrate of Barbados, has been granted two months leave of absence, during which Mr. F. G. Knight will act in his place.



MR. A. F. BOWEN has been appointed a Member of the Education Board of Barbados from July 16th

The Governor of Barbados has appointed MR. C. P. CLARKE, M.C.P., to act as a Member of the Executive Committee during the absence of Mr. C. J. Greenidge, M.C.P., and Mr. H. WALTER KERCE to act in the same capacity for Mr. J. C. Lynch, M.C.P.

The appointment of MR. J. W. C. CATFORD, M.C.P., as King's Solicitor and Proctor for Barbados has been confirmed.

The resignation of DR. J. M. DEFREITAS as Public Vaccinator for Georgetown, Demerara, has been accepted

The appointment of MR. J. A. P. BOWHILL as First Class Officer in the Department of Lands and Mines in British Guiana has been confirmed.

The King has approved the appointment of the HON. THOMAS MANCHESTER as a Member of the Executive Council of St. Kitts-Nevis.

MR. EDWARD RUTTER JONES, Assistant Treasurer of St. Kitts-Nevis, has been appointed an Official Member of the Legislative Council of that Presidency.

MR. OTHO GALGEY, M.C.P., has been appointed an Official Member of the Legislative Council of St. Lucia.

MR. PETER ABEL is acting for the Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, C.M.G., and MR. S. HENDERSON for the Hon. W. S. Robertson on the Legislative Council of Trinidad

The HON. S. HENDERSON has been appointed to act as a Member of the Board of Education, Trinidad, during the absence of the Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, C.M.G.

MR. JAMES COMMISSIONG has been elected to act as a Chairman of the Naparima Local Road Board during the absence of Mr. James Peet from Trinidad

MR. A. KNOX WIGHT has been re-elected Chairman of the Arima Local Road Board, Trinidad

MR. F. E. SCOTT has been appointed to act as a Member of the Board of Education, Trinidad, during the absence from the Colony of Mr. J. D. Sellier.

MR. F. RAMSEY HARFORD has been appointed a Member of the Board of Education, Grenada, during the absence on leave of Mr. David Slinger

MR. GEORGE WILLIAM SMITH is acting as an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, Grenada, during the absence of the Hon. C. Macaulay Browne, C.M.G.

SIR DANIEL MORRIS, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, will, as at present arranged, return to Barbados by the first mail in October, though he may possibly go to Jamaica direct in the R.M.S. "Port Kingston" with the two representatives of the British Cotton Growing Association, to whose proposed visit to the West Indies reference is made in another column

### Notes of Interest.

**BANK RATE.** The Bank of England rate remains 3% (changed from 3½% on April 22nd, 1904), and Consols (2½%) are quoted 88 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> as we go to press.

**FILING CASES.** Spring back cases for filing *The West India Committee Circular* can be obtained from the Secretary for 2/6 each, or post free 3/-. These will be found a great convenience.

**THE R.M.S.** Sir Alfred L. Jones will entertain a large party of friends at a luncheon on board "PORT KINGSTON," the "Port Kingston," the fine new steamer of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service, at Avonmouth, on August 24th.

**WEST INDIAN PRODUCE.** Messrs. James Philip & Co., of 4 Fenchurch Buildings, whose efforts to bring West Indian produce before the British Public deserve the fullest support, are exhibiting at the International Food Exhibition, to be held at the Crystal Palace from August 20th to September 20th.

**A WEDDING.** At the Parish Church, Weybridge, on August 3rd, Mr. Drury Wake, only son of the late Mr. Drury Wake of Pitsford, Northampton, was married to Miss Dorothy Caroline Knollys, the elder daughter of Sir C. Courtenay Knollys, the new Governor of the Leeward Islands. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Erskine Knollys, uncle of the bride, assisted by the Rev. Canon Hombersly of Trinidad.

**LATE FEE MAIL LETTERS.** For the convenience of Members wishing to post letters for the outgoing West Indian Mail at the last possible moment, arrangements have been made for a messenger to leave The West India Committee Rooms on the day of the departure of the Mail at 12.30 p.m., with letters for posting at Waterloo Station. All such letters must bear the late fee of 2d., in addition to the ordinary postage.

**THE GRANT-IN-AID OF SUGAR, 1902.** Mr. J. C. Nolan and Mr. W. A. S. Vickers of the Westmoreland Sugar Planters' Association, arrived from Jamaica on August 14th, with a view to discuss with the Secretary of State for the Colonies various matters affecting the sugar industry of the Island. They will lay before him the resolution regarding the distribution of the £10,000 Grant-in-Aid, 1902, to which reference was made in our last issue.

**TRINIDAD ASPHALT.** The contract for paving the courtyard and entrance to King's College, in the Strand, with compressed asphalt, has been awarded to The Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd., and it may be mentioned that this same Company executed all the asphalt work in connection with the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall, Vincent Square, where the exhibition of tropical fruits is to be held on December 13th and 14th next.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS OVERDUE.** Although more than seven months have elapsed since they became due, several subscriptions to The West India Committee for the current year remain unpaid. It is hoped that those Members in arrears will forward a remittance to the Secretary immediately. Subscriptions from Members in the Colonies may be paid through the Hon. Correspondents, and forms for payment through bankers may be obtained from the Secretary.

**WEST INDIAN CLUB DINNER.** The fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club was held at the Howard Hotel, Norfolk Street, on Wednesday, August 3rd. Mr. S. Browne was in the chair. Amongst those present were:—The Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Commander W. H. Owen, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. J. D. Sellier, Mr. W. Morrison, Mr. D. Morris, Mr. W. P. B. Sheppard, Mr. G. A. Douglas, U.S.O., Mr. A. M. Nathan, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. H. Berger, Mr. E. Sturridge, Mr. V. A. Desnoes, Mr. W. C. Branday, and Mr. Leonard J. Stone.

**THE LUBBOCK TESTIMONIAL FUND.** Sir Henry K. Davson, Mr. R. Rutherford, and the Secretary of the Sub-committee appointed to make the arrangements for the testimonial to Sir Nevile Lubbock have now completed their duties in this connection. The statement of receipts and expenditure of the fund have been audited, and can be inspected by subscribers at The West India Committee Rooms. Copies of the photogravure of the presentation portrait are being sent by this Mail to the leading Clubs and Agricultural and Commercial Bodies in British Guiana and the West Indies, and we would add that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have kindly consented to take them out freight free.

**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Crown of Granada" from Glasgow for Barbados, Demerara and Trinidad, August 18th; S.S. "Albanian" from Liverpool for Barbados and Trinidad, August 20th; S.S. "Sarstoon" from London for Barbados Grenada, Trinidad and Demerara, August 24th; and the R.M.S. "Port Kingston" from Bristol for Kingston, Jamaica, on August 27th. Letters for Grenada and Trinidad posted on August 17th, marked "via New York," will go forward by S.S. "Maracas" from New York and be delivered in Grenada on September 1st, and Trinidad on September 2nd. The usual postage of 1d. suffices. *Information for publication under this head is invited from Shipping Companies.*

**THE W. I. ASSOCIATION OF GLASGOW.** A strong board of directors for the West India Association of Glasgow has been elected, the names being:

Mr. Alexander Crum Ewing, Chairman.	Mr. George Christall.
Mr. Humphrey Crum Ewing, Vice-Chairman.	Mr. R. Wilson Thom.
Mr. Archibald H. Donald, Hon. Treasurer.	Mr. Robert Wilson.
Mr. James R. Greig.	Mr. Thomas Prentice.
Mr. Norman Lamont.	Mr. Robert Harvey.

with Mr. John Ewing as Secretary. A meeting of the Board was held on August 9th, when a revised constitution of the Association was considered and approved. It was decided to call a special general meeting for August 29th for confirmation. The Association has addressed a letter to the Colonial Office regarding the relations between Venezuela and Trinidad.

### The Homeward Mail.

From the extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents which we give below, it will be observed that the drought, which was seriously threatening many of the Islands, had broken up when the Mail left, and that rains were assisting cultivation. Our suggestion that a Conference should be summoned to enquire into and report on the prevalence of Prædial Larceny, was very favourably received, and it is hoped that, in the interests of all classes of the community, it will be followed up in the Colonies. Active arrangements were in progress in Barbados and Trinidad with a view to the representation of those Colonies at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in 1905, and replies were received from several other Colonies, stating that the proposals of the Committee were under consideration. Time is of object, and we trust that the other Colonies will fall into line with Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad, and decide whether they wish to avail themselves of this unique opportunity of placing their wares before the British public. The R.M.S. "Tagus" anchored off Plymouth at 1.55 p.m. on Wednesday, August 10th, and the mails were delivered on the following morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Antonio" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth, on Wednesday, August 3rd.



**Antigua—Increase of Cane Farming.**

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) July 25th.—The question of prædial larceny was not such a grave one in Antigua as in other parts of the West Indies owing to the low value of agricultural products, but still, it did much to discourage small cultivators and to maintain a class of very undesirable characters. The suggestion of a local conference on this subject would meet with general endorsement.

Some dissatisfaction seemed to prevail on account of the long time which elapsed before account sales of cotton were received; possibly this was due to the cotton from Antigua being less easily disposed of than that from other Islands. If the cotton industry were to develop there, expert attention would have to be given to the improvement of the staple, which seemed inclined to weakness, shortness and coarseness. One sample of Sea Island cotton had, however, been produced which commanded a good price, and that was from the English Harbour district. So far, the peasants generally had not taken kindly to cotton planting, and with the general adoption of cane farming in the neighbourhood of the central factories, the best class of peasants were likely to devote their energies to cane planting rather than to cotton growing.

A few light showers had fallen during the fortnight, but these produced hardly any effect on the soil so long drought-stricken. Good soaking rains were most urgently required, both to save cane and provision crops and to replenish the ponds and tanks, which were running woefully short.

As much as \$1 92½ had been offered for Muscovado locally, but the crop was now practically disposed of. Molasses had been sold at 14 cents per gallon, package included.

Everyone was pleased that the University of Birmingham had conferred the degree of D Sc on Mr. Francis Watts, in recognition of the immense amount of useful work which he had done.

**Barbados Banana Exports.**

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE) July 29th.—Two meetings had been held by the Committee appointed by the Governor to organize the despatch of exhibits from Barbados to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition at the Crystal Palace. A list of the most suitable articles to send had been prepared. At a meeting of the Agricultural Society on July 29th, it was decided to move over at once to the premises which they were to share with the Commercial body.

A general rain of two to three inches was still much wanted. Several showers had fallen during the fortnight, varying considerably in their amount on different estates, but for the most part they were very light, the wind keeping very high. The rainfall for the month had varied very much. One estate in St. Peter's had had over 6 inches, another, on higher land in St. Thomas, only 2.36, in St. James' about 3.18, and St. Philip and Christchurch between 4 and 5 inches. The canes were keeping wonderfully green, but they were not making any growth, as the rains had not been sufficiently heavy to get to the roots. Large sales of sugar had been made recently at \$1.90 for muscovado and \$2.30 for dark crystals. The hurricane season being almost upon them, holders were unwilling to run any further risk, and there did not seem any likelihood of an important rise immediately, either on this side or in New York. Molasses had been pretty well all sold out, the last at 14 cents. The market for this commodity had been sadly injured by the exaggerated reports which were spread of the amount that Barbados was going to produce, and it was believed that they had not received anything like the intrinsic value.

The want of heavy rain had prevented the planting of green stuffs, such as impee, beans, woolly pyrol, etc., except in very few places. An ample supply of cotton seed had arrived and land was being prepared to receive it. Paris green had also been laid in in large quantities to meet the attack of the caterpillars.

The export of bananas was increasing very largely. Over 1900 crates had been shipped by last mail. Recent account sales showed hardly any damaged fruit, and the price was remunerative. More suckers were continually being planted.

The second reading of the Mines Regulation Act, providing that any Company or person desiring to start mining operations should register their names and addresses at the Registrar's Office, and the nature of the operations which were carried on, the name, situation and extent of the land worked by them, their title to such land, their profits at the end of the year, and other details, moved by Mr. Goodman, was rejected by the House of Assembly, by 15 votes to 2, on July 19th.

(A copy of the Barbados Blue Book of 1903-4, received by last mail, can be seen at The West India Committee Rooms).

**British Guiana—Canes Backward.**

(A. SUMMERSON, Esq.) July 28th.—The weather had been showery and favourable, but in the Corentyne district good rains were wanted.

The steamship "Indus," built for Messrs. Nourse, and specially designed for carrying emigrants between the East and West Indies had arrived at Georgetown, on her maiden voyage from Liverpool, in 14½ days.

The Hon. B. Howell Jones presided at the monthly meeting of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society on Thursday, July 21st. The resignation of the Hon. A. M. Ashmore, President, was accepted with regret, and the chair-

man then recounted his experiences in respect of the cocoanut cultivation. A full report of this meeting appears in the *Argosy* of July 23rd.

The canes due for the October, November and December reaping continued backward, and there was an absence of the vigorous growth usual at this period of the year. Showers would be much wanted during the next few weeks to assist in the establishment of the young cultivation. Labour continued very scarce in Essequibo, owing to the great demand in rice cultivation. Nothing was doing in crystals and the quotation of \$2 25 was merely nominal.

#### Dominica—Early Shipment of Oranges.

(A. K. AGAR, Esq.) July 27th.—Oranges were beginning to come in, and a small shipment was made by the mail.

The weather had been very windy, and the last two days had been very wet, which was welcome to the low-lying estates.

The subjects of the Prædial Larceny Conference and the Colonial Exhibition would be brought up before the next meeting of the Agricultural Society.

#### Grenada—Favourable Weather.

(P. J. DEAN, Esq.) July 28th.—The favourable weather last reported had continued, and consequently cultivation generally had benefited, and a good healthy appearance existed all round. Unless there was a set-back owing to absence of rain, of which there was no appearance at present, early pickings of cocoa in October and November were looked for.

H. M. S. "Tribune" had arrived at St. George's on the 16th ult. and would remain until the 31st.

Shipments of spices were still backward, but it was hoped that the crop would be a heavy one.

#### Jamaica—The Grant-in-Aid, 1902

At the half-yearly general meeting of the Agricultural Society on July 20th, an important discussion took place regarding the Direct Line Fruit Contract which, it was contended, had not been properly carried out. Dissatisfaction was expressed at the work of the Agricultural Instructors, and more especially at the lack of space available for ordinary shippers. A resolution was moved by Mr. de Mercado, to the effect that the contract had not worked satisfactorily to Jamaica and in accordance with its terms, and requesting the Governor to enquire into the contract and to see that Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Co. carried out the terms of their contract.

#### Montserrat—End of the Drought.

(CONRAD WATSON, Esq.) July 27th.—The long spell of drought had ended with rain, which fell generally over the Island on the morning of the 27th, some estates registering 2.20 to 2.45 inches, and at the time of writing there was every appearance of a continuance of favourable weather. No cotton seed having been planted before the rain, planting was being pushed on as rapidly as possible.

Mr. Ballou, the Entomologist of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, was paying a visit to the Island.

#### Nevis—Successful Cane Farming.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) July 27th.—The weather appeared to have broken up at last, and nice rains had fallen since Sunday. Some districts had had much more than others, but it had been general enough to enable planters to put in a fair area of cotton for 1905. Up to the present, about 170 bales had been shipped, but a few of these were really from Anguilla and Tortola.

A Mr. Grenfell Knight had arrived at the Island with a view to embarking in cotton on a small scale, and he looked forward to others following his example at no distant date. Planters during the present crop had purchased some 1800 tons of cane from the peasant proprietors in Nevis, which represented something like £600 paid into the pockets of the growers.

#### St. Kitts—Grateful Showers.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, Esq.) July 26th.—Refreshing showers had fallen that morning, and it was hoped that they would continue. They were doubly welcome, as they would promote the planting of cotton seed.

#### St. Vincent—The Cotton Factory.

(Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co.) July 29th.—On July 25th, a meeting of planters and others interested in cotton cultivation was held at the Government Office. It was proposed to form a Cotton Growers' Association in St. Vincent, and the gentlemen present were invited to co-operate in the movement.

The receipts for ginning amounted to £270 and the expenses of the factory to £131, shewing a profit of over 100%. The Administrator informed the meeting that it was not the intention of the Government to make money out of the factory. The actual cost of ginning was under two cents, but it was expected that if a larger area were put under cotton cultivation, the same could be ginned at one cent. per lb. The Governor was elected President, and the Administrator Vice-President of the Association.

The weather for the past fortnight had been very warm, with occasional heavy rains, which it was hoped would not injure the young cotton, which was just beginning to burst.

#### Trinidad—Prædial Larceny.

(EDGAR TRIPP, Esq.) July 28th.—The further efforts of The West India Committee to induce the Governments concerned to deal with the great and ever-growing evil of prædial larceny, met with warm approval, and it was hoped that, in compliance with the suggestion of The West India Committee, the Secretary of State would take action leading to comprehensive and practical united effort to finally stamp it out.

The Acting-Governor had appointed a Special Committee, of whom the writer was one, to consider the question of the representation of the Colony at the forthcoming Crystal Palace Exhibition.

A Standing Committee, to whom all the papers regarding cotton cultivation were referred by the Agricultural Society, had expressed the opinion that it was desirable to await the results of the experimental cultivation now being carried on, before recommending the Government to make advances for cotton growing. Prizes of £20, £10, and £5, were being offered by the Government for the best two acres and one acre of sea island, and the best sample bale of 150 lbs.

It was satisfactory that manjak was receiving attention in London: considering that it contained 90% of bitumen it would appear to be valuable, but, so far, the European market had been disappointing. The Americans had recently concluded a contract for 3000 tons from the Vistabella mine, to be shipped in quantities of not less than 500 tons per month.

Some interest was felt regarding the answer likely to be received to the protest of the Government against the recent Decree of President Castro, including the British Island of Patos, in Venezuela's newly defined district of Christabal Colon. The illegal 30% surtax continued, though in a more oppressive form than when first imposed 23 years ago, and the resources of diplomacy were not yet exhausted.



The Government of Venezuela had entered an action against General Matos, the chief of the late revolution, for damage amounting to 24 million bolivars. A Decree was about to be signed, allowing free transit of the Orinoco to merchandize to and from Colombia, a privilege long denied, and which might prove in the future of great advantage to Trinidad.

Some very successful races had been held by the Turf Club on July 22nd and 23rd, the prizes being sufficient to attract several horses from the neighbouring Colonies, who carried away a good share of the winnings.

Heavy rain, alternating with bright sunshine, described the weather of the fortnight; it was quite seasonable and capital for the crops. The nights were, and had been for some time past, unusually cool and pleasant.

**Weather Telegrams.**

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), August 2nd. "Light, partial showers." Aug. 15th. "Very dry, rain wanted." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) Week ending August 4th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "29th to 2nd, fine. 3rd and 4th, Heavy rains." **KINGSTON**: "Fine, occasional showers."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.	Cotton.
<b>Barbados—</b>	Hhds.	lbs.	Tons	Puns.		Puns	Ozs	Carats.	lbs.
Jan. 1 to July 28, '04	47,682	—	—	—	—	42,435	—	—	—
" " 28, '03	26,097	—	—	—	—	25,110	—	—	—
<b>British Guiana—</b>	Tons.								
Jan. 1 to July 26, '04	36,911	63,852	2558	11,427	165,840	913	43,195	5089	—
" " 28, '03	55,389	95,232	480	14,918	4684	3470	47,929	4646	—
<b>Jamaica—</b>		Cwts.	Cwts.	Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.	
	—	—	—	—	—	Cwts	Stens.	—	—
<b>Trinidad—</b>	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.	Copra.
Jan 1 to July 27, '04	372,310	30,712,880	56,315	100	4,444,071	Puns. Tons Bels		Tons.	Bags.
" " 27, '03	365,823	24,717,040	36,040	308	7,466,452	1743 29 89		70,201	8964
						3070 178 161		100,558	—
<b>Grenada—</b>		Bags	Brls	½ Brls.	SPICE.	Cases.	Bags	Cotton Seed	Cotton.
Oct 1 to July 29, '04	—	65,263	3501	565		489	96	Bags	Bales
" " 29, '03	—	62,241	3403	676		772	77	6533	1027
								7125	1023

**The Mails.**

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.**—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Tagus," August 10th, 1904:—**Barbados**—Mr G. Richards, Mr C. F. Vlies, Miss A. Moore, Miss D. F. Moore, Mr H. Speight, Mr J. Culpeper, Mr H. Teitz, Major A. R. Atkins, Mr A. Baldwin, R.N. **Demerara**—Mrs Cox, Mr W. A. Colly, Mr. K. Wilton, Dr. J. C. Widdup. **Jamaica**—Mr E. Wilson, Hon. G. McGrath, Miss G. Boyd, Miss E. M. Spragnoletti, Miss Nethersole, Mr E. H. O'R. Blackwood, R.G.A., Mr T. J. Woodbridge. **Trinidad**—Mr S. Morgan, Mrs Hancock, Mr J. Disney, Mrs Cipriani, Miss Cipriani, Mr A. Cipriani, Mr F. Hoffmann, Mr and Mrs Gilmour, Master F. Hamel Smith, Mrs. Pile, Mr E. Sellway, Mr O. Jones, Mr I. L. Benares. **Antigua**—Mrs. and Miss Sedgwick. **Grenada**—Mr E. Norton. **St. Kitts**—Mr S. Abbott, Mrs Horsford, Mr Gregg. **St. Lucia**—Mr T. A. Drysdale, Major G. H. Barefoot.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "La Plata," August 17th, 1904:—**Demerara**—Miss K. Davis, Mrs. E. Powell, the two Misses Powell, Master J. Fernandes, Mrs Stewart. **Jamaica**—Rev. and Mrs A. Brown, Mr R. E. Seaton, Mr and Mrs Deleon, Miss Markle, Mr W. Branday, Mr J. H. Scott. **Trinidad**—Mr E. Pitts, Mr F. J. McLeod, Miss McLeod, Mrs. E. F. Stone, Mr J. Cadman, His Excellency Sir H. M. Jackson. **Dominica**—Rev. P. Siviene, His Hon. H. Bell, C.M.G. **St. Lucia**—Major F. Woodhams, Mr P. Russell, Dr. A. King.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Tagus," August 31st, 1904:—**Barbados**—Miss C. Hamilton, Miss E. Owen, Mrs and Miss Johnson, Mr. Mrs and Miss Deighton. **Demerara**—Mr J. Singer, Mr W. Douglas, Mr J. E. Brandon. **Jamaica**—Mr and Mrs Ashenheim, Mrs G. De Cordova, Miss Cornioldi, Miss Mordecai. **Trinidad**—Mr I. Schoener, Mrs E. Schoener, Mr J. Cadman, Dr. E. J. Hammond, Mr. and Mrs de Jonge.

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.**—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," August 3rd, 1904:—Capt C. E. Birch, Mr R. E. Bonitto, Miss C. Durrant, Mrs. and Miss Ford, Mr and Mrs A. W. Gardner, Mr A. B. Johnson, Mrs K. Lawson, Mrs C. C. Monchton, Mrs R. J. McPherson, Mr and Mrs H. McGilchrist, Miss M. Withers.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," August 13th, 1904:—**Jamaica**—Mr. L. Armitage, Miss Archambeau, the two Misses Blake, Rev. Mother X. Bryson, Mr J. Bathgate, Mr and Mrs H. W. Cooke, Miss J. Cooper, Mr H. C. Chisman, Mr F. W. Chisman, the two Misses Cover, Miss A. Driscoll, Major and Mrs W. P. Drury, Mr W. Fairbairn, Miss M. Glesson, Miss MacGrath, Mr A. H. Homer, Mr James Innis, Miss M. Jones, Mr F. Kemble, Miss H. Kirby, Mr G. Maconochie, Miss A. M. MacGregor, Miss K. Murphy, Mr W. H. Moresby, Miss N. Nash, Miss J. Owens, Mr W. J. Palmer, Mr A. de C. Parmiter, Rev. D. M. Roberts, Mr R. Sidgwick, Miss C. Spencer, Miss M. A. Whelan, Miss M. Walker, Major W. F. Woods, Mr A. W. Clarke, Mr R. Grasson, Mr Harvil, Mr. C. Walker.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Kingston," August 27th, 1904:—**Jamaica**—Mrs W. D. Hill, Mr and Mrs R. H. Otto, Mr and Mrs Fox, Capt Sandys, Lieut. Forsham, Mr and Mrs H. C. Robinson, Miss Pile, Mr. O. Crowden, Miss D. H. Brett, Miss Edgar, Rev. and Mrs L. Miller, Mrs. and Misses MacPherson, Mr. D. Campbell, Mr. S. D. Campbell, Mr. A. E. MacPhail, Mr. H. G. Gilles, Mr. F. Mathews.

## The Produce Markets Summary.

**Sugar.**—The long foreshadowed price of 10s. basis 88 has now been reached and exceeded, and Sugar is once again at a figure that admits of a profit to growers of Cane and Beet alike. That the abolition of *Hounties* and *Kartels* would sooner or later lead to this wholesome condition, no thinking mind could ever doubt. The price has been reached somewhat earlier than most people expected, but it is none the less welcome and looks as if it had come to stay. The hastening influences of the advance have been in the first instance the weather in Cuba necessitating the carrying-over of Cane into next year that should have produced 100,000 to 150,000 tons of Sugar during this season. A small item no doubt when dealing with a world's crop of 10,000,000 tons, but of some interest at the present time when supply and demand are so evenly balanced. Then came the drying up of the German rivers, keeping back the Sugar required for use in this country during July and the present month. To this has to be added the possible, one might even say probable, injury done to the Beet crops by the prolonged drought and tropical heat, of which points speculators were not slow in taking advantage. The result of these influences has been a very large amount of speculative dealing in 88% at steadily advancing prices, and those who are manipulating the rise are of course looking for a further upward movement. The impartial observer has a right to be sceptical where the sole argument for a further and permanent rise is a deficient Beet crop. It requires a bold man to determine two months in advance of the actual working of a crop what that crop will be, and the experience of many past years should induce caution in coming to any hasty conclusion on such an indefinite point. No one ventures to say there is not plenty of Sugar for the rest of this season, and with a reasonable Beet crop and the promised Cane supplies, next season appears to be fairly well provided for at this year's increased rate of Consumption. Let it not be forgotten that 10s. basis 88, pays everybody, and a paying price will always produce supplies from some part of the world or other. These prices will undoubtedly induce large Beet sowings next spring. Still higher quotations look like courting disaster for the future.

The present quotations of 88% Beet are:—Aug., 10s. 6d., Oct./Dec. 10s. 7d., Jan./Mar., 10s. 8½d., May, 10s. 10½d., all free on board Hamburg

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America on uneven dates are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	Tons.
Europe	1,680,000	1,870,000	1,980,000	1,030,000	860,000	..
United States	140,000	260,000	140,000	200,000	100,000	..
Cuba	60,000	240,000	270,000	90,000	—	..
Cargoes afloat	170,000	100,000	160,000	160,000	150,000	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,070,000</b>	<b>2,470,000</b>	<b>2,550,000</b>	<b>1,480,000</b>	<b>1,110,000</b>	<b>..</b>

Comparative prices of 88% Beet for 5 years:— 10s. 6d., 8s. 3½d., 6s. 1½d., 8s. 6½d., 11s. 0½d.

**Vacuum Pan Sugar.**—Deliveries continue large and our stock will require replenishing in the fall of the year, or the trade will again be driven into Refiners' and imitators' hands. There has been an active demand for properly made "yellow" Sugar, and prices have advanced 6d. to 9d.; the range of this Sugar being 16s. 9d. to 17s. 3d., with average qualities "yellow" 17s. Pale small grain is not wanted, but is realising 16s. to 16s. 9d. For a cargo of 96 test, 11s. 3d. should be obtainable on floating terms.

**Molasses Sugar** Is scarce, values ranging from 11s. 6d. to 15s.

**Muscovado.**—Moderate sales have taken place in grocery Barbados from 13s. 3d. to 14s. The approximate value of 89 test on floating conditions is 10s. 3d.

**West India Figures since 1st Jan.**

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	Tons
Imports to date	34,000	20,000	52,000	40,000	..
Deliveries	30,000	26,000	26,000	25,000	..
Stocks	16,000	22,000	38,000	24,000	..

**Rum.**—Board of Trade Returns for 7 months:

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	Galls
Home Consumption	2,160,000	2,082,000	2,315,000	2,390,000	..
Stocks 31st July	10,092,000	10,095,000	9,290,000	8,020,000	..

**Stocks in London:**

	1904	1903	1902	1901	Puns.
Jamaica	11,400	11,400	10,800	11,100	..
Demerara	9500	7300	9400	7000	..
Total of all kinds:—	29,036	28,484	Excess 552 Puns		

A dull tone has again set in for Demerara and the recent purchases seem to have done little or nothing for the market. A small lot or two have changed hands at 7d. for fair, and 7½d. for good, but buyers are difficult to find on these terms. Jamaica remains equally uninteresting and fair Standard Home Trade Marks may not be quoted over 1s. 9d. to 1s. 9½d. and not readily saleable thereat. Leewards are quoted nominally 7d. to 10d.

**Cocoa.**—Board of Trade Returns for 7 months:

	1904	1903.	1902.	1901	Tons.
Imports...	19,005	15,814	16,897	15,999	..
Home Consumption	12,779	11,549	13,653	11,891	..
Stocks 31st July	6902	5488	5082	8537	..
Stocks in London	98 000	77 000	76 000	102 000	Bags

On the whole the market is steady, especially for British West India kinds which at the last auctions were well competed for. Foreign sorts are less in request and the market is undoubtedly quiet. Quotations now are: Trinidad, fair collected, 58s., Estate Marks, 58s. to 62s.; Grenada, fair Native, 53s. to 54s.; Fermented, 56s. to 57s. 6d. From other Islands, fair Native is worth about 51s. and Fermented, 55s. to 58s. The nominal quotation for African to arrive is 58s. on full landed terms. There is nothing in the Board of Trade returns printed above except the large imports which naturally follow the gradually increasing production of Cocoa.

**Coffee.**—Improving. Good ordinary Jamaica, 38s.; Santos for this month's delivery 36s. 6d.

**Nutmegs.**—Large supplies found ready buyers 63's, 1s. 10d.; 74's, 1s. 3d.; 86's, 1s.; 103's, 8½d.; 120's, 7d.; 143's, 5½d.; 150's, 5d.; and in shell 4d. to 5d. **Mace.**—A good business, fair to good pale sold at 1s. 6d. to 1s. 10d.; red, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d.; and broken, 11d. to 1s. **Pimento.**—Nothing doing, prices nominally unchanged at 3d. for fair.

**Ginger.**—In good demand at rather easier prices, fair to good bright, 40s. to 47s.; low middling and middling, 35s. to 38s.; common to good common, 31s. to 34s.; lean and dark, 29s. to 30s.

**Arrowroot.**—Dull and practically nothing to report this month, the value of fair to good manufacturing remaining nominally 1½d.

**London figures for 7 months:**

	1904.	1903	1902	1901	1900.	Brls.
Imports...	11,485	8192	14,727	12,208	19,713	..
Deliveries	12,905	7764	8866	11,617	13,226	..
Stocks 31 July	11,216	12,679	13,580	8691	9018	..

**Lime Juice.**—Steady, unchanged at 1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d. Concentrated, value £14. Distilled oil steady at 1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d. Hand Pressed, value about 2s. 9d. to 3s.

For Cotton, see Special Article, page 318.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.



# The . . . West India Committee Circular

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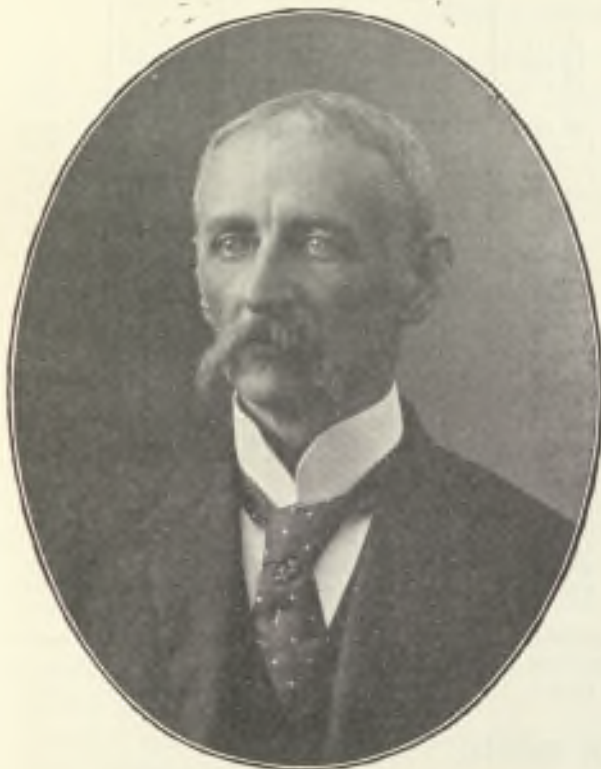
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## OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XXIV.



Mr. Edgar Tripp.

## The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

August 29th, 1904

**T**HIS is an age of advertisement, and it is a very generally accepted fact that judicious advertising is an essential element of success in business development. It is impossible to lay too much stress upon the advantage of bringing prominently before the British public the agricultural and industrial possibilities of our West Indian Colonies, and we are convinced that the more this can be done the greater is the likelihood of the future prosperity of that part of the Empire. There are several means of attaining this end, such as the distribution of literature, articles in the Press and popular lectures; but one of the surest is through exhibitions, and it is not surprising that our invitation to the West Indian Colonies to participate in the Colonial and Indian Exhibition to be held next year at the Crystal Palace, has, so far, been most cordially received. There can be no doubt that much good results from such exhibitions; if this were not the case it would be inconceivable that year after year, since their inauguration by the Prince Consort in 1851, they should have continued to meet with success

as they have done. The appearance of benefit may not be immediate, but the spread of knowledge regarding the West Indies, where, as we were recently reminded by the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, 2,000,000 acres of fertile and cultivable land still await development, cannot be over-

estimated. The present idea of next year's Exhibition is that there shall be a combined West Indian Section in which each Colony will have its integral Court, an arrangement which will doubtless commend itself to those concerned. In Barbados and Trinidad, Committees have been formed to deal with the matter, and arrangements are well advanced. Jamaica has expressed her approval and we trust that the other Colonies will fall into line, and that any which may have decided not to take part will reconsider their decision and so secure unanimous representation. A complete series of Courts, severally illustrating the natural wealth and varied beauties of these ancient possessions of the Empire, would be of unique interest in these days of Imperialism, an interest calculated to help their development to a very material extent and to enhance their prosperity.

### Trinidad Cane Farmers' Crop, 1904.

We give below the figures of the Cane Farmers' Crop in Trinidad for 1904, which were laid before the Agricultural Society in that Colony on the 9th inst. It will be seen that the condition of this industry continues to be very healthy. The total amount of canes purchased, though not so large as that for 1901-2, shows an increase of 571 tons over that for 1903, and the number of cane farmers is augmented by 132. In only one year, 1901, has the amount paid for canes in 1904 been exceeded.

ESTATES.	Total Sugar Made. Tons.	Tons of Sugar made from Estate Canes	Tons of Estate Canes Ground.	Tons of Canes Purchased	Amount Paid for Canes.	NUMBER OF FARMERS	
						East Indian.	West Indian.
Brechin Castle ...	3,020	—	36,329	2,193	84,744	112	134
Bronté... ..	2,238	—	13,353	12,270	26,502	316	160
Caroni... ..	3,360	—	28,480	5,759	11,531	132	191
Craignish ...	400	—	—	3,498	7,466	176	125
Usine Ste. Madeleine	13,500	—	98,571	45,724	97,370	1,460	1,320
Esperanza ...	2,315	1,669	† —	9,050	19,342	176	180
Forres Park ...	1,613	—	83	17,995	38,164	160	105
Hindustan ...	550	—	4,000	2,733	5,903	120	160
La Florissante ...	150	—	2,635	376	812	10	40
Mon Desir ...	259	—	—	1,022	1,601	43	39
Mon Plaisir ...	1,004	—	9,959	3,744	7,600	290	187
Orange Grove ...	2,775	—	24,672	12,647	27,248	75	252
Palmiste ...	2,649	—	17,789	12,592	27,200	179	266
Perseverance... ..	809	—	8,005	2,186	3,305	41	51
Reform ...	1,086	—	† —	11,491	24,738	530	215
Tennant Estates ...	7,225	—	64,366	12,294	26,359	620	813
Woodford Lodge and deavour ...	3,076	—	22,206	11,587	19,445	135	203
	46,029	1,669	330,448	167,161	8349,330	4,575	4,441
Return for 1903... ..	No Returns.	1,783	337,632	166,590	348,445	4,443	4,440
.. 1902... ..		4,379	337,911	184,867	327,183	4,506	4,850
.. 1901... ..		3,652	434,003	169,918	369,482	3,819	4,737
.. 1900... ..		1,286	364,355	105,996	227,865	2,826	3,591
.. 1899... ..		1,571	426,306	106,741	219,011	2,826	3,870
.. 1898... ..				105,753	202,901	2,326	3,824

\* Including 882 tons purchased from "Mon Jaloux" Estate.

† Weighbridge found to be incorrect—no record.

‡ Estate Canes not weighed.

### Sugar in Russia.

The latest report from the English consul at St. Petersburg gives some interesting facts about the consumption of sugar in Russia. He states that it would perhaps be difficult to find anywhere in the world an industry more subject to State control than the production of sugar in Russia. The law of November 20th, 1895, had for one of its declared objects the limitation of production to the satisfaction of home necessities, but it has not achieved this result; nor have the laws of April 11th,



1900, and May 12th, 1903, been more successful in checking over-production; the latest of these laws facilitates the export of sugar in a denatured state for cattle feeding and industrial purposes. In 1903 there were 275 sugar factories at work, and in spite of all legislative safeguards they exceeded their "normal" production by considerably more than 10 per cent. The average cost of production, which was nearly 2d. per lb. in 1895, had fallen to 1½d. in 1902, and certain factories now produce at 1¼d.; roughly speaking the excise duty is equal to the cost of production. The area under beetroot in Russia (1903) amounted to 1,390,000 acres, exceeding that in Germany by 35 per cent., and is the largest in the world, but Germany's production was nearly one and a-half times as great. Statistics have just been issued showing that the area under beetroot in 1904 is 1,150,000 acres, 200,000 acres less than in 1903, and 300,000 acres less than in 1902. The annual consumption per head in Russia is under 18 lbs., about one-fifth of the consumption per head in the United Kingdom. The export of Russian sugar in 1903 amounted to about 240,000 tons, double the quantity exported in 1902; among the chief countries to which it was sent were Persia, Turkey, China, Afghanistan. A well-equipped sugar factory worked by hydraulic power on the turbine system has been built at Kaufmannskaya station, 30 versts from Tashkent, and is the first establishment of the kind in Turkestan; it is to begin working in the autumn of 1904, when the first crop of beetroot is harvested; it cost £60,000, and is to produce 5000 tons of sugar annually. Over 3000 acres of beetroot are being planted, and in 1905 the area is to be increased to 10,000 acres of irrigated land; the white beet yields 24 cwt. of sugar per acre, the red beet less.

### Consumption of Sugar.

The following estimate of the consumption of sugar in the principal European countries which were signatories of the Brussels Convention, during the eleven months, September 1903 to July 1904, is given in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*:—

	1903-4.	1902-1.	INCREASE.
France ... ..	641,802 Tons.	363,460 Tons.	278,342 Tons.
Germany ... ..	1,018,920 "	713,313 "	305,607 "
Austria-Hungary ...	454,490 "	373,695 "	80,795 "
Belgium ... ..	78,974 "	55,000 "	23,974 "
Great Britain ... ..	1,406,385 "	1,358,983 "	47,402 "
Holland ... ..	80,472 "	72,356 "	8,116 "

It will be seen that the total increase amounts to **744,236** tons.

### The Sugar Duties.

At the meeting of the British Association, on August 24th, Mr. Barnard Ellinger objected to the present sugar tax in that, firstly, it fell upon consumers in the inverse ratio . . . . of their ability to bear it, and secondly, that it was a tax on raw material used in various industries, and suggested as a substitute an import and Excise duty on meat, which could be made differential to meet the pecuniary station of the consumer by a graduated duty on the various parts of the animal slaughtered. In a serious discussion which took place, the question as to how the tax could be applied to the bones was dealt with. It was generally considered that the machinery necessary for collection would render the project unfeasible. Manufacturers of molasses cattle food will be interested in this question.

### Mr. Edgar Tripp.

The subject of our portrait this fortnight is one of our Hon. Correspondents in the important Island of Trinidad. Mr. Edgar Tripp is a commission and shipping merchant in Port of Spain, where he resides in a trim house overlooking the Savannah. In 1892 he was appointed Commercial

Agent of the Dominion of Canada, and it suffices to say that if he keeps it as well informed as he does The West India Committee, the Dominion is to be congratulated. He was for many years the Secretary and Treasurer of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, and one of the original Committee, nominated by the Governor, of the Victoria Institute. He represented the claimants with regard to the seizure of the vessels "Josephine" and "Henrietta," in 1884 and 1888, and obtained full compensation from the Government of Venezuela. Sir William Robinson appointed him Commissioner for Trinidad to visit the Canadian Exhibitions and to report upon the prospects of Canadian-West Indian trade, and he received thanks for his report in 1890. He assisted to negotiate a satisfactory settlement in the case of the seizure of the barque "Lydia Peschau," and in the following year he was one of the Committee for the reception of the Fleet and Prince George, now Prince of Wales. He was Hon. Secretary of the Unofficial Committee of the Legislative Council prosecuting before the Judicial Enquiry Commission in 1893, one of the Commissioners appointed by the Governor, Sir F. M. Broome, upon the Railway Enquiry Commission, 1894, and was nominated by the same Governor as Secretary of the Agricultural Society in 1895. He attended the meetings of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire in London in 1897, as delegate for Trinidad, and, representing the Chamber of Commerce and The West India Committee, he recently attended the meetings of the same body at Montreal. His wonderful gift of organisation served him in good stead in 1898, when he was Hon. Secretary of the Trinidad Centenary Celebration Committee, for which he was awarded public thanks, gold and silver medals, and an honorarium. With the Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick and Mr. W. C. L. Dyett he represented the Agricultural Society and Chamber of Commerce at the West Indian Sugar Conference held at Barbados. Mr. Tripp is Vice-President of the Trinidad Building and Loan Association, and Director of the Queen's Park Cricket Ground Co. He is just the type of hustler that is wanted in a tropical country.

### The World Famous Pitch Lake of La Brea.

"At this point called Tierra de Brea or Piche there is that abundance of stone pitch, that all the ships of the world may be therewith laden from thence, and wee made triall of it in trimming our ships to be most excellent good, and melteth not with the sunne as the pitch of Norway, and therefore for ships trading the south partes very profitable." Thus wrote Sir Walter Raleigh in his account of his visit to Trinidad in the year 1595, and since his day every traveller in the West Indies has visited, and many have written of, the celebrated Pitch Lake. It is situated on the southern shore of the Gulf of Paria about half a mile from the coast. It is in fact a vast deposit of bituminous matter 135 feet above the level of the sea, and is a lake only in the sense that it occurs in a basin with well defined shores and bottom. On the shores are high woods, occupying the sites of sugar estates long since abandoned. The surface, except for the occurrence of small wooded islands, is bare of vegetation, and is hard enough not only to bear the weight of ordinary foot traffic, as is shown in our illustration, but also that of carts and mules, while with the support of a sort of corduroy road made of palm branches, it can be made to carry a cable tramway. On this tramway flat cars are used carrying buckets, which, after being loaded, are taken to the terminus on the south side of the Lake, lifted by hydraulic power to hangers, and then sent by an overhead cable tramway to the end of a pier, where the pitch is dumped into the holds of vessels lying alongside. In this way 800 tons can be shipped in a day. The composition of the material, asphalt as it is commonly called, is of remarkable uniformity, and, as when it is dug from any portion of the deposit, in the course of a short time the hole is filled by new material coming by natural pressure from the sides and from below, it is possible to dig constantly along the sides of the tramway without moving the track. While many attempts were made in times past to make commercial use of Trinidad asphalt—by the great Admiral Cochrane amongst others, whose descendants still preserve an interest in the industry—it is only within the





Photo by ALBERTUS E. APOSTOL.

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THE WORLD FAMOUS PITCH LAKE AT LA BREA,  
TRINIDAD.

last thirty years that the export has been on a big scale. The greater part of the material dug is used in the composition of compressed asphalt pavements, chiefly in the United States of America. Large quantities are also shipped to Europe, where, in the form of bitumen, it is employed for electrical and other purposes. In the year 1903 upwards of 160,000 tons of asphalt were dug and exported from the Pitch Lake. It is the property of the Government, and is leased to an English Company, the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Limited, of which Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., a former Governor of Trinidad, is the Chairman, and Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., one of the Directors.

### Cocoa Experiments.

The manurial plots in Dominica, which are under the charge of Mr. J. Jones, show the following results for the past two years:—

PLOT.	Manures applied, per acre	Yield per plot in pounds of wet cacao for year ending June, 1903.	Average yield per tree, in pounds of wet cacao, for year ending June, 1903.	Yield of plot in pounds of wet cacao for year ending June, 1904.	Average yield per tree, in pounds of wet cacao, for year ending June, 1904.
A.—37 Trees	Basic slag, 4 cwt., Sulphate of Potash, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.	1,063	28.7	808	21.83
B.—40 Trees	Dried blood, 4 cwt.	1,281	32.2	970	24.25
C.—34 Trees	Control Plot	759	22.3	548	16.11
D.—39 Trees	Mulched with grass and leaves	1,145	29.3	962	24.6
E.—34 Trees	Basic slag, 4 cwt., dried blood, 4 cwt., Sulphate of Potash, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.	1,104	32.4	738	21.70

The area under experiment is  $1\frac{2}{3}$  acres. Besides the cacao trees there are growing on this land six large trees of *Castilloa elastica*, six nutmegs, and some fruit trees. The total yield from the five plots in wet cacao for 1903 was 5,352 lb. After careful experiment it is found that at this station 100 lb. of wet cacao give  $42\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of dry or cured cacao. The yield from the plot in cured cacao was, therefore, 2,274 lb. (20.30 cwt.), or at the rate of 11.60 cwt per acre, for the year ending June 1903. The total cacao crop at the station for the year mentioned was 50 cwt. For the year ending June 1904, the total yield from the five plots was 4,026 lb of wet cacao. This equal to 1,701 lb. of cured cacao (15.18 cwt.), or at the rate of 8.67 cwt. per acre. The total crop of cacao at the station this year was 44 cwt. The fall in the crop was probably due to unfavourable climatic conditions. In some Islands, wet cacao is calculated to give half its value as cured cacao. This is a high estimate, but it can, no doubt, be obtained, if the cacao pods are all allowed to remain on the trees until quite ripe. The beans are then comparatively dry, as the mucilage surrounding the seeds, which is so abundant before the pods are quite ripe, disappears to a considerable extent. The loss during the fermenting and drying process from thoroughly ripe pods is much less than from cacao pods less ripe. In Dominica, owing to the prevalence of prædial larceny, much of the cacao is gathered before it is as good as it should be, hence the return per 100 lb. of wet cacao cannot be placed higher than 42 lb. In these experiments the beans are weighed immediately after breaking the pods. If cacao beans were allowed to drain for twelve or eighteen hours after breaking, and then weighed, the proportion of cured cacao per 100 lb. of wet would be higher. A few plants of Alligator cacao (*Theobroma pentagona*) are now fruiting. The plants appear to be delicate and are liable to the canker disease of the stem. Possibly this may be in part due to the conditions of the station not being exactly suitable. In a garden which is being rapidly filled it is not possible to find an ideal position for every new plant introduced.

In St. Lucia, the cacao plot is on the whole, in a satisfactory condition. The trees, with the exception of a few backward ones in the heavier part of the field, are making good progress, some having flowered. The plot was forked throughout and received four weedings during the year. The



pruning of the trees has also been carefully attended to. As permanent shade trees, *Erythrina velutina* and *Gliricidia maculata* have been planted about 60 feet apart throughout the plot. In February, plants of Criollo cacao, raised from seed received from the Imperial Department of Agriculture, were planted in a sheltered part of Section IV. Their growth has been good and they are now about 3 feet high.

### Immigration to Trinidad.

The Annual Report of Commander Coombs, the Protector of Immigrants in Trinidad, for 1903-4, affords evidence of the success which attends East Indian Immigration to that Colony. During the twelve months 2458 souls, equal to 2397½ statute adults arrived.

The return coolie ships in 1903 embarked 721 souls. They deposited in the Colonial Treasury for transmission £9171, besides £150 consigned to care of the surgeon. It would be safe to estimate that when those 721 people landed in Trinidad they had not £20 between them. Exclusive of the above amounts there was remitted to India in 1903, by immigrants, the sum of £2479; and the Protector of Immigrants gives as his opinion that there is also a large amount of money kept in the Colony invested in lands for cane farming, rice planting, and cocoa estates. A balance of £106,769 stood at the credit of East Indian Immigrants in the Government Savings Bank on 31st December last.

### The Cotton Industry.

At the meeting of the British Association on August 22nd. Mr. J. A. Hutton read a paper on "Cotton-Growing in the Empire," in which he reviewed the causes and disastrous effects of the shortage in the world's cotton supply, and pointed to the development of cotton-culture in our Colonies and Dependencies as the best remedy. The British Cotton-Growing Association was inaugurated on June 12th, 1902. A large amount of experimental work had been carried on, and it had now been decided to utilize the results of these experiments and to extend the work on a commercial basis. The work of the Association was confined to the British Empire. In India, in conjunction with the Government, efforts were being made to improve the methods of cultivation so as to increase the quantity grown and to improve the quality. Seed farms should be established for educational purposes and to supply selected seed for native cultivators. These should be nearly self-supporting. Seed and machinery had been sent to the West Indies, and financial assistance had been given. Large quantities of Sea Island cotton, ranging in value from 11d. to 16d. a lb., had been grown, and there was every hope of a large cultivation being established.

Mr. Arthur Balfour opened the discussion on the paper, and observed that the question was not a local one. He agreed with Mr. Hutton that the evil of gambling in futures was beyond the reach of legislation, but was not so convinced as Mr. Hutton seemed to be that the evil would be greatly diminished by an increase in the area of cultivation, though such an increase would, he thought, solve other problems connected with the question. Several other speakers took part in the debate.

We learn from Mr. Wolstenholme, Vice-chairman of the West Indies Section of the British Cotton-Growing Association, that after remaining steady for several months, the market for Florida and Georgia Sea Island Cotton in Savannah has declined 1d. per lb. A stock of about 8000 bales has been held there for extreme prices, and owing to the near approach of the new crop, which will come forward in September, holders are pushing sales. In consequence, all the lower qualities of West Indian Sea Island which compete with Floridas and Georgias have fallen in value to a similar extent. The very best, which compares with Carolina Sea Island, of which there is no stock, commands full rates. For Florida, which was recently worth 15d. to 16d. per lb., the new crop is expected to open at about 13d. which was last seasons opening price.

During the fortnight ended August 25th, 47 bales of West Indian Cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Sales have been effected at the following prices: West India, 4.00-6.34; West India Sea Island, medium fine 13d; fine 14d; extra fine 16d.

### Concerning Bananas.

When Père Labat visited the West Indies in 1696, he found two kinds of banana tree, the "Bananier" and the "Figuier". Judging from the woodcut of these trees, which appears in the third volume of his voyages, they are to be identified with Martinique or Gros Michel banana, now so largely exported from Jamaica, and the dwarf or Chinese banana, (*Musa Cavendishii*) now cultivated in Barbados. Spaniards whom Labat met told him that the "Bananier" was the forbidden fruit, and he thought this by no means impossible as it was found not only in America but also in South Africa, in



The Banana Plants which Labat saw in 1676.

This is a reproduction of a woodcut which appears in Labat's "Voyage aux Isles de l'Amérique." In 1696 he tasted both kinds of Bananas, but preferred the Figuer, or dwarf, which he describes as "Amie de la poitrine."

Asia, and especially near the Euphrates where the terrestrial paradise was said to be. Labat gives an interesting description of the difference between the two fruits, and their size and flavour. In those days they were rarely allowed to ripen on the plant, as this was supposed to give them an acrid flavour, though Labat held a contrary opinion. Just as is usually the case now, the stem was hung up and the fruit picked when ripe. Labat liked bananas, but the dwarf banana more particularly met his fancy as it was so digestible and, as he so aptly described, "amie de la poitrine."



The export of bananas from the Canary Islands increased very greatly in 1903, although prices have only recently fallen at the ports of shipment. During the past four years the value of Canary bananas have maintained a steady upward movement, despite the fact that a considerable amount of land has been irrigated in the Canaries since 1900 and planted up, and despite also the competition with the West Indian fruit. So far, it would appear that the Canary growers have benefited rather than otherwise from the inauguration of the Jamaica fruit service. Before this service was started, freight from the Canary Islands to England was 2s. and 10 per cent. primage per bunch, but the shipping companies, on the conclusion of the arrangements for the introduction of Jamaica bananas, at once reduced their charges by 25 per cent. to the Canary growers, in order to meet what was regarded as serious competition. The value of bananas exported from the Canaries is estimated at £375,851 for 1,879,258 crates in 1903, compared with £284,320 for 1,656,876 crates in 1902.

Too much care cannot be paid to the picking of bananas and also their packing for shipment, and we would call the attention of banana growers in the West Indies to the following extract from a letter which has been addressed to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. by Messrs. J. & E. Hall, Ltd., who have just completed the fitting of the "Tagus" and "Trent" for the cool transport of fruit.

"The success of the fruit-carrying department will largely depend upon the condition in which the fruit is stowed and on the handling of the plant before and after loading. If the fruit is cut too 'full,' no refrigerating power will carry it, once it has reached a certain degree of ripeness. It is found necessary on large fruit-carrying steamers to watch very closely the loading, and the different degree of ripeness of fruit is very difficult to determine by any but experts. We wish to draw attention to the importance of this aspect of the question, as we notice that even with all precautions on the part of shipowners, bananas are very often put on board in a state which is very prejudicial to their safe carriage and to obtaining a good market price at this end."

Growers should bear this very carefully in mind, and, inasmuch as they have the opportunity of consulting the officers of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, they will have no one but themselves to blame if their account sales are not satisfactory from neglect of this important detail.

### The New Mail Steamer for Jamaica.

A large number of guests were entertained on board the R.M.S. "Port Kingston," the new vessel of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service, at Avonmouth, on the 24th inst. When the usual loyal toasts had been honoured after luncheon in the saloon, Sir Alfred Jones proposed "Jamaica and the West Indies." He expressed his conviction that the prosperity of the West Indies was about to return, if, indeed, it had not already returned. Thanks to Mr. Chamberlain, and, he trusted, not a little to the efforts of the Imperial Direct Service—efforts which aimed rather at Imperial development than at immediate profit—he was sure that they were about to see better days. He did not deny that the "Port Kingston" had been built in advance of the immediate requirements of the service; but he was accustomed to look ahead and to the future, and he was confident of ultimate success. At the same time, he was a business man and not a philanthropist. He meant to succeed, and he wanted other people associated in the enterprise to look at it in the same light that he did—as a great Imperial undertaking for which some sacrifices must be made at the outset if success were to be attained in the end. He wanted Bristol to help him—and he must confess that Bristol had not so far helped him as much as he had tried to help Bristol—he wanted the Dock Company to help him, and he wanted the railways to help him with reasonable rates for the carriage of tropical fruit and reasonable facilities for its distribution. They were all in the same boat, and the success of one would be the success of all. As a business man, however, he could not take all the risks; and though he trusted that he would never have to go elsewhere, he must say frankly that he might have to go elsewhere if he found that he could conduct his business to better advantage elsewhere. He was a great advocate for cheap rates as a stimulus to business, and he was conveying passengers and goods to and from Jamaica at

lower rates than they had ever been carried at before. Nothing could better promote the welfare of the Colonies and the Empire than for people in this country to visit the Colonies and see them for themselves. He had a great belief in the future of Jamaica and the other West Indian Islands as health resorts, and in pursuance of that belief he was arranging to invite fifty of the leading physicians of this country to visit Jamaica in parties of six at a time. He would give them free passages out and home, entertain them at the company's hotels in Jamaica, and afford them every facility for judging of its capabilities as a health resort.

Sir Daniel Morris, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, responded. He concurred in Sir Alfred Jones's views as to the returning prosperity of the West Indies, and paid a high tribute to the efforts of Sir Alfred Jones in promoting the welfare of Jamaica. Describing in some detail the revival and extension of West Indian agriculture and the efforts of his department in that direction, he dwelt especially on the openings afforded by the West Indies for the cultivation of cotton and the great future that awaited that rapidly growing industry.

The "Port Kingston" which sailed for Jamaica from Avonmouth, on Saturday last, is the finest vessel on the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service. The holds for the carriage of fruit, which are insulated and fitted with refrigerating machinery, have a capacity of 110,000 cubic feet, equal to a space of 44,000 bunches of bananas. There are also large holds for general cargo, in addition to accommodation for 220 first-class and 60 second-class passengers.

### Publications Received.

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, etc., for our Library. We have to acknowledge with thanks, the receipt of the following:—

CONTOUR MAP OF BARBADOS. This is a hand-coloured map of Barbados giving the contour lines, which should prove very useful. We are indebted for it to Mr. Edward Easton.

BARBADOS CRICKETERS' ANNUAL FOR 1905-4. Barbados: *The Globe* office; price 1s. This is the tenth year of publication of this useful little handbook, which contains a very complete record of Barbados cricket. It contains this year an interesting article by Mr. P. A. Goodman, who will be remembered as one of the first West Indian Team to visit the Mother Country, on "Cricket in Barbados," in addition to the usual features.

THE AGRICULTURAL NEWS, Vol. III. No. 61 (obtainable at The West India Committee Rooms, price 1d., post free 1½d.) The principal feature of the current number of this fortnightly review is the article on "Shipment of Bananas from Barbados," to which reference is made elsewhere in our columns. The sugar industry, as usual, receives a large measure of attention, and the paragraphs dealing with "West Indian Fruit" and "Insect Pests" fully maintain the reputation they have acquired.

REPORTS ON THE BOTANIC STATION AND EXPERIMENT PLOTS, MONTSERRAT, 1903-1904 (obtainable at The West India Committee Rooms, price 3d., post free 4d.) This report of Mr. A. J. Jordan, the Curator, shows that during the year considerable attention was given to the cotton industry, and the officers of the Imperial Department of Agriculture rendered valuable assistance and advice in cultivation, especially in dealing with insect pests. Small owners are embarking more and more on minor products, other than sugar, and are learning improved methods of agriculture. The expenditure for the year ended March 31st, 1904, was £568 11s. 5d., and the receipts from sale of plants £45 17s. 9d., against £68 11s. 5d. in 1902-3. There was a large increase in the number of onion seedlings distributed. Special interest attaches to Mr. Jordan's account of the experiments planned by Mr. Ballou for the control of the cotton leaf-blister mite. In these experiments a mixture of sulphur and lime appears to have been effective in ridding plants of this pest. This is a very serious pest, and every effort will have to be made in Montserrat to deal with it successfully, if good results are to be obtained during the next cotton season.

REPORTS ON THE BOTANIC STATION, AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL, AND EXPERIMENT PLOTS, ST. LUCIA, 1903-4 (obtainable at The West India Committee Rooms, price 6d., post free 7d.) According to Mr. J. Chisnall Moore's report, the total expenditure on the Botanic Station for the year ended March 31st, 1904, was £812 10s. 11d. The receipts from the sale of plants amounted to £56 0s. 3d., an increase on the preceding year. At the Rivière Dorée Station experiments were carried out with cotton, lime, pine-apples, and musk seed. Three varieties of cotton were grown, viz., (1) Sea Island, (2) small green-seed Upland, and (3) native black seed—the last being a degenerate form of Sea Island. In this



experiment better results were obtained with the Upland and the native degenerate type of Sea Island than with the imported Sea Island. It may be that the soil at this station is not well suited to this class of cotton. Manurial experiments demonstrated the advantage of applying 1 cwt. of sulphate of ammonia one month before flowering. Mr. Hudson's (the agricultural instructor) note regarding musk seed is interesting. He states that this is a profitable small crop, finding ready sale, in small lots, at 1s. to 1s. 6d. in London or Paris. The other four experiment plots—Soufriere, Dennery, Roseau, and Castries—are devoted to cacao. On all of these plots, except the Castries plot, which was only taken over in February 1904, greatly increased yields have been obtained as the result of the manurial and cultural treatment adopted by Mr. Hudson.

### West Indian Interests at Westminster.

Parliament was prorogued on August 16th until November 3rd with the customary ceremony. The King's speech contained the following allusion to the British Guiana Boundary Award.

#### British Guiana Boundary.

"The King of Italy has pronounced his Arbitral Award with regard to the boundary between my Colony of British Guiana and the United States of Brazil, with the result that a long-standing cause of difficulty between the Colony and the neighbouring Republic has been satisfactorily removed. Arrangements will be made at once for putting the Award into effect."

### From the Official Gazettes.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our table of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

DR. H. J. J. BENNETT has been appointed a Member of the Grenville Water Authority, Grenada.

MR. E. H. P. DIDIER, Revenue Officer, St. Lucia, has been granted a further period of three months leave.

MR. FRITZ L. BOOS will act as Consul for the Netherlands during the absence of Mr. Carl Boos from Trinidad.

THE HON. W. K. CHANDLER, C.M.G., M.L.C., who has returned to Barbados, resumed his official duties on August 1st.

THE HON. W. H. STOKER, K.C., Attorney General for Barbados, has been granted extension of leave for two months from August 6th.

MR. W. H. CARLIN, first Assistant Surveyor, is acting as Surveyor General of British Honduras in the place of Mr. C. R. Usher, who has resigned.

MR. H. E. W. GRANT, Chief Clerk, Colonial Secretary's Office, British Honduras, has returned from leave and resumed his duties on the 24th ult.

THE HON. THE REV. J. H. DARRELL has been appointed to be a Nominated Member of the Kingstown Board, St. Vincent, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. G. F. Grant.

The Governor of the Windward Islands has been pleased to grant MR. W. E. BROADWAY, Curator of the Botanic Station, Grenada, leave of absence from 1st August until further notice.

MR. ARTHUR DRYSDALE, Clerk I, District Court, St. Lucia, has been granted six months leave of absence, during which Mr. F. Belmar will act as Clerk, and Mr. G. I. Francois as Assistant Clerk.

HIS HONOUR SIR W. H. GREAVES, Kt., Chief Justice of Barbados, arrived in England by the Mail on the 24th inst., having been granted six weeks leave of absence from August 13th. The Hon. W. K. Chandler is acting in his place.

THE HON. CHARLES B. HAMILTON, C.M.G., Receiver General, British Guiana, has been appointed Chairman of the Commission to enquire into the system under which Tonnage, Harbour, and Pilotage dues are levied on vessels visiting the Ports of that Colony.

MR. FREDERICK N. MARTINEZ has been appointed Consul for the Republic of Panama in Barbados, and it is announced in the Official Gazette of August 11th, that the Governor has been pleased to recognise his appointment provisionally, pending the receipt of His Majesty's Exequatur.

THE HON. N. DARNELL DAVIS, C.M.G., Acting Government Secretary of British Guiana, has been appointed to act as Governor during the temporary absence from the Colony of Sir J. Alexander Swettenham, K.C.M.G. Mr. Hudson Gurney will accompany Sir J. Alexander Swettenham to Jamaica in the capacity of Private Secretary.

## Notes of Interest.

**FILING CASES.** Spring back cases for *filing The West India Committee Circular* can be obtained from the Secretary for 2/6 each, or post free 3/-. These will be found a great convenience.

**NEW MEMBERS.** Owing to the holidays there has been no meeting of the Executive Committee and consequently no election of Members since we last went to press. The initials of Mr. Drysdale, of St. Lucia, are "T. A." and not as given in our last issue through error.

**OVERSEER'S REGISTER.** Estates Managers and Proprietors requiring overseers are informed that arrangements have been made for a list of applicants for such posts to be kept at The West India Committee Rooms. All enquiries regarding it should be addressed to the Secretary, West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

**HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE.** It is proposed to write a history of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE for publication in the Circular and the Secretary will be glad if members and others will furnish him with any records, notes or information they may have regarding this organisation. The assistance of the West Indian Press who have always shown their readiness to further the work of the Committee is confidently hoped for.

**LATE FEE MAIL LETTERS.** For the convenience of Members wishing to post letters for the outgoing West Indian Mail at the last possible moment, arrangements have been made for a messenger to leave The West India Committee Rooms on the day of the departure of the Mail at 12.30 p.m., with letters for posting at Waterloo Station. All such letters must bear the late fee of 2d., in addition to the ordinary postage.

**A CHANGE OF COMMAND.** Vice-Admiral Sir A. L. Douglas who has been so popular on the North American and West Indies Station, has been appointed to succeed Sir John Fisher as Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth. Vice-Admiral D. H. Bosanquet, who succeeds Sir A. L. Douglas on the North American Station, joined the Navy forty-seven years ago. His career has not been very eventful. After holding the usual positions, he became Rear-Admiral in 1897, and Vice-Admiral five years later, when he completed his term of service as Commander-in-Chief on the East Indies Station. Admiral Bosanquet was for some time a member of the Royal Commission on Food Supplies.

**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Spheroid" from London, for Barbados, Grenada, and Trinidad, September 7th; S.S. "Jamaican" from Liverpool, for Barbados and Trinidad, September 10th; and the R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Bristol for Kingston, Jamaica, on September 10th. Letters for Grenada and Trinidad, posted on September 9th, marked "via New York," will go forward by S.S. "Grenada" from New York, and be delivered in Grenada on September 26th, and Trinidad on September 27th. The usual postage of 1d. suffices. *Information for publication under this head is invited from Shipping Companies.*

**PRAISE FROM THE "TIMES."** The Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture and Sir Alfred Jones are eulogised in a leading article in the *Times* of August 27th. Referring to the recent representation made by Jamaica regarding the Direct Line Contract, the writer says:

"The controversy is one into which we are not concerned to enter. In any such controversy Sir Alfred Jones, the senior member of the firm, is exceedingly well able to take care of himself, and needs no advocacy of ours. His best answer to his colonial critics will be given when the 'Port Kingston,' which sails for the first time to-day, steams, some ten or eleven days hence, into the harbour from which she takes her name. The people of Jamaica will then see that, even if the Imperial Direct Service has not done all that was, rightly or wrongly, expected of it in some respects, it is certainly doing a great deal more than was required of it in other respects."



### The Homeward Mail.

The R.M.S. "Atrato" anchored off Plymouth at 3.10 p.m. on Wednesday, August 24th, and the Mails were delivered by first post on the following morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Morant" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, August 17th.

#### Antigua—Break up of the Drought.

(HON. A. ST G. SPOONER) August 9th.—The matter of the Colonial Exhibition was before the Government, and it was expected that it would be referred to the Agricultural Society who would deal with it.

The principal objection to cotton growing on sugar estates in Antigua appeared to be that cultivation had to be done in crop time or in the short interval between the end of crop and the commencement of re-plant cultivation, which gave time to put in a very small area. The visit of the cotton experts was eagerly awaited, and many "points" were looked for.

The bulk of the machinery for the Central Factory at Gunthorpes had arrived, and the light railway to haul the canes was being constructed. The Belvidere factory had bought 1180 tons of peasants' canes for a start, the price paid for June canes being 8s 9d a ton, a price from which a considerable extension of cane farming would result. The real test of the success of this system would come when the land had been worked for several years in cane and when the question of soil exhaustion had to be faced. One of the heaviest items of estate working in Antigua was the expense of maintaining the cane land in fertility, an expense the peasant growers had not yet had to encounter.

The long spell of drought had broken up, good showers having fallen generally over the Island during the fortnight averaging  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The canes were very backward and would need the best of weather till the end of the year to enable a good crop to be made.

#### Barbados—The Sugar Crop.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE) August 11th, 1904.—Barbados would welcome the arrival of the cotton experts, and any assistance the Cotton Growing Association could give her. It was hoped that they were in a better position to resist the attacks of disease in the plants than they were last year.

The banana industry went on increasing, and now that the R.M.S.P. Co. were installing Hall's method of storage, there would probably be little loss. There would very soon be more crates than the ordinary mail steamers could carry.

They had a nice rain on August 2nd, from 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, but since then the weather had been very dry. The last few days had been intensely hot, sun fierce and no air. Rain was constantly predicted, but none fell. It was badly wanted. Canes in parts of St. Lucy and St. Philip were drying up, and in the districts where they were not actually suffering they could not make growth. The various plants used for green dressing could do nothing. It was earnestly hoped that they would have a heavy fall before the mail reached England.

Nobody could explain why, but it was evident that the total yield of sugar this year would not exceed 65,000 hogsheads; this was very much less than the most experienced men prognosticated, and no one could say where the shortage had come in, for estates had done well up to the end.

#### British Guiana—Crop Prospects.

(A. SUMMERSON, Esq.) August 10th, 1904.—The sugar market was quiet, and for anything offering buyers would give \$2 30.

The young cultivation had now been established and had assumed a satisfactory growth, although on most estates the canes were backward for their age. The advanced canes, viz., those due for October, November, and December reaping were growing, but with less vigour than was usual at that time of the year. The majority of these canes would be short when the reaping arrived, and the yield of sugar would not be up to the average. Hot, showery weather during the next six weeks would encourage a rapid growth.

The full correspondence regarding the dispute in connection with plantation "Friends" had been published.

The general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held on Saturday, August 6th, the Hon. George Garnett presiding. The report of the Council was adopted unanimously.

The weather after being dry for the greater part of the fortnight changed a few days ago, and they had good showers in all districts except on Corentyne coast where good rains were much needed.

#### British Honduras—Relations with Mexico.

(HON. A. R. USHER) August 12th, 1904.—The weather had improved within the past fortnight, and as very little rain had fallen, the roads were all drying up, so that the prospects of getting out wood were much better.

There had been some dissatisfaction here recently owing to the aggressive attitude of the Mexican authorities at the Pontoon, which is stationed at the Hondo Bar, the northern boundary of the Colony. They recently seized a British schooner for some petty offence, as reprisal it was said, for the action of our Government in detaining a Mexican schooner, the captain of which was charged with selling liquor without a license in British waters. At present it was impossible for any vessel to get up the Hondo river without passing through Mexican waters, where they were unnecessarily detained,

and representation was being made to the British Government with the view of their treaty being amended, so as to insure the free and unimpeded navigation of the river by both nations, and if this could be accomplished it would no doubt avert serious complications later on.

#### Dominica—Crop Prospects Good.

(A. K. AGAR, ESQ.) August 11th.—Good rains had fallen during the fortnight and agricultural prospects generally were good. Prædial Larceny was to be the subject of discussion by the Agricultural Society on the 12th.

#### Grenada—The Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

(P. J. DEAN, ESQ.) August 11th.—The subject of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition at the Crystal Palace would be before a general meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society on the 17th inst., and it was hoped that a good exhibit would be arranged.

Light rains had fallen generally, sufficient to keep vegetation from suffering from the effects of the scorching sun.

#### Nevis—Rain still wanted.

(HON. C. A. SHAND) August 9th, 1904.—Occasional showers had fallen, but the Island was still in want of a soaking rain, and unless they got an abundance soon their prospects for 1905 did not appear rosy. A very much larger area was being planted in cotton for 1905 than was planted for 1904. He estimated the total would not fall far short of 1000 acres. This had been to some extent due to the failure of the first cane planting and the inability of the peasant proprietors to obtain cane plants for supplying, or rather re-planting *in toto*, as most of the initial ventures died out in the long drought.

They were still in the same uncertainty as to the hour of arrival of the Royal Mail steamers. It was unfortunate that where no cable communication exists, and consequently the means of ascertaining the hour of departure from the last port is impracticable, nothing can be done to ensure greater punctuality. Now that the hurricane season had set in, the boats plying between St. Kitts and Nevis were liable to all sorts of vagaries, and a voyage either way was capable of being lengthened into a cruise.

The planters had given considerably more attention to the cultivation of the land destined for cotton planting than they did last year, and consequently, with a favourable season, the result ought to be a marked improvement in yield per acre all round.

#### St. Kitts—More Facilities for Shipping wanted.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, ESQ.) August 9th, 1904.—It was gratifying to report a continuance, even in slight quantities, of the rains reported in last mail. Copious falls are however necessary if the crops were not going to be very short.

This year's crop may now be said to be finished, but owing to another temporary blocking up of steamers with Windward Islands sugar, a good deal of their sugars were held up for want of freight to Halifax. The rise in price had naturally caused some anxiety to get sugars forward as quickly as possible.

#### St. Lucia—Rain still needed.

(HON. SYDNEY D. MELVILLE) August 11th.—Fairly good weather had been experienced during the fortnight, but more rain would have been welcomed.

The advent of the cotton experts was expected to do much good, as experience in cotton growing was necessarily scanty.

#### St. Vincent—Cotton cultivation promising.

(Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co) August 12th.—Hopes were expressed that the cotton expert who visited St. Vincent would make especial note of the hundreds of acres suitable for cotton cultivation in the Island. Cotton cultivation on several of the estates looked very promising, and good crops were expected.

The weather during the fortnight was extremely hot with less heavy winds or rains.

#### Trinidad—The Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

(EDGAR TRIPP, ESQ.) August 12th.—The report of the Crystal Palace Exhibition Committee was adopted by the Legislative Council on the 7th inst. It recommended that the Colony be represented and that a sum of £1500 should be appropriated for the purpose. The Committee further recommended that joint action should be taken with other West Indian Colonies to secure at least 5000 square feet of space, thus obtaining advantage of the reduced charge for that extent, but that each Colony should occupy a special portion of that space, so that the exhibits would form interesting subjects of comparison. It was estimated that Trinidad would take one-fourth of the area secured, say 1250 superficial feet. The undertaking of The West India Committee to carry the matter to a successful issue if funds were provided was much appreciated.





Berbice." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ending August 11th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "7th, Rainy, 10th, Cloudy, otherwise fine." **KINGSTON**: "Fine, occasional showers." Week ending August 18th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "12th and 16th fine, others rainy." **KINGSTON**: "Fine, occasional showers."

**The Mails.**

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.**—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," August 24th, 1904:—**Barbados**—Sir W. H. and Lady Greaves, Mr. Fred Browne, Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbons, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. C. Gordon, Capt. H. L. Fox, **Demerara**—Mr. L. E. Henery, Mrs. and two Misses Wallbridge, Miss Bagot, Mr. Parker, Mr. J. F. Rose, Rev. and Mrs. Jemmott, Archdeacon Heard, Mr. G. F. Rose, Mr. and Mrs. N. Farrar, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. King, Mrs. A. C. Walton, Mrs. A. Brown, Mr. A. D. Sousa **Jamaica**—Rev. A. W. Ross, Miss J. F. Ross, Mr. W. Woolliscroft, Mr. E. C. Motta, Mr. C. C. Anderson, Mr. Samuel Rogers **Trinidad**—Mr. and Mrs. Beier, Mrs. Montes, Mr. J. de Verteuil, Mr. James B. Todd, Mrs. and Miss Vincent, Rev. J. Rimmer, Mr. A. Milne, Dr. Young, two Misses de Verteuil, Miss G. Henderson, Mr. August Holler **Dominica**—Miss Agar. **St. Kitts**—Mr. J. D. Adamson. **St. Lucia**—Mr. H. B. Hunter **Tobago**—Mr. R. Archibald, Miss Walker

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Tagus," August 31st, 1904:—**Barbados**—Mrs. and Miss Johnson, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Deighton, Miss C. Hamilton, Miss E. Owen, Mr. C. Riggs, Mr. and Mrs. Thorne, Mr. L. Bowen. **Demerara**—Mr. T. H. Dalglish, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mr. G. Comes, Mr. and Mrs. Bethune, Mr. W. Douglas, Mr. J. E. Brandon, Mr. J. Singer. **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. Ashenheim, Miss Corinaldi, Miss Mordecai, the two Misses Rudolf, Mrs. G. De Cordova, Mr., Mrs. and three Misses Smeeton, Mr. R. Melhado, Mr. C. J. Willdey **Trinidad**—Miss E. M. Buncl, Mr. C. W. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Blair, Miss S. Shaw, Rev. J. Lacy, Rev. J. Butler, Mrs. P. Alvarado, Mr. L. Schoener, Mrs. E. Schoener, Mr. J. Cadman, Mr. and Mrs. de Jonge, Rev. W. L. Macrae **Antigua**—Mr. C. Simpson. **Dominica**—Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Agar.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," September 14th, 1904:—**Barbados**—Miss S. Trimmingham, Mr. J. W. D. Thorp, Sir W. H. and Lady Greaves. **Demerara**—Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, Miss A. Junor, Mr. C. Barratt, Mr. F. A. Neal, Mr. T. A. Laing, Mr. W. Durno, Mr. and Mrs. Morrison, Mr. A. Alexander, Mr. Anderson, Mr. L. C. Carter, Dr. and Mrs. Law, Mr. G. Anderson, Mrs. M. Nedd, Mr. J. Hewicke, Mr. J. E. Kidman, **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. Morrison, Lieut.-Col. C. H. Johnstone, C.M.G., Mr. and Miss Desert, Mr. and Mrs. Kempson, Mr. E. Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Hammond, Mr. G. S. Hammond **Trinidad**—Dr. E. Hammond, Mr. J. Carracolo, Mr. J. J. McLeod, Mr. J. Grant, Mr. Heinke, Mr. Preuss, Mr. Fulte, Mr. Schmidt **Antigua**—His Excellency Sir Courtenay Knollys, K.C.M.G. Lady Knollys, Miss Knollys, Mr. Knollys **Dominica**—Mr., Mrs. and Miss Rose. **Grenada**—Dr. and Mrs. Latour. **St. Lucia**—Mr. J. Devaux, Mrs. Devaux, Mr. G. Devaux, Miss A. Devaux, two Misses Bennett, Mr. G. Hudson, Mr. Parke.

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.**—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," August 17th, 1904:—**Jamaica**—Rev. John A. Le Couteur, Mr. J. C. M. Forrester, Mr. D. Hendry, Mr. C. Lopez, Mr. E. A. Lankaster, Rev. B. A. McCalla, Mr. McTavish, Mr. C. A. Nunes, Mr. W. C. Spencer, Miss E. Stewart, Mr. T. Forrest, Mr. J. Lewis.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Kingston," August 27th 1904:—**Jamaica**—Miss D. H. Brett, Mr. F. Bushnell, Mr. H. C. Bridges, Mr. and Mrs. D. Campbell, Mr. O. Crowden, Mr. and Mrs. A. Dickens, Miss Edgar, Lieut. Forsham, Miss A. Grant, Miss G. Garvey, Mr. H. G. Gillies, Mrs. W. D. Hill, Mr. J. Hamilton, Mr. H. Joslen, Mr. W. J. Jenkins, Mr. and Miss Kendal, Mr. C. Kitchener, Mrs. McMahon, Rev. and Mrs. Miller, Mr. J. A. Masters, Mr. F. Matthews, Mr. H. C. Miller, Mr. Otto, Mr. A. E. McPhail, Mrs. and two Misses McPherson, Miss H. Pile, Mrs. R. Price, Dr., Mr. and Miss Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Robinson, Mr. G. H. Ribbons, Mr. Storer, Capt. Sandys, Mr. L. Saunders, Mr. R. Thomson, Mr. J. G. de Touzel, Mr. C. Turner, Mr. Thursfield, Col. and Mrs. F. B. White, Mr. G. A. Wolfentan, Mrs. and two Misses Clarke, Mr. J. G. Scott, Mr. J. H. Scott.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," September 10th, 1904:—**Jamaica**—Lieut.-Col. P. H. Johnson, Mrs. and Miss Morais, Miss D. Verley, Mr. K. Price, Mr. and Miss Fry, Mr. Lusan, Mr. Mitchell, Miss Facey, Miss Europe, Miss S. Dobney.

**The Produce Markets Summary.**

**Coffee.**—Steady. Good ordinary Jamaica, 38s., Santos for this month's delivery 36s.  
**Nutmegs.**—Steady. Sales of West India 59's, at 2s. 4d., 70's, 1s. 2d., 100's, 9d., 120's, 6½d., 150's, 5d.  
**Maize.**—Firm. Fine pale sold at 1s. 8d., fair red to good pale sold at 1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d. **Pimento.**—Very dull and inactive. Fair sold at 2½d.  **Ginger.**—Slow. Fair to good bright Jamaica, sold at 42s. 6d., to 47s. 6d.; common to middling, 29s. to 37s. 6d. **Arrowroot.**—Dull without business except in retail, fair to good manufacturing, nominal at 1½d.

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
Stocks 31 July ... ..	11 216	12 679	13 580	8691	9018 Brls.

**Lime Juice.**—Neglected, value about 1s. 3d. to 1s. 5d. Concentrated, nominally £14. Distilled oil steady at 1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d. Hand Pressed, unchanged at 2s. 9d. to 3s.



## The Produce Markets Summary—continued.

Sugar—	BRUSSELS CONVENTION BEET CROPS.			
	1903/4.	1902/3.	1901/2.	1900/1.
Germany ... ..	1,950,000	1,760,000	2,300,000	1,980,000 Tons
Austria ... ..	1,160,000	1,050,000	1,300,000	1,090,000 ..
France ... ..	790,000	830,000	1,120,000	1,110,000 ..
Holland and Belgium ...	330,000	310,000	530,000	510,000 ..
	(a) 4,230,000	3,950,000	5,250,000	4,690,000 ..
		(a) " Estimate "		

The Sugar market is very sensitive, and daily fluctuations are taking place in the price of 88% Beet. When it rains, which is seldom, farthings are lost to be recovered when the sun shines again. The future course of prices for the approaching season is entirely a question of the extent of the next beet crop, which so far bids fair to be on a reduced scale owing to the persistent drought which still, more or less, continues unrelieved. As the Convention Countries are the only ones which concern us, it will be interesting to see how they turn out by the light of the figures printed above. A reduction of 10 per cent. would mean some 400,000 tons, an amount we can scarcely spare during the coming season. If such a thing were to take place, 88% Beet at 10s 6d to 11s. would certainly not look dear. We want a fresh set of figures since the Brussels Convention excluded Russian and minor Countries' Sugar, which no doubt will come in time—old style—and applying a possible 10 per cent. reduction in crop to the whole world, we reach a " minus " figure of some 600,000 tons, which is awkward.

Total Beet crops in Europe :—	1903/4	1902/3	1901/2	1900/1
	(a) 5,860,000	5,550,000	6,760,000	5,990,000 Tons.
	(a) estimate.			

Visible Supply (uneven dates) 1st Oct. :—	1903	1902	1901	1900
		1,880,000	1,850,000	940,000

If this were to be, it would work out as follows:—Beet crops, say 5,300,000 tons; Cane crops, 4,500,000 tons; Visible supply, 1st October, 1,200,000 tons; Total supply for 1904/5, 11,000,000 tons; Consumption for 1904/5, 10,600,000 tons; being the same as this year with its increase, leaving a visible supply for 1st October, 1905, of 400,000 tons. These are fanciful figures, but in the result may not be very wide of the mark, and are full of interest to West Indian estate owners, who have a prospect before them for next season, given decent crops, such as they have not enjoyed for many years. Beet from 10s to 11s looks reasonable for all next year. Many sanguine people are expecting much more. It is all a question of crops, which no one can determine for another two months.

The present quotations of 88% Beet are:—Aug., 10s 8d., Oct./Dec. 10s. 10½d., Jan./Mar., 10s. 11½d., May, 11s. 1d., all free on board Hamburg.

Quotations of Granulated are:—August, 12s 5½d., Oct./Dec., 12s 6d., and Jan./March, 12s. 6½d., also free on board Hamburg.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America on uneven dates are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
Europe ... ..	1,430,000	1,710,000	1,730,000	850,000	690,000 Tons.
United States ... ..	120,000	250,000	140,000	190,000	80,000 ..
Cuba ... ..	50,000	210,000	200,000	80,000	..
Cargoes afloat ... ..	160,000	100,000	150,000	120,000	130,000 ..
Total ... ..	1,760,000	2,270,000	2,220,000	1,240,000	900,000 ..

Comparative prices of 88% Beet for 5 years:— 10s. 8d. 8s. 5½d. 6s. 0½d. 8s. 1½d. 12s. 0d.

**Vacuum Pan Sugar.**—The market remains steady with a fair business doing in yellow crystallised from 16s. 9d. to 17s. 3d., and some good sugar at 17s. 6d., the value of average qualities being 17s. Our stock is much reduced, being only 15,000 tons, of which Importers hold under 4000 tons, or four weeks' use. For a cargo of 96 test to Refiners, 11s. 6d. should about be obtained on floating terms.

**Molasses Sugar**—In good demand from 11s 6d to 15s.

**Muscovado.**—Unchanged, with a small business only doing in grocery kinds, the value of which is 13s. 6d. to 14s. For a cargo of 89 test 10s. 6d. might be obtained on floating conditions.

West India figures since 1st Jan.	1904	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports to date ... ..	34,000	19,000	53,000	41,000 Tons.
Deliveries ... ..	32,000	28,000	28,000	27,000 ..
Stocks ... ..	15,000	20,000	38,000	23,000 ..

Rum.—Stocks in London :	1904	1903.	1902.	1901.
Jamaica ... ..	11,200	11,200	11,700	11,200 Puns.
Demerara ... ..	9900	7600	9200	6200 ..
Total of all kinds:—	29,142	29,335	Deficiency 193 Puns.	

The market remains lifeless and beyond a stray lot or two of fair Demerara at 7d. with two good and fine marks at 8d. and 8½d., there has practically been nothing doing, buyers at 7d. being difficult to find. Jamaica is equally neglected and Standard Marks at 1s. 9d. to 1s. 9½d. remain unsold. Leewards are nominally worth 7d. to 10d. but attract no attention. These are low prices but they do not appear to stimulate consumption.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London :	1904	1903.	1902.	1901.
	98,000	76,000	81,000	102,000 Bags

There is no change in the general position of Cocoa. Supplies continue large and act as a barrier to any advance in prices. For British West India there is a fair demand and prices are steady which is as much as can be said for them, good Trinidad Marks realising 60s., and fermented Grenada and other West India 55s. to 58s. Speaking generally the tone of the market is quiet and buyers show no concern about future supplies. Closing quotations for West India remain as follows: Trinidad, fair collected, 58s.; Estate Marks, 58s. to 62s.; Grenada, fair Native, 54s.; Fermented, 56s. to 58s. From other Islands, fair Native is worth about 51s. and Fermented, 55s. to 58s. The nominal quotation for African to arrive is 58s. on full landed terms.

For Cotton, see Special Article, page 336.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The . . .  
**West India Committee Circular**

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XXV.



Mr. Harry Hankey Dobree.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SRETHING LANE, LONDON.

September 12th, 1904.

SINCE we last went to press, death has robbed the West India Committee of one of its oldest and most devoted Members. We refer to Mr. Edward George Barr, who died on September 3rd, after an illness of a few weeks duration. On another page will be found an appreciation of this much respected gentleman from the pen of one of his constant friends; but it would not be seemly to deal with the business topics of the fortnight without first recording, as we here do, the sense of our grief at the loss we have sustained, and our sincere sympathy with his relatives.

THE composition of the Committee appointed to inquire into the use, without payment of duty, of spirits for industrial purposes, will hardly commend itself to the Colonies, whose interest in the matter would appear to be quite as great as that of the distillers in this country. The distillers of this country have a representative on the Committee, but the Colonies have none. The cause of this neglect of the Colonies is not far to seek. It may seem an ugly



thing to say, but the distiller in this country commands votes and the Colonies do not, and herein lies the reason why nothing must be done to offend the home distillers and why they are afforded a protection of no less than 4d. per gallon against British distillers in the Colonies. The surtax of 4d. per gallon imposed on Colonial spirits is a genuine grievance which demands redress. Methylated spirit imported from the Colonies to the United Kingdom is subject to a duty of 11s. 5d. per gallon, while spirit methylated in this country is duty free. British Colonial spirit imported into the United Kingdom has to pay a duty of 4d. a gallon, while spirit manufactured in this country, if used for methylation, is duty free. What possible justification can there be for this state of affairs? Excise restrictions are imposed to protect the revenue, neither more nor less, and inasmuch as those in the West Indian Colonies are under the control of the Home Government, the West Indies may fairly claim to be put on the same footing with regard to the surtax as the distiller in this country, who is fully entitled to compensation against the foreigner of whose excise regulations we know nothing, but not against his own kith and kin. It is not too late to hope that a Colonial representative may be added to the Committee. It may at least be taken for granted that the Colonies will insist upon being given an opportunity of publicly stating their case.

THE Cobden Club has once more taken the opportunity of the dull season to publish through the Radical Press, a violent tirade against the Sugar Convention. Mr. G. H. Perris, who appears to have assumed the mantle of Mr. Harold Cox, wishes the public to believe that the rise in the price of sugar is solely due to the Brussels Sugar Convention and even goes so far as to declare that "the great permanent factor in the situation is the effect of the loss of the bounties on the cost of production". This can only mean that, in the opinion of the Cobden Club, the cost of production should be governed by bounties; and that, therefore, no sugar should be produced except in bounty-fed countries. The confectioners have, in these latter days, always preached the erroneous doctrine that sugar should be permanently supplied to them at a price from £2 to £3 per ton below the cost of production. The Cobden Club quite agrees with this view and hopes to convince the British elector that the present Government have robbed him of this great boon. It is a curious fact with regard to this rise in the price of sugar, that the main cause is to be found in the bounties. They stimulated the production of beetroot sugar to such an extent that at one time it constituted about two-thirds of the visible supply of the world. This, as was frequently pointed out, was a most dangerous and artificial state of things, because any accident to the beetroot crop meant a great rise in the price of sugar. This is exactly what is happening now. Drought in Germany and Austria has created a scare, speculators come in and prices rise. A few years hence, when the evil effects of bounties have disappeared, this will not be possible; beetroot will have ceased to be master of the situation. What would have happened if the Brussels Convention had not been brought about? It is quite clear that the production of the West Indies, of Java, and of Mauritius would have been seriously crippled, as compared with what it is now, and that this country would have been, in fact, absolutely and entirely dependent upon beetroot sugar for its supply. This is a point which the Cobden Club finds it convenient to ignore. Mr. Perris would be well advised to pay a visit to Mincing Lane and ascertain the views of some of the leading brokers as to the true facts of the case.

#### Mr. Harry Hankey Dobree.

Mr. Harry Hankey Dobree, whose portrait we give this fortnight, is a prominent member of the West India Committee. He has been for many years associated with the West Indies. Mr. Dobree is a partner in the firm of Messrs. Samuel Dobree & Sons, and succeeded Mr. Henriques as Chairman of the Colonial Bank in 1885. He was Chairman of the East and West India Docks Company from 1880 to 1888, during which period the docks at Tilbury were planned and constructed.

### The Late Mr. Edward George Barr.

By the lamented death of Mr. Edward George Barr which occurred on September 3rd, one of the few remaining links between the Demerara of the sixties—the good old days, as they are known—and the present time is severed. Mr. Barr was born in Ireland in 1825, and in his earlier years was well known in the different West Indian Islands where he represented various mercantile interests.



The late Mr. E. G. Barr.

He afterwards established a business in America, and it was at this time he paid his first visit to Demerara, where he became acquainted with the large and enterprising firm of Samuel Barber & Co. On becoming a partner in the firm, Mr. Barr took over the management of the Demerara branch, which he succeeded in further developing, not only commercially but agriculturally, for the firm possessed two of the most flourishing estates of that day. But it was not only as a successful man of business that Mr. Barr distinguished himself, for in all matters that tended to the welfare of the Colony, his counsel, his time, and his purse were alike ready. He was a prominent member of the Court of Policy during the administration of Governor Hincks (1867) and after the great fire in Georgetown, which destroyed a large portion of the business section, including his own premises, he took a leading part in the re-modelling and restoration of the city in its present form. He was for some time Mayor of Georgetown and a director of various Corporations, including the British Guiana Bank and the Hand-in-Hand Insurance Company, to whose interests he devoted much time and labour.

About 1870 Mr. Barr assumed the control of the firm's London office, and although he later on retired from commercial life, he retained his interests in the sugar estates of Schoonord and Maryville. In him the West India Committee has lost one of its oldest and most useful members, whose words and advice always carried weight, whose knowledge of Colonial matters was invaluable, and who will be much missed at the Committee meetings which he so long and so regularly attended. To his family we beg to tender our most sincere and respectful sympathy.

### The Cotton Industry.

We have with deep regret to record the death of Mr. Alexander Allan Paton, Chairman of the West Indies section of the British Cotton Growing Association, which took place in Liverpool on September 8th. It was largely through the instrumentality of Mr. Paton that the closer co-operation between the Association and the West India Committee was brought about, and the deepest sympathy will be felt with his relatives.

The British Cotton Growing Association continues with unflagging energy its useful labours. Sir Alfred L. Jones presided at a meeting of the Executive Committee on the 6th inst., when



Sir Daniel Morris gave a short account of the prospect of cotton cultivation in the West Indies. He stated that in his opinion the outlook continued to be very bright and that the industry was now very firmly established. He expressed great appreciation of the assistance which the Association had given. The Chairman expressed his gratification that the King had been pleased to grant a Royal Charter to the Association, and explained that owing to the absence of the Lord Chancellor, the Charter had not been sealed, but that it was expected that it would be very shortly. In celebration of the event, a banquet is to be held in Manchester on November 12th, at which the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Duke of Marlborough have accepted invitations to be present.

The question of the despatch of more cotton experts to the West Indies continues to engage attention, and we are now able to state that the recommendations of the West India Committee are likely to be adopted. The Cotton Growing Association has decided to contribute £300 towards the expenses of two special instructors, and as it is hoped that assistance will also be forthcoming from the surplus funds of the Department of Agriculture, the Government have been asked to authorise the immediate engagement of two special instructors, for at any rate six months, if not for twelve months, it being felt that they would be able to carry out most useful work, which would result in a large extension in the cotton cultivation of the Islands.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, who are anxious to do what they can to help the industry, have generously granted free passages to the two representatives of the British Cotton Growing Association, who are proceeding to the West Indies in October, to enquire into and report on the present method of the cultivation of cotton, and also to give advice to the planters with regard to the species of plants and their suitability for different soils.

During the fortnight ended September 8th, 202 bales of West Indian Cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Sales have been effected in Liverpool at the following prices: West India, 4.25-8.00d.; West India Sea Island, medium fine 13d.; fine 14d.; extra fine 16d.

### **The Colonial and Indian Exhibition, 1905.**

We are glad to be in a position to report that considerable progress is being made with the arrangements for the representation of the West Indies at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, 1905. In Trinidad, the Legislative Council on August 15th, voted the sum of £1,500 for the purposes of the Exhibition. The resolution was introduced by the Colonial Secretary and seconded by Mr. Marryat. Mr. Goodwille, speaking on the resolution, begged to congratulate the Committee on their report and said he was sure that the exhibit being under the care of the West India Committee would ensure its success. The Governor of Barbados has given his support to the request of the local Exhibition Committee for a grant of £400. The Jamaica Exhibition Committee has now presented its report. They express opinion, based on previous experience, that a space of 2,500 square feet will be required by Jamaica and that for the adequate representation of the Island a grant of £1,000 will be necessary. The Agricultural and Commercial Society of Grenada has approached the Government for a grant to defray expenses of the Island's Exhibit and have appointed a Committee of five to co-operate with the Government nominees in carrying out arrangements. In Montserrat a sub-committee is to be selected from the local Agricultural Show Committee to deal with the matter, and Turks and Caicos Island have expressed their desire to exhibit salt, sponge and fibre. The energy with which the Colonies are dealing with our proposals is a matter for congratulation to all concerned.

### **Colonial Fruit in London.**

We have received several enquiries regarding the Exhibition of Colonial Fruit to be held in the Royal Horticultural Hall on December 13th and 14th, 1904. In reply to these we may state that no charge will be made for space and that it will be necessary for fruit to be consigned to the Secretary



Photo by ALBERTUS E. ASPISALA.

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A VIEW FROM THE MYRTLE BANK HOTEL,  
JAMAICA.



of the West India Committee by the Royal Mail Steamer, due at Southampton on November 30th. We would suggest that it would be advisable for those Colonies desirous of participating to arrange for the despatch of the fruit through the local Committees and Agricultural Societies. The only expense incurred will be for freight and in this respect the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company who will benefit so much from the establishment of the fruit industry, will doubtless consent, with their usual generosity, to make concessions.

The classes include :—

Class 1.—Collection of colonial-grown Fruit. Such things as yams and sweet potatoes may be included.

Class 5.—Colonial-grown Pine-apples.

Class 6.—Colonial-grown Bananas

Class 7.—Colonial-grown Mangos.

Class 8.—Colonial-grown Grapes.

Class 9.—Any other Colonial grown Fruits.

Class 10.—Colonial-grown Yams, Sweet potatoes, &c.

The space must be applied for by December 3rd, so it is therefore desirable that the Colonies should give this matter their early attention.

### The Symington Fruit Syndicate.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council of Trinidad on August 15th, the sum of £1500 was voted to the Symington West Indian Fruit Company for the purpose of defraying part of their initial expenses, and a guarantee of five per cent. interest on whatever capital up to £15,000 the Company may employ for a period of five years was agreed to.

The resolution, which was moved by the Colonial Secretary, was seconded by Mr. Goodwille, and the Acting Governor, speaking on the motion, said that it appeared to him that the Fruit Syndicate, though primarily a financial concern and therefore confined in the first place to paying a dividend to the shareholders, was of a much wider character than most private companies in the Colony. It was one, the success of which could only be secured by the firm establishment of a fruit industry throughout Trinidad, and it was because of the scope of the Company as such, and because it must materially affect the smaller proprietors that the Government of the Colony took such an interest in the success of the Company, and it was for that reason, and that reason alone, that it appeared to him that the financial interest of the Company should be recognised and that financial support for it was justified. He did not think the Council need fear that any precedent would be created, because unless something with as good a claim as the Symington Company were in the future put before the public and shown to be of the same vital importance to the whole community, it certainly would not receive any guarantee of the character asked for. Each question must be settled upon its merits, and the Council would, by passing a resolution, be in no sense binding itself hand and foot.

Since his return to Trinidad, Mr. Symington has made considerable progress with his arrangements, and he is, at the request of the Acting Governor, making a tour of the whole Island and of Tobago to ascertain the possibilities of developing the fruit industry.

### The Island of Nevis.

The West India Committee recently, in forwarding a memorial to the Secretary of State from Nevis, called attention to the fact that that Island was at present not represented at all upon the Executive Council of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis, and asked him to secure for the Island such representation, it being felt that if the people of Nevis were able to take more part in the deliberations of the Legislature of the Presidency, complaints regarding neglect of the Island might be obviated. We are now in a position to announce that, as a result of our representations, Mr. C. A. Shand, our esteemed correspondent in Nevis, has been appointed a member of the Executive Council of the Presidency, a matter upon which we congratulate him and also the people of Nevis, whose interests we have at heart.





being generally more reliable than where the areas are small and the number of experiments reported few. The following shows the mean yield of each variety in tons of commercial sugar per acre during the years 1901-1903, and the means of the yields of the three crop-years:—

	Crop of 1901-1902.	Crop of 1902-1903.	Autumn crop of 1903	Means 1901-1903.
G25 D	2.95	2.52	2.66	2.71
Sealy...	2.49	2.08	1.83	2.13
95 D	2.24	2.06	1.96	2.09
No. 145 D	2.17	2.17	1.88	2.07
109 D	1.91	2.14	2.09	2.05
147 B	1.99	1.95	1.98	1.97
Bourbon	2.18	1.76	1.86	1.93
74 D	2.03	2.04	1.50	1.86
White Transparent	2.03	1.86	1.64	1.84
78 D	1.39	1.83	1.63	1.62

The following shows the recorded yields of commercial sugar per acre by the varieties as compared with that of the Bourbon taken as 100:—

	Bourbon	G25 D	Sealy	95 D.	145 D.	109 D.	147 B.	Bourbon	74 D.	White Transparent.	78 D.
1901-3	100	140	110.3	108.3	107.2	106.2	102.1	100	96.3	95.3	83.9

The relative value of plants and ratoons is shown by the following table giving the mean returns in tons of commercial sugar per acre of the varieties of canes as plants and as ratoons:—

	Plants.				Ratoons.			
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1901-1903	1901.	1902.	1903.	1901-1903
D. 625	2.75	2.57	2.65	2.66	2.54	2.47	2.67	2.56
Sealy	No data	2.32	2.30	2.31	No data	1.83	1.67	1.75
D. 95	2.18	2.00	2.12	2.10	1.75	2.13	1.88	1.92
D. 145	2.20	2.18	1.89	2.09	2.21	2.17	1.88	2.09
D. 109	2.23	2.17	2.18	2.19	2.50	2.10	2.01	2.20
B. 147	2.20	2.25	1.90	2.12	1.81	1.76	2.05	1.87
D. 74	1.81	1.95	1.50	1.75	2.58	2.16	1.50	2.08
White Transparent	1.63	1.97	1.72	1.77	1.86	1.74	1.49	1.70
D. 78	1.62	1.75	2.49	1.95	2.40	1.92	1.15	1.82

The opinions as to the milling qualities of the varieties are now fairly concordant. D 625 is reported by all as "fair"; D 145 in all cases as "bad"; D 109 as "good"; B 147 as "fair"; D 74 as "good"; Bourbon as "good"; White Transparent is described as "bad", as "fair" and as "good" and D 78 in all cases as "bad." Wide differences of opinions are recorded with regard to the qualities of the megass as fuel. As a rule the megass of D 625 is described as "good," but one experimenter terms it "poor" and another finds it "very bad"; that of Sealy is described as "good"; the megass of D 95 is "fair"; that of D 145, "fair," "bad" and "very bad"; that of D 109 is termed "poor," "fair" and "good"; the megass of B 147 is usually described as "fair" but some have found it "very bad"; that of the Bourbon is of course "good," or even "excellent"; D 74 has yielded "poor" and "bad" megass; while that of White Transparent is in one case termed "good," in all other cases "poor," "bad," or "very bad"; and No. 78 is characterised as "fair," as "bad" or more usually as "very bad." It is not advisable to draw any wide reaching deductions from these experiments. They, however, indicate that several varieties of sugar-canes can be relied upon in British Guiana to give yields of sugar in quantities equal to or greater than those obtained from the Bourbon and that several varieties—for instance, D 625, D 145, and D 109—possess well-marked ratooning quantities. D 625 and D 109 can safely be recommended to cane-farmers for trial, the former on relatively heavy lands, the latter on lighter soils. Certain varieties—D 74, the White

Transparent, and especially D 78—show signs of falling off in their yields and the Committee feel that as a general rule further extensions of their cultivation cannot be recommended. Under factory conditions the marked differences in the saccharine strength of the expressed juice of the canes so very noticeable in small plot-experiments tend to disappear.

### Trinidad Cane Farmers' Crop, 1904.

The figures of the Cane Farmers' Crop in Trinidad for 1904 which we published in our last issue have been amended, the returns of Waterloo estate having been omitted from the papers laid before the Agricultural Society on August 9th. We append the corrected returns from which it will be seen that the total amount of canes purchased in 1904 was 171,947 tons, as against 166,590 in the previous year.

ESTATES	Total Sugar Made. Tons.	Tons of Sugar made from Estate Canes not weighed.	Tons of Estate Canes Ground.	Tons of Canes Purchased.	Amount Paid for Canes.	NUMBER OF FARMERS	
						East Indian.	West Indian.
Brechin Castle	3,020	—	36,329	2,193	84,744	112	134
Bronté...	2,238	—	13,353	12,270	26,502	316	160
Caroni...	3,360	—	28,480	5,759	11,531	132	191
Craignish	400	—	—	3,498	7,466	176	125
Usine Ste. Madeleine	13,500	—	98,571	45,724	97,370	1,460	1,320
Esperanza	2,315	1,669	—	9,050	19,342	176	180
Forres Park	1,613	—	83	17,995	38,164	160	105
Hindustan	550	—	1,000	2,733	5,903	120	160
La Florissante	150	—	2,635	376	812	10	40
Mon Desir	259	—	—	1,022	1,601	43	39
Mon Plaisir	1,004	—	9,959	3,744	7,600	290	187
Orange Grove	2,775	—	24,672	12,647	27,248	75	252
Palmiste	2,649	—	17,789	12,592	27,200	179	266
Perseverance	809	—	8,005	2,186	3,305	41	51
Reform	1,086	†	†	11,491	24,738	530	215
Tennant Estates	7,225	—	64,366	12,294	26,359	620	813
Woodford Lodge and deavour	3,076	—	22,206	11,587	19,445	135	203
Waterloo	4,715	—	54,567	4,786	10,716	71	244
	50,744	1,669	385,015	171,947	8360,046	4,646	4,685
Return for 1903...	No Returns	1,783	337,632	166,590	348,445	4,443	4,440
" 1902...		4,379	337,911	184,867	327,183	4,506	4,850
" 1901...		3,652	434,003	169,918	369,482	3,819	4,737
" 1900...		1,286	364,355	105,996	227,865	2,826	3,591
" 1899...		1,571	426,306	106,741	219,011	2,826	3,870
" 1898...				105,753	202,901	2,326	3,824

\* Including 882 tons purchased from " Mon Jaloux " Estate.

† Estate Sugar and Estate Canes not weighed

### Duty free Alcohol.

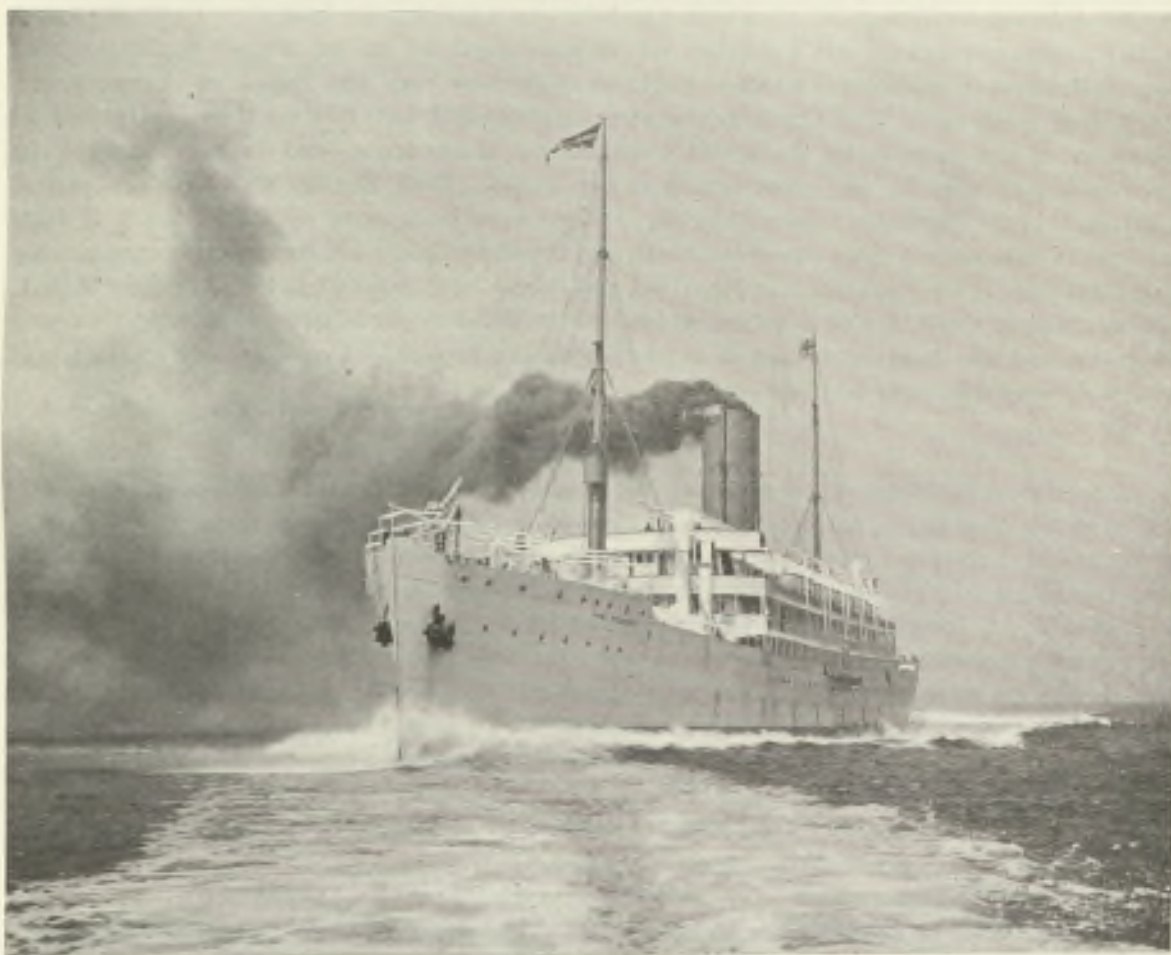
The Chancellor of the Exchequer has appointed the following gentlemen to serve as members of a Committee to inquire into the use of alcohol for industrial purposes:—Sir Henry Primrose, K.C.B., C.S.I., chairman; Professor Sir William Crookes, F.R.S.; Sir W. H. Holland, M.P.; the Hon. J. Scott-Montagu, M.P.; Lothian D. Nicholson, Esq.; Dr. W. Somerville; Dr. T. E. Thorpe, C.B., F.R.S.; Thomas Tyrer, Esq.

The terms of reference are: "To inquire into the existing facilities for the use, without payment of duty, of spirits in arts and manufactures, and, in particular, into the operation of Section 8 of the Finance Act, 1902; and to report whether the powers conferred upon the Commissioners of Inland Revenue by this section permit of adequate facilities being given for the use of spirits in manufactures and in the production of motive power, or whether further facilities are required; and, if it should appear to the Committee that the present facilities are inadequate, to advise what further measures could be adopted without prejudice to the safety of the revenue derived from spirits and with due regard to the interests of the producers of spirits in the United Kingdom."



### The R.M.S. "Port Kingston."

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service is to be congratulated upon the remarkably successful voyage of their new mail steamer the "Port Kingston." She left Avonmouth on Saturday, August 27th, at 10.10 a.m. and reached Kingston, Jamaica, on Tuesday, September 6th, at 7 p.m. after a record run of ten days and eleven hours. Her speed averaged  $16\frac{1}{2}$  knots and she was therefore frequently running at a speed of over 17 knots. We learn by cable that she met with a splendid reception at Kingston and was visited by large crowds. Particulars of this fine new steamer which is fitted with insulated space for 40,000 bunches of bananas, electric light throughout and every modern convenience, have already been given in *The West India Committee Circular*.



The New Steamer of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.

### The Bermudez Asphalt Lake.

We have received from the New York and Bermudez Company a statement regarding the violent and illegal seizure of the Bermudez Asphalt Lake by the Venezuelan Government. The Bermudez Lake, which has many points in common with the more famous Pitch Lake of Trinidad, is situated about 75 miles by river from the south-west corner of the Gulf of Paria. It contains a pitch of greater purity than the Trinidad Lake, and is about ten times as large. Originally worked under a concession granted by the Venezuelan Government, it has, since 1888, been held by the New York

and Bermudez Company under a definite mining title for 99 years, while twelve square miles of land under and surrounding the Lake are the property of the Company in fee simple. As appears to be not infrequently the case with Venezuelan concerns, the Company has throughout its existence been continually engaged in resisting attacks, in more or less legal form, at the hands of the Government and of trade rivals. It has been threatened with forfeiture again and again on pretexts all of which have proved on investigation to be without foundation, and in the early part of this year had its title confirmed, after years of litigation, by the highest Court in Venezuela. Now a fresh action has been brought by the Venezuelan Government to cancel the Company's original concession on various grounds, most of which have already been decided in the Company's favour by the Venezuelan Courts, and to appoint a receiver for all the Company's property. It seems to be action of a kind high-handed even for Venezuela, when we are told that, no notice having been given to the Company of the commencement of the suit, a Receiver was at once appointed on an *ex parte* application, and that the Receiver so appointed is a former employee of the New York and Bermudez Company, and now a trade competitor. The Company's agents were expelled and this Receiver was placed in possession of the property by the armed forces of the Government, and is now engaged in endeavouring to work it, for whose benefit is not known. Both English and American capital is interested in the Bermudez Lake, and strong protests have been made by the Ministers of both countries at Caracas. It is not considered likely that President Castro will be allowed to maintain his illegal attitude. In the meantime, the New York and Bermudez Company has issued through Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, Crisp & Co., a notice, which will be found in our advertisement pages, warning shipowners and others against dealing in any way with the asphalt, which they still consider, and apparently with reason, to be their property.

#### A NEW CACAO DISEASE.

Specimens of twigs and leaves of cacao attacked by a fungoid disease which appears to be new, at least to the West Indies, have recently been received at the head office of the Imperial Department of Agriculture from St. Lucia for examination. The external appearance of the twigs attacked is quite characteristic. The hyphae of the fungus are joined together into dark coloured threads, about the thickness of a horse-hair. Sometimes a number of these threads hang quite loosely about the cacao twigs, and then resemble very closely a bunch of horse-hair; closer examination reveals that these threads are all part of one branching system and that some of them are growing closely pressed to the bark. In other cases the threads are nearly all growing in this latter manner, viz., attached to the bark. The threads also spread to the leaves and then appear to follow the veins. In their youngest parts the threads are white and thinner.

It is proposed to make a further study of this disease. So far, it is known in only one small area in St. Lucia, and only on cacao. Should any of our readers have any knowledge of it, it is to be hoped that they will communicate any information to the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture. The points on which information is desired are whether the disease occurs in any of the other Islands, whether it occurs on cacao or on any wild trees or bushes, how much damage it does, and whether any measures have been taken to eradicate it. Dried specimens of affected twigs and leaves should, if possible, be forwarded at the same time. Similar diseases have occurred on tea in India and Ceylon. It has been found possible to deal with them by careful pruning and by painting the affected parts with a lime-sulphur wash.

#### Publications Received.

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, etc., for our Library. We have to acknowledge with thanks, the receipt of the following:—



**SOUVENIR OF TRINIDAD.** We are indebted to Messrs Goodwill & Wilson, of Port of Spain, for copies of this pleasing book which contains views of Trinidad, published with the laudable object of assisting the development of the European tourist traffic to the West Indies.

**BULLETIN OF MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION,** edited by J. H. Hart, F.L.S. (Trinidad Government Printing Office). This quarterly publication is replete with interest to Agriculturists. Reports on Cacao, Honey, and Cotton, by Prof. Wyndham R. Dunstan of the Imperial Institute are given. Rubber and Tobacco receive attention.

**THE BOOK ON TRINIDAD,** edited by T. B. Jackson. (London: C. W. Hancock & Co., 2s. 6d. net). "The climate delicate: the air most sweet: fertile the soil," is the appropriate quotation from Shakespeare on the title page of this book, the object of which is to advertise the Colony of Trinidad. It embodies a collection of articles upon the Island and its resources by such writers as Professor Carmody, Mr. C. F. Rogers, Mr. H. Caracciolo, who are well qualified to speak on the subjects with which they deal. The book is profusely illustrated with many admirable photographs.

**THE AGRICULTURAL NEWS,** Vol. III. No. 62 (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 1d.). A leading article in this number deals with Wind Breaks or Shelter Belts, the use of which are advocated for the protection of such crops as limes, coffee, and cacao. The names of suitable trees for planting for this purpose are given, those recommended being the *Calophyllum Calaba*, or Galba, and the *Inga laurina*, known in different Islands as the Bois Doux, Spanish oak and Spanish ash. Other articles deal with Job's tears as a famine food, rabbit keeping in the West Indies, budding the mango, &c.

**REPORT ON THE EXPERIMENT STATION, TORTOLA, VIRGIN ISLANDS, 1903-1904** (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 3d., post free 3½d.). This report of Mr. W. C. Fishlock, the agricultural instructor, appears to Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque the acting Commissioner of Agriculture, to be of a satisfactory character. The expenditure for the year amounted to £572 12s. 1d. The receipts from sale of produce, etc., were £26 5s. 8d. Among the new works completed during the year may be mentioned the rebuilding of the sugar battery, the erection of a bridge where the ravine crosses the public road, and of a new nursery shed. The work of improving the grounds has been continued; this included the planting of bamboos and logwood as hedges. The nursery work and distribution of pine-apples, onion seeds, etc., have also been continued along the lines mentioned in last year's report. In the experiment plots, cotton, seedling canes, yams, onions, pine-apples, cacao, coffee, limes, and other crops were grown. The cotton experiment was successful, and this new industry will be taken up by the peasantry. It must be clearly understood that more than ordinary care and attention will have to be bestowed on the cultivation to make the cotton industry a success. Cacao is doing well at the station and there is a prospect of establishing a small industry in this product. As has been pointed out by Dr. Watts in reporting on his recent visit to the Virgin Islands, the peasants will have to be encouraged to plant suitable wind breaks if they are to grow cacao successfully. The rainfall for the year was 59.67 inches: it was fairly well distributed. Mr. Fishlock reports that the peasant proprietors' plots at the station, are not, as a whole, satisfactory.

**REPORTS ON THE BOTANIC STATION, AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL AND LAND SETTLEMENT SCHEME, ST. VINCENT, 1903-1904** (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 3d., post free 4d.). Mr. Powell left St. Vincent on November 6th, 1903, to take up an appointment under the administration of the East African Protectorate, and Mr. W. N. Sands was appointed to fill the vacancy, taking up his duties on March 5th, 1904. In the interval, Mr. Knowles acted as curator, while continuing to carry on his duties as resident master of the agricultural school. The expenditure during the year amounted to £595 16s. 4d. This included the cost of upkeep of the experiment plots in the country. The receipts from the sale of plants, etc., amounted to £45 15s. 6d. The total rainfall for the year was 100.45 inches, or 7.92 inches less than in the previous year, and nearly 13 inches below the average for the previous thirteen years. The number of economic and other plants distributed was nearly doubled; the large increase was partly due to plants being distributed free to the allottees under the land settlement scheme. The experiments begun in January, 1903, for the purpose of ascertaining whether sugar cane and other crops could be grown in districts in which there had been a heavy fall of volcanic dust were continued. Mr. Sands states clearly the conclusions he has arrived at on this point. The report contains a statement of results obtained in shipping bananas from St. Vincent to England on the plan that has been successfully adopted at Barbados. That the experiment was not entirely satisfactory appears to be partly due to the fact that the bananas had to be carried some distance before they were packed. Considerable interest attaches to the efforts that have been made to establish a cotton industry in the Island. The area planted last season was 400 acres. A three-story cotton factory was erected during the year and placed under the charge of the agricultural superintendent. Eleven cotton experiment plots were started during the year under review. The local officers of the Department assisted with the arrangements for the successful agricultural show which was held at the agricultural school on March 10th. Exhibits were forwarded from the station to the exhibition held in Toronto in July, 1903. Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque commenting on the report, states that considering the changes that have taken place in the staff, the general work of the station appears to have been carried on in a satisfactory manner during the year.

### from the Official Gazettes.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our table of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

Mr. FREDERICK W. LINCK has been appointed a Justice of the Peace in and for Demerara.

Mr. C. E. YEARWOOD has been acting as Police Magistrate for Barbados since August 13th.

Mr. N. F. BRIGGS has been appointed to act as Master in Chancery, Barbados, from August 13th.

Mr. W. N. SANDS, Agricultural Superintendent, returned to St. Vincent and resumed his duties on the 16th ult.

Mr. WM. HOLLER will act as Consul for Austria-Hungary during the absence from Trinidad of Mr. August Holler.

The HON. C. A. SHAND, Magistrate of Nevis, has been appointed a Member of the Executive Council of St. Kitts-Nevis.

The HON. T. CAPPER and Mr. J. W. MIDDLETON have been appointed Members of the Board of Agriculture for Jamaica.

Mr. FREDERICK W. COLLIER, Postmaster-General, British Guiana, has been granted three months' vacation leave of absence.

Mr. W. J. CALDER, Chief of Police, St. Vincent, has been granted an extension of two months' leave of absence from the 26th ult.

The Acting Governor of Trinidad has been pleased to appoint Mr. J. G. DE GANNES to be a Member of the Arima Water Works Authority.

Mr. JAMES F. ROSE, Assistant Inspector of Schools, British Guiana, has been granted leave of absence for five months from August 11th.

The HON. A. G. BELL, Colonial Civil Engineer, has been appointed Deputy Chairman of the Central Board of Health of British Guiana.

The VEN. ARCHDEACON HEARD, Rector of All Saints, Berbice, British Guiana, has been granted nine months' leave of absence from August 11th.

Mr. W. W. GOVDEY, Judge of the Bridgetown Petty Debt Court, Barbados, has been appointed to act as a Judge of the Assistant Court of Appeal, from August 13th.

Mr. J. DALGLEISH has been appointed to act as a Member of the San Fernando Water Works Authority during the absence from Trinidad of the Hon. W. S. Robertson.

The Acting Governor of Jamaica has provisionally recognised Mr. E. A. H. HAGGART as Acting Consul at Kingston for Austria-Hungary, during the temporary absence from the Island of Mr. R. H. Otto.

The HON. R. G. BUSHÉ, the HON. J. A. DE WOLF, and Mr. J. H. COLLIER have been re-appointed to be Government Members on the Board of Management of the Victoria Institute of Trinidad for the ensuing year.

Mr. A. M. ASHMORE, late Government Secretary of British Guiana, leaves England on the 30th inst. for Ceylon, where he will assume the duties of Lieutenant-Governor and Colonial Secretary, in succession to Mr. Everard F. im Thurn, who leaves Ceylon on the 10th for Fiji, to take over the duties of Governor of that Colony.—*Morning Post*

Mr. W. C. HARRAGIN, Stipendiary Magistrate of British Guiana, has retired from the Public Service on pension. His original appointment took place thirty years ago, when he became an Inspector of Police. He acted on several occasions as Inspector-General, and subsequently became a Stipendiary Magistrate. The vacancy created by Mr. Harragin's retirement is not to be filled up.—*Morning Post*.

### Notes of Interest.

**AS OTHERS SEE US.** In an article on "Colonial Consolidation" in the *Morning Post*, a correspondent refers to The West India Committee as a body that has laboured usefully and unobtrusively in a somewhat neglected field of public duty.

**WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.** Owing to pressure on our space, we are compelled to hold over our usual list of West Indian securities. The Bank of England rate remains 3% (changed from 3½% on April 22nd, 1904), and Consols (2½%) are quoted 88½ as we go to press.

**NEW MEMBERS.** The next election of Members will take place on Thursday, September 29th. Fourteen candidates now await election. We would remind Members that by virtue of Rule IV., Subscriptions from new Members elected during the last three months of the current year will not, when paid, be renewable until January 1st, 1906.

**SUGAR IN MOROCCO.** The British Vice-Consul at Mogador reports that the sugar trade in South Morocco (now almost entirely in French hands) is always a very big one. It is regrettable, he adds, that the United Kingdom does not attempt to participate in it in any way, and he suggests that it would be worth the while of dealers to make enquiries about it.

**LATE FEE MAIL LETTERS.** For the convenience of Members wishing to post letters for the outgoing West Indian Mail at the last possible moment, arrangements have been made for a messenger to leave The West India Committee Rooms on the day of the departure of the Mail at 12.30 p.m., with letters for posting at Waterloo Station. All such letters must bear the late fee of 2d., in addition to the ordinary postage.

**ANOTHER BRITISH POSSESSION.** The announcement from New York in the *Standard* of His Majesty's cruiser "Tribune" having annexed Aves Island has not, apparently, disturbed our relations with any foreign country. Aves Island is a small and barren islet in the Caribbean Sea, about 190 miles from St. Lucia and 133 miles from Dominica. It is 10 feet high. It is not stated what objection the birds resident on this rock made to the Royal salute fired by the guns when saluting the flag.

**PURE CANE SUGAR.** The enterprising firm of Messrs. James Philip & Co., the Pure Cane Sugar Co., of 4, Fenchurch Buildings, are to be congratulated upon having been awarded two gold medals for an exhibit of Phil-cane sugar, philernum, banafior, and West Indian produce at the International Food Exhibition which has just been held at the Crystal Palace. The same firm supplied their Phil-cane sugars to Messrs. Holheim and Greasley on the occasion of their recent attempts to swim the Channel.

**MANGROVE BARK INDUSTRY.** The Acting British Consul-General at Zanzibar, in his recent report to the Foreign Office (*Annual Series*, 3265), remarks:—"The item mangrove bark, which appears for the first time in 1903 among the Customs returns, is a product of high value for tanning purposes. It grows in great abundance in the numerous tidal creeks throughout the island, and it appears to be of excellent quality from a commercial point of view. I believe that the Pemba bark would fetch £5 or £6 per ton in the European markets. The Zanzibar Government has lately prohibited the



collecting of mangrove bark in Pemba, save under licence. I understand that up to the present one firm only, a French firm in Zanzibar, have applied for and obtained such licence."

**WEST INDIAN TELEGRAPHS.** The Council of the Chamber of Commerce of Georgetown, British Guiana, in their annual report give the text of a resolution sent to the Government in reply to a circular from the Ottawa Board of Trade in favour of nationalising the telegraph system. The report also deals with the interruptions of the service to the Colony during the past five years. A resolution in favour of the extension of the Direct West India Cable Co.'s line of cable from Bermuda to Barbados, and thence to Trinidad, Demerara, and St. Lucia was unanimously passed by the Chamber of Commerce, Port of Spain, on August 10th. Meanwhile, no further information has been received from the Colonial Office regarding the long waited report of the Departmental Cable Committee.

**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Cavalier" from Liverpool, for Demerara, September 16th; S.S. "Yanariva" from Glasgow, for Barbados, Trinidad, and Demerara, September 20th; S.S. "Salybia" from London, for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, and Demerara, September 21st; S.S. "Belgian" from Liverpool, for Barbados and Trinidad, September 21st; and the R.M.S. "Port Antonio" from Bristol for Kingston, Jamaica, on September 24th. Letters for Grenada and Trinidad, posted on Saturday, September 17th and Wednesday, September 21st, marked "via New York," will go forward by S.S. "Maracas" on September 28th, and be delivered in Grenada on October 6th, and Trinidad on October 7th. The usual postage of 1d. suffices. *Information for publication under this head is invited from Shipping Companies.*

### The Homeward Mail.

While the present is the dull season in London, and one hears it said on all sides that for many years the City has not been so quiet as it is now, our friends in the West Indies are showing considerable activity. There is a general feeling that the years of depression are past, and all are putting their shoulders to the wheel with commendable energy. By the homeward mail considerable progress in the arrangements for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition is reported. Rain was wanted in British Guiana, but elsewhere the weather was favourable and the outlook for the crops promising. The R.M.S. "Orinoco" anchored off Plymouth on Wednesday, September 7th, at 9.45 p.m., and the Mails were delivered on the following morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, August 31st. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received per R.M.S. "Orinoco".

#### Antigua—Cotton Growers Encouraged.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) August 24th, 1904. Hopes were expressed that the Imperial Government would allow alcohol for manufacturing purposes to enter Great Britain duty free, as such a measure would increase the demand and it would also lead to many orders for distilling plants being placed with British engineers.

The recent account sales of cotton at 1s. 2d. per lb. had created an increased desire for its cultivation. The return of clean lint per acre appeared to average about 140 to 160 lbs., and in some exceptional cases it was higher. Seed cotton gave a return of 29 to 30 per cent. of clean lint.

The long drought had broken up and during the fortnight they had good soaking rains amounting to 2½ to 4½ inches. The young canes had revived wonderfully and were growing in earnest. Cotton, corn, and onions were being sown.

Mr. Sands who had been for so long honorary secretary of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, had at a recent meeting been presented with a suitable gift, on behalf of the Society, on the occasion of his marriage. Mr. Sands had returned to St. Vincent, where he had charge of the Botanic Station.

The price of peasant canes for July was 9s. 2d. per ton, a price profitable to the growers.

#### Barbados—Vigorous Growth of Canes.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE) August 26th, 1904. The weather during the fortnight had been favourable, 3 to 4 inches of rain having fallen on the 16th and 17th, and good showers almost daily. The canes were growing vigorously and much improvement was looked for.

Shipments of bananas continued by every Mail, and hopes were expressed that a good show of this fruit would be made at the Horticultural Exhibition in December.

A large supply of cotton seed had arrived, and some had been planted: assistance from experts would be welcomed. Onions were also being planted since the rains. Nice showers were continuing.

Mr. Walter B. Kingsford, chairman of the West India and Panama Cable Company, was staying in Barbados on his way through the Islands. It was hoped that his visit might result in improving the quality of messages transmitted, of which complaint was often made.

The Agricultural Society had entered their new premises, and "Planter's Hall" was removed from Broad Street and was situated upon the Careenage, occupying part of the premises leased for the Commercial Hall. These were cooler and more commodious, and a great improvement in every respect.

The Governor in Executive Council had supported the request of the Exhibition Committee for a grant towards the expenses of the Colonial Exhibition.

#### British Guiana—Rains Needed.

(A. SUMMERSON, ESQ.) August 24th, 1904. A meeting of the Legislature had been held on the 16th ult. Mr. J. Wood Davis had been elected financial representative of Demerara in the place of Mr. W. S. Cameron.

There had been some small transactions in refining crystals at \$2.40, and 100 tons for tobaccoists at \$2.50. The weather had been too dry during the fortnight, and good rains were needed, especially on the Corentyne Coast.

#### Dominica--Prædial Larceny.

(A. K. AGAR, ESQ.) August 21st, 1904. The Crown Law Officer was preparing a Bill to deal with the growing evil of prædial larceny, which would be laid before the Legislature in due course.

The Agricultural Society had appointed a small working committee to look after exhibits for the Royal Horticultural Exhibition in December, and had approached the Government with a view to obtaining a small grant-in-aid.

The weather during the fortnight had been very boisterous with wind and rain. The lime crop was in full swing, and orange shipping was beginning to increase.

#### Grenada--The Colonial Exhibition, 1905.

(P. J. DEAN, ESQ.) August 25th, 1904. The Agricultural and Commercial Society had approached the Government for a grant to defray the expenses of the Island's exhibit at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in 1905, and had appointed a committee of five to co-operate with the Government nominees in carrying out the arrangements. The Society intended holding a local exhibition early in 1905, the exhibits at which would form the basis of those to be forwarded to London.

Good rains had fallen daily during the fortnight, and on the morning of the 17th ult. a thunderstorm passed over the Island, the rainfall averaging 3 to 4 inches in as many hours.

(W. E. BROADWAY, ESQ.) An emergency stock of 400 lbs. of paris green had been imported by the Botanic Station and would be sold to cotton cultivators at cost price, but, fortunately, there had been no reports of the appearance of the cotton worm.

#### Jamaica--Seasonable Weather.

(J. T. ASHENHEIM, ESQ.) August 22nd, 1904. The weather had been very seasonable during the last fortnight. In Vere the weather had been dry, with the exception of a few occasional showers. If they got October rains the parish would probably make a three-quarter crop.

At a meeting of the Board of Management of the Agricultural Society on August 21st, a discussion took place as to the day of departure of the R. M. S. P. Co.'s steamers, and a resolution proposed by Mr. Cameron moved that "on the understanding that sufficient facilities are given by the railway for bringing down the fruit to Kingston on Saturday night and shipping it on Sunday, the Agricultural Society is not opposed to the suggested alteration," *i. e.*, that the steamer should leave at 5 p. m. on Monday instead of at noon on Tuesday.

The report of the Committee appointed to deal with the Elder Dempster contract was adopted on the recommendation to the Government on the subject. (A copy can be seen in the Jamaica papers of August 21st).

#### Nevis--The Agricultural Society.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) August 24th, 1904. The long looked for good soaking showers had at length arrived, and with the marvellously recuperative powers of the sugar-cane a continuance of them would work wonders.

A successful meeting of the Agricultural Society was held on the 19th ult. and the number of members was steadily increasing. The preliminaries for the Agricultural Show to be held in January, 1905, were agreed to and the prize list and rules forwarded to the Commissioner of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for approval.

About 1000 acres would be put into cotton for 1905, and a large area had already been planted. If the peasants could be persuaded to till their lands more carefully, cotton would be their most suitable and profitable crop, and it was hoped that they would become more enlightened.

#### St. Kitts--Cotton Pests.

(CHAS. A. SMITH, ESQ.) August 23rd. Some splendid rains had fallen which were well distributed over the whole Island, and had altered the appearance of the crops in a marked and welcomed manner.

A considerable area had been put in cotton, but, unfortunately, the appearance of pests was already evident. No effort, however, would be spared to frustrate what appeared to be local enemies of the Sea Island plant.

#### St. Vincent--The Eruption Fund.

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & CO.) August 26th, 1904. The weather during the early part of the fortnight had been very hot, in the latter part very heavy rains had fallen, which, however, had not damaged the young crops.

Discontent as to the distribution of the Eruption Fund was still being expressed, and the sufferers were looking for some action by the Committee.

#### Trinidad--New Dock Accommodation.

(EDGAR TRIPP, ESQ.) August 26th, 1904. The Legislative Council had voted a sum of £1500, as recommended by the Select Committee, for the Trinidad exhibit at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, 1905.

It was understood that Mr. Ellis Grell, recently from a visit to England, had made proposals to the Government on behalf of certain English capitalists to at once supply a dock suitable for the requirements of the port. Public opinion, so far, favoured the idea of the scheme being carried out by private enterprise, under certain guarantees by the Government, rather than by adding to the existing debt of the Colony for the purpose, and it was hoped that the conditions required by Mr. Grell would be found acceptable.

The Chamber of Commerce had unanimously passed a resolution recommending the proposal of the Direct West India Cable Company to establish a line from Bermuda to Barbados, and thence to Trinidad, Demerara, and St. Lucia, to the early and favourable attention of the Colonial and Imperial Governments.

The Legislative Council had granted the Symington Fruit Company the sum of £1500 towards the losses sustained in the early and educational stages of the fruit trade, and agreed to guarantee five per cent. per annum for five years upon all capital up to £15,000 employed by the Company in the business. Mr. Symington's process for sterilising and preserving full fruit in the best condition during the whole period of the voyage appeared to be a complete success, and if it proved so on further experiment would give a marked impetus to this already promising industry.

The Union Bank of Halifax had obtained authority to issue notes of various values from \$5 upwards, and the Colonial Government would also issue notes of smaller denomination; thus obviating the inconvenience of the present silver currency.



**Weather Telegrams.**

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), Sept. 12th. "Fine rains generally throughout the Island." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), Sept. 3rd. "Weather continues too dry." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), September 7th. "Too dry, crops will be short of estimate." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ended August 25th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "20th and 22nd, Rain, others fine." **KINGSTON**: "Fine, few showers." Week ended Sept. 1st. **PORT ANTONIO**: "30th, Cloudy, others fine." **KINGSTON**: "Fine, occasional showers."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.	Cotton.
<b>Barbados—</b>	Hhds.	lbs.	Tons.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats	lbs.
Jan. 1 to Aug 25, '04	52,688	—	—	—	—	43,281	—	—	—
" " 25, '03	30,546	—	—	—	—	28,624	—	—	—
<b>British Guiana—</b>	Tons.								
Jan. 1 to Aug 23, '04	43,512	91,568	3715	11,779	165,840	1011	50,160	7116	—
" " 25, '03	62,451	99,212	480	15,005	4984	3470	55,875	5731	—
<b>Jamaica—</b>		Cwts.	Coffee.	Calls		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.	
Apr. 1 to Aug 6, '04	4865	11,696	9064	802,645	881,050	11,839	1,512,267	904,050	1796
" " 8, '03	7609	13,980	14,060	780,541	8,863,515	12,079	6,611,627	5,527,350	—
<b>Trinidad—</b>	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.	Copra.
Jan. 1 to Aug 25, '04	381,251	33,952,060	60,715	125	4,870,371	1943	Trcs 20	Brls. 125	119,402
" " 25, '03	375,613	25,494,790	47,160	758	8,032,552	3078	178	758	—
<b>Grenada—</b>	Bags		Brls.	3 Brls.	SPICE.	Cases	Bags	Cotton Seed	Cotton.
Oct 1 to Aug 26, '04	—	66,512	3894	649	543	810	133	6594	1032
" " 26, '03	—	62,858	3860	738	810	81	81	7125	1023

**The Mails.**

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco," September 7th, 1904—** **Barbados**—Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Inniss, Mr. and Mrs. D. Da Costa, two Misses Da Costa, Rev and Mrs Gilbertson, Miss Haynes, Miss Bagot, Mr Murray, Mr. H. R. Brandon, Capt W. E. Moss, D.S.O. **Demerara**—The Bishop of Guana, Mr. and Mrs Cameron, Col R. S. Marshall, Mr. W. E. Humphreys, Mr. A. L. McEwan, Mr. R. M. Souper. **Jamaica**—Master A. French, Rev. A. J. Ellis, Mr. P. W. Jarvis, Miss Eva Solomon, Mr. J. C. Teixeira. **Trinidad**—Mr. J. G. Haynes, Mr. H. Gall, Mr. D. Adamson, Mr. J. A. Tomlinson. **Antigua**—Mrs. A. E. Gardiner, Mr. and Miss Tempier. **Dominica**—Mr. W. Molyneux, Mr. W. H. Lance. **St. Kitts**—Dr. Edmund Branch. **St. Lucia**—Miss J. Giraudy.

**Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," September 14th, 1904—** **Barbados**—Lieut. D. H. Kay Mr and Mrs. Walton, Miss S. Trimmingham, Mr. J. W. D. Thorp, Sir W. H. and Lady Greaves. **Demerara**—Mr and Mrs W. Anderson, Miss A. Junor, Mr C. Barratt, Mr F. A. Neal, Mr. W. Durno, Mr and Mrs Morrison, Mr A. Alexander, Mr. L. C. Carter, Dr. and Mrs. Law, Mr. G. Anderson, Mrs. M. Neeld, Mr. Justice Hewicke, Mr. J. E. Kidman, Mr. M. Gomes, Mr. W. H. Woodroffe, Mr. C. Chester, Lieut. C. F. Alleyne. **Jamaica**—Mr. A. C. O'Dowd, Mr. W. Morrison, Mrs. A. Morrison, Lieut. Col. P. H. Johnston, C.M.G., Mrs. and Miss Desert, Mr and Miss Kempson, Mr. E. Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. Hammond, Mr. C. L. Walker, Mr. C. Sandford, Mr. G. S. Hammond, Mr. V. Desnoes, Mr. P. H. Marshall, Mr. A. W. Hichings. **Trinidad**—Mr. H. Bell, Mr. A. Hombersley, Mr. H. Stone, Mrs. E. Stone, Mr. Hemke, Mr. Preuss, Mr. Fulte, Mr. Schmidt, Dr. F. Hammond, Mr. J. Caraciolo, Mr. J. J. McLeod, Mr. J. Grant, Mr. E. Talma, Mr. T. D. Arnott, Mr. Mendel. **Antigua**—His Excellency Sir Courtenay Knollys, K.C.M.G., Lady Knollys, and Miss Knollys, Mr. Knollys, Dr. and Mrs. McDonald, Miss S. Edwards. **Dominica**—Mr. J. Eaden, Mr. Mrs and Miss Rose. **Grenada**—Miss K. Lord, Dr. Latour, Mr. F. W. Bell, Mr. Whiteman. **St. Lucia**—Mr. J. Devaux, Mrs. and Miss A. Devaux, two Misses Bennett, Mr. G. Devaux, Mr. G. Hudson, Mr. Parke, Miss M. Galgey. **Tobago**—Rev. and Mrs. Godson.

**Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," September 25th, 1904:—** **Barbados**—Rev. Canon Bindley, Mrs. E. Webb, Rev. J. Sumner, Mr. G. and two Misses Borstelmann, Miss A. Budd, Mrs. Edge. **Demerara**—Mrs. Conrad, Mrs. L. Abrahams, Mrs. Laing, Miss M. R. Garnett, Miss D. Hemming, Mr. H. Williams, Mrs. G. Williams, Miss A. Bourton, Mr. J. Gibson, Miss K. Weber, Mr. J. H. Field, Miss H. Withers. **Jamaica**—Mr. R. Sullivan, Mrs. O. Sullivan, Rev. E. A. Jones, Miss E. Brass, Hon. G. McGrath, Mr. and Mrs. Stiven, Mr. N. K. Hills, Mr. C. J. Kerr, Mr. MacGrath. **Trinidad**—Mr and Mrs Kay, Mrs. E. Bushe, Mr. C. Wilson, Miss M. Fuller, Mr. P. P. Gardiner, Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Wilson, Miss A. Favre, Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G., Mrs and Miss Fenwick. **Grenada**—His Hon. Judge Tarring, Mr. C. A. Legge, Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson, two Misses Ferguson, Miss M. Forrester, Mrs. E. Tarring. **Tobago**—Rev. A. E. Jones.

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," August 31st, 1904:—** **Jamaica**—Rev. and Mr. Chinn, Mr. C. M. DaCosta, Mr. F. J. Frampton, Mrs. and Miss Forrest, Mr. P. H. Greg, Mrs. E. A. H. Haggart, Mr. C. E. Harrison, Miss Isaacs, Mr. W. H. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Munton, Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Neale, Mr. Ricketts, Mr. L. Rivett, Mr. R. Rivett.

**Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," September 10th, 1904:—** **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. G. St. Aubyn, three Misses St. Aubyn, Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, Rev. J. M. Cass, Mr. and Miss Fry, Mr. E. Gillies, Dr. N. Hardy, Capt. and Mrs. J. E. Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Hide, Mrs. and Miss Morais, Mr. C. P. Nosworthy, Mr. R. Price, Dr. J. Rutter, Mr. E. F. Rogers, Mrs. A. Sewell, Mr. R. Specht, Miss D. Verley, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Webbware, Miss S. Dohney, Miss Europe, Miss Facey, Mr. Lusan, Miss E. Manford, Mr. Mitchell.

**Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," Sept. 24th, 1904:—** **Jamaica**—Major and Mrs. Ditmas, Mr. C. Sminhoe, Mrs. J. Davidson, Mrs. Westmoreland, Mrs. H. Greenough, Miss A. E. Blake, Mrs. and Miss Williams, Mrs. and Miss Musson, Major Wilson, Lieut. and Mrs. Cox.

### The Produce Markets Summary.

**Sugar.**—We have now completed one year since the abolition of Bounties and Kartels and prices of sugar have fulfilled all that was expected of them, the quotation of 88% beet on the 1st September, 1903, being 8s. 6d. which compares with 10s. 9d. on the corresponding day this year. Notwithstanding the large glut of sugar we have had to contend with, which has to a considerable extent been dissipated by the increased Continental consumption, prices steadily rose to the 10s. which was foreseen to be inevitable. The further advance to 10s. 9d. and even more has been produced by speculators influenced by unfavourable reports of the growing beet root crops and not by any present scarcity of sugar. From this point of view the late extra rise may not prove of a lasting nature, although under certain crop conditions it may yet be followed by a further upward movement. All and everything depends on the European output for 1904-5. So far, undoubtedly, the weather has been the reverse of propitious for the growing crops, which should now be on the point of being lifted. It seems difficult to realise how the long wished for abundant rains can materially add to the amount of actual sugar to be produced this coming season. This can only be determined when the crop has been in work for one or two months and by then we shall know if the unfavourable reports have been exaggerated or not, not unfortunately for the first time in the history of beet campaigns. The coming season of 1904-5 may well be one of startling incidents, resulting temporarily in fancy prices, as viewed from the standpoint of recent years, but all is a question of crops about which the greatest uncertainty exists. This much seems evident, that the long expected and now realised 10s. has come to stay and for this much the sugar producing world may be grateful and indeed, if wise, should be satisfied. Inflated prices will only lead to over production, resulting in disappointment to all concerned.

With constant and hourly fluctuation the closing prices of 88% are:—Sept., 10s. 8½d., Oct./Dec. 10s. 10½d., Jan./Mar., 10s. 11d., May, 11s. 0½d. and August, 11s. 3d., those of white Continental Granulated being respectively:—12s. 6½d., 12s. 7½d., 12s. 9d., 12s. 10½d., and 13s. for these deliveries, all free on board Hamburg.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America on uneven dates are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	
Europe	1,320,000	1,670,000	1,660,000	780,000	600,000	Tons.
United States	120,000	220,000	160,000	180,000	60,000	..
Cuba	30,000	190,000	170,000	80,000	—	..
Cargoes afloat	290,000	130,000	220,000	170,000	200,000	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,760,000</b>	<b>2,210,000</b>	<b>2,210,000</b>	<b>1,210,000</b>	<b>860,000</b>	<b>..</b>
Comparative prices of 88% Beet for 5 years:—	10s. 8½d.	8s. 5½d.	5s. 11½d.	7s. 10d.	11s. 4d.	

**Vacuum Pan Sugar.**—An active demand prevails for the small quantity left unsold and prices are fully 9d. dearer than last mail, average qualities selling at 17s. 9d. with a general range of 17s. 6d. to 18s. 6d. There are indications of a still further upward movement. For a cargo of 96 test to Refiners 11s. 9d. might be obtained on floating terms.

**Molasses Sugar** is wanted. Prices range from 11s. 6d. to 15s. 6d.

**Muscovado.**—Moderate sales of grocery Barbados up to 14s. For 89 test to Refiners about 10s. 9d. should be obtained on floating terms.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.	1904	1903.	1902	1901.	
Imports to date	35,000	20,000	54,000	42,000	Tons
Deliveries	34,000	30,000	30,000	28,000	..
Stocks	13,000	18,000	37,000	22,000	..

**Rum.**—Board of Trade returns for 8 months:

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	
Home Consumption	2,372,000	2,299,000	2,538,000	2,538,000	Gallons.
Stocks, 31st August	9,976,000	10,405,000	9,613,000	9,613,000	..
Stocks in London:					
Jamaica	11,300	11,700	11,600	11,500	Puns.
Demerara	9,300	7,600	9,500	6,500	..
Total of all kinds:—	28,262	29,791	Deficiency 1529 Puns		

So far there is no improvement to notice in the demand and the fortnight's trade is of quite a retail character. In prices there is no actual change but quotations of 7d. for fair Demerara, 1s. 9d. for Standard Home Trade Marks of Jamaica, and 7d. to 10d. for Leewards are all more or less nominal.

**Cocoa.**—Board of Trade returns for 8 months:

	1904.	1903	1902	1901	
Imports...	20,658	17,429	19,085	18,402	Tons.
Home Consumption	14,041	12,620	14,626	13,241	..
Stocks 31st August	7043	5584	5863	9252	..
Stocks in London:					
	100,000	76,000	82,000	110,000	Bags

The market continues dull but prices of West India remain fairly steady, viz., Trinidad, fair collected, 58s.; Estate Marks, 58s. to 62s.; Grenada, fair native, 54s. and fermented 56s. to 58s. From other Islands fair native is worth about 50s. and fermented 55s. to 58s. The nominal quotation for African to arrive is 57s. on full landed terms.

**Coffee.**—Steady. Good ordinary Jamaica, 38s. A small shipment of choice Plantation realised from 57s. to 120s. Santos for this month's delivery is quoted 35s. 9d.

**Nutmegs.**—A good market. West India sold 54's at 2s. 3d.; 102's, 9d.; 134's, 6d.; 158's, 5½d. and in shell from 4½d. to 5½d. **Mace.**—Firm. Fair to good pale sold at 1s. 6d. to 1s. 11d.; red from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 5d. and broken 1s. to 1s. 1d. **Peppercorn.**—Slow, inactive. Value of fair, 2½. **Spice.**—Neglected. Last mails quotations nominally unchanged.

**Arrowroot.**—London figures to date:

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
Imports...	13,198	10,301	15,563	15,777	20,852
Deliveries	13,394	8517	9532	13,181	15,194
Stocks 31 August	12,440	14,035	13,750	10,796	8189

The market continues dull and there is no business to report this mail, 1½ remaining the nominal quotation of fair to good manufacturing, but with no buyers thereat.

**Lime Juice.**—Slow demand at easy rates. Fine sold at 1s. 4d. **Concentrated.**—Unchanged at £14. **Distilled Oil.**—Value 1s. 6d. **Hand pressed.**—Quoted 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d.

For Cotton, see Special Article, page 362.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.



# The . . . West India Committee Circular

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ENTERED AT  
STATIONERS HALL.

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## OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XXVI.



His Honour H. Hesketh Bell, C.M.G.  
ADMINISTRATOR OF DOMINICA.

## The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SERRING LANE, LONDON.

September 26th, 1904.

**W**E always maintained that one of the principal results of the abolition of the Foreign Sugar Bounties would be a restoration of confidence in the West Indies, and evidence of the correctness of our view has not been wanting during the past year. Twelve months ago the Bounties were abolished, and the hopeful tone of the letters of our Hon. Correspondents will be found to be in marked contrast to those of a few years ago. In their half-yearly report, the Directors of the Colonial Bank state that "prospects are favourable, and the abolition of the Sugar Bounties is bringing about a gradual renewal of confidence." A satisfactory sign of this revival in Trinidad is afforded by the fact that a large Insurance Company has been investing considerable sums on the security of freehold property in Port of Spain and the country. Some five years ago, wealthy capitalists were seriously considering the advisability of embarking upon the sugar industry in the West Indies on a very large scale, but when they realised that by an extra turn of the bounty screw the fruits of their enterprise might be

destroyed, they not unnaturally fought shy. But it was not only the sugar industry that was affected. The staple industry was crippled, and the credit of the West Indies as a whole and all their

industries suffered from the blighting hand of the Bounties. But now, circumstances are altered. The outlook for the West Indies has not been so bright for many years, and it is reasonable to hope that capitalists will once more turn their attention to the Islands of the Caribbean, where cane sugar can be produced at a price sensibly below that of beet, in spite of the odds which it has had to fight against for so many years. It cannot be too widely known that upwards of 2,000,000 acres of easily accessible and cultivable land await development in this part of the Empire. It is an established fact that the best cotton in the world can be grown in the West Indies. Here then is an opportunity for the British Cotton Growing Association, which by the terms of the Royal Charter recently given to it by the King is empowered to establish plantations in different parts of the British Empire for the growth of cotton. The Association has generously acceded to our request to send out experts, and we hope that it will now go a step further and establish experimental farms in the West Indies, a course the adoption of which we feel confident it would have no cause to regret. The outlook is bright, and judging by the increasing number of enquiries made at the West India Committee Rooms, regarding the conditions and prospects of the West Indies—enquiries to which we are only too glad to give our attention—a great revival of interest in these Colonies may be looked for in the near future.

#### **This Honour W. Hesketh Bell, G.M.G.**

Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, who was educated in Paris, entered the Colonial service in 1882, when he was appointed clerk in the Governor-in-Chief's office, Barbados. In the following year he was transferred to the Treasury Department, Grenada, and in 1890 migrated to the Gold Coast where he received the appointment of Supervisor of Customs. In 1891 he was Senior Assistant Treasurer of the Gold Coast, and in the next year he acted as District Commissioner and Sheriff at Accra. Thence he went in 1892 to the Bahamas as Acting Colonial Treasurer. Two years later he became Receiver-General of that Colony, and he represented Harbour Island in the House of Assembly from 1895 to 1896. He acted as Colonial Secretary of the Bahamas from July to October, 1897, and April to November, 1898. Since 1899 Mr. Bell has been Administrator of Dominica, an island which has made remarkable progress towards prosperity during the past few years. The credit for this is largely due to Mr. Bell's energy and initiative. He has been responsible for many young settlers going to the island, and has taken an active share in opening up the interior. Recently he has been administering the Government of the Leeward Islands pending the arrival of the new Governor at Antigua. Mr. Bell is the author of several useful Colonial works, including "Geography of the Gold Coast," "Obeah," and "Notes and Hints to Intending Settlers in Dominica," and he has also written several special reports which have been published in the Colonial series, notably one on the Imperial Road, and another on the Caribs of Dominica.

#### **An Important Decision as to Rum.**

At Stockport, on Sept. 20th, a test case—of importance to distillers and the licensing trade generally—was heard, in which two publicans were summoned for selling rum containing 70 or 80 per cent. of "silent" spirit. The prosecution was instituted by the Stockport Corporation Sanitary Committee, and it was stated that the rum purchased had been imported from Demerara, and that instead of containing ethers which gave it medicinal properties and caused it to be used as such by the medical profession and by the army and navy, it contained "silent" spirit, which might be produced from sugar, sawdust, grain, potatoes, maize, or any article of that kind. For the defence, it was contended that the prosecution had not established any standard upon which they could judge how much potent spirit there should be in Demerara rum. Expert evidence, including that of sugar planters, was given. The Bench upheld the defendants' contention and dismissed the case, allowing 20 guineas costs.



### The Increase in Consumption of Sugar.

The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* of September 21st gives the following estimate, in tons, of the consumption of sugar in the principal European countries which were signatories of the Brussels Convention, for the twelve months, September 1903 to August 1904.

	France. REFINED.		Germany. RAW		Austria-Hungary. RAW		Belgium. WHITE.		United Kingdom. RAW.		Holland. RAW	
	1903-04	1902-03	1903-04	1902-03	1903-04	1902-03	1903-04	1902-03	1903-04	1902-03	1903-04	1902-03
Sept	103,008	33,652	147,384	76,921	39,010	35,380	15,679	5,000	90,714	113,722	9,531	6,589
Oct ...	99,859	45,472	116,632	88,798	54,932	37,955	7,548	5,000	81,399	98,329	24,268	19,343
Nov	61,602	47,808	99,859	80,999	50,693	36,417	7,623	5,000	102,148	112,940	21,174	24,022
Dec ...	52,971	67,616	71,345	67,225	38,260	35,827	6,617	5,000	132,220	128,574	18,494	1,376
Jan ...	43,392	20,104	82,785	58,241	38,052	32,188	5,551	5,000	123,754	113,771	-29,579	-2,781
Feb	44,030	20,703	73,491	53,464	35,433	30,409	5,038	5,000	118,834	99,014	5,943	3,133
March	41,190	34,943	84,023	59,498	44,094	37,966	5,746	5,000	152,808	137,439	6,355	801
April	43,947	34,573	71,574	54,181	37,939	31,946	5,096	5,000	170,755	104,201	11,213	5,921
May...	46,542	29,292	76,802	56,687	35,464	31,275	5,526	5,000	145,922	155,937	7,230	4,870
June	58,777	15,490	88,558	55,775	37,493	30,423	7,117	5,000	138,343	142,061	10,149	6,058
July ..	47,384	13,807	106,458	62,427	43,120	33,909	7,431	5,000	149,488	152,995	6,062	2,893
Aug.	57,228	7,659	107,512	28,918	55,077	2,837	6,457	5,000	143,826	184,407	3,597	5,729

The *Journal* states that the increase in consumption amounts in: France, to 327,011 tons, or 81.3 per cent.; Germany, to 386,238 tons, or 52.1 per cent.; Austria-Hungary, to 133,035 tons, or 35.3 per cent.; Belgium, 25,431 tons, or 42.3 per cent.; United Kingdom, 6823 tons, or 0.4 per cent.; and Holland, 16,483 tons, or 21.1 per cent., from which it would appear that the total increase for the above-mentioned Powers amounts to **895,921** tons.

### Labour-saving Devices.

The *Louisiana Sugar Planter and Sugar Manufacturer* of August 10th has an interesting article on the subject of labour-saving devices, in the course of which the writer says: "The introduction of so-called labour-saving contrivances may have, so far as we are concerned, one or more of three principal objects in view—a cheapening of process; more rapid accomplishment, where time for performance is limited; and the doing of that for which sufficient hand labour is wanting. Not infrequently an invention does something towards simultaneously attaining each of these ends, as, for example, the installation of green bagasse furnaces in Cuba.

"From two hundred persons, upwards, were formerly employed at each of the more important mills on that island, transporting bagasse to the batey, sun drying, returning and stoking in by hand. This was expensive. It placed a limit upon the capacity of the machinery by the inability of people enough to assemble about the establishment, at times, to do the work without mutual interference. Rains quickly brought everything to a standstill, and night work was too exasperating to be tolerated. There were not offering labourers enough to perform this service and at the same time to cut and transport sufficient canes to the factories to maintain these in steady operation. The green bagasse furnace set an aggregate of nearly fifty thousand persons free, who, instead of seeking other than plantation employment or departing from the country, reinforced the cutting and loading and other gangs. The factories, now easily rid of their bagasse, increased their per hour rate, introduced electric lighting and began to grind throughout the night. With more labour thus at hand, the field found itself in position to furnish cane for twenty-four hours per day. Disposition of the bagasse was thus cheapened. Factory work was much facilitated. The sum total of the labour for other purposes was notably increased. This is history, and it may be expected to repeat itself in Louisiana. It is but one of numberless examples which could be cited."

The writer goes on to say: "It is now more particularly for the harvest than for the planting and cultivating periods that short cuts should be sought. It is possibly more for the purpose of

meeting an inadequate labour supply than for reducing cost of production that our inventors should bring out labour-saving appliances. We believe the want of sufficient people will do more to stimulate inventiveness among us in the future, and more to put new inventions into prompt application, than high wages have done in the past. The consensus of opinion appears to be that, as yet, in actual practice, the mechanical cane loader has done comparatively little to cheapen loading, but it is coming into general employment with great rapidity, none the less, because, with few attendants, it does the work of many hands. A successful cane cutter, even should it fail materially to reduce the cost of cane cutting, might reasonably be expected to find universal and speedy acceptance, at a fair price, as a partial solution of the labour problem."

### The Naudet Process of Sugar Extraction.

Mr. Consul Spence in his annual report on Madeira states that the cane crop of 1903 was exceptionally short owing to want of rain at the proper season and also to a fungoid disease which attacked all qualities of cane about one month before reaching maturity. The only exception is the "Yuba" cane, which has up to the present resisted the disease, and there is no doubt whatever that in two or three years' time this cane will be universally grown in the island. The entire cane crop of Madeira was roughly estimated at 10,000 tons, valued at £56,000, of which 6,000 tons were converted into sugar and the remainder into cane spirit for local consumption. It is early yet to say what the result will be of the seedling canes imported from Barbados, but at present they do not appear very flourishing.

Referring to the patent Naudet process of sugar manufacture, which is in vogue in Madeira, Mr. Spence says:—

"All the cane turned into sugar was manufactured by the Hinton-Naudet process, being an improvement on the Naudet process, and the results were remarkable. During the 1903 season all the juice or saccharine matter was extracted from the cane with a loss of 36 per cent. of the total sugar contained in the cane, and this juice was obtained in nine-tenths of its original density. This process has made quite a sensation in the sugar world, and during the 1904 season, which is just over, planters from Trinidad, Demerara, and Réunion came to Madeira to inspect it. I am informed that a large plant to treat 600 tons of cane per day is now being made in Glasgow for Trinidad. Should the advantages claimed for this process by the inventors be true—and I am told they have been demonstrated by practical experience—there is no doubt that it will revolutionise all over the world the manufacture of sugar from cane."

### An Estate Manager's House.

The Manager's house of the Sugar Estate Albion, in Berbice, British Guiana, which is the subject of our full-page illustration, is very typical of the others in the Colony. It will be noticed that it is built on brick pillars as a precaution against miasma and also, incidentally, as a means of lessening the visitations of mosquitos and other unpleasant winged visitors. The reception rooms form the first floor, the sleeping apartments being all above; but it is the "gallery" which is the most distinctive feature of estate home life. Here most of the spare hours of the day are spent, and here the Manager—Mr. Cecil Morris will be recognised in our picture—dispenses that thirst-queenching hospitality which forms such a pleasing subject for remembrance to those who have been fortunate enough to be his guests.

### The British Cotton Growing Association.

The British Cotton Growing Association has now received formally the Royal Charter of Incorporation granted by the King under the Great Seal. The recurrence of the evils arising from the insufficiency of the supply of raw cotton, it was pointed out in the petition for the Charter, would be remedied by a large increase in the supply of the raw material, so as to place it beyond the control of speculators on the cotton markets, and by the establishment of cotton plantations in different





Photo by ALBERTUS E. AFRISALA.

AN ESTATE MANAGER'S HOUSE,  
BERBICE: BRITISH GUIANA.

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countries to provide against the contingency of the failure of the crop in any one of them. In the Charter the objects and purposes of the Association are defined as "to extend and promote the growing and cultivation of cotton and fibrous substances or products in our dominions, protectorates, protected States, and in Africa." Sir Alfred L. Jones is President of the Association, and the first Council appointed by the Charter includes Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall and Mr. Edward R. Davson, representing the West India Committee.

The Association, it is stated, must always be and remain British in character and domicile, and have its principal office in Great Britain, and the members of the Council must always be natural born British subjects, or persons who have been naturalised as British subjects by or under Act of Parliament or otherwise, but this is not to disqualify any person nominated a member of the Council by the Charter, or any person whose election as a member of the Council has been approved by the Secretary of State, from acting in that capacity. The Association is not to do, suffer, or permit any act or thing whereby or in consequence whereof the Association may pass under the control of any foreign Government or person. The original share capital of the Chartered Company is to be £500,000, divided into 500,000 shares of £1 each, and powers are given for the issue of shares and for the other necessary purposes of the Association. These, of course, include the purchase of land in the British dominions, experiments in cotton growing on these lands, the purchase and distribution of cotton seed, and also the purchase or hire of steamers and vessels for the shipment of cotton and the carriage of other necessary articles.

### Cotton Prospects and Prices.

The extension of cotton cultivation in the West Indies proceeds satisfactorily. In Barbados, estates that are suitable, are taking up the cultivation in lieu of that of potatoes, and more seed, we understand is now required than is available. The effect of this will be that those places which have to grow potatoes will get better prices. Prices have already advanced, so everyone will be benefited.

West Indian Cotton is quoted in Liverpool at the following prices: West India, 4.00 to 6.40d.; West India Sea Island, medium fine 13d.; fine 14d.; extra fine 16d.

### Two West Indian Railways.

We are glad to be in a position to announce that a resolution has been passed in the House of Assembly of Barbados, advising the Governor in Executive Committee to promote a subsidy of £2000 per annum for ten years for the preservation of the Bridgetown and St. Andrew's Railway. It will be remembered that the Liquidator of this railway has announced that, unless a sale can be effected by September 30th, the trains will cease to run by October 15th, and that, even if a subsidy is granted, the present Company will not be disposed to continue operations; but it is to be hoped that in view of the resolution of the House of Assembly, the suspension of the railway, which would be little short of a disaster to Barbados, may be averted. The House of Assembly had adjourned without arriving at any decision in the matter, but Mr. Forster M. Alleyne introduced a deputation to the Governor on the 6th inst., praying that he would call the Legislature together and lay before them the outlines of a scheme for the continuance of the railway, and a special meeting of the Legislature was accordingly convened on Friday, September 9th, at which this decision was arrived at. The full text of the message of the Governor to the House of Assembly with regard to this matter will be found in the *Barbados Official Gazette* of September 8th.

In this connection, it is interesting to note that for the year ended March 31st last, the net earnings of the Trinidad railways, the total length of which is 81½ miles, amounted to £31,482, a sum sufficient to pay 5.1 per cent. upon the present capital liable to interest, and to allow the large surplus of £8325 being carried to general revenue. But it is pointed out that the general revenue is destined



to be heavily drawn on at no very distant date for renewal of locomotives, relaying parts of the road, erection of new station buildings, and the repayment of former deficits.

Mr. W. E. Smith, the General Manager, in his report for the year states that the general produce carried over the lines comprised mainly the following :—

	1901.	1902	1903.
Sugar ***	121,007	149,558	112,914 Bags.
Molasses ...	4,171	3,119	2,062 Puncheons
Rum ***	3,065	2,713	1,351 "
Cocoa ***	92,161	121,284	97,688 Bags.

The sugar crop was considerably below the average, and the poor market for molasses would not in many instances pay the cost of transportation, although very low rates were offered by the railway, while the quantity available was less than usual. Rum is an inconsiderable item of the railway traffic, as the chief producers find it convenient to ship generally by water. Two new distilleries have recently been started and are doing fairly well. These give to the railway nearly the whole of their carrying business. The cocoa crop was bountiful in the latter part of the year, but the June portion was all but lost owing to unfavourable weather, hence the marked decrease in rail shipments. The carriage of cedar and other native woods has been considerable, though a little less than in the previous year. The ordinary merchandise, such as food-stuffs, dry goods and building materials, shews satisfactory development, and is but the natural reflex of the rapidly increasing production of cocoa, and settling of Crown lands. The year under notice has been one of much disappointment. The exports of sugar were the smallest for many years, as denoted by the trade statistics, though for local consumption, the quantities changing hands have noticeably increased. The absence of the usual June cocoa crop, owing chiefly to unfavourable season, was much felt by all classes, and its reaction upon railway revenues was proportionately marked. It is particularly satisfactory therefore, to note that the net earnings made so good a showing.

### Fruit Shipments from Dominica.

The following letter has been addressed by Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, Vice-President of the Dominica Agricultural Society, to the Quebec Steamship Company, regarding the inconvenience caused by the irregular stopping of their steamers at Dominica :—

To the President of the Quebec Steamship Company, Quebec, Canada

Dominica, 9th August, 1904

Sir,—The Dominica Agricultural Society has had under consideration the question of the inconvenience to shippers and others of the present arrangement whereby some of your Company's vessels pass by Dominica on the outward voyage from New York and leave the Dominica mails in St. Kitts, from which island the Royal Mail Steamers pass southward only once a fortnight, so that the Dominica mails from New York reach their destination frequently after a considerable detention at St. Kitts.

2. It appears that the practice of your Company's agents in New York is to keep over cargo destined for Dominica until there is a sufficient accumulation to warrant in their opinion the stoppage of one of the steamers at the island. So that merchants and others here, importing from or through New York, can never reckon on quick despatch of their goods, to the manifest detriment of a trade which it is to the interest of your Company to foster.

3. As a case in point, I may cite the following facts :—During the season a very considerable quantity of fruit, such as oranges and limes, is shipped from this island by your steamers. The trade is a growing one, and naturally it needs fostering if its capabilities are to be realised to their fullest extent. On 22nd June last a shipment of orange boxes were sent to your New York wharf for a firm in this island, and the boxes were detained until the 20th July, by which time your New York agents decided to take freight for Dominica. This occasioned a month's delay in the receipt of the boxes, and it caused, moreover, the suspension of fruit shipments by the firm in question, the stoppage of further orders for fruit boxes, and the consequent loss of the trade to the island and to your Company.

4. The delay in the receipt of the American mails is also a severe check on trade, more especially in the fruit season; for shippers expect advices as to the time and the volume of their proposed consignments, and sometimes this advice arrives too late to be acted upon.

5. It may be that in the opinion of your New York agents the trade between that city and Dominica is not now sufficiently large to warrant the calling at the island of all the outward bound West Indian steamers, but Dominica is becoming prosperous and its exports and imports are increasing yearly, and the system adopted by Messrs. Outerbridge and Company is calculated to retard the augmentation of trade relations with New York, and with Canada through New York, for in order to save time on the journey it is necessary for fresh fruit shipped to Montreal and Toronto to go via New York, as the route by St. John, N. B., is too long and circuitous.

6 I would ask that the above facts may meet with the serious and sympathetic consideration of yourself and the Board of Directors of your Company, and I trust you will be able before long to authorise me to inform the Agricultural Society that all your outward bound steamers to the West Indies will call at Dominica, which is on their route to the south, so that the arrangement will involve very little extra expenditure, and not much delay.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. A. ALFORD NICHOLLS,  
*Vice-President, Dominica Agricultural Society.*

### The Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

Dear Sir,—My directors were very glad to learn from the last number of your valuable journal of the gratifying manner in which the West Indian Islands have responded to your appeal to take part in the Colonial and Indian Exhibition which will be held at the Crystal Palace next year, and I thoroughly agree with you that the best way for those Colonies to display their natural wealth and varied beauties will be for each of them to have its integral Court, which would form part of a combined West Indian section. There is every reason to believe that the other outlying portions of the Empire will be largely represented, and that the forthcoming Exhibition will teach a much needed object-lesson to the people of this country of the power, extent, and resources of the British Empire, and will point out that this nation could, and in the not far distant future will, be entirely self-sustained.

Faithfully yours,

GEORGE COLLINS LEVEY,  
*Commissioner.*

14, Victoria Street, S.W., Sept 24th, 1904

### A Medal awarded to the West India Committee.

The West India Committee have now received from the Royal Botanic Society a handsome medal, of which an illustration is given below, for their show of fruit at the Grand Horticultural Exhibition held at the Botanic Gardens from June 6th to 11th last. A description of the exhibit which gained this gratifying award has already appeared in the *Circular*, but we may remind our readers that the credit is largely due to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, who carried the



fruit in their steamers with so much success. We hope that our giving an illustration of the medal will be an incentive to our friends in the Colonies to arrange for a thoroughly representative display of tropical fruit at the forthcoming exhibition, to be held in the Hall of the Royal Horticultural Society on December 13th and 14th next, particulars of which were given in our last issue.

### The Jamaica Grant-in-Aid, 1902.

Mr. J. C. Nolan, and Mr. W. A. S. Vickers, delegates of the Westmoreland Planters' Association, Jamaica, visited the Colonial Office on August 7th and waited upon Mr. C. P. Lucas, Under Secretary of State, with reference to the disposal of the £10,000 which was earmarked for Jamaica from the Grant-in-Aid of £250,000 voted by Parliament on July 31st, 1902, to enable the Sugar Industry to tide over the period until the Sugar Convention came into force. It will be remembered that the Jamaica Government propose to utilise the amount for the establishment of a Department for the conduct of experiments in sugar cane cultivation and rum manufacture. The Laboratory is to be enlarged at a cost of £1000, machinery will cost another £1000, another £1000



will be devoted to the installation and modification of distillery plant on sugar estates. £100 is to be devoted to providing ten scholarships of £10 each for a three weeks course at the Laboratory. The cost of running the Department will be £1400, and it is estimated that the grant will last for six years. The delegates pointed out that this matter had been carried through in Jamaica without consulting the leading planting interests. The Board of Agriculture had been given power to deal with the matter, but as far as they could learn, the meetings of the Board of Agriculture on this subject had been held in camera, and the proposals had been carried through in opposition to the opinions of all the unofficial members who were interested in sugar. They laid stress on the fact that, if these proposals were carried out, the capital and interest would both be swallowed up, and when, in a few years, the money is all gone, the short period of experiments would prove of very little lasting benefit. Mr. Lucas, who gave the delegates a most courteous hearing, said that the law could not be now repealed. He would, however, make a minute of the fact that the delegates had protested strongly against the way in which the Imperial Grant was to be spent.

### Coolie Immigration.

The report of Dr. C. Banks, Protector of Emigrants, Calcutta, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, deals with many matters of interest in connection with the Immigration of Coolies. Mr. R. W. S. Mitchell was the Emigration Agent for British Guiana and Natal throughout the year. Mr. A. C. Stewart, the Agent for Trinidad and other Colonies, died in September, 1903, and was succeeded by Mr. R. P. Gibbs, Assistant Emigration Agent. Mr. L. Grommers acted as the Emigration Agent for Surinam. Mons. C. Jambon resumed his duties as Emigration Agent for the French Colonies at the close of 1902. Dr. Banks testifies to the satisfactory manner in which the emigration work was conducted by the agents concerned. During the year under report, six emigration agencies, all representing British Colonies, were engaged in the collection and despatch of emigrants. The following table shows the requisitions for immigrants received from the Colonies and the number actually despatched in the last few years:—

Colonies importing Indian Labourers	1902.—Number of Adult Labourers.		1903.—Number of Adult Labourers.	
	Demanded.	Supplied	Demanded	Supplied.
Demerara ...	2,000	1,867	2,785	2,800½
Trinidad ...	2,300	2,298½	2,300	2,393½
Jamaica ...	670	—	670	653½
Mauritius ...	570	772½	1,030	—
Natal... ..	2,770½	2,770	1,730½	1,730½
Fiji ... ..	1,520	1,531½	1,378	1,216
Surinam ...	625	1,254½	—	—
Total ... ..	10,455½	10,194	9,893½	8,794

The depots for the accommodation of emigrants were reported upon by the Medical Inspector as being in a satisfactory condition.

The following statement shows the number of emigrants that returned to India from the several Colonies during the year, the amount of their savings, and the mortality on the voyage:—

COLONIES.	Number of ships.	Number of steamers.	Total.	Number of souls embarked at colony.	Number of deaths on the voyage excluding those of infants born on board	Average percentage of mortality on the voyage	SAVINGS.	
							Aggregate.	Average amount on the number embarked.
							Rs.	A. P.
Demerara ...	4*	—	4	2,385	107	4.48	3,07,423	10 5
Trinidad ...	1	—	1	750	19	2.53	1,45,680	9 3
Jamaica ...	—	—	—	359	2	0.56	48,486	5 0
Mauritius ...	—	1	1	201	5	2.48	3,699	0 0
Natal... ..	—	5	5	499	7	1.71	97,537	8 0
Fiji ... ..	1	—	1	579	12	2.07	1,78,816	13 0
Reunion ...	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	6	7	13	4,686	1152	3.24	7,81,643	13 8

REMARKS.—\* One of these vessels (*Ernie*) conveyed emigrants from Jamaica also. † Exclusive of the deaths of eight infants.

### Publications Received.

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, etc., for our Library. We have to acknowledge with thanks, the receipt of the following :—

REPORTS ON THE BOTANIC STATION AND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION, ST. KITTS-NEVIS, 1903-4 (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 3d., post free 3½d.) The total expenditure during the year was £1050 17s 5d. This amount was allotted as follows:—botanic station, £423 15s 4d.; sugar-cane experiments, £152 9s 3d.; agricultural education, £239 17s 1d., and special services, £244 9s 9d. In consequence of the death of Mr. William Lunt, a vacancy occurred in the curatorship, and Mr. F. R. Shepherd was placed in temporary charge of the botanic station and the sugar-cane experiments. Various repairs and minor improvements were effected during the year, which should tend to make the station more attractive. Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque, Acting Commissioner of Agriculture, commenting on the report, notices with regret that the plots suffered somewhat severely from drought, which has also interfered considerably with the experiments that were being carried on at the station. The total rainfall for the year at the station was only 39.54 inches, or 10 inches less than in the previous year. As in previous years, much of the time of the curator has been occupied in connection with the sugar-cane experiments. These were carried on at the central station at La Guerite and seven out-stations. A branch station has now been started at Nevis, and, as an agricultural instructor has been appointed, there is no doubt useful experiments will be conducted there. The experiment in growing cacao promises to be a success. This is encouraging and should stimulate further planting of cacao in suitable localities. A considerable quantity of cotton and onion seed has been ordered by planters through the station, which would indicate that these new industries are being taken up by planters in the Presidency. This report is considered by Prof. d'Albuquerque satisfactory. As regards agricultural education in St. Kitts, eight agricultural scholars have been in attendance during the year. Mr. Belling's lectures to elementary school teachers were continued during the year. As far as can be judged, Mr. Belling appears to be doing good work, and the instruction given should prove useful.

THE AGRICULTURAL NEWS, Vol. III, No. 63 (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 1d., post free 1½d.) Onion cultivation is the subject of the principal article in this number. The concluding portion of Mr. Barclay's notes on rabbit keeping appears, and an interesting article regarding the Mexican boll weevil is given in addition to the usual familiar features.

THE ST. LUCIA BLUE BOOK for 1903 has also come to hand by the Mail.

### West Indian Civil Service.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our table of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

Mr. A. E. DRINKWATER, has been appointed to act as Receiver of Wrecks for Antigua.

Dr. K. A. A. INNISS has been appointed Supernumary Government Medical Officer of Trinidad.

Mr. S. OLIVIER arrived home from Jamaica yesterday and will resume his duties at the Colonial Office.

The Hon. JOHN SEALY, M. D., of Barbados, has been granted an extension of seven weeks' leave of absence.

Second Lieutenant G. BRUCE AUSTIN, of the Trinidad Light Horse, has been placed on the reserve of Officers.

The departure of SIR GILBERT T. CARTER, the new Governor of Barbados, has been postponed until October 12th.

Mr. W. G. M. SAREL, Northumberland Fusiliers, has been appointed Private Secretary and A. D. C. to the Governor of Trinidad.

Dr. P. E. PEROT, Government Medical Officer of British Guiana, is retiring from the public service on account of ill-health—*Morning Post*.

Mr. MALCOLM McTAGGART, has been appointed Civil Registrar of Marriages in the Cayman Islands, in the room of Mr. F. T. McTaggart, deceased.

COLONEL S. LUSHINGTON, R. A., Inspector General of Police, British Guiana, has been granted an extension of leave of absence till October 26th.

SIR T. C. RAYNEK, K. C., Attorney General of British Guiana, has been granted an extension of leave of absence for three months from August 19th.

Dr. R. D. O'NEALE, Medical Officer, and Mr. T. T. Dyer, Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office, have returned to Grenada, and resumed their duties.

The appointments of Mr. LLOYD DORNFORD, as Inspector of Roads, and Mr. B. Gainfort as first grade Commissary of Taxation in British Guiana have been confirmed.

The leave of absence granted to Dr. F. L. NORMIS, Government Medical Officer of Antigua, has been extended for three months and five days from October 7th next.

LIEUTENANT C. F. ALLEYNE, Army Service Corps, the son of our esteemed Hon. Correspondent in Barbados, has been seconded for service as A. D. C. to the Governor of British Guiana.

Mr. A. F. PALMER, Magistrate in St. Lucia, has been granted three month's vacation leave of absence from August 23rd, during which time his duties will be performed by Mr. Theodore Cools-Lartigue.

Mr. J. W. C. CATFORD, King's Proctor and King's Solicitor and Commissioner of Probates, Barbados, has been granted four and a half month's leave of absence from the 10th inst. During his absence, Mr. J. P. H. Ellis, Barrister-at-Law, will act in his place.

His Excellency SIR GERALD STRICKLAND, late Governor of the Leeward Islands, sailed in the P. & O. s.s. "Macedonia" on Sept. 16th, for Tasmania, to assume the government of that Colony. A large number of people was present at Liverpool Street to see him off.



The Hon. J. F. CARGILL, Acting Solicitor-General of Jamaica, has been appointed Resident-Magistrate for St. Mary in place of Mr. T. K. Keece, who has been transferred to Manchester as Resident Magistrate. Mr. Cargill will not assume his new duties for some time.—*Morning Post*

Dr. EDMUND R. BRANCH, Medical Superintendent, Cunningham Hospital, and Surgeon of the Gaol, St. Kitts, has been granted three months vacation leave from the 24th inst. During his absence Dr. E. W. K. Branch will act in his place, and Dr. C. O. Wynne for Dr. E. W. R. Branch.

The office of Superintending Medical Officer of Jamaica, recently vacated by Deputy Surgeon-General C. B. Mosse, has been offered to and accepted by Dr. John Errington Ker, Assistant Surgeon of the Colonial Hospital, and Police and Port Surgeon of Gibraltar. It is understood that the salary of the office has been reduced from £1000 to £800 a year. Dr. Ker was formerly assistant house surgeon at the General Hospital, Birmingham, and entered the Colonial Service in 1890. He was selected for service with the troops in South Africa during the recent Boer War.—*Morning Post*.

### Notes of Interest.

**ELECTION OF NEW CANDIDATES.** Nineteen candidates now await election to The West India Committee. We would again remind members that, by virtue of Rule IV., subscriptions from new members elected during the last three months of the current year will not, when paid, be renewable until 1st January, 1906. The next election of candidates will be held on September 29th; 273 candidates have been elected during the present year.

**LATE FEE MAIL LETTERS.** For the convenience of Members wishing to post letters for the outgoing West Indian Mail at the last possible moment, arrangements have been made for a messenger to leave The West India Committee Rooms on the day of the departure of the Mail at 12.30 p.m., with letters for posting at Waterloo Station. All such letters must bear the late fee of 2d., in addition to the ordinary postage.

**AN ADDITION TO THE EMPIRE.** The *Daily News* is beginning to think Imperially with a vengeance! Referring to the controversy as to the respective merits of the Jamaica and Canary bananas it makes the amazing statement that both Jamaica and the Canary Islands are within the British Empire. This is on a par with a recent reference in the City Notes of a certain well-known evening paper to the Philippines as "these West Indian Islands."

**OUR WEST INDIAN VISITORS.** A large number of friends from the Colonies have visited England this year and have personally testified their appreciation of the facilities and benefit of intercourse with the West Indians in England now made easy through The West India Committee and the West Indian Club. Mr. W. Morrison has left for Jamaica with the firm intention of using his best endeavours to raise a cricket team and a Bisley team to visit England in the near future.

**THE PRESS IN TRINIDAD.** In our Circular No. 131, of August 2nd we quoted in extenso a review of the history of British Guiana and the West Indies for 1903, given in the *Annual Register*. As certain statements contained therein, more especially regarding the press in Trinidad, appear to have given offence in certain quarters, we may remind our readers that we did not identify ourselves in any way with the article in question. Indeed, we added that the writer did not appear to be so accurately informed as he might be.

**TO COMBAT YELLOW FEVER.** The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine proposes to despatch a second yellow fever expedition to the Amazon in view of the necessity of investigating still further this malady. The late Dr. Walter Myers was selected by the school, together with Dr. Herbert Durham, to undertake an expedition to Para to investigate the disease, only a few years ago. Both members of the expedition were attacked by the malady and Dr. Myers died. The expedition will probably start at the end of the year.

**STATE-OWNED CABLES.** Various Associations of Chambers of Commerce have recently passed resolutions expressing desire for a continuous chain of state-owned telegraphs, having the object of reducing charges to a minimum on over-sea telegrams passing between New Zealand, Canada, Australia, India, South Africa, the West Indies, and the Mother Country. It is anticipated that several representatives from the self-governing Colonies will meet in England during the coming year charged with the duty of bringing this desirable object to the notice of the Imperial Government.

**LABOUR IN TRINIDAD.** In consequence of the rapid development of the Island of Trinidad, the want of labour is being felt more or less on both sugar and cacao estates, and it is satisfactory to learn that steps are being taken to go thoroughly into the question of how the production of estates can be maintained, without interfering with the development of the Colony in other ways. It has been suggested in many quarters that, as the Government of the Colony is far the largest employer of immigrants, they ought to import on their own account such a number of coolies as would be imported by any private employer in similar circumstances.

**WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.** Mr. Charles Bright, writes in the *Daily Graphic*, of September 21st an interesting article upon wireless telegraphy. He advocates the necessity for Government control, as he states it to be perfectly clear that no one system of wireless telegraphy is at present secure against interruption from another, there being a lack of tangibility about any apparatus that is divided by space—especially as the latter is universal property—and this renders it difficult to work commercially. He states also that as a feeder to cables, the ætheric method from outlying points where the traffic does not warrant any great expense to a trunk system wireless telegraphy should prove of great value.

**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Statia" from London, for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, and Demerara, Oct. 1st; S.S. "Capella" from Liverpool, for St. Lucia, Barbados, and Trinidad, October 1st; S.S. "Frednes" from Liverpool, for Demerara, October 7th; and the R.M.S. "Port Kingston" from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, on October 8th. Letters for Grenada and Trinidad, posted on Wednesday, September 28th and possibly on Saturday, October 1st, marked "via New York," will go forward by S.S. "Maraval" from New York, on October 8th, and be delivered in Grenada on Oct. 17th, and Trinidad on Oct. 18th. The usual postage of 1d. suffices. *Information for publication under this head is invited from Shipping Companies.*

### The Homeward Mail.

This being the hurricane season in the West Indies, reports as to the weather and crops are eagerly awaited, and from a perusal of the extracts from the interesting letters of our Hon. Correspondents which we give below, it will be noted with satisfaction that though disturbances have manifested themselves in the neighbourhood, weather conditions were favourable and the prospect of the crops—with the exception perhaps of the sugar crop in British Guiana—extremely satisfactory. The R.M.S. "Trent" anchored off Plymouth on Wednesday, September 21st, at 5.15 p.m., and the Mails were delivered on the following morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Antonio" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, Sept. 14th., and the R.M.S. "Port Kingston" at 8 a.m. on Sept. 26th, after a record homeward run of 10 days and 16 hours. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received per R.M.S. "Trent".

#### Antigua—The Peasants and Prædial Larceny.

(HON. A. ST. C. SPOONER) September 7th. The fortnight had been one of unsettled and rainy weather, from three to six inches of rain having generally fallen. The indications were that a cyclonic disturbance was taking place to the southward, covering a large area and hence not likely to do much damage. Crop prospects had greatly improved with the favourable growing weather of the past five or six weeks, and the planting of cotton, corn, and onions was being carried on under favourable conditions.

Most of the machinery for the new factory had now arrived, and the erection was well under way. At Belvidere the price paid for canes to the peasants for July was 9s. 2d. a ton, and this had induced considerable activity in the clearing and preparation of land for 1906 crop. There was little doubt that measures for the prevention of prædial larceny would quite meet with the approval of most of these peasant cane growers, many of whom had even more grounds for complaint than the planters, as they could not afford to employ watchmen, and undoubtedly suffered considerable losses in consequence.

General regret was felt at the loss to the Colony of Mr. C. T. Cox, who had so ably administered the affairs of St. Kitts-Nevis, and had now been promoted to British Guiana. Under the regime of Mr. Chamberlain, the people of those Islands had no cause for complaint in the class of men at head-quarters.

#### Barbados—The Successful Banana Industry.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE) September 8th. The weather during the fortnight had been very satisfactory, as frequent showers had fallen, though not heavy ones. August went out well, many estates marking ten inches for the month, and some much more. September had given about 1½ inches as yet, but there were appearances of more. The weather had been unsettled, and three storm warnings had been issued, but in neither case was the disturbance very near the Island. One day it blew very hard from the N.W., a very unusual quarter, and then changed rapidly to the south, bringing rain. The canes had responded to the favourable weather, and were growing vigorously; if there was another heavy downpour they would probably sucker more freely. They were splendidly healthy, and no trace of disease was to be seen anywhere. Yams and potatoes were coming on well, and cotton and onions were beginning to show. Messrs. Pink were writing most favourably of the bananas, and almost all the shippers seemed to have solved the difficulties of packing. Many of the trees being in their first bearing, such a large number having been planted, the bunches were not so large as a rule as those shipped at first, but these would improve as the trees grew older, and were better manured.



The House of Assembly having adjourned for two months, without coming to any decision about the railway, the sale of which was to take place on the 30th inst., the writer on the preceding Tuesday headed a deputation to the Governor, asking him to call the Legislature together for a special session for this purpose. This he acceded to, and named September 9th. He also made various suggestions as to how the money might be raised for the purchase of the line, which appeared in the newspapers of September 7th. The Governor's departure, unfortunately, still remained fixed for September 26th. A ball was to be given to him at the Life Assurance Buildings on September 21st.

The Island heartily endorsed the proposals of the R M S P Co. that the homeward steamer should leave Jamaica a few hours earlier, and an earlier departure from Trinidad be thereby assured. She would then reach Barbados in the morning, and be able to leave at 5 p.m. At the present time all was uncertainty, and intending passengers had to dangle about Bridgetown all day, often till late at night. Also, it made it impossible for people living in the country to answer their Jamaica letters by the return mail.

It was very satisfactory that the price of sugar continued good, and that statistics were so strong.

One of their Committee, Mr. Robert Challenor, had just left for Canada on a few months' visit.

#### British Guiana—Sugar Manufacture Beginning.

(A. SUMNERSON, Esq.) September 7th. The sugar market had kept very strong during the fortnight, and sales of refining crystals had been made at \$2 30. It was to be hoped that these prices would be maintained during the crop just commencing. Some estates had already made a start with sugar-making, and the end of the month should see operations fairly general.

The fortnight had been dry, and cultivation had felt the want of good rains. There was a fine shower in town and neighbourhood on the 7th inst. The crop just opened was going to be very short of estimates.

#### Dominica—A Good Lime Crop.

(A. K. AGAR, Esq.) September 7th. The Administrator had returned, and met with a good welcome. He was leaving for Antigua on the 9th, to act as Governor of the Leeward Islands.

For the past few days there had been heavy rains, owing to a passing disturbance. The lime crop was in full swing and ought to be a good one.

#### Grenada—The Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

(P. J. DEAN, Esq.) September 8th. On the 30th ult. the Governor introduced the question of the representation of Grenada at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition; he informed the Members of Council that St. Vincent would like to join in, and it was agreed that it was important that Grenada should be represented. The Governor accordingly had written to ask the Secretary of State to approve of a vote of the Legislature to enable the local Government to participate.

The Island had had a spell of very hot weather during the fortnight, with a decrease in the rainfall; this, however, had not thrown back cultivation generally, and as there was every appearance of further rain, crop prospects were unaltered.

(W. E. BROADWAY, Esq.) Sept. 8th. The close season under the "Birds and Fish Protection Ordinance" had been changed. The time now to be recognised in the Colony was from May 1st to September 30th in each year.

The country districts in the parish of St. George's were looking in very fine condition. Corn (maize), eddoes, cotton, pigeon peas, sweet potatoes, and young and old cacao trees were all satisfactory. "Black" or "sooty blight" was, however, prominent in certain localities on the mango and other fruit trees, and also upon many wild trees and plants.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council on the 30th, the Governor referred to the admirable results obtained from the Carriacou land scheme, and the prospects of greater progress which would be made by the acquisition of the Bellair estate. Cable was interrupted.

#### Jamaica—A Grant for the Exhibition.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq.) Sept. 15th, per R. M. S. "Port Kingston." At a meeting of the Merchants' Exchange on Sept. 1st, Mr. S. Soutar in the chair, a letter was read from the Colonial Secretary asking the Society's co-operation in connection with the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, 1905. The Society agreed to do all in its power to further the object, and it was announced that the Governor would move in the Legislative Council towards getting a grant in connection with the Exhibition. At the same meeting a resolution was passed, protesting against the proposed alteration of the mail service of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., involving a change of sailing from Jamaica from noon on Tuesday to 5 p.m. on Monday, and representing that it would be a serious drawback to the Island, and especially injurious to the fruit trade. The resolution was moved by Mr. Gamble and seconded by Mr. Arthur George.

A proclamation had been issued by the Governor announcing that the King would not withhold his assent to the Jamaica Rum Protection Law, 1904, No. 26.

Preparation was being made for a busy tourist season, and the work of extending the Titchfield Hotel, Port Antonio, had been commenced.

Mr. Olivier returned to England by the "Port Kingston." The weather was favourable generally except in Vcre, where it was still too dry.

**Montserrat—Winds Hinder Cultivation.**

(CONRAD WATSON, Esq.) September 7th. Notwithstanding favourable showers of rain during the past month, the young cotton plants had made a very poor start, owing to the prevailing high winds; exposed portions of the fields presented a burned appearance, while sheltered spots were healthy and vigorous. This demonstrated the necessity of wind breaks.

A Committee had been formed for the purpose of collecting exhibits for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition

**Nevis—Increased Acreage under Cotton.**

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) September 6th. Since last mail the weather had given considerable anxiety, as it had been very unsettled and the glass had been very unsteady. Fortunately, however, up to that time they had escaped anything serious, and as acceptable and soaking rains, varying for the month to September 6th from 2½ to 4 inches had fallen, they had nothing to complain of. On the contrary, the Island was now looking beautifully green, and the young cotton had made an excellent start. Considering this crop was tried for the first time last year, the fact that fully 1000 acres of cotton had been planted in Nevis for 1903 spoke for itself as to the determination of the planters to abandon their old policy of trusting entirely to sugar. The peasant proprietors had also planted a large area of cotton, as the drought killed their young sprouts, and when the rain came there were no plants available for supplying. The sugar crop next year would be very late; at that time there was no possibility of estimating the probable output, which could not, however, possibly come up to that of 1904.

**St. Kitts—Favourable Showers.**

(CHARLES A. SMITH, Esq.) September 6th. Good showers continued, and the crops throughout the Island were under a good growth. The area under cotton was being considerably extended, but the want of an Agricultural Society made it difficult to obtain reliable figures as to the probable area now in cultivation.

**St. Lucia—Crops Promising.**

(S. D. MELVILLE, Esq.) September 9th. The weather had been good for the growing crops, which were very promising.

**St. Vincent—Threatening Weather.**

(Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co.) September 9th. The weather for the past fortnight had been very hot and threatening. On the 3rd inst. they had cable advices that a disturbance was south of Barbados and travelling in their direction, but fortunately they had escaped, and so far they had not heard that any of the West Indian Islands had suffered. Since then the weather had been cooler, with strong winds.

**Trinidad Arrival of the New Governor.**

(EDGAR TRIPP, Esq.) September 9th.—Sir Henry Jackson had arrived on August 30th. He was met on board by the Acting-Governor, Mr. Hugh Clifford, and received on the jetty by the members of the Executive and Legislative Councils. At noon, His Excellency was duly sworn in as Governor, and subsequently held a Levee at which the Consuls, the Heads of Departments, the Town Commissioners, a deputation from the Chamber of Commerce, and members of the general public were presented. The Town Commissioners and the Chamber of Commerce Deputation presented suitable addresses. At the previous special sittings of the Legislative Council, Mr. Marryat, the senior unofficial present, expressed the appreciation of the Council of Mr. Clifford's energy and efforts, and unfailing courtesy during the difficult period he had administered the affairs of the Colony.

The second return immigrant ship, "Forth" left on the 1st inst. She carried 728 souls, who remitted through the Treasury £9093 10s. 10d., and placed in the hands of Dr. Kenny, the Superintendent Surveyor, gold coin to the value of £204 3s. 0d., besides wearing on their persons jewellery worth at least £200. The embarkation was expeditiously carried out under the immediate supervision of the Protector of Immigrants, Hon. Commander W. H. Coombs, R.N., who was undoubtedly a first-rate organiser, and whom all these people most cheerfully obeyed. They were sent alongside the ship at 11 a.m., and in little more than an hour were comfortably berthed.

A satisfactory sign of the growing confidence of the Colony was afforded by the fact that for some time past the Standard Life Insurance Company, had been investing considerable sums of money on the security of freehold property both in town and country, and the Barbados Mutual Insurance Company, was now advertising its readiness to do likewise. These companies obtained 5% interest, or 1% less than the prevailing mortgage rate previously. The advantage of this inflow of outside capital would probably result in the release of a good deal of that now invested at the higher rate by local capitalists, which might thus be available for the more ready extension of local, industrial, and other enterprises. Of these, an excellent investment was now offered by the Building and Loan Association, which, under authority of Ordinance No. 40 of 1890, was issuing £20,000 in debentures of £50 each, bearing interest at 6% per annum, payable half-yearly, charged against the total assets of the Association, which amounted to £40,000 in first-class securities. This Society had paid on its ordinary shares from 8% to 12%, since the date of its incorporation.

The Commercial Telephone Company, also announced an issue of £25,000, 6% debentures for the purpose of repaying, repairing, and extending throughout the Island the services recently operated by three Companies, but which



were all now amalgamated and operating under special legislative sanction. The debentures would form a first charge on present and future assets of the Company, which had been for twenty years a good dividend paying concern (8% to 10%), even when working under far less favourable circumstances than at present, while it had the practical monopoly of the whole telephonic system of the Colony.

The telegraph informed them of heavy weather in the North, but Trinidad, as usual, had only felt the tail of it very slightly. Some heavy but seasonable rains had fallen, and it had been exceedingly hot, but that was to be expected at that time of year.

### West Indian Securities.

Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Dividend.	Price.
100,000	20	Colonial Bank ...	£6	6%	47-5½
15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company	60	—	23-25
223,575½	Stock	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4% 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4½%	83-85
46,874	5	New Colonial Co., Ltd., 5% Non-Cum. Pref. ...	5	5%	3-4
347,500½	Stock	" " " " 4% 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4%	74-76
357,700½	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb.	100	6%	92-97
165,000½	Stock	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock	100	Nil	15-20
115,000½	Stock	" " " " 7% Preference	100	Nil	90-95
31,250	10	" " " " 4% Extension Preference...	10	4%	73-8½
70,000½	Stock	" " " " Perpetual Deb. Stock	100	4%	96-98
81,800½	100	Direct West India Cable Co., 4½% Reg. Debts. (within Nos. 1 to 1200) red.	100	4½%	99-101
60,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ...	£2 10 0	6%	—
54,700½	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4½% 1st Mtge. Deb. (within 1 to 1200) red.	100	4½%	99-101
50,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd.	5	5%	—
88,321	10	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. Ordinary ...	10	—	7½
34,563	10	" " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	10	6s.	6½-7
4,669	10	" " " " " 2nd "	10	—	5-6
80,000½	100	" " " " 5% Deb.	100	5%	100-103

The Bank of England rate remains 3 per cent. (changed from 3½ per cent. on April 22nd, 1904), and Consols (2½) are quoted 88½ as we go to press.

#### The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

As we go to press we are informed that the Crown has granted the Supplementary Charter to this Company, the application for which was approved at the General Meeting in 1903. The Charter confers upon the Company the right to extinguish the liability on the existing shares, and also creates £600,000 additional capital, which may, with the sanction of the Proprietors in General Meeting, be issued as Preference Shares or Stock. A Special General Meeting is to be held at the Cannon Street Hotel, at 12.30 on October 5th, with a view to obtain sanction for the issue of the new capital as a five per cent. preference stock.

#### The Halifax and Bermudas Cable Company, Limited.

The Directors of the Halifax and Bermudas Cable Company, in their report dated 30th June, 1904, state the net result of the year's working to be a profit of £2,692 5s. 2d., as compared with £3,244 15s. 11d. for the previous year. A further dividend of 2½ per cent., making 5 per cent. for the year, is proposed, leaving £192 to be carried forward, increasing credit to revenue account brought down to £17,037 15s. 7d. The cable continues to work efficiently. £7,800 debentures have been redeemed.

#### The Direct West India Cable Company, Limited.

The Directors of the Direct West India Cable Company, in their report dated 30th June, 1904, state the net result of the year's working to be a profit of £3,617 6s. 6d., as compared with £1,430 4s. 5d. for the previous year. A further dividend of 3 per cent., making 6 per cent. for the year, is proposed, leaving £1,817 6s. 6d. to be carried forward, increasing credit to revenue account brought down to £32,429 4s. 5d. The cable continues to work efficiently. £6,000 debentures have been redeemed.

#### Jamaica Cotton Company, Limited.

Registered September 16. Capital, £16,000 in £1 shares. Object, to adopt an agreement with T. H. Sharp to plant, grow, and cultivate cotton and other plants and produce in the West India Islands or other parts of the British Empire or elsewhere, and to carry on the business of cotton planters, growers, ginners, and cleaners in all its branches. No initial public issue. The first directors (to number not less than three nor more than twelve) are to be appointed by the signatories. Qualification, £250. Remuneration as fixed by the company.

#### The Colonial Bank.

The report of the directors, to be submitted to the proprietors at the 133rd half-yearly general meeting to be held on October 6th, stated that the gross profits, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, amounted to £57,135 5s. 6d. There was brought forward from last half-year £17,374 6s. 2d., making a total of £74,509 11s. 8d. Expenses in London office and at 14 branches and agencies, including income tax, amounted to £33,346 16s. 1d., leaving a balance of £41,162 15s. 7d. Out of this the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 3½ per cent. for the half-year ended 30th June last, free of income tax, which will require £21,000, leaving £20,162 15s. 7d. to be carried forward to the next half-year. The report, which is signed by Mr. H. H. Dobree, Chairman, adds that the weather during the first six months of the year was on the whole too dry throughout the West Indies, and sugar crops generally have not reached estimates; this, however, has been compensated in some islands by the better prices obtained. In Barbados the crop has closed at 60,000 tons available for export, as compared with 34,000 tons in 1903. In Jamaica the effects of the recent hurricane have been severely felt, especially by banana growers, but the island is slowly recovering from depression. There has been a fair area of land planted in cotton throughout the islands, but it is too early to forecast results. The business of the bank, as shown by the accounts, has continued to improve. Prospects are favourable, and the abolition of the Sugar Bounties is bringing about a gradual renewal of confidence.

**Weather Telegrams.**

**British Guiana** (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), Sept. 21st. "Weather very dry and rain much wanted." **Jamaica** Week ended September 15th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "Fine, 12th, rainy." **KINGSTON**: "Fine."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.	Cotton.
	Hhds.	lbs.	Tons.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.	lbs.
<b>Barbados—</b>									
Jan. 1 to Sept. 8, '04	55,072	—	—	—	—	45,101	—	—	—
" " 8, '03	34,037	—	—	—	—	30,056	—	—	—
<b>British Guiana—</b>	Tons								
Jan. 1 to Sept. 6, '04	44,662	100,676	2717	11,827	116,340	1111	52,813	7703	—
" " 8, '03	66,487	102,228	480	15,037	4984	3494	58,484	6274	—
<b>Jamaica—</b>		Cwts.	Cwts.	Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.	
Apr. 1 to Aug. 20, '04	5456	11,972	9209	827,875	978,805	16,692	1,980,958	3,028,650	1796
" " 22, '03	7692	14,253	14,806	807,048	9,280,055	14,359	7,126,686	5,994,550	—
<b>Trinidad—</b>	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.	Copra.
Jan. 1 to Sept. 8, '04	383,158	34,635,290	61,355	125	5,715,060	1982	29	89	86,376
" " 8, '03	375,613	25,728,200	41,160	945	8,391,552	3388	178	166	9718
<b>Grenada—</b>		Bags.	Brls.	1/2 Brls.	SPICE.		Bags.	Cotton Seed	Cotton.
Oct. 1 to Sept. 9, '04	—	66,783	4214	752	630	—	145	6594	1032
" " 9, '03	—	62,919	4171	786	852	—	83	7125	1023

**The Mails.**

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," September 21st, 1904.—**

**Barbados**—Mr J. W. C. Catford, Mr C. W. Goodridge. **Demerara**—Mrs Tiplady, Mrs and Miss J. De Cairos, Mrs. C. Cameron, Miss French, Dr and Mrs Irving. **Jamaica**—Mr C. A. Grant, Mrs Rogers, Mr and Mrs Eve, Capt. A. D. Skinner. **Trinidad**—Mrs John Blyth, Mr W. G. Vogan, Mrs and Miss Marryat, Mr. W. Pandy, Mr. Ramkinson, Mr. H. Vieira, Mr D. Mathews, Mr J. Giblan, Miss M. Stewart. **St. Kitts**—Hon. S. L. Horsford. **St. Lucia**—Mrs H. H. Mitchell, Rev. Father Perraudau, Miss Beausoleil. **St. Vincent**—Mr A. J. Smith. **Tobago**—Mr G. Short.

**Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," Sept. 28th, 1904.—**

**Barbados**—Rev. Canon Bindley, Mrs E. Webb, Rev. J. Sumner, Mr G. and two Misses Borstelmann, Miss A. Budd, Mrs Edge, Mr J. J. Rhyan. **Demerara**—Mrs Conrad, Mrs L. Abrahams, Mr and Mrs Laing, Miss M. R. Garnett, Miss D. Hemming, Mr and Mrs Williams, Miss A. Bourton, Mr J. Gibson, Miss K. Weber, Miss H. Withers, Mr. J. H. Peel, Mr and Mrs Waterfield, Miss Cox, two Misses Barnes, Miss Greig. **Jamaica**—Mr E. Motta, Mr. Mrs and Miss Barda, Mr. F. Camacho, Dr and Mrs Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan, Rev. E. A. Jones, Miss E. Brass, Hon and Mr McGrath, Mr and Mrs Stiven, Miss N. K. Hills, Mr C. J. Kerr, Miss M. Farquharson, Miss E. Castle. **Trinidad**—Rev. W. McKae, Mr. J. A. Rapsey, Miss L. McLean, Chief Justice and Mrs Northcote, Mr and Mrs Kay, Mrs E. Busche, Mr C. Wilson, Miss M. Fuller, Mr B. P. Gardiner, Mr and Mrs Wilson, Miss A. Favre, Hon G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G., Mrs and Miss Fenwick. **Grenada**—His Hon Judge and Mrs Tarring, Mrs C. A. Leggie, Mr and Mrs Ferguson, Miss M. Forrester.

**Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," October 12th, 1904.—**

**Barbados**—Sir Daniel and Lady Morris, His Excellency Sir Gilbert T. Carter, K.C.M.G., Lady and Miss Carter, Mr O. Carter, Mr and Mrs Hinkson, Mrs and Miss Dickson, Mr and Mrs Greenidge, Mr M. Teesdale, Mr E. L. Oliver, Mr H. de la Mothe. **Demerara**—Col Lushington, K.A., Mrs Lushington, Miss M. English, Miss I. Harrison, Mr. J. S. Gamble, Mr and Mrs B. Ramer, Mrs. Smellie, Mr J. Psaila. **Jamaica**—Mr P. E. Auvray, Mrs M. Auvray, Miss N. Lewis, Mrs E. Lewis, Mr H. Hoskens, Lieut. E. H. Reilly-Blackwood, Mrs Devar, Mr W. Leslie, Mrs. A. Fringle, Mr and Miss Conran, Mr. R. Gillard, Mr. and Mrs. Wortley, Mr and Mrs Rurie, Mr. and Miss Douglas. **Trinidad**—Lady Jackson, Mr and Mrs Stollmeyer, Miss G. Meham, Mr and Mrs C. C. Stollmeyer, Mrs S. L. Lambie, Miss D. J. Lambie, Mr Burt, Mr. and Mrs. de Lapeyrouse, Mr and Mrs Lange, Mrs R. Scott, Mr G. Brown, Mr and Mrs Seccombe, Mr and Miss Robinson, Mr A. Kernahan, Mr and Mrs Arbuckle, Mr T. Duncanson, Mr J. Peet, Mr and Mrs Strass, Mr Todd, Mr Coombes. **Antigua**—Mrs Feeland, Dr and Mrs Burn. **Dominica**—Mr and Mrs A. F. Anderson. **Grenada**—Hon D. S. and Mrs de Freitas, Miss J. Corea, Mr G. Smith, Miss G. de la Mothe. **St. Kitts**—Mr S. Abbott, Mr R. Bromley. **St. Vincent**—Mr. Mrs and Miss Sheriff, Mrs Thiele.

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," Sept. 15th, 1904.—**

**Jamaica**—Mr L. Armitage, Mr and Mrs Cooke, Mr H. C. Chisman, Mr F. W. Chisman, Major and Mrs. Drury, Miss DeMercado, Mr J. S. Helier, Miss M. Jones, Mr H. A. Moody, Mr W. H. Moresby, Mr Knollys, Miss J. Owens, Mr Parmiter, Mr Palmer, Major W. F. Woods, Mrs and the two Misses Kendon, Miss K. Mowatt, Miss M. Robb.

**Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," September 24th, 1904.—**

**Jamaica**—Miss A. E. Blake, Mrs Brown, Lieut and Mrs A. Cox, Mrs J. Davidson, Major and Mrs Dittmas, Miss Davey, Mr and Mrs I. Fox, Mrs H. Greenough, Mr. P. Greg, Miss Hislop, Mr W. Hindle, Miss M. J. Martin, Mr W. Major, Mrs and Miss Musson, Dr P. M. Ragg, Mrs A. T. Rooke, Dr Smith, Mr G. Smith, Mr and Mrs J. Shanks, Mr M. C. Swinhoe, Mr R. Smith, Mrs R. Thomson, Mrs and Miss Williams, Mrs Westmorland, Mrs Phillips.

**Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Kingston," October 8th, 1904.—**

**Jamaica**—Mr and Mrs Hamilton, Major and Mrs Molesworth, Mr and Mrs Fogg, Mr and Mrs J. E. Kerr, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs Craig, Mr E. Greg, Mr R. J. Hough, Mr W. Oxford, Mrs R. J. McPherson, Mrs and Miss Ford, Mrs and Miss Horn, Mr F. V. Chalmers, Mrs Otto, Mr J. Horn, Mr F. J. Howell, Mrs. J. A. Bush, Mr T. S. Vipond, Mr and Mrs H. McGilchrist, Dr and Mrs M. Dolan, Col. Ward, Mr. Bonitto, Mrs and Miss Jacobsen, Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Wright, Capt and Mrs G. W. Young, Mrs. H. Joslen, Lieut. F. W. Willson, Lieut. R. Child, Mr. J. Henderson, Miss Smith, Mrs D. Henderson, Mrs. J. H. W. Walker, Miss Cameron, Miss Forlong, Miss Green, Mrs. A. E. Arthur, Mr. G. H. Deer, Mr Roper, Mr. Nolan, Mrs M. Alexander, Mr. W. Lennox, Mr. Finnis, Mr. FitzGibbon, Mrs. FitzGibbon, Mr. Gordon, Rev. J. H. Moore.



## The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar. The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America on uneven dates are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	
Europe	1,020,000	1,130,000	1,410,000	560,000	410,000	Tons.
United States	140,000	170,000	160,000	170,000	30,000	..
Cuba	10,000	170,000	140,000	70,000	—	..
Cargoes afloat	250,000	100,000	180,000	140,000	160,000	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,420,000</b>	<b>1,870,000</b>	<b>1,890,000</b>	<b>940,000</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>..</b>
Comparative prices of 88% Beet for 5 years:—	10s. 11½d.	8s. 4½d.	6s. 3½d.	7s. 5½d.	11s. 1½d.	

The firmness in sugar continues and prices, already at a decidedly satisfactory point, are slowly creeping up still higher, and the confidence of a certain section of the speculative rings seems to grow in unison with the prices. This is no new feature in the history of all speculative movements. It is, however, beyond question that the abnormally dry summer will furnish a certain minus in the European beet crops, but the actual extent of this minus no one can determine at present. As usual at this period, Herr F. O. Licht collects the views of sundry people interested in sugar and presents them for the world's contemplation. The estimates are not his own, which will only appear in another month's time. The mean average reduction in crops as given by these so-called "trading circles" is, for Convention Countries 470,000 tons, and for the whole of Europe 760,000 tons. The total European crop is therefore estimated (average of authorities) at 5,090,000 tons against 5,850,000 this season. Under the Bounty and Cartel system the record crop of 1901/2 was 6,750,000 tons. The reduction, viz 1,660,000 tons, is an appreciable amount of sugar, and should help to maintain prices of 88% at 11s during the coming season. Should the 470,000 tons estimate of decrease in crops of Convention Countries prove anywhere about correct, then the advance over the natural price of 10s basis 88 may not be without justification, although it has been produced by sentiment and speculation and not by any immediate or prospective absolute shortness of sugar. With increasing cane crops and a possible absence this next season of any further expansion in consumption, it seems difficult to make out how there will not be enough sugar to go round, although it would be quite easy to manipulate figures showing a *minus* even at the end of September next year. Figures are always at the disposal of any one who wants to prove his theories correct, but sometimes, not to say often, lead one to a wrong conclusion.

Closing quotations of 88% are.—Sept, 10s 11½d., Oct/Dec, 11s. 2½d., Jan/Mar, 11s 3½d., May, 11s 4½d., August, 11s 7d., all free on board Hamburg. For crop 1905/6 there are sellers of 88% Oct/Dec at 10s 3d.

**Vacuum Pan Sugar.**—Deliveries are large as shown below, and the stocks in Importers' hands barely reach three weeks' use. Prices are advancing and the value of average qualities is now 18s. 3d., with a general range of 17s. 6d. to 19s. For a cargo of 96 test, buyers might be found at 11s. 9d. on floating conditions.

**Molasses Sugar** is scarce and badly wanted, values ranging from 12s. to 16s. according to quality.

**Muscovado.**—Small sales of grocery Barbados, chiefly at 14s to 14s 6d. For 89 test to Refiners 10s 6d is about the value on floating terms.

### West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Imports to date	35,000	20,000	55,000	41,000	Tons
Deliveries	36,000	31,000	31,000	30,000	..
Stocks	12,000	17,000	37,000	20,000	..
Crystallised quotations of "average qualities"	18s. 3d.	16s.	13s. 6d.	15s. 9d.	

### Rum.—Stocks in London:

	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Jamaica	11,500	11,800	12,000	11,100	Puns
Demerara	8800	7500	9300	5600	..
Total of all kinds:—	28,075	29,489	Deficiency 1414	Puns	

There is, perhaps, rather more demand for Demerara, and some small sales from recent importations have been made at 7d., with a few better quality up to 8d., but there is no general activity, the buying being, so far, of a restricted character. Jamaica continues slow of sale, with a nominal quotation of 1s. 9d. for Standard Home Trade Marks. Leewards remaining nominally worth 7d. to 10d.

### Cocoa.—Stocks in London:

	1904	1903	1902	1901	
	99,000	71,000	80,000	107,000	Bags

A very dull tone continues to prevail in this market, and prices are slowly receding under the influence of an almost total absence of demand. With the advent of colder weather it is to be hoped an improvement in this respect may be experienced. The latest auctions displayed an unsatisfactory result, notwithstanding the general disposition shown by Importers to meet the market, and the following quotations of West India must be considered partly nominal, viz., Trinidad, fair collected, 57s.; Estate Marks, 57s. to 61s.; Grenada, fair native, 53s. fermented, 55s. to 56s. From other Islands fair native barely reaches 50s. and fermented 54s. to 56s. It is understood that fermented African has been sold to arrive at 56s., on full landed terms.

**Coffee.**—Steady. Good ordinary Jamaica, 38s., and Santos for this month's delivery 36s. 6d.

**Nutmegs.**—Steady. 71's sold at 1s. 3d.; 90's, 11d.; 106's, 7d.; 120's, also at 7d.; and 155's, 5½; with 82's in shell 5½d. **Mace.**—Barley steady; good bold pale sold at 1s. 6d.; red, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d.; and broken 1s. to 1s. 2d. **Pimento.**—Unchanged. Fair, 2s. **Spice.**—Steady. Middling Jamaica sold at 37s. 6d.; ordinary to good ordinary, 30s. 6d. to 32s. 6d.; small, 26s. to 29s.

### Arrowroot.—Stocks in London:

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	
	12,440	14,035	13,750	10,796	8189	Brls

The market continues dull, and only a few lots have been sold at 1½ for good manufacturing, there being no general demand at that figure.

**Lime Juice.**—Unchanged at 1s. 4d. Concentrated, easier at £13 15s. Hand Pressed, unaltered at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, unchanged at 1s. 6d.

For Cotton, see Special Article, page 367.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

# The . . . West India Committee Circular

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## OUR CELEBRITIES.

No XXVII.



His Honour Robert Bromley,  
ADMINISTRATOR OF ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

## The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

October 10th, 1904

**I**N our issue of August 16th last, we voiced the anxiety which was felt by many subscribers to the St. Vincent Soufrière Eruption Fund to know how the very large balance, amounting to over £25,000, would be disposed of, and we summarised the recommendations made by the Committee appointed in St. Vincent on April 11th, and in conclusion said: "While we are strongly in favour of the balance of the fund being applied in such a manner as will lead to the employment of the people, for instance, the re-opening of the Carib canal, we cannot urge too strongly that the intention of the donors should be clearly borne in mind." From papers received by the Mail it is very satisfactory to learn that the proposed resuscitation of the Carib canal is to receive attention. This is indicated in a despatch from Mr. Lyttelton, the substance of which was communicated by Mr. Laborde, the acting Administrator, to a meeting at Kingstown on September 20th. The Secretary of State further expressed opinion that the sum of £25,000 should be invested permanently, and the interest used for poor relief, the sum



thus saved from general revenue being applied as an increase to the vote for roads. At these practical suggestions the generous subscribers to the fund, whom Mr. Lyttelton again takes an opportunity of thanking, will not, we imagine, cavil. The Secretary of State considers that a wide interpretation of the objects of the relief fund has been taken in allocating £5000 of it towards starting the cotton industry in St. Vincent, but he does not think that this is open to serious criticism, since to incur expenditure in inaugurating a new and paying industry may well be classed under the head of relief of distress. The Secretary of State also thinks that the proposed expenditure of £1000 for the purchase of stock, may come within the scope of the relief fund.

**A**n esteemed Barbadian contemporary has taken offence at the advice seriously given in our issue of August 16th, as to the urgent necessity for taking advantage of the present position of the sugar market to prepare for the coming competition among cane producing countries. As regards Barbados, we should indeed be sorry not to pay our tribute to the excellence of the cane cultivation and to the intelligence and care bestowed upon it, but we do not imagine that it is so good as not to be susceptible of some degree of improvement. What we had, however, in our mind's eye, was the manufacturing side of the question, especially in relation to central sugar factories, the advantages of which are recognised by our critic. But in assigning the cause of the hanging up of the schemes in regard to these which have from time to time been brought forward in the Island, to the non-resident proprietors, our contemporary should bear in mind that if this has been the case, it has been more due to varied opinions on the subject coming from the Island itself, than from desire on the part of proprietors on this side not to advance with the times. Unanimity in views and action on the part of the local attorneys and planters would have done more than anything else to influence the proprietors at home, a unanimity on which, we cannot too strongly point out, the future of Barbados depends.

**W**e referred briefly in our last issue to an important test case heard at Stockport on Sept. 20th when two publicans were summoned for selling rum alleged to be adulterated with "silent" spirit. This case has such an important bearing on the status of West Indian rum generally, that we need not apologise to our readers for dealing with it at considerable length. The article which we give below is from the pen of one thoroughly acquainted with the subject, and should, therefore, command the close attention of all connected with the rum industry.

#### Mr. Robert Bromley.

The new Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, who leaves for that Presidency to-morrow, was educated at Eton. He was appointed hon. attaché to the Embassy at Washington in 1897 and resigned in 1901, when he was appointed assistant private secretary to Mr. J. Chamberlain.

#### The Stockport Rum Decision.

The recent prosecution at Stockport of a publican on the charge of selling rum alleged to be adulterated with a large proportion of "silent" spirit has attracted much attention, not only in West Indian planting circles, but also among the outside public; and points of the utmost importance both to manufacturer and consumer have been brought forward. Stated briefly, the facts of the case are these. The rum was shipped by a well-known firm of Demerara proprietors to their Liverpool agents, then was by them sold to a large wholesale firm, who in their turn supplied the publican against whom the prosecution was instituted. In the ordinary course, a purchase was made for the purpose of analysis under the provisions of the Adulteration of Food and Drugs Act, and the sample examined by the Town Analyst, who, on the basis of the proportion of ethers present, certified the sample as being mixed

with a large proportion of "silent" spirit. A prosecution was instituted by the Town Council, and it was claimed by them that as the rum supplied did not contain the proportion of compound ethers which should be present in rum, it was not of the nature and quality of the article demanded, the proportion being based on the composition of good Jamaica rum. For the defence conclusive evidence was afforded that the proportion of ethers present was consistent with the sample being one of Demerara rum of good quality, and that the rum was undoubtedly Demerara. The case was dismissed.

The above case, which was decided upon its merits, turned entirely upon the definition of rum, and, incidentally, of "silent" spirit. The prosecution practically held that no rum was rum which did not come up to the quality of good Jamaica—relying upon a recent decision as regards brandy, in which it was held by the magistrate that this spirit should be produced from grape juice and contain a certain proportion of ethers, and if brandy were asked for, it must be supplied of this quality. Brandy, however, is the distilled, fermented juice of the grape, and need only vary in quality according to the quality of the grape used. Rum, on the other hand, is not necessarily the distilled, fermented juice of the cane, but what is left from the manufacture of the sugar therefrom, its quality varying according to the extent of extraction of the sugar or from economic conditions based on the relative value of sugar and rum. Brandy is not produced as a by-product, and its manufacture is an industry by itself. The manufacture of rum, on the other hand, is secondary to that of sugar, and its quality, that is to say, the proportion of ethers—volatile bodies produced during the alcoholic fermentation by ferments other than yeast, and which give characteristic flavour and special stimulatory effect—will, *ceteris paribus*, depend upon the quality of the residues used in its make and methods of fermentation and distillation employed.

In Jamaica, owing to the natural superiority of the cane juice, to the high class of molasses used, and to their being mixed to a greater or less extent with skimmings or residues containing juice from the sugar house, as well as to the slow fermentation practised, the proportion of flavouring ethers is much higher than with Demerara rum, a high extraction of sugar from the juice being aimed at in the latter Colony, and the distilleries being only supplied with molasses of a grade much lower than is the case in Jamaica. For economic reasons also, the fermentation is accelerated as much as possible. It is, thus, easy to see how the proportion of ethers may vary according to the materials used and the system of manufacture employed. It is, however, absurd to contend that on that account rum from Demerara, which has been shipped and accepted as such for more than a century, is not quite as much entitled to be called rum as that from Jamaica.

The sample of rum on which the prosecution, which forms the subject of this article, was based, was declared to contain "silent" spirit. What is "silent" spirit? The less the characteristic flavour that a spirit contains, the more "silent" it is said to be, and spirits prepared from corn, maize, beet, potatoes, etc., are made "silent" by being highly rectified in order to deprive them of what otherwise would be their naturally objectionable characters. They are distilled "silent," but do not become "silent" until these characters are got rid of. Demerara rum, containing less volatile flavouring bodies than Jamaica, is more "silent" than the latter—but it does not on that account contain "silent" spirit. It could be made "silent" to any extent desired by further rectification, but to thus depreciate the value of an article, the market value of which already approximates closely to the cost of production, would be against the interest of the distiller.

The *Lancet*, in commenting upon the case, pays a high tribute to the medicinal value of rum. "Genuine rum," it says, "is probably the most powerfully stimulating spirit that we possess." But this high dietetic authority seems to be under the impression that Demerara rum is objectionable as being the product of patent or continuous stills. As a matter of fact, only a few continuous stills (seven in the whole Colony) are in operation, and, although the tendency of these is to produce spirit



of a "silent" character, much has been done to diminish the evil by modification of the still's construction and in its working. It happens, however, that the rum in the Stockport case was shown to contain a proportion of compound ethers quite up to the standard, in fact, rather over the average figure for Demerara pot-still rums. But, in any case, should the rum be required for medical purposes, or where special quality is desired, Jamaica rum should be asked for and the higher price paid. To fix a general standard of quality for rum is out of the question. The variation, as pointed out above, in the proportion of the ether constituents is far too great, and to endeavour to raise the standard of a by-product by legislation would be effectually to extinguish the industry—certainly as far as a very large proportion of the West Indian rum is concerned—unless the standard fixed were so low as to defeat its own purpose. Spirits do not stand on the same floor with foodstuffs. They are more or less a luxury, or applicable as medical agents. In either of these cases the want can easily be supplied by specifying the quality required, and the laws of the country are sufficient to ensure that the consumer gets it. But, as said above, the higher quality must be paid for, and it cannot be expected that high class rum, such as Jamaica, the bond price for which stands to-day at 1s. 9d. per gallon, can be retailed at the same figure as Demerara rum, the quoted figure for which is 7d. per proof, or 9½d. per liquid gallon.

### The Cotton Industry.

Mr. E. Lomas Oliver and Mr. Richard Stancliffe—who takes the place of Mr. Eckersley—leave for the West Indies on behalf of the British Cotton Growing Association by the R.M.S. "Trent" to-morrow, the object of their visit being to bring the West Indian planter into the closest possible touch with the Lancashire spinner. An effort is to be made to establish an agency in each Island on behalf of the Association so that the planters may be able to obtain advances on their crops as they require, and that the ginneries may be properly controlled. These experts have already had practical experience of West Indian Sea Island cotton, and have a high opinion of the possibilities of the industry. Mr. Oliver was the first of the fine cotton spinners of Lancashire to purchase long stapled West Indian cotton. The arrangements for their visit to the West Indies have been made by the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture. It is probable that they will spend a week at Barbados, and afterwards proceed to Antigua and the Northern Islands. On their return, they will visit St. Vincent, Grenada, and Trinidad, and should reach Jamaica about the end of November. On the recommendation of the Commissioner, the British Cotton Association has managed to supply disintegrators for crushing cotton seed for feeding purposes to the central cotton factories at Barbados and Antigua, and also, on certain terms, to the cotton factory now being worked by Mr. E. N. Connell, at Nevis. Arrangements are being made to furnish similar disintegrators to the central cotton factory at St. Vincent by the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

The last of a series of articles on "Cotton Planting in British Guiana in Olden Times," by the Hon. N. Darnell Davis, C.M.G., appeared in the *Argosy* of September 17th. Cotton was first exported from Guiana in 1751, when four bales were sent to Zeeland. In 1803/4, 46,435 bales were exported, while in 1801 as many as 7,622,942 lbs. were imported into Great Britain from Demerara, Berbice, and Essequibo. After the peace of 1815, the price of cotton fell year by year, importations of cotton into Great Britain from the United States and Brazil increased, and cotton in British Guiana was gradually supplanted by sugar. Bryan Edwards, in his "History of the West Indies," published at the end of the 18th century, rated the cotton of Demerara and Berbice at the highest value, and Berbice cotton, like Berbice coffee, took the lead in the home market. Bolingbroke asserts that the planters of Barbados had as much capital employed in the Colonies on the continent as they had actually in Barbados, and says that Demerara owes its present situation and importance to Barbados. Many planters of that Island emigrated with their negroes to Demerara, and their rapid successes were an

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Photo by ALBERTUS E. BOETTLE.

THE PETIT PITON, ST. LUCIA.

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inducement to the other Islands to follow their example. Cotton plantations generally produced about 300 lbs. per acre. Mr. Darnell Davis's historical treatise is deeply interesting, and if evidence is required to prove the great possibilities of British Guiana for cotton cultivation, it is to be found in abundance in its pages. British Guiana was at one time a leading cotton-growing country; it produced cotton of a very high quality, and there need be no reason why it should not once more resume its place as one of the great cotton producing areas.

During the fortnight ended October 6th, 46 bales of West Indian Cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Sales have been effected in Liverpool at the following prices: West India, 4.00-6.75d.; West India Sea Island, medium fine 13d.; fine 14d.; extra fine 16d. per lb.

### The Cacao Industry.

Cacao planting in the West Indies has made very substantial progress in recent years. During the past five seasons the increase in the output of the cacao producing Islands, which now comprise not only Trinidad and Grenada, but also Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Dominica, and to a lesser extent St. Vincent, Montserrat, and St. Kitts-Nevis, has been nearly 50 per cent., the figures being 1898, 337,431 cwt.; 1902, 495,653 cwt. The new issue of the *West Indian Bulletin*, received by the mail, deals at some length with the cacao industry. With regard to the quality of the cacao shipped from the West Indies, that from Trinidad fetches the best price, the bean being said to be the finest and best flavoured. The London prices vary from 65s. to 80s. per cwt. Grenada cacao, although it does not obtain quite as high a price, has a good and regular flavour, and the crop is eagerly bought up in British and American markets. Other cacaos from the West Indies—those from Jamaica, Dominica, and St. Lucia—are generally classed together in the market reports. During the present year these have been selling at 50s. to 61s. 6d. It is an interesting feature of the small quantity of cacao exported from British Guiana that it obtains such a good price (during the present year this has been between 64s. and 65s.) as to place it, in quality, second only to that of Trinidad; yet strange to say, if one may judge from the exports, very little interest appears to have been taken in the cultivation of this product.

In an article on cacao which appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* of October 1st, it was pointed out that the revenue from this commodity showed an increase in the financial year just ended of £45,101, or twenty per cent. over that of the preceding year. In 1902 (the last year for which these international statistics are available), this country absorbed the enormous quantity of 24,000 tons; or, roughly, rather more than 1½ lb. per head of the population. It is true that the 14,450 tons drunk in Holland would be proportionately greater, but the whole of the United States only took 19,000 tons, while Germany and France had, respectively, 20,350 and 18,950 tons.

The progress of our Colonies towards supplying raw material has hardly kept pace with the great demand, for in 1892 the British West Indian Colonies supplied 17,525 tons, or twenty-nine per cent. of the 60,574 tons that reached these shores. In 1902 the total import was 103,178 tons, the Colonial contribution to this being 23,650 tons, or twenty-three per cent.

### The Petit Piton.

On the leeward coast of St. Lucia two conical mountains form prominent landmarks. These are known as the Pitons—the peaks. The Petit Piton, of which we give an illustration, is said to be 2641 feet in height and was unconquered until 1878, when Mr. Lamprè succeeded in gaining its summit. Shortly after, it was ascended by Chief Justice Carrington and a party. Local tradition says that five British sailors endeavoured to climb the highest Piton. They were watched from below through a telescope and one after the other disappeared. It was supposed that they fell victims to the deadly fer de lance snake.

### The French Side of the "Lollipop" Argument.

M. Joseph Caillaux, in *La Petite Gironde*, gives the increased consumption in France for the year 1st September, 1903-4, after allowing for stocks, as 230,000 tons. During the previous twelve months 430,000 tons of sugar were bought at 1 f. 50 c. per kilo (rather over 6½d. per lb.) In 1903-4 the price fell to 70 c. per kilo (about 3¼d. per lb.) and 660,000 tons were purchased. The consumer, therefore, acquired sixty per cent. more sugar for practically the same money, and this without appreciable loss to the Treasury. Addressing the *Produce Markets Review* an extract from which, complaining that the effect of the bounties abolition had been to benefit the Continental consumer at the expense of the British, he quotes, M. Caillaux says: "It is true that by one of those singular *chocs de retour* of which protective systems afford so many examples, you had acquired the privilege of inundating the world with confectionery made at home with French sugar and French produce, and that to-day your monopoly is considerably compromised. But, frankly, could you reasonably hope that we should persist indefinitely in such a gross economic error. However simple you think us, we are not so to that extent. Are you, besides, justified in complaining because our confectioners will work henceforward on the same footing as yours, because as a set-off your West Indian planters will be able to re-construct their sugar industry which our bounty-fed beet sugar had wiped out? By common agreement we have re-established equality of competition. Both sides ought to congratulate themselves on this."

### The Sugar Tar.

It is refreshing to find some other cause than the Brussels Convention being adduced to account for the alleged depression in the confectionery industry. At a meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, at Manchester, on September 29th Mr. A. Taylor White (Wakefield) moved "That this Association, recognising the heavy burden laid upon the confectionery and allied trades by the imposition of the sugar tax, and the crippling of an important industry thereby, and consequent heavy failures, urges the Chancellor of the Exchequer to take into consideration at the earliest opportunity the reduction or repeal of the tax." He declared that in consequence of the sugar duty a great many makers of confectionery had been brought to bankruptcy. Mr. G. E. Davies (Bristol) said that within two years 20 manufacturers had either failed or ceased to manufacture confectionery. Only those firms with specialities of their own, and using the very best appliances, had continued to make profits, and those profits had been largely diminished. Mr. Blackwell (London) supported the resolution in the interest not only of the manufacturers, but of the consumers of preserves. The resolution was carried by a large majority.

### Cane v. Beet.

The *International Sugar Journal* for October, after quoting Mr. F. I. Scard's remarks, regarding the respective merits of cane and beet sugar which appeared in our issue of August 2nd, gives the following extract from an article by Mr. George de Praeudet, which was published in the *Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale*, for June, "It is evident that of all refined sugars the purest is white cane sugar. For if this were identically the same as white beet sugar, as is held by some authorities, why is it that the large manufacturers of champagne require their sugar dealers to give them a formal declaration that they never allow into their works a single bag of beet sugar? Experience has shown that wines sweetened with beet sugar always give an after taste of beetroot."

"A very easy test is carried out as follows: Take two glasses containing moistened sugar—one beet and the other cane. Cover both with saucers and allow them to stand for some days. If they are tasted at the end of that time, it will be found that the beet sugar has assumed a taste of beetroot and also emits a slight odour."



**The Colonial and Indian Exhibition, 1905.**

Since we last reported progress with the arrangements for this Exhibition the West India Committee have received two generous offers which should go far towards ensuring the success of the West Indian section. One is from Colonel the Hon. Charles J. Ward, of Jamaica, who with the public spirit which usually characterises his actions, has guaranteed £100 towards the expenses of the Jamaica Court, while the other is from the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, which has consented to carry freight free such exhibits as may be sent from the West Indies. At a meeting of the Exhibition Sub-Committee on Tuesday, October 4th, Colonel Trollope, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. J. Rippon and Mr. Chambers were appointed members. In view of the satisfactory replies so far received from the Colonies, it was decided to make a provisional application for space at the Crystal Palace immediately.

**New Members of the West India Committee.**

Our readers are reminded that by virtue of Rule IV, subscriptions from new members elected during the last three months of the current year will not, when paid, be renewable until January 1st, 1906. At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on Thursday, September 29th last, the following new members were elected:

<b>Name.</b>	<b>Proposer.</b>	<b>Seconder.</b>
J. S. CARACCILO, ESQ. (Trinidad)	R. J. Chapman, Esq.	Carl de Verteuil, Esq.
C. E. DRAYTON, ESQ. (Trinidad)	Fred E. Scott, Esq.	Hon. E. Agostini, K.C.
CAPT. A. P. DIX, R.N.R.	Messrs. Martin Dean & Co.	William Gillespie, Esq.
FRANCIS W. KER, ESQ.	Owen Philipps, Esq.	William Gillespie, Esq.
CHAS. THOMAS ORFORD, ESQ.	R. Rutherford, Esq.	T. C. Garth, Esq.
L. E. WILLIAMS, ESQ. (Dominica)	Wm. D. Riviere, Esq.	S. Didier, Esq.
J. T. DE LA MOTHE, ESQ. (Grenada)	H. Astley Berkeley, Esq.	J. P. Gun-Munro, Esq.
HENRY DE LA MOTHE, ESQ. (Grenada)	H. Astley Berkeley, Esq.	J. P. Gun-Nunro, Esq.
R. G. DE GALE, ESQ. (Grenada)	Hon. D. S. De Freitas	J. P. Gun-Mnnro, Esq.
A. S. BRYDEN, ESQ. (Barbados)	T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
MESSRS. PAUL DUMORET & CO. (Trinidad)	Edgar Tripp, Esq.	Hon. G. Goodwille
MESSRS. LUCIEN F. AMBARD & SON (Trinidad)	Edgar Tripp, Esq.	Hon. G. Goodwille
CLAUDE M. BLANDY, ESQ. (Dominica)	W. S. Vaughan, Esq.	E. A. Agar, Esq.
REV. CANON T. H. BINDLEY (Barbados)	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Sir Henry K. Davson
JOHN CHARLEY, ESQ. (Jamaica)	W. A. S. Vickers, Esq.	J. C. Nolan, Esq.
THOMAS BOYD, ESQ. (Trinidad)	George Christall, Esq.	Stephen Ewen, Esq.
L. F. HUDSON, ESQ.	Hon. D. S. De Freitas	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
R. L. FERGUSON, ESQ. (Grenada)	L. F. Hudson, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
W. C. HUTSON, ESQ.	E. L. Skeete, Esq.	E. B. Skeete, Esq.
A. R. T. PORTER, ESQ.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Lt.-Col. C. R. Crosse
JOHN R. SCARLETT, ESQ. (Jamaica)	Edward B. Lynch, Esq.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.
E. M. SKEETE, ESQ. M.B., C.M. (Barbados)	R. Rutherford, Esq.	E. L. Skeete, Esq.
GEO. C. VASMER, ESQ.	Messrs. Wilson, Smithett & Co.	Messrs. Wm. Anderson & Co.

Of those elected during the current year **63** are from Trinidad; **33** from Jamaica; **28** from British Guiana; **19** from Barbados; **19** from St. Lucia; **14** from Dominica; **11** from Grenada; **3** from Antigua; **3** from Montserrat; **3** from St. Kitts; **3** from St. Vincent; **3** from Tobago; **1** from Nevis; and **1** from Turks Island.

### The Progress of Tariff Reform.

Mr. Chamberlain resumed his campaign on October 5th by addressing a great meeting in a wooden hall, specially erected for the occasion, at Luton. After expressing his deep regret at the death of Sir William Harcourt, he observed that fiscal reform was not a party question and he had never treated it as such, for it affected every man, woman, and child in the country. The condition of trade and agriculture was not satisfactory; there was not one of our industries which was not threatened, and the necessity of at least discussing the subject ought to be recognised by all. Every day was making the matter more urgent. Investments abroad were increasing, but these brought no work to Englishmen. The cry for better education was a pill to cure the earthquake. We wanted an alteration of our fiscal system, which was entirely out of date. He was no believer in the policy of sitting still and doing nothing. If there was disease in the body politic our only chance was to cure it in time. We had never had free exchange, and doors were everywhere being shut in our face. Agriculture was crippled, though our farmers got better results from the land than those of other countries. Theirs was a losing business, and even jam and pickles would not save British farmers now. His 2s. duty on corn would not be a tax, but a toll, and every foreigner who sold goods in our markets must pay the toll. He contended that his proposals would put the farmer and the labourer in a better position. He wanted to shift taxation from one article to another. On tea, tobacco, and sugar we paid the entire tax ourselves, but by a rearrangement he wanted to make the foreigner contribute. Mr. Chamberlain proceeded to urge the immense importance of drawing closer to our Colonies in commercial relations. Every authorised exponent of colonial opinion testified that the Colonies were ready to meet us half-way, and to negotiate in no selfish spirit. What the Colonies had done in the war they were anxious to do in peace, and they were calling on us to make the union strong and permanent. After deprecating as unpatriotic Lord Rosebery's sneer at the great colonial institutions as "Water-toast Sympathisers," Mr. Chamberlain said Mr. Balfour had repudiated at Edinburgh the name of protectionist. He also repudiated it; he had no more idea of going back to the protection of fifty years ago than of returning to the free trade of fifty years ago. Mr. Balfour had made a statement of supreme importance—that, if he were in power after the next election, he would at once call an Imperial conference to see what terms could be made with the Colonies. He (Mr. Chamberlain) heartily welcomed this announcement as a certain precursor of victory, but could not see why there should be the delay involved in submitting any agreement that might be come to to a second *plébiscite*. A full report of this speech is given in the *Times*, page 8, of October 6th.

### The New Governor of Barbados.

Sir Gilbert Carter, who leaves in the R.M.S. "Trent" to-morrow to assume the Government of Barbados, attended a meeting of Members of the West India Committee interested in that Island, on Wednesday last. Sir Nevile Lubbock introduced Sir Gilbert to those present, who included Mr. Fred Browne, Mr. S. Browne, Mr. Edward O. Capon, Mr. George Carrington, Mr. J. W. C. Catford, Mr. C. J. Greemdge, Mr. John T. Haynes, Mr. John Hinkson, Mr. George Hughes, Mr. Herbert Jackson, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. Charles Thomas Orford, Miss E. S. Price, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. W. A. P. Shephard, Mr. E. B. Skeete, Lieut.-Colonel F. C. Trollope, Mr. Edward T. Whitaker, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary. After thanking Sir Gilbert for so kindly attending, Sir Nevile Lubbock said that the Committee attached a great deal of importance to these sort of informal interviews with the Governors of the Colonies. It gave them an opportunity of laying before the Governor any particular matters requiring attention, and he ventured to think that it was not without advantage to the Governor that he should hear the views of gentlemen interested in the Colony to which he was going. One point to which he specially wished to allude,



which affected the West Indies generally and Barbados in particular, was the question of the Colonial Exhibition of 1905. The West Indies were taking the matter up well, but one or two Colonies were holding back, and he ventured to hope that these would eventually decide to co-operate. He personally had no immediate interest in Barbados, and he would therefore, having introduced Sir Gilbert to the meeting, call upon Mr. Robert Rutherford to take the chair in his place.

Mr. Rutherford, after welcoming Sir Gilbert, said he would like to take the opportunity of saying how much they all appreciated the good work of his predecessor, Sir Frederic Hodgson. Sir Gilbert, when he arrived in Barbados, would find prospects improving, and the two new industries, cotton and bananas, making most encouraging progress. Among matters which he would ask those present to discuss with the new Governor was the Barbados railway, the closing of which would be little short of a catastrophe to the Island at a time when it was successfully recovering from severe financial depression. They were aware of the active steps taken by their Hon. Correspondent, Mr. Alleyne, in the Island regarding it, which resulted in the grant of a subsidy of £2000 a year for ten years. Regarding the £80,000 share of the Grant-in-Aid, 1902, which the West India Committee had been instrumental in obtaining for the Island after repeated visits to the Colonial Office and Treasury, they could not quite see eye to eye with Sir Gilbert's predecessor, but as long as the money was ultimately distributed for the benefit of the sugar industry as a whole, they would be satisfied. The question of cable communication also called for consideration. All were agreed that Jamaica had a much better cable service than Barbados, and they hoped to see the cable of the Direct West India Cable Company extended to Barbados.

Mr. Catford spoke at length regarding the railway, and summarised the steps which had been taken to avert its closing. The maintenance of the railway was essential to the banana industry, which was becoming a very important one. As to the £80,000 Grant-in-Aid, he thought that the money should have been distributed among the proprietors, but there was no doubt the Plantations-in-Aid Act had done good. Another matter of urgency was the need for coaling facilities. At present there were hardly any, and the process of coaling was very slow.

Colonel Trollope, Mr. W. P. B. Sheppard, and others having spoken, Sir Gilbert Carter expressed the pleasure he felt at having the opportunity of discussing matters. It was a very great advantage to hear the views put forward, and they could rest assured that he would bear them in mind when he arrived in Barbados.

### The Duty Free Alcohol Committee.

The following letter on the subject of the Rum Surtax in connection with the duty free alcohol committee, appeared very generally in the press on September 29th. This matter continues to engage the closest attention of the West India Committee, and letters regarding it were addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Secretary of State for the Colonies, on October 4th.

SIR,—The composition of and terms of reference to the committee recently appointed to inquire into the use, without payment of duty, of spirits for industrial purposes will hardly commend themselves to the Colonies, whose interest in the matter would appear to be quite as great as that of the distillers in this country. The distillers of this country have a representative on the committee, but the Colonies have none. Moreover, the terms of reference are such as to preclude the interests of the Colonies being considered, though due regard is to be paid to the interests of the producers of spirits in the United Kingdom.

What is the cause of this neglect of the Colonies? It may seem an ugly thing to say, but the distiller in this country commands votes and the Colonies do not, and this may be the reason why nothing must be done to offend the home distillers, and why they are afforded a protection of no less than 4d. per gallon, or nearly fifty per cent., against British distillers in the Colonies. The surtax of 4d. per gallon imposed on Colonial spirits is a genuine grievance which demands redress. The levy of this extra duty was condemned by Sir Henry Norman, Sir Edward Grey, and Sir David Barbour, the Royal Commissioners who visited the West Indies in 1897 (see Report West India Royal Commission, pps. 15-16, par. 96-103).

Methylated spirit imported from the Colonies to the United Kingdom is subject to a duty of 11s 5d per gallon, while spirit methylated in this country is duty free. British Colonial spirit imported into the United Kingdom has to pay

a duty of 4d. a gallon, while spirit manufactured in this country for methylation is duty free. What possible justification can there be for this state of affairs? Excise restrictions are imposed to protect the Revenue, neither more or less, and inasmuch as those in the West Indian Colonies are under the control of the home Government, the West Indies may fairly claim to be put on the same footing with regard to the surtax as the distiller in this country, who is fully entitled to compensation against the foreigner, of whose Excise regulations we know little or nothing, but not against his own kith and kin. Is it too late to hope that a Colonial representative may be added to the committee, and that the Colonies may be included in the terms of reference?

We are, yours obediently,

NEVILLE LURHOCK, Chairman.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

### Letter to the Editor.

#### The West India Banana Industry.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR—I notice from the copy of the *Agricultural News* of 13th August, that the Royal Mail Company have made complaints on the irregularity of the size of the banana crates shipped from Barbados, and that drastic rules have been laid down by the Company that only three sizes of crates can be accepted for shipment. Of course it is absolutely necessary that the bunches should be packed in crates of suitable size, but surely this is impossible if only three sizes are allowed. In the Canary Islands the materials for the banana crates are imported through a London agent from Norway, and they arrive ready cut in slats of various sizes, with shorter and rather stronger pieces for the ends of the crates; these are nailed together very smartly by girls, and I was told that one girl could put together from 50 to 60 crates in one day. There are six different sizes, ranging from "doubles" (constructed so as to take two small bunches), up to "giants" for the largest of all.

The banana trade in the Canaries being a very large one, there is every inducement for ships to call. Cargoes on almost any of the seven days of the week are assured and the shipping agents literally tumble over each other to secure orders. Consequently restrictions as to the size of the crates would be laughed at, and the cost of freight has by competition been considerably reduced and now ranges from 9d. to 1s. 6d. per bunch (quite irrespective of size), according to the distance or popularity of the home port for which they are intended. The Canary growers have persistently and wisely stuck to their system of packing the bunches in crates, which preserve them from bruises during unshipping and marketing, and also in cold weather they run less risk of being chilled or frost bitten, both being detrimental to the flavour and texture of the banana. I hope that in the many opportunities you have for helping the West Indies that you may induce the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to allow greater latitude in the sizes of the crates and also you may endeavour to obtain competition in shipping by pressing the idea on the West Indian and other shipping lines through the medium of your valuable *Circular*.

Yours faithfully,

A. MAUDE BATEMAN.

### Publications Received.

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, etc., for our Library. We have to acknowledge with thanks, the receipt of the following:—

THE AGRICULTURAL NEWS, Vol. III, No. 64 (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 1d., post free 1½d.) This number gives an epitome of many useful articles on Tropical Agriculture.

THE WEST INDIAN BULLETIN, Vol. V, No. 2 (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 6d., post free 8d.) West Indian Fodder Plants; Cold Storage of Fruit; the Date Palm; Sisal Hemp; and Anthracnose of Cotton, are among the subjects dealt with in this issue of the Journal of the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

JOURNAL D'AGRICULTURE TROPICALE (Published by J. Vilbouchevitch, 10, Rue Delambre, Paris. Subscription one year, twenty francs, half-year, ten francs). This magazine which is published monthly, contains information of deep interest to tropical agriculturists; india-rubber, copra, citrus fruits, rice, vanilla, sugar-cane, manioc, all receive adequate attention at the hands of the energetic Editor.

THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR JOURNAL, October 1904, Vol. 6, No. 70, 12s. per annum, post free, Altrincham, Manchester. This old-established monthly journal contains a spirited attack upon the Cobden Club, which has deplored the fact that the Brussels Convention has caused a distinct increase in the world's consumption of sugar. The series of articles by Mr. T. H. P. Heriot on "Science in Sugar Production" is continued. Mr. Sigmund Stein deals with the present position of sugar and regrets the prevailing gambling spirit, adding "The prices caused by the imaginary famine in Europe will bring about an increase in the production of cane sugar and so we may expect next year a record crop and a record slump in prices which will be a good lesson to all persons who artificially and wilfully unsettled the market this year."

BULLETIN OF THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE, Vol. II, No. 3. The main feature of interest of this publication, which is issued as a quarterly supplement to the Board of Trade Journal, from the point of view of West Indians, are articles on mangrove bark, lemon grass oil from Montserrat, cocoa, cotton, and honey from Trinidad, and an article dealing with the West Indies as one of the principal sources of petroleum within the British Empire. Petroleum and allied substances are met with in several of the Islands of the Antilles, including Cuba, San Domingo, Barbados, and Trinidad. Particulars are given of the asphalt from La Brea, and it is pointed out that although the asphalt of Trinidad has been used for caulking ships almost from the time of the first discovery of the Island by Europeans, it is comparatively recently that it has been exploited on a large scale for the preparation of road surfaces. Liquid asphalt is found near San Fernando, and asphalt oil near Monkeytown and Oropuche. Manjak is exported, and petroleum is found in Barbados to a considerable extent. The value of manjak exported from the Island in 1903, was £6508 as compared with £1756 in 1896, and the price has risen from £2 to £10 during that period.



**West Indian Civil Service.**

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our table of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

Mr. JOHN CADMAN has been appointed Mining Inspector in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Governor of Barbados has appointed Mr. Otho Gilbert Carter to be his private secretary.

Mr. P. M. C. Sheriff, Chief Justice of St Vincent, returns to that Colony on the 12th of October by the *Trent*.

Mr. ALEXANDER KING, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., has been promoted to the position of Health Officer for the Port of Castries, St. Lucia.

Dr. M. H. C. IRVING, Government Medical Officer of British Guiana, has been granted twelve months' leave of absence from September 7th.

The Hon. WILLIAM PETER and the Hon. GOTTFRIED GRAF have been reappointed Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council of St. Lucia.

Sir C. H. King-Harman left England on October 1st for Cyprus to take up the duties of High Commissioner in succession to Sir W. F. Haynes-Smith.

**Notes of Interest.**

**PICTURE POSTCARDS.** Many of the pictures which have appeared in *The West India Committee Circular* are being reproduced as picture post cards, and will shortly be published by the well-known firm of Raphael Tuck & Sons.

**THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.** The very successful fortnightly dinners of the West Indian Club will be resumed to-morrow, the arrangements on this occasion being in the hands of Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. A. de Mercado, and Mr. J. F. Braham.

**OUR ROYAL CHARTER.** Members are reminded that a General Meeting will be held at the West India Committee Rooms on Thursday next at 3 p.m., to receive the Royal Charter of Incorporation granted by the King to the West India Committee on August 4th last.

**THE BRUSSELS COMMISSION.** Sir Henry Bergne and Mr. George Martineau, left on Saturday, October 8th for Brussels, to attend the meetings of the permanent Sugar Commission which resumed its sittings yesterday. The main subject for discussion will probably be the question of Sugared Products.

**"SUN PICTURES."** With the object of popularising the West Indies a series of the photographs taken by the Secretary of the West India Committee, will shortly be published under the title "Sun Pictures of the Antilles and British Guiana." Full particulars can be obtained from Messrs. H. & W. Grant, 18-19, Whitefriars Street, E.C.

**A CONVENIENT REGULATION.** Postal Orders issued in this country under ordinary conditions are now payable in Antigua, Barbados, British Honduras, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Turks and Caicos Islands, and the Virgin Islands, and British Postal Orders are now obtainable in each of those Colonies.

**LATE FEE MAIL LETTERS.** For the convenience of Members wishing to post letters for the outgoing West Indian Mail at the last possible moment, arrangements have been made for a messenger to leave the West India Committee Rooms on the day of the departure of the Mail at 12.30 p.m., with letters for posting at Waterloo Station. All such letters must bear the late fee of 2d., in addition to the ordinary postage.

**THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE.** The Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, returns to-morrow by the R.M.S. "*Trent*" to Barbados, where he is sure of a hearty welcome after his somewhat chequered holiday. During his short visit to England, Sir Daniel Morris has got through an immense amount of work and has attended many meetings. He has been publicly thanked by the British Cotton Growing Association for his services in connection with the Cotton Industry, and he will carry back with him the cordial good wishes of the West India Committee.

**THE ONTARIO SUGAR BEET CROP.** The following reference to sugar beet culture in Ontario is contained in the latest crop bulletin of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. **ROOTS.**—Spring was not favourable to the getting of land into good shape for the sowing of roots, and the hot weather continued so far into the season that much of the seed had to be put in late. Consequently all classes of roots were backward on the first of August, although then growing vigorously; and while many fields were somewhat thin in the row others were giving fair promise. The sugar beet fields of Western Ontario are reported to be in very fine condition, showing decided improvement over previous years.

**TO HELP THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY.** Mr. F. V. Chalmers, a well-known expert in tobacco curing, left for Jamaica in the "Port Kingston" on Saturday last. His mission has the support of the Commissioner of Agriculture, who has interested Sir Alfred Jones in the possibilities of improving the tobacco industry of Jamaica and finding a market, especially for leaf tobacco, on a commercial scale. Mr. F. V. Chalmers will meet the leading tobacco growers in conference, and he will be in position to afford valuable information on the qualities of tobacco likely to suit the British and Continental markets. We hope to be in a position to announce that Mr. Chalmers' visit has been productive of much good to Jamaica.

**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Saba" from London, for Antigua, Barbados, Demerara, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad, October 20th; S.S. "Crown of Navarre" from Glasgow for St. Lucia, Barbados, Trinidad, and Demerara, October 20th; S.S. "William Cliff" from Liverpool, for Barbados, and Trinidad, October 22nd; and the R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, on October 22nd. Letters for Grenada and Trinidad, posted on Saturday, October 22nd, and possibly on Wednesday, October 26th, marked "via New York," will go forward by S.S. "Maracas" from New York on November 2nd, and be delivered in Grenada on November 10th, and Trinidad on November 11th. The usual postage of 1d. suffices. *Information for publication under this head is invited from Shipping Companies.*

### The Homeward Mail.

The R.M.S. "La Plata" anchored off Plymouth on Thursday, October 6th, at 11.55 a.m., and the Mails were delivered in London on the following morning. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents.

#### Antigua—Extension of Cotton Cultivation.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) September 21st A few showers had fallen, which were just enough to keep the land in moist order after the recent heavier rains. The area under cotton was likely to show quite an appreciable increase, and this commodity should have, if the price kept up, a fair chance of once again becoming a staple crop.

The cane crop had benefited by the more favourable weather, but was decidedly backward for the time of year.

#### Barbados—Departure of the Governor.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLBYNE) September 22nd Light showers had fallen in the early part of the fortnight, but on the 18th rain had come on, most parts of the Island marking 4 inches, and some places 10 inches. This had been most valuable, and would tend to make the ratoons sucker and check the growth of arrows, which were beginning to appear. Every field of canes was green and healthy, and there was no trace of disease. Cotton and onions were springing beautifully.

That week had been much taken up with the approaching departure of Sir Frederic and Lady Hodgson, and various entertainments had been offered them. On Sept. 21st a ball was given in their honour at the Life Assurance Buildings, which was one of the most successful that had taken place in the Island. Over 300 were present, and the heartiness of the reception given to the Governor testified to the regret which all classes felt at his departure. It was a great pity he should have to leave before the completion of the Central Factories and other schemes which he had in his mind.

It was hoped that the subsidy of £2000 for the railway would induce a Company to carry it on, with improvements. Meanwhile the Bridgetown and St. Andrew's Company had notified that they would continue to run the line till Oct. 31st.

#### British Guiana—Weather too Dry.

(A. SUMMERSON, Esq.) September 21st. The Legislature had met on the 12th ult. and the following days, and the business done was chiefly putting the new Education Code through before the departure of the Governor.

Sugar making had commenced on a good many estates. Very little had been done in crystals during the fortnight, but the market was strong, and for anything offering, \$2.50 would be obtained.

The weather had continued much too dry; a few showers had fallen in Berbice and Demerara, but they were not heavy enough for requirements.

#### British Honduras.

(HON. A. R. USHER) September 16th. The Government had entered into an agreement with Mr. Bucknor Chipley, of Pensacola, Florida, for the sale of all the pine woods growing on the Crown lands at one cent per tree. The contract was for 26 years and the sum of \$125,000.00 was to be paid in advance within the next 27 months, on account of this concession. Continued rains had stopped nearly all operations of getting out wood for the present.

#### Dominica—The Fruit Exhibition.

(E. A. AGAR, Esq.) September 22nd. A meeting had been held of the committee formed to arrange an exhibition of fruit, etc., for the Royal Horticultural Society's Show on December 13th and 14th, and the West India Committee had had been asked to take entire charge of the exhibit.



**Grenada—Cacao Prospects.**

(P. J. DEAN, Esq.) September 22nd. The good weather had continued, and, although the cacao trees in the mountain lands were not in as forward condition as those in the lowlands, small pickings would commence next month.

**Jamaica—The Colonial Exhibition.**

A letter from Mr. Ashenheim, received as we go to press, announces that as the result of the recommendation of a joint committee of the Jamaica Agricultural Society and the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Merchants' Exchange it has been decided to submit to the Legislative Council a vote of £1000 to meet the expenses of Jamaica at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, 1905. The West India Committee have accordingly been authorised to secure 2500 square feet of space at a cost of £250.

The weather in Vere (Sept. 27th) was so dry that cane cultivation was suffering. With the exception of a light occasional shower, no rain had fallen.

**Montserrat—Too much Rain.**

(CONRAD WATSON, Esq.) September 21st. For the month five inches of rain had fallen. The past fortnight was very damp and unfavourable to the young cotton seedlings.

**Nevis—Outlook for Cotton.**

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) September 20th. The weather had been very favourable to the crops, and the general appearance of the Island had undergone a marked change for the better.

Cotton was booming in Nevis, and would probably exceed all expectations. The writer had seen most of the districts under cotton for 1905, and felt assured that the planters were in earnest over this new industry, and although cane must always work hand in hand with it, there was plenty of room for both. Dr. Francis Watts had been at the Island and seemed fairly satisfied that Nevis had a future before it.

**St. Kitts—Favourable Weather.**

(CHAS. A. SMITH, Esq.) September 20th. The weather for the past fortnight had been exactly suited for their wants; copious showers with days of hot sunshine intervened, and the crops throughout the Island, cane as well as cotton, were looking very promising.

**St. Lucia—Crop Prospects.**

(SYDNEY D. MELVILLE, Esq.) September 23rd. There had been good rains, and the crop was still very promising.

**St. Vincent—Very Wet Weather.**

(Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co.) September 23rd. The weather had been very wet and would not do any good to the cotton that had started to burst on some of the estates. A few growers had already started picking.

**Trinidad—The Cable Question.**

(EDGAR TRIPP, Esq.) September 22nd. At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held on the 20th ult. Mr. Kingsford, chairman of the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., now on a visit of inspection through the Islands, addressed the Members, and listened very carefully to what they had to say regarding the alleged shortcomings of the service. It was impressed upon Mr. Kingsford that entire satisfaction was not likely to be afforded so long as the daily budget of public news was supplied from New York, and so long as the Company did not of itself lay down an all British cable, or connect with a Company that would provide one. Mr. Kingsford hinted that a proposal to this effect was, or shortly would be, before the authorities.

Sir Henry Moor Jackson, as President, occupied the chair at a meeting of the Agricultural Society for the first time on the 15th ult. At the instance of the Society, the Government had issued instructions to enforce the provisions of the Wild Birds (Preservation) ordinance, a step much needed in view of the rapid destruction of birds all over the country. The Society was also urging the necessity of stringent measures to rid the cultivated districts of the serious pest of parasol ants. The manager of the Government farm, Mr. C. W. Meaden, read a paper on molascuit, which he said had been consumed by the stock at that place with marked benefit and economy. In regard to a motion expressing concern that so many desirable East Indian immigrants return to their native land, it was resolved to request His Excellency to appoint a committee to sift the question of granting Crown lands to immigrants, before taking further action in the matter.

The weather had been on the whole favourable for cultivation. Some thunderstorms had been more than usually severe.

The German gunboat "Panther" was in the harbour. The German, Italian and other warships cruising in West Indian waters had discovered that they could coal at Trinidad as well and as cheaply, perhaps more so, than elsewhere in the vicinity. H.B.M.'s ships passed them by, and never coaled there except in emergency.

(We regret that in an article in Circular No. 133, regarding the services of Mr. Edgar Tripp, we stated that this gentleman was Vice-president of the Building and Loan Association. Mr. I. A. Rapsey is the present occupant of that office, which Mr. Tripp has ceased to hold for some years—ED.)

**West Indian Securities.**

Owing to pressure on our space, we are compelled to hold over our usual list of West Indian securities. The Bank of England rate remains 3% (changed from 3½% on April 22nd, 1904), and Consols (2½%) are quoted 88¼ as we go to press.

**The Colonial Bank.**

The Half-yearly Meeting of the Colonial Bank was held on 1st October. The Chairman, Mr. H. H. Dobree, in moving the adoption of the report, was in the pleasant position of being able to announce a dividend of 7% as against 6% for the preceding year, the result of extra profits without additional expenditure. This satisfactory state of things, he attributed in great measure to the improved financial position of the West Indies, as the result of the abolition of the bounties, and that the Colonies had now turned the corner, and were on the high road to prosperity, and that the return of confidence in them among capitalists would mean further progress in the direction of improvement of cultivation and manufacture.

**The British Guiana Bank.**

At the half-yearly meeting of the British Guiana Bank proprietors, held in Georgetown on Sept. 17th, an interim dividend of 1 per cent. was declared. The chairman (Mr. G. Russell Garnett) stated that during the past six months the Colony had been passing through a period of severe depression, general trade being practically stagnant. Although the depression had not as yet passed the critical stage, the improvement in the price of sugar—the result of the Brussels Convention—promised better times in the future. He could truthfully say that the position of the bank was one of the

greatest ease compared with five, three, or even two years ago. There were no debts of any moment on their books which had not been amply provided for or secured, with the exception of an amount of \$2,055 due on promissory notes, which they had recently tried, without success, to recover by process of law. The chairman announced the resignation of Mr. E. C. Hamley (managing director), who in 1896, at the request of Mr. Chamberlain, took up the management of the bank when it was in very low water, and by dint of unstinted industry and perseverance, succeeded in placing it in its present satisfactory position.

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.**

Mr. Owen Philipps presided on October 5th over a special meeting of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, called to consider a resolution authorising the issue of £600,000 new capital created by the new Charter of 1904 as Preference stock. In formally moving the resolution, the chairman said that a few words on the general position might be of interest. The five new cargo steamers had been delivered and were doing good work. The new mail steamer then being built by Messrs. Harland & Wolff would be delivered in the ensuing spring. The revenue of the company was slowly but steadily progressing, and they were making good headway on all the routes on which the vessels of the company were employed. As to the Charter, the Crown had granted them a very excellent supplementary Charter. It dealt mainly with three points: There would be no foreign control; it gave power to deal with the liability in the shares; and it dealt with the increase of capital. With regard to the first point, the company was originally formed to carry the Royal mails to the West Indies and elsewhere by a Charter granted by the late Queen Victoria two years after she ascended the Throne. It was essentially a British company, and the directors warmly approved the clause inserted by the Crown stipulating that in future no shares should be held by foreigners, and that none of the directors or officers should be foreigners. The uncalled capital they were empowered to extinguish gradually, or at once, but the latter course they could not adopt without first making provision for the new steamers: it was absolutely essential for them to have it they were to keep ahead of a growing trade. As to the £600,000 new capital authorised, the Board had determined after careful consideration, to recommend that the shares should be 5 per cent. non-cumulative Preference shares, preferential as to both capital and dividend, and sharing with the Ordinary in any dividend in excess of 5 per cent. upon the latter. The freight accounts of voyages completed since the last statement issued showed steady progress, and though it might take time to put the company back into the position in which it ought to be, the directors looked forward to the future with every confidence.

In reply to questions the chairman stated that it was not the intention to pay anything for underwriting the new capital, of which priority of allotment would be secured to existing shareholders. The renewal of the mail contract which the company had had for sixty-three years, was under consideration, tenders having been sent in by the company on Saturday. The liability on the shares was to be cancelled as and how the new Preference capital was issued, and it was not the intention of the Board to make any call on the Ordinary shareholders. The directors had not parted with any shares; their holdings were, as a fact, larger than at the time of the previous meeting, and would no doubt be larger when the proprietors were again called together.

After some discussion the resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, was adopted unanimously.

**Weather Telegrams.**

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) Sept. 27th. "Heavy rains generally throughout the Island." October 10th. "Heavy rains generally throughout the Island." **British Guiana** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Oct. 8th. "Too dry." **DEMERARA** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) Sept. 27th. "Weather very dry, cultivation suffering." Oct. 6th. "Weather dry, with occasional showers, but more would be acceptable." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) Oct. 4th. "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain much wanted. Dry weather continues in Berbice." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) Week ended September 29th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "23rd to 28th, fine; 29th, heavy rains." **KINGSTON**: "Fine, occasional showers."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.	Cotton.
	Hhds.	lbs.	Tons.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.	lbs.
<b>Barbados—</b>									
Jan. 1 to Sept. 22, '04	56,595	—	—	—	—	45,401	—	—	—
" " 22, '03	34,915	—	—	—	—	30,070	—	—	—
<b>British Guiana—</b>	Tons.								
Jan. 1 to Sept. 20, '04	48,690	100,676	3039	12,045	181,740	1328	57,546	7791	—
" " 22, '03	68,130	109,402	480	15,266	4984	3494	61,472	6683	—
<b>Jamaica—</b>		Cwts.	Coffee.	Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.	
Apr. 1 to Sept. 27, '04	5604	12,041	Cwts.	870,501	1,169,555	Cwts.	Stems.	7,339,400	1796
" " 5, '03	7802	15,428	16,229	822,935	10,627,585	29,492	2,519,164	8,116,450	—
<b>Trinidad—</b>	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.	Copra.
Jan. 1 to Sept. 21, '04	383,258	34,908,480	63,115	125	5,989,960	Puns.	Tres.	Tons.	Bags.
" " 21, '03	379,082	25,878,820	42,120	1143	9,017,209	1993	29	93,751	10,131
						3473	178	136,864	—
<b>Grenada—</b>		Bags.						Cotton Seed	Cotton.
Oct. 1 to Sept. 23, '04	—	67,017	Brls.	3 Brls.	Cases		Bags.	Bales.	
" " 23, '03	—	63,014	4366	773	660		147	6594	1032
			4388	840	876		91	7125	1023

**The Mails.**

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.**—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "La Plata," October 6th, 1904:—**Barbados**—Mr. C. Waite, Mr. M. R. L'Amey, Mr. H. W. Lohy, Miss Bowman, Mr. H. Hagemann. **Demerara**—Mr. C. M. Duncan, Sergt-Major and Mrs. Webb, Miss E. V. Munro, Mr. F. Smartt. **Jamaica**—Mr. P. de Lacey-Kirton, Mrs. G. A. Ormsby, Mr. J. J. Coghlan, Mr. H. F. Wilson. **Trinidad**—Miss Donovan, Mrs. T. Boyd, Mrs. J. Fraser, Mr. F. E. Martinez. **St. Lucia**—Lieut. R. Letters, Mr. R. Roberts.



Outward Bookings per R M S "Trent," October 12th, 1904:—**Barbados**—Sir Daniel and Lady Morris, His Excellency Sir Gilbert T. Carter, K C M G, Lady and Miss Carter, Mr O Carter, Mr and Mrs Hinkson, Mrs. and Miss Dickson, Mr and Mrs Greenidge, Mr M Teesdale, Mr E L Oliver, Mr H. de la Mothe. **Demerara**—Col. Lushington, R A., Mrs Lushington, Miss P Harrison, Mr J. S. Gamble, Mr and Mrs B. Rainer, Mrs. Smellie, Mr J. Psaila, Mr. Samuel H. Considine. **Jamaica**—Mr. P. E. Auvray, Mrs M Auvray, Mr H. Hoskens, Lieut. E. H. Keilly-Blackwood, Mrs Dewar, Mr. W. Leslie, Mrs A. Pringle, Mr and Miss Conran, Mr. R. Gillard, Mr and Mrs Wortley, Mr. G. A. Douglas, I S O., Miss Braham. **Trinidad**—Lady Jackson, Mr and Mrs. Stollmeyer, Miss G. Mecliam, Mr and Mrs C C. Stollmeyer, Mrs and Miss Lambie, Mr Burt, Mr, and Mrs de Lapeyrouse, Mr and Mrs Lange, Mrs R Scott, Mr G Brown, Mr and Mrs Secombe, Mr and Mrs Robinson, Mr A Kernahan, Mr, and Mrs Arbuckle, Mr T Duncanson, Mr J Peet, Mr and Mrs Strass, Mr Todd, Mrs Coombes, Mr J. Sellier. **Antigua**—Mrs Feeland, Dr. and Mrs. Burn. **Dominica**—Mr and Mrs Anderson. **Grenada**—Hon D. S. and Mrs. de Freitas, Miss G. de la Mothe, Miss J. Correa, Mr G Smith. **St. Kitts**—Mr S. Abbott, His Honour R Bromley. **St. Lucia**—Capt. and Mrs Onslow-Carey. **St. Vincent**—Mr and Mrs Sheriff, Mrs Thiele.

Advance Bookings per R M S "La Plata," October 26th, 1904:—**Barbados**—Mrs. Boby, Mr. and two Misses Hutchinson, Lieut. and Mrs Richards. **Demerara** Mr W Carruthers. **Jamaica**—Mr., Mrs. and Miss Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Reed, Mr. F. E. Reed, Mr. A. G. Reed, Miss W. Judson, Miss D. Davy, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Guppy, Mr. W. Douglas, Rev. and Mrs. Baker, Mrs. W. Reeves, Miss H. Trickett, Miss K. MacDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Rurie, Mr. E. J. F. Campbell. **Trinidad**—Mrs. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Verteuil, Miss A. Leotand, Miss Thavenot, Miss J. Lange, Mr. R. Reid, Mrs. Agostini, Lieut. G. Deans, Mr. A. Wyness, Mr. R. C. Lord, Mrs. E. McNulty, Mrs. Henderson, Miss M. Scott. **Grenada**—Mrs. Macintosh, Mr. J. Barclay.

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Kingston," Sept. 26th, 1904:—**  
**Jamaica**—Mr. Beasley, Mr. H. C. Bridges, Mr. J. Bathgate, Mr. T. W. Clarke, Mr. A. W. Clarke, Mr. E. P. H. Cox, Mr. P. Fox, Mr. W. Fairbairns, Mr. R. J. Fraser, Mr. T. A. Gill, Mrs. Harvey, Miss Hollar, Mr. Homer, Mr. J. Hamilton, Mr. W. J. Jenkins, Mrs. MacMahon, Mr. R. M. Murray, Mr. F. Matthews, Dr. J. A. Masters, Mr. H. C. Miller, Miss Pile, Mr. J. O'H. Pearman, Miss Ripley, Mr. G. H. Ribbons, Dr., Mr. and Miss Rogers, Mr. J. E. Sharp, Mr. J. Saunders, Mrs. Thursfield, Mr. V. Withy.

Sailings per R M S. "Port Kingston," October 8th 1904:—**Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs Hamilton, Major and Mrs. Molesworth, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Fogg, Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Ker, Mrs. and Miss Fawcett, Mrs. Craig, Mr. E. Greg, Mr. R. J. Hough, Mr. W. Oxford, Mrs. R. J. N. McPherson, Mrs. and Miss Ford, Mrs. and Miss Horn, Mr. J. Horn, Mr. F. V. Chalmers, Mrs. E. H. Otto, Mr. F. J. Howell, Mr. T. S. Vipond, Mr. and Mrs. H. McGilchrist, Dr. and Mrs. M. Dolan, Col. Hon. C. J. Warst, C.M.G. Mr. Bonitto, Mrs. and Miss Jacobsen, Mr. and Mrs. E. Fortescue-Wright, Capt. and Mrs. J. W. Young, Mrs. H. Joslen, Lieut. F. W. Willson, Lieut. R. Child, Mr. J. Henderson, Mrs. D. Henderson, Mrs. J. H. Walker, Miss Cameron, Miss Forlong, Miss Green, Mrs. A. E. Arthur, Mr. G. H. Deer, Mr. Roper, Miss M. Alexander, Mr. W. Lennox, Mr. Finnis, Mr. and Mrs. FitzGibbon, Mr. F. D. N. Gordon, Rev. J. H. Moore, Rev. S. P. Burrows, Mrs. M. Caulfield, Lieut. and Mrs. Collins, Mr. and Miss Denis de Vitre, Mr. and Mrs. France, Mr. and Mrs. FitzGibbon, Mr. H. S. Hoskins, Miss Hewlings, Capt. W. H. Hewlings, Mr. E. Jones, Lieut. W. C. Macfie, Mrs. Melhado, Mr. L. P. McKinnon, Miss Saunders, Mr. Schultz, Mr. and Mrs. Symondson, Dr. A. Thorne, Mr. Thomson, Mr. W. Wynne, Mr. O. F. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. G. Willetts, Bandmann's Opera Company, Mr. E. Campbell, Staff-Serjt. and Mrs. Eastwood, Mr. W. Paramore, Mr. Tillett, Mr. Trimmingham.

### The Produce Markets Summary.

Rum.	Stocks in London:	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Jamaica	...	11,200	11,500	12,000	10,700 Puns.
Demerara	...	79 <sup>30</sup>	7100	8600	5100 ..
Total of all kinds	—	20,884	29,149	Deficiency 2265 Puns.	

The market for Demerara is once more on a sound basis. Importers having sold out their holding of last year's crop, chiefly at 7d. per proof gallon, thus placing the stock in distributors hands and relieving the long continued anxiety as to how low prices would be forced before this was accomplished. The sales under this head are about 800 puns, with perhaps 200 puns recently landed, nearly all at 7d. Jamaica is in only retail demand at 1s. 9d. for Standard Home Trade Marks. The nominal range of Leewards is 7d. to 10d.

Cocoa—Stocks in London	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.
...	95,000	67,000	75,000	101,000 Bags

The dull state of the market continues unrelieved, and notwithstanding the steady increase in consumption, chiefly on the Continent, prices continue to droop. The production of cocoa everywhere is on the increase, possibly even in excess of consumers requirements. A cold winter may help matters somewhat by stimulating consumption, and something is needed to give an impetus to the trade. The latest auctions displayed an unsatisfactory result, 56s. only being offered for fair Estate Trinidad Marks, which have since been sold at 55s. to 58s., but only in small quantities. Quotations, somewhat uncertain, now are—Trinidad, fair collected, 56s.; Estate Marks, 56s. to 60s.; Grenada, fair native, 52s., fermented, 54s. to 56s.; Fair Native from other Islands barely reaching 49s. Fermented African is nominally worth 56s. delivered on full landed terms at the usual United Kingdom Ports.

**Coffee.**—The value of good ordinary Jamaica is 38s., and Santos for this month's delivery is quoted 35s. 6d. Market quiet.

**Nutmegs**—In good request. Large sales of West India, 59's at 25. 7d.; 88's, at 1s. 1d.; 100's at 9<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d.; 146's, at 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d.; and in shell 4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d., 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. **Pepper**—Dearer, considerable sales, pale 1s. 6d. to 1s. 11d.; red. 1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d.; and broken 10d. to 1s. 1d. **Pimento**—Dull at 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. for fair. **Ginger**—Quiet. Small sales of Jamaica 25s., 38s.

Arrowroot—London figures to Oct. 1st:	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
Imports...	13,261	11,322	15,966	16,074	21,078 Brls.
Deliveries	14,238	9728	10,052	14,401	16,590 ..
Stocks	11,659	13,845	13,633	9873	7019 ..

Small sales of fair to good manufacturing have been made at 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, but our large buyers still keep out of the market being well supplied, as is shown by the large deliveries indicated above.

**Lime Juice**—Flat, nominal value, 10d. to 1s. 2d. Concentrated, sales made up to £14. Hand Pressed, unchanged at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil—Business done at 1s. 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d.

For Cotton, see Special Article, page 383.

## The Produce Markets Summary—Continued.

### Sugar—

#### CONVENTION BEET ROOT CROPS.

	1903/4	1902/3	1901/2	1900/1	
Germany ...	2,950,000	1,760,000	2,300,000	1,980,000	Tons.
Austria ...	1,160,000	1,050,000	1,300,000	1,090,000	"
France ...	790,000	830,000	1,120,000	1,110,000	"
Holland and Belgium ...	330,000	310,000	530,000	510,000	"
	<b>4,230,000</b>	<b>3,950,000</b>	<b>5,250,000</b>	<b>4,690,000</b>	

Wanted, a fresh set of figures confirming the anticipated decrease in European Beet for 1904/5 to encourage the market in its upward course! At the close of this week, Herr F. O. Licht, who is the best trusted authority on such matters, will give us his views, which it would be futile to anticipate. Be they what they may, the satisfactory price of 11s. or thereabouts, basis 88, appears to be fully warranted, and looks for this season, at least, as though it had come to stay. Welcome indeed is it to Cane Sugar growers. As Convention crops chiefly concern us, let us look roughly how we stand for next year. Calm thinkers are anticipating a reduction this season of 400,000 tons from this source, giving us crops of 3,830,000 tons against 4,230,000 tons last season. Excluding England, Herr F. O. Licht gives the Consumption in Convention Europe at 2,630,000 tons, against 1,710,000 tons in 1902/3, or an increase of 920,000 tons in the twelve months just ended. This is one of the happy results of the abolition of Bounties. Assuming these figures to be correct, as probably they are, assuming that the 400,000 tons deficiency in crops will be borne out by the facts, and assuming also that there will be no further increase in Consumption this year, we arrive at the following figures which cannot fail to be encouraging to West Indian planters

#### CONVENTION BEET ROOT CROPS.

	1904/5	1903/4	1902/3	
Crops ...	3,830,000	4,230,000	3,950,000	Tons.
Consumption ...	2,630,000	2,630,000	1,710,000	"
Available for Export ...	<b>1,200,000</b>	<b>1,600,000</b>	<b>2,240,000</b>	"

The stocks in Convention Countries available for Export and Home Consumption on the 1st September, 1903, were 1,280,000 tons, against 920,000 tons on 1st September last, or a *surplus* of 360,000 tons. If we apply this figure to the above statement we arrive at the following deeply interesting result:—

	1904/5	1903/4	Reduction of available Supply
Crops ...	3,830,000	4,230,000	
Stocks, 1st September ...	920,000	1,280,000	
Available Supply ...	<b>4,750,000</b>	<b>5,510,000</b>	<b>760,000 Tons.</b>

Imports from Convention countries during 1903/4, Sept./Aug., into the United Kingdom were 1,300,000 tons. This does not leave much for other requirements.

The following statement of ten years beet crops with average prices ruling during each season may be useful to those who follow closely the sensational and erratic movements of sugar. From this it will be seen that for the past five years the average has been 8s. 7½d. whilst that of the previous five years was 9s. 8½d. If, as seems probable, the coming five years may produce at least 10s., growers of cane sugar will have every reason to be satisfied with the abolition of Bounties. The season of 1903/4 having closed on the 30th September last, it will be seen that the average price for the crop is 8s. 11½d., which includes the higher quotations ruling during the last three months thereof. It must not be reckoned that beet producers have reaped the full benefit of this price, as by far the larger portion of the crop was sold at a much lower figure during the early part of the season. Average prices of 88% for ten seasons are as follows:—

1903/4.	1902/3	1901/2	1900/1	1899/1900	1898/9	1897/8.	1896/7	1895/6.	1894/5.
8s. 11½d.	8s. 1d.	6s. 6½d.	9s. 2d.	10s. 3d.	10s. 2½d.	9s. 2½d.	8s. 11d.	10s. 9½d.	9s. 6d.
Average of five years 8s. 7½d.									
Average of five years 9s. 8½d.									

#### EUROPEAN BEET CROPS.

5,850,000    5,600,000    6,850,000    6,100,000    5,510,000    4,980,000    4,830,000    4,910,000    4,320,000    4,790,000 Tons.

Closing quotations of 88% are:—Oct. 11s. 1d., Nov. 10s. 11d., Dec. 10s. 11½d., Jan./Mar., 11s. 1½d., May, 11s. 2½d., August, 11s. 4½d., and Oct./Dec., 1905, 10s. 0½d. all free on board Hamburg.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America on uneven dates are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	
Europe ...	1,000,000	1,400,000	1,370,000	540,000	400,000	Tons
United States ...	150,000	150,000	160,000	160,000	40,000	"
Cuba ...	—	140,000	110,000	70,000	—	"
Cargoes afloat ...	290,000	140,000	200,000	110,000	130,000	"
Total ...	<b>1,440,000</b>	<b>1,830,000</b>	<b>1,840,000</b>	<b>880,000</b>	<b>570,000</b>	"

Comparative prices of 88% Beet for 5 years:— 11s. 1d.    8s. 9½d.    7s. 1½d.    7s. 8½d.    9s. 9½d.

**Vacuum Pan Sugar.**—Deliveries of this sugar show a steady expansion and are 38,000 tons since the 1st Jan., against 32,000, 31,000, and 31,000 tons respectively to date the three previous years. Our stocks are at vanishing point, being only 10,000 tons, against 16,000, 35,000, and 18,000 tons. The loss of this trade will be serious unless supplies are kept up. Prices have further advanced this mail, and are now as follows: inferior grades, 18s.; low to good yellow, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 9d.; good sugar, 17s. to 19s. 3d. The value of average qualities is now 18s. 6d. Recent business in Java cargoes at 12s. 3d. warrants that quotation for 95 test on floating terms.

**Molasses Sugar.**—Very scarce, and high prices are obtainable, say from 12s. 6d. up to 16s., according to quality. Peruvian syrups on 89 test have been selling freely up to 9s. 9d. in bond, on floating terms to Clyde Refiners.

**Muscovado.**—There is scarcely anything doing on the spot in grocery kinds, Barbados being nominally worth 14s. to 14s. 6d., duty paid. For a cargo of 89 test to Refiners about 10s. 9d. should be obtainable on floating terms.

#### West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	
Imports to date ...	36,000	20,000	55,000	41,000	Tons.
Deliveries ...	38,000	32,000	33,000	31,000	"
Stocks ...	10,000	16,000	35,000	18,000	"
Crystallised quotations of "average qualities"	18s. 6d.	16s.	13s. 9d.	15s. 6d.	

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.



# The . . . West India Committee Circular

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ENTERED AT  
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## OUR CELEBRITIES

No. XXVIII.



Mr. Edward Kynaston.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SERPENTINE LANE, LONDON.

October 25th, 1904.

**T**HE Grant of a Charter of Incorporation by the King, acceptance of which was formally declared at a General Meeting on October 13th, marks a fresh phase in the existence of the West India Committee which dates, as is recorded in a brief historical summary, the first portion of which begins in the present issue, from the early days of the eighteenth century. The object of Incorporation is to maintain and perpetuate the uninterrupted enjoyment of certain powers, rights, property and privileges, and these will be found set out in the Royal Charter, the full text of which is given on another page. The grant of a Charter is by no means accorded indiscriminately, and our members, now nearly one thousand in number, may well take pride at this mark of distinction conferred upon them by the King, which as Sir Henry Davson said at the General Meeting is an indication of the increasing interest being taken in the West Indies in high quarters. The West India Committee, hitherto a rope of sand, is now a body corporate, in which character its permanency may

be considered assured. For this happy state of affairs the best thanks of our members are due to Mr. Wallwyn P. B. Shephard, who has been largely instrumental in bringing it about.

THE renewed breakdown of the Demerara cable, which was reported on October 10th, serves as a reminder, if any is needed, that the West Indian cable question still awaits solution, and that no disclosure has as yet been made as to the outcome of the deliberations of the Departmental Committee appointed to consider the subject of cable communication in the West Indies, before which the representatives of the West India Committee gave evidence in January last. Mr. Walter B. Kingsford, chairman of the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., who has been touring the West Indies, has stated that his Company has tendered to the Colonial Office to lay cables from Jamaica to St. Lucia, St. Lucia to Barbados, and Barbados to Demerara, and indicates that some arrangement may be made with the Direct West India Cable Co. to give the Colonies an all-British route, and we understand that the Direct West India Cable Co. had already made similar proposals to the Colonial Office. However this may be, it is really time that some decision were come to. Meanwhile, crop is beginning, and British Guiana is dependent on occasional sloops and steamers from Barbados for communication with the outside world, a state of affairs which must be exasperating to merchants. Even if Mr. Kingsford's visit is productive of no other result—and we have strong hopes that it may be—it is satisfactory to find that he admits that many of the daily bulletins sent out by the Panama Company contained rubbish, though we must express surprise at his chiding the Colonies for not letting him know this before. The poor quality of the news supplied has been a constant cause of complaint, and representations have frequently been made regarding it, but hitherto to no purpose. The reforms now promised will be cordially welcomed in the West Indies.

#### Mr. Edward Kynaston.

Though he has never visited the Colonies, the subject of our portrait this week has for many years been a staunch and true friend of the West Indies. Mr. Edward Kynaston entered Mincing Lane as far back as the beginning of 1856, and four years later joined an old established firm of West Indian brokers, since when he has with untiring energy carried on the business of a sugar and colonial broker. In this capacity he now represents Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co., Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller, Messrs. Charles Tennant, Sons & Co., Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co., and others of our Members. Mr. Kynaston has been for many years a Member of the West India Committee, and of the West Indian Club since its formation. He took a lion's share in the Anti-Bounty campaign, and his familiar blue circular, conducted as it was with fearless determination, contributed in no small measure to the success of the movement. On New Year's Day, 1903, in a valedictory circular, Mr. Kynaston gracefully yielded his editorial mantle to other shoulders and became a contributor to the present publication, for the growing importance of which he has been largely responsible.

#### The Stockport Rum Case.

Considerable attention has been given to this case by the public press, and the trade journals as well as the *Lancet* have had leaders on the subject. The *Wine and Spirit Trades Record*, referring to the statement in the *Lancet* that "there is little doubt that rum is very extensively adulterated," says "a more outrageous *non sequitur* could scarcely be conceived, for it was abundantly proved in the Stockport case that there had been no adulteration whatever. The pity is that this over-anxiety on the part of the analytical and medical profession to set up standards of their own, based on inadequate knowledge of the modes of manufacture, is calculated to deter the very object which they have in view—honesty of description." Further, it says "everybody knows that the Colonial rum market is in a bad enough condition without further troubles being created. Cuba, which used to send us 500 puns yearly, now sends 3000, and this being a bounty-fed spirit of the commonest pot-still description. The Government, if it had been consistent in its policy of protecting the home distillers, would have protected the distiller in its own Colonies by raising the duty against this bounty-fed article."



The *Wine Trade Review* publishes a full report, and in a leading article comments strongly on the case.

"We must protest, indeed, against the use which has been made of the word 'genuine' in this connection. Demerara rum may not be, and is not, so fine as Jamaica, but it is perfectly genuine; and if we form an opinion upon the duty payments, is a highly popular beverage. It is probably not known to the general public that genuine rums—under which designation we include Demeraras, Cubas, and others, as well as Jamaicas—are at the present time so cheap that there can be no object in adulterating them with other spirit. We are aware that amongst the unenlightened there is an idea that the rum cask may safely be converted into a kind of waste butt into which the dregs of all kinds may be safely poured. Anything that can be done to stop a practice of that kind would be welcomed by every wellwisher of the trade, but it is time that the public should know that, so far as serious adulteration of rum with spirits purchased for the purpose is concerned, it has become non-existent. The Stockport cases were evidently initiated under a total misapprehension of the circumstances of the trade, and we may hope that, after the summary manner in which they were dismissed, we shall hear nothing of similar prosecutions in the future."

### The Barbados Railway.

We understand that the Liquidators of the Bridgetown and St. Andrew's Railway Co., Barbados, are by this Mail submitting to the Governor of the Colony certain proposals which it is hoped may result in the continuance of the railway. It seems that the Company is prepared to accept a moderate figure and to extend the period for payment over a number of years, if the Barbados Government are disposed to come forward as purchasers. In view of this proposal, the Company have decided to continue working the railway for a period of about three months, so that the Government of Barbados may have time adequately to consider the matter. As there seems to be little or no chance of capital being forthcoming in this country, there would appear to be but two alternatives, the abandonment of the railway or its purchase by the local Government, and, as we have previously pointed out, it would be little short of a disaster to Barbados if at a time when confidence is being restored in the West Indies and the outlook is brighter than for many years past, an undertaking such as the railway were to be abandoned. Moreover, it would seem that in the event of a system of central sugar factories being erected, the railway would be essential to the success of those undertakings in the district served by the existing railway.

### The Cotton Industry.

A very large gathering is expected at the banquet to be held at the Midland Hotel, Manchester, on November 12th, to celebrate the Incorporation of the British Cotton Growing Association by Royal Charter, among those who have accepted invitations to be present being the Duke of Marlborough and Lord Onslow.

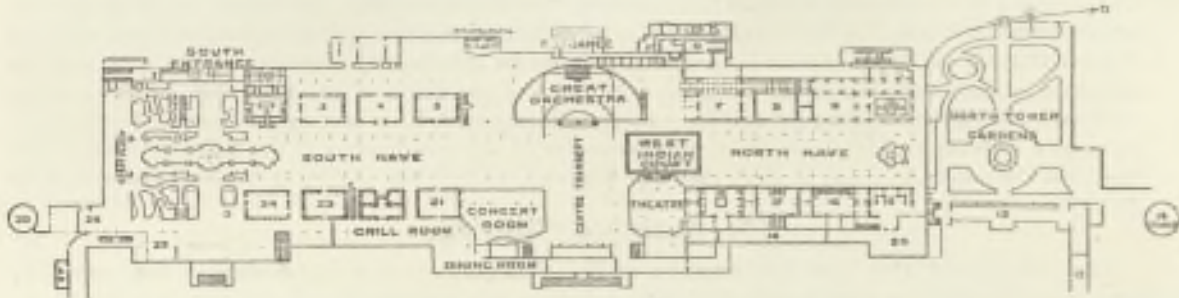
As regards the cotton market, American Sea Island, Floridas, and Georgias were all reduced 1d. per lb. on October 21st, and West Indian Sea Island  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. in sympathy. Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland write to us that the former are scarcely low enough yet as compared with Savannah and Charleston prices, but as there is a good demand at those ports for the northern mills of America, and as European spinners have little or no stocks, they do not look for much further decline.

During the fortnight ended October 20th, 25 bales of West Indian Cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Sales have been effected in Liverpool at the following prices: West India, 4.87-7.00d. per lb.; West India Sea Island, medium fine 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; fine 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; extra fine 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.

### The Colonial and Indian Exhibition, 1905.

The plan below is given to show the space which has been provisionally allotted to the West India Committee for the West Indian Court at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition to be held at the Crystal Palace in 1905. It will be seen that the space allotted is in a most advantageous position immediately in front of the central entrance to the Palace and adjacent to the centre transept. It is understood that the corresponding space on the opposite side of the transept will be allotted to Canada, which will,

it is expected, take a space of no less than 25,000 square feet. India is to be represented, and the Australian Colonies are taking separate action. Victoria has contracted for 1500 square feet, and New South Wales and New Zealand are each arranging to have 2500 square feet, and the promoters have also had hearty encouragement from Australia and Fiji. The West African Colonies will be immediately behind the West Indian Court, occupying an aggregate space of 2500 square feet. The co-operation of Rhodesia and British Central Africa has also been secured.



Plan of Proposed Colonial and Indian Exhibition, 1905.

As regards the West Indies, the Government of Jamaica has now decided to submit to the Legislative Council a vote of £1000 to meet the necessary expenses, and the Colonial Secretary of the Colony has requested the West India Committee to make arrangements for a space of 2500 square feet. As the Legislature of Trinidad has voted a sum of £1500, it is to be presumed they will require a space of similar extent. The opinion has been expressed in certain quarters that it might be desirable for representatives of the Colonies to accompany the exhibits, but the Committee are of opinion that this will not be necessary, as they are willing to undertake entire management of the exhibits, thus saving much unnecessary expense—but this of course is a matter for the Colonies themselves. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service has also generously agreed to carry exhibits free of charge.

### The Progress of British Guiana.

We regret to notice in the *International Sugar Journal* for October, an article which casts a slur on the British Guiana planter. It states:—

“Signs are not wanting that the planters of British Guiana are endeavouring to keep the van of progress. There is more willingness now to accept technical help from chemists and others, instead of putting obstacles into their way. Centralization is the order of the day and larger and better equipped factories are springing up. Cotton, from which so much was expected, is proving a complete failure. South Sea Island cotton has been tried and found unsuitable; it has, moreover, been attacked by the cotton bug and possibly other diseases. Hence it is evident that the position of sugar as the staple industry is not yet even threatened.”

As a matter of fact, British Guiana has for years been forward in the application of science to sugar-making. Chemistry has for a long time played an important part in both field and factory, the present system of manuring and manufacture being the outcome of careful and extensive observation and experiment. The Colony has for long taken an important part in seedling cane experiments, and planters have all along cordially associated themselves with Professor J. B. Harrison in his prolific labours and arduous search for an improved cane. As regards the estate, centralisation has been the order of the day for many years, while large water conservancy schemes have been carried out by the planters for the general good of the Colony. It is premature to say that cotton has proved a failure. It is true that the Sea Island variety has been found unsuitable, but there is every reason to believe that the variety suited to the soil will do well. Readers of Mr. Darnell Davis's recent article in the *Demerara Argosy* will realize how well cotton has done in the Colony in the past, and there is no reason why a profitable revival of the industry should not take place.





Photo by ALBERTUS E. JEFFERS.

RETURNING FROM THE MARKET.

### Our Royal Charter of Incorporation.

A General Meeting of the West India Committee was held on Thursday, October 13th at 3 p.m. in the Committee Rooms, 15 Seething Lane, E.C., Sir Henry K. Davson presiding. Among those present were Mr. Edward Anderson, Mr. Claude T. Berthon, Mr. Fred Browne, Mr. Sam Browne, Mr. A. N. Carvalho, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Mr. H. A. Hood Daniel, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. Ivan B. Davson, Mr. T. DuBuisson, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbons, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. E. Hallows, Capt. Hodges, Mr. George Hughes, Mr. Edward Kynaston, Messrs. T. Lowndes & Co., Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. Allan E. Messer, Mr. Boyd A. Neilson, Mr. Charles Thomas Orford, Mr. H. S. Osment, Col. Sir Roper Parkington, Mr. C. A. Philip, Mr. Henry F. Previtè, Mr. J. W. Previtè, Mr. Joseph Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Capt. J. B. Saunders, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. O. Smith, Mr. S. A. Smith (New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co.), Messrs. Smith Bros. & Co., Mr. Roger Thompson, Lt.-Col. F. C. Trollope, Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G., Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, Mr. W. A. Wolseley, Mr. T. B. Younger, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

SIR HENRY K. DAVSON expressed regret at the absence of their respected Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, who had intended up to the very last to be present but was prevented by indisposition. His absence was the more to be regretted because he would have addressed them in a way he, Sir Henry, could not do, especially as he had been called upon at a moment's notice to take his place. The object of the meeting was to present to them the Royal Charter which His Majesty the King had been pleased to bestow on the West India Committee. This bestowal was no light honour; it marked the recognition by Royalty of the services which the West India Committee had performed towards the Colonies. It also showed the interest taken in high places in the welfare of the West Indies, and it was a fact that they should all remember afterwards that the bestowal of this Charter synchronised with what they believed to be the beginning of a new era of prosperity, (hear, hear). The West India Committee had always taken the greatest interest in the Colonies, and they might rest assured, numbering as they did now nearly 1000 Members, that that interest would be continued. The Committee was no new formation, and although he could not give the exact date when it was first formed, their records went back to 1769. In those days they had among their Members the Lord Mayors and Aldermen of the City of London, and their records told how St. James's Street, where the meetings once took place, was blocked with carriages. Sir Henry did not think they would ever see Seething Lane in that condition, but he did believe that, with the growing interest and other industries besides sugar now being taken up, they would always have a goodly number of men able and willing to encourage the West Indies. Mr. Rutherford would mention the names of those gentlemen who had shown such a keen interest in obtaining the Charter, and he would therefore be content with moving the resolution: "That the West India Committee, in general meeting this day assembled, declare their acceptance on behalf of the members generally of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, which His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to grant to them by letters patent, under the Great Seal, dated August 4th 1904," (applause).

MR. SHEPHEARD said there was one point of order to which he would draw attention. He thought the words "all property of the West India Committee do vest in the corporate body" should be added to the resolution. The amendment having been made, the resolution was seconded by Mr. Spencer H. Curtis and carried unanimously.

MR. R. RUTHERFORD then said he wished, as one of the Treasurers, to propose a vote of thanks to Mr. Shephard, who had been of great assistance to Mr. Aspinall in obtaining the Royal Charter. The resolution having been seconded by Mr. E. L. Marshall and carried unanimously, Mr. Shephard said he was exceedingly obliged for the vote of thanks they had been pleased to pass, but he must disclaim to have been the sole means of carrying the Charter through, because



a brother barrister of his happened to be the valuable secretary of the Association, and the grant of the Charter was due to their joint action. He would only accept the vote if they would allow him to add that they were indebted to the Secretary of the West India Committee, and he took it that the Secretary's name would be inserted in the resolution. This having been agreed to, the meeting terminated.

#### The Text of the Charter.

**Edward The Seventh**, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, TO ALL TO WHOM these Presents shall come, Greeting

**Whereas** Sir Nevile Lubbock, K C M G, Sir Henry Katz Davson, Kt., and Algernon Edward Aspinall, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, have by their Petition humbly represented to us that they are respectively the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and Secretary of an Association established early in the Eighteenth Century and called The West India Committee, and that the Association is formed of British subjects personally interested in the agricultural and manufacturing industries and trade of the British West Indies, British Guiana, and British Honduras, and subscribing voluntarily to the funds of the Association, and that the object of the Association is by united action to promote the interests of such industries and trade and thus increase the general welfare of our above mentioned Colonies and Possessions, and that it would be for the public advantage, and enable the said object more effectively to be attained if the Association were incorporated, and have humbly besought us to grant Sir Nevile Lubbock, K C M G, Sir Henry Katz Davson, Kt., and Algernon Edward Aspinall, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, and the other Members of the said Association, Our Charter of Incorporation.

**Now know ye** that We being desirous of encouraging a design so laudable and salutary, of Our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, have willed granted and declared, and DO by these presents for Us, Our heirs and successors, will, grant, and declare in manner following, that is to say:—

1 Sir Nevile Lubbock, K C M G, Sir Henry Katz Davson, Knight, and Algernon Edward Aspinall, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, and such other of Our Loving Subjects as now are Members of the said Association, or shall from time to time be duly admitted Members thereof by the Executive Committee, hereinafter referred to, and their successors, are hereby constituted, and shall for ever hereafter be by virtue of these presents one body politic and corporate by the name of The West India Committee, and for the purposes and by the name aforesaid shall have perpetual succession and a Common Seal with full power to alter, vary, break and renew the same Common Seal from time to time at their discretion, and by the same name to sue and be sued in every Court of Us, Our heirs and successors, and be for ever able and capable in the law to purchase, receive, possess, hold and enjoy to them and their successors any goods and chattels whatsoever, and to act in all concerns of the said body politic and corporate as effectually for all purposes as any other of Our hege subjects, or any other body politic and corporate in the United Kingdom not being under any disability might do in their respective concerns.

2 The West India Committee may, notwithstanding the Statutes of Mortmain, take, purchase, hold and enjoy to them and their successors a house or building and any such messuages or hereditaments of any tenure as may be necessary or convenient for carrying out the purposes of The West India Committee, but so that the yearly value thereof to be computed at the rack rent which might be gotten for the same at the time of the purchase or other acquisition, and including the site of the said house or other building, do not exceed in the whole the sum of £2,000. And We do hereby grant Our especial license and authority unto all and every person and persons, bodies politic and corporate (otherwise competent), to assure, grant, sell, alienate and convey in Mortmain to or to the use and benefit of or in trust for The

West India Committee and their successors any messuages or hereditaments not exceeding the annual value aforesaid, and also any sum or sums of money, security for money and other personal estate to be laid out and disposed of in the purchase of any lands, tenements and hereditaments not exceeding the like yearly value, for the purposes of The West India Committee, and The West India Committee shall have full power to sell, lease, exchange and dispose of all or any of the said lands, tenements and hereditaments and apply the proceeds of any sale thereof for the purposes of The West India Committee, subject, nevertheless, to the provisions of this Our Charter.

3 In case any member of The West India Committee shall become ineligible in the judgment of the Executive Committee hereinafter constituted to continue a member of The West India Committee, and a resolution to that effect shall be passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the whole number of the members of the Executive Committee who in this behalf shall have power to vote either in person or by proxy, such person shall forthwith cease to be a member of The West India Committee for all purposes whatsoever, and such resolution shall be final and conclusive. Upon receipt by the Secretary of a notice of withdrawal signed by any Member of The West India Committee such Member shall cease to be a Member, but shall remain liable for the payment to the Secretary of the amount of subscriptions, if any, due from and unpaid by such Member.

4 The West India Committee shall have an Executive Committee and the Executive Committee and General Meetings of the Members to be held in the City or County of London in accordance with this Our Charter shall, subject to the provisions of this Our Charter, have the entire management and direction of the concerns of The West India Committee.

5 The Executive Committee shall consist of not more than thirty six or less than twenty Members of The West India Committee who shall be elected in General Meeting, and of such additional Members not exceeding three in number at any one time who may be elected by the Executive Committee as next hereinafter respectively provided. There shall be a Chairman, Deputy Chairman, a Treasurer or Treasurers, and a Secretary or Secretaries of The West India Committee. The Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, and the Treasurer or Treasurers shall be elected annually by the Executive Committee from members of their own body. A President and Vice-Presidents of The West India Committee may be appointed by any General Meeting with such powers, subject to the provisions of these presents, as such General Meeting may determine.

6 The members of the existing Executive Committee, namely, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K C M G, Chairman, Sir Henry Katz Davson, Kt., Deputy Chairman, and Spencer Henry Curtis, Cyril Gurney, Robert Rutherford, and William Augustus Wolseley, Esquires, Treasurers, and Sir Alfred Lewis Jones, K C M G, and Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Charles Trollope, and William Henry Alty, Edward George Barr, Colin Algernon Campbell, George Carrington, George Christall, Edward Rae Davson, Eliot Arthur de Pass, Harry Hankey Dobree, Thomas Du Buisson, Alexander Crum Ewing, Gregor Macgregor Frame, Mewburn Garnett, William Gillespie, Henry Hales, Arthur Morier Lee, Arthur Nevile Lubbock, Frederick Lubbock, Ernest Luxmore Marshall, Arthur John McConnell, Frederick Vavasour McConnell, Edward Packard, Charles Sandbach Parker, Henry Francis Previté, Wallwyn Poyer Burnett Shephard, James Davis Taylor, and Henry Alexander Trotter, Esquires, shall be the first Executive Committee,

and shall continue in office until the Annual General Meeting to be held under these presents in the month of April or May, 1905, when one-third of the whole number of such members, who by the existing rules would retire in rotation, shall retire, but be eligible for re-election, and in like manner, and order of rotation at each succeeding Annual General Meeting, one-third of the whole number of members of the Executive Committee shall retire but be eligible for re-election. The Executive Committee shall have power to elect Members of The West India Committee to fill up vacancies in its body caused by the death or retirement of any of its members, and also to elect from time to time any additional members of The West India Committee to act on the Executive Committee, but so that such additional members shall not exceed three in all at any one time. The Executive Committee shall have power in the event of the death or retirement of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, or any one or more of the Treasurers during the current year of their office to elect some other member or members of The West India Committee to fill the office or offices so vacated. Any member elected by the Executive Committee to fill a vacancy during any current year shall retire and be eligible for re-election at an Annual General Meeting in the same and like manner as the Member whose death or retirement caused the vacancy.

7. The Executive Committee shall, subject to the Rules referred to in this Our Charter, have the sole management of the income, funds and property of The West India Committee and the full and absolute power to realise the property of The West India Committee both real and personal or any portion thereof, and apply and appropriate the proceeds for the purposes of The West India Committee and to conduct and superintend all other the affairs of The West India Committee, and to appoint and dismiss at their pleasure all salaried and other officers, attendants and servants as they may think fit and may, subject to these presents, do all such things as shall appear to them necessary and expedient for giving effect to the object of The West India Committee, and incidental thereto may from time to time make such Rules as may be expedient with power of revocation and amendment. The existing Rules of The West India Committee so far as not inconsistent with these presents shall continue in force until and except so far as they are altered by the Executive Committee pursuant to the powers in that behalf hereinbefore provided. Provided that no Rule, revocation or amendment thereof shall take effect until the same shall have been allowed by the Lords of Our Privy Council, of which allowance a certificate under the hand of the Clerk of Our Privy Council shall be conclusive evidence.

8. The Executive Committee shall once in every year present to the Annual General Meeting a report of the proceedings of The West India Committee, together with a statement of the receipts and expenditure, and of the financial position of The West India Committee.

9. The Annual General Meeting of The West India Committee, to be duly convened by the Secretary, by such previous notice in writing, for the transaction of such business to be stated in the notice convening the Meeting, as the Executive Committee may determine, shall be held in April or May, and Ordinary Meetings to be convened in manner aforesaid may be held at such other times as the Executive Committee may determine. Special General Meetings shall be held upon the written requisition of any thirty Members of The West India Committee or of any six Members of the Executive Committee, such Meetings being convened by the Secretary within fourteen days after receiving such requisition by notice in writing stating the object of the Meeting, and fixing as the date of the Meeting a day not less than fourteen days and not more than three calendar months from the date of such notice. At all General Meetings Members of The West India Committee may vote either in person or by proxy. The notices convening General Meetings shall only be sent to such Members of The West India Committee as have addresses in the United Kingdom duly recorded in the Register of Members.

All General Meetings shall be deemed duly constituted when not less than thirty Members are present, and any General Meeting may be adjourned, and such adjourned Meetings shall be deemed duly constituted when not less than fifteen Members are present.

No Rule, Resolution or other proceeding shall be made or had by The West India Committee, or any Meeting thereof, or by the Executive Committee, contrary to the general scope or true intent and meaning of this Our Charter, or the laws or statutes of Our Realm, and anything done contrary to this present clause shall be void.

In witness whereof We have caused these Our letters to be made patent. Witness Ourselves at Westminster, the fourth day of August, in the fourth year of Our Reign.

BY WARRANT UNDER THE KING'S

SIGN MANUAL.

MUIR MACKENZIE.



### A Glance at our Old Records.\*

What is the West India Committee? What is it doing for the Colonies? These are questions which are happily becoming less frequent as the benefits derived from the abolition of the Foreign Sugar Bounties, the work upon which this body has concentrated its attention of past years, become more and more apparent. Let it not however be supposed from this that sugar is the only industry with the welfare of which the West India Committee is concerned. The Committee is formed of British subjects personally interested in the agricultural and manufacturing industries and trade of the British West Indies, British Guiana, and British Honduras, and its object is by united action to promote the interests of such industries and trade and thus increase the general welfare of those Colonies. Co-operation is its watchword, and its members, now rapidly approaching 1000, realise that their united representations carry more weight than those of the individual; that a solid West India cable is of more value than a single island link.

The management of the West India Committee is in the hands of an Executive, consisting of not more than thirty six or less than twenty, who are elected at the annual general meeting, and meet fortnightly on the day following the departure of the outgoing mail, and more often if need be, to

\* This article, by the Secretary, appears in "The Book of the West Indies," from which it is reproduced by kind permission of the Proprietors.



transact such business as may be brought before them. It is doubtful whether it is fully realised in the West Indies how much of their valuable time these loyal absentees—for such, from the nature of things, they must be—give to the problems propounded by the West Indian Colonies. Had it not been for their ungrudging efforts, it is safe to say that the plight of the West Indies would have been a sorry one at the present time.

Representatives of each of the Colonies are appointed to this Executive Committee, and herein lies one of the secrets of the success which has attended its deliberations. By its means the planters and merchants are able to speak with united voice, and the grievance of the small Colony, which might otherwise be overlooked, receives as full attention as matters affecting the large Colony, and if found genuine, has much greater chance of redress when endorsed by the representatives of the larger Colonies surrounding it. It would be well for those in the West Indies, where the value of co-operation has never been fully appreciated, to bear this in mind! Honorary correspondents are appointed in all the Colonies, from Jamaica to Guiana, who keep the Executive fully conversant with local affairs and draw to its notice matters which call for attention. The Committee also works in close co-operation with the old-established West India Associations of Glasgow and Liverpool, the West India sections of the Bristol and Liverpool Chambers of Commerce, and it is also one of the affiliated Associations of the London Chamber of Commerce.

The West India Committee is the oldest existing association representative of the planters and merchants of any of our Colonies; but, unfortunately, owing to frequent change of offices, the existing records of this body only date back to 1769, in which year Mr. Beeston Long was Chairman, and Sir Alexander Grant, Bart., the Right Hon. Samuel Turner, the then Lord Mayor of London, Mr. Alderman Trecothick, Mr. Alderman Hopkins, and Mr. Beckford (the father of the eccentric author of "Vathek"), subsequent Lord Mayors, and Mr. Alderman Oliver were among the most regular attendants at the meetings, which were then held at the King's Arms Tavern, Cornhill. The Marine Society's office, the London Tavern, Bishopsgate Street, the Jamaica Coffee House, the Colonial Club House, and the Thatched House Tavern, St. James' Street, were among the most popular places of meeting; but the most dignified, perhaps, was the West India Club House, 60, St. James' Street, where the Committee rented an imposing suite of rooms. Those were halcyon days for the West Indies, and it is recorded that complaints were frequent at the block caused in that well-known thoroughfare by the coaches of the wealthy West Indian proprietors! The West India Committee is at present housed in commodious premises in Scothing Lane, where the diarist, Samuel Pepys, lived when Clerk of the Acts. The Committee Rooms form a pleasant oasis for the Members from the West Indies when they come to the City to visit their merchants. Here they can read the West Indian papers, conduct their correspondence, and hear the latest gossip regarding the Islands of the Caribbean.

About the middle of the eighteenth century, one of the principal functions of the West India Committee was to arrange with the Lords of the Admiralty for convoys to accompany the merchantmen to and from the West Indies, and in the earlier minute books many such resolutions as the following are to be found:—

" March 25th, 1777. That application be made to the Right Hon. the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that a convoy for the West Indies may sail from Portsmouth on the 20th of April next, waiting 48 hours after a fair wind for the ships from the Downs, and that the convoy may stop at Madeira."

How different a voyage to the West Indies must have been in those days! One can picture in one's mind, a fleet of upwards of 100 merchantmen rolling at anchor off the Goodwins and waiting for the favourable breeze which would enable them to spread their sails, and flock, like birds, down the Channel to join the convoy at Portsmouth, which was to protect them from the American privateers and, for we were then on the verge of war with France, from possible attack by French

cruisers. Some passengers would row down the Thames from Billingsgate steps and sail from Gravesend; others would post through the garden of England and join their ship at Ramsgate or Deal, if they did not prefer making Southampton or Falmouth their port of departure.

(TO BE CONTINUED).

### New Members of the West India Committee.

By virtue of Rule IV., subscriptions from Members elected during the last three months of this year will not, when paid, be renewable until January 1st, 1906. The present is therefore a good opportunity to seek Membership of the West India Committee. At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on Thursday, October 13th last, the following new members were elected:—

Name.	Proposer.	Secunder.
Messrs. G. P. MITCHELL & SON, Ltd. (Canada)	Donald McDonald, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
JOSEPH T. DEW, Esq. (Antigua)	John McNeil, Esq.	W. A. Wolseley, Esq.
C. H. WARD, Esq.	Col. Hon. C. J. Ward, C.M.G.	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.
G. E. S. FRYER, Esq.	A. Morier Lee, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
C. H. JOSEPH DE GANNES, Esq. (Trinidad)	Edgar Tripp, Esq.	Hon. C. Leotaud.
HARRY H. FOWLER, Esq. (Trinidad)	Edgar Tripp, Esq.	R. Fitt, Esq.
ROBERT W. McDONALD, Esq. (Antigua)	F. Nunez Martinez, Esq.	Sir Neville Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
P. M. J. SHERIFF, Esq. (St. Vincent)	Sir Henry K. Davson	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.
E. STURRIDGE, Esq., D.D.S., L.D.S., R.C.S., Eng.	R. Rutherford, Esq.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.
GEORGE KELLARD, Esq. (St. Thomas)	F. Nunez Martinez, Esq.	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.
ANDREW S. KERNAHAN, Esq. (Trinidad)	George Grant, Esq.	Wm. Gillespie, Esq.
JAMES ARNOLD, Esq.	E. Kynaston, Esq.	W. Anderson, Esq.

### Colonial Reports—Barbados, 1903-4.\*

The annual report of Barbados is again the first of the series for 1903-4 to make its appearance, a matter for congratulation to Mr. S. W. Knaggs, the Colonial Secretary. The revenue proper of the financial year was £180,831, being £8345 less than was anticipated, but £19,246 in excess of the revenue of the year 1902-3. Customs (£15,000) and excise (£3000) were the principal items in which increases occurred, but the year 1902-3 was one of such abnormal depression that it is hardly possible to make any useful deductions from these figures. The ordinary recurrent expenditure of 1903-4 was £176,309, less by £5,533 than the estimate, and £18,037 under the expenditure of the previous year; this reduction being chiefly due to the decreased expenditure under the head of "Medical" (£16,448).

The revenue and expenditure of the last five years have been:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	
1899	£176,022	£177,255	£1,233 deficit.
1900	185,475	176,982	£8,493 surplus.
1901-2	179,973	175,350	£4,623 ,,
1902-3	161,585	194,346	£32,761 deficit.
1903-4	180,831	176,309	£4,522 surplus.

From these figures are excluded the grant of £40,000 made to the Colony by the Imperial Government in 1899 to meet the expenses caused by the hurricane of 1898; the further grant of £80,000 in 1902 in aid of the sugar industry; and the temporary loan of £10,500 from the Colonial Bank.

The value of the imports of the year 1903 was £821,618, a decrease of £51,061 on the figures of 1902, attributable to the depression which diminished considerably the purchasing powers of the people. The exports of the year 1903 were valued at £552,891, being £39,574 less than those of

\* Colonial Reports Annual, No. 432, Barbados, 1903-4.



1902. Consequent upon the small yield of the sugar crop, estimated at 35,000 tons, the value of the exports, representing the produce and manufactures of the Colony, fell from £445,582 to £419,840, a loss of £25,742 which was made up as under:—

	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
Sugar	£301,602	£259,746	—	£41,856
Molasses	119,728	136,548	£16,820	—
Rum	64	90	26	—
Other Products	24,188	23,456	—	732
Total	£445,582	£419,840	£16,846	£42,588

Other products included Fruit and Vegetables, £7099; Manjak, £6508; Lime (building) £1562; Animals (living) £1273; Aerated Mineral Waters, £970; Tamarinds, £866; Hides, £569; other minor products £4699. The exports were sent to the following countries: United Kingdom, £13,372; United States of America, £252,314; British North America, £135,339; British West Indies, £10,829; British Guiana, £5321; other Countries, £2665; total, £419,840.

(TO BE CONCLUDED).



### The Departure of Sir Frederic Hodgson from Barbados.

Sir Frederic Hodgson left Bridgetown on September 26th, to assume the Government of British Guiana. The volunteers kept the guard near the Public Buildings, and large crowds lined both sides of the Carenage and occupied all the galleries and many of the roofs of the houses. Sir Frederic and Lady Hodgson embarked on the tug the "Lady Hay," at the Chamberlain Bridge, to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne." This illustration is from a photograph kindly lent by Mr. Robert F. Parkinson, by whose son it was taken.

### Publications Received.

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, etc., for our Library. We have to acknowledge with thanks, the receipt of the following:—

THE GRENADA BLUE BOOK for 1903 has been received by the Mail

SIX MONTHS IN THE WEST INDIES, 1825, by Henry Nelson Coleridge, M.A., 1832. We are indebted to Mr. Edward T. Whitaker for a copy of this volume.

THE AGRICULTURAL NEWS, Vol. III, No. 65 (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 1d., post free 1½d.) The leading article in this issue is devoted to the Sisal Hemp Industry in the West Indies. A brief sketch is given of the progress of the Industry in the Bahamas and Caicos Islands.

"THE BOOK ON THE WEST INDIES," George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., London, 6/- A series of articles regarding the West Indies are collected in this volume, which is published with the intention of developing the commerce and tourist business of the West Indies and increasing the revenues of the Islands.

"BED TIME FAIRY TALES" Messrs. John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Ltd., Great Titchfield Street, W. Price, 3s. 6d. net, are the work of Mr. Harold Hamel Smith, whose name is well-known in the West Indies. It is well worth the attention of "grown-ups." Although children never seem to tire of the same old stories, these will be a welcome change, and no time should be lost in getting them by those who wish to give pleasure to their young friends.

REPORTS ON THE BOTANIC STATION AND EXPERIMENT PLOTS, GRENADA, 1903-4 (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 3d., post free 3½d.) Botanic Station.—The expenditure for the year was £570 18s. The proceeds of the sale of plants, fruit, etc., amounted to £44 19s. 9d. The rainfall for the year was 82.40 inches. There was a falling off in the number of plants distributed during the year. Satisfactory results appear to have been obtained in the experiment plots attached to the Station, especially in the case of onions. Experiment Plots.—Experiments with cacao were carried on at four plots, while a plot each was devoted to pine-apples and grape vines. The report of the Acting Agricultural Instructor deals with the working of these four plots. On the whole, good results were obtained from the cacao plots, especially those at Vendome and Colombier. In the manurial plots, basic slag and sulphate of potash have given the best returns.

REPORTS ON THE BOTANIC STATION, ECONOMIC EXPERIMENTS, AND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION, ANTIGUA, 1903-4 (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 3d., post free 3½d.) Mr. A. H. Kirby, B.A., Agricultural and Science Master, acted as Curator for most of the year. There was a slight increase in the number of economic plants distributed. The work of raising seedling canes was continued. A supply of plants was furnished for planting in connection with the Arbor Day celebrations. The season appears to have been an unusually favourable one, the rainfall for the year being 7.80 inches greater than in the previous year and 16.35 inches greater than the average for the past thirty years. Experiments were carried on at Scott's Hill and Skerrett's with a large variety of economic plants. In the case of those with sweet potatoes, very largely increased yields were obtained. The experiments with new varieties of corn were continued. This report contains an interesting and comprehensive review of the cotton cultivation. In all, nearly 600 acres were planted. Insect pests, especially the cotton worm, proved very troublesome. Mr. Sands rendered valuable assistance to planters in advising them as to the methods for their suppression. The Central Factory, opened in December last, has three gins and a baling press; already 150 bales, of 180 lb. each, have been sent out.

### Notes of Interest.

**THE PREVAILING CRAZE.** Seven series of picture postcards from the photographs which are appearing in these columns are about to be published by Messrs. Raphael Tuck & Sons.

**TO POPULARISE THE WEST INDIES.** Particulars regarding the volume "Sun Pictures of the Antilles and British Guiana" to which we referred in our last issue, can be obtained from Messrs. H. & W. Grant, 18-19, Whitefriars Street, E.C.

**Mr. SCARD'S RETURN.** Mr. F. I. Scard, of the New Colonial Company, returns to Demerara by the mail. During his absence from the Colony, Mr. Scard has kept in close touch with West Indian affairs, and has rendered valuable assistance to the West India Committee for which we are very grateful.

**CABLE DELAYS.** We are requested by the Direct West India Cable Company, to state that no delay whatever has occurred to telegrams marked "via Bermuda," and any telegrams reaching the hands of the Company owing to the interruption to the Key West or Havana route, which have been marked "via Bermuda," by the senders, have been expeditiously transmitted and delivered as soon as handed to them.

**WEST INDIAN PRODUCE.** While our pages are adorned with so many useful notices it would be invidious to refer to any particular advertisement, but we should like to call attention to our column "Where to obtain West Indian Produce" which will be found on page IV. By patronising the firms therein mentioned and buying genuine West Indian sugars, cigars, honey, turtle soup, lime juice, bananas, curios, etc., our readers will be doing a good turn to the West Indies and themselves.

**PRAEDIAL LARCENY.** It will be remembered that in July last we published correspondence which had passed with the Colonial Office on the subject of praedial larceny, in which Mr. Lyttelton promised to bear in mind the suggestion of the *Port of Spain Gazette*, which we cordially endorsed, that this question should be discussed at an Inter-Colonial Conference. We now understand that there is every probability of the subject being placed on the agenda of the Agricultural Conference to be held in Trinidad early next year under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture.



**R.M.S.P.Co. AQUATIC GALA.** Numerous friends of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, were entertained at the Westminster Baths on Monday, October 10th, when the first Annual Aquatic Gala was given by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Swimming Club. The programme provided included a cock fight, obstacle race, and "hunt the bellman" which caused much merriment. The arrangements reflected great credit upon the Captain Mr. R. O. Mennell, the Hon. Sec. Mr. A. M. Tredgold, and the Committee, which comprised Messrs. R. G. Waine, W. E. Fuller, D. Adams, C. W. Pacey, and whip Mr. G. A. Boxall.

**A TRINIDAD WEDDING.** We have to extend our cordial congratulations to the Hon. W. Sloane Robertson, of Trinidad and Tobago, upon his marriage to the daughter of Mr. George R. M'Gibbon, which was solemnized in Edinburgh on October 19th. After the marriage there was a reception and lunch held at the Royal Hotel, Princes Street, Edinburgh, at which about one hundred people were present, including the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Sir Robert and Lady Cranston, and other friends of the bride. Mr. Robertson's West Indian friends were represented by Mr. and Mrs. George Christall, Mr. and Mrs. Prentice, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Mr. John Price, of London, and Mr. Robert Harvey, who attended the bridegroom as best man.

**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "St. Vincent" from Liverpool for Demerara, October 27th; S.S. "Chancellor" from Liverpool for Barbados, St. Lucia, and Trinidad, November 1st; S.S. "Savan" from London for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, and Demerara, November 3rd; and the R.M.S. "Port Antonio" from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, on November 5th. Letters for Grenada and Trinidad, posted on November 2nd marked "via New York," will go forward by S.S. "Maraval" from New York on November 12th, and be delivered in Grenada on November 21st, and Trinidad on November 22nd. The usual postage of 1d. suffices. Letters should be marked per "S.S.———" and the port of departure named. *Information for publication under this head is invited from Shipping Companies.*

**TROPICAL MEDICINE.** We have just received a detailed report of the inaugural address delivered by Sir Charles Bruce at the opening of the winter season of the London School of Tropical Medicine on the 7th inst. Sir John Craggs was in the chair, and among those present were Sir Frederick Young, Sir Patrick Manson, Sir Francis Lovell, and Sir Noel Walker. For over 35 years Sir Charles Bruce lived constantly in an environment of tropical disease, and early in his Colonial service suffered severely from the effects of malarial fever, and he was, therefore, in a position to speak as to the desirability of the study of tropical diseases. A report of the meeting was given in the *Times* of October 8th, but those desirous of reading more closely his interesting address can do so at the West India Committee rooms. Should any Members send us subscriptions in furtherance of the admirable work being done by the School of Tropical Medicine, we shall be most happy to convey them to the proper quarter.

**THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.** The first fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club after the holidays was held in the Club Rooms, on Wednesday, October 12th, when Mr. R. Rutherford presided over a pleasant gathering of members and their friends, who included Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. Clarence Lopez, Mr. J. E. Braham, Sir Simeon Stuart, Bart., Mr. W. A. M. Goodc, Mr. E. W. Lucie-Smith, Mr. E. F. H. Cox, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. F. Stroud, Dr. L. O. Crosswell, Captain J. B. Saunders, Mr. H. Bailey, Mr. Sturridge, Mr. C. R. Winn, Mr. A. L. Rye, Mr. G. Hughes, Mr. S. Browne, Mr. F. Browne, Mr. C. Cooper, Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. Martin Elliot, Mr. L. F. Hudson, Mr. D. L. Slinger, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. R. Williamson, Mr. W. P. B. Shepherd, Mr. E. B. Skeete, Mr. G. W. Shepherd, Mr. J. J. Sabey, Mr. R. Wynne, Mr. H. A. Hood Daniel, Mr. R. Rust, Mr. G. H. H. Pile, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. H. O. Smith, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. C. H. Yorke Slader, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. C. M. Goodridge, Mr. F. W. Scott, and Mr. H. Scott.

### The Homeward Mail.

The Homeward Mail still brings satisfactory news from the West Indies. The new Governors had, in most cases, arrived and been cordially received in their respective Colonies. Crop conditions were on the whole satisfactory when the Mail left, and complaints were few. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Tagus" anchored off Plymouth on Wednesday, Oct. 19th, at 1.55 p.m., and the Mails were delivered in London by first post on the following morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, October 12th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received per R.M.S. "Tagus."

#### Antigua—Peasant Proprietors.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) October 5th. The event of the fortnight had been the arrival of the new Governor, Sir Clement Courtenay Knollys.

The Belvidere factory had purchased 1187 tons of peasant cane grown during the past crop, the last price paid for cane being 10/2 a ton. With such a price for cane, there was no doubt that the position of the peasant would be much

Improved, and it must be remembered that the cost of cane cultivation in Antigua to the peasant, was probably considerably less than in Trinidad or Demerara, where the weeding and draining were so much more difficult. The Central Factory had now most of its machinery in position.

The weather had been too dry for the time of year, when most crops should be in rapid growth, but it looked unsettled and favourable for rain. The cane crop was decidedly backward, but it was not too late to hope for a fair return, provided the weather during the next three months was favourable. Crops of cotton, onions, and corn were coming on well, and there did not seem much complaint so far about insect pests.

#### Barbados—Banana Shipments.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE) October 6th. Sir Frederic and Lady Hodgson left by the "Eden" for Demerara on Sept 26th, when they had a grand send off. The Volunteers kept the ground near the Public Buildings, but crowds lined the Carenage on both sides and occupied all the galleries and many of the roofs. Cheering was kept up as long as the steam tug remained in sight.

Cotton was springing up very nicely, but Mr Bovell wrote to say that he had heard one or two fields had been attacked by worm. Professor d'Albuquerque and others of the Imperial Department of Agriculture were going on a tour of inspection the following week to visit the cotton fields and see that proper precautions were taken against disease. Onions were also springing well.

Large shipments of bananas continued to be made, but the cargo by the last voyage of the "Atrato" had arrived in a badly damaged condition owing to that vessel not being fitted with cold storage. A resolution had been passed by the Agricultural Society on September 30th, asking the R.M.S.P. Co. to install Hall's method of storage on all their ships as soon as possible. The "Tagus" and the "Trent" were already so fitted, and were perfectly satisfactory.

The rainfall for September had varied very much in different parts of the Island. Some estates in St. Lucy had marked over ten inches, in St. Peter eight inches, in St. James and St. Thomas not more than six inches, while parts of Christchurch had little over four inches. Some nice showers had fallen this month, and just before the departure of the mail nice rains had fallen, very heavy in the Scotland district. The canes were healthy and vigorous, but a wetter September would have given them more growth. Arrows were making their appearance, and would shortly be prevalent everywhere.

#### British Guiana—Rain wanted.

(A. SUMMERSON, ESQ.) October 5th. Sir Frederic M. Hodgson, the new Governor, arrived on the 28th ult., and was sworn in as Governor on the same day. The Government Secretary, Mr. C. T. Cox, was returning to England by the Mail, on leave; Mr. Darnell Davis would again act in his place. Professor J. B. Harrison, Government Analyst, had been appointed Chairman of the Board of Agriculture in succession to the Hon. A. M. Ashmore. The Hon. J. E. Godfrey had been appointed Deputy Chairman.

The sugar market had remained steady during the fortnight and recent sales of Crystals had been made at \$2 51. Sugar making was now general.

The weather continued too dry and rain was wanted everywhere. There had been a few showers but they were not general enough for requirements.

#### Dominica—Limes and Cacao.

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.) October 6th. Mr. Hesketh Bell had returned to the Island and resumed his duties as Administrator. Mr. H. G. Rose, of the well known firm of L. Rose & Co., was on a visit to Dominica.

The lime crop was slacking off somewhat, but there seemed to be a prospect of a good revival towards Christmas. Cacao was just beginning to ripen in most districts. For the past week the weather had been extremely wet.

#### Grenada—Exports for 1903-4.

(P. J. DEAN, ESQ.) October 6th. The weather had been fine during the fortnight, with slight showers only. Small pickings of cocoa had commenced in the lowlands, but they would not amount to much for the next month, and from the general appearance of the trees the heavy pickings would not be made before Dec./Jan.

We are indebted to Messrs. Jonas Browne & Son for the following table giving the exports of produce from Grenada and the Grenadines for the past five seasons:—

Crop	Cocoa.	Spice.	Cotton.	Cotton-Seed.
1st Oct. to 30th Sept., 1903/4	67,296 bags	6022 pkgs	1041 bales	6594 bags
" " " 1902/3	63,019 "	6195 "	1028 "	7125 "
" " " 1901/2	61,285 "	4770 "	951 "	5799 "
" " " 1900/1	53,387 "	4406 "	838 "	4724 "
" " " 1899/1900	53,388 "	5633 "	995 "	5816 "

#### Jamaica—The Sugar Industry Fund.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, ESQ.) October 3rd. Sir Alexander Swettenham, the new Governor, had arrived. During the last few days nice rains had fallen, and they were clearly not yet over. Vere at last seemed to be getting the rains, which was a God-send to the district.

It was hoped that the sugar laboratory would be completed in time to meet the requirements of the planters for the coming crop, and estate managers had been notified that the Island chemist was prepared to polarise and report upon a sample of sugar from each estate during crop. A sample of juice could also be submitted each week. It was suggested that a composite sample representing each day's working for the week should be taken. An efficient preservative would be provided. The laboratory would, by Lovibond's tintometer, assist the maintenance of the desired standard of colour of rum. Sugar samples could be sent free by post and no fees would be charged, the expense being borne by the sugar industry fund.

The "Caroni," the second of the three new cargo boats of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., had arrived at Kingston.

From April 1st to June 30th this year, the general revenue amounted to £162,873 against £309,366 during the corresponding period of the preceding year, a falling off of £146,529, but the amount of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, viz., £100,393, which was transferred to general revenue, must be deducted.



**Montserrat—Cotton Acreage.**

(CONRAD WATSON, Esq.) October 4th. Fine showers had fallen during the past fortnight, and about 600 acres of cotton, which would be the acreage in cultivation this year, were now fairly established. This showed a decrease of 100 acres on last year's acreage, which was due to the scare given to peasant proprietors by the pests and fungus which ruined last year's crop.

**Nevis—Returning Prosperity.**

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND). The Department of Agriculture had sanctioned a grant of £20 to Nevis for the purpose of the Agricultural Show, on the condition that peasant proprietors were to have the preference as regards the disbursement of this amount. The Local Government had voted £5 in addition, and the Agricultural Society a further like sum, so that success was assured.

Arbor day was to be held on the King's birthday, and should become an annual function. All the school children were to assemble in Charlestown, and thence march to the site selected for the tree-planting, namely, the plot of land recently acquired by the Government and now being enclosed as a cemetery. The weather had been ideal from a planter's point of view, though a few degrees hotter than usual. The sugar crop was making up for lost time, and cotton was growing apace. Wherever one went, large tracts of land were encountered sown with this new industry, which was bidding fair at no distant date to assume proportions undreamt of one short year ago.

**St. Kitts—Promising Crops.**

(CHARLES A. SMITH, Esq.) 4th October. Splendid rains had fallen throughout the entire Island, and in some parts almost in excess of immediate requirements, but no washing of the lands had taken place. Both the cotton and cane crops were looking most promising, and it was hoped that with good seasons from now on, the cotton crop would successfully combat its many enemies and so establish itself as a regular short crop.

**St. Vincent—Favourable Weather.**

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & Co.) October 7th. Cotton cultivation continued to look promising. The weather for the past week having been fine would greatly benefit those fields which had been somewhat thrown back by the heavy rains of the past fortnight. The heat had been intense, with the barometer standing very low, but so far, nothing serious had happened.

**Trinidad—The Labour Question.**

(EDGAR TRIPP, Esq.) October 7th. At a time when the market value of sugar at last relieved the long gloom of depression, and there was encouragement fully to maintain, if not to increase cultivation, it was specially unfortunate that the number of Indian immigrants would be short by one shipload of those that were looked for during the current season. The revival of the sugar industry would render the labour question one of extreme importance, especially in Trinidad. In the now probable event of returning prosperity to the other Islands, the stream of emigration from them to the hitherto more favoured Colony of Trinidad was likely to be checked, and there would be all the more reason to look to India to fill the gap. The Governor had appointed a Committee, with the Protector of Immigrants as chairman, to report upon the best means of retaining time expired immigrants in the Colony.

Sir Henry Jackson had been entertained at dinner by the Union Club, of which he had consented to be President, and the function was specially pleasant and successful. His Excellency was greeted there, as indeed was the case wherever he now appeared, in the heartiest manner. It was pleasing to be able to record the altogether better and healthier state of feeling which now obtained among all parties in the Colony.

A very heavy flood on the 3rd had overflowed the ill-protected banks of the Dry River, causing some damage and much anxiety in the lower part of the town. The Hon. Eugene Cipriani, who had on several previous occasions called attention to the serious menace to health and property arising from the deplorable condition of this river, would move a strong resolution on the subject at the next meeting of Council.

**Letter to the Editor.**

18, Moorgate Street, London, E. C.

18th October, 1904.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR—I observe in the current issue of your interesting Circular that your correspondent, Mrs. A. Maude Bateman, appears to be under the impression that this Company has laid down a rule that only three sizes of banana crates can be accepted for shipment at Barbados. May I be allowed to state that we are, and have always been willing to carry crates of any size. It may also be of interest to your readers connected with the fruit industry to know that Messrs. H. E. Thorne & Son, Ltd., Barbados, are now making crates of various sizes, and the following is extracted from their advertisement in the Barbados press:—"We are now making the following sizes of banana crates:

	Size.	Cost.	R. M. S. P. Co.'s Freight.
Singles	27 by 15	16 cents	36 cents
	28 .. 16	17 ..	43 ..
	29 .. 16	18 ..	45 ..
	30 .. 16	19 ..	47 ..
	32 .. 16	20 ..	50 ..
	34 .. 17	22 ..	60 ..
Doubles	29 by 24 by 15	26 ..	64 ..
	29 .. 26 .. 15	28 ..	70 ..
	Special sizes to order."		

Your correspondent will therefore see that her wishes have already been carried out, and she will no doubt recognise that it is impossible to carry a crate measuring ten cubic feet for the same freight as a crate measuring five cubic feet. Space is what the shipowner has to dispose of, and freight is therefore reckoned in accordance with the space occupied on board the ship. I need hardly add that it is the desire of my Company to do everything in their power to assist the development of the banana industry in the West Indies, and to this end we are working in cordial co-operation with Sir Daniel Morris, the Imperial Commissioner for Agriculture in the West Indies.

Yours faithfully,

OWEN PHILIPPS, Chairman.

**Weather Telegrams.**

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) Oct. 24th. "First part of fortnight rainy, latter dry." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.) Oct. 10th. "Moderate rains, west coast. None River." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Oct. 21st. "There has been no change in the weather." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) Week ended October 13th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "7th, rain; 8th to 10th, fine; 11th and 12th, very rainy." **KINGSTON**: "Rain." **Trinidad** (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.) October 21st. "Weather too dry."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Coconuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.	Cotton.
<b>Barbados—</b>	Hhds	lbs.	Tons.	Puns.		Puns	Ozs	Carats.	lbs.
Jan. 1 to Oct. 7, '04	56,711	—	—	—	—	45,693	—	—	—
" " 7, '03	38,179	—	—	—	—	30,233	—	—	—
<b>British Guiana—</b>	Tons.								
Jan 1 to Oct. 4, '04	48,816	100,676	3082	12,224	199,140	1535	60,714	8590	—
" " 6, '03	69,454	119,222	506	15,450	4984	3494	64,635	6836	—
<b>Jamaica—</b>		Cwts.	Cwts.	Galls.		Cwts.	Stems.	Oranges.	
Apr. 1 to Sept. 27, '04	5604	12,041	12,567	870,501	1,169,555	29,492	2,519,164	7,339,400	1796
" " 5, '03	7802	15,428	16,229	822,935	10,627,585	16,723	7,209,072	8,116,450	—
<b>Trinidad—</b>	Bags	lbs	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.	Copra
Jan. 1 to Oct. 5, '04	383,256	35,251,030	63,435	150	6,417,210	2358	29	89	12,650
" " 6, '03	381,868	25,970,110	42,120	1243	9,703,602	3473	178	166	—
<b>Grenada—</b>		Bags.	Hrds.	½ Hrds.	SPICE.	Cases	Bags.	Cotton Seed	Cotton.
Oct 1 to Oct. 7, '04	—	369	321	62	21	21	58	Bags.	Bales.
" " 7, '03	—	238	223	33	28	2	—	—	—

**The Mails.**

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Tagus," (Capt. H. E. Rudge) Oct. 19th, 1904—**  
**Barbados**—Mr. A. S. Bryden, Miss Shannon, Lieut. Hollist, Mrs. Hollist, Miss A. Spencer, Mr. J. Ross, Mrs. Frankland, Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mrs. Maughan. **Demerara**—Mr. A. Richter, Mr. H. Richter, Hon. C. T. Cox, Mr. Cox.  
**Jamaica**—Mrs. U. D. McFarlane, Mr. A. G. Nash, Mr. W. J. Kempson. **Trinidad**—Mr. F. Reeves, Mr. L. Bert de Lamarre, Miss Ethel King, Mr. J. B. Marques, Mr. M. A. Faria, Mr. C. C. Monckton, Mr. D. Watson. **Antigua**—Mr. and Mrs. H. Goodwin, Mrs. E. K. Lane. **St. Kitts**—Mr. P. O'Farrell, Mr. W. L. Fretz. **Tobago**—Mr. J. T. Rosseau.  
**Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "La Plata," (Capt. W. J. Dagnall), October 26th, 1904:—**  
**Barbados**—Lieut. J. A. Richards, R.N., Mrs. M. Richards, Mrs. Boby, Mr. and the two Misses Hutchinson, Mr. Swabey, Mr. C. Waite, Capt. and Mrs. Palmer. **Demerara**—Mr. W. Carruthers, Mr. and Mrs. Fernandes, Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C. Rev. C. Cooksey, Rev. J. Wilson, Mr. A. Simpson, Mr. H. de Sulis, Mr. Wood, Mr. J. Wilkie, Mr. and Mrs. de Cairns. **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Keed, Mr. F. E. Reed, Mr. A. G. Reed, Miss W. Judson, Miss D. Davy, Mr. R. I. L. Guppy, Mrs. and Miss Guppy, Mr. W. Douglas, Lieut. P. Beckett, Rev. and Mrs. Baker, Miss K. Macdonald, Mr. and Mrs. Kurie, Mr. E. J. F. Campbell, Mrs. Banks, Mr. J. Pitcairn, Mr. and Mrs. Irvine, Mrs. Nash, Mr. A. Pawsey, Mrs. Hornby, Dr. and Mrs. Bucher. **Trinidad**—Mrs. Miller, Mr. C. de Verteuil, Mrs. de Verteuil, Miss A. Leotaud, Miss Thavenot, Miss J. Lange, Mr. R. Reid, Mrs. E. Agostini, Lieut. G. Deans, Mr. A. Wyness, Mr. R. K. Lord, Mrs. E. McNulty, Mrs. Henderson, Miss Scott, Mr. R. Harris, Mr. S. J. Hammond, Mr. R. Ulrich, Mr. Hancock, Miss E. Bushe, Miss J. Piggott, Mr. Abbott, Mr. W. Bain. **Antigua**—His Honour Chief Justice Udall. **Grenada**—Mr. H. G. de Yale, Mr. D. Slinger, Mr. Reid, Miss F. McIntyre, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Mackintosh, Mr. J. Barclay. **St. Lucia**—Mr. J. W. Bennett.

**Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), October 12th, 1904:—**  
**Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, Miss Capper, Mr. and Mrs. Dickens, Miss G. DaCosta, Mr. and Miss Fry, Mr. R. C. Guy, Miss J. Gordon, Dr. Hardy, Mr. and Mrs. Hide, Mr. J. M. Hall, Miss L. Kendall, Dr. G. Little, Mr. R. L. Nosworthy, Mr. and Mrs. R. Price, Miss C. Pearman, Dr. Rutter, Mr. D. L. Tate, Capt. R. M. White, Mr. G. H. Ibbitson, Mr. J. H. Scott, Mr. J. G. Scott.  
**Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), October 22nd, 1904:—**  
**Jamaica**—Mr. T. N. Aguilar, Mr. A. Aguilar, Mr. Artist, Mr. Burley, Maj.-Gen. and Mrs. W. Black, Miss Burnham, Mr. and Mrs. J. Burnham, Mr. F. Clive, Miss D. Corshie, Miss B. Courtney, Miss M. Carton, Miss F. Copestake, Mr. H. Doughty, Lieut. Groom, Mr. J. Geldred, Mr. D. Heywood, Miss Holliday, Mr. C. P. Huggins, Mr. and Mrs. Hendry, Mrs. and Miss Johnstone, Mr. Lopez, Mr. and Mrs. Ledger, Mr. E. J. Mengens, Rev. A. B. McCalla, Mr. H. B. Mitchell, Mr. Nunes, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Poulton, Miss I. Phillips, Mr. Platzman, Mr. T. G. Southby, Mr. R. Shiells, two Misses Sewell, Mr. Thomson, Mr. A. J. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. C. Wright, Miss Walker, Mrs. J. H. Walker.

**The Produce Markets Summary.**

**Coffee.**—Steady. Good ordinary Jamaica is 38s., and Santos for this month's delivery, 35s. 9d.  
**Nutmegs.**—Steady. Sales of West India, 55s at 2s 8d; 80s, at 1s 4d; 118s at 7d; 134s at 6d. **Rice.**—Firm at 1s. 2d to 1s. 4d., and broken at 1s. rd. **Pimento.**—Little doing; value of fair, 2½d. **Ginger.**—Quiet, but steady with sales of Jamaica, common lean to good ordinary, 25s. to 34s., and a few fair bright, 45s.  
**Arrowroot.**—Rather more enquiry, and a fair business done in good manufacturing at 1½d.  
 Stocks in London: 1904 1903 1902 1901 1900  
 11,659 13,845 13,633 9873 7019 Brls  
**Lime Juice.**—Very slow and prices easier, value, 9d to 1s. 2d. Concentrated, steady, sales at £14. Hand Pressed, nominal at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. **Distilled Oil.**—Quoted at 1s. 5d. to 1s. 5½d.  
 For **Cotton**, see Special Article, page 397.



Sugar—

HERR F. O. LICHT'S BEET ESTIMATES.—CONVENTION COUNTRIES.

	Crop 1904/5	Crop 1903/4	
Germany	1,770,000	1,930,000	Tons.
Austria...	1,010,000	1,180,000	..
France ...	685,000	800,000	..
Belgium	190,000	205,000	..
Holland	125,000	125,000	..
	<b>3 780 000</b>	<b>4 240 000</b>	<b>MINUS 460 000 Tons.</b>
Other Countries	1,340,000	1,610,000	..
<b>Total Crops</b>	<b>5 120 000</b>	<b>5 850 000</b>	<b>730 000</b>
	<b>CONTINENTAL STOCKS, SEPTEMBER 1,</b>		
	920,000	1,280,000	360,000
<b>Total available</b>	<b>6 040 000</b>	<b>7 130 000</b>	<b>1 090 000</b>

The above figures, all extracted from Herr F O Licht's valuable circular, show the effects of the prolonged drought on the Continent, and lead one seriously to think what sort of a position we are in for our sugar supply from now to October, 1905, when the next Beet crop becomes available. These figures bear out the general views of those who study such matters, and have been the leading influence in the rise that has taken place in prices. The present value of 88%, viz.—ros. 11d., is barely 1s per cwt over the natural price of ros., inevitable on the abolition of Bounties, and notwithstanding all that is said by some writers, is a long way off being extravagant on such a position as we have before us. Herr Licht suggests an increase in the Cane production of some 280,000 tons for this season, but being chiefly tropical sugar, spread over a reaping period of nine months, much may happen to reduce this surplus to a considerable extent. Undoubtedly the margin between supply and demand is this season led to breaking point, and no one need be surprised if during next spring and summer prices reach a point that has not been seen for many years. The writer accepts no responsibility for the suggestive figures that follow these remarks, but it is well to look at the bright side of a market after all one has gone through during the long and trying times of Bounties and Kartels, which could have been abolished years ago if the British Government had been zealous for its Colonies' interests. Evidently some one will have to go without sugar.

Licht's Stocks in Convention Countries, 1st Sept., 1904	1904/5	1903/4	1902/3	1901/2	1900/1	1899/0
Crops	3,780,000	4,240,000	4,700,000	5,120,000	5,850,000	6,040,000
<b>Total available Supply</b>	<b>4,700,000</b>	<b>5,120,000</b>	<b>5,850,000</b>	<b>6,040,000</b>	<b>6,040,000</b>	<b>6,040,000</b>
<b>Consumption in Convention Countries, 1903/4</b>	<b>2,630,000</b>	<b>2,630,000</b>	<b>2,630,000</b>	<b>2,630,000</b>	<b>2,630,000</b>	<b>2,630,000</b>
<b>Exports to United Kingdom</b>	<b>1,300,000</b>	<b>1,300,000</b>	<b>1,300,000</b>	<b>1,300,000</b>	<b>1,300,000</b>	<b>1,300,000</b>
<b>.. .. other Countries</b>	<b>670,000</b>	<b>670,000</b>	<b>670,000</b>	<b>670,000</b>	<b>670,000</b>	<b>670,000</b>
<b>Total distribution, 1903/4</b>	<b>4,600,000</b>	<b>4,600,000</b>	<b>4,600,000</b>	<b>4,600,000</b>	<b>4,600,000</b>	<b>4,600,000</b>

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America on uneven dates are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
Europe	690,000	1,700,000	1,090,000	470,000	260,000
United States	150,000	130,000	170,000	170,000	50,000
Cuba	—	130,000	100,000	60,000	—
Cargoes afloat	210,000	110,000	140,000	50,000	80,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,050,000</b>	<b>1,470,000</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>390,000</b>
Comparative prices of 88% Beet for 5 years	10s. 11d.	8s. 9½d.	7s. 6½d.	7s. 5½d.	9s. 7½d.

**Vacuum Pan Sugar.**—Stocks are now down to 9000 tons, of which Importers hold but little over 1000 tons. Deliveries are maintained, as will be seen by the figures following these remarks. For the limited supply available, higher prices are obtainable and quotations now range from 18s 6d to 20s for yellow sugar, with average qualities 18s 9d. A cargo of 96 test to Refiners should command now not far short of 12s 6d in bond on floating terms.

**Molasses Sugar** is selling readily from 12s 6d to 16s. To arrive for Refiners' use 89 test is worth about ros. on floating terms in bond.

**Miscorardo.**—Little doing. Grocery Barbados on the spot commands 14s. to 15s. for common to fine. For a cargo of 89 test for Refiners' use about 11s. should be now obtainable on floating conditions.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports to date	38,000	20,000	56,000	42,000
Deliveries	39,000	34,000	35,000	34,000
Stocks	9000	14,000	33,000	16,000
Crystallised quotations of "average qualities"	18s. 9d.	15s. 9d.	14s. 3d.	15s. 6d.

RUM.—Board of Trade Returns for 9 months:	1904	1903	1902	1901
Home Consumption	2,622,000	2,567,000	2,798,000	2,845,000
Stocks 30th Sept.	9,663,000	10,152,000	9,633,000	8,115,000

Stocks in London:	1904	1903	1902.	1901
Jamaica	10,900	11,100	11,800	10,500
Demerara	7200	6800	8200	4900
Total of all kinds:—	25,710	28,301	Deficiency 2591	Puns

The market has a steadier tone, principally in Demerara, some sales having been made to arrive at 1d. advance on recent spot business, warranting a quotation of 8d. for fair Marks. Jamaica is unchanged with a languid tone, and approved Standard Marks of Home Trade Rum cannot be quoted over 1s 9d. with a very limited demand thereat. Leewards range from 7d. to 10d., with fair brown rum at 7½d. Consumption shows a slight expansion compared with last year, and stocks are slightly more favourable. See Board of Trade Returns printed above.

COCOA—Board of Trade Returns for 9 months:	1904	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	21,956	18,666	20,474	19,505
Home Consumption	15,340	13,851	16,101	14,626
Stocks 30th Sept.	6755	5124	5212	8423
Stocks in London	94,000	63,000	69,000	96,000

The market remains dull, and prices, although but little changed, have a tendency to droop. Consumption in this country does not expand as it should, and by the Board of Trade Returns printed above, it will be seen that the duty payments in the United Kingdom for the first nine months of this year are only 15,340 tons, whilst the average for the three previous years was 14,859 tons. This is not pro rata with the increase in production everywhere. The latest business in Trinidad is on the basis of 56s. for fair collected; 56s. to 58s. for fair to good; and up to 65s. for a fine Estate Mark. Grenada fair, is worth 52s., and fermented, 54s. to 56s. From other Islands, common Native is quoted at 47s., fair 49s. and fermented 53s. to 57s. For fermented African, 55s. is the nominal quotation delivered on landed terms in the usual United Kingdom Ports.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

# The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XIX.

ENTERED AT  
STATIONERS HALL.

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## OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XXIX.



Mr. Owen Cosby Philipps, J.P.

## The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

November 7th, 1904.

**W**E would call the particular attention of our readers to the prospectus of the British Cotton Growing Association which will be found in another column. The objects of this body are already familiar, and though primarily they effect Lancashire which has felt the pinch of the scarcity of cotton due to short American supplies and speculative manipulation, they are also of national and Imperial importance. The Association has already done much in the West Indies in making advances to growers and supplying seed, machines and implements, and we have every reason for believing that they will do yet more to complete their good work in these parts of the Empire if funds are forthcoming. Let every one of our Members then do his best to make the present issue of £500,000, in £1 shares successful. We have now nearly one thousand members on our list, and if each were to take one share it would help, but we hope that many, prompted by feelings of loyalty and Imperialism, apart from the commercial side of the question, will do much

more than this, and so enhance the prospects of the success of the movement. It will be remembered that the King, in his speech from the Throne last February, said: "I trust that the efforts which are being made in various parts of the Empire to increase the area (of cotton) under cultivation may be



attended with a large measure of success." In conclusion, we may add that copies of the prospectus and forms of application for shares may be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms, where the Secretary will be glad to furnish further information.

**B**ECAUSE we have not had so much to say recently regarding the proposals which were put forward last year for the formation of an Association for increasing the demand for the sale of West Indian Produce, it must by no means be assumed that they have fallen through. The letter from Mr. A. P. Longstaffe, which appears in another column, serves as a timely reminder of the need that exists for greater efforts being made to differentiate between British cane and foreign beet sugars. Though their saccharine contents may be identical, it is an undoubted fact that cane is more palatable than beet, that it appears sweeter to the taste and has a higher nutritive value—our readers will remember the remarks made on this point in our issues of July 19th and August 2nd. The West Indies have moreover in the Merchandise Marks Act, an asset the value of which it is impossible to overestimate. We may of course refer Mr. Longstaffe to our column "Where to obtain West Indian Produce," in which he will find the names of several well-known firms which retail pure cane sugar, but it is regrettable that we cannot as yet tell him that is obtainable from all grocers. Mr. Longstaffe pertinently asks whether the raw materials of what is sold as British refined sugar are produced in British Possessions. Alas! We fear that in most cases it is merely foreign beet sugar refined in this country, and that the purchaser must go further and ask for British refined cane sugar if he desires to help our Colonies. At the present time a large proportion of the population of the British Isles are under the impression that they are using cane sugar and that beet is only the oblong lump they see on the Continent. To disillusion them and induce them to turn their attention to cane should be the object of any organisation formed. The Jamaica Bee Keepers' Association has set an admirable example; the honey of members is examined by inspectors and if approved is stamped with the Association's mark as pure Jamaica honey. Could not something on these lines be attempted for other kinds of West Indian Produce? If planters will turn this over in their minds they will not fail to realise the great possibilities which the question of differentiation between cane and beet open up.

**T**HOUGH complaints are sometimes made by regular passengers who find their favourite cabins allotted to passing visitors, tourists are cordially welcomed to the West Indies. That the tourist trade is a valuable one to the Islands there can be no doubt whatever. The tourists not only put money into circulation, but they also, on their return, help to increase the very limited knowledge which the British public has of this part of the Empire. But perhaps the most important point is that many of them become so charmed with their visit that they decide to settle and acquire property in the Islands—and we could quote many instances of this—and further help to strengthen the bond of union between these Colonies and the Mother Country. The coming tourist season promises to be an exceptionally busy one as a fillip will be given to it by the visit of Mr. Pelham F. Warner's cricket team, which will include Lord Brackley, who will captain the eleven, Mr. C. P. Foley, Mr. Simpson Hayward, Capt. Wynyard, Mr. L. J. Moon, Mr. C. H. Ebdon, Mr. T. G. O. Cole, and Mr. J. Hornsby. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company advertise their usual tours of 65 days for £65, in addition to shorter £55 tours, and they are also going to use the R.M.S. "Solent" as a special yachting steamer, with headquarters at Trinidad. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service may be counted upon to carry a large number of tourists, who will be attracted by the speedy voyage of the "Port Kingston," which reaches Jamaica in less than eleven days. Other arrangements include tours from America by the Quebec Steamship Company and from Halifax through the Islands by the steamers of Messrs. Pickford & Black: while the usual influx of visitors from the United States by the well appointed vessels of the United Fruit Company and the Hamburg-American line may be looked for. There are also the steamers of the "Direct"

Line; Messrs. Frederick Leyland & Co., and the Harrison Line for those whose means are limited. Every year improvement is to be noticed in the hotels, and the general arrangements for tourists will be found all that can be desired, so with the improved facilities which are now offered it is to be hoped that a larger number of visitors than ever will be attracted to the Islands of the Caribbean.

#### Mr. Owen Cosby Philipps, F.R.S.

The improvements in the services of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have recently been very noticeable, not only as regards punctuality and the general arrangements made for the comfort of the passengers, but also on the score of general utility. For this, Mr. Owen Cosby Philipps, the new Chairman, is largely responsible, and it is fitting that he should have a place of honour in *The West India Committee Circular*. Mr. Philipps, who is only forty-one years of age, is the third son of the Rev. Canon Sir James Erasmus Philipps, 12th Baronet. He was educated at Newton College, South Devon. In 1895 he contested Montgomery Boroughs, and in 1899 Darlington in the Liberal interest. He is now the accepted Parliamentary candidate for the Pembroke Boroughs, and is confident of being returned at the next General Election. In addition to being Chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, he acts in a similar capacity with marked success for the "King" line of steamers. He is hopeful of the future prospects of the West Indies, to the prosperity of which he is genuinely anxious to contribute.

#### The Late Field-Marshal Sir Henry Norman.



The news of the death of Field-Marshal Sir Henry Norman, which occurred on the 26th of October last, will, we feel confident, have been received throughout the Colonies as it was at home with feelings of sincere and most profound regret. Sir Henry Norman was a good friend to the West Indies, where the firm attitude which he assumed with regard to the Bounty question—so amply vindicated by subsequent events—as Chairman of the West India Royal Commission, which visited the West Indies in 1897, can never be forgotten. In 1882, at the request of Lord Kimberley, he accepted the appointment of Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Jamaica, where his popularity was so great that an effort was made to secure the continuance of his services. Sir Henry Norman was ever mindful of the welfare of the West Indies, and no gathering of importance of West Indians was complete without his genial presence. It will be remembered that on November 25th 1903, in spite of ill health he attended our Banquet to Sir Nevile Lubbock, and as recently as June last he had promised to preside over the Meeting to hear the address of the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, but was prevented at the last

Meeting to hear the address of the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, but was prevented at the last



moment. At a specially convened meeting on October 27th, the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

That the West India Committee desires to express the deep regret with which it has heard of the death of Field-Marshal Sir Henry Wylie Norman, and its sincere condolence with Lady Norman and the family in their bereavement. The Committee further desires to place on record its sense of the great debt which our West Indian Colonies owe to him for his services not only as Governor of Jamaica, but also as Chairman of the Royal Commission which was appointed in 1897, and in many other ways.

The funeral took place at Brompton Cemetery, on Saturday, October 29th, with full military honours, the first part of the service being held at the Chapel of Chelsea Hospital. The West India Committee were represented and sent a handsome wreath, and many well-known West Indians were present upon this sad occasion.

### The Rum Surtax and Duty Free Alcohol.

It will not be out of place to summarise briefly the steps which have recently been taken to secure the removal of the surtax of 4d. per gallon imposed by the British Government on British-Colonial rum to compensate the home distiller for the alleged cost of his Excise restrictions. We say "alleged" advisedly, as the surtax is based on a report of the Board of Inland Revenue, dated as far back as 1866, and still includes an allowance of  $\frac{3}{4}$ d. for the duty on foreign grain, in spite of the removal of the corn duties! At the outset, it may be as well to remind some of our contemporaries who have been dealing with the matter, that the surtax is 4d. and not 5d. When the surtax on spirits was raised to 5d. by the Finance Act of 1902, that on rum was left at 4d. It will be remembered that in June last the West India Committee were invited to appoint delegates to serve on a special committee of the Society of Chemical Industry and the Chemical Trade Section of the London Chamber of Commerce, which had been sitting to consider the possibility of obtaining the use of pure alcohol under certain restrictions for manufacturing purposes without payment of duty, and that Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C., and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall were appointed accordingly. On July 26th, a meeting of this Joint Committee was held, and as was reported in the *Chemist and Druggist* of the 30th of that month, the Chairman stated that the object of the meeting was to consider:—(a) the composition of, and (b) the terms of reference to the Committee which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had agreed during the discussion of the Finance Bill on July 20th and 26th, should be appointed to investigate the subject of untaxed alcohol and to make any recommendations deemed desirable thereon. The Joint Committee proceeded to consider suggestions as to the membership of the Parliamentary Committee, and the Hon. John Scott-Montagu, who was present, handed in a preliminary list for discussion. The names suggested included:—

Two Inland Revenue Officers, one representative of the Board of Agriculture, one representative of the Chemical Society, one representative of automobilism, one representative of explosive, dyeing, and colour trades, one manufacturer of alcohol, one chemical manufacturer, one pharmacist, and one lawyer,

or ten in all. The representatives of the West India Committee then advocated the addition of a Colonial representative, and after discussion it was decided that this should be a recommendation, and the Joint Committee also agreed to recommend that the terms of reference should include the manufacture of alcohol in British Dominions and the uses of alcohol, actual and possible, within the Empire. To the great disappointment more especially of those interested in the Colonial aspect of the question, it was found when the appointment of the Parliamentary Committee was announced, that it included no representative of the Colonies and that no mention was made of the Colonial aspect of the question in the terms of reference to the Committee. The matter was at once taken up by the West India Committee, who addressed a letter to the press, urging that the interests of the Colonies might not be overlooked, that a Colonial representative might be added to the Committee, and that the case of the Colonies might be included in the terms of reference, and this letter appeared



Photo by ALBERTSON E. ARDRAIA.

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## THE BERKELEY MEMORIAL, ST. KITTS.



very generally on Sept. 29th. Commenting upon this neglect of the Colonies, the *British and Colonial Druggist* on Sept. 16th said, "having regard to the important Colonial interests involved, it does appear to us that an error of omission has occurred." The omission was felt the more, inasmuch as members of the West India Committee had been given to understand that the case of the West Indies would be considered by the Parliamentary Committee. The *Wine and Spirit Trades Record* of October 8th asked, "why is it that the Government, in appointing a Committee to enquire into the use of duty free alcohol for manufacturing purposes, have placed on the Committee a representative of the home distillers, but omitted to include a representative of the Colonies? Their neglect to do so shows that their alleged anxiety for the Colonies is largely bunkum." On October 4th the West India Committee wrote a strong letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging that the Colonies might receive consideration, and a copy of this letter was addressed to the Colonial Office, with a request that the petition of the West India Committee might receive the support of the Secretary of State. Mr. Lyttelton informed us that "as the present enquiry only relates to the conditions governing the use of spirits for certain purposes in the United Kingdom he must leave the matter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer." This is distinctly disappointing. The principal complaint of the Committee has been that the consideration of the Colonial aspect of the question is practically barred by the terms of reference, and the support of the Colonial Office has been confidently looked for in securing the removal of the surtax which was condemned by the Royal Commission of 1897 as unsound in principle and as entailing hardship in the Colonies.

But the matter of the surtax must not be allowed to rest here, and it remains for us to urge that as a logical sequence of the recent report of Mr. Steele on the Excise regulations in the West Indies a report may be made on the alleged cost of Excise regulations to which home distillers are subject. It is inconceivable that they can amount to 5d. or even 4d. per gallon!

As we go to press we have received a letter from Mr. Austen Chamberlain's secretary, Mr. George Duckworth, in the following terms:—

SIR,—The Chancellor of the Exchequer has given careful consideration to your letter of the 4th ultimo, since his return from Italy, and I am now in a position to send a reply to be laid before your Committee.

The Chancellor thinks that you are under some misapprehension as to the scope of the Terms of Reference. It will of course not be possible for the Alcohol Committee to consider any proposals for giving Colonial spirit a preference over other imported spirit; nor would it be possible for His Majesty's Government to adopt at the present time any such proposals, if made.

But Mr. Chamberlain understands that this is not what you desire; and if, as he believes, your whole object is to secure that the Committee shall consider the effect of the surtax on spirits generally—Colonial as well as foreign—and the facilities which there are for the sale of imported spirit for industrial purposes, these matters are, in Mr. Chamberlain's opinion, covered by the Terms of the Reference, and could hardly be excluded from the Committee if they are to make a complete report.

As regards the composition of the Committee, Mr. Chamberlain regrets that he is unable to comply with your wish that a Colonial representative should be added. In the case of a small Committee of this kind, it is not possible that it should be representative of every interest concerned. But Mr. Chamberlain believes that he has secured the services of a body of men fully capable of dealing with the subject which it is desired to have examined.

### Molascuit in Trinidad.

Mr. C. W. Meaden recently laid before the Agricultural Society of Trinidad a report on a sample of molascuit manufactured at the Usine, Ste. Madeleine, in the course of which he said:—

Molascuit is a new process of dealing with surplus molasses, with the object of using the product as a cattle food. Through correspondence the attention of the Society has been drawn to this bye-product of sugar manufacture, but members have not had an opportunity of inspecting the finished article before. Professor Carmody's analysis of a sample similar to the one shown points it out to be a useful addition to any food for must stock; and those who are accustomed to use molasses in small quantities for dairy cattle will find this molascuit much more convenient and cleaner than ordinary molasses, and as far as can be judged, the new product is more economical and of superior food value.

If kept dry, molascuit will remain for a long time without losing its quality, flavour, or aroma. As a local product of considerable value as stock feed its use should be encouraged. It has been used

at the farm since its appearance on the market. The milch cows relish it in their other food given as a drink, and its use has diminished the cost of feeding without influencing the quality of the milk. It is also added to the feed of young growing animals, who get chopped food such as corn, guinea and para grass. The molascuit with coconut meal is mixed through the *chop-chop* early in the day, well stirred and given in the afternoon. These young animals graze out during the day, are stalled at night, and given feed as above and guinea grass. Their gain in weight last month averaged 56 lbs., valued at \$2.24. Cost by feeding, \$1.20-\$1.50. Molascuit has become famous with dairymen in Canada. From the market quotations there the value of the article is well demonstrated, and no doubt when fully known here its value will be equally well recognised.

The report of Professor Carmody on two samples received from the Government Farm was as follows:—Sample of Molascuit Nos. 1 and 2, received from the Government Farm, St. Joseph, on July 27th, 1904. The difference in value of the ingredients used for each of these samples is but very slight. Sample No. 1 has a better aroma and contains about 8 per cent. more glucose and about 4 per cent. less woody fibre than No. 2.

				No. 1.			No. 2
Sucrose	***	***	***	28.40	***	***	29.00
Glucose	**	**	**	19.60	**	**	11.95
Woody Fibre	++	++	++	4.70	++	++	8.48

### Progress of the Cotton Industry.

The Cotton crops in the West Indies appear to be progressing favourably, and it is satisfactory to learn that the insect pests are causing much less trouble this year. The cotton fields in Barbados, are so far, free from any trace of disease, and in Montserrat, St. Kitts, and Nevis, the measures taken to combat the insects were proving effective. In Jamaica the Cotton Growing Company formed at Stockport, in Lancashire, of which Mr. T. H. Sharp is manager, is getting to work. Lands at Angels, Eltham, and Inverness were being cleared as fast as possible so that a big acreage might be planted before the October rains fell.

During the fortnight ended November 3rd, 13 bales of West Indian Cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Sales have been effected in Liverpool at the following prices: West India, 4.25-5.58d. per lb.; West India Sea Island, medium fine 12½d.; fine 13½d.; extra fine 15½d. per lb.

### A Glance at our Old Records (continued)\*

The Duke of Clarence who in 1779 saw active service in the West Indies under Rodney, took a great interest in the West India Committee, attended its meetings and received its thanks for presenting a petition against the anti-slavery bill introduced into the Lords in 1804, and for the "able, steady and zealous support which His Royal Highness has upon that and many other occasions afforded to the West Indian interest." The Duke, writing from Bushey Park, twenty-six years before he ascended the throne, in reply, requested Mr. Long to assure the Committee "of the high sense I feel of their approbation of my parliamentary conduct on a late occasion, and I shall at all times be both ready and happy to use my endeavour to support the interests of the West Indian Colonies, and particularly to oppose the abolition of that trade on which the Colonies have hitherto induced by repeated Acts of Parliament to look for their support."

Perhaps, though, the most treasured record is a letter from Lord Nelson thanking the Committee for a resolution adopted on August 23rd, 1805, expressing gratitude for his pursuit of the French fleet under Villeneuve, from the Mediterranean to the West Indies and back, "his sagacity in judging and ascertaining their course; his bold and unwearied pursuit of the combined French and Spanish squadrons," which were "very instrumental to the safety of the West India Islands in general." A deputation waited on Lord Nelson to express these sentiments, and to offer him their unfeigned

\* This article, by the Secretary, appears in "The Book of the West Indies," from which it is reproduced by kind permission of the Proprietors.



thanks. The letter of the great naval hero was characteristic. "It was, I conceived," he said, "perfectly clear that the combined squadrons were gone to the West Indies, and therefore it became my duty to follow them, but I assure you, from the state of defence in which our large Islands are placed, with the number of regular troops, numerous, well-disciplined and zealous militia, I was confident not any troops which their combined squadron could carry, would make any impression upon any of our Islands before a very superior force would arrive for their relief."

These few extracts from the old Minute-books—quaint old volumes the earlier ones are, bound in green vellum and furnished with lock and key—should serve in some measure to convey to the reader some idea of the standing and dignity of the West India Committee. It would not be possible within the limits of the present article to give any detailed account of the work of the Committee. It would fill too many pages, closely wrapped up as it has been with the history of our West Indian possessions, which, having regard especially to the prospects of the completion of that mighty scheme for connecting with a water-way the Atlantic and the Pacific, should be as dearly treasured in the future as they have been in the past. The abolition of slavery, the compensation of the owners, the competition with slave grown sugar, the equalisation of the sugar duties, the inauguration of Chinese and East India immigration, the sugar bounties and their abolition, are among the larger subjects dealt with by the Committee, an adequate account of which would fill many pages.

Grants-in-aid have been obtained by Parliament for the Colonies in the days of their distress, and the Committee has itself opened funds for relief as the Islands have been swept by hurricanes, as Jamaica was in 1903, and denuded by floods such as created such damage in Montserrat. Then again, at the instance of Mr. Ponsonby, one of its Members, a fund was raised and the closing of Codrington College, Barbados, practically the only University of the West Indies, was successfully averted. For a record of the work of the West India Committee, the reader should refer to its official organ, *The West India Committee Circular*, which has been published without interruption since 1836, when it succeeded the half-yearly reports, and has recently been enlarged and extended, and the annual report of the Executive Committee. But the measure of success must not be gauged solely by what the Committee has done, but by what it has prevented being done through excess of zeal and other motives; the attempt to upset the ancient constitution of Barbados in 1876 may be cited as an example.

(TO BE CONCLUDED IN OUR NEXT).

### The Cable Question.

The West India Committee has addressed a letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, asking when there is likelihood of some decision being arrived at with reference to the question of cable communication in the West Indies, to the unsatisfactory nature of which attention has so frequently been called. The Demerara cable, which broke down on October 10th, is still not repaired; and we understand that up to the time of going to press no steps are being taken to mend it, the repairing steamer being elsewhere. The interruption in communication is especially aggravating now that the sugar crop is being reaped, and it is important that planters should be kept in close touch with the world's markets.

### Colonial Reports, Barbados, 1903-4.\*

Manjak is the only mineral product of importance exported from Barbados, and it is valued at £10 a ton. It is found here also in its gaseous and liquid forms. The West Indian Petroleum Company has incurred considerable expense in boring for the oil, with results that give fair promise of success, but it will apparently necessitate a further large expenditure of capital fully to develop the undertaking. During the last session of the Legislature the company introduced a Bill applying for the monopoly of exporting the oil in bulk, but there seemed to be some likelihood of opposition to it, and the measure was not proceeded with. The company has established some refining works in connection with their other operations.

\* Continued from *Circular 137*.

The usual measures to promote education, and the experimental work for improving the cultivation of the sugar cane, which form the subject of separate annual reports by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, were continued by that department at a cost of £1902 to the Imperial Government. But in addition to this work very active measures were taken by the department, with the co-operation of the Colonial Government, to promote the introduction of the cotton industry, and to establish a trade in bananas with the United Kingdom. Already some 300 bales of cotton have been shipped to England as the result of the first year's crop, and the favourable prices obtained for it encourage the hope that cotton may become permanently established as a useful subsidiary industry of the Colony. It is expected that next season the crop will be increased to 1200 bales. The introduction of this industry has been very considerably assisted by the gift of six gins and other substantial aid from the British Cotton Growing Association.

The steps that have been taken by the Department of Agriculture have gone to prove that the growth of bananas for shipment to England can be safely embarked upon as a profitable industry. It is estimated that there are some 5000 acres of land in Barbados suitable for their cultivation, and the prices obtained for the fruit, after meeting all charges, have been very encouraging. Another industry which has been fostered by the Imperial Department of Agriculture is the curing for export of flying fish, albacore, and the various other fish which abound in these waters. The experiments made have gone to show that the fish, both pickled and drysalted, can be exported and sold at a fair profit in the neighbouring Colonies, and there is no reason to doubt that it will also find a sale in Barbados at times when the fresh fish is not obtainable.

In his general remarks Mr. Knaggs refers to the attempt being made to introduce the staple products of Barbados into the markets of West Africa. It is gratifying to note that the Colony appears to be gradually recovering from the depression resulting from its recent reverses. The sugar estates give promise of a good crop in 1905, the people are interesting themselves largely in the cotton and banana industries, and with the removal of the quarantine restrictions, residents in the neighbouring Colonies and the South American ports have been able to resume their visits to Barbados, which justly enjoys a wide reputation as a health resort.

### The New Bishop of Trinidad.

The new Bishop of Trinidad, the Right Rev. Dr. J. F. Welsh, was the guest of the evening at the West Indian Club dinner on October 28th. Mr. Wallwyn P. B. Sheppard presided, and those present included Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. G. W. Brabant, Mr. Walter Millachip, Mr. R. Sheppard, Mr. Robertson, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rust, Capt. J. B. Saunders, Mr. E. L. Atkinson, Mr. E. L. Atkinson, jun., Mr. C. R. Winn, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. A. Hutchinson, Rev. Canon Sir James E. Phillips, Bart., Mr. J. F. Braham, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. W. W. Arnott, Mr. H. Bailey, Mr. A. W. Gardner, Mr. J. Miller, Mr. W. Stevenson, the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. A. F. Turnbull, Mr. A. M. Nathan, Mr. E. G. Godfrey, Mr. A. S. Williams, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. A. Nash, Mr. G. Gompertz, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. E. Barnard, and Mr. C. K. Gibbons.

MR. SHEPHERD, proposing the health of the guest of the evening, wished him in the name of the Club a very cordial welcome to his new diocese. The Rev. Canon Sir James Phillips said that he was extremely sorry that a most pressing business engagement had made it quite impossible for his son Mr. Owen Phillips to be present at that dinner, but, as one of Doctor Welsh's oldest friends, he was very glad to be able to assist in introducing him to West Indians. Sir James Phillips, who was the founder of St. Boniface Missionary College at Warminster of which the new Bishop had long been Principal, paid a glowing tribute to Dr. Welsh, dwelling especially upon his fairmindedness and the deep interest which he took in all that concerned the economic and athletic welfare of those who had come under his spiritual direction. No one more fitted for the vacant bishopric could well



have been chosen. Dr. Welsh, who was received with cheers, expressed his very deep gratitude to the Club and his sincere appreciation of the unexpected honour accorded to him in the present appointment. He looked forward with great pleasure to his first visit to the West Indies, in which he had long taken a lively interest. He trusted that in his new diocese he would be able to work for the good of the Colony, not only amongst members of the Church of England, but harmoniously with both Roman Catholic and Nonconformist friends. Mr. Alfred S. Williams then proposed the health of the Chairman, and Mr. Shephard having briefly replied the party broke up, and a pleasant evening was passed in the club room.

### The Berkeley Memorial, St. Kitts.

Basseterre, the capital of St. Kitts, was destroyed by fire in 1867 and rebuilt. The houses are mostly constructed of a greyish stone, or a rough hewed stone covered with plaster, the upper parts being of wood. The streets are wide and clean. The clock in the centre was put up to the memory of the Hon. T. B. H. Berkeley, many years of the Legislative Council. The building with a gallery at the back is the St. Kitts Club which has a reputation second to none in the Islands for hospitality. The memorial is surrounded by the tall and graceful cabbage palms (*orcodoxa oleracea*) which had a narrow escape from destruction in the hurricane of 1898, of the effects of which they still bear traces in the picture.

### The Cacao Industry.

According to the report of the Commissioners of Customs for the year ended March 31st, 1904, which has just been issued, cacao yielded a revenue of £270,917, an increase of £45,101, or 20 per cent. as has already been stated in *The West India Committee Circular*. With few exceptions each of the last 40 years has shown a substantial increase in the consumption of cocoa, the average annual rate of increase in the quantity of raw and prepared cocoa retained for consumption being about 2,400,000 lbs., but between 1900 and 1903 the increases were swelled owing to the demand for the South African war. Foreign manufactured cocoa continues in greater demand, the increase in the quantity retained for consumption in 1903/4 having been 1,939,478 lbs. The clearances for the last two years were as follows:—

	1902=3.	1903=4.
Cocoa, Raw, lbs. ... ..	37,181,180	44,204,760
„ Husks and Shells, cwt. ... ..	1,989	3,732
„ Prepared, lbs. ... ..	8,363,755	10,303,233
„ Butter ... ..	239,362	119,501

### Demerara and Jamaica Rum.

At the request of the Planters' Association, tabulated analyses of rum produced in British Guiana, prepared by Professor Harrison, have been published by the Government of the Colony, in the Official Gazette of October 19th. The records showed that rum at present manufactured in British Guiana, is subject to a wide range of variation in its contents of esters, these ranging in the samples of estate rums examined from 12 to 80 parts, and in those of "bush" rums from 24 to 115 parts per 100,000 of alcohol by volume.

The samples available at the Laboratory showed that the mean contents of esters in the rum exported from the Colony during the past three years have varied from 64.7 parts to 104 parts per 100,000 of alcohol per volume; the mean of the total export being 83.5 parts of esters per 100,000 parts of alcohol. The determinations made will fairly indicate the character as regards contents of esters of genuine rum from British Guiana and show conclusively that such rum does not contain, and probably at no time during recent years has contained, as much as 400 parts of esters calculated as acetic ether per 100,000 parts of alcohol by volume. A rum yielding 70 to 80 parts of esters may be considered as a characteristic rum of the type known commercially as "Demerara" rum, and to state that such rum is adulterated with between seventy and eighty per cent. of silent spirit is absurd.

Professor Harrison gives his opinion, based on experience, that the characteristic taste and flavour of modern "Demerara" rum does not depend entirely or mainly on the proportions of esters present, but is largely due to minute amounts of other constituents of the spirit and to the caramels used as colouring matter. It is necessary to bear in mind when examining rum that that spirit is of at least two types, the first of which is the product of slow-fermentations of wash set at high densities of from 1.078 to 1.096, the second of rapid fermentation of wash set at relatively low densities, generally at 1.060 to 1.063. The type of the first of these is Jamaica rum, that of the second, Demerara rum, and both of these have an equal right to recognition. To the slow-fermentation-type belong the rums prepared in Grenada, St. Vincent, Antigua, Dominica, St. Kitts-Nevis, and certain grades of Barbados and St. Lucia rums, while other grades of Barbados and St. Lucia rum, and Trinidad rum belong to the quick-fermentation type. Martinique and Guadeloupe rums, he believed, belong principally if not entirely to the first type.

The results recorded in this report offer no support to the theory that rum, a spirit produced from fermented molasses, the by-product in the manufacture of sugar from the sugar-cane, can be judged as to its freedom from admixture with silent spirit by the amount of esters found therein.

### Publications Received.

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, etc., for our Library. We have to thank the following Clubs and Associations for favouring us with their lists of Members (which will be found on the table at the West India Committee Rooms): The Antigua Agricultural and Commercial Society; The New Club, Antigua; The Bridgetown Club, Barbados; The Georgetown Club, British Guiana; The Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society, British Guiana; The Dominica Agricultural Society; The Dominica Club; The Jamaica Agricultural Society; The Westmoreland Sugar Planters' Association, Jamaica; The Castries Club, St. Lucia; The Agricultural Society of Trinidad, and The Trinidad Union Club. We have to acknowledge with thanks, the receipt of the following:—

**THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW GOVERNOR AT ANTIGUA.** We are indebted to Mr. José Anjo, the well-known photographer of St. John's, Antigua, for two excellent photographs of the arrival of His Excellency Sir C. C. Knollys at St. John's on September 28th.

**THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR JOURNAL, Vol. VI, No. 71.** Many interesting articles appear in this number. Mr. Herriot continues his paper on "Science in Sugar Production," and Mr. Naudet describes his new system of diffusion by continuous and forced circulation.

**PICTURE POSTCARDS OF THE WEST INDIES.** Many of the pictures which have appeared in *The West India Committee Circular* are being published as picture postcards. Seven series are to be issued, and of these, Series (1), West Indian Views, and Series (2), West Indian Life, are now ready, and are obtainable from G. P. Osmond, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 1; 1/- per series of twelve, post free 1/1.

**BULLETIN OF MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION, Botanical Department, Trinidad.** Mr. J. H. Hart, Superintendent of the Trinidad Botanical Department, in his quarterly publication for October, treats with many matters of interest to agriculturists, such as the pruning of trees, ant destroyers, etc. Results of experiments in Hawaii with varieties of sugar cane are given by Mr. C. F. Eckart, and the Report of Mr. H. A. Ballou, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, on thrips and black blight in Grenada is published.

**THE AGRICULTURAL NEWS, Vol. III, No. 66** (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 1d., post free 1½d.) The leading article in this issue deals with bee keeping, an industry which has attained a really important position in Jamaica whence the annual exports of honey are valued at about £10,000, and wax £6,000. Bee keepers have adopted up-to-date methods, and now use centrifugal apparatus for expelling the honey from the comb. The credit for the progress of the industry is largely due to the Jamaica Bee Keepers' Association, which is a commercial undertaking worked on co-operative lines. Examiners inspect every package of honey sent in, and if it is found to come up to the required standard it is marked with the Association's stamp. The honey has lately been quoted 15/- to 30/- per cwt. Mr. Francis Watts reports on the cultivation of oranges in Dominica, and explains the system of cultivation. A circle, 10 feet in diameter, is kept clean round each tree: no weeds are allowed to become established in this space, which is weeded at frequent intervals, care being taken not to scrape the soil away from the roots of the tree. The intervening space between the clean circles is not forked or dug up, the grass and weeds being cut down at intervals and used as a surface mulch. An interesting contribution deals with the results of manurial experiments with cacao at Nianganfoix Estate, Grenada.

### Notes of Interest.

**FILING CASES.** Spring back cases for filing *The West India Committee Circular* can be obtained from the Secretary for 2/6 each, or post free 3/-. These will be found a great convenience.



**"SUN PICTURES OF THE ANTILLES."** This is the title of the book containing many of the photographs which have appeared in these pages, to be published very shortly. All enquiries regarding it should be addressed to Messrs. H. & W. Grant, 18-19, Whitefriars Street, E.C.

**LATE FEE MAIL LETTERS.** For the convenience of Members wishing to post letters for the outgoing West Indian Mail at the last possible moment, a messenger leaves the West India Committee Rooms on the day of the departure of the Mail at 12.30 p.m., with letters for posting at Waterloo Station. All such letters must bear the late fee of 2d., in addition to the ordinary postage.

**TO WEIGH CANE JUICE.** The *Moniteur des Intérêts Matériels* (Brussels) of the 27th October, states that the syndicate of sugar manufacturers, Java, offers prizes of 2000 gulden (£166 13s. 4d.), 1000 gulden (£83 6s. 8d.), and 500 gulden (£41 13s. 4d.) to the inventors of the best apparatus for automatically registering the weight of sugar cane juice in lots of not less than 1000 kilograms. The competition will close on the 31st July, 1905.

**OUR NEW CHAIRMAN'S HAMMER.** Mr. Edward R. Davson has presented to the West India Committee a chairman's hammer, bearing the following inscription on a silver plate: "This Mallet is made of Mora wood taken from the remains of the 'Stelling' at Fort Savonette, Upper Berbice River, British Guiana. This was the highest point in the river, where the Dutch had a fort, when Sir Ralph Abercromby took the then 'Colony of Berbice,' in 1796."

**MR. HENRY HALES.** Members of the West India Committee will learn with satisfaction that though Mr. Henry Hales has now retired from the firm of Messrs. J. V. Drake & Co., he will still continue to be a Member of the Executive. Mr. Hales has done a great deal for the West Indies, and such an expert as he is on sugar matters can ill be spared. On Friday the 11th inst., at 2 p.m., he is to be the recipient of a well deserved testimonial at the London Commercial Sale Rooms (by courtesy of the Directors) when the attendance of subscribers and their friends is invited.

**THE VALUE OF TURTLE SOUP.** Dr. E. Stanley Hoare writes to the *Lancet* regarding the wonderful restorative powers of turtle soup in many diseases. He is of opinion that the turtle may possibly supply the mucus in diseases affecting the lining membranes of the alimentary and respiratory tracts. The Editor, commenting on this, says that gelatin is a most powerful "proteid sparer"—acts, that is, as a preventive of proteid waste, saving the tissues, and has, moreover, the property of fixing acid in the digestive process. The peculiar form of gelatin, chondrin, or mucin in turtle soup may possibly possess these properties in a superior degree.

**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Crown of Granada" from Glasgow for Barbados, Trinidad, and Demerara, November 11th; S.S. "Almerian" from Liverpool, for Barbados and Trinidad, November 11th; S.S. "Cavalier" from Liverpool for Demerara, November 15th; S.S. "Cayo-Blanco" from London, for Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitt's, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad, November 17th; and the R.M.S. "Port Kingston" from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, on November 19th. Letters must be specially addressed "by Private Ship" and the name of the ship and port of departure added.

**THE CRICKET XI. FOR THE WEST INDIES.** We have been requested to publish the following provisional list of fixtures of Mr. Warner's cricket team, with a view to ascertaining from the various cricket clubs in the West Indies whether it meets with approval:—

Leave Bristol ...	December 31	+++	+++	+++	+++	Arrive Jamaica ...	January 11
.. Jamaica ...	January 24	...	+++	+++	+++	.. Barbados ...	" 23
.. Barbados ...	" 30	...	...	...	...	.. St. Lucia ...	" 31
.. St. Lucia ...	February 10	...	...	...	...	.. Barbados ...	February 11
.. Barbados ...	" 27	...	...	...	...	.. Demerara ...	March 1
.. Demerara ...	March 9	...	+++	+++	+++	.. Barbados ...	" 11
.. Barbados ...	" 13	...	...	...	...	.. St. Vincent ...	" 14
.. St. Vincent ...	" 18 or 19 (by sloop or extra boat)	...	...	...	...	.. Grenada ...	" 20
.. Grenada ...	" 28 (ordinary mail)	...	+++	+++	+++	.. Trinidad ...	" 29
.. Trinidad ...	April 21	...	...	...	...	.. Plymouth ...	May 3

Mr. Warner will not, unfortunately, be able to accompany the team which will be captained by Lord Brackley, to whom any communications received will be forwarded.

**THE BOLL-WEEVIL.** An article by Mr. O. F. Cooke, of the United States Department of Agriculture, regarding the recent discovery of an ant which preys upon the boll-weevil, has recently been published in *Science*. During a visit to Guatemala in the year 1902, it was noticed that a small Indian cotton plant cultivated by the natives was not attacked by the weevils, whilst the insects were very common in the flowers of a tree-cotton growing spontaneously at a short distance from the plantation.

More recently, owing to the increasing ravages of the boll-weevil in Texas, the existence of this cotton plant, which is not attacked by the boll-weevil, was recalled, and it was thought desirable to ascertain, if possible, whether the plant possesses any quality enabling it to resist the pest, or to what causes its immunity is due. A careful search showed that the boll-weevil is present, but is kept in check by a large, reddish-brown ant, which is attracted to the plant by the food which it secures from the extra-floral nectaries. The ant seizes the weevil in its mandibles and inserts its sting at the point unprotected by the beetle's armour. The weevil is killed immediately, and is carried away in the jaws of its captor. The manner in which the destruction of the pest is accomplished seems to show that the ant is by structure and instinct specially equipped for the purpose. The insect appears to be hardy and able to survive a long, dry season and cold weather in Guatemala. It is hoped that it may be possible to introduce this ant successfully into the cotton plantations of the United States.

### West India Civil Service.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our record of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

CHIEF JUSTICE TARRING returned to Grenada on the 11th ult. and resumed his duties.

Mr C. H. A. ISAACS and Mr ARTHUR K. TODD, M R C S, have been appointed to the Commission of the Peace, Jamaica.

Mr C. ARTHUR LEGGE has been appointed to be, and assumed his duties as, Sub-Inspector of Police and Excise in Grenada.

The MAYOR OF GEORGETOWN for the time being has been appointed a Member of the Board of Agriculture, British Guiana.

Dr WILLIAM FRANCIS LAW has resumed his duties in British Guiana, where he has been appointed Medical Inspector, on October 8th.

Mr E. L. WICKHAM, Sub-Warden of the Barama district, British Guiana, has been appointed a deputy of the Navigation Officer of that River.

The Governor of the Leeward Islands has appointed the Hon S R PEMBERTON to act as Puisne Judge, and Mr F. B. SHAND to act as assistant to the Attorney-General.

### Letter to the Editor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

November 5th, 1904

SIR.—I have been endeavouring for some time past to obtain in London cane sugar, both brown and white, and also cane treacle such as, until recent years, were procurable not only in the Metropolis but throughout Great Britain. I have, however, failed altogether to find either of these articles: the sugars offered for sale having neither the flavour nor the sweetening properties nor—I suspect also—the nutritive qualities of those formerly purchasable, and the only treacle or molasses obtainable being a sickly liquid, the result, I imagine, of some chemical process.

I am taking the liberty, therefore, of writing to ask you whether the West India Committee have any depot in London where I can obtain what I require, and if no such depot has yet been opened whether the Committee contemplate establishing one.

There are, I am confident, very many thousands of householders who would be only too glad to learn the address of the depot and support it even though the prices of the articles in question were for a time higher than those of the beet product. Should no such depot have been opened or its establishment contemplated, may I suggest its urgent necessity?

That the beneficial effect of cane sugar upon the human system is far greater than that of beet sugar is no longer open to doubt. If, therefore, the use of the former can be fostered and extended by your Committee in the way I suggest, until such time as the cane growers are in a position to compete with the Continental chemist—I should think two, or at the most three, years would suffice—I cannot help thinking that Committee will earn the gratitude not only of the West Indian producers but that of the British consumer.

I am informed, on credible authority, that the bulk of the sugar produced in our West Indian possessions at present finds its way to the United States. I am not surprised to hear it, the Americans having long been used to getting value for their money. But is that any valid reason why they can obtain what is—apparently—denied to us? Might I trouble you further by enquiring if you can inform me whether the sugar which is largely advertised as "British Refined Sugar" is wholly cane sugar or partly cane and partly beet. The use of the word "British" conveys, of course, to consumers that the sugar in question (whether the result of British or alien labour) is refined in this country, as no doubt it is, but I should be glad to know whether the materials of which it is composed are produced wholly or in part in British possessions.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A. P. LONGSTAFFE

### The Homeward Mail.

The fortnight in the West Indies reviewed by the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, extracts from which we give below, was on the whole uneventful. Climatic conditions were not so favourable as during the preceding fortnight, complaints on the score of lack of moisture coming from Barbados, British Guiana, Nevis and Trinidad. In Trinidad, trade was still depressed, owing to the action of Venezuela; but the want of labour was being felt by the agricultural community. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Atrato" anchored off Plymouth on Wednesday, November 2nd, at 5.20 p.m., and the Mails were delivered in London by first post on the following morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Antonio" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, October 26th.



**Antigua—A Backward Cane Crop.**

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) October 18th. During the fortnight Antigua enjoyed much better growing weather, with a rainfall of from 4 to 6 inches. The island was looking beautifully green, and the crops were doing their best to make up for the long time lost during the severe drought of the first seven months of the year. The cane crop was, of course, still very backward for the time of year, and nothing but the most favourable weather between then and the end of January next would enable a good crop to be reaped. A captain of a passing steamer had reported that Mont Pelé in Martinique had again been active, and this activity appeared to have been coincident with the falling of the rains.

It would be of interest to planters to know that the canes which had come out best from the trial plots of the Imperial Department of Agriculture during the past reaping season were the Sealy Seedling, the B305, and the B156.

**Barbados—The Cotton Crop.**

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE) October 20th. The House of Assembly sat for the first time after the recess on October 18th, and the Council was to meet on October 25th. The Court Martial on eight West Indian soldiers for perjury in giving evidence at the trial in relation to the events which occurred at the barracks in the spring sat from October 10th. One prisoner being ill in hospital, the Court adjourned pending his recovery; but seven were found guilty and sentenced to three years penal servitude.

The new plan of the Royal Mail Steamer leaving Jamaica earlier had worked admirably last mail. Letters were received on Saturday all over the Island, and they were able to answer them on Monday.

After a not very particularly hot season, they had suddenly had a week of intense heat, fierce suns, and not a breath of air. Heavy rain had been predicted, but except for some showers none had come. The rainfall for the month to date had been very irregular. In parts of St. Lucy, St. Peter, and St. Andrew as much as 10 inches had fallen, but there had not been half so much in St. Thomas, Christchurch, St. Philip, or St. James. A general rain over these parishes was much wanted, and it was to be hoped that it was not far off. The canes had grown much, but they would require constant moisture to enable them to approach last year's crop. With regard to the over-estimate of the crop, which was made by almost everyone, especially of the amount exported, they probably did not sufficiently take into account that at least 1,000 acres were planted in cotton, and a good many in bananas, that many estates had ceased ratooning and had gone back to planting provisions, and that much more sugar was required for the island consumption than formerly. The labouring class had been in the habit of using molasses almost exclusively, but now they bought sugar. Also, a good deal of juice was manufactured into syrup.

The cotton fields were growing beautifully, and as yet there did not appear to be a trace of disease among them. The staff of the Imperial Department of Agriculture had made many inspections of them with the most favourable result, and it was expected that Sir Daniel Morris would be much pleased with their appearance when he arrived on October 24th. Other crops, such as yams, potatoes, woolly-pyrol, etc., were also very healthy.

**British Guiana—The Cable Breakdown.**

(A. SUMMERSON, ESQ.) October 19th. The interruption of the cable on the 9th inst., coming as it did in the busy season, was causing considerable inconvenience. They had no idea when it would be restored.

The sugar market had weakened during the fortnight, and \$2 41 was the last price paid for a small lot of crystals. A good deal of sugar had changed hands at prices ranging from \$2 50 to \$2 41.

The weather had been extremely dry, and cultivation generally was suffering; good rains were wanted all over the Colony.

**Dominica—A Late Cacao Crop.**

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.) October 19th. The Defence Force was being enrolled; so many candidates had applied to join the body that the original number of members (twenty-five) for the Roseau district was shortly to be increased to fifty. Besides this a separate force was being constituted for the Windward districts. An effort was being made to send a rifle team to St. Kitts to compete for the inter-island trophy.

The cacao crop would be late this year; the fine weather of the past few days had improved the outlook.

**Grenada.—The Fruit Exhibition.**

(P. J. DEAN, ESQ.) October 20th. At a meeting of the Committee of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, held in the preceding week, it was decided that the Society should send a few exhibits of fruit to the Royal Horticultural Exhibition, to be held in London on December 13th and 14th.

During the fortnight there had been very little rain and a scorching sun; vegetation generally had not suffered from this. The new crop of cacao had commenced to come in, but shipments for another month would only be on a small scale. The cacao in the mountain lands was backward, and the heavy pickings there would not be made before December and January. Prospects generally were not so good as they should be with the favourable season they had had.

**Jamaica—Slowly Recuperating.**

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, ESQ.) October 19th. Several disturbances had passed the Island without causing injury. Rain had fallen for a week but cultivation had not suffered. Vere had had about nine inches during the three or four weeks. The Island was slowly but surely emerging from its troubles.

**Montserrat—Cotton Pests.**

(CONRAD WATSON, ESQ.) October 19th. The first brood of caterpillars had attacked the cotton plants, but every effort was being made to destroy the insects by the application of paris green. They had done little damage up to the present and it was hoped that, owing to the prompt measures taken, the next brood would be smaller. The leaf blister mite had appeared in different parts of the cotton fields, but not to an alarming extent.

**Revis—Rain Wanted.**

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) October 18th. Cotton, considering the attacks of the various insects, was progressing favourably thanks to the scientific preventive precautions which had been proved to be efficacious in like instances. The weather was oppressively hot and rain was wanted.

**St. Kitts—Prospects Excellent.**

(CHARLES A. SMITH, ESQ.) October 18th. The weather during the fortnight had been most favourable for cultivation, and nothing could be more vigorous than the growth of the canes, which the recent heavy rains and hot suns had induced. Prospects were excellent. Favourable weather had, it appeared, also had some effect in hindering the spread of the cotton worm, which had not so far been so much in evidence as last year.

**St. Vincent—The Eruption Fund.**

(Messrs. D. K. PORTER & CO.) October 21st. So far as could be ascertained, the authorities in the Island had taken no further action with regard to the Eruption Fund, but it was still hoped that the matter of the canal in the Carib country would receive attention.

The weather of late had been excessively hot, but showers having fallen at intervals it could not be called unseasonable, except in so far as it tended to ripen cotton somewhat prematurely.

#### Trinidad—Relations with Venezuela.

(Hon. G. THOMASSEN FENWICK, C.M.G.), October 21st. The state of relations with Venezuela was mainly responsible for the dullness—almost amounting to stagnation—in much of the general trade of the Island. It would appear that official representations had so far only resulted in increased harassing restrictions. There remained the hope that the lost trade might be regained by the interest that the carriers of goods, the Bolivar merchants and the agriculturists of the country had in seeing it return to its natural base. The Orinoco steamers were bringing down fair quantities of produce, and carrying back little or nothing. While the 30% surtax prohibited transhipment at Port of Spain, the heavy insurance rate consequent on transhipment in the open port of Amacuro, was equally effective in preventing the ocean steamers calling there.

The last three weeks had been very dry, and already complaints had been received from the southern districts that the sugar crops were suffering. An experienced planter from the northern districts stated that he did not think any harm had yet been done, and that he found the soil still full of moisture. He thought the crop promised better than did that of last year at the same time.

From 1st of January to date, the shipments of cacao exceeded those of the same period in 1903, by some nine and a quarter million pounds, an increase in weight of 35%, and nearly £250,000 in value. This with the increased expenditure on sugar had helped much to tide over the slackness of other business. But they could not hope for such crops every year, and it required only a short cacao crop to make the merchants realise to the full what they had lost, and the Government to appreciate how much of its revenue was due to their trade with Venezuela. The local market was dull, and very little of the new crop cacao had as yet come to hand. Prices in the absence of supplies remained unaltered. Sales for future delivery had been heard of at 54s. 6d. for "La Paix" and 56s. 6d. for "La Belle Alliance" per 50 kilos, c. and l. Havre. Total shipments for the year to date were: Trinidad, 260,853 bags, and Venezuela, 38,505 bags.

The *Port of Spain Gazette* of October 18th contained a report of the meeting of the Legislative Council, with reference to the proposed floating dock. A guarantee of 3% interest on a maximum capital of £10,000 for a period of twenty five years to a private company, which had been formed, was suggested by the Government and approved by the Council.

Some informality at the time the usual vote for 2400 immigrants for season 1904/5 was introduced, rendered it necessary to bring it again before the Council on Monday, October 17th. Mr. C. F. David stated that he intended to oppose the vote, and asked that the motion be postponed until next meeting to enable him to state his reasons fully. The postponement was granted. The immigrants were by this time all engaged, and many of them on their way, so that no action now could affect the contract.

The Government had, it was understood, been notified that the Emigration Agent could not send the extra 600 asked for by the planters, and had also been notified that the Secretary of State had found it necessary to appoint an assistant to their Emigration Agent. This had been done without consulting either the Governor or the Council in Trinidad. Much indignation was expressed.

#### Some West Indian Securities.

##### The Demerara Railway Company.

The audited accounts for the half-year ended June 30th, 1904, show that the gross revenue was £20,407 2s. 1d., and gross expenditure £16,579 12s. 3d., leaving net revenue £3827 9s. 10d. After meeting debenture interest £1400, and adding the Government subsidy, £6250, and amount carried forward for half year to December 31, 1903, £6139 19s. 10d., the balance is £14,817 8s. 11d. Of this, £6250 is absorbed by the dividend on the Extension Preference shares, and the Directors recommend an interim dividend of 2 per cent. on the 7 per cent. preference stock, £1150, the appropriation of £5020 15s. 4d. for payment for two new engines and two boilers, leaving £1496 13s. 7d. to be carried forward. In their report to the Shareholders, the Directors express regret at the receipt of advices of unfavourable weather conditions which may prejudicially affect the traffic returns during the next few months. The Directors are of opinion that the time has now arrived for putting the financial position of the Company upon a more satisfactory footing than at present. With that object they suggest an arrangement being made between the holders of the 7 per cent. Preference and the Ordinary Stocks, for dealing with the arrears of dividend due to the former, and for preventing an accumulation of arrears of dividend in the future. They accordingly propose that a committee representing both classes of Stockholders should be appointed at the forthcoming meeting, to deal with the matter in conference with the Board, and a resolution will be submitted to that effect.

The half-yearly general meeting was held on the 28th Oct., when the report and accounts were adopted and the resolutions for dividends agreed to. A small committee of Shareholders was appointed, representing the 7 per cent. Preference and Ordinary Stocks, for the purpose of considering the question of a scheme for dealing with the 7 per cent. Preference Stock and the arrears of dividend.

##### The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The interim report for the half year ended June 30 states that the improvement in the company's business has been more than maintained. The revenue continues to increase, and as a result of the progressive policy which the directors have adopted the company is gradually regaining its position in the various trades in which its steamers are engaged. Five of the new steamers mentioned in the last report have been delivered. The completion of the others is being expedited by the builders, and the acquisition of these new vessels is already having a beneficial effect on the freight and passenger traffic. After the most careful examination of every department of the business the directors are convinced that the provision of more new mail and cargo steamers of large carrying capacity, together with economy of working, is a pressing necessity, and that it is of the utmost importance that the old-established and valuable connections of the company should be fully maintained and developed. The business of the company was allowed to recede in the past, and now that a forward movement has been initiated progress should not be impeded through lack of new tonnage, which is required to cope with the demands of a steadily developing business and to enable the company to maintain its proper position among competitors, and so earn dividends for the proprietors. Owing to the low price of all shipbuilding materials new tonnage can now be obtained on very favourable terms. A reorganisation of the business has been effected, but it is only by the acquisition of new vessels with large earning powers that the company can hope to reap the full benefit of the improvements which have been introduced throughout the service, and which have already done so much to promote its good name. Recognising the desire of the proprietors that the existing liability of £40 per share on the Ordinary Shares should as soon as practicable be cancelled, the directors have now decided to issue Preference Stock recently authorised, and preferential allotment will be given to the proprietors of Ordinary Shares. It will not be practicable to cancel the existing liability on the Ordinary Shares unless this issue of Preference Stock is successful. The instalments will extend over two years, but all or any of these instalments may be paid in advance, the allottee receiving



interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum. The directors, in conclusion, express the opinion that with the acquisition of new steamers and the united efforts for the improvement of the business which are being made in all departments, the result of this reorganisation of the capital must eventually lead to substantial benefit to the proprietors.

On Nov. 1st the Company invited subscriptions to an issue of £600,000 5% non-cumulative Preference Stock carrying the further right of participating in any remaining divisible profits after payment of 5 per cent. on the Ordinary Stock *part passu* with that Ordinary Stock. The applications received, however, did not justify the Company to proceed to allotment; they have, therefore, decided to call up the out-standing liability on the Ordinary Shares, and a notice of call has been issued accordingly. A resolution will in due course be submitted to the proprietors for the conversion of each £100 fully-paid shares into fully-paid stock of two classes—viz. £40 5% Preference Stock sharing with the Ordinary in the surplus profit of each year after the Ordinary Stock has received 5 per cent. and £60 fully-paid Ordinary Stock.

The Bank of England rate remains 3 per cent. (changed from 3½ per cent. on April 22nd, 1904), and Consols (2½%) are quoted as 87½ we go to press.

**Weather Telegrams.**

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) Nov. 7th. "Very dry, rain wanted." **Demerara** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Nov. 2nd. "There has been no change in the weather." (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinnic & Co.) Nov. 5th. "Weather too dry, rain much wanted." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) Week ended Oct. 27th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "21st, rainy, others fine." **KINGSTON**: "21st, 22nd, rainy, others fine."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Coconuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.	Cotton.
<b>Barbados—</b>	Hhds.	lbs.	Tons.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.	lbs.
Jan. 1 to Oct. 21, '04	56,847	—	—	—	—	45,748	—	—	—
" " " 21, '03	38,179	—	—	—	—	30,233	—	—	—
<b>British Guiana—</b>	Tons.								
Jan. 1 to Oct. 18, '04	51,821	218,640	3498	12,819	218,640	1751	64,005	8633	—
" " " 20, '03	75,973	4991	506	15,486	4991	3509	68,197	7016	—
<b>Jamaica—</b>		Cwts.	Coffee.	Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.	
Apr. 1 to Oct. 1, '04	5671	12,253	74,915	892,370	1,366,130	56,311	3,681,557	24,387,105	1796
" " " 3, '03	7896	15,908	17,489	859,117	12,574,635	32,482	7,306,969	22,698,150	—
<b>Trinidad—</b>	Bags.	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.	Tres.	Hrls.	Asphalt.
Jan. 1 to Oct. 20, '04	384,424	35,470,500	63,435	150	7,174,815	2358	29	89	107,764
" " " 20, '03	382,332	26,151,670	42,120	1143	10,076,102	3473	178	166	151,622
<b>Grenada—</b>		Bags.	Brls.	½ Brls.	SPICE.	Cases	Bags.	Cotton Seed	Cotton
Oct. 1 to Oct. 21, '04	—	478	512	81		34	67	—	Bales.
" " " 22, '03	—	397	518	67		51	9	—	—

**The Mails.**

**The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Atrato,"** (Capt. R. H. Stranger) Nov. 3rd:—**Barbados**—Mr. H. Williamson, Capt. H. A. Fulton, Lieut. Harold E. Denison, R.N. **Demerara**—Mr. A. A. Matthew, Miss Mary Bourke, Mr. W. H. Biddick. **Jamaica**—Two Masters Gough, Mr. Carlos Schloss. **Trinidad**—Mr. G. Grell, Mr. J. Battistini, Mr. T. Salvatore. **Dominica**—Mr. Mrs. and Miss Rose, Mrs. R. L. Bellot. **St. Lucia**—Mr. L. Devaux, Hon. and Mrs. Mark Kerr, Mr. A. McKenzie.

**OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Tagus"** (Capt. Rudge) Nov. 9th:—**Barbados**—Mr. L. Lash, Mr. R. Clinckett, Miss E. Clinckett, Mrs. Whitfield, Miss Joyce, Mr. W. de Freitas, Mrs. A. de Freitas, Mr. S. da Costa, Col. Cosmo Gordon, Mrs. Ida Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Maclaren, Mr. S. Browne, Mr. F. Browne, Mr. C. Goodridge, Mr. A. J. Larke, Mr. and Mrs. Carter Page, Mr. and Mrs. and two Misses Aldis, Mr. and Mrs. R. Maclaren, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mr. G. Rodway, Miss E. Prince, Mr. and Mrs. A. Benjamin. **Demerara**—Mr. R. Thom, Mr. H. J. Taylor, Dr. E. Bovallius, Mr. F. Fowler, Mrs. E. Woodroffe, Mr. J. A. Barr, Mr. T. Marwood. **Jamaica**—Two Misses Forrest, Miss M. Goldthorpe, Miss G. Bailey, Miss K. Woodhouse, Rev. G. and Mrs. McNeill, Mr. and Mrs. A. Bell, Miss M. Cribbs, Dr. C. Harvey, Mrs. E. Harvey, Mrs. L. Ainsworth, Mrs. E. Cundall, Mr. and Mrs. Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. J. Brown, Lieut. Col. Denys, Mr. E. Wilson, Mrs. and Miss Lucie-Smith, Miss Corbett, Mrs. and Miss Boggs, Mrs. W. Keeves, Miss Trickett, Dr. and Mrs. Malabre, Mr. L. Stone, Mr. W. Wood, Mrs. A. Rogers, Mr. W. J. S. Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. H. James. **Trinidad**—Mr. Casalta, Mr. J. de Verteuil, Mr. E. Smith, Mr. E. B. Twose, Miss E. E. Coryat, Mrs. R. Rust, Mr. and Mrs. G. Taylor, Mrs. C. Stollmeyer, Mr. J. Miller, Mr. A. Warner, Mrs. I. Read, Bishop J. Welsh, Mrs. Welsh, Mr. F. Welsh, Mr. and Mrs. Twose, Mrs. C. Craig, Miss Penalosa, Mr. and Mrs. Holler, Mr. Justice and Mrs. Routledge, Mr. O. Harley, Mrs. B. Austen, Mr. E. Selway, Mr. J. Glendinning, Rev. H. Casey, Rev. H. Collins, Rev. F. O'Reilly. **Antigua**—Mr. G. W. A. Maginley. **Grenada**—Mr. and Miss Gray, Hon. C. and Mrs. Browne, Mr. J. Cathcart. **St. Kitts**—Hon. and Mrs. E. Brank. **St. Lucia**—Hon. G. Ponsonby.

**The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service —HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio"** (Capt. Owen Jones) Oct. 26th:—**Jamaica**—Sister A. Clarke, Mrs. G. T. Haycraft, Mrs. Lees, Mr. T. MacGregor, Miss M. J. Martin, Mr. G. Smith.

**SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio"** (Capt. Owen Jones) Nov. 5th:—**Jamaica**—Hon. C. B. Berry, Mr. D. W. Brooks, two Misses Dyce, Miss S. H. Gardener, Miss L. Hamilton, Mr. S. H. Justin, Mr. J. Morrison, Mrs. and Miss Maconochie, Mr. J. C. Nolan, Mr. J. E. Sherlock, Mrs. and two Misses Vickers, Capt. E. Grimes, Col. and Mrs. V. L. Mathias, Mr. W. Scott.

## The Produce Markets Summary.

**Sugar.**—Advancing prices are the order of the day, and no wonder, since it becomes manifest that the European Beet crops, taken as a whole, are simply a disaster, and bid fair to produce 1 000,000 tons, or thereabouts, less sugar than last season; whilst sanguine crop estimates of cane for 1904/5, spread over the entire twelve months, and subject to all sorts of evil influences during the period of growth, barely reach 300,000 tons in excess of the season lately closed. Such a condition of things has seldom if ever been seen before, certainly not since the growth of sugar has reached the important figures of the last few years. Each estimate of the recognised Experts as it appears tells the same tale of reducing crops, and it is not unreasonable to suggest that Convention Europe, which alone concerns us, will not be likely to produce more than 3 700,000 tons, against 4,440,000 tons in 1903/4; and if this is so, the following figures paint a picture of exhaustion in stocks before the year is out, unless Consumption falls off, as it may.

### CONVENTION EUROPE.

CROP, 1903/4		CROP, 1904/5.		Total Distribution, 1903/4
Stocks, 1st Sept., 1903	1,280,000	Stocks, 1st Sept., 1904	920,000	
Crops ...	4,240,000	Crops ...	3,700,000	
<b>Total Supply...</b>	<b>5,520,000</b>	<b>Total Supply...</b>	<b>4,620,000</b>	<b>4,600,000 Tons.</b>

However much the Continental people may regret the loss of so large a proportion of their crops, our West Indian friends, who have suffered so long from the evil effects of Bounties and Kartels, will view the matter from a different standpoint, and there is no shadow of a doubt but that, with favourable crops, a season of prosperity is before them such as has not been seen for many years. The right policy seems to be to delay realising crops as long as possible, unless, as is universally expected, prices take another important and rapid upward movement.

Closing quotations of 88% are as follows:—Nov. 12s 9½d.; May, 13s. 1½d.; Aug. 13s 3½d.; and Oct./Dec., 1905, 10s. 9½d. all free on board Hamburg.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America on uneven dates are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	
Europe ...	690,000	1,110,000	1,070,000	490,000	290,000	Tons
United States ...	140,000	120,000	160,000	170,000	60,000	..
Cuba ...	—	120,000	80,000	50,000	—	..
Cargoes afloat ...	160,000	120,000	120,000	20,000	80,000	..
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>990,000</b>	<b>1,470,000</b>	<b>1,430,000</b>	<b>730,000</b>	<b>430,000</b>	<b>..</b>

Comparative prices of 88% Beet for 5 years:—12s. 9½d. 8s. 7d. 7s. 6d. 7s. 2d. 9s. 5d.

**Vacuum Pan Sugar.**—An important rise has been established in crystallised, Importers' stocks being practically exhausted and the Trade buying with confidence. The latest sales have been on the basis of 20s. 6d. for average qualities, with fine sugar up to 21s. 9d. A cargo of 96 test for Refiners' use is now worth 13s. 6d. on floating conditions.

**Molasses Sugar** is in active request, and prices range from 13s. 6d. to 17s.

**Muscovado.**—There is little or no sugar here. Grocery Barbados may be quoted 14s. 6d. to 15s. For a cargo of 89 test for Refiners about 12s. should be now obtainable on floating terms.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Imports to date ...	37,000	20,000	56,000	42,000	Tons.
Deliveries ...	41,000	35,000	37,000	35,000	..
Stocks ..	8200	13,500	32,000	15,000	..
Crystallised quotations of "average qualities"	20s. 6d.	15s. 9d.	14s. 3d.	15s. 6d.	

Rum.—Stocks in London:	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Jamaica ...	10,600	10,800	12,200	9900	Puns.
Demerara ...	6100	6600	7600	4100	..
Total of all kinds:—	24,143	27,812	Deficiency 3669	Puns	

There is an improved demand for Demerara, and 8½ has been paid on the spot for fair Marks, but stocks in Importers' hands are practically nil. Jamaica has a shade more doing, but without improvement in prices, 15s. 9d. remaining the outside value of fair Standard Home Trade Marks. Leewards are still quoted 7d. to 10d. Prices of rum have been too low for a long time past, but a healthy reaction seems now to have set in, and at the right time of the year too.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	
	91,000	59,000	67,000	89,000	Bags.

There is no improvement to note in the general state of the market and business is restricted. Trinidad Cocoa from 57s. to 58s. for good Estate Marks looks cheap, but attracts little attention thereat. The small lots of Grenada on the market are commanding full prices. Other West India kinds show no alteration. Closing quotations are: Trinidad, fair collected, 56s., Estate Marks, 56s. to 60s. and up to 65s.; Grenada, fair, 53s., Fermented, 55s. to 57s. 6d. From other Islands, fair Native is worth about 50s. and Fermented 53s. to 58s. African Cocoa is quoted 57s. for delivery in the usual ports on full landed terms.

**Coffee.**—About steady. Good ordinary Jamaica is 37s. to 38s., and Santos 37s. for this month's delivery.

**Nutmegs.**—In good supply. West India sold 64's at 2s. 1d.; 84's, at 1s. 2d.; 100's at 10d.; 120's at 6½d.; 163's at 5½d., and in shell 4½d. to 5d. **Mace.**—Good sales of West India, pale, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 10d.; red, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 4d.; and broken at 10½d. **Pimento.**—Easier. Very little doing; value of fair, 2½d. **Ginger.**—Quiet, but steady. Small sales of Jamaica, common to good common, 28s. to 31s. 6d.

Brownroot—London figures to 1st Nov.:	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901	1900	
Imports...	13,909	12,432	16,801	17,733	23,072	3rls
Deliveries ...	15,405	12,040	10,835	17,525	17,833	..
Stocks ...	11,140	12,633	13,685	8408	7770	..

Scarcely any sales made, the value of good manufacturing remaining 1½d.

**Lime Juice.**—Slow, at 9d. to 1s. 2d. Concentrated quoted £13 17s. 6d. Hand Pressed, unchanged at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. **Distilled Oil.**—Value 1s. 5d.

For Cotton, see Special Article, page 416.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.



# The . . . West India Committee Circular

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## OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XXX.



Sir Alfred Lewis Jones, K.C.M.G.

## The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEething LANE, LONDON,

November 21st, 1904.

**W**ITH the General Election coming nearer, the Opposition has eagerly seized upon the recent rise in the price of sugar as a weapon with which to attack the Government. We need not feel unduly perturbed however, as we are pledged to the Convention until 1908, and nothing can upset its provisions. But at the same time we must place on record our contempt for the unfair and wholly unjustified attack which is being made upon what is really one of the wisest pieces of legislation of recent years. To attribute the recent rise in sugar to the abolition of bounties is, to put it in the mildest form, untrue. The rise is the result of the failure of the beet crop on the continent. The low prices caused by bounties have prevented the natural expansion of the sugar industry, so that the beetroot crop in consequence constitutes at present about two-thirds of the visible production of the world, and prices depend upon whether the crop is good or bad. The present beetroot crop is reported to be a disastrous one owing to the past extraordinary dry summer, and to show a shortage

of at least 1,000,000 tons. That is why prices have risen. The rise is indirectly due to bounties, and not to their abolition, and if they had been allowed to continue unchecked it would have gone very

much further. The sugar industry was rapidly drifting into the position in which cotton found itself last year. If bounties had been allowed to continue unchecked, the sugar industry of our Colonies, and also that of Java and Brazil would have been wiped out, and just as Lancashire is dependent on one foreign country for her cotton (and her experiences of last year will not easily be forgotten), so would our consumers have been solely dependent upon France, Germany, and Austria, for their sugar. What would have been the result? It is obvious that these three countries would have been quite incapable in the present circumstances of supplying the wants of Europe, including the United Kingdom, and but for the Convention having been the means of saving the cane sugar industry, it is hardly open to doubt but that prices would have been at a fabulous level and then, perhaps, the Opposition might have realised the consequence of their folly, and started a Chartered Company for the production of sugar in British Possessions, as is now being done in the case of cotton.

**W**HEN in 1900 certain suggestions were made for closer trade relations between the West Indies and Canada, we expressed opinion that the moment was not opportune, and no further action was then taken. The reason for our attitude was principally based on the fact that owing to the incidence of the bounties the West Indies were largely dependent upon the markets of the United States, who by countervailing the bounties gave a better price for sugar than Canada even taking into consideration the  $33\frac{1}{3}$  preference. Canada could then only take 120,000 tons of sugar, and there was the grave danger that if we entered into reciprocal arrangements with Canada, the United States might retaliate, and the home market being closed to us there would be no outlet for our surplus sugar production. Again, one-third of the cacao produced in Trinidad went to the United States, and it was to be feared that America might also retaliate against that commodity. In the case of sugar, with the abolition of bounties, and the concession made by the United States to Cuba, circumstances are altered. We are not now so dependent on the good graces of the United States, and coupled with that is the fact of the enormous progress of the consumption of Canada during the last four years. The question, however, in regard to cacao must also be fully considered, and as far as we are aware the conditions of this industry have not changed. Nothing should be done hastily, but it remains to be considered whether this question might not be re-opened. It is possible that some Islands might wish to enter into reciprocal arrangements with Canada, and leave the others out in the cold. But this, of course, would not be accepted, and all should have an opportunity of participating if anything is to be done. We hope then that the Colonies will give this matter their consideration, and favour us with their views regarding it in the course of the next few months.

#### Sir Alfred Lewis Jones, K.C.M.G.

The West Indies were discovered by Columbus in the 15th century and by Sir Alfred Lewis Jones, according to his own statement, in 1901. But so far, his sphere of influence does not extend beyond Jamaica, to which the speedy vessels of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service, of which he is Chairman, run; though rumours are afloat of tenders being invited for the construction of turbine steamers, which are to make the journey to other Islands in an incredibly short space of time. Sir Alfred Jones is a Member of our Executive and a Vice-President of the West Indian Club, over many of whose social gatherings he has presided. He is an Honorary Fellow of that Oxford College, whose undergraduates are always popularly supposed to be blessed with the same good Welsh name as he is. He is President of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce and the Liverpool Ship Owners' Association, Consul for the Congo Free State in Liverpool, and Founder of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. He was made a K.C.M.G. in 1901, in recognition of his services to the West African Colonies. As President of the British Cotton Growing Association, he is at the head of a movement which merits the support of every British subject.



### The Rum Surtax and Duty-free Alcohol.

In our last issue we briefly reviewed the steps which we have recently taken to secure the removal of the surtax of 4d. imposed on British Colonial spirits, a grievance under which the West Indian Colonies have been suffering for many years. We now append the correspondence which has lately passed between the West India Committee and the Colonial Office and the Treasury on this subject.

#### No. 1. The West India Committee to the Treasury.

October 4th, 1904.

SIR,—We have learnt with regret that no Colonial representative has been nominated to serve on the Committee which you have been pleased to appoint to consider and report upon the possible use of alcohol, duty-free, for industrial purposes, and that the Colonial aspect of the subject has not been included in the terms of reference to the Committee.

2. As far as the Colonies are concerned, this question is inseparable from that of the surtax on Colonial spirits, and no abatement of duty could benefit the Colonies unless it were accompanied by the abatement of the present surtax, regarding the injustice of which the West India Committee has on many occasions had the honour to address you, Sir, and your predecessors.

3. In the House of Commons, on June 20th last, you are reported to have said that:

"If methylated spirit were imported from the Colonies, it would pay a duty of 11s. 5d. per gallon; but, as a matter of fact, none is imported."

The reason for this is obvious; methylated spirit, if imported from the Colonies, would have to pay a duty of 11s. 5d. per gallon, while, in consequence of methylated spirit manufactured in this country being duty-free, its value in this country is less than 2s. 6d. per proof gallon. British Colonial spirit imported for the purpose of methylation has to pay the surtax of 4d. per gallon, while spirit manufactured in this country for methylation is duty free.

4. Members of the West India Committee have been given to understand by the Board of Inland Revenue that the case of rum would be considered as part of the question of the facilities to be given for the use of spirits in industrial operations, but the present terms of reference would appear to preclude this.

5. Inasmuch, therefore, as the distillers in our Crown Colonies are quite as much entitled to consideration as the distillers in this country, who have a representative on the Committee, we venture respectfully to pray that you will add to the Committee a representative of Colonial interests, in order that the case of the Colonies may receive adequate consideration, and that the terms of reference may be altered so as to include the interests of the Colonies.

We have the honour, &c.,

(Signed) NEVILLE LUBBOCK, Chairman.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

The Right Hon. Austen Chamberlain, M.P., &c., &c.  
Chancellor of the Exchequer

#### No. 2. The West India Committee to the Colonial Office.

October 4th, 1904.

SIR,—We have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter\* which my Committee has addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, praying that a Colonial representative may be added to the Committee recently appointed to consider and report on the possible use of alcohol, duty-free, for industrial purposes, and that the Colonial aspect of the subject may be included in the terms of reference to that Committee.

2. You will recollect, Sir, that in March, 1902, Mr. J. Steele visited the West Indies to report on the excise restrictions, and estimated that they cost less than ½d. per gallon; but the partisan spirit of Mr. Steele was admitted on all sides, and his report was challenged by, among others, an organ of the distillers, *The Wine Trade Review*, a copy of the comments of which we append herewith,† together with a report of a sub-Committee of the West India Committee upon Mr. Steele's report. An examination and scrutiny of the excise regulations in this country would have been the logical sequence, but this has not been granted, and the amount of the surtax is therefore based, as we understand, on calculations arrived at in 1866, which include a sum of ½d. for compensation for duty on foreign grain.

3. When the duty on foreign grain was removed in 1869, the surtax was not reduced; and after the fresh grain

\* Copy of No. 1 enclosed.

† Extract from the *Wine Trades Review* of September 15th, 1903, enclosed. Not reprinted.

‡ *The West India Committee Circular*, No. 107, page 56. Not reprinted.

duty imposed in 1902 was remitted in 1903, the surtax was still left at 4d., because the distillers stated that, apart from the duty on grain, the previous allowances were insufficient to compensate them for the increased cost of production due to the excise restrictions.

4. In these circumstances, and in view of the very strong condemnation of the surtax by the Royal Commissioners, who visited the West Indies in 1897 (see Report, West Indian Royal Commission, pages 15-16, pars 96-103), we very reasonably hope for the continued assistance of the Colonial Department in securing the redress of a grievance under which the West Indian Colonies have so long suffered.

We beg, therefore, to pray that you will be pleased to endorse our request to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and have the honour to be, &c.,

The Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, K.C., M.P., &c., &c.,  
Secretary of State for the Colonies

NEVILLE LUBBOCK, Chairman.  
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

No 3. **The Colonial Office to the West India Committee.**  
(Replying to No. 2)

October 18th, 1904.

SIR,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, in which you enclose a copy of a letter addressed by your Committee to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, praying that a Colonial representative may be added to the recently appointed "Duty-free Alcohol Committee."

2. In reply to your request for Mr. Lyttelton's support, I am to state that as the present inquiry relates only to the conditions governing the use of spirits for certain purposes in the United Kingdom, Mr. Lyttelton must leave the matter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

3. Mr. Lyttelton regrets that you should attribute a partisan spirit to Mr. Steele, a suggestion for which he can see no justification.

The Secretary of the West India Committee

I am, Sir, &c.,  
H. BERTRAM COX.

No 4. **The Treasury to the West India Committee.**  
(Replying to No. 1).

November 5th, 1904.

SIR,—The Chancellor of the Exchequer has given careful consideration to your letter of the 4th ultimo, since his return from Italy, and I am now in a position to send a reply to be laid before your Committee.

The Chancellor thinks that you are under some misapprehension as to the scope of the terms of reference. It will, of course, not be possible for the Alcohol Committee to consider any proposals for giving Colonial spirit a preference over other imported spirit; nor would it be possible for His Majesty's Government to adopt at the present time any such proposals, if made.

But Mr. Chamberlain understands that this is not what you desire; and if, as he believes, your whole object is to secure that that the Committee shall consider the effect of the surtax on spirits generally—Colonial as well as foreign—and the facilities which there are for the sale of imported spirit for industrial purposes, these matters are, in Mr. Chamberlain's opinion, covered by the Terms of the Reference, and could hardly be excluded from the Committee if they are to make a complete report.

As regards the composition of the Committee, Mr. Chamberlain regrets that he is unable to comply with your wish that a Colonial representative should be added. In the case of a small Committee of this kind, it is not possible that it should be representative of every interest concerned. But Mr. Chamberlain believes that he has secured the services of a body of men fully capable of dealing with the subject which it is desired to have examined.

The Secretary of the West India Committee

I am, &c.,  
GEORGE H. DUCKWORTH.

No 5. **The West India Committee to the Colonial Office.**  
(Replying to No. 3)

November 10th, 1904.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter 34,459/1904, of the 18th ult., with reference to the "Duty Free Alcohol Committee."

We fear from this that Mr. Lyttelton has failed to appreciate the full significance of our letter of the 4th ult., in which we requested him not only to use his influence that a Colonial representative might be added to the Committee, but also that the Colonial aspect of the subject might be included in the terms of reference to the





From "Six Weeks of the Antilles," in the Even.

Photo by Antonius E. Jansz. Copyright

## A BANANA PLANTATION IN JAMAICA.

Committee, which as at present expressed appear to preclude the possibility of any recommendation being made for the removal of the surtax, which at present effectively excludes Colonial spirit for manufacturing purposes from the United Kingdom.

Having regard to the fact that the Royal Commission who visited the West Indies in 1897, condemned this surtax as unsound in principle, and as entailing hardship on the Colonies, adding that "the answer of the Home Government (to previous remonstrances) cannot be considered satisfactory," we very properly, as it appears to us, hoped for the assistance of the Colonial Office in securing the redress of a grievance under which the West Indies have suffered for so many years.

With reference to the last paragraph of your letter, we would refer Mr Lyttelton to the report of a sub-Committee of the West India Committee upon Mr Steele's statements, which was published in *The West India Committee Circular*, No 107, and a copy of which is annexed\*. Mr Steele, we may remind you, made many uncalled-for and absolutely untrue assertions regarding the planters in the West Indies, which we cannot believe are endorsed by your Department. He appeared to think that the planting body were responsible for:—

1. The rate of the import duties in the Colonies
2. The Commissaries and officers of the Colonial Government
3. The Excise Laws of the Colonies

and he stated that "In British Guiana the planter is his own officer and supervisor, and that this is the product of a combination of planters and of a certain body of men called in to take the initiative in promoting money bills." For these untrue and unfair assertions, Mr. Steele adduced no evidence whatever. But, apart from the question of the disinterestedness of his statements, Mr. Steele having reported on the excise restrictions in the West Indies, the logical sequence would be an absolutely independent inquiry into the excise restrictions to which distillers in this country are subject, the 4d. and 5d. surtaxes being at present based, as we understand, upon calculations arrived at as far back as 1866, when 4d. was allowed as compensation for the duty on foreign grain.

Trusting that in these circumstances the question of the Rum Surtax may continue to engage the attention of the Colonial Office,

We have the honour to be, &c.

NEVILLE LUBBOCK, Chairman,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.

#### No. 6. The Colonial Office to the West India Committee.

(Replying to No. 5).

November 15th, 1904.

SIR,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant on the subject of the "Duty-Free Alcohol Committee," and to state that he understands you to desire:—

- (1.) That a Colonial representative should be added to the Committee; and
- (2.) That the effect of the Surtax should be included in the terms of reference.

2. I am to observe that both these matters are primarily for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to consider, and that, as it appears from his letter to you, printed in the current number of *The West India Committee Circular*, that, while finally declining to appoint a Colonial representative, he considers that the effect of the Surtax on spirits generally is covered by the terms of reference, they must both now be regarded as settled.

3. I am to add that Mr. Lyttelton must decline to discuss the statements embodied in Mr. Steele's report; and that it is for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and not for the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to decide whether it is necessary or expedient to hold an enquiry into the effect of British Excise restrictions in increasing the cost of manufacture.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

The Secretary of the West India Committee.

C. P. LUCAS.

#### No. 7. The West India Committee to the Treasury.

(Replying to No. 4).

November 16th, 1904.

SIR,—I am directed by my Committee to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst. on the subject of the composition of and terms of reference to the Committee on duty free-alcohol.

The second paragraph of your letter having been copied into the Press without the context, and with a view to correct the false impression thereby created that we are anxious that a preference should be given to Colonial spirit over other imported spirit, I am directed emphatically to state that my Committee ask for no preferential treatment in this matter.

\* *The West India Committee Circular*, No. 107, page 56. Not reprinted.



On the contrary, my Committee is complaining of the preferential treatment accorded to the home distiller. All that we ask is that the distillers in the British West Indies may be put on the same footing as distillers in this country. If the imposition of a surtax of 4d. per gallon on imported spirit is necessary to compensate the home distiller for the cost of his Excise regulations, then we claim that inasmuch as our Excise regulations in the West Indies are under the control of the Home Government, we are equally entitled to that 4d. as against the foreigner, of whose Excise regulations we know nothing.

The Excise regulations in the West Indies have recently been subjected to a scrutiny, and what my Committee may fairly ask is that those at home may be similarly examined. The surtax was based, as we understand, on a report of the Board of Inland Revenue, dated as far back as 1866, and the only explanation as to why the allowance of 3d. then recommended as compensation for duty on foreign grain, is still included in spite of the abolition of the corn duties, has been that after 1902 it was held that the distillers had shown that, apart from the duty on grain, the previous allowances were insufficient to compensate the home distiller for his Excise regulations.

With reference to the last paragraph in your letter, my Committee feels that however eminent the Members of the Duty-Free Alcohol Committee may be in connection with the aspects of the question which immediately concern the interests which they represent, they may not be qualified to pass judgment on the larger side of the subject, which affects our Crown Colonies. But we understand from your letter that Mr. Austen Chamberlain does not desire to have the Colonial view of the question as distinct from the Foreign, considered; although as we have already pointed out, we only claim to be put on the same footing as the British distiller.

Trusting that, while thanking him on our behalf, you will be good enough to lay this letter before the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

George H. Duckworth, Esq.

I have the honour to be, your obedient servant,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

### New Members of the West India Committee.

Our Membership steadily mounts up, and we hope that Members will by their individual efforts endeavour to increase our numbers between now and the close of the year. By virtue of Rule IV., subscriptions from new Members elected during the last three months of the current year, will not, when paid, be renewable until January 1st, 1906. The following new Members were elected at a meeting of the Executive Committee on Thursday November 10th:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
GEORGE MUIRHEAD, Esq. (Jamaica)	John McNeil, Esq.	E. A. de Pass, Esq.
FRED M. ELLIS, Esq. (Jamaica)	John McNeil, Esq.	E. A. de Pass, Esq.
COLIN MACDOUGAL, Esq.	John McNeil, Esq.	E. A. de Pass, Esq.
HENRY S. BIRCH, Esq.	E. Luxmoore Marshall, Esq.	Col. the Hon. R. Stapleton Cotton
JAMES D. ADAMSON, Esq. (St. Kitts)	E. Luxmoore Marshall, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson
EDWARD PRATT, Esq. (Jamaica)	H. A. Trotter, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
FRANK O. ROACH, Esq., B.A.	J. W. C. Catford, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
G. R. SKEETE, Esq. (Barbados)	M. H. Smith, Esq.	Sam Browne, Esq.
L. W. SAMPSON, Esq. (Barbados)	M. H. Smith, Esq.	Sam Browne, Esq.
WILLIAM JEFFREY, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	W. P. B. Shephard, Esq.

Of those elected during the current year 66 are from Trinidad; 37 from Jamaica; 28 from British Guiana; 21 from Barbados; 19 from St. Lucia; 14 from Dominica; 11 from Grenada; 5 from Antigua; 4 from St. Kitts; 4 from St. Vincent; 3 from Montserrat; 3 from Tobago; 1 from Nevis; and 1 from Turks Island.

### A Banana Plantation in Jamaica.

When it is stated that fourteen and a half million bunches of bananas are exported from Jamaica every year, it will be understood how important the banana industry is to the Island. The variety grown is the Gros Michel, laden with which steamers leave every day for Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, where no workman thinks of going to his labours without a banana stuck in his dinner can. The plantation in our illustration is on the road from Richmond to Annotto Bay, and straggling as it does up the hillside, is more picturesque than the trim plantations on the flat lands. The banana industry which was started by Captain Baker of the Boston, now the United Fruit Company of America, was given a stimulus in 1901 by the inauguration of the Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service, which is under contract to carry 20,000 bunches to England every fortnight.

### The West Indian Cotton Industry.

A correspondent in Liverpool, who is well qualified to speak regarding the respective merits and prospects of various kinds of cotton, writes to us that planters should understand that Egyptian cotton depends largely on the price of American, whereas Sea Island does not, and we could easily have American at 4d., Egyptian 5d., and Sea Island 18d. and 24d.; moreover, West Indian Sea Island is quite equal to Carolina Sea Island, whereas West Indian Egyptian is certainly 1d. per lb. worse than the corresponding grade of Egyptian, on the first year's growth, and would probably continue to deteriorate. It is quite certain that nothing but Sea Island Cotton should be grown in Barbados and St. Vincent, owing to the superior quality they produce. The British Cotton Growing Association is anxious to know accurately the yield of lint per acre of Sea Island and Egyptian seed in the West Indies, and now that the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture has returned to the West Indies, he will doubtless furnish the information.

A full account of the meeting of the Barbados Agricultural Society on October 28th, convened to meet Mr. E. Lomas Oliver and Mr. Richard Stancliffe, of the British Cotton Growing Association, will be found in the *Barbados Advocate*, mail edition, of November 5th. There can be no doubt that the visit of these gentlemen will be productive of good. Meanwhile, advices from the West Indies regarding the condition of the cotton crops are, as will be seen from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents which we give on page 441, of a satisfactory nature. In Barbados, 8826 lbs. of Sea Island seed had been distributed to date, of which 503 lbs. are seed selected from that obtained from the cotton which realised the highest prices in Manchester this year. Of this total, 814 lbs. have been sent to other Islands, and Mr. J. R. Bovell estimates that 1,600 acres will be planted this season in Barbados. In St. Lucia, the area is 70 acres, and in Anguilla, 250 acres. It is estimated that the crop for 1904/5 throughout the West Indies will amount to 5,000 bales, of an average 360 lbs. each. The deputation of the Cotton Growing Association left Barbados on November 1st, with the Commissioner of Agriculture, on a tour to the northern Islands, visiting St. Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat, Antigua, and St. Kitts. A visit was to be paid to St. Vincent on November 12th, and if steamer movements permitted, probably Grenada and Tobago would also be visited. The two experts were to leave Trinidad for Jamaica on November 22nd.

During the past fortnight 28 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Sales have been effected in Liverpool at the following prices: West India, 5.00-6.25d.; West India Sea Island, medium fine 12½d.; fine 13½; extra fine 15½d.

### The British Cotton Growing Association.

A Banquet was held on Saturday night, November 12th, at the Midland Hotel, Manchester, to commemorate the incorporation by Royal Charter of the British Cotton Growing Association. Sir Alfred L. Jones, President of the Association, was in the chair, and proceedings were of a most enthusiastic character. Upwards of three hundred members and guests were present, including Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies; The Duke of Marlborough, Under Secretary of State; The Lord Mayor of Manchester; Mr. J. A. Hutton, Chairman of the Association; Sir Ralph Moor and Mr. J. C. Atkins. The West Indies were represented by the presence of Mr. E. J. Cameron, Administrator of St. Vincent; Sir William Haynes-Smith, late Governor of the Leeward Islands; Sir George Denton, Governor of Gambia, who was once in St. Vincent; Mr. Edward R. Davson, and the Secretary of the West India Committee. A telegram was read from the King, expressing the cordial wish that every success might attend the Association in the important work which it has taken up. Mr. Lyttelton responded to the toast of His Majesty's Ministers, and observed that there was a paramount need for the extension of the area of cotton cultivation, and that the Government desired to help an industry which intended to help itself. The Government had endeavoured to co-operate with the Association in the selection of land and seed; they agreed that waterways and railways should be



made; they kept a vigilant eye on the Colonies that might be devoted to the growth of cotton; and they had made grants in the hope of assisting the work of those who were investigating the diseases of tropical countries. He hoped the whole community of Lancashire would cordially support the Association. Mr. Lyttelton read a letter from Mr. Balfour, expressing regret at his inability to be present and adding a confident hope that the energy and enterprise which Lancashire has shown, combined with the aid which the Government have not been backward in affording, would provide our manufacturers and all the world at large with an adequate and, above all, a stable supply of the all-important raw material on which Lancashire so largely depends. The Duke of Marlborough in proposing the health of The British Cotton Growing Association, congratulated it upon receiving its Charter. There was a consensus of opinion upon three points, namely, that the present acreage of supply of raw cotton fell short of the demand for manufacturing purposes, that in the absence of special effort the supply would not appreciably increase, and that the demand every year would increase with the growth of population and increased civilisation, to the extent of about half a million bales. The Colonial Office had pinned its faith on the ability of the British Cotton Growing Association to carry out the national work which it had undertaken. Mr. Hutton, in replying, pointed out that they had barely spent £20,000 and had produced nearly £100,000 worth of cotton last season. They had proved beyond dispute that the Colonies could produce all the cotton and of every quality which Lancashire wanted. Each individual should promptly subscribe what he could and make his friends do the same. He asked them all to realise that only by means of ample funds could it be successfully carried out to its full development and the hope fulfilled which was expressed by His Majesty the King, that the efforts of the British Cotton Growing Association might be attended with success. Other toasts followed.

#### The Cable Question.

Still more cable interruptions have to be reported. The Antigua-St. Kitts cable broke down on October 9th but was repaired on October 13th, and now the St. Thomas-St. Kitts cable is interrupted, cutting off St. Kitts, Antigua, and Dominica from communication by the West India and Panama Company's cables. The Demerara cable—*after a delay of six weeks*—is now repaired. At our request the West India and Panama Company consented during the delay to transmit, free of charge, the dates of despatch of messages from British Guiana and London.

Mr. Lyttelton wrote to the West India Committee on November 9th, informing us that the subject of cable communication with the West Indies is now under consideration, but that he is unable to say at present when a decision regarding it will be taken. Following up our letter of Nov. 2nd, the West India Association of Liverpool addressed a strong protest to the Colonial Office on Nov. 14th, in the course of which they point out that the breaking of the Demerara Cable practically paralyses business in British Guiana at any time; but when a break occurs at this period of the year, when the sugar crop is being taken off, the consequences are especially serious. The sugar market is at present in an excited state, and the inability to communicate promptly and frequently by cable may cause incalculable loss to those interested. Last autumn crop (for the fifth time during the year 1903), the cable broke on October 22nd, and was not repaired until November 13th, and it is within the knowledge of the Association that considerable financial loss was incurred by some of the Members, both at that time, and again this year, owing to the interruptions.

They submit that the time has arrived when the question of telegraphic communication between British Guiana and the outside world should be a matter for the consideration of His Majesty's Government. Notwithstanding that a liberal subsidy is paid by the Colony for a duplicate cable, which is not supplied, and that the cost per word (7/-) is exceedingly high—the service given by the West India and Panama Company has been consistently unsatisfactory. The Company has been very leniently dealt with heretofore, but there seems no hope of their improving matters, and, if business in the Colony is to be carried on successfully, some more reliable means of communication should be arranged for.

### The Barbados Banana Industry.

One of the most satisfactory features of the improved outlook for Barbados is the rapid development of the banana industry, which has been encouraged by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and rendered possible by the improved carrying facilities afforded by the steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. Complaints have reached us that some inconvenience has been caused recently through lack of space on the steamers when they arrive at Barbados, but we are assured by Mr. R. L. Forbes, Secretary of the Company, that every effort will be made to obviate it in future. The Barbados fruit is the Dwarf or Chinese banana (*Musa Cavendishii*), and is similar to the Canary banana, to which it is regarded as superior. Unlike the Gros Michel, the Jamaica variety, the height of the Barbados banana tree does not exceed ten or twelve feet, but the branches are, as a rule, large and heavy, and the fruit of good size. Père Labat, when he visited the West Indies, was particularly pleased with this kind of banana, which he described as "Amie de la poitrine."



The Barbados Banana.  
(*Musa Cavendishii*).

Our readers will recollect that in a former *Circular* (No. 133, p. 337) we reproduced a woodcut from

his book, which showed in a marked manner the difference between the two species.

The bananas, which are gathered at the right stage for shipment, are wrapped in cotton wool and paper, and carefully packed in crates, which vary in size from single crates, 27 by 15, to double crates, 29 by 26 by 15. They are shipped to the ocean steamers by lighters, and consigned to Messrs. Frank Pink & Sons, of Portsmouth, to whom we are indebted for the two photographs which appear on this page.



Crates of Bananas being Shipped at Bridgetown.



### The Birthday Honours.

The list of recipients of honours on the occasion of the King's Birthday on November 9th included Mr. Charles A. Harris, C.M.G., Secretary of the West Indies Finance Commission, 1882, and Assistant Secretary of the Sugar Bounties Conference, 1889, who has been made C.B.; Mr. William Grey-Wilson, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bahamas, and Mr. Ernest B. Sweet Escott, who become K.C.M.G.; Mr. C. L. Lewis, Chief Justice of British Honduras, who receives a Knighthood; Mr. P. C. Cork, Colonial Secretary of British Honduras, and Mr. Francis Watts, Director of Agriculture of Antigua and Analytical and Agricultural Chemist for the Leeward Islands, who are gazetted C.M.G. To all these gentlemen we offer our most hearty congratulations on behalf of the West India Committee.

### Prædial Larceny.

It will be remembered that in July last (*Circular* No. 129, page 264) we published correspondence which had passed between the West India Committee and the Colonial Office, with reference to the prevalence of prædial larceny, or theft of the growing crops, in the West Indies, and that we endorsed a suggestion made by *The Port of Spain Gazette* in Trinidad that the question might be discussed at a local West Indian Conference, with a view to the presentation of some scheme for the remedy of the evil. It is a matter for satisfaction that this suggestion has been adopted, and it is hoped that at the forthcoming West Indian Agricultural Conference, to be held in Trinidad from about January 4th to January 13th, the question of the best means for checking this form of crime, which is especially injurious to the smaller proprietors, will be dealt with. It would undoubtedly be of advantage if it were ascertained exactly how the matter stands in the several Colonies, and a review of the laws at present in force and the extent to which their provisions are carried out, would undoubtedly serve as a useful basis for discussion. Hope is expressed in *The Agricultural News*, to hand by this Mail, that if the question of dealing with prædial larceny is to be discussed at all at the forthcoming West Indian Conference, those attending it will be duly prepared beforehand and that they will be in a position to join in recommendations of a practical character for getting rid of one of the most retarding influences associated with agricultural development in the West Indies.

### The Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

We are glad to be able to state that the vote of £400 to defray the expenses of the representation of Barbados at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, to be held at the Crystal Palace next year, was unanimously agreed to by the House of Assembly on October 25th. The Colonies are now getting to work in earnest. The Governor of Trinidad has appointed the following Exhibition Committee to make the necessary arrangements as regards that Island; Professor Carinody, Chairman, Hon. George Goodwille, Hon. E. Cipriani, Hon. W. C. Dyett, Mr. Hugo Hoffman, Mr. Edgar Tripp, and the Rev. Dr. Morton with Mr. J. H. Hart, F.L.S., as Hon. Secretary. In Jamaica, a Committee consisting of the Hon. I. J. Bertram, His Lordship Bishop Gordon, Hon. W. Fawcett, Hon. C. E. de Mercado, Mr. J. L. Ashenheim, Mr. F. Cundall, Mr. R. S. Gamble, Mr. R. A. Walcott, Mr. E. A. H. Haggart, and Mr. John Barclay, are actively at work, while in Barbados preparations are in a forward state, thanks to the work of a local Committee, of which the Hon. F. J. Clarke is Chairman, and Mr. A. L. Bailey, Secretary.

### A Glance at our Old Records (*continued*)\*

The West India Committee does not lay claim to any share in the responsibility for the mutiny of the "Bounty," which led to the settlement of Pitcairn Island by the mutineers, but the fact remains that the object of the voyage of H.M.S. "Bounty" in 1789, was to introduce the Bread Fruit

\* This article by the Secretary, which was headed "*Vires acquirit eundo*," continued from last issue appears in "The Book of the West Indies," from which it is reproduced by kind permission of the Proprietors. (By an unfortunate error the instalment in last Circular was out of its place, and is therefore reproduced in the above.)

tree into the West India Islands, an object regarding which the Committee made repeated representations to the Government as early as the year 1775. Here, for example, is an extract from the Minute Book of February 7th of that year, "that the West India Merchants are willing to be at any reasonable expense in endeavouring to introduce the above trees (Bread Fruit and Mangosteen) into the West Indian Colonies." Little did they dream what this would cost the Mother Country! But the object was successfully accomplished, and though, perhaps, the Mangosteen is not so plentiful as it might be, the Bread Fruit flourishes throughout the West Indies.

It has always been the custom of the West India Committee to recognise in a fitting manner, services rendered to the West Indian Colonies, and it may be of interest to recall from the old Minute Books, a Banquet to the famous Admiral Keppel, which was ordered, but which was never held after all. This cost the Committee £50, and at a meeting on March 30th 1779, Mr. Laforest "having represented that he paid Mr. Negri, a confectioner, £20 guineas for what had been prepared for the Desart (*sic*), and Mr. Laforest being called in, was informed that they thought Mr. Negri's charges very high." History does not relate whether Mr. Negri's bill was paid!

These were the circumstances of the abortive feast: After an engagement with the French fleet under Admiral d'Orvilliers off Ushant, on July 12th, 1778, a charge was preferred against Admiral Keppel, for refusing to deny certain charges of cowardice which had been brought against one of his subordinate Admirals. Keppel was acquitted on February 11th, 1779, and his acquittal gave rise to great rejoicings, and, it should be added, scenes of considerable disorder in the City and Pall Mall. He was invited to a banquet by the West India Committee, and in a letter to Mr. Beeston Long, he expressed the great satisfaction he felt at the invitation, "but the experience of what happened on Saturday night from the extraordinary concourse of people as I returned from dinner in the City . . . has led me to be apprehensive that the honour of another public dinner at this time in the City, may be attended with like consequences." He went on to say, "I should feel myself much reprehensible if I afforded a pretence to anyone to say that I encouraged excesses at a late hour of the night, which tend to alarm and disturb the quiet of the town."

While on the subject of banquets, mention must be made of a banquet given, it is believed, in 1815, the plan of the tables of which, in the form of a water colour sketch by A. Cruickshank, hangs on the walls of the London and India Docks Company. Royalty upon this occasion honoured the Committee with its presence, the Chairman, Mr. Charles M. Pallmer, a Member of Parliament, being supported on his right by the Duke of York, while on his left was the Duke of Clarence, afterwards William IV. The plan of tables is interesting, the names of the diners being written on napkins hanging over the backs of chairs set at a long table with three branches. Peel and Canning were among the guests, and the names of many of the diners are very familiar in connection with the West Indies: The Earl of Harewood, Lord Combermere, Lord Rodney, Mr. John Daniel, Mr. James Dawkins, Mr. M. Cavan, Mr. A. Browne, M.P., Mr. P. Horsford, Mr. John Blagrove, Mr. Joseph Marryat, Mr. A. P. Cumberbatch, and Mr. George Carrington, to mention a few only.

The Duke of Clarence who in 1779 saw active service in the West Indies under Rodney, took a great interest in the West India Committee, attended its meetings and received its thanks for presenting a petition against the anti-slavery bill introduced into the Lords in 1804, and for the "able, steady and zealous support which His Royal Highness has upon that and many other occasions afforded to the West Indian interest." The Duke, writing from Bushey Park, twenty-six years before he ascended the throne, in reply, requested Mr. Long to assure the Committee "of the high sense I feel of their approbation of my parliamentary conduct on a late occasion, and I shall at all times be both ready and happy to use my endeavour to support the interests of the West Indian Colonies, and particularly to oppose the abolition of that trade on which the Colonies have hitherto induced by repeated Acts of Parliament to look for their support."



Perhaps, though, the most treasured record is a letter from Lord Nelson thanking the Committee for a resolution adopted on August 23rd, 1805, expressing gratitude for his pursuit of the French fleet under Villeneuve, from the Mediterranean to the West Indies and back, "his sagacity in judging and ascertaining their course; his bold and unwearied pursuit of the combined French and Spanish squadrons," which were "very instrumental to the safety of the West India Islands in general." A deputation waited on Lord Nelson to express these sentiments, and to offer him their unfeigned thanks. The letter of the great naval leader was characteristic. "It was, I conceived," he said, "perfectly clear that the combined squadrons were gone to the West Indies, and therefore it became my duty to follow them, but I assure you, from the state of defence in which our large Islands are placed, with the number of regular troops, numerous, well-disciplined and zealous militia, I was confident not any troops which their combined squadron could carry, would make any impression upon any of our Islands before a very superior force would arrive for their relief."

These few extracts from the old Minute-books—quaint old volumes the earlier ones are, bound in green vellum and furnished with lock and key—should serve in a measure to convey to the reader some idea of the standing and dignity of the West India Committee. It would not be possible within the limits of the present article to give any detailed account of the work of the Committee. It would fill too many pages, closely wrapped up as it has been with the history of our West Indian possessions, which, having regard especially to the prospects of the completion of that mighty scheme for connecting with a water-way the Atlantic and the Pacific, should be as dearly treasured in the future as they have been in the past. The abolition of slavery, the compensation of the owners, the competition with slave grown sugar, the equalisation of the sugar duties, the inauguration of Chinese and East India immigration, the sugar bounties and their abolition, are among the larger subjects dealt with by the Committee, an adequate account of which would fill many pages.

Grants-in-aid have been obtained by Parliament for the Colonies in the days of their distress, and the Committee has itself opened funds for relief as the Islands have been swept by hurricanes, as Jamaica was in 1903, and denuded by floods such as created such damage in Montserrat. Then again, at the instance of Mr. Ponsonby, one of its Members, a fund was raised and the closing of Codrington College, Barbados, practically the only University of the West Indies, was successfully averted. For a record of the work of the West India Committee, the reader should refer to its official organ, *The West India Committee Circular*, which has been published without interruption since 1886, when it succeeded the half-yearly reports, and has recently been enlarged and extended, and the annual report of the Executive Committee. But the measure of success must not be gauged solely by what the Committee has done, but by what it has prevented being done through excess of zeal and other motives; the attempt to upset the ancient constitution of Barbados in 1876 may be cited as an example.

Apart, however, from what appears on the surface, the Committee is doing steady and good work. It furnishes a bureau of information regarding the West Indies, and has already been the means of many settlers with capital taking up estates, and the benefit thus accruing to the Colonies cannot be over-estimated.

In conclusion, a word may be said regarding the motto which has been selected to figure at the head of this article. "Vires acquirit eundo!" Of no body or association can this be more truly said than of the West India Committee. Although legally a rope of sand hitherto, it has existed for upwards of 150 years, acquiring strength from year to year until it now has nearly 1000 members. No stronger evidence that it has been doing a useful work can be adduced than the fact that it was as "Chairman of the West India Committee" that Sir Nevile Lubbock was knighted by the late Queen Victoria in 1899, that the Deputy Chairman, Sir Henry Davson received the accolade of knighthood by the King in 1903, and that the Sovereign has been pleased to grant it a Royal Charter of Incorporation.

## Letter to the Editor. Colonial Cane v. Foreign Beet.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR.—The letter of Mr. A. P. Longstaffe, which appears in your last issue, is very opportune, and raises two or three questions of vital interest to the West Indies; you have dealt with these to some extent in your Editorial, but perhaps you will permit us, as having for more than twenty years endeavoured to promote the more general use of cane sugar, a word or two in support.

In the first place, we might inform Mr. Longstaffe and others interested that we deal only with cane sugar, and that we supply the old fashioned and better sugars, &c., that are desired.

The term "British refined," is, as Mr. Longstaffe surmises, a very deceptive one, and as you, Sir, point out, it is very largely applied to foreign beetroot, which is refined in Great Britain; unfortunately the public accepts this description as evidence that it is cane sugar, and it cannot, therefore, be too strongly urged that whoever desires to buy cane sugar must see that the word CANE is marked on the package, the terms "British refined" or "pure," are not sufficient; the essential word on the package is CANE; without it consumers are almost certain to be supplied with beetroot. Mr. Longstaffe speaks of the difficulty of obtaining cane sugar, this may be easily understood when it is realised that of all the sugar consumed in this country over 90 per cent. is beetroot, and it is safe to say that not one grocer or store in a thousand deals exclusively in cane sugar.

Mr. Longstaffe points out how the Americans take cane sugar as the best value for their money; that nation has a reputation for cuteness which their preference in the matter of sugar by no means belies, and it should be an object lesson for British consumers, especially when the recent advance in prices is likely to be severely felt, and the housekeeper will naturally require the best possible value; in cane sugar she will find it, for it is without question more economical and more wholesome than beetroot.

The West India Committee, with nearly a thousand members, is an organisation of commanding influence; and as a step in the right direction we might, with the greatest respect ask whether individual members see that their households are supplied with cane sugar, and whether by the exercise of their individual influence in their own circles, they might not do something to increase the use of cane sugar; much good could be done in this way until such time as a more serious and systematic campaign shall be entered upon against the enemy (beetroot) of West Indian sugar.

4, Fenchurch Buildings, E.C.  
November 19th, 1904.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES PHILIP & CO

## West India Civil Service.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our record of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

His Honour, W. H. HYNDMAN-JONES, who is well-known in Barbados, Jamaica, and the Windward Islands, where he held various legal appointments, has been made Judicial Commissioner of the Federated Malay States, in which capacity he has been acting since 1903.

News of the death of Mr. VINCENT BROWN, K.C., the Attorney-General of Trinidad, was received with regret on November 10th. Mr. Brown was born in St. Vincent in 1855, and called to the Bar in 1878.

Mr. F. W. COLLIER, Postmaster-General of British Guiana, has been granted three months' extension of leave from November 11th, and Mr. John Solomon, First Grade Commissary of Taxation, two months' from December 2nd.

Mr. ROBERT W. CRAIGIN, of the Lands and Mines Department, British Guiana, died on October 19th, while acting as Warden of No. 3 District.

Colonel S. LUSHINGTON, R.A., Inspector-General of Police, British Guiana, has returned from leave of absence, and resumed his duties on October 26th.

Mr. C. P. CLARKE, M.C.P., has been appointed to act as a Member of the Executive Committee of Barbados during the absence of Mr. J. W. C. Catford.

Mr. D. J. Kitchin, Surveyor of Shipping, Barbados, resumed his duties on October 31st.

The Hon. H. A. ALCAZAR is acting as a Puisne Judge of Trinidad, and the Hon. E. Agostini as Attorney-General in the place of the Hon. Vincent Brown.

Mr. BRYCE C. BURT has been appointed Assistant Analyst and Science Master in Trinidad.

Mr. V. J. MONPLAISIR, Chief Clerk in the Post Office of Grenada, West Indies, has been appointed to succeed Mr. G. F. Grant as Postmaster of St. Vincent, and Mr. S. W. Brathwaite, Revenue Officer of Grenada, Mr. Monplaisir in the Grenada Postal Department.

Mr. C. H. KNOWLES, Resident Master at the Agricultural School, St. Vincent, West Indies, has been selected for the office of Superintendent of Agriculture in Fiji. Mr. J. Clarke, of Barbados, has taken over the duties of Mr. C. H. Knowles in St. Vincent pending the arrival in the colony of a successor.

The Hon. MARK KERR, Treasurer of St. Lucia, has been granted leave of absence until the 31st of January.

Mr. H. H. Mitchell, Chief Clerk in the Treasury, acts as treasurer.

The Hon. D. S. DE FREITAS, Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, resumed his duties in Grenada on October 25th. He has been appointed a Member of the Board of Education.

It is with deep regret that we have heard by cable of the death of Mr. EDWARD FORTESCUE WRIGHT, C.M.G., Inspector-General of Constabulary and Prisons, Jamaica. In British Guiana, where he served from 1880 and 1899, as in Jamaica, he was deservedly popular.

## Notes of Interest.

**FILING CASES.** Spring back cases for filing *The West India Committee Circular* can be obtained from the Secretary for 2/6 each, or post free 3/-. These will be found a great convenience.

**A NEW DEPARTURE.** For the convenience of Members, arrangements have been made for tea, coffee, &c., to be provided at a small charge at the West India Committee Rooms, between the hours of 4 to 5.30.

**"SUN PICTURES OF THE ANTILLES."** A feature of this book which will be published at West India Committee Rooms at the close of the year, will be statistical information in a brief and popular form regarding the West Indies, which it is hoped will prove interesting to tourists and useful for purpose of reference generally.



- CHANGE OF TITLE.** Mr. Robert Harvey, Chairman of the well-known firm of manufacturers of sugar machinery, McOnie, Harvey & Co., Ltd., advises us that in order to avoid confusion, which in some cases has recently arisen through similarity in name with that of another company, the firm will be in future called "Harvey Engineering Co., Ltd."
- LATE FEE MAIL LETTERS.** For the convenience of Members wishing to post letters for the outgoing West Indian Mail at the last possible moment, a messenger leaves the West India Committee Rooms on the day of the departure of the Mail at 12.30 p.m., with letters for posting at Waterloo Station. All such letters must bear the late fee of 2d., in addition to the ordinary postage.
- FRENCH SUGAR DUTIES.** The *Journal Officiel* published on November 16th a decree fixing the following countervailing duties on sugars imported into France:—on refined sugar from Canada, 3*l.* 5*3c.* per 100 kilos; on raw sugar from the South African Customs Union, 2*l.* 5*c.*, and on refined sugar, 3*l.* 8*9c.*; on raw sugar from the Australian Commonwealth, 9*4c.*, and on refined sugar, 5*l.* 6*2c.*
- MR. R. RUTHERFORD ON THE WEST INDIES.** An interesting lecture on "Our Possessions in the Caribbean," was given by Mr. Robert Rutherford, our Treasurer, at the Working Men's College, Great Ormonde Street, on Saturday night last. Sir James Hay occupied the Chair, and the lecture, which was profusely illustrated by limelight views, was listened to with rapt attention by a large and appreciative audience, to each member of which was given a picture postcard with a view of the West Indies, as he left the hall.
- TESTIMONIAL TO MR. H. HALES.** The gift of a testimonial to Mr. Henry Hales was the occasion of a pleasant gathering at the Commercial Sale Rooms, on Tuesday, November 11th. Mr. H. M. Woodhouse entered the rostrum at 2.30. and with a few well chosen words punctuated by the cheers of those present made the presentation on behalf of a large number of sympathisers, including the West India Committee. The testimonial took the form of a handsome bronze, "Gloria Victis," by Mercié, a silver rose bowl, and a handsome album containing the names of the subscribers.
- IN THE CAUSE OF TRUTH.** One of our newly elected Members, Mr. James Douglas Adamson, of St. Kitts, has written a spirited letter to the *Sussex Daily News*, exposing untrue statements attributing the rise in price of sugar to the Brussels Convention, which were deliberately made by a local politician, though he knew that it was really due to the failure of the beetroot crop. We hope that more of our individual members will take up the cudgels for us in this way. It is good that they should do so.
- ANALGAMATION OF SUGAR INTERESTS.** According to the "Paris Correspondent" of the *Financial News*, "The shareholders of the Say Sugar Factory will meet on the 28th inst., with a view to deciding on the absorption of the Société des Anciennes Sucrieries de Fives Lille. The latter possesses a number of raw sugar factories, with an annual production of about 250,000 sacks, whilst the Say concern has three raw sugar factories, the output of which is nearly 500,000 sacks per annum. The Chairman of the Raffinerie Say—the most important of its kind in France—is M. Say, who was Minister of Finance under Napoleon III."
- SIR A. HEMMING OPENS A BAZAAR.** Sir Augustus Hemming, the late Governor of Jamaica, opened a sale of products of the Island in aid of the Brompton and Kensington branch of the Jamaica Church Aid Association at the Girls' School Hall, Montpelier Street, Brompton Road, on Saturday, Nov. 12th. Among the stall-holders were Mrs. Nuttall, daughter of the Archbishop of the West Indies, Mrs. Espeut, Hon. Secretary of the branch, and Miss Jessie Robinson of the Oxford branch. Dealing with the objects of the bazaar, he pointed out that the Church of England in Jamaica, being disestablished and disendowed, relied entirely upon the voluntary subscriptions and offerings of the congregation and funds were specially needed owing to the effects of the hurricane of 1903.
- MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Sarstoon," from London for Antigua, Barbados, Demerara, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad, December 1st; S.S. "Frednes," from Liverpool for Demerara, December 1st; S.S. "Wanderer," from Liverpool for St. Lucia, Barbados, and Trinidad, December 2nd; S.S. "Naparima," from Glasgow for Barbados, Trinidad, and Demerara, December 2nd; and the R.M.S. "Port Royal," from Bristol for Kingston, Jamaica, on December 3rd. Letters must be specially addressed "by Private Ship," and the name of the ship and port of departure added.
- MANCHESTER TO WEST INDIES.** The R.M.S.P.C. inaugurated a new monthly service from Manchester, on the 23rd instant, when the "Caroni" sailed with cargo for Barbados and Trinidad, as well as for the Venezuelan ports of Carupano, Margarita, Cumana, La Guayra and Puerto Cabello. This extension of the service should be very welcome to shippers, and if suitable arrangements are made for shipments on through bills of lading, via Barbados to Georgetown (Demerara), and the various West Indian ports served by The Royal Mail Company's boats from Barbados, there is no reason why

a very large proportion of the West Indian exports from the Manchester district should not be diverted to the Manchester Ship Canal, in which case the monthly service from Manchester and Glasgow, would no doubt develop into a fortnightly service. In the meantime the fortnightly service of Messrs. Elder and Fyffes' steamers from Manchester to Jamaica, and Costa Rica, and the monthly sailing of the Royal Mail Company to Barbados and Venezuela, will provide more opportunities for direct shipments from Manchester to the West Indies than have ever yet been afforded.

### The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Orinoco" anchored off Plymouth on Wednesday, November 16th, at 2.15 p.m., and the Mails were delivered in London by first post on the following day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Kingston" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth as we were going to press on Monday, November 7th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents received per R.M.S. "Orinoco."

#### Antigua—To fight the Mosquitos.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) Nov. 2nd. The fields of young cotton were coming on very well, and Mr. E. L. Oliver and Mr. R. Stancliffe, of the British Cotton Growing Association, were expected to arrive on November 4th or 5th, and were to be received at a meeting at the Court House on the 5th.

Sir Clement C. Knollys had formed the nucleus of an army which was to wage war on mosquitos in the City of St. John's, an example worthy to be copied in all the West Indian Colonies.

On October 27th very loud detonations were heard in the direction of Martinique, which seemed to prove that the volcano there was still active. The west and south of Antigua had been very badly treated in the matter of rainfall during the fortnight, but the north and north-east had been favoured with frequent showers. The crop, with the exception of a few specially favoured estates, was generally in a backward condition, in some cases so backward that the outlook was then by no means favourable.

#### Barbados—The Cotton Experts.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE) November 3rd. Deep regret was felt at the news of the death of Field Marshal Sir Henry Norman, whose independent report and recommendations as chairman of the Royal Commission of 1897 did so much to strengthen Mr. Chamberlain's hands in Parliament, and pave the way for the abolition of Bounties by the Brussels Convention.

The House of Assembly had unanimously passed the vote for £400 for the expenses of Barbados in connection with the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, 1905. The Committee would now immediately get to work.

No definite news had been received about the railway, but Mr. Law had been instructed to continue running the trains till further orders.

The new Governor and his family had duly arrived in the "Trent" on October 24th, and received an enthusiastic welcome from large crowds on the wharf. He immediately proceeded to the Council Chamber where he was sworn in, and then left for Government House.

Sir Daniel Morris and Messrs. E. L. Oliver and R. Stancliffe had also arrived by the same steamer, and after a meeting of the Cotton Committee arrangements had been made for a public meeting. The experts then spent the intervening days in visiting many of the cotton fields, and had expressed themselves highly satisfied with the growth and prospects. The meeting was held on October 28th, and was attended by the Governor and numbers of those interested in the cultivation of cotton. Sir Daniel Morris introduced the experts, and Mr. Oliver gave a most lucid address, explaining the care that must be taken in preparing the cotton for the market, and exhibiting good and bad specimens. He also showed a beautiful collection of gloves, lace, and thread manufactured from Barbados cotton. Full reports of the meeting are given in the newspapers of October 29th. At its close a vote of thanks was passed by acclamation to the British Cotton Growing Association for the active support and help they had given to the revival of the cotton industry in the West Indies, and a warm welcome was extended to the two gentlemen who had come out as experts, whose advice and assistance would be most valuable to all the cotton growers of Barbados. On November 1st Sir Daniel Morris and these gentlemen left for the Leeward Islands.

October had ended in a most disappointing way; no rain worth speaking of having fallen since the 14th of that month. The total rainfall had been very uneven, a few estates having had as much as 10 inches and others only 5 inches, but in all cases the amount since October 14th had been trivial. November, so far, had brought a few showers, but a heavy rain was greatly to be desired. The canes were holding well, and were perfectly green; but this happy state of things could only have been the result of the heavy dews which had fallen every night. These, however, could not give growth, and the suckers which had been put forth were disappearing. The ratoons especially required rain. Arrows



were in great profusion. There was a marked absence of disease this year as yet, even among sensitive offial crops, such as woolly pyrol; and no caterpillars had appeared among the cotton. In some places sparrows had made depredations among the pods.

The account sales of late shipments of bananas had given great dissatisfaction; the bananas having arrived at Plymouth in bad condition, owing to the want of cold storage on some of the Royal Mail steamers. But even on the two—the "Trent" and the "Tagus"—fitted with cold storage, it was alleged that the chambers so fitted filled up with fruit from Jamaica and Trinidad beforehand, and that from Barbados was shut out and went in the ordinary way. The matter was a very important one to them, as the planting of bananas was steadily increasing, and would undoubtedly receive a check if the method of storage was as stated. A Committee of the Agricultural Society had been appointed to confer with the R. M. S. P. Co., and enquire into the circumstances.

A Company was being formed locally with a capital of £1,000 to purchase and work the present Government cotton central factory.

It was satisfactory that the R. M. S. P. Co. had generously consented to carry over exhibits free of charge for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

#### British Guiana—The Cable Breakdown.

(A. SUMMERSON, Esq.) November 3rd. Mr. Cecil Morris, of Plin. Albion, Berbice, had been requisitioned by an influential body of the electors of Berbice to become the financial representative of the county in the room of Mr. J. B. Laing, who had resigned, and had accepted the invitation. Dr. J. E. Godfrey had been appointed President of the British Government Branch of the British Medical Association.

The coolie ship "Lena" arrived from Calcutta on October 21st after a voyage of ninety days, and landed 500 immigrants (493½ adults); 15 died on the voyage (10 of these infants), and 7 were born at sea. The immigrants were reported to be a fine healthy lot.

The sugar market had been stronger during the fortnight, and \$2 48 could be obtained on November 3rd.

The interruption in the cable continued and hampered business considerably, and no news had been received as to when the repairing steamer was likely to arrive. The weather continued dry, young cultivation was suffering, and good rains were wanted generally.

#### Dominica—The Cacao Crop.

(E. A. AGAR, Esq.) November 3rd. The cacao crop was now coming in freely, and the fine weather of the past fortnight had not only facilitated the drying of such as was being reaped, but had also improved the condition of the young pods then setting on the trees. Reports concerning the conditions of the young cacao plantations in the interior were most encouraging, and land within reach of the Imperial Road was being taken up rapidly. It would not be long before those estates made a difference to the amount of their cacao exports. At one time it was feared that there would be difficulty with regard to the labour for the estates in the interior, but the question had been solved by the steady influx of labourers from Montserrat, who readily settled in the "lines" erected for them by the individual planters.

#### Grenada—Cultivation Satisfactory.

(HON. D. S. De FREITAS, Esq.) October 31st. There had been no dry season, and in consequence the crop prospects on cacao estates lying 500 feet and more above the sea level were unpromising. No heavy showers having fallen during the past fortnight, numbers of blossoms were appearing on the cacao trees in the mountain lands, a change which was being watched with interest. In the low-lying lands, however, the trees were heavily laden with fruit. Throughout the Island cacao cultivation was looking well, the unusual abundance of rain during the past six months having kept the "thrips" in abeyance. Mr. E. Lomas Oliver and Mr. Richard Standliffe, accompanied by Sir Daniel Morris, were expected to arrive at the Island from St. Vincent in about a fortnight's time; their visit was looked forward to with interest and pleasure.

Although it was unlikely to become a staple crop in Grenada, many who possessed lands suitable for its growth were planting cotton. The writer had not been able to ascertain the area of land in Grenada lately planted in cotton; but probably 300 acres represented a high estimate. In Carriacou recent high prices had stimulated growers to increase their cotton cultivation as much as possible.

#### Jamaica—Seasonable Weather.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq.) October 31st. The weather continued very seasonable for the growing crops.

#### Nevis—"Arbor" Day.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SWAND) November 2nd. Excessive heat had been experienced without any general heavy rains. Showers had fallen frequently, but they had been local, and some parts of the Island required rain. This was the critical time of the year for the sugar cane, and in the event of dry weather setting in now, the sugar crop next year would be exceptionally small.

The cotton was looking well, and the worms were being kept down by judicious treatment.

In the following week the Island was to have a visit from the two gentlemen who had come out to give advice upon cotton generally. They would be accompanied by their new Administrator, Mr Bromley and Sir Daniel Morris, and all interested in cotton had been invited to attend a meeting in the Court House there, either on November 7th or 8th. Great interest was being felt in the Island, and a big gathering was expected.

On November 9th Arbor Day would be celebrated with a considerable amount of observance, and it was hoped it would prove a very successful function.

#### St. Kitts--Adulterated "Sea Island" Seed.

(CHAS. A. SMITH, Esq.) November 1st. Good weather still continued, as on October 31st they had nice rains, and these following on for about ten days were forcing on the cane crops in splendid fashion. Reports of attacks of cotton worms were heard, but as a plentiful supply of paris green was on hand, it was hoped that they would not make much progress in their work of destruction, and that they would be kept in check.

Considerable dissatisfaction was being expressed at the adulteration of Sea Island Cotton Seed supplied to the Island with Upland Seed. A leading planter informed the writer that to his personal knowledge in one instance this was noticeable to the extent of 12%, and in another 9%.

#### St. Lucia Rain Wanted.

(SYDNEY D. MELVILLE, Esq.) October 4th. The weather had been dry, and rain was required.

#### St. Vincent--Disappointing Yield of Arrowroot.

(Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co.) November 4th. Several estates were making arrowroot, although the yield at first starting off was not up to expectations.

#### Trinidad--The Serious Drought.

November 4th. For the first part of the fortnight the weather had been very dry, but on Friday, October 28th, rain had fallen, and it had since been showery. The drought was without precedent during the past twenty-five years.

With regard to cacao, though light pickings might be made in some districts before the close of the year, it was predicted that the regular crop would be very late, and that supplies of any importance would not be forthcoming until February-March. What the crop would then be it was impossible to say with any degree of certainty, as so much depended on weather conditions during the interval. Current quotations were \$12 to \$12.25 for ordinary to good Reds, and up to \$12.50 for fine Estates descriptions; the latter being in request for shipment to America.

The sugar crop was not likely to be as good as that for 1904, the drought having had disastrous effects on that part of the cultivation which was not forward in growth. Grinding would start late, probably not until February, but between now and then things might improve.

#### Some West Indian Securities.

Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Dividend.	Price.
100,000	Stock.	Antigua - - 4 per cent. Redeemable 1919-44... ..	100	4 %	101-103
375,000.	"	Barbados - - 3½ " " 1925-42... ..	100	3½ %	97-99
194,500	"	British Guiana 4 " " 1935... ..	100	4 %	106-108
123,670	"	Grenada - - 4 " " 1917-42... ..	100	4 %	100-102
1,093,907.	"	Jamaica - - 4 " " 1934... ..	700	4 %	107-109
85,479.	"	St. Lucia - - 4 " " 1919-44... ..	100	4 %	100-102
422,593.	"	Trinidad - - 4 " " 1917-42... ..	100	4 %	103-105
100,000	20	Colonial Bank ... ..	£6	6 %	6½-6¾
15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ... ..	60	—	17-19
223,575.	Stock.	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4% 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4½ %	81-83
46,874	5	New Colonial Co., Ltd., 5 % Non-Cum. Pref. ... ..	5	5 %	3-3½
347,500	Stock.	" " " 4 % 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4 %	74-76
357,700.	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb. ... ..	100	6 %	96-99
165,000.	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock ... ..	100	Nil	15-20
115,000.	Stock.	" " " 7 % Preference ... ..	100	2 %	88-91xd
31,250	10	" " " 4 % Extension Preference... ..	10	4 %	7-8xd
70,000.	Stock.	" " " Perpetual Deb. Stock ... ..	100	4 %	95-97
81,800.	100	Direct West India Cable Co., 4½% Reg. Debs. (within Nos 1 to 1200) red. ... ..	100	4½ %	100-102
60,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ... ..	£2 10 0	6 %	—
54,700.	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4½% 1st Mtge. Deb. (within 1 to 1200) red. ... ..	100	4½ %	100-102
50,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. ... ..	5	5 %	—
88,321	10	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. Ordinary ... ..	10	—	10-18
34,563	10	" " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref. ... ..	10	6s.	7½-7¾
4,669	10	" " " " " 2nd " ... ..	10	—	5½-5¾
80,000.	100	" " " " " 5% Deb. ... ..	100	5 %	102-104



The Bank of England rate remains 3% (changed from 3½% on April 22nd, 1904), and Consols (2½%) are quoted 88½ as we go to press.

#### The Jamaica Cotton Co., Ltd.

This Company has been registered for the purpose of growing cotton in Jamaica. The capital is £16,000 in £1 shares, of which £8,000 have so far been issued. 10/- paid. There will be no public issue. The Directors are Messrs. E. L. Oliver, P. Eckersley, C. Eckersley, J. H. Hayes, C. Duckworth, A. B. Scholefield, L. Rivelt, and T. H. Sharp. The Solicitors are Messrs. A. E. Ferns and Co., Stockport. Mr. E. Bowles is Secretary, and the registered offices are at 51, St. Petersgate Street, Stockport.

### Publications Received.

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, etc., for our Library. We have to acknowledge with thanks, the receipt of the following:—

THE ARRIVAL OF SIR GILBERT CARTER AT BRIDGETOWN. Our thanks are due to Mr. Parkinson, of the Junior Club, Barbados, who has sent us an excellent photograph of this subject, taken by himself.

PICTURE POSTCARDS OF THE WEST INDIES. In addition to series (1) West Indian Views and (2) West Indian Life (12 in packet, 1/- each series, post free 1/1), the following series of six cards each are now published. Series IV, British Guiana; Series V, Jamaica; and Series VI, Trinidad; and are obtainable 6d packet of 6, post free 7d., of G. P. Osmond, 15, Seething Lane, London. Other series are in course of preparation.

THE AGRICULTURAL NEWS, Vol. III., No 67, obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 1d., post free 1½d. An important announcement is made in this issue regarding the Agricultural Conference which it is proposed to hold in Trinidad from about January 4th to January 13th, 1905. Trinidad has special advantages as a meeting-place, as it will afford opportunities for the study of the cacao and sugar industries, and also possesses several institutions where important agricultural work is being carried on. The efforts of the Symington Syndicate in Trinidad are in particular likely to afford material for discussion, and other desirable subjects for discussion are the cultivation of rubber trees, cassava as a source for starch, the improved cultivation of cacao in view of the increased production of African cacao, the cultivation of ground nuts, and the improvement of the bay oil industry. One of the most important subjects to be considered will be the question of prædial larceny. The text of Mr. E. Lomas Oliver's address to the Members of the Barbados Agricultural Society on October 28th, is given in this number, which is a very useful one.

We are indebted to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and the Direct West India Cable Company for a Social Cable Code which has been published under the auspices of the former Company. This will prove very useful to the travelling public, to whom the compendious arrangements and full selection of every day sentences given will afford facilities for communicating with their friends readily and cheaply. The code is published at Salisbury House, London Wall, E. C.

### Weather Telegrams.

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) Nov. 21st. "Rain much wanted, crops suffering."  
**British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) Nov. 12th (dated Nov. 9th), "A few light showers have fallen but rain much wanted." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Nov. 12th. "Rainy season appears to be approaching." (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.) Nov. 12th. "There is a favourable change in the weather in Berbice." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) Nov. 15th (dated Nov. 12th) "We have had some showers since last message, but more rain is wanted." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) Nov. 15th. "A few showers have fallen, but more rain is much wanted." (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.) Nov. 15th. "Nice showers, but more wanted." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Nov. 19th (dated Nov. 17th) "Too dry." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) Nov. 19th (dated Nov. 17th) "Rain is wanted on East and West Coast." Nov. 21st. "No rain worth speaking of since last message." **Trinidad** (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.) "Since 8th Nov. showery weather, favourable and general." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Nov. 19th. "Weather is favourable for growing crops."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Coconuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.	Cotton.
	Hhds.	lbs.	Tons.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.	lbs.
Barbados—									
Jan. 1 to Nov. 4, '04	56,887	—	—	—	—	45,748	—	—	—
" " 4, '03	38,179	—	—	—	—	30,233	—	—	—
British Guiana—	Tons.								
Jan. 1 to Nov. 1, '04	65,813	103,076	4,103	13,575	248,040	2012	68,764	9193	—
" " 3, '03	85,394	116,762	832	17,517	4991	3509	72,024	7840	—
Jamaica—		Cwts.	Cwts.	Calls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.	
Apr. 1 to Oct. 1, '04	5671	12,253	14,915	892,370	1,366,130	56,311	3,681,557	24,387,105	1796
" " 3, '03	7896	15,908	17,489	859,117	12,574,635	32,482	7,306,969	22,698,150	—
Trinidad—	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.	Copra.
Jan. 1 to Nov. 3, '04	383,988	36,186,880	63,435	520	7,602,565	2388	Tons. 29	113,824	13,726
" " 3, '03	382,357	26,338,500	42,120	1143	10,690,377	3473	Hrds. 89	161,325	—
Grenada—		Bags.	Brls.	Brils.	Cases.	Bags.	Cotton Seed.	Cotton.	
Oct. 1 to Nov. 4, '04	—	2255	971	145	90	82	Bags.	Bales.	
" " 4, '03	—	1022	614	75	57	9	—	—	

The Malls.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Orinoco," (Capt. H. D. Doughty) Nov. 16th:—**Barbados**—Lt. Col. E. O. Milward, Mrs and Miss Milward, Major G. J. Bramly, Capt. H. J. McGrigor, Mr W. Schaus, Mr. J. F. Barnes, Mr. J. C. Smith, Mr. J. J. Iversen. **Demerara**—Mrs. M. H. Long, Mr. H. A. Niles, Mr. J. Hasard, Mrs. B. Jardine, Mr. J. Ferguson, Mr. J. D. Gaspar, Mr. J. R. de Souza, Mr. W. Frechboen, Mr. F. Campbell, Mr. W. Wallace. **Jamaica**—Mr. W. G. Alstin, Mr. W. Conroy, Major Tuke, Mr. J. J. Anderson, Mr. C. J. Willdey. **Trinidad**—Mrs. Bousignac, Mrs. A. Robinson, Baron de Vinzelles, Mr. W. J. Spence. **St. Kitts**—Dr. and Mrs. Burn. **St. Lucia**—Capt. H. S. Oppenheimer, Major W. M. Hodder, Mr. R. Page, Mr. J. Enderson, Mr. Engstrom, Mr. W. Duffy, Mr. W. Howard.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Atrato" (Capt. Stranger) Nov. 23rd:—**Barbados**—Miss Gaskin, Mr. J. Foach-Hillier, Miss H. Garnett, Mr. J. Garnett, Miss M. Fernand, Mr. H. W. Lofty, Sir J. W. Carrington, Miss E. Fountaine, Mr. Wm. Wilson, Mr. E. Quirk, Miss Emily Quirk, Col. and Mrs. G. Heathcote. **Demerara**—Mr. and Mrs. H. Scudamore, Mrs. F. Scudamore, Mr. Fowler, Mr. W. A. Colley, Mr. M. French. **Jamaica**—Dr. D. Honiball, Mrs. F. McNair, Miss L. Balston, Lord and Lady O'Hagan, the Hon. Harry O'Hagan, Mr. F. Ward, Rev. M. and Mrs. Baillie, Miss Joseph, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. E. Ormsby, Mr. and Mrs. E. Knoehr, Mr. H. F. Wilson, Mrs. J. Macdonald, Mr. J. Pryde. **Trinidad**—Mrs. and Miss Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Gordon-Gordon, Miss M. Miller, Capt. J. B. Saunders, Mrs. Riddell, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Todd, Miss E. Daly, Mrs. H. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Monckton, Mrs. B. Bruce-Austin, Mr. G. White, two Misses Knox, Mrs. Arnott. **Antigua**—Mr. J. Macdonald, Mrs. E. Macdonald, Mr. W. Hart, Mr. J. F. Dew, Mr. W. Glover. **Dominica**—Mr. L. Bell, Mr. J. Jones. **St. Lucia**—Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Moore, Hon. C. Ponsonby. **St. Vincent**—Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Dasent.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt. H. D. Doughty), Dec 7th:—**Barbados**—Miss Blake, Mr. D. Drake, Mr. Skeete, Mrs. Skeete, Miss C. Skeete, Miss Lofting, Mr. and Mrs. Leacock, Miss Sealy, Mr. H. Walton, Mr. V. Hosking. **Demerara**—Right Rev. the Bishop of Guiana, Mr. A. Sherlock, Mr. and Mrs. S. Cochrane, Mr. P. Hemery. **Jamaica**—Mr. A. Crum-Ewing, Miss Crum-Ewing, Rev. J. M. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. C. Price Davis, Rev. and Mrs. W. L. Holland. **Trinidad**—Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich, Mrs. Hombersley, Mr. Bert de Lamarre, Mrs. Blyth, Mrs. Mole. **Dominica**—Dr. and Mrs. W. K. Williams. **St. Lucia**—Dr. and Mrs. W. Boase. **St. Vincent**—His Honour E. J. Cameron.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), November 7th, 1904. **Jamaica**—Mrs. Allhusen, Mr. J. E. L. Cox, Mr. F. V. Chalmers, Mr. W. Fairbairns, Mr. L. S. Gruchy, Mr. Hughes, Mr. H. C. Heselton, Mr. F. J. Howell, Mr. R. J. Hough, Capt. and Mrs. Hewlings, Mr. Wm. Hindle, Mr. E. Jones, Miss Johnston, Messrs S. M. and P. Jureidini, Mr. E. Lopez, Mr. Mellish, Mr. W. P. Michelin, Mr. W. Orford, Mr. and Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. H. Steer, two Misses Stapleton Stephens, Mr. W. Crawshaw.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons) Nov 19th:—**Jamaica**—Mr. F. H. Arden, Mr. E. Anderson, Mr. J. Boyd, Capt. J. Barlow, Miss C. Bell, Dr. A. A. Barclay, Lieut. Browne, Mr. H. D. Bentley, Sir Fielding and Lady Clarke, Miss L. H. Carter, Mrs. and Miss Chapman, Dr. and Mrs. L. O. Crosswell, Mrs. Cunningham, Mr. Delgano, Mrs. J. Dietz, Mr. and Mrs. W. Dall, Madame de Ferro, Mr. E. Ferro, Miss M. E. A. Fletcher, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Gardener, Miss S. Graham, Mr. R. C. Guy, Mr. A. W. Gordon, Mr. T. A. Gill, Col. and Mrs. Hassell, Mr. R. J. Jones, Miss J. Levy, Miss Lockyer, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. MacLaverly, Mr. J. Macdonald, Mrs. and Miss Manley, Major E. H. E. Marescaux, Mr. E. L. Owen, Mrs. Otley, Mr. J. W. Pendred, Dr. W. Peter, Miss Pringle, Mr. and Mrs. J. Riddock, Miss Kidler, Mr. S. Stedman, Capt. and Mrs. Stuart, Mrs. Stevenson, Miss P. Sant, Miss Shore, Mr. H. A. Simons, Miss F. Thistleton-Dyer, Mr. W. B. Turner, Mrs. E. Talbot, Mr. and Mrs. G. Threlfall, two Misses Thomas, Miss J. M. Wills, Mr. S. P. Wills, Mr. A. G. Wilkinson, Mrs. W. Wedderburn, Mr. D. J. Williams, Miss C. Arboin, Mr. H. Smith, Mr. D. I. Tannahill, Miss E. Webster.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), Dec 3rd:—**Jamaica**—Mr. O. C. Houchen, H. J. Kennedy, Mrs. Sutcliff, Miss Verley, Mrs. Lawson, Miss Ronaldson, Lord Walsingham, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. K. Lawson.



# The Produce Markets Summary.

**Sugar.**—The markets are flooded with estimates of the European beet crops, all more or less imaginary, and the latest figures published by Herr F. O. Licht will be found at the end of these remarks. Without wishing to criticise the views of this responsible authority, the advices reaching this country from reliable sources, point to a smaller result than those foreshadowed, notably so in France and Austria. Be that as it may, Herr Licht is expecting a minus of 620,000 tons in Convention Europe and a minus in all Europe of 900,000 tons. The factory estimates, which are considered nearer the mark, point to a total minus of 1,220,000 tons. Whichever of these figures proves ultimately correct, the position is a serious one for the future of this season and even supposing we get some 200/300,000 tons more cane than last year, the displacement of anything like 1,000,000 tons of sugar out of this year's beet crops cannot be viewed otherwise than as a matter for serious consideration. Already prices are beginning to respond to a situation possibly never experienced by the oldest members of the Sugar Trade. The advance in 88% beet during the fortnight has been 1s. 1½d. per cwt., whilst from the opening price on the 1st October, viz. 11s. 4½d. it is 2s. 6d. per cwt. This great rise is causing some people to think whether it has not gone far enough already. Another section seems to have the opinion that the advance is still in its infancy. Those who live through the campaign will see which is the correct view. At the increased shop prices necessitated by the rise, the question of Consumption will not be without its influence.

Herr F. O. Licht's latest estimates:—

	CROP, 1904/5.		CROP, 1903/4.		
Germany ...	1,660,000	Tons	1,950,000	Tons.	
Austria ...	950,000	..	1,160,000	..	
France ...	685,000	..	790,000	..	
Holland and Belgium ...	315,000	..	330,000	..	
Other Countries	3,610,000	..	4,230,000	..	Minus
	1,340,000	..	1,620,000	..	280,000 ..
<b>Total Crops</b> ...	<b>4,950,000</b>	..	<b>5,850,000</b>	..	<b>900,000</b> ..

Closing quotations of 88% are as follows:—Nov. 13s. 10½d.; Jan/Mar., 14s. 1½d.; May, 14s. 2½d.; Aug. 14s. 4d. and Oct./Dec., 1905, 10s. 11½d., all free on board Hamburg.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America on uneven dates are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	
Europe ...	1,500,000	2,000,000	1,870,000	1,550,000	1,210,000	Tons
United States ...	130,000	100,000	180,000	160,000	70,000	..
Cuba ...	—	120,000	70,000	40,000	—	..
Cargoes afloat	110,000	110,000	70,000	10,000	40,000	..
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>1,740,000</b>	<b>2,330,000</b>	<b>2,190,000</b>	<b>1,760,000</b>	<b>1,320,000</b>	..

Comparative prices of 88% Beet for 5 years:—13s. 10½d. 8s. 5d. 7s. 10d. 7s. 5d. 9s. 8d.

**Vacuum Pan Sugar.**—Importers' stocks of yellow crystallised are practically exhausted and the Trade are in the same position. Advanced rates are being paid for the small available supplies and prices show a rise of 2s. 3d. since the last mail, average qualities now realising 22s. 9d. with a general range of 22s. to 23s. 6d. Deliveries continue large, and we have a dangerously low stock in the Docks and wharves, even if it exists, as is highly problematical. A cargo of 96 test for Refiners' use may now be quoted 15s. on floating terms, and this sugar is attracting attention in London as well as elsewhere.

**Molasses Sugar.** Badly wanted. Values range from 14s. to 17s.

**Muscovado.**—Grocery Barbados should now command from 16s. to 17s. For a cargo of 89 test 13s. 9d. is about the value on floating terms.

**West India Figures since 1st Jan. 1904.**

	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Imports to date ...	37,000	21,000	56,000	42,000	Tons
Deliveries ...	42,000	36,000	48,000	36,000	..
Stocks ...	7000	13,000	30,000	14,000	..
Crystallised quotations of "average qualities"	22s. 9d.	15s. 9d.	14s. 3d.	15s. 6d.	..

**Rum.**—Board of Trade Returns for 10 months:

	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Home Consumption ...	2,970,000	2,922,000	3,219,000	3,234,000	Galls
Stocks 31st Oct. ...	9,168,000	9,780,000	9,532,000	7,733,000	..
Stocks in London:					
Jamaica ...	10,200	10,500	12,000	9300	Puns
Demerara ...	5400	6200	6800	3500	..
Total of all kinds:—	22,951	26,989	Deficiency 4038	Puns	

There is no change in the general position of the market. Importers having sold all their holdings of Demerara there is no business to report. 8½d. remaining the value of ordinary Marks with 10d. for one or two fine ones. In Jamaica moderate sales are taking place of good qualities at steady prices. The value of approved Standard Marks of Home Trade Rum being still 1s. 9d. Leewards are quoted 8d. to 10d.

**Cocoa**—Board of Trade Returns for 10 months:

	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Imports ...	23,231	19,256	21,709	20,695	Tons
Home Consumption ...	16,969	15,165	17,312	16,089	..
Stocks 31st Oct. ...	5988	4067	4635	7505	..
Stocks in London:	84,000	56,000	61,000	56,000	Bags.

Conditions remain unchanged. The tone of the Market is quiet and there is no special feature to comment upon. Our Home manufacturers buy sparingly, but in sufficient quantity to keep prices steady. The closing quotations of West India Cocoa are as follows:—Trinidad, fair collected, 50s.; Estate Marks, 50s. to 60s. and 65s.; Grenada, fair Native, 54s.; fermented, 56s., 57s.; from other Islands, common Native is worth about 48s.; fair, 50s.; and fermented, 53s., 57s. African Cocoa is quoted 56s. for delivery in the United Kingdom on full landed terms.

**Coffee**—Steady. Good ordinary Jamaica is 37s. to 38s., and Santos for this month's delivery 35s. 9d.

**Alumegs.**—Rather easier. West India sales 70's at 1s. 4d.; 85's, at 1½d.; 105's at 7½d.; 140's at 5d.; and in shell 4d. to 4½d. **Mace**—Steady. Fine pale, sold at 1s. 9d.; fair pale 1s. 5d.; red, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 3d.; and broken at 1s.

**Pimento**—Unchanged; value of fair, 2½d. **Ginger**—Dull, unchanged.

**Arrowroot**—Steady. About 300 Brls. sold at 1½d. for fair to good manufacturing.

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
Stocks in London:	11,140	12,633	13,685	8408	7770
<b>Lime Juice</b> —Unchanged value, 9d. to 1s. 2d. Concentrated, steady at £13 17s. 6d. to £14 Hand Pressed, without alteration at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d., Distilled Oil—Easier, Value 1s. 4d.					

For Cotton, see Special Article, page 433

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The . . .

# West India Committee Circular

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## OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XXXI.



Mr. Joseph Kippon.

## The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

December 5th, 1904.

Telegram: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.

IT is to be hoped that the estimate of the American cotton crop which is put as high as 12,162,000 bales, or 3,000,000 bales more than the actual yield last year, will not lead to any relaxation of the efforts towards growing cotton within our Empire. In spite of the prolonged drought from which many places were suffering, the prospects of the cotton crop when the Mail left the West Indies were excellent. There was little or no disease about, and the Commissioner of Agriculture expresses his opinion to us that if all goes well, the Islands should export fine cotton to the value of about £125,000 between January and May next. The visit of Mr. Oliver and Mr. Stancliffe, of the British Cotton Growing Association, to Barbados, St. Vincent, the northern Islands, and Jamaica has proved a conspicuous success, though considerable disappointment has been felt in Trinidad and Grenada at being omitted from their itinerary. These Islands certainly cannot blame the West India Committee for not having adequately looked after their interests in this respect. As early as April last, when a

deputation of the British Cotton Growing Association attended one of our meetings, we urged the desirability of experts being sent out to those Colonies which did not appear to receive so much



attention as Barbados and the Leeward Islands, and again in July last when representatives of the West India Committee went to Manchester to a Council meeting of the British Cotton Growing Association, they again pressed that steps might be taken in this direction. The Association then generously agreed to set aside a certain sum of money for the purpose, but unfortunately the balance was not forthcoming from the Government, and consequently the original scheme for the despatch of cotton growing experts could not be carried out, but a vote was made by the Association to the Department of Agriculture to enable its instructors to travel from Island to Island. The West India Committee made their proposals believing them to be in the best interests not only of the West Indies but also of the Cotton Growing Association. It has been suggested in some quarters that the West India Committee itself should have subscribed the requisite amount to secure the adoption of the suggestion for the despatch of experts to the West Indies which it originated; but it has no funds which it could apply for this purpose, and already its individual members are doing a great deal to help forward the objects of the Association and have incurred considerable expense in experimenting with and growing cotton. It is well that this should be clearly stated, as we do not wish it to be thought that we are apathetic or indifferent in the matter. Meanwhile, the hands of the Department of Agriculture having now been strengthened in order that its instructors may travel throughout the Islands, those Colonies which complain of not receiving the consideration which was due, will doubtless have an opportunity of availing themselves of them. The practical utility of the visit of Mr. Oliver and Mr. Stancliffe is shown in a striking way by the remarks of Mr. Spooner, our Hon. Correspondent in Antigua, who states in his letter, from which we give extracts in another column, that "the general result of their visit has been to leave the planters of cotton with much clearer and more definite ideas as to improving the quality of cotton, and that these should make themselves felt when the next picking season comes round." This is exactly what we anticipated would be the case, and our grateful thanks are due to the British Cotton Growing Association for taking the step they have done, from which we feel sure as much good will result to them as it will undoubtedly to the West Indies.

**T**HE desirability of inculcating a knowledge of our Empire into the minds of our school children and students at the Universities has, for many years past, been patent to those who have given thought to the matter, and at last it appears that definite action in this direction is to be taken. Professor Mackinder of the London School of Economics and Political Science is on Wednesday next to unfold a scheme of visual instruction regarding the Mother Country for use in our Colonies, and it has also been announced that the offer of Mr. Alfred Beit to found a Chair of Colonial History has been accepted by the University of Oxford where, indeed, the "Rhodes" Colonial scholars are already in residence. At the outset it might be urged that the more pressing need is that children in this country should be educated regarding the Colonies, but this will, we understand, follow in due course. To ensure success, class teaching for every child in school should be obligatory, and for this purpose we think that a historical geography of every Colony in the Empire, and a good atlas should be supplied to our schools for immediate use. Schools should also be furnished with large specially prepared maps of each Colony and care should be taken that the number of books supplied to schools is sufficient to provide that every scholar in the class shall have one. The qualification of a master or teacher should depend upon a thorough knowledge of the history of the Empire. The geography of the Dominion of Canada, issued by the direction of the Hon. Clifford Sefton, the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, and so energetically pushed by Lord Strathcona, might usefully be taken as a guide for the compilation of geographies of other Colonies and India, or improved upon if possible, and practical benefit might follow an exchange of teachers between the Colonies and the Mother Country.

It would almost seem as if it were time to call together a body of men having a knowledge of geography and of all our Colonies, to settle the question definitely. One thing seems certain however; "thorough" teaching at schools is absolutely necessary if the best results are to be hoped for, and the present want of knowledge of our vast Empire shown by the Mother Country is to cease. The object of this extended teaching is obvious, and its usefulness if it created a desire in the minds of many in our congested places to go to Colonies where they are required, would more than repay any outlay which the Mother Country and the Colonies might join together in meeting. It would probably reduce the cost of the existing institutions in England for bringing up pauper children, and its consequent want of moral tone which must follow abject poverty.

#### **Mr. Joseph Rippon.**

Mr. Joseph Rippon, whose portrait we give, has devoted his whole life to the engineering, electrical and commercial side of submarine cable work in India, China, Formosa, Brazil, Canada, British and French Guiana, the Gulf of Mexico, the Pacific side of America, Bermuda, and the West Indies, and yet during his spare moments he finds time to devote his superfluous energy, as a Member of the West India Committee, and of the Committee of the West Indian Club, to promoting the welfare of the West Indies. He is well-known in these Colonies in connection with the Direct West India Cable Company, the extension of whose lines from Jamaica to the other Islands has been the frequent subject of petitions to the Colonial Office. Mr. Rippon is a typical Yorkshireman, as his name implies. He was born in 1852 in Wakefield, and his experience in cable matters began at the Gutta Percha Works in London, where he prepared for the working of cables to be laid by the "Great Eastern" and other cable steamers between Suez, Aden, and Bombay. Under his able management his Company is always willing and ready to help the West Indies in any social or industrial enterprise, and he is a strong supporter of minor industries. Mr. Rippon is gifted with great determination, and it is said that when he is seen approaching the Colonial Office the word goes round the various corridors, as he always makes up his mind that he will get what he asks for, and eventually succeeds in getting it.

#### **Waiting for the Governor, Kingstown, St. Vincent.**

The orderly group of people, in our illustration, has assembled at the jetty to meet the Governor. The seat of Government of the Windward Islands, of which St. Vincent forms one, is Grenada, from which the Governor makes periodical visits to St. Vincent, St. Lucia and the Grenadines, the other Islands of the group. The steamer flies the Governor's flag—a Union Jack emblazoned with the arms of the Colony—and the populace turns out to do honour to the occasion. Police in their best blue tunics and white helmets line the jetty and a holiday air prevails. It is interesting to mingle with the crowd and listen to their remarks, many of which are extremely original.

#### **The Colonial and Indian Exhibition 1905.**

A meeting of the General Exhibition Committee of the West India Committee was held on November 24th, when Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G., and Mr. Sydney Olivier, C.M.G., were appointed members, in which capacity they have consented to act. Correspondence with the various Colonies was reported and it was felt that it would be very desirable to hasten the arrangements as much as possible. With the exception of British Guiana and the Leeward Islands, every West Indian Colony has now decided to exhibit, the Secretary of State having agreed to sanction the expenditure of £200 by the Windward Islands for the purposes of the representation of that Colony.

#### **The Cotton Industry.**

The Commissioner of Agriculture estimates, from information so far received, that about 8000 acres are now planted in cotton in the West Indies, though when more complete details are received the estimate will probably be raised to 10,000 acres, exclusive of 4000 acres planted mainly with Marie



Galante cotton in Carriacou. The areas under cotton are as follows: St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla, 2350 acres; Barbados, 1600 acres; St. Vincent, 1600 acres; Montserrat, 600 acres; Antigua, 500 acres; Grenada, 120 acres; St. Lucia, Trinidad, and Jamaica, about 100 acres each; Tobago, 50 acres; Virgin Islands, 50 acres, and Barbados 30 acres. The average yield of lint per acre is expected to be 200 lbs.

During the past fortnight 512 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Sales have been effected in Liverpool at the following prices: West India, 4-75-5-20d. per lb. (good fair was quoted on Friday 5-65, but is to-day worth probably 3d. less;) West India Sea Island, unchanged, medium fine 12½d.; fine 13½d.; extra fine 15½d.

### The Cacao Industry.

From figures recently published by the Board of Trade, it appears that the total imports of Cacao into the United Kingdom from January 1st to October 31st amounted to 52,037,277 lbs., as compared with 43,132,849 lbs. in 1903, and 48,627,840 lbs. in 1902. The home consumption for the same period was 38,010,830 lbs. in 1904, 33,969,924 lbs. in 1903, and 38,779,895 lbs. in 1902. The following figures give the consumption in Germany, France, and Holland, which in each case shows considerable expansion:—

	1904.	1903.	1902.
Germany...	22,799,800 kilos.	17,541,300 kilos.	17,233,900 kilos.
France ...	17,989,400 "	16,031,600 "	15,572,100 "
Holland ...	18,952,000 "	14,622,000 "	12,633,000 "

The total quantity of St. Thomé cacao received at Lisbon during the whole year was: 363,800 bags in 1903; 297,000 bags in 1902; 267,800 bags in 1901; 220,000 bags in 1900.

Our imports from Portugal, the bulk of which have gone into consumption, from January 1st to September 30th, are: 10,271,999 kilos in 1904; 10,443,890 kilos in 1903; 10,484,567 kilos in 1902.

The imports from Trinidad into the United Kingdom from January 1st to November 26th for the past five years are as follows: 43,718 bags in 1904; 34,978 bags in 1903; 44,777 bags in 1902; 37,811 bags in 1901; 55,385 bags in 1900.

The consumption of Trinidad cacao, on the other hand, shows a continued decline, owing to American purchases direct having increased very largely; the figures being as follows: 23,246 bags in 1904; 27,070 bags in 1903; 29,388 bags in 1902; 31,110 bags in 1901; and 37,735 bags in 1900; From Grenada the imports have been: 38,453 bags in 1904; 35,075 bags in 1903; 43,780 bags in 1902; 40,504 bags in 1901; 40,223 bags in 1900. The large imports of St. Thomé cacao from Lisbon have seriously interfered with the consumption of Grenada cacao.

### Cacao Pruning in Martinique.

The *Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale*, dated November 30th, has an interesting article on pruning cacao in Martinique, from the pen of Mr. M. R. Martineau. He points out that in all treatises on cacao cultivation the mistake is made of including suckers in the operation. It is, however, quite a distinct matter; the removal of suckers is easy, and can be done by anyone, whilst for pruning, a skilled man on whom one can depend, is necessary.

This removal of suckers is a work always going on in a cacao plantation, as it should be carried on all the year round, while pruning is only necessary once a year. One must not forget, indeed, that the sucker should be removed as soon as possible after it appears. It is very bad to let it get bigger and then to have to cut it with a cutlass. The pruner ought to be careful to remove all dry branches which are on the tree, because a tree which has dead wood will never flourish and develop properly. It is well also to remove without delay those branches which are too much in the shade, and are likely to wither in the course of the year. The tops of many branches exposed to the wind and sun are also inclined to dry up, and if so should be cut off. The cacao tree puts out many small branches which, for want of sap and sunshine become defective and wither. These small branches should also be cut



From "The Pictures of the Antilles," in the Press

Photo by ALBERTUS E. ARSCELLA, Copyright

## WAITING FOR THE GOVERNOR, ST. VINCENT.



away. The object to be aimed at is to give light and air to the interior of the tree. It is the same principle which guides the horticulturists in Europe for fruit trees, as it encourages the production of fruit. The crown of the trunk from which the main branches fork out or "horquet," should be cleared of smaller branches for some distance down the trunk. When the trees have developed sufficiently to touch each other, one must be careful to remove such of the branches as would be lost under the foliage of the next tree, as such branches will be of necessity deprived of sun and light, and are therefore bound to wither. However, if the tree in question stands out tall, its extended branch or branches should be trimmed back so as not to overshadow its neighbour. In Martinique, where strong winds are frequent, and squalls and hurricanes occur on an average every other year, it is as well not to let the cacao run up high, and the branches which grow over long should be cut back before they develop too fully. In Trinidad they allow the cacao trees to horquet twice, and so produce a second set of branches. In Martinique it is better to content oneself with one only, and have larger main branches. The cacao trees being less lofty will be protected by the trees of the wind-breaks. In Trinidad they prune every two or three years. The trees yield but little during the years in which they are pruned, but the following crop is very abundant. The pruner should pay attention to the even appearance of his tree; if one side is pruned, he should prune the other side to match, as far as possible. A severe pruning of the branches might also be accompanied by a partial pruning of the roots. It seemed to the writer that at Macouba, in Martinique, in rich soil, the cutting off of part of the roots, as, for example, in making a ditch round the tree, or turning over the soil with a spade, increased the production very greatly, even in those trees of which the upper branches had not been pruned. Experiments made on young trees should be examined and watched. Pruning should only be made with a perfectly sharp cutlass, by a man who has acquired the knack of it. In many cases one is undecided, not knowing if a branch should be sacrificed or left alone; in cases of doubt it is always better to leave it, because the leaves nourish the tree in the same way as the roots. Pruning a strong branch from a tree is rather like the amputation of a limb from a human being. It probably produces a sort of traumatic shock, from which the tree takes some time to recover. It is the rule in France not to cut fruit trees when the sap is rising, as the wounds caused during this period heal badly. The cacao tree should be pruned as soon as it has finished bearing, and even as soon as the last pods begin to ripen. If this moment is allowed to pass, it is just as bad as to prune the trees when the sap is rising.

### Imperial Education.

A small Committee has been appointed with the approval of Mr. Lyttelton and of Mr. Chamberlain, when Secretary of State for the Colonies, to carry out certain suggestions made in the first instance by Mr. E. M. Sadler, of the Board of Education, with the laudable object of giving to the school children of the United Kingdom better knowledge of the Colonies and of making the children in each Colony better acquainted with the Mother Country and other parts of the Empire.

The Committee thought that it would be well to begin on a small scale bearing constantly in mind that, if the experiment is to succeed, the letterpress and the illustrations of the lectures must be the best possible. Accordingly, acting under the Secretary of State's authority, they drew up a syllabus of seven lectures on the United Kingdom, each to be illustrated by some forty lantern slides, the subjects of the lectures being—

- (1) The journey from the East to London.
- (2) London the Imperial City.
- (3) Scenery of the United Kingdom.
- (4) Historic centres and their influence on national life.
- (5) Country life and the smaller towns.
- (6) Great towns, the Industries, and Commerce.
- (7) Defences of the Empire.

This syllabus, designed for use primarily in the Eastern Colonies, was sent out to the Governments of the three Colonies of Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, and Hongkong, and each Colony was asked and consented to give a grant of £300 to cover the expenses of the Scheme. The money being available, Mr. Lyttelton consented to the Committee's request that Mr. H. J. Mackinder, Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science, should be asked to undertake the preparation of the lectures and the general superintendence of the scheme.

Mr. Mackinder accepted the invitation and the lectures will be in the first instance delivered in a London Training College for Elementary Teachers. They will be reported verbatim, put into print, and be corrected and edited by the lecturer, the whole, with any special slides which may be designed for the purpose, becoming the property of the three Colonies concerned but being available for sale to other Colonial Governments. It will be borne in mind that—

- (1) The lectures are intended for the higher classes in Elementary Schools, or with modifications for adults.
- (2) Each lecture may well supply several hours' lessons, being intended to be the text for teaching and a guide as to the method of teaching, and not simply to be repeated word for word in a single hour.
- (3) The object is to give to children through their eyes as well as their ears a true and simple impression of what the United Kingdom and its people are like, to explain to children living in the tropics what the seasons mean in this country, and so forth.
- (4) The lessons may well be translated into the vernacular languages for use by native teachers.

The Eastern Colonies will also supply material for similar lectures upon them to be used in this country. Mr. Mackinder has been asked, and has consented to give to-morrow at the Whitehall Rooms, a lecture, in which he will give an account of the scheme, and at which some of the slides which have been prepared to illustrate it will be exhibited. The Secretary of State has promised to preside, and representatives of the West India Committee have been invited to attend.

### The British Guiana Immigration Report 1903=4.

According to the report of the Hon. A. H. Alexander, the Immigrant Agent-General for British Guiana, five ships of coolies arrived from Calcutta during the year, bringing 2,932 immigrants under indenture, and 19 men, 9 women, and 7 children, who paid their own passages. The number of these immigrants who have previously resided in British Guiana was 266 and in other Colonies 270, compared with 67 and 106 for the same period last year. It has been decided after careful consideration that immigrants who have returned to India after indenture in this or any other Colony should not in future be recruited for service again in British Guiana, but there will be no objection to the purchase of passages by those desirous of returning. On December 31st, 1903, a sum of \$468,269.50 (£97,556 2s. 11d.) stood to the credit of East Indian immigrants in the Savings Bank, the number of depositors being 4,924. These figures show an increase of \$17,649.13 (£3676 18s. 0½d.) in the total amount of deposits, as compared with 1902. On the same date \$182,287.17 (£37,976 9s. 10½d.) stood to the credit of 831 Chinese immigrant depositors; while in the Savings Bank \$102,640.54 (£21,383 8s. 11d.) was deposited by immigrants. During the year, postal orders to the value of £2,084 11s. 11d. were issued on India. In the towns and villages, property to the value of \$428,589 was owned by East Indians and to the value of \$231,677 by Chinese, showing an increase of \$44,061 in the value of property owned by East Indians and \$41,707 in the case of Chinese as compared with last year. During the season 1,538½ adults returned to India, remitting \$63,424.13 (£13,213 7s. 2½d.) and carrying with them jewellery to the value of \$10,580 (£2,204 3s. 4d.) Mr. Hosseinbocus, driver on plantation "Ma Retraite," remitted as much as \$2,215.

In 1903-4, work was plentiful and wages such as to enable the industrious immigrants to earn more than the minimum of 24 cents. per day. On some estates where immigrants are given land for the cultivation of rice, the earnings are considerably affected during the planting and reaping season, on account of the manager granting the immigrants leave to absent themselves from their ordinary duties. Reference is made to the unfortunate riot on plantation "Friends" in May, 1903,



and the report of the special court held to enquire into the circumstance is given. The Coroner found no one responsible for the death of the coolies killed. The immediate cause of the riot was the arrest of the ringleaders, and the Coroner expressed regret that prompt measures were not taken by the Immigration Agent, who should have proceeded to the Estate without delay, and in concert with the manager enquired into the grievances of his immigrants.

Mr. Alexander's report is accompanied by one from the Mr. J. B. Cropper, the Superintendent of the East Indian settlements at Helena, Bush Lot and Whim, and from Mr. P. C. Harel of "Maria's Pleasure." In the former, reference is made to the continuance of prædial larceny, which causes discouragement to cultivators of ground provisions.

"Unwillingness to put forth effort, lack of the moral sense of honesty, envy and jealousy of the prosperity of neighbours, rather are these among the motives that prompt to stealing. To men whose moral standards are so low and whose conception of social obligations are so rudimentary, the ordinary methods of restraint are useless; and until more drastic measures are applied than such as now obtain, the honest toiler will continue to be robbed and the whole community will continue to suffer."

Mr. Cropper is of opinion that the settlements will yet become well ordered communities. Time and patience, however, are required together with tact and sympathy. "Maria's Pleasure" is looking very well indeed and improving every day. 168 lots have been given out to 177 persons, including children, and of this number there are 37 families who have built houses on their lots and reside there, numbering about 118 individuals.

There is also Dr. J. P. Widdup, the Acting Medical Inspector's Report to the Surgeon General, which deals very exhaustively with the health of the coolies for whose welfare every provision appears to be made.

### Mr. Austen Chamberlain on Colonial Preference.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer, at a meeting at Rugby, on November 23rd, devoted his remarks chiefly to the fiscal question. His remedy for the loss of foreign trade was, he said, the abandonment of the fetters with which we had needlessly bound ourselves, and the resumption to the old freedom to make bargains with foreign countries. By following this course we should regain some of the markets we had lost. We must adopt preferential arrangements with the Colonies and resume the liberty to retaliate upon foreign nations who refused reasonable treatment of our commerce. He rejoiced that the Prime Minister proposed to summon a conference of colonial representatives to devise a closer union, and he could not understand the attitude of those who opposed this proposal. Lord Rosebery's assertion that it would be but a squalid bond was not the view of Cobden when he negotiated the commercial treaty with France, and if that view was true then, why was it not equally true to-day? We should not seek by retaliation to raise the price of food, but to get power to make effective our arrangements with other countries and to compel them to pay attention to our representations.

### The Rise in Price of Sugar.

During the past fortnight the provincial, and to a lesser extent the London Press, have contained many letters regarding the recent rise in sugar, which our opponents continue to attribute to what the *Daily News* is pleased to call our "energetic and skilful Committee." The arguments of the pro-Bounty party—for such they have now constituted themselves—were answered in a letter which we sent to the Press on November 29th, the full text of which will be found below. Since then the only further statement made which calls for an answer is one to the effect that Russian sugar is being sold at such low prices in Switzerland; that that country will become the chief competitor of our confectioners. This is not a fact. Russia herself has an estimated deficiency of 250,000 tons, and at the present time her export prices are within a moderate fraction of those of Convention countries. This

point is fully explained in *Czarnikow's Weekly Prices Current*. Mr. Chamberlain has sent the following letter to Messrs. Icke & Sharp, Ltd., a large confectionery firm in Birmingham, who wrote to him regarding the Sugar Tax and the Brussels Convention:—

November 30th, 1904

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 26th, and regret to learn of the depression now existing in your trade, and especially of the distress thereby caused to the people employed. I fear that your industry is not the only one that suffers, and that many others are affected by the present conditions of our trade, which no doubt deserve full inquiry and consideration.

In your letter you speak of the Brussels Convention as "unfortunate," and go on to ask me to help you by voting for the total abolition of the present tax on sugar.

My views on the subject of our present fiscal system have already been fully explained in public, and I need only point out to you now that one important item of my policy is a reduction in the duties on sugar and tea and the transfer of those duties to other articles of general consumption. At the same time the Prime Minister has claimed for the Government a power of retaliation in fiscal matters which might result in a reduction of the heavy duties now levied against your manufactures in foreign countries, and which I have found in my recent visits abroad to be having serious effects, resulting in the substitution of products of an inferior quality for those previously supplied from this country.

You have been good enough to send me a political pamphlet by Mr. George Mathieson (whom, however, I am quite unable to recognise as an impartial authority), in which the distress in your trade is attributed entirely to the Brussels Convention. I believe that the statements in this document have already been fully answered by experts such as Sir Nevile Lubbock and others, but I may be allowed to add some general remarks.

I may point out (1) that if the present high price of sugar were due to the tax, it is remarkable that the result has only manifested itself long after the tax was imposed.

(2) It is also to be observed that fluctuations in price almost as serious have occurred in previous times before sugar was taxed at all in this country and while the bounty system was in full operation.

(3) And lastly, you will have noticed that the cotton trade is only just recovering from a similar severe depression, also caused by a rise in price of its raw material, and that in this case there cannot possibly be any question either of import duties or of foreign bounties. The real fact, recognised by every impartial observer, is that these sudden and serious fluctuations in price are due entirely to changes in the relation between supply and demand, and that in the last few months while the world's demand for sugar has increased, the supply, owing to climatic conditions in the producing countries, has greatly fallen off.

The remedy, as the cotton manufacturers have perceived, would seem to be an increase of the sources of supply, and this is one of the things that can only be looked for if the artificial hindrances to production, which have existed under the bounty system, are removed. I cannot, therefore, believe that our own Government, or, indeed, the producing countries, are likely to return to a system which was denounced by Mr. Gladstone himself as unfair and entirely inconsistent with the principles of free trade.

The question of duty is merely a question of revenue. If it is to be reduced or removed other means of providing for the national expenditure will have to be found

I am, gentlemen, yours obediently,

(Signed) J. CHAMBERLAIN.

The fluctuations in prices before bounties were abolished, to which Mr. Chamberlain called attention, are shown in the Chart which will be found on another page. The following is the text of our letter to the Press which is referred to above.

November 29th, 1904.

SIR,—It is difficult to see what good purpose can be served by the opponents of the Brussels Sugar Bounties Convention continuing to base their wholly unjustified attacks against it on the recent rise in sugar, which, as has already been pointed out, has been due to extraneous causes. The Sugar Bounties Convention, to which the British people through their representatives in the House of Commons have set the seal of their approval, came into force on September 1st, 1903, and nothing can upset its beneficent provisions before 1908.

As much misapprehension appears to exist as to the real reasons for the recent rise, will you allow me to avail myself of your valued columns to reply to the many letters which have recently appeared in the Press on the subject?

At the outset, I may emphatically state that there has been no corner. Owing to the exceptionally dry summer on the Continent, there has been a shortage of the beet sugar crop estimated at over 1,000,000 tons, and to this, coupled with an outburst of speculation which experience has shown to be inseparable from shortage of produce, the rise is attributable.

If bounties had not been abolished, the rise would have been more pronounced than it has been for this reason: Owing to the baneful effects of foreign bounties, we had become dependent upon the Continent for no less than two-thirds of our supply of sugar, and if bounties had been allowed to continue unchecked, we should in time have become



entirely dependent on the Continent for our sugar supply, as the cane producing countries could not have survived for many years longer, the combined effect of bounties and cartels. If bounties had not been abolished and we had become dependent on foreign beetroot for our sugar, there is no reason to doubt that the foreigners, assisted by the shortage on the Continent, would have made British consumers pay still more for their sugar, which would have been hoisted to a fabulous price.

The position would have been analogous to that in which cotton was placed last year. We became dependent upon a single foreign country for our cotton, there was a shortage in the American cotton crop, and prices were rushed up by speculators, with the result that it has become necessary to start a movement for the production of cotton in British Possessions.

It is inconceivable that if the Sugar Convention had not been agreed to, the world would have continued to produce sugar and sell it at a loss of £3 per ton, or 30 % below the cost of production. The following countries which enjoyed no bounty or cartel must have ceased to produce:—

Java	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,000,000	tons
Brazil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	250,000	..
British West Indies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	275,000	..
San Domingo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45,000	..
Mexico and others	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	125,000	..
Mauritius	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	165,000	..
Peru	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	140,000	..
Total										...	...
										...	2,000,000

We admit that the increase of consumption on the Continent consequent upon the abolition of bounties has been large, but the amount is insignificant compared with the 2,000,000 tons which must have ceased to be made if bounties had continued. But this increase in consumption has not taken place to anything like the extent imagined from the figures usually given. It seems to be forgotten that immediately before the Convention came into force, retail dealers all over the Continent reduced their stock to the smallest possible quantity, whilst, of course, as soon as the Convention came into force and the duties were reduced, their retail stock was replaced. The consumption, therefore, from September 1st, 1903, onwards appeared much larger than it actually was, whilst that of the previous year appeared as much smaller. To arrive at the real increase in consumption it is quite safe to take it at very considerably below the apparent quantity.

With regard to sugar from Russia and the Argentine, which it has been argued we might be using if it were not kept out by the Convention, Russian sugar imported into the United Kingdom during the past five years has been quite a negligible quantity. Russia exports the bulk of her surplus produce to Asia and the Levant, where she competes with Austria, and, therefore, if more Russian sugar were to come here, there would be less Austrian. It would merely be a displacement, and the same remark applies to the Argentine. Wherever her sugar is consumed, it must release other sugar, which is then available to come here.

The price of sugar at the present moment, even taking into consideration the sugar duty of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cwt., for the imposition of which the Convention is in no way responsible, is still below what it touched in 1893, and without the duty it is very much below the highest prices touched in any year before 1889, when it rose to nearly 27/-, and we are not aware that the confectioners had any difficulty in maintaining their industry at that time. Moreover, the confectioners can still, if they feel anxious as to the future, buy in the open market sugar for delivery in October, 1905, at below 11/- per cwt., basis 88 %.

As to the future, the present rise will lead eventually to increased production and a consequent lowering of prices, so that there is no reason to believe that the average price for the ten years succeeding the Convention will be any higher than that for the ten years preceding it.

It has been suggested that instead of abolishing the Bounties, a money grant might have been made to the West Indies. This would have quite failed to bring about that restoration of confidence which is one of the principal results of the abolition of bounties. And where, too, one might ask, would Java, Brazil, Mauritius, Peru and Mexico have benefited? It is due to the Convention that the crops in these countries have not only been maintained but increased, and but for their sugar prices must, in view of the reduced beet crop, have been very much higher.

The confectioners would have us believe that they are quite unable to carry on their industry unless they can get their raw material below the cost of production. If this is indeed the case, their industry cannot be on a very sound and stable basis; but it may be noted on the other hand that the firm of confectioners whose managing director has been leading the campaign against the Convention, paid last year a dividend of 37½ %, as compared with 34½ % in 1902, and 25 % in 1901, and the shares of the Company now stand at a premium of 200 %! Perhaps the reply may be made that it is the smaller confectioners who are suffering. Let them take to heart the advice that they were so ready to give to their friends in the Colonies while they were suffering under the stress of the unequal competition caused by the Bounties. Let them improve their methods, let them co-operate and lower their cost of production. Can we be sure that they are using the most up-to-date methods?

Yours obediently,

(Signed) ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.





### The Exhibition of West Indian Fruit.

With characteristic enterprise Dominica has stepped in where some larger Colonies feared to tread, and will be represented with Barbados by an effective display of fruit at the exhibition of Colonial produce which opens at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster, on December 13th, for two days. A display will also be made by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. As a full report of the Show will be given in the next issue of *The West India Committee Circular*, we need do no more than express a hope that our Members will muster in full strength upon this occasion.

### West Indian Civil Service.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our record of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

MR. T. H. WARNER, Warden of Tacarigua, will also be Warden of Blanchisseuse, Trinidad

MR. DAVID SLINGER, Member of the Board of Education of Grenada has returned to the Colony

MAJOR F. A. LISTON, 1st West India Regiment, has assumed the command of the troops in St. Lucia

The appointment of MR. H. S. DE PASS as Sub-Inspector of the police force in Trinidad, has been confirmed

THE HON. D. T. TUDOR, Attorney General of Grenada and St. Vincent, arrived in St. Vincent on November 14th.

MR. J. F. A. FANFAN, Barrister-at-Law, has been made Stipendiary Magistrate of Arima and Blanchisseuse, Trinidad.

MR. E. C. HUGHES has been appointed to act as Stipendiary Magistrate and Warden of Cedros, Trinidad from November 18th.

MR. EDWARD R. JONES, Assistant Treasurer of St. Kitts-Nevis, has been made a Member of the Board of Assessment Commissioners

The leave of absence granted to MR. G. H. V., MERCIER, Revenue Officer of Nevis, has been extended for three months from January 13th, 1905.

LIEUT.-COLONEL H. C. KIRKPATRICK has been made a member of the General Board of Health, Barbados, in succession to Lieut.-Colonel Milward.

MR. W. G. MAHON, of the Colonial Secretary's Office, Barbados, has been granted an extension of one month's leave of absence from November 14th.

MR. BRYCE C. BURT, Assistant Analyst and Science Master, has been appointed Government Analyst for Trinidad under the Food and Drugs Ordinance

MR. E. L. SKEETE, Acting Superintendent of the Government Industrial School, Barbados, has been granted an extension of three months leave from January 18th, 1905

### Notes of Interest.

**BANK RATE.** The Bank of England rate remains 3% (changed from 3½% on April 22nd, 1904), and Consols (2½%) are quoted 87½ as we go to press.

**SOMBRERO.** The Island of Sombrero which was annexed to the Leeward Islands by Order in Council, on August 10th, is about to be made a dependency of St. Kitts.

**FILING CASES.** We still have a few spring back cases for filing *The West India Committee Circular* which can be obtained from the Secretary for 2/6 each, or post free 3/-. They will be found a great convenience.

**CACAO IN FIJI.** The Cacao Industry has of late years been taken up by several planters in Fiji, and an area of 250 acres put in. The growth of the plants is said to be most encouraging, and in the near future there is every likelihood of cacao appearing as a permanent item on the export list of the Colony.

**THE COLONIAL BANK.** Mr. Vivian Hosking, until recently the agent in New York of the Colonial Bank leaves by the "Orinoco" to-morrow for Barbados, to take up his appointment of General Superintendent of Branches, which will be vacated by Mr. William Horne, who retires after 47 years' service in the Bank.

**ANNUAL BANQUET.** At a meeting of the Executive Committee on November 10th, it was decided that it was desirable to revive the custom of holding an Annual Banquet of the West India Committee. In the old days these functions were always largely attended, and on several occasions Royalty were present. We invite the views of our Members as to the best time of year to hold the banquet.

**"SUN PICTURES OF THE ANTILLES."** Mr. J. Chamberlain has written accepting the dedication to him of "Sun Pictures of the Antilles," which will contain many of the pictures which are appearing in these columns, together with an introduction giving statistical and other information regarding the West Indies, and has expressed his hope that the work may be a success. The book will be published at the West India Committee Rooms very shortly.

**NEW MEMBERS.** There has been no meeting of the Executive Committee, and consequently no election since we last went to press. Fifteen candidates now await election and we would remind members that the subscriptions of those elected during this month will not, when paid, be renewable until January 1st, 1906. Particulars regarding membership can be obtained from the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Scething Lane, London, E.C.

**SUGAR IN FIJI.** According to the report of the Colonial Secretary, it seems that as the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has begun crushing at its new mill at Lautoka, and is putting additional areas under cane at its other centres, the export of sugar from the Colony, which amounted to 46,438 tons, valued at £406,318 in 1903, is likely to be much larger in future years. The total area under cane cultivation in the Colony is estimated at 33,304 acres, which yielded 434,180 tons of cane in 1903.

**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Nicaragua," from Liverpool, for Kingston, Jamaica, Dec. 8th; S.S. "Louisianan," from Liverpool, for Barbados and Trinidad, Dec. 14th; S.S. "Statia," from London, for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, Demerara, and Leeward and Windward Islands, Dec. 15th; and the R.M.S. "Port Antonio," from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, on December 17th. Letters must be specially addressed "by Private Ship," and the name of the ship and port of departure added.

**THE RUM SURTAX.** The *Chemist and Druggist* of November 26th quotes from the correspondence between the West India Committee and the Treasury, adding, "we think if the West India Committee study Mr. Austen Chamberlain's speech at Rugby on Wednesday, they will find the satisfaction they want. Mr. Chamberlain does not need the assistance of the Industrial Alcohol Committee to throw the 4d. overboard when his time for preference comes. What Sir Nevile Lubbock and his colleagues should do is to get together the fullest possible evidence as to the production of alcohol in the West Indies. The time is opportune for this, as the tightness of Continental alcohol is sure to have the Industrial Alcohol Committee's attention."

**WEST INDIAN CLUB.** The Half-Yearly General Meeting of the West Indian Club is to be held on Wednesday, January 18th, at 2 p.m. The fortnightly dinner was held at the Club Rooms, Howard Hotel, Norfolk Street, Strand, on Wednesday, November 30th. Mr. G. H. H. Pile was in the chair, and amongst those present were: Mr. J. W. C. Catford, Mr. F. R. Roach, Mr. Troup, Mr. A. S. Bryden, Hon. Mark Kerr, Hon. Granville Ponsonby, Lieut. P. L. Anderson, Mr. H. C. Woolner, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. C. R. Winn, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. T. J. Wadson, Mr. W. Thorn, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. Martin Elliot, Mr. H. O. Smith, Mr. H. E. G. Boyle, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, and the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby. Opportunity was taken to congratulate Mr. Goode upon his appointment to an important post on the *Standard* newspaper.

### The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Trent" anchored off Plymouth on Wednesday, November 30th, at 2.45 p.m., and the Mails were delivered in London by first post on the following day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, November 23rd. Drought continued to cause some apprehension regarding the crops, cotton excented, but telegrams subsequently received are happily of a somewhat reassuring nature. The letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received per R.M.S. "Trent," extracts from which we give below, are as usual, full of interest. Mr. Shand gives a description of the picturesque ceremony on Arbor Day in Nevis which passed off very successfully.

### Antigua—The Visit of Cotton Experts.

(HON. A. ST. C. SPOONER) November 15th. In spite of this being the so-called wet season, large sun-cracks were rapidly developing in the soil. Only 27.31 inches of rain were recorded so far for the year. The only part of the Island where matters were not so bad, seemed to be round Parham and along the north side of the Island, but even there the present dry spell would soon cause growth to cease. A good soaking rain would, of course, mend matters to some extent, but already much permanent damage had been done. (Cable advices report "Rainfall general," November 28th.—Ed.). The dry weather had favoured the appearance of caterpillars in the cotton fields to some extent, but where paris green was used, this pest was quite controllable.

On November 5th a most interesting meeting was held, at which the members of the Agricultural and Commercial Society were addressed by the Commissioner of Agriculture and the expert, Mr. E. L. Oliver. The general result had been that the planters of cotton went away with much clearer and more definite ideas as to improving the quality of their cotton, and these should make themselves felt when next picking season came round.

The distinction of C.M.G., conferred upon Dr. Francis Watts, had given the greatest satisfaction in the Island.

### Barbados—The Serious Drought.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE) November 17th. Hardly any rain had fallen during the fortnight. Some estates had a good shower on the night of November 9th, but with that exception there had been no rain worth mentioning since October 14th. It was unnecessary to point out how serious a drought of over a month was at that time of the year; nor was there any appearance of rain. The weather had become cooler, with fresh trade breezes, and utterly unlike what it usually was in the rainy season. The canes were still green, but the ratoons on some estates were showing signs of distress. The pastures were getting rapidly brown, and the question of feeding the stock would soon be a difficult one. The promising yam crop would be spoiled and onions could not be transplanted. The cotton, which did not require much rain, was looking beautiful. The season for planting canes was now not far off, and it was all-important that rain should set in before then.

The Imperial Government Oil Mines Bill had passed the House of Assembly. The Governor had celebrated the King's birthday by a dinner to the officials and heads of departments. The question of the railway was to come before the Executive Committee the following week.



**British Guiana—Rain Badly Wanted.**

(A. SUMMERSON, Esq.) November 16th. The weather during the past week had been more favourable, light showers having fallen almost daily, and the drought appeared to be breaking up. So far the rainfall had not been nearly enough for requirements. The heaviest fall had been in Essequibo, and Demerara and Berbice had come off only lightly. Much heavier rains were wanted throughout the entire Colony.

On November 16th the quotation for crystals was \$2 90 and there was a small sale at that figure. It was satisfactory to note that the price of Demerara crystals was rising steadily also.

Grinding operations continued in progress, but there was complaint that canes were yielding poorly as compared with last year. May and June cultivation was greatly in need of some soaking showers.

It was reported that Mr. Farmer intended to continue his cotton growing experiments on plantations "Ostend" and "Endeavour," on Canal No. 1.

The Government had been notified that there would be a shortage of about 300 East Indian emigrants to be allotted to British Guiana, so that the figures would be reduced from 1,640 to 1,340.

The Colony was still cut off from communication with the outer world, and when the mail left no word of the cable steamer going that way had been received. In the meantime, communication was kept up by the aid of every steamer that touched at Barbados or Trinidad, and by chartered schooners.

**Dominica—Fine Weather.**

(E. A. AGAR, Esq.) November 16th. It was a matter for regret that Dominica was not to be represented at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, as the other Leeward Islands were not in a position to make a grant towards it. This showed the disadvantage of being federated with islands with interests so totally different as those of St. Kitts and Antigua.

The usual dance for the King's Birthday had been held at Government House on the 9th ult. Several officers from the German training ship "Moltke" were present, and the Kaiser's health was drunk after the King's had been duly honoured. November 9th had been kept as Arbor Day, and children were delegated from the various schools to plant palm trees round the Savannah. The weather continued fine.

**Grenada—The Colonial and Indian Exhibition.**

(P. J. DEAN, Esq.) November 17th. Much disappointment was felt that the cotton experts had passed Grenada by without a visit.

The Secretary of State had sanctioned the expenditure of £200 by the Colony for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, the arrangements to be carried out by the Agricultural and Commercial Society on the understanding that that sum was not to be exceeded. A general meeting was to be held on November 22nd, when details would be gone into.

Weather had continued favourable for the crops.

**Jamaica—Penny Postage with America.**

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq.) November 14th. During the past fortnight they had had very little rain, and Vere would only make one-half to one-third of the normal sugar crop.

An inland daily mail service had been inaugurated, and an effort was being made to inaugurate a penny postage with the United States.

**Nevis—A Picturesque Ceremony.**

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) November 15th. Anxiety was being felt at the dryness of the weather for the time of year, as a dry November spelt disaster, more particularly as far as the sugar prospects were concerned.

During the past fortnight there had been two events of especial importance to record in Nevis. First, the visit of Mr. Oliver, the cotton expert, who was brought over by the newly arrived Administrator, Mr. Robert Bromley, and accompanied by the Commissioner of Agriculture, and Dr. Watts, now C.M.G. The party had been able to visit "the cotton belt" before the meeting. It was only notified the preceding evening that the meeting would take place that day, and in the absence of telephonic communication, there was considerable difficulty in acquainting all interested in cotton that it would be in their interests to attend. However, there was a very representative assemblage of planters and peasant proprietors, who listened to the interesting remarks of the various speakers with both intelligence and appreciation. Universal satisfaction was expressed that Nevis should have been permitted to participate in the advantage which could not fail to be derived by all who were present.

On the King's birthday, Arbor Day, 700 to 800 school children assembled at the Savannah, opposite the old Bath House, and after an interval of rest refreshments were distributed to all the children. After a general parade, a procession was formed, which, with bands playing and banners flying, marched out to the site of the tree-planting, the new cemetery enclosure. On arrival the Union Jack was run up on a flagstaff erected temporarily in the centre of the ground, the first verse of the National Anthem was sung, and the children proceeded to plant the trees. Upon the Inspection Committee having carefully examined each tree to see that it had been properly set in its place, the children were all massed round the flagstaff, where a large concourse of interested spectators had assembled. "God Save the King" was sung, and His Majesty was enthusiastically cheered. The children were then marched off to the stirring strains of music, and so ended a day which it was hoped would be memorable in that little island, and be the prelude to a regular annual ceremony of a similar nature. The writer hoped to send some snapshots of various incidents that occurred. The feature of the ceremony was the excellent behaviour of all present, and the anxiety of the children to participate in the tree-planting. Probably this latter might act as an incentive to the pupils to fresh efforts in the future, as only those who had distinguished themselves either by hard work or by regular attendance, were allowed to take part in the tree-planting itself, though, of course, any on the lists of the various schools were invited to the march.

The cotton crop looked much more promising than the cane, which emphasised the necessity of having one's eggs in more than one basket.

**St. Kitts—The Cotton Experts.**

(CHAS. A. SMITH, Esq.) November 15th. A period of dry weather had been experienced, and some good showers would be very welcome, as planting operations for the 1905 crop had been begun, and moisture was wanted just as urgently for the newly-planted tops as for the growing canes.

Arbor Day was kept on the King's birthday, and an impressive function resulted. Members of Council, City Boards, &c., planted trees in the Botanic Garden.

An interesting meeting had been held to receive the cotton experts, and the merits of Sea Island Cotton were plainly demonstrated, as well as the necessity for the utmost care in its cultivation and preparation.

**St. Lucia—Rain Wanted.**

(SYDNEY D. MELVILLE, Esq.) November 18th. The Governor-in-Chief was visiting the Island, and was likely to remain for about ten days.

There had not been as much rain as they could wish for, and it was feared that the growing crops would be adversely affected.

**St. Vincent—The Yield of Arrowroot.**

(Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co.) November 18th. The weather was everything that could be desired. Arrowroot manufacture was pretty general, but the yield was very disappointing.

Sir Daniel Morris and Mr Oliver, of the British Cotton Growing Association, had been at the Island for some days, and appeared highly satisfied with the prospects for cotton there, both as regarded the growing plants and the quality of the samples of cotton submitted to them.

**Trinidad—Cacao Prospects Improve**

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C M G.) November 18th. Frequent showers, many of them heavy, had fallen during the fortnight to the great benefit of both sugar and cacao crops. The long drought preceding these showers had seriously affected the canes, and very favourable weather from that time to the end of January was necessary to give any chance of even a fair crop of sugar. Cacao prospects were much more promising. The receipts during the fortnight showed a steady increase, but prices had been well maintained under steady buying for Europe. Fine estates qualities being again in demand, continued much above London parity. Receipts from Venezuela had been very light, and had sold at \$12.30 to \$12.60.

At the last meeting of Council (*Port of Spain Gazette* of November 8th), Mr C. P. David delivered his speech against immigration, but there was no discussion. The usual vote for 2,400 immigrants for season 1904/5 was passed with only Mr. David dissenting. The s.s. "Indus" had brought the first instalment of this 2,400, arriving on the 13th ult., after a 43 days' voyage with 967 men, 156 women, and 22 children.

The terms of the agreement to be made by the Government with the Railway and Works Co., Ltd., of London, regarding the Floating Dock, had been submitted to the Council and agreed to. Under the agreement the Government guaranteed a profit of 3% on a capital not to exceed £100,000.

A disastrous fire occurred on the 13th inst., by which the Government Bonded Warehouse was totally destroyed. Fortunately the wind was from the south-west, otherwise it would have been difficult to save any portion of the building, which included Customs Offices, and two large Steamers Warehouse. The origin of the fire was as yet unknown. The Collector of Customs estimated the losses at from £25,000 to £30,000, of which only about one-fourth was insured.

(The Editor is indebted to Mr. Edgar Tripp for an invitation to the Welcome Ball which was given to the Governor and Lady Jackson on November 25th. The card is of especial interest, inasmuch as it contains the longest and most representative list of stewards ever collected in the Colony, which is abundant evidence of the excellent impression made by Sir Henry Jackson in Trinidad.)

**The West India and Panama Telegraph Company.**

The Report for the six months ended June 30th, states that the amount to credit of revenue is £34,581, against £34,903 for the corresponding half-year of 1903. The expenses have been £23,437, against £23,051, leaving £11,144, to which is added £1,825 interest on investments, and £710 brought from last account, making a total of £13,679. It is proposed to make a payment of 7½% per share on account of arrears of dividend to June 30th, 1904, on the Preference Shares, and to carry the balance of £1,583 forward. This will leave of dividends in arrear on the 1st Preference Shares amounting to £1,728 and on the 2nd Preference Shares amounting to £11,206. The Danish Colonies of St. Thomas and St. Croix have renewed their subsidies for a further term of five years. West India commercial prospects are reported to be favourable, consequent on the abolition of the Sugar Bounties. The improvement to be expected therefrom has, however, not had time to make itself felt in the traffic receipts of the company.

Mr. Walter B. Kingstord, presiding over the 55th Ordinary General Meeting on November 30th, said that it was not only a matter for regret but also for surprise that the telegraphic facilities afforded by their system were not turned to more account. For local purposes, at all events, their rates were extremely moderate, seeing that between some of the islands messages could be sent for 3½ per word. The series of interruptions which had occurred in rapid succession after three months of unbroken communication, could only be accounted for by some unusual physical conditions prevailing at the time. All these cables, with one exception, had now been repaired. The company's unfortunate experiences at Martinique and St. Vincent, and the great difficulties which had to be contended with in maintaining cables in those volcanic regions, were well known to the shareholders. He feared, however, that their friends in the colonies did not so fully realise how great those difficulties were, and that it cost the company thousands of pounds every year to maintain their cables, laid, as they unfortunately had to be, on a sea bottom which was probably more injurious to submarine cables than any in the world. Since the last meeting he had proceeded to the West Indies to inspect the company's various stations and to make the personal acquaintance of the staff. He particularly wished also to become acquainted with the Governors and officials of the colonies served by the Company's system, and with their principal customers in those colonies. Everywhere he was received with cordiality, and he felt justified in expressing his belief that his visit would have the good effect of strengthening those friendly relations between the colonies and the company which it had always been the board's wish to maintain. The adoption of the Report was then agreed to.

**Publications Received.**

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, etc., for our Library. We have to acknowledge with thanks, the receipt of the following:—

The Report of the Immigrant Agent-General for British Guiana, 1903-4 (see page 452), and the British Guiana Blue Book, 1903-4, are also to hand by the Mail.

The *British Medical Journal* of October 22nd and November 26th, contain interesting articles regarding Jamaica as a health resort, from a correspondent whom we understand to be one of the doctors recently invited to the Island by Sir Alfred Jones. In the first of these the voyage out is graphically described, and in the second Kingston and its neighbourhood. A future issue will deal with the climate of the Island.



AGRICULTURAL NEWS, Vol. III, No. 68 (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 1d., post free 1½d.) A leading article in this number is devoted to the prospects of the cotton crops in the West Indies with which we deal elsewhere. The report of Mr F. V. Chalmers, who recently visited Jamaica to look into the question of tobacco cultivation in the Island, is given. He found the tobacco of good quality and flavour, but in most cases the leaves were too heavy and so unable to compete commercially with lighter leaves for cigar wrapping purposes. The flavour and aroma was in nearly every instance excellent. He was firmly convinced that tobacco suited for wrapping purposes could be produced in Jamaica. He saw, moreover, no reason why a suitable pipe tobacco should not be grown.

We are indebted to Mr. Thomas Taylor, of Bolton, for three handsome samples of weaving from Sea Island cotton. They represent the Albert Memorial, the Statue of Liberty, New York, and the German National Memorial at Rudesheim. Mr Joseph Rippon has generously presented to the Committee, frames for these works of art. We have also to thank Mr Taylor for cotton crops and samples of Sea Island cotton, which he reports upon as a beautiful cotton, of such a quality "that one can put it out and straighten it till it is like silk."

We have also to acknowledge with thanks a show case, from Messrs. Hornocks, Crewdson & Co., containing an exhibit of Sea Island and Egyptian cotton, showing samples of cotton in various stages of preparation from the blossom to the finished material.

**Weather Telegrams.**

**Antigua** (Messrs. Boddington & Co.) Nov. 28th. "Rainfall general." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) Nov. 25th. "Weather dry, no rain since last message." Nov. 28th. "Dry weather still continues." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Nov. 28th. "Rain is badly needed." (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.) **BERMUDA**, Dec. 5th. "Weather unsuitable for growing crops." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) Week ended Nov. 24th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "18/23 rainy. 24th, fine." **KINGSTON**: "Fine, occasional showers."

**Exports from British Guiana, Jamaica, Trinidad, and Grenada.**

From—	Sugar.	Co-coa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Coconuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.	Cotton.	
	Tons.	lbs.	Tons.	Puns.		Puns.	Q:5	Carats	lbs.	
<b>British Guiana</b>										
Jan 1 to Nov 15, '04	77,404	103,076	5445	15,483	279,540	2332	71,746	9640	—	
" " 17, '03	89,597	118,362	914	18,901	4991	3509	75,602	8079	—	
<b>Jamaica</b>		Cwts. <td>Coffee. <td>Galls. <td></td> <td>Pimento. <td>Bananas. <td>Oranges. <td></td> </td></td></td></td></td>	Coffee. <td>Galls. <td></td> <td>Pimento. <td>Bananas. <td>Oranges. <td></td> </td></td></td></td>	Galls. <td></td> <td>Pimento. <td>Bananas. <td>Oranges. <td></td> </td></td></td>		Pimento. <td>Bananas. <td>Oranges. <td></td> </td></td>	Bananas. <td>Oranges. <td></td> </td>	Oranges. <td></td>		
			Cwts. <td></td> <td></td> <td>Cwts. <td>Stems. <td></td> <td></td> </td></td>			Cwts. <td>Stems. <td></td> <td></td> </td>	Stems. <td></td> <td></td>			
Apr 1 to Oct 22, '04	5914	12,268	15,419	839,114	1,445,530	71,715	4,415,128	44,571,171	1796	
" " 24, '03	8047	15,987	17,695	862,836	12,737,935	40,808	7,351,750	33,735,750	—	
<b>Trinidad</b>	Bags	lbs. <td>lbs. <td>Puns. <td></td> <td>Puns. <td>Tons. <td>Brls. <td>Asphalt. <td>Copra. </td></td></td></td></td></td></td>	lbs. <td>Puns. <td></td> <td>Puns. <td>Tons. <td>Brls. <td>Asphalt. <td>Copra. </td></td></td></td></td></td>	Puns. <td></td> <td>Puns. <td>Tons. <td>Brls. <td>Asphalt. <td>Copra. </td></td></td></td></td>		Puns. <td>Tons. <td>Brls. <td>Asphalt. <td>Copra. </td></td></td></td>	Tons. <td>Brls. <td>Asphalt. <td>Copra. </td></td></td>	Brls. <td>Asphalt. <td>Copra. </td></td>	Asphalt. <td>Copra. </td>	Copra.
									Tons. <td>Bags. </td>	Bags.
Jan 1 to Nov 17, '04	387,526	36,870,450	63,435	550	8,238,232	2408	30	80	119,215	14,381
" " 17, '03	382,357	26,512,070	42,120	1143	11,349,317	3573	178	166	107,501	—
<b>Grenada</b>		Bags <td colspan="3">SPICE. <td>Cases. <td>Bags. <td>Cotton Seed</td> <td>Cotton</td> </td></td></td>	SPICE. <td>Cases. <td>Bags. <td>Cotton Seed</td> <td>Cotton</td> </td></td>			Cases. <td>Bags. <td>Cotton Seed</td> <td>Cotton</td> </td>	Bags. <td>Cotton Seed</td> <td>Cotton</td>	Cotton Seed	Cotton	
			Brls. <td>½ Brls. <td> <td> <td> <td>Bags</td> <td>Bales</td> </td></td></td></td>	½ Brls. <td> <td> <td> <td>Bags</td> <td>Bales</td> </td></td></td>	<td> <td> <td>Bags</td> <td>Bales</td> </td></td>	<td> <td>Bags</td> <td>Bales</td> </td>	<td>Bags</td> <td>Bales</td>	Bags	Bales	
Oct 1 to Nov 19, '04	—	3816	1181	174	110	—	97	—	—	
" " 19, '03	—	3067	761	96	82	—	21	—	—	

**The Mails.**

**The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS** per R.M.S. "Trent," (Capt. A. C. Farmer) Nov. 30th:—**Barbados** Mr J. Bourne, Mr and Mrs F. Le Motte, Mr. Poole, Mr and Mrs W. F. Sellers, Mrs T. W. Wilkinson, Mr F. N. Martinez. **Demerara**—Major and Mrs de Rinzy, Mr G. S. Cox, Mr G. Sharples, Mr J. A. Parkinson. **Jamaica**—Major E. J. and Mrs Ward, Lieut W. J. Noble, Capt J. P. Bliss, Lieut E. L. T. Grant, Capt T. M. Kough. **Trinidad**—Mrs Howatson, Mr and Mrs F. Kochen, Dr Masudkhan, Mr J. H. Higgins. **St. Lucia**—Mrs A. Duray.

**OUTWARD BOOKINGS** per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt H. D. Doughty), Dec 7th:—**Barbados**—Miss Blake, Mr D. Drake, Mr and Mrs Skeete, Miss C. Skeete, Miss Lofting, Mr and Mrs Leacock, Miss Sealy, Mr. H. Walton, Mr. V. Hosking, Miss R. Despard, Mrs Major, Mr P. MacGregor, Lady Briggs, Major E. S. C. Hobson. **Demerara**—The Right Rev the Bishop of Guiana, Mr A. P. Sherlock, Mr and Mrs S. Cochrane, Mr P. Hemery, Mr A. L. W. McEwan, Mr A. Matthews, Mr Purvis. **Jamaica**—Mr and Miss Crum-Ewing, Rev J. M. Brown, Mr and Mrs C. Price Davis, Rev W. L. Holland, Mr Harry O. Carter, Mr Coulson. **Trinidad**—Mrs Hombersley, Mrs W. Ulrich, Mr and Mrs Ulrich, Miss K. Sloman, Mrs Blyth, Mrs Mole, Miss P. Eversley, Mr L. Bert de Lamarre, Mrs Permuy, Miss J. Permuy, Mr L. Permuy, Mrs and Miss Romero, Mr Blay, Mr G. White, Mr C. C. Fitzgerald, Mr Cyril Davson. **Antigua**—Miss A. Court. **Dominica**—Dr W. and Mrs M. Williams. **Grenada**—Mr Daniel Hagley. **St. Lucia**—Dr and Mrs Boase, Hon. G. Ponsonby. **St. Vincent**—His Honour E. J. Cameron.

**ADVANCE BOOKINGS** per R.M.S. "Trent" (Capt. Farmer) Dec. 21st:—**Barbados**—Mr and Mrs. Inness, Mr Win B. Scott, Mr R. T. Robertson, Miss Brown, Dr and Mrs Browne, Mrs and Miss Hope, Mr N. Hope, Mr Williamson, Mr Bethune, Col and Miss N. Brodiegan, Mr J. H. Rigg. **Demerara**—Hon. C. T. Cox, C.M.G. **Jamaica**—Sir Theodore and Lady Fry, Mr W. Woolscroft, Mrs Jones, Mr J. Goodwin, Mr A. Goodwin, Mr H. Young, Mrs E. Cundall, Mr J. Epps, Major W. Edwards, Mr W. H. Hesketh, Mr H. Scott. **Trinidad**—Mr and Mrs W. Barrow, Mr and Mrs W. Fuller, Mr A. M. Low. **Grenada**—Hon. Wm Lascelles, Mr H. Ross.

**The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS** per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. W. R. Rowe) November 23rd:—**Jamaica**—Mr A. W. E. Baddeley, Dr and Mrs Dolan, Mr. A. Hall, Mr J. G. Le Touzel, Dr Thorne, Mr F. Finnis, Mrs E. M. Thomson, Mrs R. Thomson, Mr and Miss Denis de Vitre.

**SAILINGS** per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt W. R. Rowe), Dec 3rd:—**Jamaica**—Miss E. K. M. Cox, Mr W. Fairbairn, Mr Horne, Mr O. C. Houchen, Mr A. J. Kennedy, Mrs K. Lawson, Mrs Ronaldson, Miss Ronaldson, Mrs W. Sutcliffe, Miss L. Verley, Mr Carus-Wilson, Lord Walsingham, Mrs Gwytherne-Williams, Mr. B. R. Godfree, Mrs. Gutteridge.





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## OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XXXII.



Mr. Charles Sandbach Parker.

## The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

December 19th, 1904

Telegram: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.

**F**OLLOWING our usual custom, we avail ourselves of the last *Circular* of the year to convey to our Members an expression of seasonable greetings. While performing this pleasing duty last year, we congratulated ourselves upon being able to do so to 219 more Members than in the preceding year; but we hardly ventured to hope that that record would be exceeded. It has been however, no less than 331 new Members having been elected to the West India Committee since January 1st last. Our Members could not have shown in a more tangible way than they have done by bringing so many new candidates forward, their approval of the forward policy—if so we may call it—of the Committee. The past year has been one of steady progress, and though we must not anticipate the annual report, we venture to think that when that document is in the hands of Members they will realise that the labours of the Executive Committee who devote so much of their valuable time and energy to the work of Committee have not been in vain. As to the future, the outlook is full of promise, and, if seasons are propitious, there is no reason to doubt that our Members will enjoy what we most cordially wish them—a bright and prosperous New Year!

**W**EST INDIANS who are interested in cricket—and nearly all are—do not need to be told that Lord Brackley's team will be the fifth combination of English cricketers which has toured the West Indian Colonies, Mr. R. Slade Lucas, Lord Hawke, Mr. Arthur Priestley, and Mr. R. A. Bennett having in times past taken out elevens. Each of these had several good individual cricketers with them, but judged as a whole they could scarcely be termed really strong sides, and in no wise comparable to the present eleven. Lord Brackley has not only a very fairly strong batting side, but, also, plenty of bowling; indeed his bowlers are 50 per cent. stronger than those of any other side which has gone out, so that the West Indians will have to bat extremely well if they are to make enough runs to give them victory. The only weak point in the team is the wicket-keeping, which does not strike one as being first-class, and this is an important point on West Indian wickets, on which the ball so often flies about in a way we seldom see in England. There is something of a tail to the batting; but Captain Wynyard, in his time as good a batsman on all wickets as could be found, and still a magnificent player; Hayes, who has made his hundreds against the Australians; and in a lesser degree C. P. Foley, T. G. O. Cole, G. H. Simpson-Hayward, Thompson, C. H. M. Ebdon, and A. F. Somerset, form a nucleus which ought to render the side good enough to make fair totals if not a great many large ones. But it is in bowling that the power of the side lies, for Hesketh Pritchard, Thompson, Burn, Powys Keck, and Simpson-Hayward are not only good in themselves, but possess an additional element of strength in that they are different one from the other, except in the case of Burns and Powys Keck, who are left-handers after much the same pattern. It is nearly five years since the West Indians played cricket in England, and their record was, if somewhat modest in its results, at any rate full of promise, and if the recent reports of the improvement alleged in their cricket be true, we should hear of some good games during the winter months. Those who have had the pleasure of taking part in a cricket tour in the West Indies will envy Lord Brackley and his men the good time they are going to have. There are no ashes to be recovered in this case; who knows that the day may not yet come when the West Indians will throw down the cricketing gauntlet to the Mother Country? Even Australian cricket had to make a beginning, and was not a "black gentleman" heard to declare, after Barbados had run up a big score against an English eleven, that "we shall yet propel our flag among the nations as the Colony which has humbled its mother!"?

#### **Mr. Charles Sandbach Parker.**

The subject of our "celebrity" portrait this fortnight is a prominent Member of our affiliated body, the West India Association of Liverpool, of which he was Chairman from 1896 to 1899. Born in 1864, he was educated at Eton and University College, Oxford. On leaving the Varsity he entered Messrs. Sandbach Tinné & Co.'s office in 1887, and two years later visited Demerara in the employ of Messrs. Sandbach, Parker & Co. In 1890 he was admitted a partner of these two firms, which have extensive connections in British Guiana. He resided in Demerara until 1892, and for two years held a captain's commission in the British Guiana Militia. He has been a director of the Demerara Company, Limited, since its formation in 1891, and from 1896 and 1899, he was a Member of the Council of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce. He is a Member of the Executive of the West India Committee, and of the Committee of the West Indian Club. He was an active Member of the Executive Committee of the Anti-Bounty League from its inauguration in 1898, and now does good work in a similar capacity for the Liverpool branches of the British Empire League and the Tariff Reform League. Mr. Parker, who is a strong supporter of Mr. Chamberlain's Imperial, Colonial and Fiscal policies, is a staunch Unionist, and aspires to Parliamentary honours.



### New Amsterdam.

British Guiana has three counties, Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice, with rivers of the same names. New Amsterdam the capital of Berbice, which is the subject of our full page illustration can be reached from Georgetown in six and a half hours by one of Messrs. Sproston's small steamers, or by train to the stelling on the left bank of the Berbice river and by ferry to the right bank, on which the town is situated near the mouth of a tributary of the Canje creek, in three and a half hours. Anthony Trollope said that three people made a crowd in New Amsterdam, and the city is certainly not so bustling as Georgetown. It is more like an old Dutch town than an English one, though the old Dutch capital of Berbice was Fort Nassau higher up the river.

### New Members of the West India Committee.

By the election of 17 new Members on Thursday, December 8th, the total number elected during the current year has been brought to **331**; compared with **219** in 1903, **57** in 1902, **40** in 1901, and **42** in 1900. The record of 331 new Members in one year is not an easy one to beat, but we hope that our friends will help us to at least equal that number in 1905. If each new Member were to introduce at least one candidate during the year our object would be more than attained.

Name.	Proposer.	Secunder.
Messrs. THOMAS H. GALLIE & Co.	Wm. Gordon Gordon, Esq.	Arthur F. Turnbull, Esq.
E. K. LANE, Esq. (Antigua)	Hon. D. McDonald.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
G. A. YEARWOOD, Esq. (Barbados)	Gay C. Edghill, Esq.	T. Wm. Wilkinson, Esq.
DUDLEY G. LEACOCK, Esq. (Barbados)	R. Rutherford, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
L. LAMBERT BELL, Esq. (Dominica)	E. L. Marshall, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
JOHN EADEN, Esq. (Dominica)	W. Morris Fletcher, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
C. HAYNES, Esq.	George G. Browne, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
MISS ETHEL M. HINKSON	L. Bert de Lamarre, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
WESTMORELAND PLANTERS' ASSN. (J'm'ca)	P. H. Greg, Esq.	E. R. F. Burgess, Esq.
CHARLES CLARKE, Esq. (Jamaica)	W. A. S. Vickers, Esq.	E. R. F. Burgess, Esq.
PERCIVAL M. DAVSON, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.
H. J. INNISS, Esq. (Barbados)	R. Rutherford, Esq.	T. J. Wilkinson, Esq.
C. L. W. FLEMING, Esq., L.D.S.	E. B. Skeete, Esq.	E. L. Skeete, Esq.
A. JAMES TAITT, Esq. (Trinidad)	J. S. Caracciolo, Esq.	Fred E. Scott, Esq.
R. W. BROWNE, Esq. (Barbados)	Gay C. Edghill, Esq.	T. Wm. Wilkinson, Esq.
S. R. COCKRAN, Esq. (British Guiana)	Sir Henry K. Davson.	Edward R. Davson, Esq.
HENRY COOKE, Esq.	Elliot G. Louis, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.

Of those elected during the current year **67** are from Trinidad; **39** from Jamaica; **29** from British Guiana; **25** from Barbados; **19** from St. Lucia; **16** from Dominica; **11** from Grenada; **6** from Antigua; **4** from St. Kitts; **4** from St. Vincent; **3** from Montserrat; **3** from Tobago; **1** from Nevis; and **1** from Turks Island.

### The Exhibition of Colonial Brown Fruit.

An event of considerable importance during the past fortnight was the show of Colonial grown fruits held under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society, at the new Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster, December 13th and 14th. The fine hall presented a very pleasing appearance, and its long tables, laden with glowing fruits afforded tangible evidence of the fruit producing powers of the

Colonies represented. In addition, there were living specimens of plants of economic interest, home and Colonial made preserves, and a series of drawings and models of fruits from the Colonial Economic Collection of the Imperial Institute.

It is gratifying to be able to record that the West India section, organised by the West India Committee, was admitted on all sides to be second to none in interest. Exhibits were included from Barbados, contributed by the Government through the Imperial Department of Agriculture; from Dominica a representative exhibit had been got together by the local Agricultural Society; the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company showed a comprehensive collection of fruits, vegetables and preserves from Trinidad, Jamaica, and Barbados; Messrs. Aston W. Gardner & Co. exhibited a small but choice selection of Jamaica fruits; Messrs. James Philip & Co. an extensive series of fruits, vegetables, and West Indian products in general; Messrs. L. Rose & Co. made a most attractive display of limes and lime juice; and lastly Messrs. W. Pink & Sons exhibited bananas from Barbados. The interest of the exhibition was increased by the catalogue published by the West India Committee giving brief notes as to the condition and produce of Barbados and Dominica, by the attractively got up and well illustrated pamphlet on West Indian fruit, vegetables, and preserves, issued by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and by literature distributed by the other exhibitors explaining how yams and sweet potatoes should be cooked, and other points of practical utility. With these preliminary remarks we may proceed to note some of the main features of the respective exhibits.

**DOMINICA.** The collection of Dominican fruit was the first to attract the attention of the visitor on entering the hall. Shaddocks, grape fruits, sweet and bitter oranges, limes, citrons, and Mexican melons, contributed mainly by Mr. E. A. Agar, and the Botanic Station, worthily represented the fruit industry of the Island. The dish of mangosteens from St. Arment were of great interest, being the first specimens of this fruit ever exhibited before the Society. A basket of navel oranges afforded the only example of indifferent fruit from the Island, and their poor condition and colour and the colonies of scale insects, only too conspicuous upon them, drew attention to the care which must be given to exported fruit if it is to be placed in a thoroughly satisfactory position in the home markets. Apart from this, the Dominica exhibit gave ample evidence of care in the selection of the fruit, its packing and the transport. Messrs. L. Rose & Co.'s attractive exhibit has already been noted, and the other specimens of lime juice, starches and essential oils, were of great interest and very favourably commented upon.

**BARBADOS.** The Government exhibit included yams of different kinds, red and white sweet potatoes, and bananas. All had arrived in good condition, and had evidently been carefully selected and packed. They afforded ample proof, if any were still needed, that with proper care these products can reach the United Kingdom in the very pink of condition. In addition there were on the stall of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company huge shaddocks, grape fruit, and a large number of preserves. Messrs. Philip & Co. also exhibited yams and potatoes, and in addition tannias and eddoes (both almost unknown in England), citrus fruits, and above their stall, surrounded by sugar cane, one branch each of Barbados and Jamaica bananas allowed all to compare the external features of these rivals to popular favour. Messrs. W. Pink & Son's "Dagger" brand of bananas were well in evidence and in good condition.

**JAMAICA.** Messrs. Aston W. Gardner & Co. exhibited grape fruits and navel seedless oranges. Their exhibit, although small, demands a special word of praise. The fruit was well graded, nicely packed in serviceable and neat cases, and in excellent condition. Fruit placed on the market in the manner of those exhibited should satisfy the most fastidious taste and command good prices. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company at a stall attractively got up by Mr. H. J. B. Ward, who superintended it himself, showed bananas, plantains, citrus fruits, pineapples, and ground provisions, which together made a most attractive display, and were of almost uniformly good quality. With the





From "Best Pictures of the Antilles," in the Press

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## NEW AMSTERDAM, BERBICE, BRITISH GUIANA.

assistance of Mr. W. Weldon Symington, they managed to exhibit a greater number of novelties to the general public from Trinidad than from any other Colony, and great interest was taken in the cashew nuts, golden apples, avocado pears, chrysothines, maminee apples, sapodillas, papaws, and other fruits, strangers to Great Britain, which were displayed at the stall, in addition to the stock varieties. It was gratifying to find how well such tender objects as papaws, avocado pears, etc., had travelled, and their condition speaks volumes for the care given to selecting, handling, packing, and transport.

The gold medal of the Royal Horticultural Society was awarded for the Barbados and Dominica display to the West India Committee, and the diplomas and gold medals will be shortly sent out to Barbados and Dominica. The judges also allotted a gold medal to Messrs. James Philip & Co. for their preserves and a silver gilt Knightian medal for their fruit, which were subsequently amalgamated into one gold medal and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company also received a silver gilt Knightian medal and a silver medal, which were similarly converted into an award of one gold medal.

All concerned are to be congratulated on the display made of West Indian fruits, vegetables and preserves, and the excellent condition in which the majority of the products were placed before the public. Exhibitions such as these should do much to popularise West Indian products in the United Kingdom.

The Dominica Agricultural Society expressed the wish that the fruit sent over by them should be offered to the hospitals, and the West India Committee accordingly offered it to the King for this purpose, and received on the 14th inst. the following gracious reply:—

“The King thanks the Agricultural Society of Dominica, and would suggest that the fruit in question should be sent to the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street. KNOLLYS.”

The fruit, augmented by Barbados bananas, and a part of an exhibit of apples, awarded the gold medal, which were kindly given by the Agent-General of British Columbia, and some grape fruit and limes presented by Messrs. James Philip & Co., was immediately sent to the Hospital for Sick Children, from the Secretary of which we have received a reply requesting us to convey to the donors of the fruit the very grateful thanks of the committee. The Secretary adds, “the fruit, no doubt, will be greatly enjoyed by the sick children, who were amazed and astonished to see limes, grape fruit, such large oranges, and such richly coloured apples. Of course, it will take them a very long time to eat, but when it is served round I think they will understand that the fruits come from the West Indies and other countries across the Atlantic.”

### Lecture on the Fruit of the West Indies.

At the General Meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society, held on December 13th, in connection with the show of Colonial Grown Fruit, Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.Sc., F.L.S., Superintendent of the Colonial Economic Collections at the Imperial Institute, and formerly Scientific Assistant to the Imperial Department of Agriculture, gave a lecture on “The Fruits of the West Indies.” The lecture was illustrated by means of specimens of the more important fruits, whilst a fine series of water colour drawings of Jamaica fruits from the collections of the Imperial Institute, were exhibited in the Hall. Mr. Freeman remarked that the Exhibition had considerably reduced the task set him, inasmuch as it must be to all a self-evident fact that the West Indies could produce a great variety of fruits, of a high order of excellence. Turning to the commercial and horticultural aspects of the subject, he showed by the aid of a series of specially prepared diagrams, that fruit was one of the chief industries of the West Indies, the exports of fruit being surpassed in value only by sugar and cacao. The present overwhelming importance of fruit to Jamaica was clearly brought out as was also the pre-eminent position occupied by the banana amongst the fruit exported. Then, after showing how the trade in bananas to the United Kingdom had increased during recent



years, it was demonstrated that this trade is exceedingly small when compared with the trade between Jamaica and the United States of America, and moreover that the West Indian bananas which come into the United Kingdom, form as yet, only a small proportion of the total amount of bananas imported. Similarly it was clearly shown that the West Indies contributed only an absolutely insignificant quantity to the total importation of citrus fruits into the United Kingdom. The opportunities for expansion of trade in these directions were then pointed out.

The measures necessary to improve the West Indian fruit trade were next discussed, and the work being carried on in the West Indies in disseminating information, and above all in practically demonstrating the best methods of grading, handling and packing fruit, dwelt upon. As an instance of the thoroughly practical nature of the efforts made to improve the quality of the fruits cultivated, the system of botanic stations under the control of the Imperial Department of Agriculture was described. It was shown how, to take one instance, the Dominica Botanic Station during a single year distributed to planters in the island over 57,000 plants, including large numbers of budded oranges and other high class fruit-trees. Similar work was being carried on in other Islands. In Jamaica experiments were in progress to improve the pineapple, and some 2000 seedlings were now under cultivation. By means of budding and grafting, the stock of mangoes was being bettered, whilst it had recently been ascertained that the avocado pear could be successfully budded, and attention was now being directed to the production of a variety better adapted to transport.

The history of the production of spineless limes in Dominica was given, and it was shown that in addition to being spineless the plant yielded fruits of very high quality as regards citric acid contents. Plants of the spineless variety were now being distributed from the botanic station, the demand being greater than the supply. Trinidad had contributed its share to recent progress, in the form of a seedless lime, which was being perpetuated by budding. In addition, new fruits or improved varieties of fruit already cultivated were continually being introduced, many through the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, which had done, and continued to do, so much to disseminate valuable plants throughout the Empire.

Looking at the matter broadly the fruit industry of the West Indies depended for its continued progress and success on the cultivation of good varieties of fruit plants, on the careful picking, grading, and packing of the produce. The agricultural workers in the West Indies were devoting earnest attention to securing the ideals, and in spite of many disappointments had achieved a tangible measure of success. These efforts, however, would not suffice unless they were supplemented by proper shipping facilities, that is to say, the regular calls at frequent intervals of vessels properly fitted for fruit transport.

### A Corresponding Body in Jamaica.

At a meeting of the Westmoreland (Jamaica) Sugar Planters' Association on November 3rd, a resolution was passed approving a suggestion that the Association should act as a corresponding body to the West India Committee. This offer was considered at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the latter organisation on December 8th, and accepted unanimously. The West India Committee is thus brought into closer touch with Jamaica, and the result will, we hope, prove of mutual advantage. The Westmoreland Sugar Planters' Association, of which the headquarters are at Savanna-la-Mar, has for its object the development of the cultivation of the sugar-cane, the manufacture of sugar and rum therefrom in all its branches; the furnishing of such statistics and facts as will justify favourable legislation on the part of the Jamaica Government; the harmonising and concentration for the above purposes of the efforts of all those engaged in the cultivation and manufacture of the sugar and rum products of the parish, and the advancement and protection of the commercial interests of the sugar industry. The President is the Hon. C. B. Vickers; the Vice-Presidents, Mr. C. S.

Farquharson, Mr. John Hudson and Mr. Samuel H. Morris, and the Committee Mr. W. H. Farquharson, Mr. W. A. S. Vickers, Mr. W. Woolliscroft, Mr. J. C. Nolan, Mr. P. H. Grey, Mr. E. R. F. Burgess, Mr. Charles Clarke, and Mr. James Charley, with Mr. J. W. Toone, Secretary.

### The Price of Sugar.

The following letter was addressed by Mr. George Martineau to the *Spectator* on December 7th, but was not published, the Editor writing on December 9th that owing to pressure on his space he had been obliged to close the correspondence on the sugar question.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE *Spectator*.

SIR,—You have been so good on former occasions in giving me space to preach the doctrine of free trade in sugar, that I must only ask now for a very small corner to say two words.

First, as to Theory. A producer who receives an artificial advantage and tries to make the most of it, must eventually produce too much and drive the price below the natural cost of production. This results in stopping all competition and leaving him master of the situation. You approve, and call it "the free sale and exchange of commodities."

Secondly, as to facts. You quote a great many assertions, but there is only one fact among them. It is quite true that the abolition of bounties has enabled some of the larger bounty-giving states of Europe to reduce their duties and increase their consumption; a very good thing for the producer of sugar. It is difficult to see on what reasonable ground any one can complain of this very natural result.

Among the other assertions—which are not facts—comes our old friend the eight millions, a pure product of the imagination. Unfortunately, the British public, like book readers, take more kindly to sensational fiction than to dry fact.

I am, &c,

Gomshall, 7th December, 1904.

GEORGE MARTINEAU.

### The French Refineries and their Bounties.

We are glad to see that the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* is so completely on the side of the British Delegates in the matter of the French system with regard to the refineries. This is the last remnant of sugar bounties on the Continent and still awaits abolition. Thirty years ago it was the beginning of the bounties and the one sole bone of contention. In those days the West India Committee cordially co-operated with the refiners in combating this great abuse, knowing well that every ton of bounty-fed refined sugar imported was displacing a ton of West Indian sugar, thus stimulating beetroot at the expense of cane. It is now admitted, even by the organ of the French industry, that this snake, though scotched, has not yet been killed, and it is still to the interest of our colonial sugar industry that we should do what we can to help in the fight. The Paris sugar journal, quoting from our contemporary *The International Sugar Journal*, points out that France, like all the other countries, was bound to adopt refining *in bond*, that is, the payment of duty only on sugar going into consumption; sugar for exportation, having paid no duty, receiving no drawback and therefore no bounty. The quotation from *The International Journal* adds: "We hope our Government will be firm, and insist on France conforming with the practice of the other countries." To this the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* responds: "Perfectly right. But the French Government does not seem in any hurry to get rid of this irritating question." To us it appears incredible that the parties to the Convention, and especially the industries in those countries, should be so blind to their own interests, and apparently so ignorant of the details of the question, as to tolerate this flagrant departure from the terms of the Convention.

### Molasses Cattle Food.

The digestive qualities of pure cane sugar are well understood and appreciated, and by no one more so than by the housewife who preserves her own fruits. The Editor of the *Creamery Journal* points out in a recent issue of that paper that chemically speaking, there is no difference between the products



of cane and beet; but, practically, the advantages of the cane product are well known. "By using pure cane sugar the fermentation so common with beet sugar is reduced to a minimum, and this difference means a great deal. In these days, when both the human animal and all kinds of farm stock are so liable to the miserable effects of indigestion, it is a real advantage to have at hand a sugar food which will not ferment in the stomach, and which, while being economical, adds tone and digestive power in the presence of other foods. Mr. Arthur F. Turnbull's pure cane molasses food may be given with beneficial results in quantities of from 2 lbs. to 7 lbs. per day, and the actual beneficial results have been attested by some of our largest stock breeders. Roots which have lost saccharine through climatic influences and hay and straw which have been badly harvested or 'weathered' are made nutritious and capable of being transformed into flesh by the addition of molasses food. It is a simple process, and is easily carried into practice, and those farmers and stock breeders who wish to obtain the best prices for their stock should not be slow to adopt it."

### Mr. Chamberlain's Campaign.

Mr. Chamberlain on the night of December 15th, addressed a great meeting at Limehouse in continuation of his fiscal campaign. He said that, in resuming his work as a missionary for the British Empire, he was glad to have an opportunity of addressing the representatives of a district in which the conditions of the majority of the people was very hard, and the margin of means of existence very small. He was convinced that the greatest evil from which they suffered was an antiquated fiscal system. After referring to the personal attacks made upon him by Opposition leaders, Mr. Chamberlain said that at the next general election—he did not know when it would come, but the sooner the better, so far as he was concerned—he would put before his fellow-country-men two questions. He would ask them whether it was possible that a policy which was sixty years old, and which was based on promises never fulfilled, and conceived under circumstances altogether different from those in which we now moved, could be suitable to our modern conditions. Then he would ask them what were to be our future relations with our Colonies. He urged the need of a reform both in our domestic policy and in our external policy so far as our Colonies were concerned. The most retrograde Tory in the most retrograde times never committed himself to such an insane policy of stagnation as had been erected by the Radical party into a dogma, which they treated as sacred and inspired, but which history and experience had already discredited. We alone among the nations were found adhering to the old superstition of free trade or free imports. All parties had really given up the harsh theories that lay behind that system. We did not believe in the theory of "Every one for himself, and the devil take the hindmost." Alluding to the social reforms effected during recent years by the Conservative and Unionist party, he contended that, unless some system of tariff reform were adopted, either the working classes of this country would have to accept lower wages in proportion to the extra cost put on the manufacturers by such humanitarian legislation, or they would lose their employment. Such attempts to protect the weak were good in themselves, but they were inconsistent with free trade. They could not have free trade in goods, in the sense in which their opponents used that word, and at the same time protection of labour. He maintained that the progress of the German workman, since a tariff had been introduced into that country under the influence of Prince Bismarck, had been much greater and quicker than that of the British workman. In the East-end of London they were suffering from the unrestricted imports of cheaper goods and from the unrestricted immigration of the people who made them. After further reference to the immigration of aliens, Mr. Chamberlain expressed the opinion that the best solution of that question was to find some country, if possible under the aegis of the British flag, where they could find subsistence. The alien problem was only a part of the greater question of the employment of their own people. The question was not whether this country was richer or poorer,

but whether it provided sufficient employment at remunerative rates for all who sought it. This was not, as their opponents asserted, a rich man's question. To the working man it was life or death. He was told that his proposals would increase the cost of living. Suppose they did; which was the better for the working man to have, a loaf a farthing dearer and plenty of money in his pocket to buy it, or a loaf for twopence or threepence and no money to buy it with? But all the talk about going back to "the hungry forties" was a fraud and an imposture. Turning to the question of our relations with the Colonies, Mr. Chamberlain commented at some length on the attitude of Lord Rosebery and Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, said there had been contemptible quibbling about the Colonial offer, and warned his hearers that if we did not accept it there were other nations less pedantic who would. An important change had taken place in the situation, for the Prime Minister had asked for a mandate from the people to call a colonial conference to consider the question in all its bearings. After criticizing the attitude of the Opposition on this subject, Mr. Chamberlain closed by asserting that, whether or not the Liberal party were victorious at the next election, the question of tariff reform, once raised, would never die. A full report of Mr. Chamberlain's speech appears in the *Times* of December 16th.

### Trade with Canada.

Adverting to the leading article which appeared in *The West India Committee Circular* of November 22nd, we may quote the following extract from an interview with Mr. Alex. Macwillie, who was for years in the grocery trade of Toronto, and who has recently completed a trip round the world on behalf of Messrs. Heinz and Co., which was recently published in the *Canadian Grocer*. Possibilities exist for building up an export trade with the West Indies. "There is a big market there for Canadian flour and foodstuffs; Canadian flour is sent to Jamaica to-day, and if the agent in charge of it is judicious he is able to effect a ready sale. The head of the Canadian, however, is apparently turned by his success, for he is as likely as not to have advanced the price by the time the West Indian merchant sends in his next order. The result is that future orders are sent to New York. Canadian manufacturers seem to forget that they cannot afford to exhibit such marked signs of independence in trade until after they have introduced their particular commodity and won a secure place for it by successful competition with other bidders in the market. In the West Indies, as elsewhere, Canadian exporters have much to learn. In the initial stages of the Canadian export trade their aim should be to excel all other competitors, and not to stint money or pains until the desired place in the market is forthcoming. A nation anxious to become a trader in foreign markets, and at the same time content to worry along after a hand to mouth fashion, may awaken to the fact ten years hence, if it is not too late, that her methods of trading have all to be undone. Just now it is highly important for Canada to pay the most careful attention to building up her export trade. The stake is a big one—so big that few appreciate the full significance of it. Canada simply cannot afford to be outbid, and the sooner she realises it the better."

### The British Cotton Growing Association.

The report of the work of the unincorporated British Cotton Growing Association for the year ended August 31st, which was adopted at a meeting of the Incorporated Association on the 16th inst., states that the West Indian cotton fields have been the most rapidly developed, thanks to the great interest taken in the question by Sir Gerald Strickland, the late Governor of the Leeward Islands, and the indefatigable efforts of the Department of Agriculture under the supervision of Sir Daniel Morris and Dr. Francis Watts. The Council cannot speak too highly of the invaluable services rendered by these gentlemen. They also express satisfaction at the cordial co-operation of the West India Committee. A considerable amount of the cotton grown has been sent to the Association, and has been sold for the planters, to whom the proceeds have been subsequently remitted. The



Council also express their thanks to Mr. C. M. Wolstenholme, who has superintended this work, and has given up much time in his endeavours to secure good prices for the planters. It is absolutely essential that no effort should be spared in obtaining for the planters the best possible prices, so as to make cotton a profitable crop, as only by this means will they be encouraged to extend and continue their cultivation. The expenditure incurred up to August 31st amounted to £18,704 7s. 1d., and the quantity of cotton produced as a result of this expenditure probably amounted to close on £100,000 in value. Next season's crop will probably be worth more than £250,000, and the Council very naturally consider that this is a magnificent result to have attained in so short a time, and with so small an expenditure. They emphasize the fact that the cultivation of cotton will be encouraged in every promising district apart from all question of possible return in the future.

The reports from the West Indian cotton fields continue to be uniformly satisfactory. The total acreage under Sea Island cotton for 1904-5 is now given at 7243 acres, and Marie Galante and other varieties of cotton 4438 acres, making a grand total of 11,681 acres. During the fortnight ended December 15th, no imports of West Indian cotton were recorded. West Indian Cotton, medium fine, is quoted 5'05d. per lb.; and West Indian Sea Island, medium fine 12½d. per lb.; fine 13½d. per lb., and extra fine 15½d. per lb.

### Imperial Education.

A large company assembled at the Whitehall Rooms, on December 7th at the invitation of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, at a meeting convened under the auspices of the Royal Colonial Institute, to hear Mr. H. J. Mackinder, the Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science, give an account of the scheme of visual instruction as to the Mother Country for use in the Schools of the British Colonies. The West Indies were well represented, among those present being Lady Sendall, Sir E. Noel Walker, Sir James S. Hay, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, the Secretary and other members of the West India Committee. Mr. Mackinder said that whatever their differences on other points might be, all would agree that the Empire was to be held together by two bonds, the bond of interest and the bond of sentiment. It was from this foundation that the scheme was originally suggested by his old friend, Mr. Sadler, during his tenure of office as Director of Enquiries of the Board of Education. The idea was taken up by the Colonial office when Mr. Chamberlain was Secretary of State for the Colonies, and was afterwards considered by a small committee, of which Lord Meath, Sir C. Clementi Smith, Mr. C. P. Lucas, Mr. Sadler, Dr. R. T. Roberts, and himself were members. With a view to making a small experiment, the first draft of the syllabus of lantern slides and lectures was drawn by the committee and submitted to Hong-Kong, the Straits Settlements and Ceylon, who had taken the lead in the matter, and other Colonies were now being asked to join in. The lecturer then ran rapidly through some of the slides selected from each of the seven lectures, which dealt with the journey from the East to London; London, the Imperial city, scenery of the United Kingdom, etc. In conclusion, Mr. Mackinder said that they might in the long run quite possibly build up an Empire of which all the parts should be free and all willing to join in the maintenance of the Fleet, which was of the very essence of this Empire. It seemed to him, indeed, that they might evolve something in the nature of a *bushido*, that they might possibly convey the idea of defence, order, and freedom to all the various races, who should each retain their nationality and each be proud of it. (Cheers.)

Mr. Lyttelton, in response to a vote of thanks to him for taking the Chair, said that he hoped that the lectures would do a great deal to promote that which they really needed in the Empire, mutual knowledge. He anticipated that if the lectures were delivered as they should be, the teaching of patriotism would be proceeding in the elementary schools in this and distant parts of the Empire.

### The Barbados Railway.

With a view to the possibility of its adaption to the Barbados Railway, an inspection of a motor-car now running on the Great Northern Railway was recently made by several of our members, including Mr. J. W. C. Catford, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. J. Rippon, and Mr. G. Frank Burn, M.Inst. C.E. The party was accompanied by Mr. Walter Rutherford, of Messrs. Dick Kerr & Co., the makers of the car, through whose courtesy a journey on it was rendered possible. The car is about 30 feet in length over all, carried on four wheels with a rigid wheel-box of 15 feet, and a total weight of about 11 tons (as compared with an engine 30 tons and 11 tons for each coach). The interior is arranged somewhat on Pullman car lines, with a central gangway and transverse seats for 32 persons, but a more economical seating arrangement would greatly increase the accommodation. A covered-in driving platform is provided at each end of the vehicle.

The motive-power is provided by two 2-cylinder internal combustion engines of about 70 nominal horse-power, driving both axles. These engines can be worked either singly or in unison. With a view to minimising the vibration the whole of the machinery is below floor-level, and suspended from the main car-frame by springs.

The run from Hatfield to Hertford and back—19 miles—was entirely satisfactory; the speed being similar to that of the trains working the branch, and not exceeding about 35 miles an hour (though, on the main line this car has been run for some distance at 55 miles an hour). No vibration or smell was noticeable. This car seems well adapted to meet the demand for more economical methods of working on railways where the passenger traffic is light. For railways on which the gradients are severe, but where a lower speed is sufficient, as is the case in Barbados, a lower gearing and other minor modifications to suit local requirements would be provided. The advantages of the use of this type of car so adapted are obvious. Some of them are:—

1. An enormous reduction in the cost of fuel. The cost of fuel for this car is about rd. per train mile. The cost of fuel for a train in Barbados is about 7d. to 8d. per train mile.
2. Far less wear and tear on the permanent way, owing to the great reduction of weight moved.
3. An improvement in the service by running two or more cars at intervals instead of one train.
4. *The car is always ready.* There is no loss of time in getting up steam. This is a matter of paramount importance on a small railway where the cost of maintaining an engine in steam to meet emergency cases is often prohibitive, and the alternative is the raising of steam in a fresh engine—a matter of hours.

Motor vehicles of various kinds are now largely in use on branch lines, which instead of being a drain on revenue are becoming valuable feeders; and it is possible that by the adoption of some such method of working, the closing of the Barbados Railway might be averted.

### Mr. G. Hughes on Molascuit.

Mr. George Hughes gave a very interesting address to the members of the East Sussex Farmers Club at Lewes, on the 9th inst. on the subject of the cultivation of the sugar cane and the processes of manufacture of sugar, with special reference to the utilisation of its bye-products. He said that he found on analysis that the interior of the megass, after the juice had been expressed, contained 75% of digestible matter, and was therefore suitable for feeding purposes. It had been demonstrated that it was quite easy to separate what might be described as this "honey-comb" by disintegration and screening. He deprecated the suggested use of molasses as fuel in the Sandwich Islands, and said that in a few years those Islands would be making molascuit, for which they would find a market in the Western States, where in the dry seasons much difficulty was experienced in getting fodder for stock. The crop of molasses obtained for each ton of sugar was equal to from 5 to 7 cwts., according to the condition of the juice, which was much affected by seasons. In many places this bye-product was taken to distilleries and converted after fermentation into rum, but owing



to the depression in the price of this commodity it had barely covered the cost of production, and therefore it was desirable to manufacture molascuit. The British farmer often paid a fancy price for compound foods. In conclusion, Mr. Hughes told the members how he persuaded Mr. Ritchie, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, to take off the import duty of £1 per ton, to which molascuit was formerly subject. That was only fair, he said, seeing that meat from the Argentine, where molascuit was largely used, came in free and competed with home-grown produce. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Hughes for his interesting lecture, and in acknowledging it he quoted figures showing the increase in the use of molascuit; in 1903 only 1762 tons were exported from British Guiana, and this year up to November 17th, 5445 tons had already been sent over.

### The Superiority of Cane Sugar.

#### Letter to the Editor.

In connection with previous letters on this subject (*Circular* 138, p. 422, and *Circular* 139, p. 439) the following will be read with interest:—

Sir,—As an occasional reader of *The West India Committee Circular*, I am glad to see that one of the most important, but at the same time most troublesome, questions which perplex a British housekeeper—I mean that of her sugar supply—is, thanks to Mr. A. P. Longstaffe's letter, being ventilated in your columns. Mr. Longstaffe, however, merely suggests as a solution of the difficulty under which so many housekeepers in this country labour, the opening of some depot where the *real* cane sugar and treacle of our childhood can be purchased; he makes no practical suggestion of how such a depot should be opened and established, or where it (or they, if more than one) should be situated.

It seems to me, I confess, that if there are no merchants or traders in this country with sufficient enterprise and courage to put down the requisite amount of capital to open one or two such depots, a few of the West India sugar growers or manufacturers might well combine to do so.

I have been at the pains to make a few calculations of the capital necessary to start such an undertaking, and I feel confident that £5000 would be amply sufficient to open two depots, one upon the north side of Hyde Park in Bayswater, and the other in South Kensington. If those who subscribed the capital were prepared to wait for two years without receiving any dividend, the profits made at two such depots could be utilised for opening a third.

In conclusion let me say that not only would I support the depot nearest me, but I would use every endeavour to induce my friends to do so, and in this way carry on the crusade against the continental nastiness which we have had to put up with for so long until it is driven out of the market, and the West India products restored. I enclose my card, and am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A HOUSEKEEPER.

### Colonial Reports—Grenada, 1903.\*

The Hon. Edward Drayton's report on the Blue Book of Grenada for 1903 (No. 436. For summary of previous reports, No. 376 see *Circular* 88, p. 3, and No. 404, *Circular* 113, p. 168), states that the motto on the new public seal, "Clarior e tenebris" faithfully describes the fortunes of the Colony, which after much suffering entailed by the decadence of the sugar industry, has indeed emerged from her troubles more prosperous than ever before. The high tide of prosperity still continues, but with a rapidly increasing population, and with the greater portion of the Island absorbed by permanent cultivation of products which are bound to be subject in the future to some vicissitudes, it cannot be said that the sky is free from clouds.

The financial position of the Colony is shown by the following comparative table of revenue and expenditure for five years:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	
1899	£68,757	£59,359	£9398 Surplus.
1900	70,363	62,718	7648 "
1901-2	70,075	65,490	4588 "
1902-3	72,802	68,669	4133 "
1903-4	70,260	70,101	159 "

\* For a summary of Colonial Reports for 1903 already dealt with we would refer our readers to the following issues of *The West India Committee Circular*: St. Lucia, *Circular* No. 115, page 30; British Guiana, *Circular* No. 116, page 43; Jamaica, *Circular* No. 121, page 129; Leeward Islands, *Circular* No. 129, page 260; British Honduras, *Circular* No. 130, page 287; Bermuda, *Circular* No. 131, page 301; Barbados, *Circular* No. 137, page 403—ED.





**French Guinea, 1903.**—Rubber is the staple article of export, and in one year the export of this commodity has doubled, the figures being £230,978 in 1902, and £455,551 in 1903. In 1903 the United Kingdom took £245,863, or more than the total export of the preceding year. The rubber all comes from Upper Guinea and the Soudan, and has to be carried several hundred miles on men's heads to the coast.

### Notes of Interest.

**BANK RATE.** The Bank of England rate remains 3% (changed from 3½% on April 22nd, 1904), and Consols (2½%) are quoted 88 $\frac{1}{16}$  as we go to press.

**FILING CASES.** We still have a few spring back cases for filing *The West India Committee Circular* which can be obtained from the Secretary for 2 6 each, or post free 3/-. They will be found a great convenience.

**A NEW DEPARTURE.** For the convenience of Members, arrangements have been made for tea, coffee, &c., to be provided at a small charge at the West India Committee Rooms, between the hours of 4 to 5.30 every week day, Saturday excepted.

**CABLE DELAY.** As we go to press, we are informed that a further break has occurred in the Demerara-Trinidad cable, and that as the repairing steamer is not near at hand, there is no prospect of its being repaired for at least a week.

**LATE FEE MAIL LETTERS.** For the convenience of Members wishing to post letters for the outgoing West Indian Mail at the last possible moment, a messenger leaves the West India Committee Rooms on the day of the departure of the Mail at 12.30 p.m., with letters for posting at Waterloo Station. All such letters must bear the late fee of 2d., in addition to the ordinary postage.

**THE R.M.S.P. CO'S. "HANDY BOOK."** The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have issued an excellent Diary and Almanac for 1905, in the form of a "Handy Book," enclosed in a serviceable leather case. In addition to useful information regarding its services there are illustrations of the colours flown by merchant vessels, British and Colonial Flags, maps of Trinidad, Jamaica, the West Indies, and South America.

**OVERSEER'S REGISTER.** Estates Managers and Proprietors requiring overseers are informed that arrangements have been made for a list of applicants for such posts to be kept at The West India Committee Rooms. All enquiries regarding it should be addressed to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. We have now a large number of applicants on the list.

**"SUN PICTURES OF THE ANTILLES."** "Sun Pictures of the Antilles," by A. E. A., which is to be published under the auspices of the West India Committee, is now in the press, and will be ready by the next out-going mail. It will include 40 illustrations of West Indian life and scenery, and a complete guide for intending tourists, bound in stout board covers. The price will be 2/6, post free. It is expected that the first edition will be quickly exhausted, as the advance orders received are very considerable.

**BINDING CASES.** With the next issue of the West India Committee Circular, the Index for the present volume, XIX., will be issued. For Members desirous of having their Circulars bound, handsome lettered cases for binding Volume XIX. can be obtained from the Secretary, price 2/- post free. Members can have their copies bound for the inclusive charge of 3/- by sending them to the West India Committee Rooms. As the number of binding cases at present on hand is limited, Members will do well to make early application.

**MAIL OPPORTUNITIES.** The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Siva," from Liverpool, for Demerara, Dec. 22nd.; S.S. "Yanariva," from Glasgow, for Barbados, Trinidad and Demerara, Dec. 29th.; and the R.M.S. "Port Kingston," from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, on Dec. 31st. Letters must be specially addressed "by Private Ship," and the name of the ship and port of departure added.

**THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.** At the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club, on Wednesday, Dec. 14th, the Hon. Mark Kerr, Treasurer of St. Lucia and Hon. Correspondent of the Club in that Colony, was the guest of the evening. The Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, who presided, proposed Mr. Kerr's health which was cordially received. In a brief and happy speech Mr. Kerr expressed his gratification at the honour paid to him by the Club. Amongst those present were:—Mr. John Ross, Mr. R. L.

Forbes, Mr. H. J. Gander, Mr. R. Hall, Mr. C. E. Davies, Mr. Alexander Nash, Mr. A. Drysdale, Mr. C. R. Winn, Mr. R. M. Johnson, Mr. H. Wilkinson, Mr. H. J. Inniss, Mr. C. Cary-Elwes, Mr. W. W. Arnott, Mr. F. R. Leistikow, Mr. H. S. D. Perry, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. F. W. Scott, Mr. H. Bailey, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. Chas. Wilson, and Mr. E. Kronstan.

### The Homeward Mail.

The majority of our esteemed Hon. Correspondents still had to complain of the dry weather when the mail left the West Indies. British Guiana appeared to be suffering most, but in Barbados rain was badly wanted also. The Commissioner of Agriculture had returned to Barbados, and arrangements for the Agricultural Conference which opens in Trinidad on Jan. 4th, were in a forward state. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "La Plata" anchored off Plymouth on Wednesday, December 14th, at 5.30 p.m., and the Mails were delivered in London by first post on the following day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Antonio" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, December 7th. The R.M.S. "Port Kingston" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth at 4.30 a.m. on Monday, December 19th. The voyage was accomplished in 10 days, 12½ hours, in spite of rough weather in the Atlantic.

We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents received per R.M.S. "La Plata."

#### Antigua—The "Defence Force Reserve."

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) November 30th. Just as it was beginning to appear that there would be practically no cane crop this year, the unexpected came to pass, and on the night of the 25th a splendid soaking rain, amounting to between four and five inches, fell. This would of course make the greatest difference to the prospects of the sugar crop. Although it was now too late, perhaps, to expect a good crop generally over the Island, still, with a continuance of wet weather to the end of January, the latest to which they could expect the so-called wet season to last, they would have a chance of making a saving one.

During the fortnight an Ordinance had been passed in the Legislative Council providing for the formation of a "Defence Force Reserve." This body would really be a Government assisted rifle club managed by a committee, but the members would be liable for military service in the event of invasion or local disorder. It was thought that this body would prove a popular one, and that it would be joined by many who would not join a uniformed and officered defence force in which rifle shooting did not occupy the same position. The first rifle match for the trophy presented by the late Governor, Sir Gerald Strickland, resulted in a victory for Montserrat, Antigua coming second. The prize for the best individual shooting had been gained by Mr. Hanley of the Antigua team.

As regarded cotton, the caterpillars had certainly not caused the loss they did last year, owing to the general use of paris green as an insecticide. A proposal was on foot to transfer the Government cotton factory to a locally formed company, if such could be formed.

#### Barbados—The continued Dry Weather.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE) December 1st. During the second week of the fortnight light showers had fallen, which had kept the canes green, but there had been no heavy rains, and November had been almost as dry a month as last year. Few estates had marked over five inches, while the majority had little over three; this coming after a poor October was very serious. On many estates the canes were ripening rapidly, and there was every prospect of an early crop. Preparations for planting were being made on all sides, and most of the young plants would be in the ground before Christmas; but it was to be hoped that a good rain would come before then to moisten the soil. Cotton did not seem to require as much rain as the canes, for the fields were in great perfection and the flowers abundant. There was hardly any disease or pest apparent anywhere. Onions had suffered from the want of rain. Planters continued to be very chary in shipping bananas until the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company made better arrangements. The weather was very cool and pleasant, especially at night; and tourists would find the climate delightful at present, especially after the severe weather recently experienced in England.

The Molasses, Banana and Cotton Committees had held frequent meetings, but there was nothing of a definite nature as yet to communicate.

The Barbados Agricultural Society had requested the two Vice-Presidents, the Hon. F. J. Clarke and the writer, to represent them at the Agricultural Conference to be held at Trinidad on January 4th to 13th. Sir Daniel Morris and Mr. J. R. Bovell would also go from Barbados. The annual show of the Agricultural Society was to be held at Harrison College on December 20th.

#### British Guiana.—The Cable Breakdown.

(A. SUMMERSON, ESQ.) November 30th. The weather had been very dry during the fortnight, and rains were badly wanted throughout the entire Colony. The different water supply canals had all fallen to a very low level.



The cable was repaired on the 18th ult. The Chamber of Commerce had made strong representations to the Government about the breakdown of the line, and the Direct West India Cable Company had approached the Chamber of Commerce and the Government on the subject of completing an entire British cable. The proposed extension was from Bermuda to Barbados, thence to Trinidad and Demerara, and to connect up St. Lucia with Jamaica and Barbados. Those in Demerara would prefer a cable from Barbados direct to the Colony instead of via Trinidad, as it was just possible the former route might prove better for the cable, and if laid from Trinidad it might suffer, as the present two cables had done. The matter was one for the Imperial Government to deal with, and if they would be liberal in their contribution it might go through, otherwise it was hardly likely to do so.

The sugar market continued strong during the fortnight, and the last sale of sugar was reported at \$1.08. Latest advices, however, showed a weaker tendency, and buyers had withdrawn for the present.

#### Dominica—The Governor's Visit.

(E. A. AGAR, Esq.) December 1st. The Governor was paying a short visit to the Island; it was understood that his visit was not official, but was made in order that his health might recuperate. He would stay at Mr. Bell's charming country residence, "Sylvania."

#### Grenada—The Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

(HON. D. S. DE FREITAS) December 1st. On November 23rd a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society had been held, at which it was finally decided to send exhibits to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition to be held at the Crystal Palace next year. The offer of the West India Committee to take charge of the exhibits from the Island was much appreciated and had been gladly accepted.

It was a great disappointment that Mr. Oliver did not land in Grenada on his way to Trinidad, but he was prevented from doing so owing to the steamer on which he travelled arriving during the night. An influential committee had been convened to meet him and Sir Daniel Morris.

The cotton fields generally were progressing favourably and were relatively free from pests. In the valleys, where the atmosphere was very humid, small patches of cotton planted as experiments had not done well.

The fear that the cacao crop in the uplands would this year fall short of last year's output was deepening into a certainty; in the lowlands, however, prospects continued bright. The rainfall for November was eight inches and 69 parts.

#### Jamaica—The Yallahs Ponds.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq.) November 28th. A meeting had been held to investigate the causes of a remarkable smell which had swept over Kingston, and a resolution was passed urging the Governor to take immediate action to trace the cause. The Governor called a combined meeting of the members of the City Council and General Commissioners, at which Major Mills was nominated for appointment by the Government to investigate and report. Major Mills had been at work, but his report had not yet been published, though the smell had certainly been considerably less. It was thought that the trouble emanated from the Yallahs Ponds, and it was suggested that the ponds should be immediately opened to the sea.

There were still about 30,000 bags of pimento unshipped. Westmoreland should make a fine large sugar crop during the coming season. The coffee crop would be very short. On the whole the weather had been seasonable.

#### Montserrat—The Strickland Trophy.

(CONRAD WATSON, Esq.) November 30th. The weather had been very dry during November, and consequently the growth of the cotton planted late had been checked; the bolls on the early fields were opening, and picking would soon commence.

The magnificent centre-pieces presented by Sir Gerald Strickland as an inter-presidential rifle trophy to be competed for by the Defence Forces of the Colony, had been won by the Montserrat team.

#### Nevis—Mail Irregularities.

(HON. ARTHUR SHAND) November 29th. The weather since last Mail had been favourable to the growing crops and the outlook was more reassuring, the cotton crop showing to advantage. The damage done this year to the trees by insect pests had been much less than last year, as the planters knew better how to deal with them and had been more prompt in their remedial measures. The Administrator had most kindly given £5 to be distributed in prizes at the show, and also hoped to be present on the occasion.

Considerable inconvenience was being felt at the irregularity of the hours at which the steamers called during the tourist season, and it was suggested that a telegram might be sent from Barbados indicating the likely time at which the steamers would stop.

#### St. Kitts—Cotton Picking.

(CHAS. A. SMITH, Esq.) November 29th. Since last mail they had experienced a spell of dry weather, which had been of a couple of weeks' duration. On the windward side of the Island this had been followed within the past week by

frequent and heavy showers; on the leeward side of the Island, however, the drought still continued, and good forcing rains were now urgently wanted to resume the growth on the canes in that district.

Cotton picking operations were beginning, and the earlier planted fields were of good promise.

The steady rise in values of their staple was most gratifying, and five cents seemed a price not impossible under the strong conditions now ruling.

Telegraphic communication with St. Thomas had been interrupted since last mail, but had now been restored again.

#### St. Lucia—Rain Wanted.

(SYDNEY D. MELVILLE, Esq.) December 2nd. Although showers had fallen, there had not been sufficient rain for the maturing crop.

Initial steps had been taken to form a local syndicate to promote the cultivation of cotton, which up to that time had not made rapid progress in the Island.

#### St. Vincent—The Carib Canal.

(Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co.) December 2nd. The weather for the past fortnight had been very unsettled. A lot of rain had fallen, which was rather unseasonable, and the temperature was much cooler.

There was nothing new to report with regard to the Carib country canal, and they had not heard anything that would lead them to believe that the Government were inclined to lend some assistance in restoring same.

#### Trinidad—The Cacao Crop.

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C. M. G.), December 2nd. The weather was again much too dry for both cane and cacao, though they had had occasional showers.

Strong representations were being made by certain planters (among them two large cacao proprietors) as to the unfair incidence of the Immigration Tax, raised as at present principally by a tax on produce, and urging the substitution of some form of acreage tax. A committee, composed of the Hon. A. P. Marryat (Chairman), P. Abel, Esq., S. Henderson, Esq., and W. Knox, Esq., had gone carefully into the question, and sent in majority and minority reports to the Government.

The delegates from the Cotton Growing Association had paid a hurried visit to the island on their way to Jamaica. They had only about three hours on shore, which time was devoted to a visit to the Botanic Gardens and to the Governor, and a talk with the Government Botanist. (In *The Mirror* of November 29th, the report of an interview with Mr. Lomas Oliver will be found.—ED.)

The death of Mr. Vincent Brown was regarded by all classes of the community as a serious loss to the Colony. He had exceptional ability joined to strong common-sense and judgment, and his amiable character gained him the respect of all brought in contact with him.

The situation with regard to Venezuela was unchanged, save that very stringent regulations with respect to clothing brought into that country by passengers, and an exceedingly heavy import duty thereon, took away almost the last vestige of Trinidad's trade with that country.

Shipments of cacao during the fortnight showed a marked increase. The crop had now begun over all parts of the island, but owing to dry weather the pickings would not be as continuous as last season. Under the heavy receipts and dulness of the European markets, local values had declined, but were still above the parities of foreign markets. Prices ranged from 53/6 to 55/-. Arrivals from Venezuela, although showing an increase, were yet unimportant, and the crop from that country was late. Prices ranged from \$12 40 to \$12 76 per fanega.

		Shipments.						
Total at last Report...	...	...	...	270,058	Trinidad	...	39,468	Venezuela
November 18th—"Trent"...	...	...	...	878	"	...		
"—"Maracas"	...	...	...	1,469	"	...	300	New York
" 22nd—"Mazagan"	...	...	...	888	"	...	39	Europe.
" 25th—"Orinoco"	...	...	...	150	"	...		Canada.
" 26th—"Crown of Navarre"	...	...	...	40	"	...		Europe
" 28th—"Capera"	...	...	...	552	"	...	50	New York
" 28th—"P. F. Hendrik"	...	...	...	333	"	...		
" 30th—"P. Willem IV."	...	...	...	1,050	"	...	305	Europe.
" 30th—"Martinique"	...	...	...	2,104	"	...	16	"
" 30th—"Maraval"	...	...	...	1,565	"	...	365	New York.
				278,787			40,544	

### Some West Indian Securities.

#### The New Colonial Company, Limited.

The Accounts published with the seventh annual report which was adopted at a General Meeting on Thursday, December 8th, show that, after giving credit for the balance of £5084 13s 7d. brought forward from last year, and after payment of Interest on Debenture Stock the Profit and Loss Account of the Company shows a balance of Loss amounting to £22,899 14s. 8d. To meet this a similar amount has been transferred from the General Reserve Account, thus



reducing that Account to £17,100 5s. 4d. The Improvement Expenditure on the Company's Estate during the year, over and above the amount expended on the upkeep of the Properties and Machinery, has amounted to £17,722 6s. 10d., of this £7004 11s. 7d. was provided on the formation of the Company in respect of additions then contemplated. £645 9s. 1d. has been charged to Profit and Loss Account, and £10,072 6s. 2d. has been added to the Capital Accounts of the Estates in respect of the improved value of the Properties, resulting from the whole Expenditure. An amount of £12,569 1s. 10d. spent upon Plant and Machinery at the Canovanas Factory, Porto Rico, by means of which the output of the Factory has been largely increased, has been added to the amount at which the Account stands in the Company's books, the increase to the value of the Asset, being more than the amount so charged. The net proceeds per ton of Sugar, and per puncheon of Rum from British Guiana and Trinidad since the formation of the Company have been as follows:—

	Crop, 1898.	Crop, 1899.	Crop, 1900.	Crop, 1901.	Crop, 1902.	Crop, 1903.	Crop, 1904.
Sugar per ton	£9 15 4	£11 7 1	£11 5 7	£10 7 3	£7 7 3	£8 8 8	£8 14 5
Rum per puncheon	5 0 2	7 10 0	10 14 6	5 12 10	4 14 10	3 17 11	3 7 10

#### The New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Limited.

The Annual General Meeting was held on December 14th Sir William Robinson presiding. He observed that the accounts covered a period of thirteen months, as it was found to be convenient to the staff in Philadelphia that the year should end in future on the 31st Jan instead of the 31st Dec. The profit for the thirteen months after allowing for the whole of the working expenses, depreciation of plant, and the annual sum required for the service of the Debenture Debt, amounted to £112,170 16s. 11d., to which was added the sum of £58,590 16s. 1d., the balance carried forward from 1902 giving a total of £170,760 13s. Out of this sum there has been written off £4,855 7s. 6d. being depreciation on stocks and bonds of other companies, &c., leaving a balance of £165,906 5s. 6d. Out of that balance it was proposed to pay a dividend of 25% in respect of the years 1901, 1902, and 1903, absorbing £125,000, and leaving a balance to be carried forward of £40,906 5s. 6d. The shipments of asphalt made by the Company from the Pitch Lake during the thirteen months ending January 31st, 1904, amounted to 182,819 tons. Out of this total of 182,819 tons, 12,765 tons were shipped during the month of January, 1904, leaving a balance of 170,054 tons which were shipped during the calendar year 1903. This compares with a total of 142,513 tons shipped during the calendar year 1902, and is by 27,541 tons the greatest amount taken from the Pitch Lake in any calendar year since the concession was granted. The shipments showed that the increased business was due chiefly to the augmented purchases of the Barber Asphalt Paving Company, owing to a number of special causes occurring during the year, among which was the larger volume of asphalt paving in the United States. There has also been a gratifying increase in the shipments to Europe, the figures for the thirteen months under review being 52,284 tons as against 35,339 tons in 1902. The amount of Royalty and duty paid to the Trinidad Government on shipments of asphalt during the thirteen months amounted to £59,464 4s. 11d. The total amount paid since February, 1888, the date of the concession, up to January 31st, 1904, was £526,074 7s. 10d. With regard to the current year, the chairman stated that the prospects were of an encouraging nature, showing that the business was continuing satisfactorily. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report which was seconded by Sir Nevile Lubbock, K. C. M. G., and carried unanimously. The Chairman then moved a resolution declaring a dividend of 25 per cent. in respect of the years 1901, 1902, and 1903, payable forthwith. This was seconded by Robert K. MacBride, Esq., C. M. G., and carried unanimously. The Chairman moved the re-election of the retiring Directors, Charles H. Moore, Esq. and H. F. Previtt, Esq., which was seconded by E. J. Halsey, Esq., J. P., and carried unanimously.

#### Publications Received.

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, etc., for our Library. We have to acknowledge with thanks, the receipt of the following:—

The Report of the Immigrant Agent-General for British Guiana, 1903-4 (see page 452), and the British Guiana Blue Book, 1903-4, are to hand by the Mail.

THE ACTS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1903. These and the ordinances of the other Colonies are filed at the West India Committee Rooms.

THE GRENADA HANDBOOK FOR 1905. This hardy annual, compiled by the Hon. Edward Drayton, the Colonial Secretary, is the first of the West India directories to reach us. It is very comprehensive and complete, and no information, however minute it might seem to be, appears to be omitted from its one hundred and eighty-eight pages.

THE AGRICULTURAL NEWS, Vol. III, No. 69 (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 1d., post free 1½d.). The leading article in this issue deals with the visit of the cotton experts of the British Cotton Growing Association. The report of Professor Harrison on Cotton Experiments in British Guiana, and a table showing approximate returns of areas planted in cotton during the present season. Various notes deal with the sugar industry in Jamaica and Hawaii, and with the use of molasses for feeding purposes.

#### Weather Telegrams.

**Barbados** (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) December 6th. "A few light showers have fallen, but more would be acceptable." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.) Dec. 7th. "There is a favourable change in the weather in Berbice." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) Dec. 8th. "A few light showers have fallen, but rain much wanted." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Dec. 13th. "Rain is badly needed." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) Dec. 15th. "Some showers have fallen, but more rain much wanted." (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.) Dec. 15th. "Weather showery and unsettled." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) Dec. 16th. "We have had some showers since last message, but more rain is wanted." (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.) December 16th. "Weather unsettled in Berbice." (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.) Dec. 16th. "Weather is more favourable in Berbice." **Trinidad** (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.) Dec. 10th. "Weather continues dry." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Dec. 16th. "Dry weather, canes suffering."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Coconuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.	Cotton.
British Guiana—	Tons	lbs.	Tons.	Puns.		Puns	Ozs	Carats.	lbs.
Jan 1 to Nov. 29, '04	91,688	103,076	6641	17,038	346,040	2770	75,521	10,353	—
.. Dec 1, '03	105,078	124,442	1184	21,183	4991	3509	79,322	8533	—
Jamaica—		Cwts.	Coffee.			Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.	
Apr. 1 to Oct 22, '04	5914	12,268	Cwts.	Galls		Cwts.	Stems.		
.. 24, '03	8047	15,987	15,419	899,114	1,445,530	71,715	4,415,128	44,571,171	1796
		17,695	17,695	862,836	12,737,035	40,808	7,357,750	33,735,750	
Trinidad—	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.	Copra.
Jan. 1 to Nov. 30, '04	389,676	37,645,370	63,435	591	8,481,132	Puns	Tres	Tons.	Bags.
.. 30, '03	382,407	26,672,400	42,360	1173	13,387,317	2445	57	124	14,664
						3573	178	166	171,086
Grenada—		Bags							
Oct 1 to Dec. 2, '04	—	5640	Brls.	1/2 Brs.	Cases			Cotton Seed.	Cotton.
.. 2, '03	—	5672	1547	202	151			Bags.	Bales
			919	127	127				

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "La Plata," (Capt W J Dagnall) Dec 14th:—**Barbados**—Mr. G F Rodway, Mrs J A Richards, Lieutenant J J. Kyder, Mr. J Baidie, Captain and Mrs. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Irvine, Mr. and Mrs. Kilner **Demerara**—Mr G A Gardner, Capt W. Russell, Mr. A. P. Clarke, Mr J. A. Gomez. **Jamaica**—Lord Talbot de Malahide, Mrs. C. Banks, Miss McG Smith, Mr Justice C. H. Beard, Mrs E. J. Calder, Mr and Mrs F. L. Pearce, Mr J. Fuller, M.P., Miss W. Judson, Miss D. Davy, Mr. E. S. Pilkington, Mr A. R. Pilkington, Dr Gibbs, Dr J S Ogilvie. **Trinidad**—Mr. A. Gomez, Mr J. de Freitas, Mr. T. A. Ferraz, Mr. J. Sebra, Mr N de Freitas, Dr A Harrison, Mrs. Milner, Mr W Pearson, Mr J de Molyens, Mr. and Mrs. E. Henderson. **Antigua**—Mr H E. Humphreys **Dominica**—Mr. J. C. Radcliffe **Grenada**—Mrs. John M. Gilchrist. **Tobago**—Mr. Stanley Saville

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Trent" (Capt Farmer), Dec. 21st:—**Barbados**—Mr and Mrs Innis, Dr and Mrs. Browne, Mrs and Miss Hope, Mr N. Hope, Mr. Williamson, Mr Bethune, Col and Miss Brodegan, Miss A. Porter, Mr A S Jameson, Mr R B. Nowell, Mr G. Eyre, Mr A Jackson, Bishop Weldon, Mrs. Jameson, Mr T. Thornton, Mr. W. P. Jeffreys, Mr. W. B. Scott, Mr and Miss Robertson, Miss Brown. **Demerara**—Hon. C. T. Cox, C.M.G., Mr. A. L. W. McEwan, Mr and Mrs W. M. B. Shields, Mr J. Harvey. **Jamaica**—Sir Theodore and Lady Frv, Mr. W. Wooliscroft, Mrs. Jones, Mr J Goodwin, Mr A Goodwin, Mr H Young, Mrs. Cundall, Mr J Epps, Major W. Edwards, Mr W H Hesketh, Mr T Sisson, Mr J R. H. Nott, Mr and Mrs Parkes, Mr Ansell, Lord Athlumney. **Trinidad**—Mr. and Mrs Barrow, Mr and Mrs Fuller, Mr A M Low, Mr P Huttenheim, Mr Chapman, Mr H Gall, Mr W S. Barnardo. **Dominica**—Mr C. H. Hill **Grenada**—Hon. W Lascelles, Mr H. Ross, Mr H. T. Ross. **St. Lucia**—Mr. C. R. du Boulay

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "La Plata" (Capt. W. J. Dagnall), Jan. 4th:—**Barbados**—Mr and Mrs J. W. C. Catford, three Misses Catford, Mr P. Ashton, Capt S. Hamilton, Mr., Mrs and Miss Pritchett, Mr J. J. Wharmby, Mr W. H. Tetley, Mr. and Mrs. de Vere Bertie. **Demerara**—Mr. P. Purvis. **Jamaica**—Rev and Mrs George, Mr. G. W. Wolff, M.P., Miss May, Miss A. Marvin, Mr H Scott, Mrs Paine, Miss A. Sydney, Miss E. Grieves, Mr. H. Russell. **Trinidad**—Mr E. L. Atkinson. **Antigua**—Dr and Mrs Morris, Mr. T. Fisher.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Tagus" (Capt. H. E. Rudge), Jan. 18th:—**Barbados**—Mr and Mrs Whittingstall, Mr J P Muir, Mr J Hoggan, Mr E. C. Malet de Cartarer, Mrs Diosy, Mr L. Davies, Mr. D. Blake, Mr. and Mrs. Maddock, Mr J. H. Dunn, Mr and Mrs R. Harris, Mr. J. Gorevan, two Misses de la Mothe, Mr. G. W. Lupton, Col H. Burton, Mr and Mrs Nixey, Lieut. R. B. Umfreville, Mr A. R. Robertson, Mrs and two Misses Vandaleur, Dr W. A. Smith. **Demerara**—Mr A Farmer, Sir H. A. and Lady Bovell, Mrs Anson, Mrs Cox. **Jamaica**—The Hon. E. Ellis, Col and Mrs H. J. Blagrove, Mr and Mrs Aikman, Sir G. and Lady Dallas, Mr H. Hollis, Earl Poulett, Mr and Mrs H. E. Crum Ewing, Mr R. Harvey, Miss K. Kemp. **Trinidad**—Mr. B. Murray, Mr. E. Gordon, Miss I. Sanderson, Mr and Mrs P. Chizzolu, Mr G. R. Alston. **Antigua**—Major Knollys. **St. Lucia**—Mrs N. Mitchell, Hon. Mark Kerr.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. Owen Jones), Dec 7th:—**Jamaica**—Mrs H. Brown, Mr S. H. Justin, Mr C. C. Thompson, Miss A. Weltie

HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt J. G. Parsons), Dec 19th:—**Jamaica**—Mr. A. Ashworth, Dr E. H. Cooke, Capt J Barlow, Miss Bayly, Miss W. A. Costa, Mr A. N. Farewell, Mr E. L. Oliver, Mr J. W. Hendred, Mr C. Reid, Mr. R. S. Stancliffe, Mr and Mrs Symondson, Mr and Miss Wills, Mrs E. F. Wright, Mrs. J. H. W. Walker, Mr H. M. Lynch, Mr W. Scott, Mr D. I. Tannahill, Mr L. J. Veitch

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt W R Rowe), Dec 17th:—**Jamaica**—Rev and Mrs W. Aldridge, Mr W. Brewer, Mr and Mrs R. A. Bentley, Mr R. J. Brothwell, Mrs Buckley, Mrs Fellows, Mr and Mrs J. Goold, Mr D. D. C. Henriques, Mr Isaac, Mr J. E. James, Capt C. W. Long, Mr S. H. Pullman, Mr and Mrs W. Radford, Mr R. Roberts, Mr N. Theile, Rev J. S. Tucker, Mr F. Wilkinson

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt J. G. Parsons), Dec 31st:—**Jamaica**—Sir W. and Lady Plowden, Sir J. C. Browne, Major C. Browne, Prof. and Mrs. Rhys, Capt W. W. Rhodes, Mr C. A. Reynolds, Mr and Mrs. J. C. Todd, Mr, Mrs and Miss MacTavish, Mr and Mrs L. Monk, Dr. M. Campbell, Mr and Mrs E. W. Wilson, Mr and Mrs R. H. Shiers, Capt. J. E. Mackenzie, Mr H. R. F. Mackay, Mr J. C. Pawson, Dr and Mrs Edgelow, Mr. S. P. Careless, Sir W. Jardine, Miss S. F. Latimer, Mrs Buckland, Mrs W. H. Buckley, Rev and Mrs Swaby, Miss E. Keeling, Mr. and Mrs Feely, Mr. H. Yonge, Mr P. F. Warner's W. I. Cricket Team (sixteen members), Mr F. R. Henson's Shakesperian Company (thirty members),



## The Produce Markets Summary.

**Sugar.**—As the season of production of Continental Beet draws to a close it becomes more and more manifest that the crop is a disaster, and the following most recent figures published by Herr F. O. Licht point to a result even worse than most people anticipated, the factories themselves excepted.

Convention Countries.		F. O. LICHT'S ESTIMATES.		
		Crop 1903-4.	Crop 1904-5.	
Germany	... ..	1,930,000 Tons.	1,590,000	Tons.
Austria	... ..	1,180,000	905,000	"
France	... ..	800,000	620,000	"
Belgium	... ..	205,000	170,000	"
Holland	... ..	125,000	135,000	"
		<b>4,240,000</b>	<b>3,420,000</b>	<b>Deficiency.</b>
				<b>820,000 Tons.</b>
Other Countries	++ ++	1,610,000	1,275,000	345,000
<b>Total Crops</b>	... ..	<b>5,850,000</b>	<b>4,695,000</b>	<b>1,165,000</b>

The rise in prices from the opening of this season on the 1st October when the quotation was 11s 4½d., basis 88, has no doubt been large and has been produced by speculators influenced by reducing estimates of the crop, but it appears to be fully justified, and it must be observed that the deficiency in supplies has not yet made itself felt, for it will be in the early spring and onwards that we shall realise the full importance of this large reduction of available supplies. It is true some increase in cane crops may in a measure relieve the situation, but all these are a long way off, and tropical sugar is always a matter of much uncertainty, whilst the recent estimates of a crop in Cuba of 1,400,000 tons, which will require some nine months of suitable weather to reap, need scarcely be taken seriously. Viewed dispassionately, the position of sugar is such that high or even higher prices seem indispensable from now to next autumn.

The closing prices of 88% are, December, 13s 9½d.; January/March, 13s. 11½d.; May, 14s. 2d.; August, 14s. 3½d.; and October/December, 1905, 11s. 2½d., all free on board Hamburg.

**The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America on uneven dates are as follows:—**

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
Europe	2,320,000	2,910,000	2,670,000	2,500,000	2,020,000 Tons
United States	120,000	100,000	150,000	130,000	70,000 "
Cuba	—	120,000	50,000	20,000	— "
Cargoes afloat	40,000	70,000	50,000	10,000	30,000 "
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,480,000</b>	<b>3,200,000</b>	<b>2,920,000</b>	<b>2,660,000</b>	<b>2,120,000</b>

Comparative prices of 88% Beet on 19th Dec. :—13s 9½d. 8s. 5d. 8s. 1½d. 6s. 11½d. 9s. 1½d.

**Vacuum Pan Sugar**—Stocks are on a very small scale and deliveries continue large. Some high prices have been occasionally obtained, up to 23/6 for fine sugar. At the moment a reaction has set in in sympathy with downward fluctuations in beet and the closing value of the average qualities is 22/- with a general range of 21/- to 23/-.

For 96 test to Refiners 15/- could be obtained on floating conditions.

**Molasses Sugar**—Is in good demand, from 15/- to 18/-.

**Muscovado.**—A few good grocery Barbados have realised up to 18/-. In the present uncertain condition of the Market a close price for 89 test to Refiners on floating terms is not easy to give. Possibly 13/6 might be obtained.

**West India Figures since 1st Jan.**

	1904	1903	1902	1901
Imports to date	40,000	23,000	58,000	43,000 Tons
Deliveries	46,000	40,000	42,000	40,000 "
Stocks	6700	12,000	29,000	12,000 "
Comparative quotation of "average qualities"	22s.	15s. 9d.	14s. 9d.	15s. 6d.

**Rum.**—Board of Trade Returns for 11 months:

	1904	1903	1902	1901
Home Consumption	3,460,000	3,380,000	3,660,000	3,790,000 Galls.
Stocks 31st Nov.	8,770,000	9,580,000	9,420,000	7,350,000 "
Stocks in London				
Jamaica	9000	9,500	11,300	8300 Puns.
Demerara	4700	6700	7100	3600 "
Total of all kinds:—	20,654	26,029	Deficiency 5375	

The Market continues firm and the value of Demerara ranges from 10½d. to 1/- proof. Jamaica is also better and fair Standard Home Trade Marks may be quoted fully 1/10. The value of Leewards is about 9d to 1/- Consumption for the first eleven months of this year as shown by the Board of Trade returns printed above compares favourably with 1903 but not with the two previous seasons.

**Cocoa**—Board of Trade Returns for 11 months:

	1904	1903	1902	1901
Imports	23,737	20,770	23,665	22,056 Tons.
Home Consumption	18,367	16,926	19,027	17,783 "
Stocks 31st Nov.	5722	3503	4397	6742 "
Stocks in London	83,000	50,000	62,000	80,000 Bags

The Market, which has been suffering for a long time from the weight of supplies, shows signs of weakness, and prices of West India kinds are 1/- to 2/- lower than last mail. Quotations are a little uncertain, viz., Trinidad fair collected 55/-. Estate Marks 55/-, 59/-. Grenada fair native, 52/-. Fermented 53/-, 55/-. From other Islands Native Cocoa is worth about 48/-, 50/-; and fermented, 53/-, 56/-.

**Coffee**—Better. Good ordinary Jamaica, 39/ to 40/-, and Santos for this month's delivery 38/9.

**Rutmegs**—Easier. West India sold, 67's at 1/8; 80's 10d.; 100's 6½d.; 143's 5d., and in shell 4½d. **Mace**—Quiet. A few cases, fair reddish sold at 1/1, 1/2. **Dimento**—A slightly better demand—value of fair 2½d. **Singer**—Dull prices unchanged.

**Arrowroot**—Stocks in London:

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
	10,487	13,164	13,050	6832	8321 Brls.

Only retail sales made. Quotation of good manufacturing still 1½d.

**Lime Juice**—Neglected value, 9d. to 1/-. Concentrated; unchanged at £13 15s. Hand Pressed, quoted 2/6, 2/9.

**Distilled Oil**—Value about 1s. 3d.

For Cotton, see Special Article, page 471.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.