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The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XXXIII.



Mr. Eliot A. de Pass.

The West India Committee Rooms.

15 SERTING LANE, LONDON.

January 3rd, 1905.

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL

IN the course of the controversy which has recently been raging regarding the rise in price of sugar, it has frequently been questioned whether the West Indies are actually deriving benefit from the abolition of bounties. That they are doing so is becoming increasingly obvious from the advices which we receive every mail. After a serious malady, a lengthy period of convalescence follows before the patient is able to get about as he did before; the West Indies have suffered from a prolonged illness caused by the baneful effects of the foreign bounty system, and though they are now on the high road to recovery, too much must not be expected at first. Convalescence must ensue, and they must recoup some of their losses before they can get about and embark upon new enterprise. The Collector-General of Customs of Jamaica states in his annual report that the changed circumstances should put a check to the abandonment of sugar estates, which has been going on year after year, and induce proprietors to erect modern machinery, and thus meet all fair competition. In Antigua

the second Central Sugar Factory was practically completed when the mail left, and was to be formally opened on December 19th. From Barbados our esteemed Hon. Correspondent writes that the

improved prospects have had an immediate effect on the estate market, no less than six plantations having been sold recently at prices above their appraisement. With the gradual restoration of confidence, we may hope in the near future to be able to give our readers some more definite information as to the improvement which is slowly but surely being witnessed. So much for the West Indies. The sugar machinery engineers in this country have the same tale to tell. We were recently at pains to ascertain whether any improvement was noticeable in their business, and from the several firms to whom we addressed the enquiry, the replies have in every instance been in the affirmative. Their position is strengthened, and more orders have been received than for some time past. We hear of an order for a set of triple crushing mills; a plant of costly crushing machinery is going out to Barbados; in Jamaica an order has been given for an extensive plant; and, generally speaking, the engineers find the planters of the West Indies more disposed to spend money on repairs and renewals. But, as we have already pointed out, the improvement will be gradual. The advantage of the present good price of sugar has not yet been reaped by sugar-cane growers. It will be some little time before they feel the advantage to the full, and yet it is satisfactory to find that coming events are already casting their shadows before.

IN another column we give particulars regarding the second show of Colonial Fruit, which is to be held under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society, at their magnificent hall at Vincent Square, Westminster, on March 30th and 31st next. We have again made an offer to the West Indian Colonies to arrange and superintend any exhibits they may send over; and having regard to the marked success of the Dominica and Barbados exhibit in December last, we shall not be surprised if several Islands decide on this occasion to display their various produce. Many lessons are learnt from such exhibitions, and we hope that those who were deterred by the unavoidably long interval between the arrival of the mail and the opening of the show in December last from sending exhibits, will be encouraged by the fact that in March the Exhibition opens only a week after the day on which the fruit should arrive and decide to participate. We are firmly convinced that these exhibitions do a great deal of good, not only by generally advertising the West Indian Colonies—and who will deny the value of such an advertisement?—but, also, by giving them a practical idea of what are the most suitable products for the home market. This leads us to make a suggestion which will, we hope, be most carefully considered by the *West Indian Colonies*. This is, that each Island should appoint a *permanent* Exhibition Committee, consisting of, say, six members, and comprising representatives of the local West India Committees, the Agricultural and Commercial bodies and the Government, who might undertake the arrangements for all the Exhibitions, and thus obviate the necessity of appointing a fresh Committee to deal with each case as it arises. This might be followed by an annual vote, which, considering that the expenses of an Exhibition, such as the Horticultural one, would not exceed £10 for each Colony, need not be a large one. We put forward this suggestion, believing that it will greatly facilitate matters in future; and shall be glad if the various Agricultural and Commercial Societies, to say nothing of the Governments, in the West Indies, will give it their most careful consideration.

Mr. Eliot Arthur de Pass.

Born in London in 1851, Mr. Eliot Arthur de Pass, whose portrait we give on the preceding page, was educated by private tutors in London, Brighton and Hanover. After successfully dabbling in journalism and dramatic literature, he spent some time in Canada, and finally entered upon his commercial career in 1879. He is the senior partner of the firms of E. A. de Pass & Co of London, Lascelles de Mercado & Co., Jamaica, and A. J. Lasceiles & Co. of New York, with branches in New Orleans, Trinidad, and Sydney, New South Wales. Mr. de Pass is a zealous and hard worker, and

frequently does not leave his office until the time when most City men have finished dinner and are at the theatres; but he finds time also to be a keen sportsman and in his spare moments indulges in shooting, fishing, riding, and motoring. He is an active member of the Executive of the West India Committee, on which he holds a watching brief for Jamaica, whose welfare he has at heart.

Port Antonio, Jamaica.

Port Antonio is a natural harbour on the north side of Jamaica. It is divided in two by a promontory on which stands the recently rebuilt Titchfield Hotel, from which this view was taken. The headquarters of the United Fruit Company, an organisation of considerable size, are situated at this port. The company was founded by Captain Baker who first saw the possibilities of a fruit trade between Jamaica and the United States. While captain of a schooner he took a few bunches of bananas to New York, and from this small beginning the important banana and fruit industry has sprung. Port Antonio is seen at its best at night, when the moonlight, glistening on the leaves of the coconut palms, is a sight to be remembered.

Death of Mr. W. Weldon Symington.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. W. Weldon Symington, which took place in Trinidad on Dec. 31st last, as the result of a railway accident. Mr. Symington was well-known in connection with the inauguration of a fruit industry in Trinidad, where his energy and resourcefulness were a byword, and his death has come as a great shock to his many friends and acquaintances.

We understand that no suspension of the work of the Symington Fruit Syndicate will ensue upon the untimely demise of its managing director and that the board of directors in this country have deputed Mr. R. N. Hodges, one of the directors, to visit the Colony immediately and to arrange for the prosecution of the work. Mr. Hodges sails for Trinidad by the R.M.S. "La Plata" to-morrow.

The Agricultural Conference.

An important list of subjects is to be brought forward for discussion at the fifth West Indian Agricultural Conference which is to meet at Princes' Buildings, Port of Spain, Trinidad, to-morrow. It includes matters affecting the sugar, cacao, fruit and cotton industries and a variety of subjects of general interest. We are glad to note that a large number of our Members are among the selected representatives of the various Colonies, including as they do:—Barbados, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque and Mr. J. R. Bovell; British Guiana, the Hon. B. Howell Jones; Dominica, Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls; Grenada, the Hon. D. S. DeFreitas; Montserrat, His Honour F. H. Watkins; Nevis, the Hon. C. A. Shand; St. Lucia, the Hon. E. DuBoulay and Mr. George S. Hudson; St. Vincent, the Hon. Conrad J. Simmons; and Trinidad, Mr. Peter Abel, Mr. J. G. de Gannes, Mr. Edgar Tripp, Professor P. Carmody, Mr. J. H. Hart and the Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick.

Sir Henry Jackson will open the proceedings and the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture will then deliver his inaugural address. An elaborate series of excursions has been arranged, many of them by the Agricultural Society, for the delectation of the delegates. With reference to the question of prædial larceny, it is understood that the views of the representatives will be taken as to whether it shall be considered at the Agricultural Conference, and we understand that the delegates of the Barbados Agricultural Society will press for its discussion. It is hoped that the Conference may at least be able to formulate some scheme for the collation of the actual facts in regard to the prevalence of this form of crime in the several Colonies, and its retarding influence on the progress of agricultural development.

The English Cricket Team.

The team of English Cricketers, captained by Lord Brackley, left for Jamaica in the R.M.S. "Port Kingston" on Saturday last. In a recent issue we gave a list of fixtures which, as we have pointed out, were provisional only. These have been modified, and we are now in a position to give the actual dates of the tour, which will be as follows:—

Left Bristol ...	December 31, 1904	...	Arrive Jamaica ...	January 11, 1905
Leave Jamaica ...	January 24, 1905	...	" Barbados ...	" 28, "
" Barbados ...	February 13, "	...	" St. Lucia ...	February 14, "
" St. Lucia ...	" 24, "	...	" Barbados ...	" 25, "
" Barbados ...	" 27, "	...	" Demerara ...	March 1, "
" Demerara ...	March 9, "	...	" Barbados ...	" 11, "
" Barbados ...	" 13, "	...	" St. Vincent ...	" 14, "
" St. Vincent ...	" 18 or 19, "	(by sloop)	" Grenada ...	" 20, "
" Grenada ...	" 28, "	(ord. mail)	" Trinidad ...	" 29, "
	" or 26, "	(by "Kennet")		" 27, "
" Trinidad ...	April 7, "	"	" Plymouth ...	April 19, "

Sales of Barbados Plantations.

Owing doubtless to the improved prospect of the sugar industry, consequent upon the abolition of bounties, no less than six sugar estates in Barbados were sold during the fortnight above their appraisement value. The following are the particulars of the sales effected:—

1904	PLANTATIONS	ACREAGE.	APPRAISEMENT			SELLING PRICE.			PURCHASER
			£	s	d.	£	s	d.	
December 9	Frizers ...	404	4,088	3	2	5,000	0	0	Mrs Hart Wood.
" 9	Bright Hall ...	171 2	1,879	0	0	1,879	0	0	Mr. J. S. Skinner.
" 9	Harrisons ...	381	3,816	9	0	3,816	9	0	Col. W. A. Collings.
" 9	Oxford ...	223	3,060	16	0	3,060	16	0	Mr. S. Manning.
" 9	Prior Park ...	207	3,368	0	0	3,720	0	0	Mr. S. Manning.
" 9	Mullineux ...	255.3	3,585	0	0	4,020	0	0	Mr. R. Arthur, junr.
" 16	Chance Hall ...	262½	3,392	0	0	3,462	0	0	Dr. E. G. Pilgrim.
" 16	Bulkeley ...	387	8,085	18	4	9,700	0	0	Mr. G. L. Pile
" 16	Hope and Sea Park ...	284¾	2,313	0	0	2,500	0	0	—
" 16	Alexandria ...	53	641	5	7	641	5	7	Dr. E. G. Pilgrim.

The Consumption of Sugar.

The following figures, based on table given in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, show the consumption of sugar in the principal European countries which were signatories of the Brussels Convention for the first three months of the campaign from September to November, 1904.

	1903-4.		1904-5.		
France...	264,469 Tons.	...	172,033 Tons.	...	92,436 Tons Decrease.
Germany	363,881 "	...	279,087 "	...	84,794 " Decrease.
Austria-Hungary	144,882 "	...	110,195 "	...	34,687 " Decrease.
Belguim	30,850 "	...	14,630 "	...	16,220 " Decrease.
United Kingdom	274,261 "	...	407,137 "	...	132,876 " Increase.
Holland	21,184 "	...	24,181 "	...	2,997 " Increase.



From "Sun Pictures of the Lucille and Dr. J. H. Githens,"

PORT ANTONIO, JAMAICA.

Photo by ALDOBRANDI E. ASTINALI, Copyright

The following statistics regarding the production and consumption of raw sugar for the past eight seasons will doubtless be useful to our Members for the purpose of reference :—

						Cons.	Consumption.
Season 1897=1898.							
Visible Supply, 1st October, 1897	...	...	...	...	...	1,113,903	
Beet Crop, 1897-98	...	...	...	...	...	4,831,774	
Cane	...	...	...	...	...	2,864,528	
Beet, U. S.	...	...	...	...	...	40,399	
						8,850,604	
Deduct Visible Supply, 1st October, 1898	...	...	...	...	...	923,224	7,927,380
Season 1898=1899.							
Visible Supply, 1st October, 1898	...	...	...	...	...	923,224	
Beet Crop, 1898-99	...	...	...	...	...	4,982,101	
Cane	...	...	...	...	...	2,944,545	
Beet, U. S.	...	...	...	...	...	32,471	
						8,882,341	
Deduct Visible Supply, 1st October, 1899	...	...	...	...	...	949,057	7,933,284
Season 1899=1900.							
Visible Supply, 1st October, 1899	...	...	...	...	...	949,057	
Beet Crop, 1899-1900	...	...	...	...	...	5,480,000	
Cane	...	...	...	...	...	2,856,000	
Beet, U. S.	...	...	...	...	...	95,000	
						9,380,057	
Deduct Visible Supply, 1st October, 1900	...	...	...	...	...	607,712	8,772,345
Season 1900=1901.							
Visible Supply, 1st October, 1900	...	...	...	...	...	607,712	
Beet Crop, 1900-01	...	...	...	...	...	5,990,080	
Cane	...	...	...	...	...	3,650,416	
Beet, U. S.	...	...	...	...	...	70,859	
						10,325,067	
Deduct Visible Supply, 1st October, 1901	...	...	...	...	...	921,562	9,403,505
Season 1901=1902.							
Visible Supply, 1st October, 1901	...	...	...	...	...	921,562	
Beet Crop, 1901-02	...	...	...	...	...	6,760,361	
Cane	...	...	...	...	...	4,027,229	
Beet, U. S.	...	...	...	...	...	163,126	
						11,872,278	
Deduct Visible Supply, 1st October, 1902	...	...	...	...	...	1,888,312	9,983,966
Season 1902=1903.							
Visible Supply, 1st October, 1902	...	...	...	...	...	1,888,312	
Beet Crop, 1902-03	...	...	...	...	...	5,561,257	
Cane	...	...	...	...	...	4,144,569	
Beet, U. S.	...	...	...	...	...	195,463	
						11,789,601	
Deduct Visible Supply, 1st October, 1903	...	...	...	...	...	1,879,031	9,910,570
Season 1903=1904.							
Visible Supply, 1st October, 1903	...	...	...	...	...	1,879,031	
Beet Crop, 1903-04	...	...	...	...	...	5,864,938	
Cane	...	...	...	...	...	4,423,800	
Beet, U. S.	...	...	...	...	...	210,000	
						12,377,769	
Deduct Visible Supply, 1st October, 1904	...	...	...	...	...	1,434,532	10,943,237
Season 1904=1905.							
Visible Supply, 1st October, 1904	...	...	...	...	...	1,434,532	
Beet Crop 1904-05 (estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	4,685,000	
Cane	...	...	...	...	...	4,607,000	
Beet, U. S.	...	...	...	...	...	191,000	
						10,917,532	

The World's Cacao Production and Consumption.

As an outcome of a visit paid him by the Consul-General of Guayaquil, the Editor of the *Hamburg Gerdian* has been making enquiries into the relative position of the world's cacao production and consumption, and has obtained returns from which has been drawn up the following very interesting table, which if not absolutely correct, at least gives one some idea of how the present world's demand and supply of raw cacao stand one to the other. "Unfortunately," writes the Editor, "we are unable to give all the figures as official, particularly as regards production . . . but we had less trouble in compiling the figures of the consumption where we can rest on official returns. . . . If any one can forward more correct figures we shall be very pleased to receive them."

The *Gerdian*, for which we are indebted to Mr. Harold Hamel Smith, gives the figures for each year; but want of space compels us only to give those of 1894, 1902 and 1903, for comparison:—

World's Production.	1894.	1902.	1903.
Ecuador	19,560,000	24,965,802	23,238,480 kilos
San Thomé	6,135,021	17,969,000	22,450,900 ..
Brazil	10,148,600	22,370,620	21,738,429 ..
Trinidad	10,252,240	16,955,760	14,885,920 ..
Venezuela	6,924,000	9,925,000	12,450,963 ..
St. Dominigo	1,975,000	7,975,000	7,325,000 ..
Grenada	3,980,178	5,975,000	6,250,000 ..
Ceylon	1,414,834	3,673,113	3,575,323 ..
Gold Coast	9,224	2,436,801	2,297,148 ..
Surinam	3,249,121	2,355,182	2,224,668 ..
Haiti	1,000,000	1,990,000	2,175,000 ..
Cuba	1,453,200	1,875,000	2,025,000 ..
Jamaica	650,000	1,525,000	1,650,000 ..
Dutch West Indies	724,145	889,936	1,458,243 ..
Martinique	695,000	925,000	1,050,000 ..
Cameroons	135,000	648,000	800,000 ..
St. Lucia	491,000	785,000	800,000 ..
Various	300,000	700,000	700,000 ..
Totals	69,096,563	113,939,214	126,995,074 ..

Showing an increase of over eighty per cent. in the nine years. These figures include only actual exports, and do not cover the production consumed locally.

World's Consumption.	1894.	1902.	1903.
United States	7,935,651	23,120,728	28,508,082 kilos.
Germany	8,319,900	20,601,700	21,491,400 ..
France	14,871,231	19,343,000	20,638,600 ..
England	9,950,900	20,380,000	17,485,839 ..
Holland	9,656,000	14,666,274	16,741,665 ..
Spain	6,726,888	9,259,976	6,006,684 ..
Switzerland	2,115,900	5,707,000	5,856,500 ..
Belgium	969,413	2,277,633	2,767,791 ..
Austria-Hungary	870,600	1,820,100	2,034,600 ..
Russia	993,714	1,818,180	1,900,680 ..
Denmark	514,898	802,000	1,150,100 ..
Sweden	404,765	591,573	774,673 ..
Canada	125,000	312,378	585,646 ..
Italy	650,000	466,300	468,200 ..
Norway	119,859	410,104	439,813 ..
Australia	248,501	554,747	443,963 ..
Finland	23,998	47,367	61,031 ..
Totals	64,507,218	122,185,060	127,355,267 ..

Showing an increase in the consumption of nearly one hundred per cent. in the nine years.

The West Indies and the Convention.

(From the Produce Markets Review.)

In one of Mr. F. Gould's recent cartoons, Mr. Chamberlain is depicted as standing on the roof of the closed factory of Messrs. Icke & Sharp, of Birmingham, and looking imperially through a telescope at one of the West Indies on the far distant horizon. Confectioners and jam makers may rave together, but the West Indies think that they have got in for a good thing in the Brussels Convention. So far as their coming season is concerned, this is no doubt the case, for they are likely to obtain 4s. or 5s. per cwt. beyond what they have received of late years, and this, on their total crop, means an added revenue of from £1,000,000 to £1,250,000 sterling. Assuming also, which we believe to be the case, that in the more favourably situated parts of the islands, sugar can be put f.o.b. at a first cost of 8s. for Muscovado, and of 9s. for the vacuum pan, the current quotations will yield a large and satisfactory profit. This result is, of course, some set-off to the sufferings in our home trade, which have been brought about by the Convention.

It would not, however, be judicious for the West Indies to imagine that the present range of prices is at all likely to continue. On the contrary, it is certain to be only temporary, and to be replaced later on by something like the late low range of values. It appears to be generally known that 88 per cent. beet can be put f.o.b. with sufficient profit, and in an ordinary season, at 9s. 6d. per cwt., and that white granulated sugar on the same basis can be freely sold at 11s. 9d. per cwt. These, therefore, are the prices which the West Indies would do well to bear in mind as those they will have to deal with in the future, when once the present temporary scarcity of sugar has disappeared.

For the past 10 years we have been urging in these pages, the necessity that existed for an entire transformation in the methods of manufacture of the West Indies. Some progress has been made in past years, and some quite recently, towards the adoption of modern processes of manufacture and such islands as Trinidad are now abreast of the times; while in Demerara (which, though on the mainland, is generally considered with the West Indies) the system has long been perfected. Nevertheless, something like three-fourths of the sugar crops of the West Indian Islands proper are still made on the old and wasteful open pan process. In its time that process was no doubt as good a one as could be used, and while the protective sugar duties lasted in England it no doubt paid well enough. Under these duties we paid for generations 25s. per cwt. for West Indian sugar, which, it is shown, can now be produced at 8s. per cwt., and, under such a prosperous state of things, it is not surprising that the grossest imperfections in manufacture passed unnoticed. Nowadays, however, our West Indian planters have to contend, not only with the scientific manufacture and cultivation on the Continent, but with islands such as Java, where the process of cultivation and manufacture has been brought up to such a wonderful pitch of perfection, that in favourable spots fine sugar can be produced at 6s. per cwt. It is well known, and in fact it is almost universally admitted that the old open pan system of manufacture in the West Indies involves a waste of two-thirds of the saccharine in the cane so far as sugar only is concerned; and of 50 per cent. of its strength, if sugar and the waste products of molasses and rum be all taken into account.

In a competitive age it is absolutely impossible that such a wasteful process can continue, and the destruction of the islands which stick to the ideas of Père Labat for sugar production is certain. There is, and always has been, a remedy at hand, and that is the separation of cultivation from manufacture, and the erection of central factories where sugar can be made on a large scale, and on modern systems. Owing to the old protection which the West Indies enjoyed from the Mother Country, estates were so profitable that they were divided and sub-divided too minutely to be able to bear the expense of proper machinery, besides which extensive machinery cannot pay unless the supplies given to it are in proportion to the cost. On the Continent the general system is for the

farmers to grow the beetroots, and for the manufacturers to buy them, and then to extract the sugar with the most powerful machinery. In this way the attention of the growers is concentrated on careful and good cultivation, while the manufacturer buys, if he is wise, with distinct reference to the saccharine strength of the roots, and is left to pay undivided attention to the extraction of the juice and the manufacture of the sugar. Central factories, to be successful, must be on a large scale, and no doubt they are costly. Cash, however, for their general erection would be forthcoming in suitable parts, if only half of the profits obtained from cane sugar in the West Indies were applied to the purpose by mutual co-operation among neighbouring planters. At present there is practically little sign of progress in this direction, although we have been assured over and over again that the defects still existing were all recognized, and that they would be removed directly the bounties were abolished, so that there was some certainty of permanence under which an appeal to capitalists could be made. Whatever changes may take place in the sugar market in future years, it is quite certain that the bounties are dead and buried, so that the planters and capitalists interested in the West Indies now have that permanence which they have desired so long. No doubt a great many of the old-fashioned planters who were so fond of leaning upon broken reeds, now flatter themselves that the Canadian preferences in favour of their sugar will enable them to go on in the old way. Past experience, however, shows that there is no use whatever in relying upon temporary aid of this sort, and that reliance can only be placed upon economical cultivation and manufacture. The sufferings of the West Indies are indeed due almost in their entirety to economic causes.

Our West Indies have immense advantages for the cultivation of sugar. In the first place, it has been so long established that it has become, so to speak, indigenous in the Islands, and the whole subject is thoroughly understood. As compared with the Continent, they are, through the Imperial Agricultural Department, steadily encouraged in improving the cane itself, by the selection of suitable seedlings, and bringing it up to a better standard than the species which have so long been used. The manufacture of sugar in itself is also thoroughly well understood, and it is only a question of buying the proper machinery, as to which there is really no difficulty, once the money is found. From a scientific point of view, therefore, the West Indies may now be considered, if not up to the mark, at any rate able to reach it. They have further the immense advantage that, although the weight of sugar extracted from a ton of beet is more than the weight extracted from a ton of cane in the West Indies, yet that the tonnage of cane grown on an acre of ground is at least double that of the tonnage of beetroots on the same area. This is easily understood when it is remembered that the lordly sugar cane occupies so large a proportion of the air, while the humble beetroot grows close to the ground, and has no waving banners either of leaves or of tasselled bloom. The extra yield of sugar per acre is an enormous point in favour of cane-growing countries. There has never been any doubt but that, with proper systems of cultivation and manufacture, the cane could more than hold its own with the beet. Naturally the beetroot has a considerable advantage in being consumed near to the fields where it is grown, while the sugar of the tropics has to traverse the ocean. The West Indies in particular have long suffered from unnecessarily high freights and from slow lines of steamers. The experience of the Elder-Dempster line to Jamaica shows that this difficulty can be met, at any rate with the aid of a subsidy. That subsidy, however, was given with a special view to the development of an entirely new industry, viz.: that of the shipment of bananas and other fruits to England. The West Indian sugar trade is large enough and strong enough to support proper lines of steamers on its own account, if once they can manage to break through the old ring at home, which has existed so long, and which thinks little of such details as maintaining freights and charges. The Convention and the present rise of sugar have created a great deal of interest and discussion in our West Indian islands, and it is to be hoped that the resulting ferment will lead to practical steps being taken to bring the industry up to date.

Canada and the West Indies.

An important meeting of the Committee of Management of the Montreal Corn Exchange was held at the end of last month to discuss the subject of the great need of a direct steamship service between Montreal and the West Indies, and it was resolved to address the Government with regard to the matter, and to ask the co-operation of the Montreal and Toronto Boards of Trade, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and the French Chamber of Commerce. In view of the fact that the Government is arranging a service to Mexican ports it was also decided to ask that Cuba should be made a port of call for that line. On this subject, Mr. J. Russel Murray, our esteemed Hon. correspondent in Montreal, writes that he has been calling together a large number of the merchants interested in the West Indian and South American business, and explaining to them the requirements of the West Indian trade, and proposing that they should do business direct instead of, as hitherto, via New York.

Jamaica Fruit in London.

In its annual review of the Christmas fruit trade, the *Times* of December 23rd states that "Jamaica products occupy an important position in the Christmas fruit trade this season. The famous thin-skinned oranges from the colony sold from 10s. to 15s. a case, though only a few selected samples realized the highest figure quoted. These oranges are sweet, the only sweet high-grade oranges obtainable at this time of the year; hence their growing popularity. The weekly shipments, ranging from 8,000 to 10,000 boxes and barrels, though by no means large, are satisfactory. When these fruits become better known to the public, the demand and sale will be trebled. No other oranges at Christmas are comparable to them. But the fruit should not be shipped in such large packages as barrels. Jamaica mandarins are also excellent. There are no miniature scented oranges of their class to be found upon the English markets that can equal them. In cases of sixty fruits they have sold from 10s. to 14s. a case. These prices are a good gauge of the estimate placed upon their quality by trade buyers. It is a pity that more of them are not to be had for the festive season. No daintier fruit enters our ports."

Another Show of Colonial Fruit.

The Council of the Royal Horticultural Society have decided to hold a second Show of Colonial Fruits on Thursday and Friday, March 30th and 31st next, with a view to the exhibition of such fruits as could not be looked for in perfection on December 13th and 14th last. As the first show was so successful, many of the Colonies which did not avail themselves of it, will doubtless be glad of this opportunity of displaying their produce and the West India Committee will be very glad to make the necessary arrangements for such Colonies as may decide to exhibit. The fruit will have to be despatched by the mail leaving Barbados on March 11th and arriving at Southampton on March 23rd and should be consigned to the Secretary, The West India Committee, at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster.

The Cotton Industry.

The principal cotton growers in St. Vincent have approached the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture with a view to purchasing the cotton factory from the Government, and it is hoped that some arrangement may be made before the cotton is sent in for ginning. In Barbados there is also a proposal on foot for taking over the central cotton factory and working it on co-operative lines. By such means, the planters growing cotton will receive any profits arising from ginning, and at all events will get their cotton ginned, baled and shipped for the actual cost. A circular letter has been issued by the Cotton Committee to the planters, asking them to take up shares. The Company will

have a capital of £1,000, to be divided into 2,000 shares of 10s. each, the allotment being made on the basis of one share per acre or part of an acre under cotton. Already more than half the number of shares have been taken up, and we learn that the Cotton Committee is now awaiting the replies from proprietors at home. It would undoubtedly appear to be greatly to the advantage of proprietors to have an interest in the central cotton factory, and if the circular has failed to reach any of our Barbados friends on this side, we shall be very glad to send them copies. It is estimated that the Company will be capable of earning a profit of from 15 to 20 per cent, provided that the same charge is made for ginning as hitherto, that is to say, 3 cents per lb. of lint. 2s. 6d. per share will be called up on February 1st, and 7s. 6d. on December 31st, 1905.

We have frequently adverted to the possibilities of cotton growing in British Guiana, and in this connection the report of Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland of the British Cotton Growing Association, upon a sample of Sea Island Cotton from Demerara which was forwarded to them by Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co., will be of interest. It was classified as clear, bright, well-prepared and of a fine, long, strong staple, and valued on December 28th in commercial quantities at 14d. per lb. The Association has also reported upon a sample of cotton grown on Mr. George Farmer's plantations "Ostend" and "Endeavour" Canal No. 1, as "grown from Sea Island seed, clean, bright, fine staple, fairly strong, valued at 13d. to 14d. per lb." In Jamaica, progress is being made, and we have received from one of our Members, Colonel Malcolm of Poltalloch, and forwarded to Manchester samples of cotton grown on one of his estates, and are now awaiting the report regarding it.

During the fortnight ended December 30th, no imports of West Indian Cotton were recorded. West Indian cotton medium fine is quoted 4.45d. per lb., and West Indian Sea Island, medium fine 12½d.; fine 13½d.; extra fine 15½d.

New Members of the West India Committee.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on Thursday, December 29th, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
W. F. SELLERS, Esq. (Barbados)	F. N. Martinez, Esq.	The Hon. A. C. Ponsonby
GEO. BERNARD, Esq.	F. N. Martinez, Esq.	George Carrington, Esq.
MESSRS. E. LAZENBY & SON, LTD.	F. N. Martinez, Esq.	Lt.-Col. F. C. Trollope
MESSRS. CHALMERS, GUTHRIE & CO., LTD.	Edward Kynaston, Esq.	Edward Anderson, Esq.

Of those elected during the year 1904, 67 are from Trinidad; 39 from Jamaica; 29 from British Guiana; 26 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.

Colonial Reports—Jamaica.

The report of Mr. Sydney Olivier, Acting Governor of Jamaica, on the Blue Book of the Colony for 1903-4 (Colonial Report No. 438. For summary of previous Reports 1902-3, No. 414, see *Circular* No. 121, p. 129; and 1901-2, see *Circular* No. 87, p. 6) has attracted considerable attention from the Press as it is worded in quite a literary style hardly usual with these annual summaries, and is, moreover, very full and complete. "Time," says Mr. Olivier, "is still popularly reckoned by the almanack rather than by the calendar—our dates are epochs, not numerals; we cast back to slavery, emancipation, to cholera, rebellion, to hurricane years, to Kingston fire, the exhibition; and the year 1903 gave us a new point of departure in what a more erudite generation has evidently settled to speak of as 'the cyclone of August 11th, 1903.'" He then gives an elaborate description of the disaster,

compiled from official despatches of the Governor, and pays a compliment to the West India Committee, which "spared no effort to arouse the sympathy of the public to the requirements of the situation." The statistics of the year are then dealt with in their customary order.

The following is a comparative table of revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	
1899-00 ...	£625,131 ...	£593,927 ...	£31,204 Surplus.
1900-01 ...	760,386 ...	763,662 ...	3276 Deficit.
1901-02 ...	774,837 ...	751,699 ...	32,138 Surplus.
1902-03 ...	856,514 ...	788,847 ...	67,667 "
1904-05 ...	926,164 ...	822,876 ...	103,288 "

It must, however, be pointed out that the revenue included the large item of £100,394 transferred from the credit of the Civil Service Widows and Orphans Pension Fund, now wound up by operation of Law 32 of 1903. The balance sheet, which on April 1st showed a deficit of £35,497, showed on March 31, 1904, a surplus of £67,791. Excluding the transfer of the Pension Fund, the ordinary revenue, the hurricane notwithstanding, exceeded the expenditure by £2894.

We append a comparative table of the amounts and value of exports of local produce from Jamaica during 1902-3 and 1903-4:—

Articles.	1902-1903.		1903-1904.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Cacao ... Cwt. ...	31,462 ...	£65,285 ...	22,008 ...	£65,285 ...
Coconuts ... No. ...	25,623,644 ...	67,903 ...	14,951,245 ...	49,890 ...
Coffee ... Cwt. ...	107,855 ...	130,775 ...	80,061 ...	112,085 ...
Fruit - Bananas, Bunches	14,184,375 ...	1,134,750 ...	7,803,243 ...	585,243 ...
,, Oranges, No. ...	98,589,575 ...	101,054 ...	82,630,540 ...	72,303 ...
Ginger ... Cwt. ...	29,134 ...	46,613 ...	— ...	42,465 ...
Logwood ... Tons ...	37,895 ...	97,106 ...	42,259 ...	110,929 ...
Pimento ... Cwt. ...	114,996 ...	91,997 ...	71,078 ...	68,847 ...
Rum ... Gals. ...	1,927,150 ...	156,581 ...	1,293,716 ...	97,029 ...
Sugar ... Cwts. ...	406,455 ...	167,663 ...	270,493 ...	121,722 ...

Consular Report.

Senegal, 1903.—The chief product of export is ground nuts, and the crop of 1903, which was to be exported in 1904, was expected to be considerably inferior in quality to that of 1902, and the nuts themselves are mostly smaller. There are signs that the soil is getting exhausted, and the Government had sent an expert to Egypt to study the methods employed there for the cultivation of ground nuts, and, at the same time, cotton, which might be grown on a large scale.

Notes of Interest.

BANK RATE. 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 NEW COLONIAL COMPANY. Mr. Henry Hales, late of the firm of Messrs. J. V. Drake & Co., has been elected a Member of the Board of the New Colonial Company, Limited.

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.

MESSRS. GILLESPIE BROS. & CO. Mr. Alexander Marshall Gillespie, the son of Mr. William Gillespie, a Member of our executive Committee, has been appointed a partner in the old-established firm of Messrs. Gillespie, Bros. & Co.

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.

MORE LECTURES. The afternoon meetings at the West India Committee Rooms proved so successful last year that Members will doubtless be glad to learn that arrangements are now being made for a further series of lectures regarding matters concerning the West Indies to be delivered early this year.

THE OLD ROYAL MAIL. Mr. Owen Phillips, Chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company has communicated to us an emphatic denial that the Company is for sale. He states that during the last three years certain preposterous suggestions for a purchase were made but they were never deemed worthy of serious consideration.

THE LATE SIR HENRY NORMAN. It is understood that a Committee is in course of formation with a view to raise a memorial to the late Field Marshal Sir Henry Norman. Doubtless many connected with the West Indies will welcome the opportunity of marking their appreciation of his services to the Colonies which will never be forgotten.

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.

BINDING CASES. 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. "Salybia" from London for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, Demerara, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, and Barbice, Jan. 6th; S.S. "Cavalier" from Liverpool for Demerara Jan. 12; and the R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, on Jan. 14th. Letters must be specially addressed "by Private Ship," and the name of the ship and port of departure added.

FRUIT FROM PUERTO RICO. Puerto Rico, the beautiful island which the United States took from Spain as a penalty for that country's defeat in the late war, is joining the already keen competition in the orange-growing industry. Many thousands of trees have been planted during the last two years, and the culture of the orange for export is becoming a large one. This culture is likely to affect primarily the West Indian cultivators, but will doubtless also have an effect upon the imports of Spanish oranges into the States. There is abundance of excellent land in Puerto Rico suitable for orange groves, the quality of the fruit grown is excellent, labour is cheap, and the American markets are at hand to take any quantity of the fruit.—*Fruit Grower*, December 29th, 1904.

The Homeward Mail.

The letters from our Hon. Correspondents, extracts from which are given below, again furnish a record of improvement in commercial as well as climatic conditions in many of the Colonies in the West Indies; but rain was still wanted, especially in Antigua, Barbados and British Guiana. The completion of the Antiguan Central Factory, and the enhanced prices paid for estates sold in Barbados are significant features of the fortnight, to which reference is made elsewhere. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Tagus" anchored off Plymouth on Wednesday, December 28th, at 2.15 p.m., and the Mails were delivered in London on the following day.

Antigua—The Campaign against Mosquitos.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) December 14th. The new Central Factory was practically finished, and was to be officially opened on December 19th. It was, however, improbable that sugar manufacture could begin before the end of March.

The Agricultural and Commercial Society was unable to send a delegate to the Agricultural Conference at Trinidad. The movement for the extermination of mosquitos, started by the Governor, Sir Courtenay Knollys, was progressing. The object was primarily to disseminate knowledge concerning the relation of mosquitos to tropical disease, and to induce people to take active steps towards destroying mosquitos. It was proposed to make the movement as popular as possible by giving lectures accompanied by magic lantern views bearing on the subject.

The writer regretted to have to record the death of Mr. James Robertson, the City Clerk of St. John's, and a well-known character in the Island.

There had been nothing but light scuds of rain during the fortnight, and the weather seemed settling in cool and breezy with no indications of wet. Crop prospects varied a good deal in different parts of the Island; they were nowhere good, and on some estates they could not be much worse. Antigua this year had had no "wet season," such as was looked for in September, October and November.

Barbados—Disappointing Banana Shipments.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE) December 15th. The rising, though fluctuating, movements of the sugar market had naturally caused much satisfaction in the Island, and it seemed assured that their sugar would command good prices when they had anything to sell. The reason for it, of course, as had been pointed out by the West India Committee, was the shortage of beet and the increased consumption on the Continent. The writer did not think that the West Indian cane crop would be a large one; Cuba would be nothing extraordinary, and British Guiana, Barbados and Antigua would be short. Improved prospects had had an immediate effect on the Estate market. No less than six plantations had sold on December 9th at prices above their appraisement. Probably many more would go on the 16th.

The cotton fields were now looking exceedingly beautiful, the trees being of good height and brilliantly green, while the yellow and orange flowers were in abundance. A few fields had been attacked with caterpillars, but these had been treated with paris green, and everyone was on the look-out. The great majority of the fields, however, were free from pests. The Cotton Committee had issued a report showing the working of the factory from January 24th to November 30th of the expiring year.

The writer very much feared that unless the Royal Mail speedily improved its method of transporting bananas, the trade, as far as Barbados was concerned, would be at an end. Recent account sales had given the utmost dissatisfaction, and the prices realised had in many cases not paid the cost of the crate and carriage to Bridgetown. Mr. Frank Pink wrote: "I know that the last few shipments of bananas must have caused great dissatisfaction, and very much regret that I cannot improve matters. The fruit, being delivered to us in bad condition, has to be sold at almost any price. I have written many long letters to the R M S P. Co." They had been in frequent communication with Capt. Owen, who they felt sure was anxious to do what he could; but until the whole of the ships were fitted up with ventilating fans, which Sir Daniel Morris thought would be sufficient, there could be little improvement. Meanwhile, growers had got impatient at losing; one large attorney in the Scotland district had ordered the bananas to be sold for what they would fetch and the trees dug up; another proprietor had dug up ten acres of trees and put them into canes, and so on. The Banana Committee were issuing a circular deprecating hasty action, but everything depended on what the Royal Mail would do.

The delegates to the Trinidad Agricultural Conference were to leave on January 2nd. Professor d'Albuquerque and Mr. J. R. Bovell had received a grant of £28 10s. for the purpose, but the rest would have to pay their own expenses, the Agricultural Society having no funds from which to make a grant. It seemed likely that prædial larceny would form one of the important subjects, and that the delegates of the Barbados Agricultural Society would be requested to press their views. The Society's annual show would be held at Harrison College on Tuesday, December 20th.

One of the Members of the local Committee, Mr. Robert Chaloner, had returned to Barbados from Canada in much improved health.

They were still without heavy rain, but December had been very showery and the canes had much improved. The rainfall had varied from between 2 to 4 inches for the month to date. In many districts the canes, especially on the hedgerows, showed signs of ripeness, and there would certainly be a considerable amount of sugar made next month. Some syrup had been made already. A good deal of the young crop had already been planted, and had begun to show green in the hole. It would practically all be planted in another fortnight, and these showers were most suitable for it. They trusted that frequent showers might continue for the next ten weeks, and give them a fair crop of sweet canes to take advantage of the good prices they hoped to have in 1905, and that it might be a prosperous year for all of them.

British Guiana—Sugar Market Firm.

(A SUMMERSON, Esq.) December 14th. There was to be a meeting of the Legislature and Combined Court on December 20th. The Legislature met on the 7th, when the principal business transacted was the reading of the new Spirits Ordinance.

The sugar market had continued firm during the fortnight, and the local quotation was about \$3.17½.

The weather had continued too dry during the period under review until December 13th, when some light showers fell in Georgetown and the neighbourhood. Heavy rain generally was wanted to saturate the land thoroughly.

Dominica—Beneficial Weather

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.) December 13th. The fortnight had been showery, and although this rendered cacao drying a little difficult, on the whole the weather had been most beneficial.

Jamaica—The Rum Protection Law.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, ESQ.) December 12th. The Trelawny planters were much opposed to the export tax of 10d. per puncheon on rum, and had passed a resolution to that effect. They also complained that they were not consulted on the matter. Trelawny was of opinion that the law would injure their rum trade, as they produced the "German Flavour" rum, which commanded a high price, while Westmoreland producers practically produced common clear quality. Mr. J. C. Nolan had received the appointment under the Rum Protection Law.

The Government was opening the Yallah's Ponds to allow the ingress of the sea, and it was hoped that this would cure the evil smell which had visited Kingston and its vicinity for over two months.

The Merchants' Exchange had passed a resolution expressing the belief that the compulsory marking of packages of fruit with registered trade marks was a useless restriction on trade, which was not calculated to have any effect upon the quality or packing of fruit compared with the natural penalty of a bad price for inferior shipments, and that the use of such trade marks should be made permissive instead of compulsory.

Most parishes of the Island had as a rule been having rains, but Vere was still reported to be dry.

Montserrat—Cotton Picking.

(CONRAD WATSON, ESQ.) December 14th. In spite of frequent dustings of paris green, the cotton worm was still in the fields, and the greatest attention was required to keep it in check. Picking had commenced, and the lint from the Rivers seed was certainly of a very superior quality; this was satisfactory, as most of their cotton had been grown from that seed.

A few showers had fallen during the past week.

Nevis—The Mail Delays.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) December 13th. The last in-coming mail from Barbados, which was expected at the Island at daybreak, on Thursday, December 8th, did not arrive until after mid-day, so they were once more left in the lurch.

The earlier planted cotton was now being reaped, and the quality appeared good and the cotton itself very clean. It was feared that some of the later planting would not turn out so well, as the lack of moisture had somewhat stunted the growth. As the sugar crop next year was likely to be a short one, it was a good thing that the Island had a supplementary crop of some magnitude to swell its exports.

The weather had fallen off again, and during the past week there had been little or no rain.

St. Kitts—A Visit from the Governor.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, ESQ.) December 13th. His Excellency the Governor was at the Island on a flying visit of two days' duration.

The action of Mr. Manchester in bringing forward at the last meeting of the Council a resolution in relation to the firing of salutes, which had been recently discontinued on instructions received from the Governor, was much appreciated. The resolution was so couched as to obtain the support of all the official members, and it was passed *non. con.* It was to be hoped that ere long they would again be allowed to testify to their regard for their Sovereign in the usual way, as had been their custom for generations, until an unfortunate accident occurred in Antigua.

The weather since last mail had been showery, and on the windward side of the Island, where the weather conditions for the past month had been favourable and the supply of moisture had been kept up, the canes were still vigorous. The leeward side, however, was still in need of rain, and crops in that district were showing signs of ripening.

St. Lucia—A Cotton-Growing Syndicate.

(SYDNEY D. MELVILLE, ESQ.) December 16th. A small company was to be floated in the Island for the purpose of promoting the cultivation of cotton; no prospectus was yet out, and not much information as to the prospects of success was forthcoming just then. The efforts of the West India Committee towards obtaining the services of the cotton experts was duly appreciated in the Island.

There had been some showers, but they had not had the normal quantity of rain.

St. Vincent—A Co-operative Cotton Factory

(Messrs D. K. PORTER & Co.) December 16th. The principal cotton growers of the Island had approached the Commissioner of Agriculture with a view to purchasing the Cotton factory from the Government, and they trusted the transaction might go through before the cotton was sent in for ginning in January.

The weather continued favourable for all crops, but the yield of arrowroot was very disappointing.

Trinidad—Cacao Shipments

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C.M.G.) Dec. 16th. It was definitely arranged that the Agricultural Conference should be held in Port of Spain and be opened on January 4th. As the delegates from other Colonies could not leave before Jan. 13th, there would be time for them to visit various places of interest in Trinidad, and a Reception Committee had been appointed by the Governor to arrange excursions, etc. In reference to Sir Daniel Morris's invitation to appoint two members to represent Trinidad, the Agricultural Society selected Mr. P. Abel and Mr. Gaston de Gannes. At Sir Daniel's request, Dr. Morton and the writer had been added.

As regarded Venezuela, the writer was one of the party of about eighty who had taken advantage of a trip arranged by the Superintendent of the Dutch Company in one of their steamers, to visit, on December 11th, the new port of Cristobal Colon, now being established by President Castro with the object of still further alienating Trinidad from any business with his country. It was an open roadstead, much exposed to the south and south-east. There was a roughly-constructed jetty suitable only for boats and very light goods, and there were three covered punts available for transshipping purposes. On shore there was a fairly good residence for the Collector of Customs (Senor Requena) and a Custom House of ample dimensions just completed. A Bonding Warehouse was in course of construction. A few native huts were the only other buildings. Trees were planted to shade the streets and boulevards of the future, and a fountain was already playing in a central position, but it was very doubtful if the place would ever develop much beyond its present position. The Collector of Customs boasted of a large and increasing coasting trade, but the writer understood that this increasing trade was simply a diversion from the port of Guiria.

The Secretary of State had definitely approved of the smaller of Messrs. Coode and Matthews' two schemes for harbour improvement, and the Legislative Council was to be asked on December 19th to give adhesion and consent. (A copy of the Governor's Minute and some correspondence in regard to it was received by the mail, and can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms.)

No reply had yet been received from the Governor to the report of the Committee of Planters on the incidence of the tax for Immigration purposes. The Ordinance to raise funds in the usual manner had to be passed before the end of the year, and a meeting was, therefore, fixed for December 30th. This Ordinance would probably be passed without comment, and any move in the direction of amendment would be reserved for the passing of the estimates in March.

There had been several showers during the fortnight, but the quantity of rain was altogether insufficient for their needs. Both cacao and canes were suffering severely: the latter in many places were beginning to dry up, which would necessitate an early start of grinding operations.

The cacao crop was being seriously affected. Pickings continued on a fairly large scale, but were not so plentiful as at the corresponding period of last year. The declines registered in the London market had had little effect on local prices, and buyers were still paying much above the present parities. Several sales had been made for the U.S.A. at low figures, but little business had been transacted with Europe. A few bags of Venezuelan had made ready sales in Trinidad at between \$12.40 and \$12.50 per fanega.

Shipments.

Total at last Return...	...	...	...	278,787	Trinidad	...	40,544	Venezuela
December 3rd —S.S. "La Plata"	...	...	...	253	"	...		Europe.
" 13th.—S.S. "Savan"	...	...	...	2,155	"	...		"
" 13th.—S.S. "Croatia"	...	...	...	1,750	"	...		"
" 14th.—"P. Wilhelm II."	...	...	...	1,078	"	...		"
" 14th.—"Grenada"	...	...	...	2,872	"	...		87: New York.
				286,895				
							41,415	

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.

THE REV. F. CAUNT has been appointed a Member of the Poor Law Board of Sandy Point, Nevis.

SECOND-LIEUTENANT W. G. KAY, Trinidad Light Infantry Volunteers, has resigned his commission.

MR. DAVID F. WILNER has returned to Barbados, and resumed his duties on December 2nd as Consul for the United States of America.

MR. L. A. R. DAVIS, Second Class Officer of Customs, has returned to British Guiana, and resumed the duties of his office on December 6th.

MR. M. J. BOVELL and MR. G. B. CLARKE have been appointed to be Auditors under Section 3 of the Friendly Societies Act, 1904, Barbados.

MR. R. J. SCOTT BUSHE, Assistant Colonial Civil Engineer, British Guiana, has been granted vacation leave of absence for three months from December 7th.

MR. FRANK FOWLER, J.P., Commissioner of Lands and Mines, British Guiana, has returned to the Colony, and resumed the duties of his office on December 7th.

MR. C. H. DOWNER, M.R.C.S.E., L.R.C.P.L., Private Practitioner, has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the Leper Asylum, Mahaica, British Guiana.

MR. P. L. A. FRASER has been appointed to act as Superintendent of Prisons, Trinidad, from December 16th, during the absence on leave of Mr. G. F. Bourne.

MR. G. B. KING, First Assistant Clerk, has been appointed to act as Chief Clerk, Police Magistrates Courts, District "A," Barbados, from December 12th, 1904.

SIR GEORGE C. PILE, K.T., President of the Legislative Council and Member of the Executive Committee, Barbados, has been granted two months leave of absence from December 10th, 1904.

MR. P. K. RAMKEESON, Second Clerk in the Immigration Department, has been appointed to act as Inspector of Immigrants, Couva, Trinidad, during the absence on leave of Mr. W. Knox.

THE HON. WILLIAM PETER and the HON. GOTTFRIED GRAF have been re-appointed Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council of St. Lucia for a further period of six years from September 1st last.

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR R. B. LLEWELYN, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Windward Islands, having left St. Vincent, HIS HONOUR E. D. LABORDE, I.S.O., resumed the administration of the Government on December 8th.

MR. GEORGE DRYSDALE BAYLEY, Second Class Clerk, Department of Lands and Mines, has been appointed, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Principal Clerk in the Government Secretary's Office, British Guiana.

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 ST. VINCENT BLUE BOOK FOR 1903 and THE TRINIDAD BLUE BOOK FOR 1903-4. These volumes can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms.

SOME NOTES ON THE WARD OF ALDGATE, 1500-1904. By Richard Kemp (London: Eden Fisher & Co.) 3s. net. A most interesting book, admirably got up and profusely illustrated, many of the pictures in its pages being from photographs taken by the talented author.

THE STATISTICAL ABSTRACT AND THE COLONIES (ed. 1912.) Several additional tables appear in the forty-first number of this publication, which can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms. The acreage and production of coffee in Trinidad for 1899 when it was 3991 acres to 1903 when it amounted to 4728 is given, and also the production and exports of cotton from the various British Colonies and possessions.

THE AGRICULTURAL NEWS, Vol. III., No. 70 (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms) price 1d., post free 1½d. The arrangements for the Agricultural Conference are the subject matter of the editorial in this issue. A note on the improved prospects of the sugar industry in Jamaica will be read with special interest at this juncture. The prospects of the cotton crop are again reviewed, and the usual notes of interest complete a useful number of this valuable publication.

THE PICTURE POSTCARDS OF THE WEST INDIES. The following series are now ready. Packets of 12 cards all different. Series 1.—West Indian Views. Series 2.—West Indian Life, 1/- per packet. Packets of 6 cards, all different. Series 3.—Barbados. Series 4.—British Guiana. Series 5.—Jamaica. Series 6.—Trinidad, 6d. per packet from G. P. Osmond, 15, Seething Lane, E.C., the Bon Marché, Barbados, and all leading stationers in the other Colonies. The West Indian Press has been generous in its praise of the cards, the object of which is to popularise the West Indies.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) December 20th. "A few light showers have fallen, but more would be acceptable." Jan. 2nd. "Rain much wanted, crops suffering." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.) Dec. 21st. "Favourable rain." Dec. 23rd. "Weather seasonable." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) Dec. 23rd. "Six inches of rain have fallen during the week, evenly distributed." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Dec. 23rd. "Over two inches rain generally." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) Dec. 23rd. "Some acceptable rains have fallen in Demerara County." Undated. "Acceptable rains in Berbice, heavy rain generally in Demerara." **Trinidad** (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), Dec. 29th. "Showery weather."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Coconuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.	Cotton.
	Tons.	lbs.	Tons.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.	lbs.
British Guiana—									
Jan. 1 to Dec. 13, '04	100,805	105,626	7347	19,077	399,464	2834	78,512	10,453	—
" " 15, '03	119,226	124,442	1366	23,577	4991	3548	87,617	9513	—
Jamaica—									
Apr 1 to Nov 19, '04	6048	15,301	18,124	917,358	1,651,795	93,799	5,547,458	64,326,161	8516
" " 23, '03	8149	16,588	20,462	879,954	13,615,910	52,314	7,379,141	61,382,800	—
Trinidad—									
Jan. 1 to Dec. 15, '04	394,768	39,971,930	64,435	981	8,781,132	2445	58	139	127,124
" " 15, '03	382,407	27,240,010	42,360	1173	13,675,292	3573	178	168	171,124
Grenada—									
Oct 1 to Dec. 2, '04	—	5640	919	127	127	151	106	—	—
" " 2, '03	—	5672	919	127	127	151	21	—	—

The Malls.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Tagus," (Capt. H. E. Rudge) Dec. 28th:— Barbados—Mr. R. Elder, Mrs. H. Cole. Demerara—Mr. H. Vallance, Hon. G. Garnett, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Field, Mr. E. P. Wood, Mr. G. Croft. Jamaica—Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Livingston, Lieut. and Mrs. Marshall, Mr. R. P. Goffe, Mr. W. Vann Ness, Mr. MacAllister. Trinidad—Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Sellier, Mr. St. Y. de Verteuil, Mr. E. Chong Lop, Mrs. Vignali, Mr. C. A. Richardson, Mr. E. Guewen.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "La Plata" (Capt. W. J. Dagnall), Jan. 4th:— Barbados—Mr. J. W. C. Catford, Mrs. and the 2 Misses Catford, Miss A. James, Mr. Ashton, Capt. S. Hamilton, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Pritchett, Mr. J. J. Wharmby, Mr. W. H. Tetley, Mr. and Mrs. de Vere Bertie, Mr. and Mrs. Harding, Mr. J. C. Smith, Mr. and Miss Rogers, Mr. W. C. Gruside, Mr. J. E. Gruside. Demerara—Miss Jenkins, Mr. P. Purvis, Mr. G. Fryer, Mr. W. J. Smith. Jamaica—Rev. T. George, Mrs. M. George, Mr. G. W. Wolf, M.P., Miss May, Miss A. Marvin, Mr. H. Scott, Mrs. D. Paine, Miss A. Sidney, Miss E. Grieves, Mr. H. Russell. Trinidad—Mr. E. L. Atkinson, Mr. J. Shearer, Rev. R. S. Gardner. Antigua—Dr. and Mrs. F. Morris, Miss J. Morris, Mr. T. Fisher, Miss M. Watts. St. Kitts—Mr. Arthur Lee.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Tagus" (Capt. H. E. Rudge), Jan. 18th:— Barbados—Mr. and Mrs. F. Whitting-stall, Mr. and Mrs. Muir, Mr. J. Hoggan, Miss R. Pagan, Miss M. Macfarlane, Mr. E. C. Malet de Cartaret, Mrs. Dousy, Mr. L. Davies, Mr. D. Blake, Mr. and Mrs. Maddock, Miss Riordon, 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. W. Nixey, Lieut. R. B. Umfreville, Mr. A. R. Robertson, Mrs. and 2 Misses Vandaleur, Dr. W. A. Smith, Mr. Greg, Mr. and Mrs. Harrington, Mr. Newson, Mr. Waldermeur, Mr. R. G. Campbell. Demerara—Hon. C. Cox, C.M.G., Mrs. and Miss Cox, Mr. N. Farrar, Mr. and Mrs. Gall, Sir H. A. and Lady Bovell, Mrs. Anson, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. A. Farmer, Sir T. C. and Lady Rayner, Mr. J. Solomon. Jamaica—The Hon. E. Ellis, Col. H. J. Blagrove, C.B., Mr. and Mrs. Aikman, Sir G. and Lady Dallas, Mr. and Mrs. H. Hollis, Earl Poulett, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Crum Ewing, Col. E. Townshend, Mr. K. Harvey, Miss K. Kemp, Mrs. R. Price. Trinidad—Mrs. E. Gordon, Miss I. Sanderson, Mr. C. Chizzolo, Mr. G. R. Alston. Antigua—Mrs. Udal, Major Knollys. St. Lucia—Mr. N. Mitchell, Hon. Mark Kerr. Tobago—Mr. R. Archibald, Mr. Archibald.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), Dec. 31st:— Jamaica—Mr. W. H. Allport, Col. Adams, Vicount Brackley, Mr. R. C. Burn, Mr. Baden Powell, Major C. Browne, Sir J. C. Browne, Miss E. Bell, Mr. T. G. O. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. McCulloch, Dr. F. Coke, Mr. P. Careless, Mr. McConney, Mr. I. H. Campbell, Mr. T. H. Drummond, Miss Dignam, Miss E. L. Delisser, Miss Durrant, Mr. C. H. Ebdon, Dr. and Mrs. G. Edgelow, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Feely, Dr. G. O'Gorman, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. H. Haggart, Mr. G. H. S. Hayward, Mr. J. Hickenbottom, Sir W. Jardine, Bart., Miss E. Keeling, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Lingard-Monk, Col. Loscombe, Miss S. F. Latimer, Miss Loscombe, Miss E. Messer, Capt. J. E. Mackenzie, Mr. H. R. F. Mackay, Miss Meldrum, Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Marwick, Sir William and Lady C. Plowden, Mr. J. C. Pawson, Prof. and Mrs. Rhyls, Capt. W. W. Rhodes, Mr. C. A. Reynolds, Mr. A. F. Somerset, Rev. and Mrs. J. N. Suaby, Mrs. R. A. Shiers, Miss Stanhope, Mrs. and Miss Tod, Mr. W. E. Tod, Mr. and Mrs. D. A. MacTavish, Mrs. Vernon, Capt. E. G. Wynyard, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Wilson, Mr. T. Q. Wright, Mr. H. Yonge, Mr. E. C. Brayne, Mr. E. G. Hayes, Mr. Moss, Mr. S. Repton, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Wheeler, F. R. Benson's Shakespearian Companies

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—The year of 1904 has been one of extreme interest to sugar growers, being remarkable in the first place for an experience of what the abolition of Bounties and Kartels could produce, bringing sugar at last to a genuine Free Trade basis, but more especially for the phenomenally short Beet Crop by reason of last summers drought, thus by combination violently affecting prices. On the 2nd January, 1904, the quotation of 88% was 8s. 4½d. whereas to-day it is 14s. 6½d. thus showing an enhancement in value of no mean order. Competent authorities were generally calculating on a rise of to say 10s. basis 88 or thereabouts and if the European crops, as sown, had been reaped in normal conditions, this would probably have been about the price of the day. Unfortunately these crops which in the season of 1903/4 produced some 5,850,000 tons will probably supply us with crops this year not much exceeding 4,600,000 tons and the curtailment of some 1½ million tons from the supply available for the known world, plus some moderate excess only in cane comparatively, could not fail to attract the attention of speculators who are always the pioneers of any advance in price. To the short beet crops and to the short beet crops alone is due this rise in sugar which many sound people think has yet to be followed by a further upward movement in the spring and summer. Be this as it may, the exhaustion of stocks bids fair to be so important by October next, when another beet crop becomes available, that a return to low prices looks very far distant for 1905/6. This will be welcome to sugar growers.

The closing quotations of 88% are, January, 14s. 6½d.; May, 14s. 9½d.; August, 14s. 11½d.; and Oct./Dec., 11s. 4½d. all free on board Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Europe	2,620,000	3,250,000	3,020,000	2,860,000	2,410,000	Tons
United States	80,000	60,000	130,000	130,000	60,000	..
Cuba	20,000	100,000	50,000	20,000	—	..
Cargoes afloat	20,000	50,000	50,000	10,000	20,000	..
Total	2,740,000	3,460,000	3,250,000	3,020,000	2,490,000	..

Comparative prices of 88% Beet on 2nd Jan. :— 14s. 6½d. 8s. 4½d. 8s. 1d. 6s. 5½d. 9s. 1½d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—A steady demand continues to prevail for yellow crystallised within the range of 21s. to 23s., average qualities remaining fully 22s. The figures of consumption for 51 weeks since the opening of last year clearly demonstrate the increasing interest taken in this sugar and is a feature worth recording. The figures under this head for the last four years are 47,000, 41,000, 43,000 and 41,000 tons respectively. Final figures for the 52 weeks will be given in the next Summary. For 96 test on floating terms Refiners are offering 15/3 but are failing to attract supplies. Possibly a little more might be obtained.

Molasses Sugar.—Is wanted at prices ranging from 15/- to 18/-.

Muscovado.—The value of a cargo of 89 test for Refiners use is somewhere about 14s. on floating terms. Retail lots of grocery Barbados would command 18s. to 18s. 6d.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1904.	1903.	1902	1901	
Imports to December 24 ...	43,000	24,000	60,000	45,000	Tons
Deliveries	47,000	41,000	43,000	41,000	..
Stocks on	8000	12,000	29,000	12,000	..
Comparative quotations, January 2nd ...	22s.	15s. 9d.	14s. 6d.	15s. 6d.	..

Rum—Stocks in London, 24 Dec.

	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Jamaica	8500	9200	10,900	7900	Puns
Demerara	5100	7600	7900	4500	..
Total of all kinds:—	20,832	26,869	6037	Deficiency	—

An advance of 1d. per proof gallon has again been established in Demerara, and the general range is now 11½d. to 18. 1d. with 1s. as value for fair marks. The indications are for a further slight improvement in prices. Jamaica is now chiefly in dealers' hands, where it ought to be, and a close quotation for Standard Home Trade Marks is not easy to give. Probably 1s. 10d. may prove the lowest price when further arrivals take place. Leewards may be quoted 10d. to 1s. 2d.

Cocoa—Stocks in London, 24 Dec.

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	
	86,000	51,000	61,000	77,000	Bags.

Cocoa is not a pleasant article to write about. Increasing stocks and diminishing prices, with an inferior trade in the country are not conducive to enthusiasm. The Christmas Holidays have to a certain extent interfered with business. On the 10th instant, when public sales are resumed, it is to be hoped more animation will appear. The year recently closed has been one of large crops. Latest quotations are—Trinidad fair collected, 55s. Estate Marks, 55s. to 58s. and 63s. Grenada fair native, 52s.; fermented, 53s. to 55s. From other Islands Native Cocoa is worth 48s., 50s., and fermented 53s., 56s. The quotation for African to arrive is about 56s. on full landed terms.

Coffee.—Firm. Good ordinary Jamaica, 40s. to 41s., and Santos for this month's delivery about 39s.

Ruticas, Mace, Pimento, and Ginger—Markets all closed, and quotations unchanged since the last mail.

Arrowroot—Stocks in London, 24 Dec.

	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901	1900.
No business reported. Manufacturing value about 1½d.	10,487	13,164	13,050	6832	8321

Lime Juice—Slow at 9d. to 1s. Concentrated, quiet at £13 15s.

Distilled Oil—No alteration. Value 1s. 3d. Hand Pressed, unchanged at 2s. 6d., 2s. 9d.

For Cotton, see Special Article, page 9.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XX.

ENTERED AT
STATIONERS HALL.

TUESDAY, JAN. 17th, 1905.

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No. 143.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

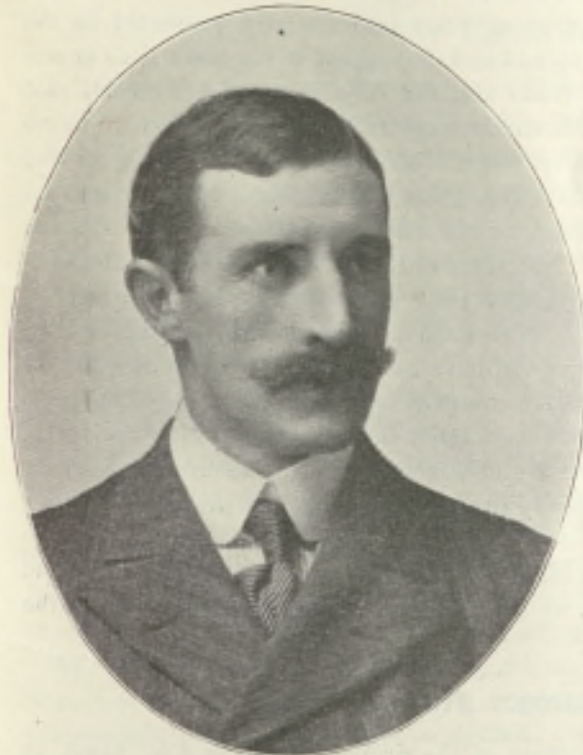
No. XXXIV.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

January 16th, 1905

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.



Mr. Gregor Macgregor Frame.

THE reported decision of the British Government to withdraw the troops from Barbados and St. Lucia emphasises the urgent need of coupling up our West Indian possessions with an all-British and, we might add, a thoroughly reliable cable. For a long time past we have strongly recommended the extension of the lines of the Direct West India and the Halifax and Bermuda Cable Companies from Jamaica or Bermuda to the Islands and British Guiana, and it will not be surprising if the old charges of apathy and indifference to the more pressing needs of the West Indies are not once more levelled at the Government if some decision is not soon arrived at, or some indication given that the settlement of what has become a burning question is within sight. In British Guiana, at all events, the feeling is becoming tense, and already the Chamber of Commerce and the Planters' Association in that Colony have cabled—if one can call it cabling when the message has to go for a sea voyage of forty hours before it can be trans-

mitted by electricity—a vigorous protest against the constant breakdowns. As the *Demerara Argosy*

points out, the condition of the cable calls for some immediate and energetic action, and it is absolutely useless to look for any amelioration so long as a fresh cable is not laid. "If the potentialities of wireless telegraphy do not promise a reliable and immediate use of such medium, it is absurd to wait until the system is perfected. There are only two means possible. The best and preferable is for the Government to come at once to terms with the Direct West India Cable Company for a new service. The second, which might give us a duplicate connection, is to carry out the plan of Sir J. A. Swettenham by running a line to Surinam, thus connecting us with the French Company's system there." The latter alternative would be useful as a duplicate service, but it would not give as the first would, what is so urgently needed—an all-British cable.

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer has given what should prove to be an effective quietus to that section of the confectioners which has been crying out that they are being ruined by the abolition of the foreign sugar bounties and thus practically claiming that they are unable to conduct their industry unless they can obtain their raw material below the cost of production. A deputation of these malcontents waited upon him on Friday last ostensibly to urge the remission of the sugar duty, but they took the opportunity also of complaining in no unmeasured terms of the Brussels Sugar Bounties Convention. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, in reply, indicated that there was no possibility of his sacrificing the revenue resulting from the duty, which amounted now to something like £6,000,000 a year. As regards the Convention, he asked if they imagined that the low level of prices brought about by artificial conditions could have continued indefinitely. He questioned whether the confectionery industry was in such a bad way as the speakers made out, and pointed out that distress was not confined to that trade alone, but was prevalent in a great many trades wholly unaffected by the circumstances on which the deputation laid stress. He adduced in support of his views some figures showing the number of failures in the confectionery trade and the very substantial dividends paid recently, and pointed out that the true remedy for such sudden rises as had recently occurred was the increase of sources of supply, which would undoubtedly result from the Convention. We referred above to "a section" of the confectioners because it does not appear that the whole body is concerned in the recent ignominious agitation. The current number of the *International Sugar Journal* contains two letters from confectioners which make this clear. Mr. Richard King, a cocoa and chocolate manufacturer of Bristol, gives some interesting figures showing that the imports of cocoa showed an increase for the five years ended 1903, *i.e.*, before the Convention, of five and a quarter million pounds, and even allowing for increase of consumption, this must, we imagine, have been responsible for some reduction of the manufacture of cocoa in this country. Now that the controversy, which reflects very little credit upon those who originated it, is likely to be terminated, we cannot but express a little surprise that other Colonies such as Mauritius and Queensland, who are also interested in the abolition of bounties, have left the West India Committee to bear practically the entire brunt of the attack. In another column will be found a letter which was addressed by the Committee to the *Times* on the 4th inst., the views in which were endorsed by the leading brokers in Mincing Lane, whose letter is also given, and should, therefore, carry additional weight, and these, we hope, will serve the purpose of closing the discussion.

Mr. Gregor Macgregor Frame.

Mr. Gregor Macgregor Frame, the senior partner of the firm of Frame & Co., which he founded in January, 1888, was born in Grenada in 1860, and after receiving education at Gordon's College, Aberdeen, was brought up in the old West Indian house of Gregor, Turnbull & Co.,

of Glasgow and Trinidad. After the death of his uncle, Mr. Turnbull, Mr. Frame opened an office in Glasgow, and two years later moved to 21, Mincing Lane, admitting into partnership with him Mr. George R. Alston, then a merchant in the Island of Trinidad, the title of the firm becoming Frame, Alston & Co. In September, 1899, Mr. P. S. M. Arbuthnot was admitted, and the firm was styled Frame, Alston & Arbuthnot. In 1893 Mr. Frame went to New York, where he opened a branch establishment. In 1902, having paid out his partners, Messrs. Alston & Arbuthnot, he admitted in their place Mr. Stephen Ewen, of Glasgow, and Mr. R. A. Watson and Mr. Ernest Pryor in New York. Mr. Frame has for many years been a Member of the Executive of the West India Committee.

Our Lectures.

A further series of lectures will be inaugurated at the West India Committee Rooms on Wednesday, January 25th, at 3.45 p.m., when 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, will deliver a lecture on the West Indian Fruit Industry. The chair upon this occasion will, it is hoped, be taken by Sir William T. Thistelton Dyer, K.C.M.G., Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. The lecture will be profusely illustrated with limelight views, and at its close, tea will be served. As the attendance is likely to be a large one, it is desirable that those wishing to be present should make an early application for tickets (*free*), which must be strictly limited in number. Ladies, of course, will be welcome.

The Tariff Reform Movement.

Mr. Chamberlain on January 11th addressed a great meeting at Preston in continuance of his fiscal campaign. After remarking that his policy was one which, whether right or wrong, was of infinite importance to the country, he replied at length to Mr. Asquith's recent speech at Preston. Dealing with the special case of the cotton trade, he contended that during the whole time while the price of cotton had been so high, and they in Lancashire had been on short time, the protected countries had consumed more cotton. How was that to be accounted for? How was it that these countries, which, according to the arguments of the free importers, ought to be ruined, had used more cotton than they had? If we wanted to increase our trade we must take measures to compel it, for we should get it only because we were the strongest. The issue depended entirely on whether we were prepared to use our strength. While only attempting to show what the general effect of his policy would be as affecting the whole country, he admitted that the case of the cotton trade was exceptional. Had his hearers satisfied themselves that the condition of the industry was satisfactory now and favourable for the future? He confessed that if he were personally interested in the cotton trade he should feel anxiety for the future, for statistics showed that since 1876 Great Britain's consumption of the world's cotton supply had declined from 41 to 25½ per cent., and their proportion of the world's trade was still rapidly diminishing. His remedy was to secure an increase in our trade with foreign countries by compelling a revision of their tariffs. To say to these countries, "We will pay you in your own coin" would at once produce a considerable amendment, and would also prevent the dumping which Mr. Asquith had described as a blessing in disguise. Mr. Chamberlain proceeded to reply to certain questions received from representatives of the cotton trade, expressly declared that under no circumstances would he tax raw cotton, and briefly referred to the sugar duty, which, he said, it was his object to reduce, putting the burden on articles of luxury. A full report of Mr. Chamberlain's speech is given in the *Times* of January 12th.

The Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

A meeting of the General Exhibition sub-Committee was held on Wednesday 11th. Mr. Robert Rutherford presided, and there were present Sir Edward Noel Walker, Colonel Trollope, Mr. Chambers, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. William Gillespie, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. Joseph Rippon, and the Secretary. Correspondence with the various Colonies was read, and hope expressed that some definite decision might soon be arrived at in the participating Islands as to the size and nature of the respective exhibits, in order that there might be no delay, which so often mars the effects of these displays. A sub-committee was appointed to proceed with the allotment of space, and will get to work immediately. Meanwhile, it is very desirable that the Colonies should hasten on the arrangements as the sugar canes, &c., for decorative purposes must reach us not later than the third week in March, and the exhibits themselves at the end of the second week in April.

It is with the greatest satisfaction that we are able to announce that British Guiana will after all be represented. For this, the credit is due to the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of the Colony, the members of which at a general meeting on December 15th, passed a resolution expressing willingness to collect and forward any exhibits which might be sent to them, and requesting the West India Committee to take charge of them and arrange for their being properly shown.

In another column will be found a letter warmly advocating the suggestion made in the last issue of the *West India Committee Circular* that each Island should appoint a *permanent* Exhibition Committee to undertake arrangements for all exhibitions, and thus obviate the necessity of appointing a fresh committee to deal with each case as it arises. We hope that the suggestion will meet with equal favour in the West Indian Colonies.

The Liverpool Colonial Exhibition.

The second Liverpool Exhibition of Colonial Products was opened on the 10th inst. by the Lord Mayor of Bristol, and has already attracted much notice, Sir Alfred L. Jones, the President of the Exhibition, and the Managers, Mr. Harry E. Jones and Mr. Albert Douglass, having got together a display even more representative than that of last year, the chief Colonies exhibiting being Canada, New Zealand, and the West Indies (a feature of whose stall is a fine display of West Indian fruit by Mr. Thomas Dowd, of Moorfields), Victoria, Nigeria, and Newfoundland. The British Cotton Growing Association have an attractive exhibit, with a ginning machine in operation, under the direction of Mr. C. M. Wolstenholme. During the opening ceremony a message from the King wishing success to the Exhibition was read.

Lord Brackley's Cricket Team.

Lord Brackley's English Cricket Team has now arrived in Jamaica after a very successful voyage in the R.M.S. "Port Kingston," and has already played its first match, which resulted in a draw in favour of the Home team. Our full page illustration is from a photograph of the cricketers taken specially for the West India Committee on the morning of departure. The names, reading from left to right, are:—Top row: Moss (Umpire), Thompson, Hayes, Mr. T. G. O. Cole, Mr. C. H. M. Ebdon, Mr. G. Drummond, Mr. Sam Beeton and the other Umpire and Scorer. Front Row: Mr. G. H. Simpson-Hayward, Mr. A. F. Somerset, Lord Brackley (Captain), Mr. C. P. Foley, Capt. Wynyard, and Mr. R. W. Burn.

The Cotton Industry.

The prospects of West Indian Cotton still continue promising. Some injury has been caused by the cotton worm and the leaf blister mite, but where planters have been fully alive to the necessity of keeping a sharp look-out for the appearance of these, and have immediately applied remedies,

little or no serious damage has been done. During the past fortnight 6 bales of West Indian cotton have been imported. Medium fine, is quoted, 4'60d. per lb.; and Sea Island, medium fine, 12d. per lb.; fine 13d. per lb., and extra fine 15d. per lb.

The Board of Trade has issued the following statement, showing the number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom from the British Colonies and Possessions during the three months ended December 31st, 1904, as compared with the preceding three months:—

Colony or Possession whence Imported	Quarter ended September 30th, 1904 Bales.	Quarter ended December 31st, 1904 Bales.
British India	51,269	3,815
British West Indies...	874	101
British Africa	876	5,046
Total	53,019	8,962

The Rise in Price of Sugar.

During the fortnight there has been a noticeable falling off in the number of letters in the Press regarding the rise in price of Sugar, and for this our thanks are due to many of our Members, including Mr. Robert Harvey, Mr. J. Howell, Mr. Eliot G. Louis, Mr. James B. Alliot, and Sir William Mitchell Thompson, who have helped to put the public on the right tack on this question.

The following correspondence was published in the *Times* of the 4th inst. under the heading "Sugar":—

SIR,—We, the undersigned sugar brokers of Mincing Lane, have read the annexed letter of to-day's date from the West India Committee in reply to the Manufacturing Confectioners' Alliance, with reference to the rise in the price of sugar, and we endorse all the statements made by the West India Committee therein

We are, Sir, yours obediently,

ED. KYNASTON	E. D. AND F. MAN.
WM. ANDERSON AND CO.	PAINES AND REID.
C. CZARNIKOW	CAREY AND BROWNE
C. M. AND C. WOODHOUSE	FRANK FIELD & CO

Mincing Lane, E.C., January 2nd.

The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.
January 2nd, 1905

SIR,—We venture to ask your permission to say a few words in reply to the letter from Mr. Boyd, written on behalf of the Manufacturing Confectioners' Alliance, which appeared in your issue of the 22nd ult.

He states that "the West India Committee, which is chiefly responsible for the present serious condition of affairs, has in self-excuse deliberately attempted to mislead the public. The Committee suggests that the Russian sugar during the last five years has been quite a negligible quantity." The amount of sugar annually imported from Russia cannot be accurately gauged, but the West India Committee maintains that it has been inconsiderable; but, whatever it may have been in the past, it would certainly in any event be a negligible quantity at present, inasmuch as their crop is 250,000 tons short of that of last year. If Mr. Boyd were serious in accusing the West India Committee of deliberately attempting to mislead the public, he might be expected to give some evidence to substantiate such an accusation.

The views which the West India Committee has put before the public are very simple, and we may perhaps be allowed to recapitulate them.

In consequence of the sugar bounties given by European Governments on beet sugar, we have become more and more dependent on European bounty-fed beet for consumption. During the years 1900 to 1903 we imported 6,500,000 tons of sugar. Of this quantity 5,848,000 tons were European beet.

From 1901 to 1903 the prices of sugar were so reduced that they were below the price of production all over the world. In Austria and Germany, however, so large were the bounties, that the producers made no loss. The confectioners profess to believe that if bounties had continued prices would always have remained below the cost of production. The West India Committee asserts that this was impossible: that the unsubsidised industries, which have produced 2,000,000 tons during 1904, must have largely ceased to exist, and that we should in that case have now been dependent upon European beet-sugar alone.

But this is not all, the German and Austrian bounties were killing the export of France, Holland and Belgium, and hence we have, during the present year, to depend almost entirely upon Austria and Germany for our supply—we leave out Russia because the great bulk of her export goes to Asia and the Levant, and inasmuch as her crop is short by 250,000 tons this year, she could not have added to our supply.

Owing to an unprecedented drought on the Continent which Mr. Boyd apparently thinks was due to the inherent wickedness of the West India Committee, the crops of Austria and Germany (like those of all other beet-producing countries) are so short, that it is quite impossible for them to supply us with anything approaching the quantity of sugar we require.

The West India Committee contends that, but for the Convention, the cane sugar supply, which is likely to be from 300,000 to 400,000 tons more than last year, must have been enormously less; and that, therefore, the Brussels Convention has already been of immense benefit to the consumers of sugar in this country.

Mr. Boyd revels in a number of statements for which he does not offer a tittle of evidence. For instance, he says: "But so long as there was free trade in sugar; so long as confectioners were not prevented from importing their raw material from Russia, Argentina, &c., it was less difficult to counteract the effect of speculation based on the vagaries of the beet crop; and as a matter of fact no 'corner' in the past has succeeded for any length of time." Now, Sir, in the first place there is no "corner" at the present time. Then, again, how was it that in 1889 the price of sugar, under what Mr. Boyd most ridiculously calls free trade, was for some months nearly double what it is now? Again, during a certain period in 1893 it was considerably higher than it has been this year.

Again, "The shortage would not have been so severely felt now but for the great increase of consumption on the Continent, amounting to no less than 889,000 tons, or 54 per cent." This figure is arrived at by taking the apparent consumption for twelve months from the day the Convention came into force, and comparing this amount with that for twelve months previously. But Mr. Boyd has overlooked the fact (quite unintentionally, no doubt) that with the knowledge that the duties and cartel bounties on sugar would be reduced on the 1st September, 1903 (the day the Convention came into force), dealers in sugar on the Continent ran down their stocks to the lowest possible point just previous to this date, and replaced them after September 1st. In France alone this displacement of the figures of 1903 to those of 1904 is estimated by a writer in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* to amount to 185,000 tons, which, to get a true comparison, must be added to the consumption of 1903, and deducted from that of 1904. For the whole of Europe the displacement can hardly have been less than 300,000 tons; when the correction is made for this the excess of consumption is reduced to about 289,000 tons. But, we may ask, is it a necessary condition of Mr. Boyd's trade that the consumption of sugar on the Continent must not be increased?

Again, Mr. Boyd says: "The stimulus to beet growing (a full knowledge that the export bounty would be earned in any case) being withdrawn, reduced sowings were the result." But the best authorities do not agree that there were any reduced sowings. Some authorities estimate that there was a diminution of 3 per cent., but even this small fraction is not believed in by the best authorities. But why did not Mr. Boyd say the reduction of sowings was estimated by some at 3 per cent.? He surely could not wish to mislead the public by using vaguer terms.

He goes on to state that "thanks, to the Convention, British exporters have now to face competition in neutral markets for the first time." Now the murder is out! The staunch Free Trader, Mr. Boyd, has to meet free competition in neutral markets for the first time! What would he say if he had to meet a subsidised competition in the home markets, which he has for years done his best to force upon West Indian producers and British refiners?

The confusion of facts and ideas in the mind of Mr. Boyd is really phenomenal. Take the following statement: "It may be added that the West India Committee is never tired of prophesying that, but for the Convention, the price of sugar would be still higher than it is. To those who are familiar with the sugar market the idea is ridiculous. The statement has often been repeated, but the evidence in its support was carefully sifted by the West India Royal Commission, which included in its report the following paragraph." The paragraph is to the effect that there is not likely to be a combination of beet growers.

Now, Sir, apart from the fact that an estimate of the bearing of past events on existing circumstances is not usually described as a prophecy, let us point out the absurdity of Mr. Boyd's contention that seven years ago the West India Commission examined into the bearing on existing circumstances of facts which have only occurred during the last three or four years!

- Three things may, we think, be gathered from Mr. Boyd's letter as necessary for the success of his trade:—
- 1st.—He must have his raw material below the cost of its production.
 - 2nd.—The consumption of this raw material on the Continent must be rigidly checked.
 - 3rd.—There must be no competition of any kind.

Trusting that you will find space for this letter,

We are, Yours obediently,

N. LUBBOCK, Chairman.
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.



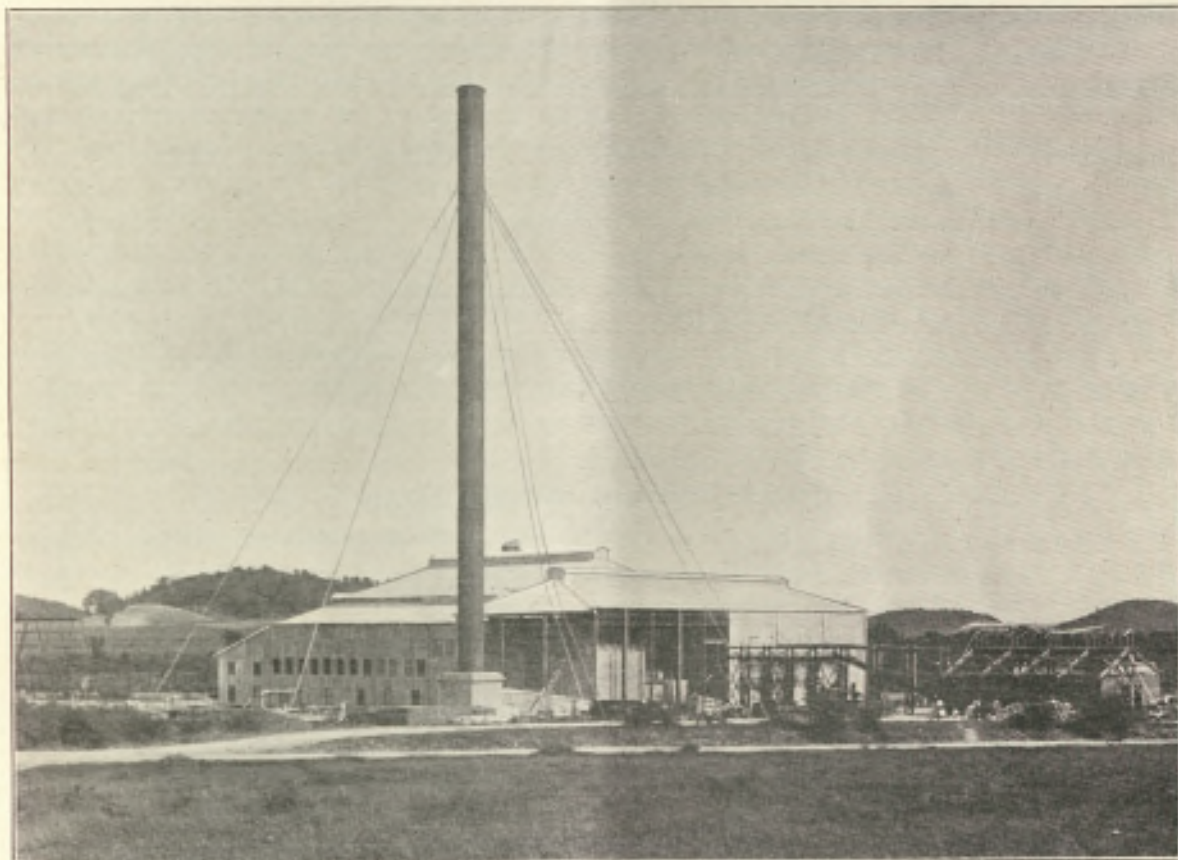
Photo. Lewis B. PIERCE (Opp.)

[The West India Committee, Copyright.]

LORD BRACKLEY'S CRICKET TEAM.

The New Central Factory in Antigua.

The new central factory at Gunthorpe's, Antigua, has now been satisfactorily completed. A full description of the buildings and plant erected by the Mirlees Watson Company, Ltd., having already appeared in the columns of the *West India Committee Circular* (Vol. XIX., pages 18 and 55), it only remains for us to give a brief description of the opening ceremony, which took place at four o'clock in the afternoon of December 19th last. Proceedings commenced with an impressive religious ceremony, performed at the portal of the buildings by the Rev. H. Y. Shepherd, the Rector of St. John's, and the Rev. A. Shankland, the Rector of St. George's. Lady Knollys then started the fly wheel, naming the engine "Du Buisson," amid the cheers of those present. Mrs. Watts, the wife of



The New Central Sugar Factory in Antigua.

Dr. Francis Watts, then proceeded to feed the mill with the first canes. The machinery worked most smoothly, and, to quote the words of the *Antigua Standard*, "the engines continued to exert themselves in a manner most suggestive of the ingenuity of man vying with his Creator in the direction of energy as powerful as useful, but controllable by human will." Those present then inspected the buildings, which were tastefully decorated. Mr. Thomas D. Foote proposed the health of the Governor, and Sir Courtenay Knollys responded, eulogising Sir Gerald Strickland, Dr. Watts, Messrs. Henckell Du Buisson & Co., and Mr. Robert Bromley, late of the Colonial Office, through whose joint endeavours the erection of the factory had been brought to a successful issue. The factory was capable of making thirty tons of sugar per day, and must take farmers' canes to the extent of 4,500 tons a year and pay

for them on a sliding scale according to the price of sugar, but such payment was never to be less than 7s. 6d. per ton delivered at any part of the factory railway. Sir Courtenay Knollys concluded by proposing the success of the Antigua Sugar Factory, coupling with the toast the name of Dr. Watts, who, in his reply, commented on the fact that for over forty years the question of central factories had been under discussion, and had been supported by the successive Governors, Sir William Haynes-Smith, Sir Francis Fleming, Sir Henry Jackson, and Sir Gerald Strickland, with whose name the work would ever remain associated. Rigid economy had been exercised, but there had been nothing done in a niggardly way, and no makeshifts. The appliances and arrangements were the most perfect of their kind consistent with their somewhat modest dimensions. He might add that the scheme was complete in its essentials of co-operation between the factory and growers of cane. There was a contract binding the parties to co-operate, a contract which he believed was calculated to give to the planter every penny which could safely be given to him without imperilling the safety of the factory, and which offered to the planters a share in profits equal to that of the shareholders of the company. Mr. Robert Bromley, the Administrator of St. Kitts, then said a few words, and informed those present that the last papers which Mr. Chamberlain dealt with before he left the Colonial Office, were those in which he signified his approval of the terms of the contract for the erection of the factory. That was immediately after his resignation had been announced, and just before he gave up the seals of office. The factory, as already stated, has been erected by the Mirlees Watson Company, Ltd., to the designs and specifications of Mr. Claude T. Berthon, A.M.I.C.E., the Consulting Engineer to the Antigua Sugar Factory, Ltd.

This same company of engineers has also erected a new and powerful crushing plant for the "Roseau" Factory of the St. Lucia Usines and Estates Company, which was opened on December 16th last. On this occasion the ceremony of "blessing the mill" was performed by a priest of the Roman Catholic Church.

Colonial Reports—British Guiana.

Mr. J. Hampden King in his General Observations in the Report for 1903-4 (Colonial Report No. 441. For Summary of Report for 1902-3 see *Circular* Vol. XIX., p. 43, and for 1901-2, see *Circular* Vol. XVIII., No. 88, p. 3) says that the time of severe trouble through which the sugar industry has passed has certainly not been without a considerable measure of good for the Colony, in that colonists have been forced to turn their attention to other industries, which, though perhaps none of them can ever take the place of sugar, must in the near future tend to increase the wealth of the Colony and add to the welfare of its inhabitants.

The delimitation of the boundary between the Colony and the United States of Venezuela, which was commenced in November, 1900, was continued during the year, and by the end of March last the Commissioners were two days' journey from Mount Roraima, having completed the greater part of the survey. Since then the geographical position of Mount Roraima has been determined, and on the 13th June the Commissioners returned to Georgetown, having completed the field work. They are now engaged in preparing a general map of the entire boundary. During the course of the work a collection of specimens of the various rock formations was made by the British Commissioners, and these will in due course be dealt with by the Government geologist.

The following is a comparative statement of revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	
1898-99	£525,865	£525,387	£478 Surplus.
1899-00	538,838	525,542	13,296 "
1900-01	509,950	505,492	4,458 "
1901-02	531,506	522,631	8,875 "
1902-03	556,853	530,226	25,628 "

The balance-sheet of the Colony still shows a deficit of £38,001 13s. 7d.

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.	1902 1903		1903 1904	
	Quantity.	Value £	Quantity.	Value £
Sugar Tons	120,126	1,042,023	125,949	1,121,143
Rum Galls. (Proof)	4,278,638	135,670	3,949,886	101,921
Molasses Galls.	331,383	10,496	291,507	9,110
Molascuit or Cattle Food Tons	385	1,524	2,780	12,584
Lumber, G. H. & C. Feet	33,667	1,272	28,042	614
Firewood, Wallaba, &c. Tons	3,537	1,474	5,994	2,348
Timber Cubic Feet	340,260	23,288	273,542	19,574
Shingles No.	1,243,000	891	1,837,050	1,462
Ballata Lbs.	540,800	40,636	531,399	45,187
Bullion (Raw Gold) ... ozs.	102,363	372,830	90,207	327,527
Hides No.	6,856	2,137	4,799	1,564
Cattle Head	1,152	5,221	369	1,786
Charcoal Bags	77,822	8,429	75,694	7,925
Cocoa Lbs.	93,917	2,319	123,081	3,078
Diamonds Carats	10,949	20,356	10,737	18,756
Fish Glue Lbs.	9,306	640	25,932	1,216

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

The Re-Assembling of Parliament

A supplement to the London Gazette was issued on the 12th inst., containing a proclamation of the King proroguing Parliament till Tuesday, February 14th, when it will reassemble.

The Colonies and Preferential Tariffs.

Papers were issued on the 4th inst. giving the text of resolutions passed by Colonial Legislatures since 1890 in favour of preferential trade relations with the United Kingdom (C1) 2,326). These include resolutions passed by the House of Assembly of Barbados, on July 7th, 1903, viewing with satisfaction Mr. Chamberlain's policy for the promotion of preferential tariffs within the Empire; one passed by the Legislative Council of the same Colony on July 14th, 1903, expressing opinion that in view of the rapid expansion of the British Colonial possessions it is essential that preferential and reciprocal tariff arrangements should be effected in the near future between the Mother Country and her Colonies, and warmly welcoming the proposals for a policy on the success of which the future of the Empire to a great extent depends, and a further resolution passed by the Legislative Council of Dominica on July 9th, 1903, cordially endorsing the Secretary of State's policy for the encouragement of British trade within the Empire, and expressing gratitude to Mr. Chamberlain for his efforts in this direction.

Barbados Banana Shipments.

In a recent *Circular* we referred to the complaints which were being made regarding the condition in which Barbados bananas were arriving in this country, and it now gives us satisfaction to be able to report that the fruit has recently been landed in a much finer condition. The recommendations made by the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture regarding thermometers and ventilation are being carried out, and we learn that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's superintendent at Barbados has been requested to co-operate with the Committee lately formed in Barbados. The

Chinese bananas grown in Barbados are shipped in crates, and it should be the aim of the planters to assist as far as possible by shipping fruit of a uniform character. It does not yet seem to be satisfactorily decided whether Hall's system or the ventilation by fans is the best means of carrying Chinese bananas, though the ordinary banana as shipped from Jamaica and Costa Rica undoubtedly shows the best results with Hall's system. We have been favoured by the Chairman of the Company with the following figures, showing the percentage of loss in recent shipments:—

- "Atrato" arrived November 2nd with 985 bunches, of which 20 bunches were bad—say 2 per cent.
- "Orinoco" arrived November 17th with 978 bunches—condition fair
- "Trent" arrived December 1st with 602 crates, of which 38 were bad—say 6 per cent.
- "La Plata" arrived December 15th with 647 crates, of which 50 crates were bad, remainder green—that is, very good. Average, 8 per cent. bad.
- "Tagus" arrived December 29th with 567 bunches; condition green—very good

As we go to press we learn that Mr. Frank Pink has reported that the fruit brought by the "Atrato" on January 12th was mainly in a very satisfactory condition.

Letters to the Editor.

Nevis—Mail Delays.

January 5th, 1905.

DEAR SIR.—As a regular reader of your interesting paper, I was surprised to notice the above heading in the *West India Committee Circular* of the 3rd inst.

From a return which I have in my possession for 1904, I find that without a single exception, the Inter-Colonial Mail Steamers have always arrived at Nevis in advance of contract time.

I think you will agree with me that this is a very good record, when you bear in mind that the contract ports of call of The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company involve a total of seventy two arrivals and seventy two departures each month.

As far as the exigencies of the mail contract permit, I am most desirous of meeting the convenience of all the West Indian Colonies, and I cannot for one moment think that it is considered a disadvantage for either the Main Line or Inter-Colonial Mail Steamers to arrive ahead of their contract time.

The enclosed time table will show that the Inter-Colonial steamer is due to arrive at Nevis at 5 p.m. every alternate Thursday, and in the particular instance referred to, the steamer arrived three hours thirty minutes before schedule time.

Yours faithfully,

OWEN PHILLIPS, *Chairman*

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

(Mr. Shand's contention was not so much that the mails were delayed as that they arrived at irregular and unexpected hours, and the heading of the paragraph was perhaps misleading.—Ed.)

Permanent Exhibition Committees

January 13th, 1905.

SIR.—I notice with satisfaction the admirable suggestion made in your last issue that each Colony of the West Indies should appoint permanent Exhibition Committees for the purpose of arranging for representation at all the numerous exhibitions held in this country. That these exhibitions do good there can be no question whatever.

As you are doubtless aware, there is at the Crystal Palace a permanent court devoted to Canada, from which supplies are drawn for display all over England, and I would respectfully suggest that your Committees, when appointed, might consider the desirability of starting something on similar lines. At any rate, I venture to think that it at least merits careful consideration.

Yours obediently,

CLAUDE T. BERTHOX.

Notes of Interest.

AVES ISLAND. It is now stated that Aves Island lying to the west of Guadeloupe and Dominica has been claimed by Venezuela, and that this claim has been recognised by the British Government.

BANK RATE. The Bank of England rate remains 3% (changed from 3½% on April 22nd, 1904), and Consols (2½%) are quoted 88 ⁷/₁₆ as we go to press. We are again compelled by lack of space to hold over our list of West Indian Securities.

TWO NEW PARTNERS. Mr. Edwin Hugo Oldendorf has been admitted a partner in the firm of Messrs. August Faber & Co. Mr. Charles Atkins, who has for many years been actively engaged in the business of Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co., has been admitted into partnership of that firm.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR MR. DE PASS. Mr. Eliot Arthur de Pass is to be congratulated on the fact that his son, competitive examination held on November and December last for admission to the Royal Academy of Woolwich.

THE DIRECT LINE OF STEAMERS. The fortnightly steamers of the Direct Line of Steamers from London to the West Indies will in future load at No. 13 Shed, West India Dock Basin, which was previously occupied by the "Glen" line of steamers to the Straits and China. The first steamer to use the new berth will be the "Savan" receiving cargo by land on January 25th.

RETAIL PRICES OF SUGAR. The London and Suburban Sugar Retailers' Association decided on January 11th to raise the minimum retail price of sugar to: Lump, Preserving Lump, Demerara, Castor, 3d. per lb.; Granulated, Yellow Crystals, 2½d. per lb.; Pieces, 2¼d. per lb. These prices refer to quantities up to 28 lbs.

EFFECT OF THE C.V. DUTIES. According to a report of the German Consul-General at Simla, India took only 230 tons of German and 2,260 tons of Austrian sugar in 1903-4, whereas in 1901-2 she imported 28,800 tons of German, and 110,000 tons of Austrian sugar. During 1903-4 the imports of Java sugar into India increased from 15,500 to 60,000 tons, and those of English sugar from 9,400 to 30,800 tons.

BINDING CASES. 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. "Yucatan" from Liverpool, for Barbados, and Trinidad, January 21st; S.S. "Savan" from London, for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, Demerara, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, and Barbice, January 26th; S.S. "Colonial" from Liverpool, for St. Lucia, Barbados, and Trinidad, January 28th; and the R.M.S. "Port Morant" from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, on January 28th.

WEST INDIAN CLUB. The first dinner of the year was held on Wednesday, January 11th, at the Club Rooms, Mr. A. E. Messer presiding. It was followed by the first round of the Billiard Handicap, which was played with the following results: H. Powell Rees, 250, beat C. R. Winn, 171; R. Rutherford, 250, beat A. E. Messer, 238; J. J. Parry, 250, beat E. B. Ellis, 247. Amongst those present were: Mr. J. Simpson, Mr. C. Trevor, Mr. F. R. Leistikow, Mr. H. Bailey, Mr. F. W. Scott, Mr. E. Berger, Mr. Schult, Mr. H. H. Etheridge, Don José Tible Machado, Don Roman Lopez, Mr. R. Nisbet Bain, Mr. H. D. Swan, and Mr. A. N. Homer.

LORD BRACKLEY'S CRICKET TEAM. For the convenience of our friends in the West Indies, who will doubtless like to obtain copies of the photograph of Lord Brackley's Cricket Team, which appears in this number, we have made arrangements to supply them at the following prices:—

Size.	Mount.	Cost.
12 by 10 (direct)	18 by 14½	3/6
15 " 12 (enlargement)	24 " 19	7/6
23 " 17 "	Plain board	£1
23 " 17 "	33 by 26	£1 5s.

The Homeward Mail.

The Homeward Mail has brought with it further substantial evidence of the improved state of affairs brought about by the abolition of bounties. The new Central Factory at Gunthorpe's was formally opened on December 19th, a new and powerful crushing plant had been erected for the Roseau Factory in St. Lucia, and modern machinery was being shipped to Barbados. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Atrato" anchored off Plymouth on Wednesday, January 11th at 3.30 p.m., and the Mails were delivered in London by first post on the following morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Services R.M.S. "Port Royal," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, January 4th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received per R.M.S. "Atrato."

Antigua—The New Sugar factories.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) December 27th. The benefits derived as the results of bounty abolition in Antigua were probably greater than in any similar area of cane-land. To bounty abolition must be set down the presence of one thoroughly up-to-date, and one considerably improved, factory. It was difficult to estimate what had been the expenditure on these (apart from Government assistance), but so far probably £50,000 had been spent, the most of it paid out to British engineering firms for machinery. In the neighbourhood of Bendal's works the acreage in peasant grown cane was increasing satisfactorily. The only drawback was that that naturally fertile lands which peasants cared to work were

at some distance from the factory, and haulage became difficult for the peasant. The waste land round Gunthorpe's factory was not good land, but with a high price for cane, a large area of it would doubtless be worked up by the peasants.

The event of the fortnight, and one of the principal events in the history of Antigua, had been the opening of the new Central Factory at Gunthorpe's. This took place on December 10th, in the presence of a large number of guests and interested parties. The christening ceremony was performed by Lady Knollys. The machinery all worked very smoothly, and reflected great credit on its manufacturers and those responsible for its erection. The opening ceremony concluded with speeches by the Hon. T. D. Foote (in whose long lifetime the sugar industry had progressed from wind and cattle mills to central factories), Sir C. Courtenay Knollys, Dr. Watts, and Mr. Robert Bromley, the new Administrator of St. Kitts. To their late Governor, Sir Gerald Strickland, and to Dr. Watts, would ever rest in the popular estimation the credit of having brought about the existence of this factory. The Directors of the Antigua Sugar Factory, Ltd., were represented by the Hon. J. F. Foote, to whom congratulations were due for the successful manner in which the opening ceremony went off.

The fortnight had been cool and breezy with occasional light scuds of rain.

Barbados - Further Sales of Sugar Estates.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE) December 29th. It was announced that the whole of the troops would be removed from Barbados and St. Lucia on March 31st next. The importance of this step could not be over-estimated, and it was a grave question as to how the safety of the Island could be assured.

On the leeward side of the Island many of the cotton fields had been attacked by worms, and although paris green and other remedies had been applied at once, considerable damage had been done. On the windward side the fields were as yet healthy, and prospects were very good.

The onion crop promised to be a large one. Shipments of bananas had materially decreased, and were not likely to improve till shipping arrangements were more certain, and they could be landed in a state which would enable them to be sold at a fair price.

During the fortnight, the following plantations were sold out of Chancery which had lain there for years.

1904	Plantation	Acreage	Appraisement	Price Realised.	Purchaser.
December 23rd.	Morgan Lewis	354	£3,051 0 0	£3,051 0 0	R. P. Pile
" "	Hatfield	43	444 0 0	444 0 0	—
" "	Bawdens & River	521	5,266 18 4	5,460 0 0	H. L. Johnson & E. A. Hinkson.
" "	Lowland	179	1,755 18 1	2,020 0 0	H. B. Skeete

This was one of the direct consequences of the abolition of bounties, giving promise of some stability in the market. Again, Sir George Pile was just putting down a five-roller mill; others had ordered centrifugals, and there had been a considerable impulse in the purchase of machinery from the same cause.

The annual Agricultural Show took place at Harrison College on December 20th. No doubt, owing to the dry weather, the exhibits were not so numerous as usual, but the attendance showed an improvement on last year.

There was no legislation of any kind to report; everything was at a standstill. Incendiary cane fires had been very frequent of late, and owing, no doubt, to the high winds, the extent of damage had been considerable.

The Rev. Dr. Bindley, Principal of Codrington College, had been installed as Archdeacon of Barbados in the Cathedral on December 19th.

Unfortunately the year was going out with very dry weather. Hardly a drop of rain had fallen since the 14th ult. The rainfall for the year, therefore, was considerably less than usual, and, what was worse, it had fallen badly, the last three months having been so dry. As an indication of the rainfall, it might be mentioned that at Dunscombe in St. Thomas, one of the highest estates in the Island, where the rainfall was rarely less than 80 ins. or 90 ins., and in 1901 was 124 ins., only 55.86 ins. had been marked this year. The canes had naturally felt it, and the ratoons were low. A large number of estates would begin making sugar in January, and it was to be hoped that the juice would be sweet. The young crop was now showing well, and seemed to have had a good spring.

British Guiana - The Cable Interruptions.

(A. SUMMERSON, Esq.) December 28th. Cable communication was again interrupted on December 15th, and so far the local office had not been advised as to the movements of the repairing steamer or when she was likely to be at the Colony. On the last occasion they had been kept in the dark completely, and the first intimation they had had that she was at work on the break was the afternoon that communication was restored. The Chamber of Commerce and the Planters' Association had approached the Government, and asked that a telegram be sent to the Secretary of State pointing out the inconvenience to which the community was subjected, and urging that the question of an all-British cable to British Guiana be taken up.

The Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society had asked the Planters' Association if they would be willing to assist in preparing a representative exhibit of the products of the Colony for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, and the matter was to be brought up at the meeting to be held on December 29th.

Owing to the difficulties experienced in recruiting emigrants in India during last season, the question of introducing them from Madras had been raised, and this would also be discussed at the meeting.

With regard to the abolition of bounties a feeling of confidence had been restored generally, and if the increased prices in sugar were maintained, it was only a matter of time for those estates which had the machinery capable of turning out a larger crop than was at present planted, to extend their cultivation and so get the proper work out of the factories. At the time of the Convention all their estates were fully equipped with modern machinery, but, of course, with a confident feeling in the future, proprietors might be inclined to go in for any new appliances that might come on the market.

The imports of refined sugar from the United States into the Colony during 1903 amounted to 104 lbs.—to the date of writing for 1904 the figures were 90,257 lbs., this being a result of the lowering of the duty in British Guiana, but the figures were hardly large enough to be of any importance.

Regarding the sugar market, the break in the cable hampered them considerably. Sales were made during the fortnight at \$3.15; buyers quoted \$3.10 as the price of the day.

The weather had been showery in the early part of the fortnight; since then it had set in very wet, and the fall had been much too heavy for estates in Demerara and Essequibo. In Berbice it had been lighter and favourable to cultivation.

British Honduras—Trade Brisker.

(HON. A. R. USHER) December 23rd The weather had recently been more settled, and business generally was brisker.

Dominica—Weather Excellent.

(R. A. AGAN, ESQ.) December 28th The weather continued excellent, being fine with light showers. The United States cruiser "Des Moines" was in port.

Grenada—Ideal Weather for Crops.

(P. J. DEAN, ESQ.) December 29th They had enjoyed good weather—fine showers, in fact, ideal both for the growing crop and for curing the cacao.

Jamaica—The Official Protection of Rum.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, ESQ.) December 24th New machinery was being erected on Denbigh estate and more canes were to be planted. The outlook for sugar had undoubtedly prevented the abandonment of any more estates, and if bounties had not been abolished at least half a dozen sugar estates must have gone out of cultivation. Westmoreland had begun sugar making, and would reap a fine crop, and should therefore do splendidly.

Mr. J. C. Nolan had issued a circular to all estate proprietors, in which he gave the circumstances of his appointment as the Official Protector of Jamaica Rum for the United Kingdom. He indicated that the appointment would entail a pecuniary loss, and invited planters to send samples of their rum to the Island chemist in order that a standard might be set up for Jamaica, and to register their trade marks at the Patent Office at £3 each. This, he states, was absolutely necessary to enable the tracking down of adulterated rums.

Montserrat—Cotton Picking.

(CONRAD WATSON, ESQ.) December 28th Owing to the Christmas holidays it had been difficult to get cotton pickers, and the fields were covered with the open bolls ready to be picked. All the cotton picked to date had been particularly good and free from stains.

Nevis—The Nelson Centenary.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) December 27th As the result of representations made by the Agricultural Society to the Superintendent of the R M S P Co at Barbados, that officer had very kindly expressed his willingness to do all in his power to secure a regular hour for the arrival and departure of the steamer.

The cotton crop promised well, and those who had commenced picking were apparently satisfied with the results so far, though no actual estimate could yet be made of any particular yield. Cotton, unlike cane, had to be reaped *de die in diem*, and until the whole of a known area had been gathered in, it was impossible to tell the average number of 100 lbs. yield per acre.

It was very much to be desired that Nevis should reap some substantial benefit from the Trafalgar-Nelson Centenary in 1905. The writer suggested that a fund should be raised for a Nelson Memorial in Nevis, which could take the shape of a Hospital Quarantine Station or some other useful and necessary purpose.

The Agricultural Show, which was fixed for February 28th, 1905, promised to be a great success, and should this promise be realised it might encourage the Agricultural Society to ensure its annual occurrence, as nothing could possibly tend more to benefit the Island than a spirit of emulation in agricultural pursuits such as a show of this nature was calculated to promote.

The usual blustering Christmas winds were prevalent, but so far they had not risen beyond bounds—i. e., to damage the cotton bolls.

St. Kitts—A Promising Cotton Crop.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, ESQ.) December 27th The usual Christmas winds were blowing and would soon have a ripening effect on the crops, in fact, in a few instances a start with reaping had already been made. The gathering of the cotton crop was making good progress, and the opening of the New Year should see the ginning factories at work. The cotton crop promised to be an encouraging one, and its regular employment as an adjunct to sugar would likely be assured for the future.

St. Vincent—The Eruption Fund.

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & Co) December 30th. No further steps had been taken in the Island with reference to the Eruption Fund, and since their last interview with the Governor they had concluded that nothing would be done during his administration.

Trinidad.

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C M G) December 30th. As the writer was about to send his usual letter he received a summons to Dr. Murray's funeral. About four hours previously Dr. Murray, and Mr. W. W. Symington had been run over by a locomotive on the wharf in front of the shed where the latter did his fruit packing. Dr. Murray was killed instantly, and Mr. Symington only survived a short time, having had both his legs cut off.

The news from India that the fourth coolie ship was cancelled, owing to the Agent's inability to furnish the full number of emigrants, was serious.

Showers had been frequent during the fortnight, but were still insufficient for requirements.

Showers, in conjunction with the holidays, had somewhat retarded deliveries of cacao, and continued buying, for December shipment had kept local prices above those of the European and American markets. Large contracts for the U.S.A. had been made for January-February shipment, but the prices had been much below those at present ruling. Little business had been done with Europe, but shippers were firm at 53/- for "Ordinary" and 55/- for better marks. Venezuelan sorts were in good supply, and prices had weakened to \$12 30 per fanega.

		Shipments.			
Total at last Report	...	286,673	Trinidad	41,415	Venezuelan
December 18th — "Tagus"	...	334	"	—	Europe.
" 21st — "Reval"	...	1,417	"	—	"
" 22nd — "Manzanares"	...	1,208	"	921	New York
" 24th — "Maracas"	...	1,359	"	331	"
" 24th — "Dahome"	...	100	"	—	Canada.
" 28th — "Cheniston"	...	118	"	—	Europe.
" 28th — "P. Wm. H."	...	600	"	30	"
		292,110		42,697	

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.

The Hon. GEORGE GOODWILL, Mr. LEON AGOSTINI, and Mr. DAVID B. HORSFORD, have been re-appointed Commissioners for the Town of Port of Spain, Trinidad, for a further period of three years from January 1st, 1905.

The Hon. P. C. CORK, Colonial Secretary of British Honduras, has been granted leave of absence and has proceeded to Jamaica; Mr. H. E. W. Grant, Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office, will act as Colonial Secretary during his absence; while Mr. H. E. Phillips, Second Clerk, will act as Chief Clerk.

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:—

SUN PICTURES OF THE ANTILLES AND BRITISH GUIANA. By A. E. A. (London: The West India Committee) 2s. 6d net. Modesty prevents us from reviewing this volume, which comprises a guide to the West Indies and forty views of West Indian life and scenery. We propose, therefore, in our next issue to give some of the Press notices already set forth regarding it.

FOOD FOR THE TROPICS. By T. M. Macknight (London: W. Thacker & Co.) 3s. 6d net. This book gives a short description of native produce suitable for food in tropical countries. The author carried on the business of a tropical produce merchant in Queensland, and should, therefore, be well qualified to write on this subject. His object is to explain the various kinds of products, with their local names, their various properties, and how they can best be utilised as food. Successive chapters deal with the various kinds of bread, potatoes, meat, butter, vegetables, sugars, fruit, beverages and condiments. Mr. Macknight's book should prove extremely useful to those resident or contemplating a prolonged stay in the tropics.

COLONIAL MEMORIES. By Lady Broome (London: Smith, Elder & Co.) 6s. net. The experiences of the wives of Colonial Governors are always varied and interesting, and those of Lady Broome, widow of Sir F. Napier Broome, who was Governor of Trinidad from 1891 to 1895, is no exception to the rule. A gipsy once told Lady Broome that she would "wander up and down the earth; north and south, east and west", and so far the prophecy has come true, as New Zealand, Western Australia, Mauritius, Rodrigues, and Trinidad have all claimed her at different times. Two chapters of the book are devoted to Trinidad, and when reading them one feels oneself back in that lovely Island, so well has the writer infused into her pages the spirit of the place. Not the least attractive chapter is one devoted to General Gordon, whom the author met in Mauritius, and another on Colonial servants is remarkably entertaining.

THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR JOURNAL. No 73 January (Aldershot, Manchester) 1s. This publication, which has a wide circulation among planters and manufacturers in all sugar-producing countries as well as among refiners, merchants, commission agents, and brokers interested in the trade at home and abroad, under the able editorship of Mr. Norman Rodger, maintains its reputation as a leading organ on the subject of sugar. In the January number interesting light is thrown upon the political agitation, fostered by the confectioners, regarding the rise in price of sugar, by a letter from Mr. King, a chocolate and cocoa manufacturer in Bristol. A description of the Plantation Caracas in Cuba should give a much-needed lesson to some of the smaller sugar producers in the West Indies, who so unwisely refuse to realise that the future of the West Indian Sugar industry must lie in the adoption of the central or large factory system.

SEEDLING AND OTHER CANES AT BARBADOS, 1904. Pamphlet No 32 of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, Post free, 5d.) This contains a summary of part of the experimental work with sugar canes which has been carried on by Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque, Mr. J. R. Bovell, Mr. R. D. Anstead, and Mr. D. E. Seale, during the past season. The detailed results are to be published later in the large annual report. The canes reported upon were grown on sixteen estates situated in typical localities in the Island, thirteen of the plots being on black soils and three on red soils. The canes were treated in each case, as in former years, in exactly the same manner as the other canes on the estate. The weather during the season was favourable, and as a consequence the crop was above the average and the canes suffered very little from the root disease. Cane B, 208 again gave uniformly good results both as plant canes and ratoons. A general trial of this cane on a field scale is recommended in all red soil districts. B, 147 has not given as good results this year as in previous years. It is, however, being grown with apparent success in the rather light soils in the parish of St. Philip. One of the newer canes, B, 1529, heads the list on black soils, and comes second to B, 208 on the red soil list. On account of these very favourable results, its cultivation will be extended to as many experimental plots as possible. It is expected, as a result of irrigation having been applied to the field on which the seedling canes are first planted out, that considerable time will be saved in arriving at an opinion as to the merits of the new varieties.

REPORT ON THE AGRICULTURAL WORK IN THE EXPERIMENTAL FIELDS AND THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY FOR 1903-4. This official paper, No 13,632, deals very thoroughly with seedling cane and manurial experiments conducted by Professor J. B. Harrison, the Government Analyst of British Guiana. It should and will doubtless be studied from beginning to end by cultivators, but we would suggest that a summary of results attained might accompany future reports with advantage. The results given in this report indicate that of the seedling varieties with which extended experiments have been carried on No. 625 is the most promising, and is followed in order by Nos. 145, B, 147, 1087, 109, 110, 74, and 115. The large scale experiments on the sugar plantations which have placed their results at the disposal of the Board of Agriculture during the last three years have shown the following as the mean yields of tons of commercial sugar per acre obtained in the crops of 1901-1904:—

Varieties.	Tons per acre.	Varieties.	Tons per acre.
Sealy	2.71	147 D	1.97
95 D	2.13	Bourbon	1.93
145 D	2.09	74 D	1.86
109 D	2.07	White Transparent	1.84
	2.05	78 D	1.62

9289 acres in British Guiana are now occupied by seedling varieties, which are being cultivated separately.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) January 11th. "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) Jan. 2nd (dated Dec. 29th). "Eight inches of rain since last message." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) Jan. 9th (dated 5th). "Weather showery." Jan 16th (dated 11th). "Some light showers have fallen but more rain wanted." **Trinidad** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Jan. 11th. "Showery and unsettled." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.). Week ended January 5th. PORT ANTONIO and KINGSTON; "Fine generally with few showers."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Coconuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.	Cotton.
	Tons.	lbs.	Tons.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.	lbs.
British Guiana—									
Jan 1 to Dec 27, '04	106,610	105,626	7468	19,539	411,314	2834	78,512	10,938	—
" " 20, '03	130,413	129,442	1573	27,179	4991	4389	87,617	9540	—
Jamaica—		Cwts.	Cwts.	Galls.		Cwts.	Bananas.	Oranges.	
Apr 1 to Nov 19, '04	6048	15,301	18,124	917,358	1,051,795	93,799	5,547,458	64,326,164	8516
" " 23, '03	8149	16,588	20,462	879,954	13,615,910	52,314	7,379,141	61,382,800	—
Trinidad—	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.	Copra.
Jan 1 to Dec 29, '04	394,768	40,896,050	64,394	1021	9,356,012	Puns	Tons	Tons	Bags
" " 29, '03	382,407	27,664,840	42,440	1173	13,803,092	2967	59	139	130,933
						3608	178	168	182,138
Grenada—	Coffee.				SPICE.			Cotton Seed	Cotton.
	Bags.	Bags	Brls	Brls	Cases	Bags.	Bags	Bags	Bales.
Oct 1 to Dec 30, '04	23	14,743	1922	254	203	117	—	—	—
" " 30, '03	134	14,403	1213	172	130	24	—	—	—

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Atrato," (Capt. R. H. Stranger) Jan 11th:—**Barbados**—Mr. A. J. Walker, Lieut. H. St. J. Jefferies, Mr. E. Gloss, **Demerara**—Mr. J. R. Burnett, **Jamaica**—Mr. H. Fulton, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. K. C. MacLaurin, Mr. J. A. Anderson, **Trinidad**—Mr. John Grant, Mr. P. O'Connell, Mr. D. O'Connell, Miss M. O'Connell, **St. Lucia**—Hon. E. Bateson, Mr. C. Condell, Mr. J. C. Carpendale.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Tagus," (Capt. H. E. Rudge), Jan. 18th:—**Barbados**—Mr. and Mrs. Whitting-stall, Mr. J. B. Muir, Mr. J. Hoggan, Mr. E. C. Malet de Cataret, Mrs. Diosy, Mr. J. Davies, Mr. D. Blake, Mr. and Mrs. Maddock, Mr. J. H. Dunn, Mr. J. Corevan, two Misses de la Mothe, Mr. G. W. Lupton, Mr. and Mrs. Nixey, Mr. A. R. Robertson, Mrs. and two Misses Vandaleur, Dr. W. A. Smith, Mr. Greg. Mr. and Mrs. Harrington, Mr. T. O. Kerlow, Mr. H. Pritchard, Mr. Newson, Mr. Waldermeier, Mr. R. G. Campbell, Miss H. Hull, Mr. and Mrs. da Costa, two Misses da Costa, Mr. Dundas Hamilton, Mr. Robert Elder, Mr. C. Dunlop, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Harris, Mr. J. Bruce, Rev. and Mrs. Howard Palmer, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Paul, Mr. W. H. C. Staverley, Mr. J. Monish, Mr. H. K. Monish, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Slater, **Demerara**—Sir H. A. Bovell, Sir J. C. and Lady Rayner, Mr. J. Salaman, Mr. and Mrs. Gall, Hon. and Mrs. Cox, Mr. G. Garnett, Mr. W. M. Campbell, Mr. H. G. Hall, Mr. A. Nevile Lubbock, **Jamaica**—The Hon. E. Ellis, Col. and Mrs. H. J. Blagrove, Mr. and Mrs. Aikman, Sir G. and Lady Dallas, Rev. E. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Hollis, Earl Poulett, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Crum Ewing, Mr. R. Harvey, Miss K. Kemp, Mrs. R. Price, Mrs. Walters, Mr. R. Shult, Mr. A. McD. Nathan, Lieut. N. H. Crieron, **Trinidad**—Mrs. E. Gordon, Miss I. Sanderson, Mr. and Mrs. Palmer-Chizzolu, Col. F. Townshend, Mr. G. R. Alston, Mr. G. Disney, Mr. C. Whittle, Mr. B. Westendorff, Miss A. Pope, Mrs. Rice, Mr. J. P. Dowling, Mrs. F. Currie, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Sellier, Mr. de Vermeil, Mrs. Secombe, Mr. P. Fowler, **Antigua**—Major Knollys, Mrs. Udal, **Grenada**—Mr. J. P. Munro, **St. Kitts**—Mr. J. D. Adamson, **St. Lucia**—Mrs. N. Mitchell, **Tobago**—Mr. R. Archibald, Mr. B. Archibald.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Atrato," (Capt. R. H. Stranger), Feb. 1st:—**Barbados**—Miss C. King, Miss Tanqueray, Mr. and Mrs. Gledstones, Mr. G. E. and Mrs. Jarvis, His Grace the Duke of Montrose, Miss Gibson, Miss Livingstone, Mr. W. H. Hallam, Mr. J. A. Gilbert, Miss K. R. Gilbert, Rt. Hon. Lord Biddulph, Mr. Cornwall, Mr. P. Squire, Mr. F. and Mrs. Stenning, Capt. E. Packerman, Mrs. Jackson, Mr. T. and Mrs. Gribble, Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Myddelton Keill, Mr. N. Rouse, Com. Sir Chas. Cust, Mr. C. M. Byles, Capt. F. St. C. Tyrwhitt, Mr. W. Gibson, Mr. and Miss Gibson, Mr. H. H. and Mrs. Gibbon, Mr. W. O'Hanlon, Mr. J. O'Hanlon, Mr. and Mrs. S. Single, Col. J. S. Walker, **Demerara**—Mr. J. Rose, Mr. R. P. Stewart, Capt. J. A. C. Tongeley, Mrs. Anson, Mrs. Fowler, Mr. H. W. R. Greig, **Jamaica**—Mr. C. Holford, Mr. Slagg, **Trinidad**—Rt. Hon. the Earl of Dundonald, Miss E. Morran, Lady Cochran, **Dominica**—Miss G. Porter, Miss A. Frampton.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Royal," (Capt. W. R. Howe), Jan. 4th:—**Jamaica**—Mr. J. Boyd, Mrs. Bliss, Mr. B. F. Chester, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Short, Sergt. and Mrs. Broughton.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Royal," (Capt. W. R. Howe), Jan. 14th:—**Jamaica**—Mr. L. A. Arrazola, Mr. W. G. Beattie, Miss Burroughs, Mr. Blair, Mr. and Mrs. Cowen, Mr. C. K. Campbell, Major W. Conolly, Prof. J. E. Ewart, Mrs. J. E. Ewart, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Hodgkinson, Miss Hare, Mr. C. M. Hall, Mr. F. King, Miss Lynch, Mr. R. H. Munro, Mr. and Mrs. G. McWilliam, Mr. H. E. McGill, Mr. E. Obregon, Mr. C. Robinson, Mr. and Miss Spencer, Lieut. G. G. Smyth.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—All the sanguine views held by those who follow closely the position of Sugar as it develops itself are being carried out, and during the past fortnight we have had another important upward movement with active buying on the part of Refiners and the Trade, whose stocks are believed to be on the smallest possible scale. So far, the advance in prices does not seem to have checked Consumption, but if we go much higher, as some people think we shall, this point will be one that will have to be reckoned with, and it will play a very important part in the future course of prices. We cannot be far short of the border point when this feature will become operative. No one can say what price is justified by the shortage in supplies this season, but every one can say the advance in values of this crop is very great, and it may be possible we are not far off the maximum to be obtained, and without the aid of speculators there is little doubt we are. A price of 16s. 6d. or thereabouts for summer deliveries of 88% is not to be lightly contemplated, in view of the next crop deliverable in the autumn at say 12s., or 4s. 6d. per cwt. discount. Either the first is too dear or the second is too cheap. Probably the latter will be found to be the solution. We must look for a not inconsiderable increase of sowings this spring, and given normal weather a total European crop of possibly 6,500,000 tons against, say, 4,600,000 tons this season, and 5,850,000 tons in 1903/4, with some further increase in cane, given normal weather also. If this comes about the terrors of the jam people will soon be allayed, and then it is to be hoped we shall have no more complaints about the wicked West India Committee and the Brussels Convention.

The closing quotations of 88% are, January, 16s. 1d.; May, 16s. 3½d.; August, 16s. 5½d.; and Oct./Dec., 12s. 1½d. all free on board Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	Tons
Europe	2,660,000	3,300,000	3,050,000	3,040,000	2,500,000	..
United States	70,000	90,000	120,000	120,000	80,000	..
Cuba	40,000	90,000	70,000	50,000	20,000	..
Cargoes afloat	30,000	50,000	60,000	10,000	10,000	..

Total 2,800,000 3,530,000 3,340,000 3,220,000 2,610,000 ..

Comparative prices of 88% Beet on 2nd Jan.:— 16s. 1d. 8s. 1d. 8s. 1d. 6s. 6½d. 9s. 4d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—The twelve months' figures of this sugar are as follows:—

	1904	1903	1902	1901	Tons
Deliveries	47,000	41,000	43,000	41,000	..
Stocks 31st Dec.	9000	12,000	29,000	12,000	..

These are about as satisfactory as they can well be made. A very active demand has been experienced for yellow crystallised, and prices since the last mail have risen over 3s per cwt. The closing range is 24s. 6d. to 26s., with 25s. 3d. for average qualities. For a cargo of 96 test to Refiners 17s could probably be obtained on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar is in active request at prices ranging from 16/- to 19/-.

Muscovado.—For 89 test to Refiners 15s. 3d. is obtainable on floating terms, and possibly even a shade more. Small lots of good grocery Barbados should realise about 19s.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	Tons
Imports to January 7	—	500	200	300	300	..
Deliveries	800	400	600	800	800	..
Stocks	9000	12,000	28,000	12,000	12,000	..

Quotations of Crystallised "average qualities" 25s. 3d. 15s. 3d. 14s. 6d. 15s. 9d.

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 12 months:

	1904	1903	1902	1901	Galls
Imports	4,682,000	5,501,000	8,210,000	6,719,000	..
Home Consumption	4,051,000	3,982,000	4,286,000	4,380,000	..
Stocks 31st Dec.	8,519,000	9,492,000	9,461,000	7,211,000	..

Stocks in London:

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	Puns
Jamaica	8300	9200	10,800	7700	7700	..
Demerara	5500	8000	7700	4500	4500	..
Total of all kinds:—	20,864	27,118	Deficiency	6254	..	

The market for Demerara continues to improve, and the latest sales made have been at the range of 1s. to 1s. 2d. proof. It is generally felt that a further upward movement may quite well be possible if shipments are not excessive. In Jamaica there is no alteration, 1s. 10d. remaining the approximate value of fair Standard Home Trade Marks. Leewards may be quoted from 11d. to 1s. 2d. Board of Trade returns for twelve months are given above. Imports have been reduced, but Home Consumption is nothing to boast about.

Cocon.—Board of Trade Returns for 12 months:

	1904	1903	1902	1901	Tons
Imports	27,291	22,324	25,954	23,751	..
Home Consumption	20,229	18,387	20,377	18,908	..
Stocks 31st Dec.	6051	3381	4813	5721	..

Stocks in London

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	Bags
	82,000	51,000	66,000	80,000	80,000	..

On the whole the market remains steady, Trinidad showing an improvement of 1s. from the late depression. The stock of this cocoa in London is 21,400 bags, against 10,900 bags last year. Grenada is selling fairly well at the recent currency, and other West India kinds are about maintained. Present values are—Trinidad fair collected, 56s. Estate Marks, 56s to 59s, with choice 60s to 65s. Grenada fair Native, 52s.; and fermented, 53s. to 54s. 6d. From other Islands Native Cocoa is worth 48s to 50s; and fermented 53s to 55s. Twelve months Board of Trade returns are given above. Imports have been excessive.

Coffee.—Steady. Good ordinary Jamaica, 40s to 41s.

Nutmegs.—West India in good demand. Sales of 62's at 1s. 6d., 80's, 11d.; 90's, 7d.; 100's, 5½d.; 120's, 5½d. and in shell, 4d to 4½d. **Mace.**—Steady. Pale sold at 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d.; and red, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 3d.; with broken, 1s to 1s 1d. **Pimento.**—Quiet. Value of fair, 2½d. **Ginger.**—Dull, and prices tending easier.

Arrowroot.—Moderate sales of good manufacturing at 1½d., but the demand is far from general. London figures to 31st Dec:

	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	Brls
Imports	15,294	15,064	19,075	20,410	25,383	..
Deliveries	18,460	14,682	14,570	20,863	19,842	..
Stocks	9470	12,633	12,224	7747	8100	..

Lime Juice.—Quiet at 9d. to 1s. Concentrated, steady at £13 15s. Hand Pressed, business done at 2s 6d. Distilled Oil—Sales made at 1s. 2½d.

For Cotton, see Special Article page 22.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XX.

ENTERED AT
STATISTICAL HALL.

TUESDAY, JAN. 31st, 1905.

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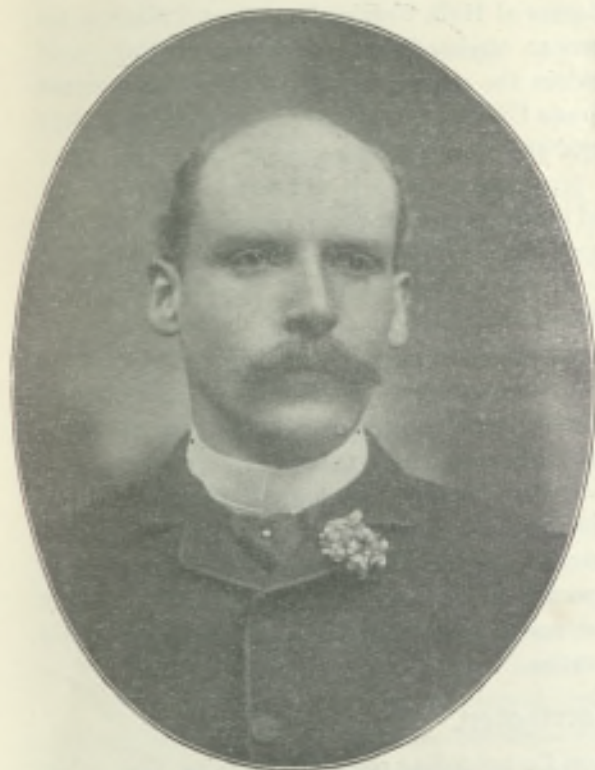
No. 144.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XXXV.



Mr. George Carrington.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

January 30th, 1905

Telegram: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL

THE balance of power in the Caribbean is undergoing a subtle change, which, it must be admitted, is not altogether in favour of England. The territorial expansion of the United States is proceeding gradually but surely, with the tacit acquiescence of Europe. Puerto Rico is hers, Cuba is practically hers; she has been negotiating for St. Thomas, her action with regard to Panama is known to all, and now she has declared what virtually amounts to a protectorate over the Republic of San Domingo, the eastern end of the Island of Hayti. We do not believe for one moment that there is any solid basis for the report of the cry for annexation to the United States, which is stated in some organs of the Press to be the outcome of the alleged decision of the British Government to abandon Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Barbados as stations for white troops. Our friends in the West Indies realise so well the advantages deriveable from British rule, that any such suggestion may at once be dismissed from the region of practical politics. But, at the same time, reasons nearer home made us specially

anxious to know if there were any truth in the rumoured withdrawal of the white troops from the British Colonies, and on January 20th a letter of enquiry was accordingly sent to the Under Secretary of

State, with a request that a reply might be vouchsafed by the following Monday. A meeting of a special Sub-Committee was held on that day to consider what steps it might be necessary to take, but no reply was forthcoming. After the lapse of a week, a telegram couched in respectful terms was sent to the Colonial Office, but up to the time of going to press, this also remains unanswered. The Homeward Mail has, however, brought confirmation of the rumour that the troops are to be removed, it appearing that the Governor of Barbados announced in the House of Assembly of that Island on January 10th, that he had received a telegram from the Colonial Minister stating that it had been decided to take such action. We have no wish to adopt an alarmist tone, but it must be admitted that the decision of the Government raises a very serious question, and if it is really adhered to, no time must be lost in the adoption of effective measures for protecting the Islands by raising an adequate police force or other such means. For some years past it has been persistently stated that the troops would be withdrawn from Barbados, but it was always understood that they would be merely transferred to St. Lucia, where upwards of three millions are stated to have been spent in elaborate military works, which were only suspended just before Christmas, thus pointing to a somewhat sudden decision of the Government, the reason for which it is not easy to see. We can hardly imagine that it can be based on financial grounds, but if it is, we trust the Colonies will be given the opportunity of furnishing the money themselves for the retention of the white troops, and in any case it is earnestly to be hoped that the withdrawal will not take place until time has been given to consider the matter in all its bearings.

WE must confess that we are not greatly perturbed by the demand for the denunciation of the Sugar Convention which was put forward in a resolution at the conference arranged by the Cobden Club, and held on Saturday last at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street. Many of the statements made by the speakers on this occasion were so obviously contrary to fact that we should imagine that they will not succeed in misleading the man in the street. It was reported that delegates were present from numerous London and Provincial Trade Unions, Co-operative Societies, Workmen's Clubs, and Progressive Organisations, but the feelings of the working classes must have undergone a remarkable *volte face* if those present were in any way representative, for it will be remembered that it was a conference consisting of delegates from organised trades of the Kingdom, representing practically 500,000 members, which adopted a resolution calling upon the Government to bring about the abolition of foreign state bounties, "thereby restoring free trade in the markets of the United Kingdom." At the Cobden meeting Lord Welby presided, and though he was more guarded in his utterances than some of the subsequent speakers, he laid great stress upon the decrease in the consuming power of the people, which he alleged resulted from the Convention. Now we have the figures for the first four months of the present sugar campaign before us, and from these, as is shown in another column, it appears that so far from there being a decrease in consumption, the first four months of the present campaign show an increase in consumption of sugar in the United Kingdom of 132,480 tons. A salutary set off to the Cobden meeting is to be found in a letter in to-day's *Times* from Mr. H. Chaplin to a firm of manufacturing confectioners in Lincoln, giving very fully his views on the sugar question, which appear to be remarkably sound, and we may expect a similar straightforward statement of the facts of the case from Sir Edward Clarke, who is to address the political section of the Constitutional Club on Wednesday next on the subject of Sugar Bounties.

Mr. George Carrington.

Mr. George Carrington, whose portrait we give on the preceding page, after leaving Eton, where he received his early education at Austen Leigh's house, proceeded to Cambridge (Trinity College), where he took his B.A. in 1879. Finding that in the management of his estates in England and

the West Indies a better knowledge of matters agricultural, both theoretical and practical, was essential, afterwards studied at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, where he was awarded the diploma. He subsequently gained the Scholarship of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and a first class certificate. He also holds the diploma and Fellowship of the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland. In addition to agriculture Mr. Carrington has studied chemistry, and is a Fellow of the Chemical Society. He is an estates' proprietor in Barbados, owning those estates grouped under the name of Carrington, the factory of which is well ahead of many others in the Island as regards up-to-date appliances. As a Member of the Executive Committees of the Anti-Bounty League and the West India Committee, he took an active part in the Anti-Bounty Campaign, and it will be remembered that he read an important paper on our West Indian Colonies before the Royal Colonial Institute on March 8th, 1898. Mr. Carrington is a J.P. for Bucks, in which county his country seat, Missenden Abbey, is situated.

New Members of the West India Committee.

The first election of the year took place on Thursday, January 19th, at a well-attended meeting of the Executive Committee, Sir Nevile Lubbock presiding, when the following ten new Members were elected:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
F. T. HIGGINS BERNARD, ESQ.	George Carrington, Esq.	Lt.-Col. F. C. Trollope
R. R. P. BRAITHWAITE, ESQ.	C. A. Philip, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
JAMES H. INNISS, ESQ. (Barbados).	T. Wm. Wilkinson, Esq.	R. Arthur, Esq.
E. R. DONAWA, ESQ. (Dominica).	Wm. D. Riviere, Esq.	A. J. Stephenson, Esq.
JAMES SMITH, ESQ.	John McNeil, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
MESSRS. FRANK FIELD & CO.	Ed. Kynaston, Esq.	Edward Anderson, Esq.
D. W. A. MCKINNON, ESQ. (B. Guiana).	W. H. Parratt, Esq.	C. H. Stuart, Esq.
PERCY HEMERY, ESQ. (B. Guiana).	W. H. Parratt, Esq.	C. H. Stuart, Esq.
ALEX. G. LOW, ESQ.	Sir Henry K. Davson.	Edward R. Davson, Esq.
J. M. LASH, ESQ. (Barbados).	F. Bonham Smith, Esq., I.S.O.	Elliot G. Louis, Esq.

Of the new Members 2 are resident in Barbados, 2 British Guiana, and 1 Dominica. The next election will be held on Thursday, February 2nd, and it is requested that the names of candidates for election may be sent to the Secretary before that date.

A Political Crisis in St. Lucia.

An unfortunate dispute has arisen in St. Lucia over an Ordinance introduced by the Government of that Colony into the Legislature with the object of amending the law relating to the acquisition of lands for public purposes. It appears that, in the opinion of the community, some of the provisions of the amending ordinance are injudicious and unfair, seeking as they do to substitute for two independent arbitrators with an umpire in case of disagreement, a board of three members, two of whom are to be Government servants, from whose award there is to be no appeal. Directly the provisions of this amending ordinance became known, a largely signed petition was presented to the Administrator, setting forth the objections to the measure, and a promise was given to a deputation of the signatories which presented the petition on November 19th last, that the measure should not be brought forward until the Colonial Office had an opportunity of considering the objections.

The Ordinance was, however, introduced into the Council on December 27th, at very short notice, without any consideration having apparently been given to the representations of the petitioners. Leave to introduce the Ordinance was opposed, as also was the first reading; but the resolutions for both were carried by the casting vote of the Administrator, and the unofficial members consequently withdrew from the Council Chamber in a body.

This action was followed by the presentation of a petition signed by over 300 people, protesting against the terms of the amending ordinance, and the West India Committee wrote on January 23rd, praying the Secretary of State to suspend judgment in the matter, and to delay taking action, pending the receipt of the representations regarding it.

A public meeting was held in Castries on December 31st, at which the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

- 1.—This meeting endorses the action of the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council in connection with the Lands Acquisition Bill at the meeting of the Council which was held on December 27th, 1904.
- 2.—That the Bill now before the Legislative Council for the public purposes does not provide sufficient guarantees for awarding fair and just compensation to the owners of such land
- 3.—Resolved, That inasmuch as the provisions of the proposed Lands (Acquisition for Public Purposes) Ordinance 1904, for fixing the price to be paid by the Government for real property when forcibly taken over for public purposes is calculated to lower the market value of real property generally in this Colony, the West India Committee be approached with the earnest request that it should forward the resolutions of this meeting to the Colonial Office, and use its influence towards obtaining a modification of the Ordinance as now framed.

Consumption of Sugar.

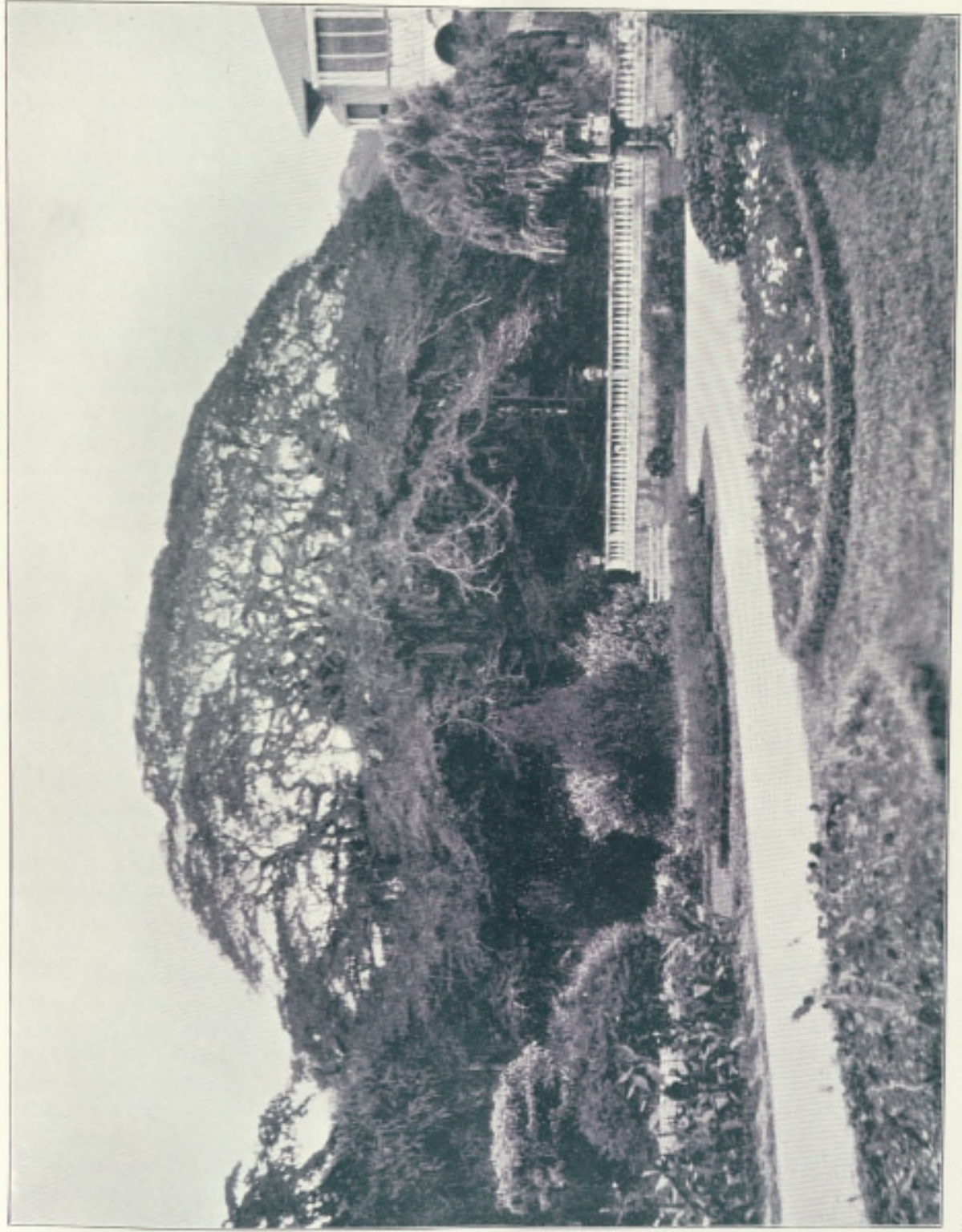
According to the figures given in the *Journal des Fabricants des Sucre*, the consumption of sugar in the principal European countries which were signatories of the Brussels Convention, for the first four months of the campaign, from September to November, 1904, would appear to be as follows:—

	1903-4.	1904-5.	
France...	317,440 tons	220,693 tons	96,747 tons <i>Decrease.</i>
Germany	438,639 "	361,349 "	77,290 " "
Austria-Hungary	183,142 "	147,790 "	35,352 " "
Belgium	37,467 "	28,846 "	8,621 " "
United Kingdom	406,481 "	538,961 "	132,480 " <i>Increase.</i>
Holland	28,961 "	31,427 "	2,466 " "

The Mail Service.

Only one tender was, it appears, sent in for the new West Indian Mail Contract, which begins on July 1st next. This was submitted by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, who asked for a subsidy of £100,000, or £15,500 a year more than they are now receiving, for a period of five and a half years. The present amounts contributed by the Colonies towards the subsidy are:—

Antigua	£1,000
Barbados	4,000
British Guiana	4,200
Dominica	450
Grenada	1,000
Jamaica	2,100
Montserrat	200
Nevis	100
St. Kitts	450
St. Lucia	1,000
St. Vincent...	450
Tortola	50
Trinidad	9,600
	£24,600



From "Six Views of the Asclepias and British Guiana."

Photo by ALBERTUS E. JEFFREY, Copyright.

**THE SAMAN TREE,
BOTANICAL GARDENS, TRINIDAD.**

Mr. Lyttelton has stated that if this tender is to be accepted the excess of £15,500 will have to be borne by the Colonies.

The House of Assembly of Barbados had this matter under consideration on the 10th inst., but a decision was postponed pending the receipt of further information, and on January 12th a meeting of the Commercial Body was held, when the following resolution was passed:—

“That this meeting is of opinion that this Colony is not in a position to contribute a larger sum towards the subsidy of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company than that which is now being paid under the existing contract; and it is the conviction of the members of this Committee of Commerce that arrangements can be made with the Company for a suitable service which will insure the continuation of Barbados as headquarters of the Company, and which will not increase this Island's share of the subsidy. It is, therefore, suggested that negotiations to this end be entered into.”

The Cable Question.

The Demerara-Trinidad Cable, which broke down on December 19th, was repaired on the 18th inst., the delay being attributed by the West India and Panama Telegraph Company to a spell of rough weather. The West India Association of Glasgow sent a further protest on the subject of the cable breakdown to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on January 13th, in which they pointed out that many members had important matters pending, regarding which prompt replies were essential, and that the long interruption often led to pecuniary losses. They also asked what penalties were provided for when such interruptions occurred, and if they were exacted.

Mr. Lyttelton replied that the matter was receiving his careful consideration, and pointed out that the subsidy payable to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company was \$21,600 per annum, but owing to deductions for delays the amounts actually paid amounted to \$17,933 48 cts. in 1902-3 and \$17,888 63 cts. in 1903-4.

The Origin of the Beet Sugar Industry.

The following account of the inception of the beet sugar industry was reprinted in the *Times* of January 23rd, from its columns of one hundred years ago:—

“It is not long since we heard, from Prussia, of a variety of experiments for extracting sugar from the beet-root (*beta* of the *pentandria digynia* of Linnæus). We were told that a square plot of twenty-four miles, in the dominions of Frederic William, were to be devoted to this produce; and that the kingdom, ever after, would be rendered perfectly independent of the West India Islands, for a supply of the saccharine material. Whether the controversy of P. Terentius and Varro Atacinus on the antiquity of the use of this commodity be of any importance, we will not affect to determine, but we may venture to assert, that the discovery of M. Achard, for the preparation of sugar from the vegetable we have named, deserves not only the attention of the chemist, but of the politician, considering the expanded interests of Europe and Africa as connected with the state of the Western Archipelago. The method of M. Achard is as follows: The roots are first carefully cleansed from all impurity; they are then cut into small pieces and exposed to the bearing of a powerful press. The sugar under this process exudes from the vegetable mass, and in this state it appears glutinous, and of a dark colour. Besides the saccharine matter, it abounds with albumen, extractive matter, and other substances which must be separated from it; and the only difficulty attending the operation, is the exclusion of these impure and redundant ingredients. To effect this, he mixes in a cauldron of tin or of tinned copper, one hundred pounds of the extract, in the state we have described, with three ounces and six drams of the sulphuric acid diluted in about a pint of water. The ingredients are afterwards poured over into vessels, to remain for the space of twelve, eighteen, or twenty-four hours. Twelve hours is a competent interval for ordinary purposes, but twenty-four is more beneficial, and the acid

prevents the sugar itself from undergoing any pernicious alteration. The next step is to separate the sulphuric acid from the extract; and this is done by incorporating with the sugar seven ounces and a half of wood ashes, and afterwards two ounces and six grains of slacked lime. By these means the sulphuric acid will disunite from the albumen, and the ashes with the lime will separate the acid, which will appear in the state of an insoluble salt. The application of lime is not at all new in our sugar refineries, indeed, it is constantly employed to assist the chrystalization. The only thing requisite to complete the process of obtaining sugar from the beet root, is to clarify the saccharine residuum, and this part of the operation is so generally understood, that no explanation is necessary."

"The West Indian Fruit Industry."

There was a very large attendance of Members and their friends at the inaugural Lecture of the year, which was delivered by Mr. Freeman, Superintendent of the Colonial Collection of the



Mr. William G. Freeman, B.Sc. F.L.S.,
Superintendent of the Colonial Economic Collection at the Imperial
Institute, and formerly Scientific Assistant to the Imperial Depart-
ment of Agriculture.

Imperial Institute, and formerly Scientific Assistant of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, on the subject of the West Indian Fruit Industry, at the West India Committee Rooms on Thursday last, January 25th, at 3.45 p.m. Sir William Thiselton Dyer, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, occupied the chair, and among those present, whose number exceeded a hundred, were Sir Neville Lubbock, Chairman of the West India Committee, Sir Henry K. Davson, Deputy-Chairman, Sir Alfred L. Jones, Sir E. Noel Walker, Mr. Owen Philipps, Chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, Sir Capel Wolseley, Mr. George J. Adams, Mr. A. K. Agar, Miss E. Agar, Dr. Horace M. Brown, F.R.S., Mr. E. E. Broughton, Mr. W. B. Chalmers, Mrs. Chalmers, Miss Chalmers, Miss E. Chalmers, Mr. W. J. Fox, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. Ivan B. Davson, Mr. W. G. Edwards, Mr. Alex. Elder, Junr., Mr. E. B. Ellis, Mr. A. F. Elmslie, Mr. J. B. Elmslie, Mrs. and Miss Finn, Mr. G. A. Freeman, Miss Gabe, Mr. A. J. Gibb, Mr. D. B. Gillespie, Mr. L. Gray, Mr. Graves, Mr. John T. Haynes, Capt. G. M. Hicks, Mr. J. Masters Hillier (Keeper of Museums, Kew), Mr. George Hughes, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. Picton Hughes Jones, Mr. Walter B. Kingsford, Miss Knollys, Mr. A. E. Lake, Miss Leachman, Miss Levenson, Messrs. Thomas Lowndes & Co., Mr. Duncan Mackintosh, Mrs. Mackintosh, Mr. Henry G. McMurdie, Mr. James Z. Mayhew, Mr. C. A. Philip, Mr. Porter, Mr. E. J. Previt , Mr. Henry F. Previt , Mr. Joseph Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mrs. Rutherford, Miss W. A. Rutherford, Mr. H. Martin Sells, Mrs. Senhouse and Friend, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Shears, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Miss J. C. Thompson, Miss Walker, Mr. E. T. Whitaker and Miss Williams.

SIR WILLIAM THISELTON DYER, introducing the lecturer, said that Mr. Freeman had had the advantage which at this season of the year they must all envy, of having spent a good deal of time in

warmer climates to considerable profit. He had seen what Sir William had not had the good fortune to see, the tropical possessions of the Empire, both in the East, in Africa, and in the West Indies. Mr. Freeman would now lecture on the Fruit Industry of the latter Colonies.

MR. FREEMAN said it gave him great pleasure to be at the West India Committee Rooms that afternoon to speak about the West Indian Fruit Industry. The meeting was an outcome of the recent very successful Show of Colonial Fruits organised by the Royal Horticultural Society at Westminster, at which the West Indies made a most interesting and creditable display. He wished to say that they were deeply indebted to the kindness of Sir Alfred Jones, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and Messrs. Philip & Co., for the interesting exhibits of fruit displayed in profusion round the room, among them being Jamaica oranges, limes, grape-fruits, pine-apples, mangos, and bananas, and for the bottles of other fruits less well-known in Great Britain.

It would be impossible in one lecture to dwell on anything like all the features of the West Indian Fruit Industry, and he would confine himself to a discussion of the magnitude of the Industry, the possibilities for its development, and the measures being taken to bring about that development. He would first run through a series of slides of views in the West Indies, chiefly noticeable because of the extremely luxuriant foliage to be seen in nearly every picture, the result of the fact that the West Indies lay entirely in the tropics, and speaking generally had a fairly high rainfall. Following the views, Mr. Freeman gave, by the aid of specially drawn and graphic charts, interesting and valuable statistics relating to the fruit industry. First, to take West Indian exports (exclusive of British Guiana) he said: twenty years ago the value of sugar exported was £3,100,000, cacao about £500,000; while fruit was only £253,000; ten years later the value of sugar exported had decreased to £2,000,000, that of cacao was £700,000, and fruit had increased to £500,000. But in 1902-3 sugar, cacao, and fruit were almost equal, the sugar exports being worth about £1,300,000, and fruit £1,250,000. Thus in the short period of twenty years, the value of fruit exports had increased nearly five-fold. In the matter of fruit exports, Jamaica was at present of infinitely greater importance than all the other Colonies put together, the value of her fruit exports being £1,250,000, as compared with the £14,000 representing the rest of the West Indies. Of the fruits which went to make up this big export of Jamaica, bananas were by far the most important. Yet this banana industry was of very recent growth; in 1869 the first few ship-loads of bananas were sent to the United States, in 1889 the export became more important, in 1900 it reached about £500,000 worth, and in 1903 was over £1,000,000. The export in 1904 would probably have been much greater, but unfortunately the hurricane in Jamaica of August, 1903, did a great deal of damage to the plantations, and the export of bananas consequently dropped by nearly £500,000 in value. However, hurricanes were by no means frequent, and the banana industry was one which very quickly revived, so there appeared to be no reason why by next year the plants should not be in full bearing again, and the export reach possibly a higher level than attained in 1903. With regard to the places which received these exports, almost all the bananas were sent to the United States, and a very small proportion to the United Kingdom, while Canada received a still smaller amount. There was still a great deal to be done in this direction; the banana must be popularised, and Jamaica would be equal to a considerable demand on it for a very considerable time. Great Britain imported a large quantity of bananas, mostly, however, from foreign sources, and, as yet, but few came from the Colonies. Similarly with regard to citrus fruits; with the enormous demand in the United Kingdom for these, only £39,500 worth came from the West Indies, while £2,250,000 worth were received from foreign sources. Great Britain imported annually £10,500,000 worth of fresh fruit, and of that total we got only £1,800,000 worth from all the Colonies of the British Empire, the West Indies contributing about £250,000 worth.

Continuing, Mr. Freeman said it was a striking thing that many of the fruits recognised as

West Indian at the present time were not native to the West Indies, but had been introduced into the Islands, for which introduction the various Botanic Gardens in conjunction with the Royal Gardens at Kew, were chiefly responsible. In the West Indies there were the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and the Botanic Departments of Jamaica, Trinidad, and British Guiana, all working to improve the agricultural industries of the Colonies. A chart giving a list of economic plants distributed at the Dominica Botanic Station during 1902-3, showed a total of £57,000 and included budded citrus plants and other high-class stock, and this might be taken as typical of the work going on throughout the West Indies. Plants were received from different countries, cultivated in the stations, and then distributed to the planters, and in this way all were steadily working to improve the quality of the fruit cultivated. In addition to this, watch was kept for new varieties of plants:—the "spineless lime" afforded a good example. Lime trees, he would explain, had a large number of spines, which naturally retarded the picking of fruit, the latter having to be knocked off the trees by sticks. The spineless variety, besides having none of these spines, was also richer in citric acid than the ordinary kind; an additional advantage. Seeds obtained from *one* spineless plant had grown up into spineless plants also, and now there was a sufficient stock of plants to allow of several thousands being distributed to planters.

Mr. Freeman went on to say that of course there were many other lines of work being carried on, such as the budding of citrus plants, mangos, avocado pears, and raising of hybrid varieties of pineapples, etc. The *Agricultural News* and other journals distributed throughout the West Indies gave careful attention to the agricultural education of the growers regarding the cultivation, picking, grading, and packing of fruit. These points, although only casually mentioned, would be recognised by those interested in the fruit industry as of great importance. Then there was the great question as to the carriage of fruit. All the care of the planters was wasted if the fruit did not arrive in the best condition, and this depended finally on proper shipping facilities and storage accommodation. There had been a considerable number of difficulties in this matter, but efforts were being made to overcome these, and it was to be hoped that the carriage of fruit would be put on a sound and successful footing. Future success in the development of the West Indian Fruit Industry depended largely on the thorough co-operation of producer and shipper. Each alone was powerless. (Applause).

SIR WILLIAM THISELTON-DYER, proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Freeman, said that at Kew, for about a quarter of a century they had taken great interest in the colonial fruit industry. He thought that the turning-point in that industry—almost the commencement of it—dated from the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, held in 1888. He had then suggested to the President that it would be a very interesting thing to see what could be done to represent, by samples of their fruit, the fruit-growing capacities of the various Colonies. The small beginning made then had been fraught with remarkable consequences. Colonial fruit, although not a very great item in the commerce of this country, was a very important one, and in the Exhibition at the Royal Horticultural Hall this industry was brought particularly before the notice of the public. On Bank Holidays a little fair was tolerated on Kew Green, and, looking round to see what was being sold the summer before last, he counted on the stalls five different colonial fruits; among which, Jamaica bananas had first rank. A quarter of a century ago nothing of the kind would have been found in this country. Here was a new feature which had been introduced into our commerce, and it was associated with another social fact which was not unworthy of consideration. He saw some figures published the other day which went to show that at the present time a working man got for 100s. those necessaries of life which twenty years ago would have cost 120s. The point of that was that the working man now had a margin out of his still narrow enough income that he could spend on comparative luxuries. A few months ago he was summoned before a Government Committee which was sitting on the subject of fruit production, and

he pointed out that there was a growing demand among the working classes, which the aspect of our streets showed to exist, for fruit, and that that demand was, oddly enough, not being satisfied by the produce of our own farms and orchards, but that the fruit was being drawn, owing to the enterprise of business men in London, from the distant portions of the Empire. This was an extremely desirable matter for our Colonies.

There was one thing in the West Indies representing natural capital, which he thought had never been fully taken advantage of, and that was climate. The climatic advantages of the Channel Islands had been made use of with excellent results, and he thought more might be done in the West Indies. He had always wondered why the West Indies did not get a better grip of the orange trade. Their oranges were, he believed, admirable, but there were many people who preferred a richer coloured fruit. It would be possible to do in Jamaica what the Americans had done in California, and get the finest kinds. There was no need to cast away the old orange trees; all that was required to be done was to cut in the new sort and rebud the trees, in order to get the finest fruit that any one could desire to have at table. The Jamaica Government had not been very sympathetic with his representations in that respect. However, commercial men were often wiser than Governments, and when they found that to send fine oranges here meant money, it would be done. But then it was no use growing these things without adequate methods of transit. He was persuaded that this great industry would have been frustrated, had it not been for the energy, the foresight, and admirable pluck of Sir Alfred Jones, who had opened a phase of commercial enterprise of which we were far from seeing the end. He had not the least doubt that there was a growing market for tropical fruit in this country. The West India Committee were a very powerful organising body, and gave great assistance to those who look after the development of the fruit industry. (Hear, hear.)

SIR ALFRED JONES said he was extremely interested in this development of the West Indies. His remarks would be short, but he did wish to point out to those present that, although they were carrying over fruit from the West Indies, they could carry a very great deal more. In the West Indies there existed a state of things more prosperous than ever before; there were plenty of strings to the bow; cotton, sugar, cacao and fruit, and the British people would learn sooner or later that the West Indies was a good place to live in. He had to teach that. The English people had got to eat fruit, it was good for them, and they must be made to see that also.

MR. OWEN COSBY PHILIPPS, in supporting the vote of thanks to Mr. Freeman, said that he was very greatly interested in the fruit trade, because, as Chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, which, unlike some of its competitors, did not receive any payment for its interest in the fruit trade, he had succeeded, in conjunction with Sir Daniel Morris, in making provision on its steamers for carrying fruit at a very low rate and without hope of reward. He thought that the most severe competitor of the West Indies was Costa Rica, because the latter grew a banana which was larger, and although much inferior in quality, apt to catch the eye of the man who wanted to obtain the largest amount at the smallest expenditure. He would like to hear from Mr. Freeman whether the Costa Rica bananas were likely to hold the market in the future against the West Indies, and if so, whether that variety could be grown in the West Indies. As far his as Company was concerned they would do all in their power to help forward all the minor industries in the West Indies, and nothing was more interesting than the lecturer's diagram, by which he showed that the minor industries might ultimately become the greater ones.

MR. FREEMAN, replying to the vote of thanks which was carried by acclamation, said that with regard to the question about the banana he was afraid that he was not personally familiar with the Costa Rica variety. An important point in connection with the banana was how it would carry;

many kinds, such as the fig banana, which was much nicer than any grown in this country, were much appreciated in the Colonies, but were not suited for long travel.

SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman, said he wished to make use of Sir William while he was there and enlist his sympathies for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition to be held this year. No doubt, at this, fruit would be largely exhibited, and with the resources of Kew he thought, if Sir William would give a hand, good results might be attained. He could not understand why the Colonial Office was holding back from this Exhibition. He would take the opportunity of saying, with reference to the rise in price of sugar, that we owed a debt of gratitude to Mr. Chamberlain for having got the Sugar Convention Bill passed, and thus prevented the rise in sugar being still greater. But for the Convention there must have been a great diminution in the production of cane sugar in the Colonies, and what would have been the result if, as well as a beet deficiency, there had been a great deficiency in the production of cane sugar. So, it was not only very unfair to attack Mr. Chamberlain because of the high price of sugar, but they should rather be thankful to him for preventing its rising any higher. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was put to the meeting and agreed to by acclamation. SIR WILLIAM THISELTON DYER having acknowledged the motion, the meeting broke up, and tea was served. Much fruit, of which there was a fine display, was subsequently distributed among those present, and all that remained over was sent to the Children's Hospital, Great Ormonde Street.

The Agricultural Conference.

The fifth Agricultural Conference under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture was held at Port of Spain, Trinidad, from the 4th to the 13th inst. The Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, Sir Daniel Morris, in his presidential address, passed in review the principal subjects affecting the welfare of the Islands—sugar, cacao, cotton, fruit, limes, improvement of stock, sisal hemp, rubber, tobacco, bee-keeping, fish-curing, anthrax, agricultural shows, and agricultural education. With regard to the staple industry the president stated that the prospects of sugar were more favourable than they have been for many years, and it is realised that the West Indies, after the strenuous efforts made on their behalf, have at last obtained a position which should enable them to compete in the British market, on equal terms with all sugar-producing countries. A full report of the meetings which appear to have been uniformly successful will shortly be published in the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

The Cotton Industry.

For the prospects of the Cotton crop we would refer our readers to the extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents which are given on pages 49-50. During the past fortnight 5 bales of West Indian Cotton have been imported: medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 4'50 per lb.; and West Indian Sea Island, medium fine 11½d. per lb.; fine, 12½d. per lb.; extra fine, 14½d. per lb.

The Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

A further meeting of the General Exhibition Committee was held on January 24th, when a provisional design for the arrangement of the West Indian Court was submitted. Labels for the cases of exhibits are being sent out to the Colonies by this Mail. We have been requested by the Commissioners of the Exhibition to impress upon the Colonies taking part, the importance of forwarding their goods to this country at the earliest possible date.

Letters to the Editor.

The Cable Question.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR,—In your issue No 143 of the 17th inst., I see that you refer, in your leading article on the question of West Indian cables, to the possibility of British Guiana being supplied with a duplicate cable service, via Surinam, to Europe.

If my recollection serves me rightly, this matter was thoroughly investigated in the Colony last year, and the idea was abandoned in consequence of Sir A. Swettenham coming to the conclusion that it was undesirable, if not impracticable.

The Dutch Government, true to their reputation in the old rhyme, were asking for more than they were offering, and it was found that British Guiana would have to bear the greater part of the cost of crossing the Corentyne river and running the line through the uninhabited parts of Surinam, while Dutch Guiana was prepared to accept the greater part of the profit on messages transmitted.

In addition to this, it was found that this "second string" is as unreliable as the now notorious Demerara cable, since the line from Surinam to the north has been interrupted for nearly 600 days since 1902, while the line to the south was also interrupted in 1902, and has not yet been repaired!

A much wiser policy than that of having two strings, both liable to break, is to have one good cable which should not break, at any rate for at least ten years, by which time a duplicate service ought to be established.

A line from Bermuda, which keeping well eastward of the Leeward Islands in deep Atlantic, would run direct to Barbados and thence to British Guiana would presumably be less liable to damage than one laid in shallower water, while the cost of messages would be much reduced from that of our recent cable-cum-schooner mode of transmission. I question whether in the history of cables there has ever been a parallel to the unhappy plight of a country, dependent on the cable for the sale of nine-tenths of its produce, being deprived of the use of that cable during nearly the whole time that this produce was being realised.

But there is a broader issue at stake, which concerns not British Guiana alone but the whole of the West Indies, and to which I would briefly refer.

The United States, having realised the pleasing elasticity of the Monroe doctrine, have first annexed Puerto Rico and Cuba, have since then established a protectorate over Panama, and now, their latest and subtlest achievement, have quietly taken upon themselves the care of the Island of San Domingo. St. Thomas still hangs in the balance but its ultimate fate is assured, and then the States will have complete domination over the north of the Caribbean. Venezuela, safe under Monroeism, is displaying a sublime disregard for its obligations towards us, and the Panama canal looms in the future as a prospective fact which will upset the balance of international power in the Caribbean, if not all over the world.

What then is the policy of this country to meet this situation? Is it to possess a fortified garrison, a naval base and a British cable in the West Indies? On the contrary, from what I can learn, all we are doing is to remove both troops and fleet from these waters, while leaving the cable, their only remaining link with the home country, under the influence of the French and American Governments.

Surely, if ever there were need for an all-British cable, that need is here, and surely it becomes the duty of our West Indian Colonies to unite in urging with insistent reiteration, that the British Government should grant an Imperial subsidy sufficient to remedy the present unsatisfactory and even dangerous state of affairs.

79, Mark Lane,

London, E. C. January 25th, 1905.

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD R. DAVSON.

Beet v. Cane Sugar

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

SIR,—As one who takes very great interest in the future of our West Indian possessions and in the correspondence which you have lately published with regard to the advantages of cane sugar over that produced from the beet, I should be glad to know whether any of your correspondents could throw any light upon the fact, that in those countries in which cane sugar is eaten, the teeth of the inhabitants are far better in every way than those of the inhabitants of countries consuming the beet product.

I ask this question because I observe that your correspondents have hitherto spoken in general terms of the advantages of cane sugar over the beet product.

It appears to me that if this fact could be proved by figures which are no doubt easily obtainable, the position of the West Indian producer would be materially strengthened, and that he would be thereby furnished with a weapon which should be of inestimable value to him.

Yours truly,

N. E. C.

The Trafalgar Centenary.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR,—Just one hundred years have rolled away since the hero of Trafalgar sacrificed his life for that Empire we as Colonists are so proud of to-day! Had his transcendental genius not been available at this crisis of our history, how different might have been the history of our Mother Country and her dependencies in the year of our Lord, 1905. Fortunately for us all, the wooden walls of England proved insurmountable, and the glorious victory of Trafalgar opened up a new era of security and prosperity for the nation, which can truthfully boast that the sun never sets on its might. Could a more fitting time than the present be selected to bring to the notice of all interested, the fact that this tiny islet of the West not only was for some time the residence of the future hero of Trafalgar, but also provided him with a wife who was a Nevisian by birth. It is a curious coincidence that Nevis was besides the birth place of that Alexander Hamilton who was looked upon as the Solon of America after the Declaration of Independence. For one small dependency like Nevis to have been connected with the past lives of two such renowned but widely divergent historical celebrities is surely remarkable, and in any general scheme for celebrating so momentous a centenary as that of Trafalgar and the death of Lord Nelson, Nevis' claims should be worthy of consideration.

Queen's House,

Nevis.

Yours truly,

C. A. SHAND,

Colonial Reports—St. Lucia.

Sir George Melville, the Administrator of St. Lucia, in his Report on the Blue Book of the Colony for 1903 (Colonial Report No. 443. For summary of previous Reports for 1902-3, see *Circular* Vol. XIX., p. 30; and for 1901-2, see *Circular* Vol. XVIII.; No. 99, p. 8), states that, from a financial aspect, the year occasioned some anxiety, and the diminution in the business of the coaling trade was severely felt by a large section of the people of Castries who find a livelihood therein. The stoppage, too, during a part of the year of the military works adversely affected labour. A revival of the coaling trade is, however, confidently looked for. Perhaps the most pleasing feature of the year was the extension of cacao production, and the good omen which it conveyed for the future.

A Commission was appointed during the year for the purpose, primarily, of enquiring into the system under which the roads of the Colony are maintained, and to make recommendations for their improvement. The report of the Commission was an exhaustive one, but the changes to be made were not settled during the year.

The opening up of the rich Crown lands of the Island to peasant proprietors by the construction of more roads and byeways is of as much importance to the large proportion of the population, which is composed of agriculturists, and to the general prosperity of the Colony, as is the improvement of the Castries harbour to the coaling and shipping trade.

The following is our usual comparative table of revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	
1899	£71,479	£63,821	£7,658 Surplus.
1900	72,108	64,750	7,358 "
1901-2	67,365	67,486	121 Deficit.
1902-3	72,193	69,408	2,785 Surplus.
1903-4	66,009	70,692	4,683 Deficit.

The surplus assets of the Colony amounted on March 31st, 1904, to £18,788. The following table gives the value of the principal exports of local produce, and the total exports for the past five years :—

	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Sugar (Muscovado) ...	£474	£1,903	£3,167	2,967	£1,984
" (Usine) ...	36,319	51,674	44,348	23,029	32,772
Cacao ...	25,734	38,247	18,185	31,733	38,266
Rum ...	381	897	1,337	1,019	813
Total exports ...	£170,668	229,436	188,067	157,753	169,489

Colonial Reports—Trinidad and Tobago.

The Report of Mr. Hugh Clifford, the Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago, on the Blue Book of the Colony for 1903-4, forwarded to the Colonial Office on November 16th last, was published last month. (Colonial Reports Annual, No. 442. For Summary of Report for 1902-3 see *Circular* No. 113, and for 1901-2 see *Circular* No. 93). In forwarding the Report, Sir Henry Jackson, the Governor, who had only recently arrived in the Colony, invites attention to Mr. Clifford's remarks regarding the condition of coolie immigrants, and expresses the hope that means may be devised for checking desertion, which is equally injurious to the indentured immigrants, and to the employers who have paid for their introduction. Mr. Clifford's remarks on this point are as follows :—

During the year under review four immigrant ships arrived from British India, bringing 2,458 souls, equivalent to 2,397½ statute adults. The number of women landed was 676. One return ship sailed from Port of Spain for

Calcutta on October 6th, 1903, carrying with her 721 souls, and money to the value of over £9,320, besides quantities of gold ornaments. These figures, while bearing testimony to the comparative wealth to which the thrifty East Indian imported under indenture can attain in this Colony, indicate also that Trinidad is annually losing, by return to their native land, an appreciable number of men and women who have proved themselves to be desirable citizens.

Considerable public attention has been attracted to the report of the Medical Officer of the Gaol, which contains the statement that many indentured immigrants admitted to the prison, enter that institution in a very reduced state of health. This remark has been made the subject of much comment, and the conclusion seems to have been somewhat generally accepted that the indentured immigrants referred to are those admitted to gaol directly from the estates upon which they are employed. Careful inquiry, however, proves that this impression is erroneous. The immigrants who come straight from the estates are almost invariably healthy, but those who are arrested and sentenced after a long period of desertion are as frequently in very poor condition. These men obtain shelter and employment with their compatriots, who maintain them so long as they are worth maintaining, but who turn them out of doors as soon as they show signs of becoming a burden through impaired health. Subsequently these men give themselves up as deserters, or are arrested as vagrants, and as might be expected, they are usually found to be half-starved, and are often suffering from serious illness. For this the management of the estates, which has already suffered through the desertion of the immigrant, cannot justly be held responsible.

The number of convictions for breach of the Immigration Ordinance amounted during the year under review to 1,582, exceeding the average for the past decade by 695.8. There can be no doubt that the treatment meted out to Indian immigrants in the Royal Gaol has no terrors for them; that under the existing system the labour which they are there called upon to perform is lighter and less irksome than that required of them upon the estates; and that, having regard to the low standard of comfort which prevails among the newly imported East Indians, they find the accommodation which the gaol affords to them all that they can desire. There are numerous instances of men, who have been convicted over and over again of breach of the Ordinance, who take the first opportunity of committing a similar offence immediately upon their release, with the avowed object of again returning to prison.

Mr. Clifford's general observations are naturally largely devoted to the deplorable events of March 23rd, and it is satisfactory that he is able to report that the regrettable and serious division between a large and influential portion of the community and the Executive Government has, to a great extent, disappeared.

In conclusion there remains only to record the fact that Trinidad continues to enjoy a large measure of prosperity; that its trade, in spite of all disadvantageous circumstances, is flourishing, and, subject to some fluctuations, is increasing in volume and in value; that the state of its public finances is sound; and that even among the very poor portions of the community poverty, of the cruel and grinding character that is too well-known in colder climates, is comparatively rare. That much is due to the fact that cacao cultivation has long co-existed with that of sugar in this Colony, and that the former continued to flourish when the latter fell upon evil days, cannot be denied, and with this lesson before our eyes the necessity for encouraging minor industries—more especially minor agricultural industries—which may serve in the future as additional lines of defence against adversity, forces itself upon the perception as one of the first, most obvious, and most insistent of the duties of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	
	£	£	£
1889	681,339	672,590 ^c	8,749 Surplus.
1900	698,939	659,079 ^a	39,860 "
1901-2	712,394	731,160	18,766 Deficit.
1902-3	788,404	737,045	51,359 Surplus.
1903-4	804,440	818,860	14,420 Deficit.

The values of the most important exports during the last seven years were as follows:—

Year.	Sugar. Value.	CACAO. Value.	Asphalt. Value
	£	£	£
1897	537,107	532,123	138,801
1898	602,045	812,272	113,829
1899	715,428	898,389	152,046
1900	552,158	978,632	177,460
1901-2	453,304	953,287	159,044
1902-3	414,396	1,078,498	170,563
1903-4	438,418	1,062,417	198,716

^a Sums of £75,561 and £37,801 spent in 1899-1900 on account of unissued balance of the authorised loan have been deducted.

Notes of Interest.

SUGAR BOUNTIES. Sir Edward Clarke, K.C., will deliver an address on "Sugar Bounties" at the third political discussion of the Session 1904-5, at the Constitutional Club, to-morrow evening.

COLONIAL INSTITUTE. The Right Hon. the Earl of Minto, G.C.M.G., has been appointed a Vice-President in succession to the late Field-Marshal Sir Henry W. Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.I.E., subject to confirmation at the next Annual Meeting of Fellows.

SHIPPING FACILITIES. The Steamer services of the Harrison Line and the Leyland Line from Liverpool, to the West Indies have been increased and accelerated. The Steamers now leave Liverpool every Saturday afternoon, to arrive at Barbados in fourteen, and Trinidad in seventeen days.

BINDING CASES. 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.

PURE CANE SUGAR. The old-established firm of Messrs. Davison, Newman & Co., 14, Creechurch Buildings, Leadenhall Street, E.C., has undertaken to execute all orders for the cane sugars and other West Indian produce of the Monocane Sugar Co. All packages will bear the name and trademarks of the Monocane Sugar Co., Ltd.

THE DIRECT LINE OF STEAMERS. The fortnightly steamers of the Direct Line of Steamers from London to the West Indies will in future load at No. 13 Shed, West India Dock Basin, which was previously occupied by the "Glen" line of steamers to the Straits and China. The first steamer to use the new berth was the *Savan*.

CANE FIRES IN CUBA. Several cane fires have occurred in Cuba recently, and the rural guards in Cuba have captured a number of the incendiaries and it is thought that adequate punishment will be administered to these villains who are destroying the entire work of this year in this malicious way. The *Havana Post* urges that this may be done.

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.

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. "Almerian" from Liverpool, for Barbados, and Trinidad, February 3rd; S.S. "Savan" from London, for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Demerara, and Berbice, February 9th; and the R.M.S. "Port Kingston" from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, on February 11th.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB. The fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club was held at the club rooms, on Wednesday, January 25th. Mr. Joseph Rippon was in the chair and amongst those present were: Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, Mr. L. Evelyn, Mr. A. Hutchinson, Mr. A. K. Agar, Mr. A. Hirsch, Mr. C. Cary-Elwes, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. E. A. Reynolds Ball, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. Chas. Wilson, Mr. F. Berger, Mr. H. Berger, and Mr. W. W. Arnott. During the absence in the West Indies of Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock, Mr. Robert Rutherford, is acting treasurer of the West Indian Club, and we are asked to request that all club subscriptions should be sent to him at 34, Great Tower Street, E.C.

The Homeward Mail.

The important feature of the Homeward Mail is the confirmation which it has brought of the announcement that the white troops are to be withdrawn. This was cabled by the Colonial Minister to the Governor of Barbados, and made by him to the House of Assembly on January 10th. It is disappointing that another Mail has gone by without bringing with it definite information as to the nature of the exhibits to be sent over by Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, and Jamaica for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition. The exhibition opens in May, and it is very desirable that sugar canes, etc., for decorative purposes should arrive not later than the third week in March. It is however satisfactory to learn that there is every prospect of the vote for £1000 being re-introduced into the Legislative Council in Jamaica and adopted after all. In Trinidad too the arrangements appear to be progressing. The Royal Mail

Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Orinoco" anchored off Plymouth on Wednesday, January 25th, at 11 a.m., and the Mails were delivered in London by first post on the following morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Services R.M.S. "Port Antonio," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, January 18th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received per R.M.S. "Orinoco."

Antigua—The Effects of the Drought.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) January 9th. The cotton crop was just beginning to come in, but the late planted land, owing to the very poor "wet season" did not look as though it would come to much. Onions had suffered alike with other crops from the drought, and a light crop could only be looked for.

Dr. G. B. Mason had been appointed Medical Officer and Magistrate at Anguilla

Barbados—Crop Estimates.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE) January 14th. Much pleasure was felt at the success of the Horticultural Exhibition held in December, and it was sincerely hoped that the efforts of the West India Committee to bring forward West Indian products would not be in vain. It was gratifying to note the increase in the membership roll, and it was hoped that the Committee would continue to receive the support it so justly deserved.

Estimates of the coming crop were now being put forward, and the average seemed to be between 40,000 and 45,000 tons of sugar, and 25,000 to 30,000 puncheons of molasses. But it was somewhat premature to venture on an opinion just yet.

Two more estates had been sold out of Chancery on the 13th inst. at fair advances on the appraisements, the names and prices being:—

1905.	Plantation	Acreage.	Appraisalment.	Price Realised.	Purchaser
January 14th.	Sturges, St. Thomas	... 137 ...	£2710 0 0 ...	£3300 0 0 ...	Mr. J. O. Wright.
" "	Westwood, "	... 212 ...	3739 0 0 ...	4650 0 0 ...	Mr. John Manning

The New Year had opened with a few light showers, but it was not thought they will be of much avail to the old crop, although they were undoubtedly a boon to the young canes. The average rainfall for the year to date was about 1.50 inches.

British Guiana—Rain Still Wanted.

(A. SUMMERSON, ESQ.) January 11th. The resolution recently passed by the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society with regard to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition had been under discussion at a meeting of the Planters' Association on December 29th, and the Society had been informed that the Association would do all in their power to influence exhibits. The writer did not think that there would be any difficulty in getting articles from the Museum.

The cable was still interrupted. The repairing steamer "Henry Holmes," was at work on the break, but the past few days had been very rough outside, and she had not been able to do anything.

Refining crystals were quoted at \$3.16

The heavy rains had ceased on December 29th and since then only light showers had fallen, principally in Georgetown and the neighbourhood. Generally, more rain was wanted.

Dominica—The Fruit Show.

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.) January 12th. Tourists were beginning to arrive, but owing to lack of proper information most of them went on with the Royal Mail steamer to St. Thomas, only to regret having wasted ten days that might have been more enjoyably spent in Dominica. It was true that they had no very extensive accommodation for visitors, but there was more than was generally supposed.

Satisfaction at the success of the Dominica exhibit at the show of Colonial fruits was general.

The weather for the past fortnight had been showery.

Grenada—The Late Mr. Symington.

(HON. D. S. DEFREITAS) January 12th. Mr. W. Weldon Symington's death had come as a great and painful shock to those in Grenada, where his kindly, genial nature and unquenchable enthusiasm had earned for him many sincere friends who were mourning his loss and who desired to offer their profound sympathy to his family. His enthusiasm for business was as infectious as his good nature, both having their roots in flawless sincerity.

The cacao pickings on the estates in the uplands were still very unsatisfactory, and a shortage in the Island's crop might now be looked upon as a certainty. The rainfall during the past fortnight had been well distributed and had benefited the lowlands. The temperature had been delightfully cool since last Mail.

Jamaica—The Exhibition Grant.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, ESQ.) January 6th. The Legislature would open in February, probably towards the end of that month. The controversy regarding the Rum Protection Ordinance was continuing in the Press. There was every hope that the Exhibition Grant would be passed after all, if re-introduced.

There had been no actual extension of cane cultivation in Trelawney in consequence of the improved outlook, but one estate which had been abandoned last year had again been taken up. The estates in Westmoreland had always been kept up fairly well, but the increase was in the planting for next season's reaping among small cultivators of cane, who sold their canes to the estates.

The weather had been favourable for the growing crops.

Montserrat—Cotton Prospects.

(CONRAD WATSON, ESQ.) January 11th. Blustering weather, with frequent light showers, was delaying the picking of the cotton crop; the staple was particularly free from stains, and apparently was not depreciating.

Nevis—Improved Yield of Cotton.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND). January 11th. Cotton picking was in full swing, indeed, the difficulty was to get it in fast enough. It was too early as yet to predict what the output would be, but there was no doubt that the average yield per acre would considerably exceed that of 1904.

The date of the Agricultural Show (February 28th) was drawing near, and strenuous efforts were being made to ensure a successful representation on the occasion.

Captain Owen had most kindly made arrangements for the regular arrival of steamers at Nevis at fixed hours.

The Governor had visited Anguilla and Tortola during the previous week in the S.S. "Yare," and was returning by Royal Mail to Antigua on the 11th inst. If the weather they had experienced had been general, the sea-going capabilities of both vessel and passengers would have undergone a severe test during the voyage.

Since last Mail the weather had been dry, and during the past few days boisterous, high winds had prevailed, which had knocked the cotton and canes about.

St. Kitts—The Yield of Cotton.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, ESQ.) January 10th. Cotton gining had begun at Spooner's (Mr. Wade's) factory, and an early start was in contemplation at the others. The yield of cotton was expected to be a large one as compared with last year, owing, it was thought, to the wider planting which experience had forced on them.

Dr. W. Branch had, they regretted to say, been transferred to Antigua, but his place would be filled by Dr. McDonald, of the latter Island.

Three American cruisers had been in the roadstead for the past twelve days, and had helped to add to the festivities of the season, which had included a couple of dances, etc.

High rains had been prevalent during the fortnight, and a start with reaping would soon in consequence be general. The labourers were asking for an increase of wages, and this had in most instances been met by the employers.

St. Lucia—The Withdrawal of the Troops.

(HON. E. DU BOULAY) January 13th.—A public meeting had been held in support of the action of the non-official members of the Council in quitting the Council Chamber rather than take part in the passing of the Acquisition of Lands Ordinance, which the community felt was obnoxious.

The announcement of the apparently sudden determination of the Imperial Government to withdraw the garrison and abandon the fortifications so recently constructed, had caused much surprise. As far as they could learn in St. Lucia, the move would seem to be in pursuance of a general course of policy, as they understood that a similar action was contemplated not only at Jamaica and Barbados, but also at Bermuda. They could not but regret that the arrangements so long ago decided upon of concentrating the troops in St. Lucia and Jamaica, had been given up for a policy of abandonment, which must, for some time at all events, make an adverse difference to the Island. Happily, the prospects of sugar were at the same time taking on a brighter aspect. The weather had been dry, with but light showers, and cropping operations would begin before long.

St. Vincent—Arrowroot.

(Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co.) January 13th.—Seed cotton, sufficient to make upwards of 100 bales of lint, was now in Kingstown, but the working of the machinery at the Government Factory was unsatisfactory, and they feared there was not power sufficient to work the number of gins, which was sure to cause disappointment to growers.

The yield of arrowroot still continued very poor, and the market was at a standstill, there being seemingly no demand for it by the cacao and biscuit trades, as was usual at this time of year.

Tobago.

(W. J. SANGER TUCKER, ESQ.) January 9th. Everyone in the Island was taken aback at the falling price of cacao. This industry was looked upon as the mainstay of the Island, sugar, it appeared, taking quite a secondary place; it seemed that commerce was better served by the former, according to the merchants and storekeepers. The rise in price of sugar was very welcome, but unfortunately, with the exception of Caroni estate, all the estates there would be deplorably short in their crops.

Trinidad—Cacao Shipments

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C.M.G.) January 15th. The West Indian Agricultural Conference concluded its work that day. It had been in every way a marked success. Many very interesting papers had been read and discussed, and much valuable information would be placed within the reach of the public when the full report of the proceedings were published by the Department of Agriculture.

Showers during the past fortnight had not been so frequent as the previous few weeks, and everything pointed to an early setting in of dry weather. The Usine and some other factories had made a start with crop that week. The reports of the yield both in field and factory, were very satisfactory.

Cacao estates were showing the effects of the scantiness of the rains since last July, and pickings continued to be

light, and this in conjunction with the firmer tone in London, had caused a recovery of prices. Local prices were \$12.00 for Ordinary and \$12.20 for Estate kinds.

Arrivals from Venezuela continued on a fair scale and were readily taken at \$12.26 for completion of contracts.

		Shipments.						
Total at last Report...	---	---	---	292,110	Trinidad	---	42,697	Venezuela
December 30th.—"Canada"	---	---	---	2,823	"	---	118	Europe
" 30th.—"Procida"	---	---	---	650	"	---	—	Nev York
" 30th.—"Atrato"	---	---	---	479	"	---	—	Europe.
" 31st.—"Caroni"	---	---	---	1,144	"	---	29	"
" 31st.—"Cheniston"	---	---	---	163	"	---	—	"
Totals to 31st December, 1904	---	---	---	297,369			42,844	
1905. Jan. 4th.—"Maraval"	---	---	---	2,363	"	---	652	Venezuela—N York
" 10th.—"Prins Maurits"	---	---	---	367	"	---	—	"
				2,730			652	

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. E. J. CAMERON has resumed the duties of Administrator, Colonial Secretary, and Treasurer of St Vincent.

MR. J. C. MOORE, Agricultural Superintendent, has returned to St. Lucia, and resumed his duties on December 6th.

MR. O. D. HONIBALL, Government Medical Officer, has returned to British Guiana, and resumed his duties on the 4th inst.

MR. G. A. GOODMAN, K.C., M.C.P., has been appointed a member of the Executive Committee, Barbados, from January 3th.

SIR THOMAS C. RAYNER, Attorney-General of British Guiana, left England on his return to duty on January 18th.

MR. FREDERICK E. SCOTT has been appointed a Member of the Board of Education, Trinidad, in the place of the late Hon. Kene de Verteuil.

MR. J. S. SAINSBURY, Officer of Customs, Barbados, has been granted an extension of six months' leave of absence from January 1st, 1905.

MR. A. F. GALL, Stipendiary Magistrate of British Guiana, who is now in England, has been granted an extension of leave for three months from the 7th inst.

DR. C. W. BRANCH, Medical Officer of the Kingstown District, St. Vincent, has been granted two months' leave of absence, during which period Dr. Durant will act in his place.

MR. P. HEMERY, Assistant Receiver General and Sub-Administrator, Berbice, British Guiana, has returned to the Colony from leave of absence, and resumed his duties on December 24th.

The leave of absence granted to the HON. S. L. HORSFORD, an Unofficial Member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of St. Kitts-Nevis, has been extended from the 7th to the 31st January.

MR. A. A. MCKINNON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Practitioner, has been appointed to perform the duties of a Government Medical Officer, British Guiana, in the place of Dr. J. C. P. Widdup.

The HON. EDGAR AGOSTINI, K.C., has been appointed to the office of Attorney-General, and the Hon. A. Warner, K.C., to the office of Solicitor-General of Trinidad, both appointments to take effect as from the 10th November last.

DR. T. SINCLAIR BROWNE, Surgeon to the Police, Harbour Police and Fire Brigade, and Medical Assessor, Barbados, resumed his duties on the 11th inst. Mr. B. E. Bynoe has been appointed Revising Officer for the year 1905.

CAPTAIN B. W. BARR, commanding the Belize Light Infantry Volunteer Corps, has resigned his commission, and it is rumoured that Captain H. Peebles will assume command of the corps, and Lieut. W. B. Gutterton will act as Adjutant.

The HON. EDWARD BATESON, Attorney-General, St. Lucia, has been granted two months' leave of absence, from December 31st, during which time Mr. Anthony de Freitas, Magistrate, 1st District, will act as Attorney-General, and the Hon. J. E. M. Salmon, as Magistrate, 1st District.

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 Sugar Question from the Refiner's Standpoint. By L. A. Martin. This is a reprint from an article which appeared in the *Grocers' Review* of January 3rd, 1905, and forms a useful contribution to the literature regarding the controversy about the recent rise in sugar.

The Commission of H.M.S. Retribution. By W. H. Watts, P.O. 2 (London: The Westminster Press, Gerrards, Ltd., 1904). To give each man in the Navy, as far as possible, a complete account of his days in the service, and to educate the public as to the true life of the British bluejacket, are the objects of the "Log Series," of which this volume is the seventeenth. As this will be the last log of a commission on the North American and West Indies station which will be published, it should attract more than usual attention. Covering as it does the period from June, 1902, to September, 1904, it includes particulars of the affairs of Venezuela, which came prominently before the public in July, 1902. There is a delightful scent of ozone about this volume, and the *bon camaraderie* of the writer compensates for the phonetic spelling of persons and places, which has been adopted in several places. The book is well illustrated.

The Destruction of Mosquitos. By Major W. M. Hodder, R.E. (Chatham: W & J. Mackay & Co., Ltd.). This pamphlet, compiled at the suggestion of the War Office, gives a good account of the drainage and other works carried

out with the object of destroying mosquitos, and consequently stamping out malarial and worse fevers, in St. Lucia during 1902 and 1903. A short account of outbreaks of malaria and yellow fever in the Island is followed by a chapter relating how the latter scourge was effectively coped with in Havana by the destruction of the *stegomyia* mosquito, to which the transmission of this terrible endemic disease is attributed. The fact that Barbados, although it has swamps and the mosquito might easily be imported, is free from the *anopheles* and also malaria, leads the writer to say that if the reason for this could be discovered, a much more simple and efficacious means of destroying the insect would be at hand than the costly and laborious method of drainage, clearing, and other works. The book has four plans and several half tone illustrations, and should be read with additional interest now that an active campaign is being conducted against the mosquitos in the Leeward Islands.

Sun Pictures of the Antilles and British Guiana. By A. E. A. (London: The West India Committee.) 2s. 6d. net. We have received an interesting booklet, entitled "Sun Pictures of the Antilles and British Guiana," written by Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall (Secretary of the West India Committee). This little work, the object of which is to popularise our West Indian Colonies, is dedicated to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., "during whose tenure of office as Secretary of State for the Colonies, equality of opportunity and free trade for sugar in British markets, which had been denied them for so many years, was first granted to the British West Indies." Mr. Aspinall has collected much information which will be of the greatest value to tourists and those having business in the islands, and everything is set forth in a particularly clear and attractive manner. Details of steamship services, climate, and currency are among the more general items, but useful pieces of advice are also to be found. For instance, it is suggested to tourists that they should not "make themselves too conspicuous with puggarees and similar eccentricities. Cabmen, boatmen, and *les gens en general* naturally consider such as do fair game." Within the pages of the volume are brief descriptions of most of the more important islands, as well as of British Guiana, and also directions as to the best hotels, with cost of living, and as to the easiest means of transit. Sports and clubs are not forgotten. The visitor on pleasure bent who takes Mr. Aspinall's book with him will probably appreciate as much as anything the concise paragraphs relating to the principal sights, which should not be missed. The illustrations, which are from photographs taken during a tour on behalf of the West India Committee, are well selected, and give a fine idea, not only of the towns and people, but of the beauties of the West Indian Islands.—*The Standard*

Some 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.

Percent Amount.	Stock or Shares.		Date.	Dividend.	Price.
100,000.	Stock.	Antigua - - 4 per cent. Redeemable 1919-44 ...	100	4 %	102-104
375,000.	"	Barbados - - 3½ " " " 1925-42 ...	100	3½ %	97-99
194,500.	"	British Guiana 4 " " " 1935 ...	100	4 %	105-107
123,670.	"	Grenada - - 4 " " " 1917-42 ...	100	4 %	103-105
1,093,907.	"	Jamaica - - 4 " " " 1934 ...	100	4 %	106-108
85,479.	"	St. Lucia - - 4 " " " 1919-44 ...	100	4 %	103-105
422,593.	"	Trinidad - - 4 " " " 1917-42 ...	100	4 %	103-105
100,000	20	Colonial Bank ...	£6	6 %	8½-7
15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ...	65	—	26-27
223,575.	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 %	2½-3½
347,500.	Stock.	" " " " 4 % 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4 %	72-74
352,700.	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb	100	6 %	98-101
165,000.	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock ...	100	Nil	15-20
115,000.	Stock.	" " " " 7 % Preference ...	100	2 %	89-92
31,250	10	" " " " 4 % Extension Preference ...	10	4 %	7½-8½
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 %	99-101
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 %	99-101
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.	7½-7½
4,669	10	" " " " " 2nd " ...	10	—	6½-7½
80,000.	100	" " " " 5% Deb ...	100	5 %	101-103

Demerara Cotton Syndicate, Ltd (83,285).

Registered January 19th. Capital, £2,000 in £1 shares. Object, to cultivate cotton and other produce in Demerara or elsewhere in the West Indies; to carry on in all its branches the business of cotton-growers, manufacturers, merchants, commission agents, &c. No initial public issue. The first directors are G. A. W. Farmer and G. J. Ekins (all permanent). Qualification, 200 shares. Remuneration, £250 each per annum while residing in Demerara and managing the company's property there; otherwise, £100 per annum.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Caviller) January 17th. "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." Jan. 30th. "*Idem.*" **British Guiana** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Jan. 18th. "Too dry." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) Jan. 19th. "Weather showery. Some showers have fallen but more rain much wanted in Berbice." Jan. 26th. "Weather very dry and rain much wanted." **Trinidad** (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.) Jan. 27th. "Weather continues dry." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Jan. 30th. "Fine, with occasional light showers." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.). Jan. 30th. "Some damage in St. Catherine's and St. Mary, but not general or very heavy loss." (This refers to very strong winds reported on January 27th.—ED.).

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 Jan 10, '05	6328	—	—	904	—	600	—	—	—
" " 10, '04	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jamaica—		Cwts.	Coffee.	Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Ginger.	
Apr 1 to Dec 24, '04	6279	16,585	28,584	931,599	2,364,618	124,514	6,528,647	11,841	10,542
" " 26, '03	8172	17,506	42,048	896,201	14,372,110	59,883	7,403,080	16,587	—
Trinidad—	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.	Tres.	Bcls.	Asphalt.
Jan 1 to Dec 31, '04	397,894	41,790,080	64,555	1021	9,356,012	2967	59	139	131,583
" " 31, '03	382,407	28,439,190	42,600	1173	13,944,092	2608	178	168	164,088
Grenada—	Coffee.				SPICE.				Cotton Seed
Oct 1 to Jan 13, '05	Bags.	Bags.	Bcls.	½ Bcls.	Cases.	Bags.			Bags.
" " 13, '04	23	18,639	2081	264	213	117			
	126	15,886	1279	186	109	24			

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Orinoco," (Capt. H. D. Doughty) Jan 25th:—**Barbados**—Mr. and Mrs. E. Dwyer, Rev. B. C. Howell, Mr. G. Hooghwinkel, Mr. D. H. Seale, Mr. M. S. Grolot, Mr. M. L. Bardet. **Demerara**—Mr. H. Perkins, Mr. F. J. Scard. **Jamaica**—Mr. W. King, Sir A. Stokes, Bart., Mr. and Mrs. Bagnall, Miss E. Brass, Mr. W. J. Wilson, Rev. W. L. Holland, Mr. P. E. Harrison, Mr. H. Lewis, Mr. E. C. Villiers, Mr. W. J. Crummack, Mr. R. Crummack, Miss E. G. Quirk, Mr. E. Quirk, Mr. Coulson. **Trinidad**—Mrs. C. Craig, Mr. A. Bertram, Mr. L. Mendel. **St. Vincent**—Mr. and Mrs. J. Dasent.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Alrato" (Capt. R. H. Stranger), Feb 1st:—**Barbados**—Miss C. King, Miss Tanqueray, Mr. and Mrs. Gledstones, Mr. G. E. and Mrs. Jarvis, Miss M. Gilroy, Miss Livingstone, Mr. W. H. Hallam, Mr. L. A. Gilbert, Miss K. K. Gilbert, Rt. Hon. Lord Biddulph, Mr. Cornwall, Mr. P. Squire, Mr. F. S. Stening, Capt. E. Packerman, Mrs. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Gribble, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Myddelton-Keill, Mr. N. Rouse, Com. Sir Chas. Cust, R.N., Mr. C. M. Byles, Capt. F. St. G. Tyrwhitt, Mr. W. Gibson, Mr. U. Gibson, Miss C. Gibson, Mr. H. H. and Mrs. Gibson, Mr. W. O'Hanlon, Mr. J. O'Hanlon, Mr. S. Single, Mrs. Kay, His Grace the Duke of Montrose, Lady E. Cochrane, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Miss E. Wilkinson, Rt. Hon. Arnold Morley, Mr. T. Daniel, Mr. W. Daniel, Mr. J. and Mrs. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. T. Padwick, Mrs. H. W. E. Storey, Miss G. T. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. P. Muir, Mr. J. S. McDonald, Mr. D. Scholes. **Demerara**—Mr. R. P. Stewart, Mr. J. Rose, Capt. J. A. C. Tongeley, Mrs. Anson, Mrs. B. Fowler, Mr. H. W. R. Greig, Mr. and Mrs. A. Choppin. **Jamaica**—Mr. C. F. and Mrs. Holford, Mr. C. Tetley, Mr. F. Tetley, Mr. Dryborough, Mrs. Preston, Miss Willmott, Mr. H. Tietz, Mr. F. J. W. Hunter, Mr. A. P. Gardner, Col. J. S. Walker, Mr. Slagg. **Trinidad**—Mr. and Mrs. G. Grell. **Antigua**—Mr. W. S. Heriot, Mrs. and Miss Sedgwick. **Dominica**—Miss C. Porter, Miss A. Frampton, Miss M. M. Baldwin. **Grenada**—Mr. E. Norton. **St. Kitts**—Mr. H. E. Raymond, Mr. A. Leveson-Gower. **St. Lucia**—Mr. and Mrs. E. R. L. Henderson, Mr. S. Smith, Mr. C. F. Conell.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. Owen Jones), Jan 19th:—**Jamaica**—Mr. W. Brewer, Mr. W. Brewer, Jun., Mr. Brothwell, Miss Davey, Mr. S. Isaac, Mr. R. Roberts, Mr. G. W. and Mrs. Rooke, Mr. and Mrs. Radford, Mr. O. A. Strande, Rev. J. S. Tucker.

HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons) Jan. 30th:—**Jamaica**—Mrs. E. Buckley, Dr. Frank Coke, Miss Corsbie, Miss Carton, Miss Courtney, Mr. Clive, Mr. S. P. Careless, Mr. Dove, Mr. Doughty, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Feely, Mr. and Mrs. J. Goold, Mr. Gelder, Mr. Heywood, Mr. J. P. Hooper, Mr. and Mrs. L. Lopez, Mr. and Mrs. Ledger, Mr. F. Leblond, Miss Leblond, Major Marescaux, Mr. and Mrs. McCulloch, Miss E. Messer, Mr. Meagens, Mrs. Maconochie, Miss Meldrum, Mr. J. C. Pawson, Mr. and Mrs. Poulton, Miss Phillips, Prof. and Mrs. Rhys, Mr. Shields, Mrs. Talbot, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. B. F. Williams, Mr. Burley, Mr. F. Carr, Mr. R. B. Godfree, Mr. W. Lennox.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Morant" (Capt. Owen Jones) Jan. 28th:—**Jamaica**—Miss A. M. Cover, Mr. H. Dawson, Mr. J. Dawson, Dr. R. C. Edwards, Mr. H. Hodson, Mr. P. W. Poole, Mr. C. Reid, Col. and Mrs. W. Seaton, Mrs. H. Thorburn.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—Political difficulties in Russia have had a tendency of late to disturb the even balance of all markets, and in the case of sugar, largely influenced by the feelings in Paris, where the social upheaval is a matter of great importance, it is not surprising that many speculators have hastened to realise profits and to generally husband resources at a time when no one knows from day to day what aspect affairs may take. The result of this uneasy feeling has been a temporary set-back in prices of 88% beet, since partially recovered, accompanied by sometimes almost violent movements. The weakness has not however extended to cane sugar which is practically still at top prices and looks like so continuing. It has not, moreover, added one single ton to the reduced supply we have before us between now and another beet crop, available only towards the end of the year. In this connection it may be useful to pay attention to Licht's visible supplies on the 1st January (even dates) as published in his last Circular, wherein is displayed the effects of the reduced beet root crops of this season by reason of last summer's abnormal drought.

HERR LICHT'S VISIBLE SUPPLY, 1st JANUARY.

	1905	1904	1903	
Convention Countries	2,690,000	3,669,000	3,448,000	Tons.
Total Visible	2,836,000	3,881,000	3,682,000	..

These figures are suggestive and may prove the maintenance of current highly satisfactory prices for the next six months to come, even if they do not lead to a further upward movement, as many think they will. What is in store for us from September onwards is a question of beet sowings for crop 1905/6, which doubtless will be large, and also the weather, both elements of uncertainty, which can only be dealt with as they arise, and it is worse than useless to venture on a prophecy as to that season's average price.

The closing quotations of 88% are, January, 15s 10½d.; May, 16s 1½d.; August, 16s 2½d.; and Oct./Dec., 11s 3½d. all free on board Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Europe	2,640,000	3,560,000	3,330,000	3,490,000	2,820,000
United States	80,000	80,000	130,000	100,000	100,000
Cuba	70,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	30,000
Cargoes afloat	30,000	50,000	60,000	10,000	10,000
Total	2,820,000	3,790,000	3,620,000	3,700,000	2,960,000
Comparative prices of 88% Beet this day:—	15s. 10½d.	7s. 10d.	7s. 10½d.	6s. 8½d.	0s. 2½d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—A good business has again been done in yellow crystallised at the late important advance, but more recently buyers have withdrawn from the Market, and Importers are now offering to sell at 6d. decline, business having been done thereat. The value of average qualities now barely reaches 24s. 9d. More demand is looked for shortly and supplies are on a very moderate scale. The general range is 24s. to 25s. 6d. For a cargo of 95 test for Refiners' use 17s. remains the value on floating conditions in bond, at which no doubt large sales could be made for shipment up to June next.

Molasses Sugar continues to sell well from 16s. to 19s.

Muscovado.—No grocery Barbados here. Nominal value of good sugar, 19s. For 89 test to Refiners 15s. 3d. has on floating terms in bond been accepted.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902
Imports	2,300	4,300	400	3,100
Deliveries	2,460	2,800	2,800	4,800
Stocks	9,300	14,000	26,000	10,600
Quotations of Crystallised "average qualities"	24s. 9d.	15s.	14s. 6d.	15s. 9d.

Rum.—Stocks in London:

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902
Jamaica	7,700	8,600	10,300	7,100
Demerara	5,900	9,700	7,400	6,600
Total of all kinds:—	20,844	28,455	...	Deficiency 7,611

The demand for Demerara continues, and a good business has been done from 15s. 1d. to 15s. 3d., and one fine Mark at 15s. 3½d., showing a further advance of 1d. The value of fair Marks is 15s. 1d. In the absence of fresh supplies of Jamaica business is restricted, and quotations are rather uncertain. Possibly 2s. may for the moment be found the nearest value of fair Standard Home Trade Marks. Leewards range from 1s. to 1s. 3d. approximately. There is a considerable deficiency in the London stocks, see above.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:

	1905	1904	1903	1902
There is no change in the general condition of the market, buyers being indifferent and manufacturers complaining about a want of trade. London stocks are heavy, and no upward movement in prices is looked for, at least for the present. The closing quotations for West India show no change from those of the last Mail, viz.: Trinidad fair collected, 56s. Estate Marks, 56s. to 60s. Grenada fair Native, 52s.; and fermented, 53s. to 54s. From other Islands, Native Cocoa is worth 47s. to 50s.; and fermented 52s. to 54s.	85,000	53,000	74,000	84,000

Coffee.—Quiet. Good ordinary Jamaica, 39s. to 40s.

Peppercorns.—Quiet. Small sales of West India, 60's at 1s. 4d.; 80's, 1s. 1d.; 91's, 8d. to 8½d.; 108's, 6d.; and 117's, 5½d. **Mace.**—Small lots sold. Good pale at 1s. 5d.; fair pale and reddish, 1s. 3d.; with broken at 1s. **Pimento.**—Difficult of sale at 2½d. **Chili.**—Dull, at late rates.

Arrowroot.—More business in St. Vincent, with sales of about 1500 Barrels good manufacturing at 1½d.

Lime Juice.—Neglected. Quotations nominal. Concentrated, steady at £13 15s. Hand Pressed, quoted 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, value 1s. 2½d.

For Cotton, see Special Article page 44

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

£4,600; but if certain improvements are made in the service and Trinidad be the headquarters of the line, they recommend that the special yearly contribution of £5,000, which was agreed to be paid until the expiration of the present contract, should be continued for a period of five years. To this, a rider was added to the effect that, failing the acceptance of the above, a suggestion of the Secretary of State that the mails of the Colony should be carried by weight and the contract be discontinued should be carried out. We cannot but feel that the adoption of the latter expedient would be a most unfortunate course to pursue. If the mails were carried by weight, the Company carrying them would be under no obligation whatever as to keeping time, and though delays are now happily a thing of the past, our experience of the outcry which used to be raised when the slightest delay occurred under existing arrangements, leads us to this conclusion. If the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company find that they are unable to continue their present service without an increased subsidy, it should surely be for the Colonies to ask what they are prepared to offer, and so by negotiation to endeavour to arrive at a settlement. For this, time will be required, and inasmuch as the old contract has now only a little over four months to run, it might be found possible to continue the present arrangements for a further period of six months or a year, on certain conditions. But let us still have a contract, and take warning from the position of Australia, whose people had recently to submit *volens volens* to the unpleasant experience of their mails being left at Marseilles through the absence of a contract with a hitherto subsidised shipping company.

WEST INDIANS have always been prompt to respond to the calls of charity, and with the improved prospects for their principal industry, they should be more disposed to do so now than ever, and we would call their attention to the favourable opportunity afforded to them to loosen their purse strings by the London School of Tropical Medicine, which is issuing an earnest appeal for the sum of £6,000 which is still owing of the amount of £30,000 already expended upon providing the necessary laboratories, museums, libraries, &c., and wards for patients suffering from tropical diseases. Sir Patrick Manson, at a lecture delivered at the West India Committee Rooms last year, reminded his hearers how much might be done by preventive measures to combat malaria and other tropical diseases, and it is well-known how much has been accomplished in this direction, and through investigation and research, by the London School of Tropical Medicine. Thanks to the generosity of several private individuals, expeditions have been sent to Central Africa, the West Indies, the Straits, and other places in the tropics, and valuable discoveries have resulted, and it is one of the principal objects of the School to prosecute these researches still further, and if possible to acquire additional knowledge of tropical disease. The School owes its origin to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, who, when Secretary of State for the Colonies, invited the Seamen's Hospital Society to afford instruction in tropical medicine to medical officers in the Colonial Service, and the Society enlarged the scope of the School so as to include medical graduates, not only in the service of the Crown, but those purposing to practise in the tropics, either privately or as missionaries, or in connection with the great trade corporations. The advantages to the Empire of the instruction afforded cannot be over-estimated, and it is a fact that since its opening five years ago, over 500 men have left the School far more efficiently equipped to fight tropical disease than they could possibly have been, had they not enjoyed the opportunities for observation and the special education afforded. Let us then show in practical manner that the West Indies are grateful for what is being done. On the invitation of the Duke of Marlborough, our Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, and our Deputy-Chairman, Sir Henry K. Davson, have consented to act as stewards at a banquet over which Mr. Chamberlain will preside at the Hotel Cecil on May 10th, on behalf of the School, and we should like to see the West Indies take a leading part in according grateful recognition to an Imperial work, of which they are enjoying so large a share of the benefit.

The Hon. Francis Watts, C.M.G.

Dr. Francis Watts first went out to the West Indies in 1883, as chemist to the Montserrat Company, Ltd. On January 1st, 1889, he was appointed Analytical Chemist to the Government of Antigua. During his tenure of office, much attention was directed to matters relating to agriculture, and extensive experiments with sugar-cane were carried out in order to ascertain the manurial requirements of this plant, and in order to introduce new and improved varieties. In 1898 he was appointed Analytical and Agricultural Chemist to the Government of Jamaica, but he returned to the Leeward Islands in the following year as Analytical and Agricultural Chemist to the Government of that Colony, and in 1903 he became also Superintendent of Agriculture for the Leeward Islands, an appointment connected with the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies. In the discharge of the duties of his office, he directs extensive experiments with various crops, including sugar-cane, cotton, limes, cocoa, &c., and has given much attention to soil analysis and agricultural education. It is, perhaps, for his services in connection with central sugar factories that Dr. Francis Watts best merits our thanks, for he was largely instrumental with Sir Gerald Strickland, the then Governor of the Colony, in bringing about the erection of the well-equipped, modern central sugar factory in Antigua, of which we gave an illustration in our issue, No. 143. Dr. Watts has been a Member of the Executive Council of the Leeward Islands since 1899, and of Antigua since 1903, and was made a C.M.G. in 1904. Dr. Watts is an F.C.S. (1883), an F.I.C. (1889), an Associate of Mason College, Birmingham (1899), B.Sc. Birmingham (1902), and proceeded under the ordinary regulations to the degree of Doctor of Science, Birmingham, in 1904. He is the author of many scientific papers and publications, and quite one of the most cultured and useful men connected with our West Indian Colonies.

Daybreak at Port Royal.

Our full page illustration this week represents an early morning scene at Port Royal, and was taken as the mail steamer was rounding that remarkable spit of land known as the Palisados, which is so familiar to readers of "Tom Cringle." The vessel in the foreground is the old port guardship H.M.S. "Urgent," which was taken out of commission on March 31st, 1903. In the background, the early morning mists are seen rising off the glorious Blue Mountains. Port Royal was, prior to the great earthquake of 1692, according to Leslie, "the finest town in the West Indies, and at that time the richest spot in the universe." Here the buccaneers had their headquarters, whence they started on their marauding expeditions. The illustration should have a special interest at the present time, in view of the approaching abandonment of the dockyard, which is referred to in another column.

New Members of the West India Committee.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on February 2nd, Sir Nevile Lubbock presiding, the following five new Members were elected:—

Name	Proposer.	Seconder.
E. R. L. HENDERSON, Esq. (St. Lucia)	Hon. Mark Kerr.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
CHARLES GRIFFIN, Esq. (Antigua)	Hon. Donald McDonald.	Hon. R. A. L. Warneford.
HAMILTON BURT, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
F. P. STEVENSON, Esq.	Guy C. A. Wyatt, Esq.	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
THOMAS DOWD, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.	E. A. de Pass, Esq.

Of the new Members elected this year 2 are resident in Barbados, 2 British Guiana, 1 Dominica, 1 St. Lucia, and 1 Antigua. The next election will be held on Thursday, February 16th, and it is requested that the names of candidates may be sent to the Secretary before that date.

The Withdrawal of White Troops.

The white troops are to be withdrawn from the West Indies; but we understand that it is not contemplated to remove them before the autumn, so there is still time to take effective measures to safeguard the Islands. A sub-Committee of the West India Committee has been sitting, and it is probable that the Secretary of State will be asked to grant an interview on the subject. It is hardly necessary to add that as far as the Committee is concerned, the Colonial Office may count on every assistance in dealing with a matter which is admittedly serious being forthcoming.

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

The West India Committee to the Colonial Office.

January 20th, 1905.

SIR,—When the last homeward mail left the West Indies, it was rumoured in Barbados that the Government had decided to remove the white troops from the West Indies on March 31st next, and this rumour was very naturally causing much apprehension and alarm. Inasmuch as this feeling is also experienced among proprietors in this country, I am directed to ask if you will be pleased to inform my Committee whether there is any truth in the report, and whether also you can inform them if it is intended to alter the position of His Majesty's ships in those waters in such a manner as to withdraw what has always been looked upon as a safeguard from local troubles.

My Committee cannot believe that it is seriously contemplated to take the steps indicated, more especially having regard to the regrettable occurrence in Trinidad last year; but they are anxious to reassure their Members and friends, and, therefore, beg respectfully to solicit that a reply may be sent to them on Monday next, if possible.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary*.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street.

Colonial Office to the West India Committee.

Downing Street, February, 1905.

SIR,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th ultimo and your telegram of the 26th ultimo, enquiring as to the reported intention of His Majesty's Government to withdraw the troops at present stationed in the West Indies.

2. In reply, I am to inform you that His Majesty's Government have decided to withdraw all the British infantry at present stationed in the West Indian Colonies at an early date; and that Port Royal will no longer be retained as a naval base, but both that place and the coaling depôt at St. Lucia will be reduced to cadres, on which the expenditure in time of peace will be small, but which can in time of war be at once developed according to necessity.

3. Stocks of coal will, however, continue to be kept at both ports for the use of His Majesty's ships, and the West Indian Colonies will be visited, as heretofore, every winter by a naval squadron, and a fast cruiser will be permanently stationed in West Indian waters.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. P. LUCAS.

The Secretary,
West India Committee.

The late Sir Henry Norman.

Many friends of the late Field-Marshal Sir Henry Norman, being desirous of perpetuating his memory, a committee has been formed to collect subscriptions for this purpose. Lord Roberts is the President, and Sir Nevile Lubbock, Sir E. Noel Walker, and the Secretary of the West India Committee, Members. Those Members of the West India Committee who wish to subscribe, are requested to send their contributions as early as possible to the Secretary of the West India Committee, crossed "Norman Memorial Fund. Messrs. S. King & Co." The amount subscribed will be notified periodically, and when the total sum is approximately known, the wishes of subscribers as regards the



Photo by ALGERSON E. ARSALL

DAYBREAK AT PORT ROYAL, JAMAICA.

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nature of the memorial will be ascertained. Suggestions as to the form it shall take are invited by the General Committee; a statue or portrait has already been dismissed from consideration, as being inconsistent with what Sir Henry Norman would himself have wished, but two other suggestions are finding favour. One is that mural tablets should be placed in St. Paul's alongside those of other Field-Marsals, and in Chelsea Hospital, and also in Delhi, Jamaica, and Queensland; and the second, that a medal, to be called the Norman Medal, should be given to the senior Indian cadet on leaving Sandhurst, the annual presentation of which would afford an opportunity of keeping alive the memory of the distinguished Field-Marshal.

The Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

The General Exhibition Committee met at the West India Committee Rooms on January 31st, and again on the 10th inst., when the Secretary was able to report substantial progress in the arrangements for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition which opens at the Crystal Palace next May. A design for the West Indian Court was submitted, and copies were sent out to Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, and Trinidad. The three former Colonies having now stated how much they are prepared to spend on this side, it has been possible to begin more active preparations for their representation. The West India Committee are now in communication with the Officer Commanding the West Indian Regiment in Jamaica with a view to endeavour to secure the services of the band of the West Indian Regiment, which would do much to enhance the success of the Exhibition.

The opening date is May 6th, and we would again remind those concerned that it is of the *utmost importance* that the decorative part of the exhibits, such as sugar-canes, &c., should reach us not later than the third week in March.

The London School of Tropical Medicine.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain is to preside over a banquet to be held on May 10th next at the Hotel Cecil, with a view to calling public attention to the work of the London School of Tropical Medicine, which he founded when Secretary of State for the Colonies. Upwards of £30,000 has been spent by the School, and of this sum about £6,000 is still owing, and it is hoped to pay this off and also to provide a permanent endowment. It is an important matter for the School, both as regards its standing and usefulness, that it should become affiliated to the University of London. But as this affiliation can only be effected if the School can show a reasonable endowment guaranteeing permanency, and if further buildings are erected to carry on, in a still more efficient manner, the various courses of instruction that are considered essential, the fulfilment of the hopes entertained in this respect has to be deferred until these necessary conditions are complied with. A sum of at least £100,000 is required to provide adequate endowment for the teaching staff, to meet laboratory and other current expenses, and to make some provision towards the maintenance and treatment of patients in the tropical wards.

Sir Nevile Lubbock and Sir Henry K. Davson have consented to act as stewards at the banquet, and we shall be glad to hear at an early date from any of our Members who may wish to be present. Meanwhile we would ask those willing to subscribe to this good cause to forward their subscriptions to the Secretary of the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. *Bis dat qui cito dat!*

The Brussels Commission.

Further findings of the Brussels Permanent Commission, established under the Sugar Convention on March 5th, 1902, have just been issued as a Parliamentary Paper (Commercial No. 1, 1905). The Commission met on October 10th, 1904, for its twenty-ninth sitting, the British delegation being

composed of Sir Henry Bergne, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Mr. Llewellyn Smith, C.B., Mr. George Martineau, C.B., and Mr. S. P. Cockerell. Monsieur Léon Capelle was re-elected President for the year. The principal subject for discussion was that of sugared products, and it was agreed that should one of the contracting parties believe itself able to prove the existence of an appreciable bounty on sugared products arising from an excessive surtax, it should have the right to submit that proof to the Commission, which, if the bounties were found to be correct, should give its opinion as to the measures to be taken to put a stop to such bounties. Austria-Hungary alone voted against this. At the thirtieth sitting, rates of countervailing duty were fixed as being applicable to Bolivia, Greece, the Republic of Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Portugal, and certain Portuguese possessions. No appreciable amount of sugar from any of these countries appears to be imported into the United Kingdom. The Commission further decided the rates of countervailing duty on sugar exported from Brazil, Guatemala, and the Philippine Islands, and on refined sugar exported from Hayti. No refined sugar from Hayti enters the United Kingdom, but a certain amount of sugar appears to be imported from Brazil (78,761 cwts. in 1903) and the Philippines (70,646 cwts. in 1903). A small quantity (2,568 cwts.) was imported from Guatemala during 1904. For the Argentine Republic, the Commission decided that the rates of countervailing duty previously fixed must be retained for the present. In the course of this Session, formal objection was lodged by the British delegates to the practice of adjudging that a surtax exceeding 6 fcs. in non-contracting states must necessarily be regarded as a bounty, without consideration of the question whether such surtax does, in fact, give rise to advantages of the nature of a bounty or not. The Commission stands adjourned until April 6th.

Cane Sugar and Beet.

M. Th. Dufau in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* for February 1st, 1905, comments upon the views of Dr. E. O. Von Lippmann respecting the future rivalry between cane sugar and beet. He adverts to the increased production of Cuba and Java, and the practically undiminished production of the English Colonies during the period of the continental bounty system, as offering a presumption in favour of cane when the two compete on even terms. Having visited the West Indies he ascribes their ability to maintain production not to improvements in cultivation or in the cane itself, or even to improvements in chemistry and apparatus, but to the introduction of labour-saving machinery, together with economical methods of handling, and a reduction in the cost of labour itself, accompanied by great reductions, if not elimination, in the amount of fuel required.

As a factor in the competition to come, he points out that whereas the European peasant can always turn to other crops if beet seems likely to be unremunerative, the West Indian cane farmer has not this alternative, since coffee and cacao, &c., take some years before bringing any return, and his capital is insufficient for such delays. M. Dufau sees an immediate benefit to the West Indies in the abolition of the bounties, and still greater benefits later when the new varieties of cane are available for the planter, and believes that the difficulties hitherto met with in fixing the characteristics of these new varieties will be surmounted.

In respect to Dr. Von Lippmann's surmise that the cultivation of cane will be impeded by want of capital and labour, he points out that the English West Indies and Mauritius have in India an inexhaustible reservoir for labour, while capital is likely to be attracted more than in the past by the more settled conditions under which the industry is now pursued.

In conclusion, he says that if the conditions of equality are maintained, everything points to the increase of the world's production of sugar being henceforth in cane rather than beet; and that Europeans had better turn their attention to developing consumption by bringing about a reduction of duties.

The Relative Sweetness of Cane and Beet Sugars.

This much discussed subject, says the *Louisiana Planter*, in a recent issue, comes to the front quite frequently, and once again, now, from Sugar City, Colorado, where the *Saccharine Gazette* has on exhibition some candy made from beet sugar which it says "has Lowney's candy beat all 'round the block." This candy was made in Sugar City from sugar manufactured from beets grown there, and may be candy par excellence, and made from sugar par excellence.

"There would seem to be no proper disputing that cane sugar and beet sugar are the same product economically and, when strictly pure, will probably have the same degree of sweetness. The trouble is with the impurities. The larger part of the impurities can readily be removed from any manufactured article, but their final removal, the complete separation in the process of manufacture, would ordinarily be more difficult with sugar, or other article that requires great skill.

"It is a well recognized fact that molasses is one of the cheapest sources from which to procure alcohol. Within a few years tens of thousands of barrels of molasses have been thrown into the river in this state, and in the Sandwich Islands they are even now using it as a fuel, or as a fertilizer. Molasses, then, being so cheap and yet so effective as an alcohol producer, one would wonder why there is not a greater demand for it for producing alcohol in preference to the use of corn, which, during the past year, has been comparatively high. The trouble is that alcohol being used as a basis for the manufacture of medicines, perfumery and similar articles, must be neutral so far as any special flavour is concerned. It must contain alcoholic strength, but without any special flavour. Alcohol made from molasses too frequently carries with it a rummy flavour and odour, and the final removal of this very slight impurity, from an alcoholic point of view, is extremely difficult, notwithstanding the great skill displayed by the modern distillers. Alcohol can be made from corn more readily, and any slight defect in the distillation does not leave in the alcohol such an odour as to indicate its origin, as does alcohol carrying a molasses odour.

"Hence, we find that when white, refined sugars are made from beet or cane sugar, these sugars are absolutely flavourless. Such sugars should contain 99.5, or more, per cent. of pure sugar, and perhaps a quarter to a half per cent. of moisture, but it is almost impossible to secure beet sugars of such very high purity as not to retain a trace of the disagreeable odour of the beet. "You may break, you may shatter the vase if you will, but the scent of the roses will cling to it still." Or, let us paraphrase thus, "You may boil and refine beet sugar if you will, but the scent of the beet will cling to it still." And that's what the matter with beet sugar."

Sir Edward Clarke and the Sugar Bounties.

Sir Edward Clarke's address on Sugar Bounties, delivered at the third political discussion of the Session 1904-5, at the Constitutional Club on February 1st, was listened to by a large and appreciative audience, including Mr. Shirley Benn, who presided, Sir William Tomlinson, Sir E. Noel Walker, Mr. Robert Rutherford, and Mr. Edward Kynaston. Sir Edward Clarke said that a question had now arisen which, in view of the approach of a general election, and of the ignorant and unscrupulous attacks which had been made upon the Government, was undoubtedly one of pressing importance; he referred to the subject of sugar bounties, which had been in existence for more than forty years. During the whole of that time all political economists and leaders of both our political parties had agreed that they were extremely mischievous to trade, and that wherever they had been unwisely introduced they ought at the earliest possible moment to be got rid of. Liberal leaders had always agreed that bounties were mischievous and should be abolished, but in presence of this acknowledged injury to our trade they had been content with whimpering submission, and had never been prepared to take any effective step to redress the wrong. The object of the convention was to put an end to

evils which arose from an artificial depression in the price of sugar; and some increase in that price was the contemplated and the necessary result if the object of defending our industries and our Colonies from unfair treatment was to be achieved. We wanted to secure that equality of trade which would allow the products of various countries and the results of every class of labour to find their natural prices in our markets, and that we should thereby be assured of maintaining two sources of supply, and so lessening the probability of those violent fluctuations of price which were so ruinous to any industry. Intercepting duties, or the prohibition of bounty-fed imports, he maintained, were the only means by which a country suffering from the mischievous interference with freedom of trade due to bounties could defend the interests of its people; intercepting duties involved no administrative difficulties, and, while restoring freedom of trade, retained for the country of import the full advantage of the bounties, so long as they continued to be given. The effect of the convention had been gradually to restore freedom of trade by bringing sugar to Mr. Cobden's ideal of "the natural price in the world's markets." Sir Edward Clarke pointed out that the excessive prices upon which the agitation against the convention was now based were not due to the convention, but to the failure of the beet crop of last season. The convention had already arrested the danger to our Colonies, and had increased in many directions the employment of British labour. He also argued that the troubles of the confectionery trade were not caused by the convention, but that they dated from April, 1901, when a heavy import sugar duty was imposed. In conclusion, he maintained that the convention ought to be firmly upheld by the Government and supported by all members of the Unionist party, whether free-traders or tariff reformers or both.

The Tariff Reform Movement.

Mr. Chamberlain on the evening of the 1st inst., addressed a great meeting at Gainsborough, in continuation of his fiscal campaign. After repudiating any idea of personal or party gain in the controversy, he said that from the beginning of his political career two objects had presented themselves to his mind as the most important that could be dealt with by any statesman—the improvement and elevation of the condition of the people and the future of the Empire. That Empire was a great potentiality—the greatest ever given to man; but at present it was a loose bundle of sticks, bound together by a thin tie of sentiment and sympathy, so slender that a single blow might shatter it. That Empire had been built up by sacrifice, and only by sacrifice could it be maintained. Alluding to Cobden's frankly expressed indifference to the retention of our Colonial Empire, Mr. Chamberlain observed that posterity had, in this matter, given judgment against Cobden. A higher conception of Imperial duty had now been evolved; but he would appeal to them also on the ground of material interest. Supposing the Colonies fell away from us, we should lose our most promising markets. We were told that the present time was prosperous, and that exports were records. That might be, but in the meantime employment in industrial and agricultural pursuits was not keeping pace with population. Further, the burden of our Imperial responsibilities was great, and the time might be coming when we should not be able to bear it alone. Who, in that case was going to help us? That question had been answered by the experience of our recent war, which had for the first time made possible an organized union of the different parts of the Empire for a common object. But that experience had turned the minds of both British and Colonial statesmen to a consideration of our mutual relations, and they had found them to be unsatisfactory, and had come to the conclusion that a practical tie was wanted—which could only be found in preferential arrangements. Mr. Chamberlain proceeded to deprecate treating the proposed Colonial conference as a party question, to insist on the fact of the Colonial offer, and to refer to the preferences already granted to us by certain Colonies. He admitted that we could not get free trade with the Colonies at present, but was that

any reason why we should not take all we could get? In conclusion he predicted that, if the nation neglected the warnings now given, they would awake some day to find their strength fatally undermined. A full report of the speech is given in the *Times* of the 2nd inst.

Members of the West Indian Agricultural Conference, Trinidad, 1903.



Reading from Left to Right—*Top Row*—T. Thurston, Esq., Dr. C. J. Van Hall, W. Burslem, Esq., M.A., Hy. Millen, Esq., Dr. Ulrich, J. E. Beckett, Esq., H. A. Bailon, Esq., B.Sc., J. Price, Esq. *Second Row*—J. Menden, Esq., G. S. Hodson, Esq., F. R. Shepaerd, Esq., J. Collins, Esq., G. S. Evelyn, Esq., A. G. Howell, Esq., A. Brooks, Esq., J. A. Harbin, Esq., W. N. Sands, Esq., E. Richards, Esq., L. Lewton, Esq., H.A. *Third Row*—J. R. Williams, Esq., M.A., P. Abel, Esq., A. W. Bartlett, Esq., B.A., Prof. Carmody, F.I.C., J. R. Bovell, Esq., H. A. *Fourth Row sitting*—H. Deighton, Esq., M.A., Dr. H. A. A. Nicholls, C.M.G., Hon. F. Watts, C.M.G., Hon. W. Fawcett, B.Sc., Esq., H.A. *Fourth Row standing*—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Hon. S. Henderson, Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G., Hon. B. Howell Jones, E. De Freitas, Esq., Mr. D. Morris, K.C.M.G., Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Hon. S. Henderson, Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G., Hon. B. Howell Jones, E. De Freitas, Esq.

The English Cricketers.

According to cabled advices received through Reuter's Agency the following are the results of the matches played by Lord Brackley's team of cricketers up to the time of going to press.

January	13th—v	Jamaica	...	...	...	...	...	A draw in favour of Jamaica.
"	16th—v	An Eighteen of Jamaica	...	...	...	...	...	A draw.
"	17th—v	The Garrison	...	...	...	...	...	Won by 42 runs.
"	21st—v	Jamaica	...	...	...	...	...	Won by an innings and 42 runs.
February	2nd—v	Barbados	...	...	...	...	...	Won by an innings and 181 runs.
"	4th—v	An Eighteen of Barbados	...	...	...	...	...	A draw
"	8th—v	The West Indies	...	...	...	...	...	Won by an innings and 17 runs
"	11th—v	Barbados	...	...	...	...	...	Lost by 10 wickets.

Consular Report.

Tangier and District, 1903.—Sugar to the value of 37,947 lbs. was imported at Tangier during 1903, as compared with 38,188 lbs. in the preceding year. The Vice-Consul at Sarrache states that French sugar is preferred, but Austria and Belgium are steadily increasing their contributions. 11,783 cwts. of sugar were imported from Austria-Hungary.

Notes of Interest.

GRENADA. Mr. P. J. Dean has been appointed an additional Hon. Correspondent for the Island of Grenada.

BANK RATE. The Bank of England rate remains 3% (changed from 3½% on April 22nd, 1904), and Consols (2½%) are quoted 89 $\frac{5}{16}$ as we go to press.

SUGAR FROM ST. DOMINGO. An Order in Council dated February 4th, 1905, is published in the *Gazette* of February 7th, by which the Order of June 23rd, 1904, prohibiting the importation of sugar from St. Domingo has been revoked.

A CONVENIENT INNOVATION. We are pleased to record a further instance of the forward policy of The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in the recent arrangements made for the running of the 1.35 p.m. R.M.S.P. special train from London to Southampton as a restaurant train during the West Indian passenger season, for the convenience of passengers and friends accompanying them. This facility has been very much appreciated, tending as it does to shorten the tedium of the railway journey, and moreover, allowing more time for looking round the steamers before departure.

LONDON TO JAMAICA. We are informed by Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., that the new steamer "Port Maria" will be despatched on February 18th, 1905, from Millwall Docks, London, direct to Bermuda, Turk's Island, Kingston, Savanna La Mar, and Montego Bay, Jamaica, returning thence to Bermuda to London. The vessels to be employed in this service were specially built for the tropics, are fitted with electric light, and have magnificent accommodation for passengers. The service will be a four weekly one, and the following steamer will be the "Port Morant," sailing on March 18th.

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, February 16th; S.S. "Magician" from Liverpool, for St. Lucia, Barbados and Trinidad, February 17th; the R.M.S. "Port Maria" from London, for Bermuda, Turk's Island and Kingston, Jamaica, February 18th; S.S. "Spheroid" from London, for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, February 23rd; S.S. "Cuban" from Liverpool, for Barbados and Trinidad, February 24th; and the R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, on February 25th.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB. Our Deputy-Chairman, Sir Henry K. Davson, has been appointed a Vice-President of the West Indian Club. At the Club Dinner on the 22nd inst., Sir E. Noel Walker will be in the chair, and Sir William L. Tomlinson, M.P., will be the guest of the evening. At the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club on Wednesday, February 8th, Mr. R. Rutherford was in the chair, and amongst those present were: Mr. F. W. Scott, Mr. S. Scott, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. H. O. Smith, Mr. Martin Elliott, Mr. H. Bailey, Mr. H. S. D. Perry, Mr. Joseph Simpson, Mr. Francis Lowrey, Mr. Gerald Briggs, Mr. C. Trevor, Mr. T. B. Younger, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, and Dr. H. E. G. Boyle.

A SPECIAL COMMISSIONER. The *Standard* newspaper, under its new management, has been showing an increasing interest in Colonial affairs, and the News Editor, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, who is well-known as Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Club, is to be congratulated upon the decision of the paper to send out a special Commissioner to the West Indies to investigate the present condition of affairs in those Colonies. It is some years since a London journal sent out a special Commissioner, the last being Mr. Mayson M. Beeton, who went round for the *Daily Mail* in 1897, and Mr. A. J. Lambert, who sailed in the "Port Kingston" on February 11th, in the same capacity for the *Standard*, is sure to receive a hearty welcome, while his articles will be awaited with the keenest interest.

The Homeward Mail.

The Homeward Mail has brought further and more detailed reports of the very successful West Indian Agricultural Conference, held in Trinidad under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture from January 4th to 13th last. An abstract of the proceedings is published in a special number of the *West Indian Bulletin* (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, post free, 3½d.), and on another page of the present *Circular* will be found a reproduction of a photograph of the Delegates, among whom will be recognised many influential members of the West India Committee.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Trent" anchored off Plymouth on Wednesday, February 8th, at 4.35 a.m., and the Mails were delivered in London at 6.30 p.m. the same day. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received per R.M.S. "Trent."

Antigua—Skerratts Stock Farm.

(HON. J. FREELAND FOOTE) January 24th.—The Government were closing the stock farm at Skerratts; a few of the thoroughbred animals were to be kept at Scott's Hill under the care of the Imperial Department, the larger number being sent to Barbuda. This Island used formerly to supply Antigua with very fine mules and cattle, and it was hoped that it would do so again, as with proper management it should pay its way instead of being, as latterly, a burden on Antigua.

The Central Factory at Gunthorpes was to commence grinding about the middle of February, and most muscovado estates would start in the first week in March. Owing to the drought, the cotton crop would be a disappointing one.

The weather for the fortnight had been very dry, only a few showers having fallen. Last year's rainfall varied considerably in different parts of the Island, and near St. John's they had under 30 inches.

Barbados—Crop Estimates.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEVNE) January 27th.—The Trinidad Conference, though somewhat marred by the sad death of Mr. Symington, who was to have read a paper, was eminently successful. Prædial Larceny was not, after all, one of the subjects allowed to be discussed.

The canes were keeping green, but, because of the dry weather, were ripening fast. Many estates had begun crop, and the juice had been found to be sweet. Sugar making would be pretty general in another fortnight. Muscovado was quoted at \$3.00, 89 test, and molasses at 18 cents. This year there was a new departure: the Molasses Committee of the Agricultural Society asked the buyers to meet them to discuss the question, with the result that at the meeting much useful information was gained. At the end, each noted down what he considered a fair price for molasses, and the average was found to be 17 cents, which was agreed to by all as an opening price. It was felt by planters that too high a price would deter orders, while a moderate price would invite competitors, and that they should soon have a rising market. The island crop was also judged to be 45,000 hogsheads, and the molasses crop 30,000 puncheons. The sale of estates continued brisk and many had changed hands. The young crop was all that could be wished. It was to be regretted that cane fires, which they hoped were almost extinct, had again become very prevalent. Possibly this might be due in some measure to the action of the Executive, who reduced the reward from \$250 to \$100. It had just been altered again to \$240. There had been no Legislative business whatever.

The Peasants' Agricultural Show took place at Dunscombe on January 24th and was an eminent success. The exhibits were better and more numerous than on any previous occasion, while the great interest taken in it was manifest by the numbers who attended, even from long distances. The prizes were given by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, but two special prizes given by Mrs. Dickson and Lady Morris for the best working donkey, excited great competition. The Governor distributed the prizes.

The prospective removal of the troops continued to be much deplored.

The House of Assembly had decided that the revenue of Barbados could not afford to contribute more than the £4,000 which was now given as a subsidy to the Royal Mail. Probably it was dubious if they would retain the headquarters, but with the prospect of losing £80,000 a year, spent in the Island, by the withdrawal of the troops, they could hardly have done otherwise.

It was regrettable that the character of the weather remained very much the same as it was a month ago, that is to say, very light showers and nothing more.

British Guiana—The Cable Question.

(A. SUMMERSON, ESQ.) January 25th.—The number of immigrants applied for next season amounted to 2,515, and in the event of this number not being procurable from Calcutta, proprietors had offered to take 850 from Madras out of the entire number. The ship *Mey* arrived on January 8th, after a passage of seventy-nine days; 504 adults were embarked, but the mortality on the passage was very high (49), and since their arrival some 100 had been sent to the Public Hospital. The Governor had appointed a Commission to enquire into the cause of this high death rate (cerebral meningitis), the sanitary condition of the ship, state of food and water supplied, &c. The Commission was now sitting and taking evidence in the matter.

Cable communication was restored on January 18th. They trusted that the telegram sent from the Colony to the Secretary of State would go some little way towards strengthening the hands of the West India Committee in the representations which are being made.

The sugar market was quiet, all in first hands having been sold out. The quotation was at 9j 3d, but this was only nominal.

The weather had been too dry during the fortnight, and good showers were wanted generally for the young cultivation.

Dominica—Sales of Crown Lands

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.) January 25th.—The writer had learnt on good authority that steps were being taken for installing electric light in Roseau.

The Administrator had given the following information with regard to Crown Land sales during the past year. Some 900 acres were sold in lots varying from 5 to 60 acres to peasants, and 1,500 acres in larger blocks to new settlers on the Imperial Road. There were now 10 plantations in that neighbourhood, all save one, started in the last four years. Good estate houses and buildings were springing up, and the locality would soon see a remarkable development. The Government were having a saw-mill (imported under the Haynes-Smith *regime*) put in order, and hoped to begin experimenting with timber cutting in March, with a view to testing its commercial possibilities.

Grenada—Cacao Crop Estimate.

(HON. D. S. DE FREITAS) January 26th.—The cable delays were causing inconvenience, and consequently formed the subject of complaint in the Island. The writer was to bring the matter formally to the notice of the Agricultural and Commercial Society at its next meeting.

They had arrived at a period of the cacao crop when something like a definite estimate might be hazarded with no considerable risk. The writer's estimate was that the cacao crop of 1904-5 would be short of that of 1903-4 by at least 5,000 bags. The lowlands, which had given promise of a good crop, had been adversely affected by lack of rain during the past three weeks; if this dry weather continued for two or three weeks longer, the pickings in the highlands would also yield much less than they did last crop. At the corresponding period of 1904, the Island had shipped over 5,000 bags more than the number shipped up to date, and this deficiency would be substantially increased by the end of February. The cacao cultivation throughout the Island was, however, looking very healthy and well. The rainfall during 1904 was 110.02 inches. Up to date they had had only 3.37 inches in 1905. The temperature continued deliciously cool, especially in the mornings, when it frequently fell as low as 66.

There had been a short-lived scare about an outbreak of eruptive fever in the parish of St. Andrew. The foundation for the exaggerated reports which reached the neighbouring Islands and Demerara, was that in the parish of St. Andrew there were six persons with eruptive fever of a mild form, who were rigorously isolated from the very first. No one had died or become gravely ill from eruptive fever, nor had it made its appearance in any other part of the Island. Yet Grenada was threatened with quarantine by its sister Colonies.

A well-attended ball was given on January 25th at Government House by Sir Robert and Lady Llewellyn; it was a most enjoyable reunion, and a brilliant success.

(P. J. DEAN, ESQ.) January 26th.—The writer enclosed the fortnightly note of shipments from the Island, which appears on page 69. From this it would be seen that there had been a considerable falling off from the corresponding period of last year. This was due to the fact that the trees on mountain lands had not borne anything like the quantity they did last crop, but when it is remembered that they bore up to late in the year, it was hardly to be wondered at their resting for a time.

Montserrat—Cotton Prospects

(CONRAD WATSON, ESQ.) January 25th.—The cotton fields had all ripened together, and many hands were required for picking, as, owing to lack of skill, some of the pickers brought in very little cotton per day.

The second growth of the cotton plants had been attacked by the Leaf Blister Mite, and it was not considered likely that there would be any further production of bolls.

The factory at Dagenham was busy ginning the cotton as fast as it was received, and was prepared to sell seeds to planters from the best Rivers variety.

Nevis—The Profits in Cane Farming.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) January 24th.—With regard to the Royal Mail controversy, very satisfactory arrangements had been made by the Superintendent of the Company in Barbados, who had met the wishes of the inhabitants of Nevis in a most considerate manner.

Cotton picking was in full swing, and very handsome returns were being realised in some districts, which would undoubtedly tend towards the extension of the industry. Sugar, too, although considerably below an average crop, would show fair results if present prices were maintained. The latest quotation per ton of cane to be paid by contract estates to the peasant proprietors, was 11/4d., which meant that, assuming only ten tons of cane be grown per acre, the grower

thereof was entitled to receive £5 13s 4d., without embarking on any other expenditure beyond growing, cutting and conveying to the mill. As, at the beginning of last crop, this amount practically represented the value of the sugar when manufactured, the enormous improvement in the position of affairs could be estimated.

Since last mail, the weather had been on the whole dry, but they had experienced some very refreshing showers during the past few days, with beneficial results.

St. Lucia—Effects of the Drought.

(HON. E. DuBOULAY) January 27th.—The crops were about to begin, and although, owing to the dry weather, they would not reach the figure once hoped for, it was hoped the enhanced prices might do something to make up for the deficiency.

St. Kitts—Reaping in Progress.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, Esq.) January 24th.—The all round demand for an increase of wages had in most instances been met by an advance, and reaping was making progress. In one or two cases arrangements had not been made, but it was hoped that the difference would be adjusted ere long.

The weather conditions were not favourable for grinding, owing to the frequent showers; the new planting had, however, benefited by them.

St. Vincent—The Cotton Crop.

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & Co) January 27th.—By next mail they would be shipping over 100 bales of best Sea Island Cotton, the first of the new crop, part of which would go to Liverpool and part to Manchester.

The "Ariadne" and "Prometheus" of the North American Fleet were at the Island for a day or two, but as the men had not had liberty on shore, the Colony was not any richer for their visit.

Trinidad—Cacao Shipments.

(HON. G. T. FENWICK, C.M.G.) January 27th.—The writer learnt from the Governor that the report of the Committee of Planters on the incidence of taxation for immigration purposes had not yet been before the Executive Council, but will probably be considered at the next meeting. It was the opinion of several parties largely interested that, with the present exceptionally high prices for sugar and the comparative depression in the cacao market, this was not the best time to bring forward the suggestions of the Committee, and in this the writer concurred.

The Governor was to open the Agricultural Show in Port of Spain on February 14th. There was every reason to believe that it would be as successful as its predecessors.

Mr. Samuel Henderson and Mr. Carl de Verteuil had been appointed Members of the Legislative Council in place of Mr. Aucher Warner, appointed Solicitor-General, and Mr. René de Verteuil, deceased. Mr. Henderson was well known in the Council, having acted on several occasions for periods of some length. Mr. de Verteuil was largely interested in cacao, and would fittingly represent the French element of the community. In Mr. René de Verteuil, the Council had lost a very valuable and conscientiously painstaking member, and his loss was sincerely regretted by all classes.

Things in Venezuela were undoubtedly in a very critical state, and America might at any moment try compulsion to effect what diplomacy had signally failed to do. The latest rumour was that President Castro was about to call for a plebiscite to support his policy, and that he was calling upon Governors of provinces to see that the voting was favourable.

Fine weather had prevailed during the fortnight, and though showers had not been infrequent, there had been nothing to interfere with the start of the sugar crop. There was great excitement in the cane growing districts over the prices offered to farmers for their canes, and already there were complaints that labour for estates work was most difficult to obtain. The effect of cane farming on the general labour conditions was rapidly becoming serious.

There had been larger deliveries of cacao, but prices remained firm at last mail's quotations. There was a strong demand for "Ordinary" grades, and there was but a small margin in value between these and estates grades. Planters were agreed in thinking there would be a considerable shortage in the crop. Venezuelan descriptions had been in good supply, and had a fair demand at 54/- to 55/- c. and f. Havre.

(The following statement of cacao shipped from Trinidad by the different lines of steamers from 1st January to 31st December, 1904, has been drawn up and sent to us by the New Colonial Company's agency in Trinidad.—Ed.)

	Royal Mail	French Mill.	German Europe	Scrutton Line Europe	Dutch Mill. Europe	Dutch Mill. New York	Trinidad Line. New York	Italian Line. New York	Canadian S.R. Line. Canada	S.R. Manzaneros Dalton & Co. New York	TOTAL
1904 January	8,159	3,007	---	1,036	1,000	---	5,863	2,407	300	---	---
February	12,408	2,992	---	262	2,488	16,186	9,219	400	---	---	---
March	12,159	5,968	1,760	10,848	4,298	400	14,542	11,419	100	---	---
April	7,073	3,142	2,356	723	3,816	1,892	5,226	850	400	---	---
May	2,028	2,727	1,955	1,924	3,874	1,610	4,910	112	---	---	---
June	2,028	2,727	1,955	1,385	4,648	1,150	2,040	213	100	---	---
July	5,654	3,544	2,858	1,385	4,648	1,150	2,040	213	100	---	---
August	4,077	3,986	3,879	483	6,109	2,620	1,588	412	---	---	---
September	2,218	2,074	2,950	290	2,362	2,531	2,996	700	---	---	---
October	1,107	807	700	459	650	1,684	991	98	---	---	---
November	1,097	866	350	---	312	1,290	1,462	---	---	---	---
December	2,350	2,420	1,265	40	3,945	1,033	5,574	602	350	---	---
	3,636	3,011	1,750	2,318	1,706	495	5,532	650	100	2,129	---
	62,216	34,214	19,823	19,768	42,655	17,195	66,710	26,182	1,650	2,129	292,542

Totals: Europe, 178,676; New York, 112,216; Canada, 1,650 = 292,542

Letter to the Editor.

The Destruction of Mosquitos.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR,—In your allusion to the pamphlet by Major W. M. Hodder, R.E., you say "the fact that Barbados, although it has swamps and the mosquitos might be imported, is free from the *anopheles* and also malarial fever, leads the writer to say that if the reason for this could be discovered, a much more simple and efficacious means of destroying the insect would be at hand than the costly and laborious method of drainage, clearing, and other works. I have no doubt that the swamps and ponds in Barbados are kept free from mosquitos by a small fish that abounds

in them. They are very small, a full grown female being about one and a quarter inches long and the male about three quarter of an inch, but exist in such shoals that they are known locally as "millions." As a child I have often kept them in an aquarium, and found out that their favourite food was the larvae of the mosquito, on which I used to feed them, and I now always keep them in my water tanks in Barbados, which without them would teem with the larvae of the local mosquito, which variety though it does not spread malarial fever has other objectionable habits. These interesting little fish are viviparous, and the male is most gallant to his mate, circling round her and bending his tail backwards and forwards, no doubt with the object of showing off his brilliant markings of red, green, gold, and black which she does not possess. The natural enemies of the "million" are the golding—every pond has its solitary fisher—and the voracious larvae of the dragon fly.

I suggest that the "million" be imported in the malarial swamps in the other West Indian islands and Demerara where they may meet with enemies too numerous to allow them to increase, but the experiment is worth the trial.

Collyns, Surbiton

February 9th, 1905

I remain, yours faithfully,

C. KENRICK GIBBONS.

(We hope that scientists in the West Indies will favour us with their views regarding this most interesting theory of Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbons.—E.D.)

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:—

Sugar in Egypt and elsewhere. By C. de Broë. (London: E. Couchman & Co., 23, Throgmorton Street, E.C.) Egypt at present contributes little more than one per cent. of the total average visible sugar production of the world. But the industry is progressive, the conditions of the country are well suited to its further considerable expansion and the possibility of cane sugar being now able to compete with beet on even terms in neutral markets—thanks to the Brussels Convention—the completion of the Assouan dam whereby a very extensive additional area of land will gradually be brought under cultivation, and the amalgamation of Egyptian sugar interests render a study of the industry especially interesting at the present time. Mr de Broë begins with a masterly retrospect of the beet sugar industry from the discovery by Margraff in 1747 of the saccharine properties of beet, which were first turned to practical account by Achard some sixty years later. Dealing with the prospects of the sugar industry consequent on the abolition of bounties, the author expresses opinion that the new conditions involving competition on even terms in the world's markets will be greatly in favour of the cane industry, and especially of such localities as are most advantageously situated in respect to production on economical lines, and to facilities for marketing their produce. The concluding chapters of this excellent book are devoted to the history of the Daira Sanieh Sugar Corporation, and the Société Générale des Sucreries et de la Raffinerie d'Egypte, which are likely to prove formidable competitors to other cane producing companies in other countries.

"The Food of the Gods" (Θεῶν Βρομα). A popular account of cocoa. By Brandon Head. (London: R. Brimley Johnson.) We are indebted to Mr. W. A. Cadbury for this little book, which deals with the nature, growth and cultivation, manufacture, history, and sources of supply and varieties of cocoa. The pages are profusely illustrated with coloured and half tone illustrations, maps, and diagrams. It is shown that Trinidad is the fourth largest source of the world's supply, running Bahia very close for second place, whilst Guayaquil and Africa stand first and second. The book should do much to popularise the grateful and comforting preparation, the consumption of which has made such rapid strides of recent years.

The West Indian Bulletin (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 3d., post free 3½d.—A special Conference number has been issued giving an abstract of the proceedings at the Fifth West Indian Agricultural Conference, held at Port of Spain, Trinidad, in January, 1905. The full report of the proceedings will be issued in the *West Indian Bulletin* as soon as possible.

The Life, Voyages, and Exploits of Sir Francis Drake. By John Barlow, F.S.A. (London: John Murray, 1844.) We have to thank Mrs. Charles Leslie for presenting this historical work to the Library.

Mediterranean Winter Resorts, Vol. II., North Africa. By E. A. Reynolds-Ball, F.R.G.S. (London: Hazell, Watson & Viney, Ltd.), 3s. 6d.—Mr. Reynolds-Ball is a past master of the art of compiling a guide book and it is not therefore surprising to learn that the present book is already in its fifth edition. It forms a complete and practical handbook to the principal health and pleasure resorts on the shores of the Mediterranean; but what concerns us more closely is that it contains a chapter devoted to the West Indies as a winter resort. We hope that some day Mr. Reynolds-Ball will devote a whole volume to the West Indies, which are rapidly becoming better known to those seeking health and pleasure.

Etchings of Jamaica. We are indebted to Mr. J. Kirkpatrick, who will be remembered as the exhibitor of the oil and water colour paintings of Jamaica at the West India Committee Rooms early last year, for three exquisite etchings of Jamaica subjects. These are: St. Ann's Bay, the Coconut Grove, Ocho Rios, and a study of life near the market in Kingston. The etchings are admirably executed, the tracery of the coconuts, palms being particularly fine. Should any of our Members care to have copies of them, we shall be glad to give them particulars regarding them.

The Working Mens College Journal. (London: 46, Great Ormond Street.) The February number of this magazine contains the first part of the lecture delivered at the Working Men's College on November 19th, 1904, on "Our Possessions in the Caribbean."

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 A. D. BYNOE, Officer of Customs, Barbados, resumed his duties on January 20th.

Mr CECIL MORRIS has been appointed a Member of the Board of Agriculture, British Guiana.

HON. ANTHONY DEFREITAS, L.L.B., has been appointed to act as Attorney-General of St. Lucia.

Mr W. M. MACRISON, C.E., Colonial Engineer, Antigua, and Mr. O. NUGENT have been appointed Members of the Committee for Public Tenders for Antigua.

Mr J. W. C. CATFORD, M.C.P., has returned to Barbados, and resumed his duties as Commissioner of Probates, King's Proctor and King's Solicitor, on January 16th.

Mr P. C. HAREL, Immigration Agent of the Essequibo District, British Guiana, has been granted leave of absence for twelve months from February 9th, during which time Mr. C. J. Bosch Keitz will act in his place.

HON. H. E. W. GRANT, Acting Colonial Secretary, British Honduras, has been appointed a Commissioner of Roads until further orders.

DR. C. W. BRANCH, St. Vincent, has been granted an extension of leave of absence from 14th February to 14th March next, the arrangements for the performance of his duties to be continued during that period.

Mr W. L. J. KERNAHAN has been appointed Stipendiary Justice of the Peace and Warden, Toco, Trinidad, in the place of Mr. J. F. A. Redhead, retired.

MR. L. A. WHARTON, Barrister-at-Law, has been appointed Registrar of Friendly Societies, in succession to the Hon. Edgar Agostini, K.C., who has resigned the office in consequence of his appointment as Chief Law Officer of the Crown.

DR. CARTER, Government Medical Officer, British Guiana, has been granted three months' vacation leave of absence from February 1st, during which time Dr. Von Winckler will have charge of the Belle Vue District and Dr. Stephenson of the Leguan District.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Caviller) Feb. 13th. "A few light showers have fallen but more rain would be acceptable." **British Guiana** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Feb. 4th. "Rain is badly needed." **Trinidad** (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.) Feb. 1st. "Weather showery but not interfering with sugar making."

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 Jan 24, '05	9244	—	1729	2963	22,500	759	3397	—	—
" " 26, '04	11,626	4329	662	3836	60	9	1692	—	—
Jamaica—		Cwts.	Cwts.	Calls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.	
Apr 1 to Jan 7, '05	6327	17,754	33,747	956,733	2,621,513	128,173	6,793,845	74,638,291	10,542
" " 9, '04	8188	17,679	44,926	902,371	14,458,460	69,613	7,413,410	74,407,010	—
Trinidad—	Bags.	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.	Copra.
Jan 1 to Jan 26, '05	3967	2,201,670	960	—	462,000	881	42	4810	592
" " 26, '04	10	2,527,730	20,000	—	227,100	10	54	10,943	—
Grenada—	Coffee.	Bags.	Brls.	4 Brls.	SPICE.	Cases.	Bags.	Cotton Seed	Cotton.
Oct 1 to Jan 27, '05	23	23,198	2175	280	226	119	—	—	—
" " 27, '04	126	28,090	1308	192	109	31	—	—	—

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Trent," (Capt. A. C. Farmer) Feb. 8th:—
Barbados—Mrs. Will, Mr. C. Taber. **Demerara**—Mr. and Mrs. Abbott. **Jamaica**—Miss A. Young, Mr. S. Hanna, Major V. E. Mitchell, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Benjamin, Mr. and Mrs. Carter Page, Miss Blake, Mr. W. Austin, Sir T. and Lady Fry, Capt. Clutterbuck, Mr. W. Firminger, Mr. W. Treguno, Col. and Mrs. Heathcote, Mr. J. Bancroft.
Trinidad—Lieut. A. P. Hadow, R.N., Mr. A. Jeffers, Mr. H. L. Thornton, Mr. Larke, Mr. P. Huttenheim, Mr. and Mrs. W. Barrow, Mr. Chapman, Dr. S. R. Sibbald. **Grenada**—Mrs. A. E. Alexander. **St. Lucia**—Mr. C. Henderson, Miss Huggins, Mr. Love. **St. Vincent**—Capt. W. J. Calder, Mr. A. C. Gouda.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Trent" (Capt. A. C. Stranger), Feb. 15th:—
Barbados—Mr. G. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Sproston, Mr. J. C. D. Gordon, Mr. A. Eay, Mr. D. G. Morrish, Sir C. and Lady Forster, Mr. H. P. and Miss Varley, Mr. A. and Mrs. Cameron, Mr. F. Smith, Miss Hickman, Lady and Miss Kitson, Mr. R. W. Hammers, Mr. and Mrs. Bligh, Mr. J. Manton, Mr. F. Peto, two Misses Simpson, Mr. E. Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Capt. and Mrs. Austin, Mr. W. Eaton, Miss A. Shannon, Mr. H. Patterson. **Demerara**—Mr. E. K. Davson, Mr. F. des, Miss Fernandes, Mrs. Anson. **Jamaica**—Miss Aldam, Miss Russell, Miss Bowring, Mr. J. A. Balmer, Mr. C. H. Beard, Mr. H. J. Bowring, Mr. A. Mare, Mr. J. Wehrner, Lieut. J. Lamont, Mr. G. Perry, Mr. F. W. Fitzgerald, Mr. H. Pike, Mr. J. Webb, Mr. C. E. Smith. **Trinidad**—Mrs. Calvert, Mrs. Marwood, Mr. J. Kahn, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. and Miss Kirton. **Grenada**—Miss A. Ferguson. **St. Lucia**—Hon. and Mrs. Kerr. **St. Vincent**—Mrs. Cameron.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Oninico" (Capt. Doughty) March 1st:—
Barbados—Sergt. Major Hill, Sergt. Godbolt. **Demerara**—Rev. and Mrs. Jeannot, Miss M. Strutt. **Jamaica**—Mr. K. H. Keece, Miss A. Wood, Rev. A. and Miss Ross, Mrs. Hay, two Misses Hay, Mr. D. G. Cannell, Major and Mrs. Mangin, Mr. and Mrs. Wyndham, Mr. Robertson. **Antigua**—Mr. and Mrs. Bryson.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons) Feb. 11th:—
Jamaica—Mr. T. W. Astley, Mr. T. A. Ashman, Mr. J. J. Anderson, Mr. W. Ashworth, Mr. T. W. Ashworth, Mr. E. Bennett, Lieut. C. E. L. Bowen, Capt. J. Barlow, Mr. James Byron, the Hon. A. H. Baring, Mr. W. Conran, Miss Clifton, Mr. F. V. Chalmers, Dr. M. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Collingsplatt, Alderman Carey, Mr. J. E. L. Cox, Mr. E. Clodd, Mr. A. E. Calvert, Mr. R. Duxbury-Duxbury, Sir D. Duckworth-King, Bart., Mr. J. R. C. Dent, two Misses Dent, Mr. Edwards, Mr. R. Ford, Mr. P. Fox, Dr. and Mrs. M. Gunn, Mr. and two Misses Greenhalgh, Mr. J. Goode, Mr. S. Goode, Mr. Heselton, Mr. J. Hutchings, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Higgins, Mr. and Mrs. D. Q. Henriques, Mr. H. Henriques, Mr. and Mrs. W. Homblower, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Henty, Mr. D. R. Howell, Miss Kirkwood, Mr. A. R. Kelly, Miss Lings, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Lambert, Mr. Little, Mr. E. MacCarthy, Lieut. Col. and Miss Miers, Miss T. M. Pike, Sir J. T. McCraith, Mr. J. Moore-Bayley, Col. E. W. Malcolm, Misses Murgatroyd, Mrs. G. McGrath, Mr. and Mrs. Newton, Dr. Paul, Mrs. E. Perhouse, Mr. Patterson, Mr. F. B. Pearce, Mr. L. Rivett, two Misses Rivett, Mr. J. N. Salaman, Mr. and Miss Scholfield, Dr. E. Solly, Mr. H. Seddon, Mrs. and Miss Sampson, Mr. B. Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. G. Sutcliffe, Miss L. D. Sharp, Mr. W. Salt, Mr. J. Sloane, Miss Turner, Mr. J. M. Thomson, Mr. W. J. B. Tip-pets, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Ward, Miss B. Watson, Mr. L. Huddle.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—After the great rise in sugar which had taken place, resulting in almost unheard of profits to speculators and others, it is only natural a reaction should set in, in fact no previous movements of this nature have ever taken place without such reactions, and the present one need scarcely create any uneasiness, viewing the reduced supplies ahead of us from this moment up to the next October, eight months off. On the 1st September last 88% beet was quoted 10s 9d., and on the 16th January, 1905, it reached 16s 3½d. To-day it is 14s 10½d., still a very appreciable advance, justified no doubt by the general situation. In these speculative times, Importers of cane sugar can only take broad views of the position and can let the fluctuations of the hour pass more or less unregarded, fixing their attention on the main points affecting or likely to affect the future course of prices. The first point is the reduction of available sugar, referred to above, and about this there cannot be two opinions. The other feature is next season's supply, which is an unknown quantity and must remain so for a long time to come. The general impression is there will be a large increase in the beet sowings for 1905/6, and this will indeed be required to fill up the depleted stores that must evidently exist at the end of September next. This need not induce a return to unremunerative prices, seeing that the coming crop is roughly estimated to cost 11s., with favourable weather, the extra cost being the result of higher prices paid to the farmers to secure the roots. The general outlook is without doubt favourable.

The closing quotations of 88% are, February, 14s 10½d.; May, 15s 1½d.; August, 15s 2½d.; and Oct./Dec., 11s 3½d. all in bond and free on board Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	Tons
Europe	2,650,000	3,560,000	3,330,000	3,470,000	2,830,000	
United States	100,000	110,000	130,000	80,000	130,000	..
Cuba	120,000	110,000	140,000	170,000	70,000	..
Cargoes afloat	50,000	50,000	60,000	20,000	20,000	..
Total	2,920,000	3,830,000	3,660,000	3,740,000	3,050,000	..

Comparative prices of 88% Beet in bond:— 14s 10½d. 7s. 9½d. 8s. 0d. 6s. 9d. 9s. 3d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—The late extreme high prices for this sugar, necessitating an advance to 3d. per lb. in the shops, against 2½d. for "imitations" and white Foreign Granulated, have completely stopped its sale to the general public, and our wholesale dealers have ceased buying. Some small sales have however been made within the range of 22s. 6d. to 24s., and the value of average qualities has been reduced to 23s., at which it looks now as though business would soon be resumed. The decline in Beet has assisted to bring this about.

The value of a cargo of 96 test to Refiners is about 16s. 6d. on floating terms in bond.

Molasses Sugar is quiet for the moment, with prices from 16s. to 19s.

Muscovado.—The nominal value of good grocery Barbados now barely exceeds 18s in hogsheads. For small quantities of fine grocery centrifugals possibly 19s. might be obtained.

Business has been done in 89 test to Refiners at 15s. 6d. in bond, on floating conditions, but with the fall in beet it is doubtful if it could be repeated.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	Tons
Imports	4800	4800	2000	4000	
Deliveries	4400	4200	4300	6500	..
Stocks	9800	13,000	26,000	9700	..

Quotations of Crystallised, duty paid, average qualities 23s. 0d. 14s. 6d. 14s. 3d. 15s. 9d.

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 1 month:

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	Galls
Home Consumption	427,000	407,000	389,000	303,000	
Stocks 31st Jan	8,580,000	9,999,000	9,645,000	7,691,000	..
Stocks in London:					
Jamaica	7300	8100	9700	6500	Puns
Demerara	6200	11,000	8500	8000	..
Total of all kinds:—	20,754	29,053	...	Deficiency 8279	..

Owing to the reduced shipments from the Colony, and prospects of a very small summer grinding, the market for Demerara continues to harden, and the range of prices is now 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d., being a further advance of 1d. This state of things points to a possible further improvement as time goes on. Jamaica in Importers' hands is in a small compass, and Standard Home Trade Marks have a value of 2s. Leewards and other proof kinds are quoted from 1s. to 1s. 3d.

COCON—Board of Trade Returns for 1 month:

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	Tons.
Imports	2630	3300	3098	4150	
Home Consumption	1829	2487	1622	3510	..
Stocks 31st Jan	6396	3706	5815	6030	..
Stocks in London	86,000	55,000	83,000	87,000	Bags

The market remains steady, with a good demand for Grenada at firm prices, viz.: Native, 51s to 52s and fermented 53s to 54s, one choice Mark having recently commanded 54s. 6d. to 55s. Trinidad is still in poor request, quotations remaining 56s for fair collected to 56s to 60s for fair to fine Estate Marks. Cocoa from other British West India Islands is realising 48s to 50s for Native, and 52s to 54s for fermented. Stocks, as shown above, are ample. The other figures given in the Board of Trade Returns, being for one month only, are no indication of the state of the trade, which still leaves much to be desired.

Coffee.—Dull. Value of good ordinary Jamaica, 38s. to 39s.

Nutmegs.—Steady. Small sales of West India, 88's at 9½d.; 104's, 6½d. to 7d.; 114's, 6½d.; 116's, 6d. **Macce**—in small supply, fair to good pale sold at 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d., and reddish, 1s. 3d. **Singer**—Steady. Small sales of Jamaica, ordinary to good ordinary, 29s. to 30s., low middling to middling, 35s. to 37s.

Arrowroot.—Buyers have not operated during the fortnight, and the value of good manufacturing remains 1½d. London figures since 1st January:

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	Brls.
Imports	767	912	2121	2330	952	
Deliveries	1164	1629	1195	1558	1058	..
Stocks	9073	11,916	13,150	8519	7994	..

Lime Juice.—Rather more enquiry, with a limited business at 10d. for good Hand Pressed, no alteration, value 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, quoted 1s. 3d. Concentrated, unchanged at £13 15s.

Cotton.—During the past fortnight 114 bales of West Indian cotton have been imported: medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 4.8½d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 11½d. per lb.; fine, 12½d. per lb.; extra fine, 14½d. per lb.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

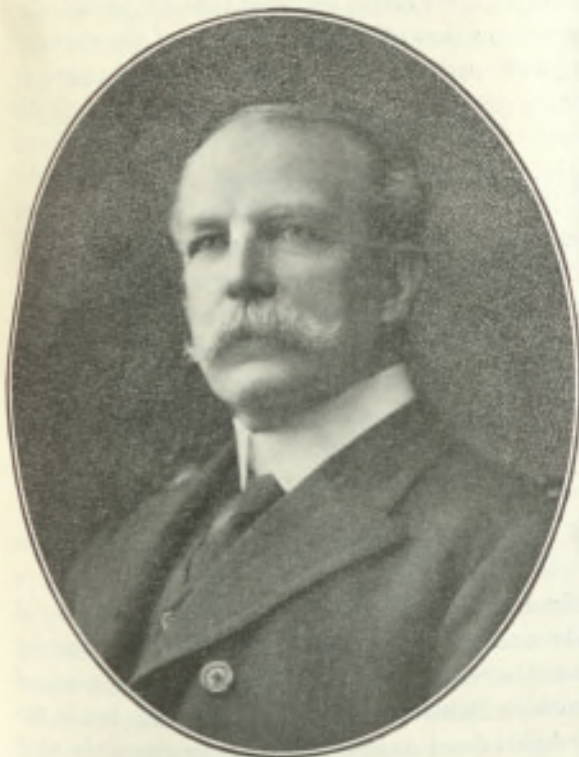
No. XXXVII.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SERPENTINE LANE, LONDON,

February 27th, 1905

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.



Mr. Mewburn Garnett.

THE past fortnight has been productive of two events of more than passing interest and significance to the West Indies. We refer to the inauguration by Messrs. Elder Dempster and Co. of a new steamship service from London to Bermuda, Turk's Island, and the north side of Jamaica, on February 18th, and to the launch of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's new mail steamer "Aragon," on February 23rd. Though this is not the first direct means of communication between this country and Bermuda, as statements which have appeared in the press might lead one to suppose—for it must be remembered that Messrs. Scrutton, Sons and Co., with Messrs. H. Langridge and Co., have maintained an efficient service to Bermuda without a break since 1880—the enterprise of Messrs. Elder Dempster & Co. is none the less welcome, and deserves every support from shippers. The launch of the "Aragon" is also important, for though this vessel is to be devoted to the Brazil route, it marks, nevertheless, a distinct step in the forward policy which, happily, has characterised

the doings of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company of recent years, and of which the West Indies if they meet them in the proper spirit, cannot fail to derive substantial benefit. This leads us to say a

few words more regarding the mail contract, to which we adverted in our last issue. It will be remembered that we strongly urged the expediency of maintaining a contract service, and we are glad to find by the homeward mail that our friends in the West Indies are as keenly alive to the importance of this as ourselves, and this feeling will be strengthened when they read of the troubles of Australia, whose once subsidised Orient Line has notified its intention of only sailing once a month instead of fortnightly in the slack season, and omitting Adelaide as a port of call. From 1842 to 1863 the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company received a subsidy of £240,000, for an 8 to 10 knots service, but they now find they cannot profitably maintain a 13-knot transatlantic service and 14 knots between Barbados and Jamaica, with the reduced subsidy of £85,000, with over sixty ports at which they are bound to call in each month, and they have, therefore, asked for an increase to £100,000, and inasmuch as they are the only company which have tendered, we certainly think that their demand is entitled to consideration as being legitimate. Granted then that their demand for an increased subsidy is a reasonable one, how can it be met? The Barbados House of Assembly has decided that the Island is not at present in a position to contribute more than it is already paying, and only that provided that the service is as efficient as it is at present, and that Barbados is still the headquarters of the line. The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce is of opinion that the Imperial Government might reasonably be expected to take upon herself part of the charge, and with this we agree. When the subsidy was reduced the Imperial Government took advantage of the whole reduction, and considering the amount received by the Post Office, directly and indirectly, from the West Indies, we do think that the Government might meet the Colonies half way. The Trinidad Chamber of Commerce has expressed itself in favour of the continuance of the £5,000 extra subsidy voted when Trinidad was put on the main line if she be made the headquarters of the line, and we learn by cable that in Jamaica the Council of the Merchants' Exchange has passed a resolution favouring the payment of the increased subsidy asked for. These decisions, with the exception, perhaps, of the latter, were arrived at on the assumption that, as cabled out by the Secretary of State to Barbados, only one practicable offer had been received, but we have since been given to understand that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company submitted no less than *three* alternative proposals, and we cannot help asking why these were not submitted to the Colonies in the first instance. Tenders were asked for for October last, and it was only at the end of last month that any communication on the subject was made to the Colonies, and here, too, our friends in the West Indies appear to have a very good cause for complaint. However, we understand that the alternative proposals have now been submitted to the Colonies by cable, and it is our most earnest hope that some settlement may speedily be arrived at. One thing is quite evident; a regular contract must be maintained, even if it involves some sacrifice. Before considering this, however, we think that a strong appeal should be made by the Colonies to the Treasury on the grounds stated above.

A NOTHER matter closely concerning the welfare of the West Indies which still awaits a settlement is that of cable communication. For many years past the need of a more reliable and a cheaper service has been painfully evident, and we have frequently expressed ourselves in favour of the extension of the cables of the Halifax and Bermuda and the Direct West India Cable Companies from Bermuda to Barbados, and thence to Trinidad, Demerara, and St. Lucia as the best way of bringing this about. The general consensus of opinion in British Guiana and the Islands lies in the same direction, and a decision is anxiously awaited. Apart from commercial considerations, the need for improved means of communication is particularly desirable from the point of view of the defence of the Islands; inasmuch as an efficient cable service together with the fast cruiser which is to be permanently stationed in West Indian waters would go a long way towards reassuring those who see

in the withdrawal of the troops a menace to the safety of the Islands. Again, the rapid and probable still further extension of American interests in the Caribbean makes it very essential that British interests should be energetically advanced and encouraged. Possibly the delay is based on financial grounds; tenders were asked for as far back as 1903, and with the improved outlook for the Budget, which bids far to upset gloomy prognostications, we may hope that the Chancellor of the Exchequer may now see his way to include in his estimates such an amount for telegraph services as will provide for the West Indies an all British cable. The Colonies do not ask that the whole cost should be borne by the Mother Country, but in Imperial spirit are offering to pay a substantial part of the subsidy required, and having regard to the saving that will be effected by the reduction of the naval and military establishments in the West Indies, we may hope that the Government will favourably consider the matter.

Mr. Mewburn Garnett.

Mr. Mewburn Garnett was born in 1849, and educated on the Continent. In 1879 he founded the firm of Alex. Garnett & Co., of which he is now senior partner. Although considerably interested in Demerara's greater staple, sugar, as a part proprietor of Plantation "Vriesland" up to the time of its sale to Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co., he has always taken the keenest interest in the subsidiary industries of British Guiana, such as balata, cacao, and coffee, and he cultivated the last-mentioned commodities with great success on Plantation "Nooitgedacht," while he was also one of the pioneer gold seekers in the Colony. For many years Mr. Garnett was a Director of the British Guiana Bank, and was appointed their attorney in England. He was one of the Board appointed by the Government of British Guiana to plan and establish the Botanical Gardens of Bourda, in Georgetown, and was for some time financial representative for Berbice in the combined Court of the Colony. Mr. Garnett is an enthusiast in matters West Indian, and rarely misses a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, of which he is one of the most active members.

Returning from the Etaballi Falls, British Guiana.

Rockstone on the mighty Essequibo, the starting point for the goldfields, is reached by steamer up the Demerara River to Wismar and thence by a small railway through the Bush. From there a lively boat's crew of Bucks or aboriginal Indians and "Boveanders," as the cross between the two is called, paddle one down eight miles to the Etaballi Falls, the passage of which is very exciting. The captain, as depicted in our illustration, stands on the poop steering with a paddle tied to the gunwale and exhorting his crew. With much jabbering and singing of chancies and hymns and passing round the rum bottle they propel the boat at a great pace. The river near here is about three miles wide, and what appears to be the bank often turns out to be a huge island.—*Sun Pictures of the Antilles.*

The West India Committee.

Members are informed that the Annual General Meeting of The West India Committee, to receive the Annual Report and the statement of the receipts and expenditure for 1904, and to elect members to the Executive Committee in the place of those retiring by rotation will be held on Thursday, May 11th, at The West India Committee Rooms, at 3 p.m.

At a meeting of the Executive on Thursday, February 16th, Mr. John Barclay was appointed an additional Hon. Correspondent for Jamaica. Mr. Barclay, who is Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and Editor of the journal of that Society, is closely in touch with the agricultural industries of the Island, and his fortnightly letter will be awaited with great interest.

At the same meeting the following new Members were elected to the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
MRS. TRENT STOUGHTON.	R. Rutherford, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
R. E. S. HART, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.	T. J. Wilkinson, Esq.
J. C. COLLINS, Esq. (Barbados).	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.	T. Wm. Wilkinson, Esq.
C. W. MEADEN, Esq. (Trinidad).	Edgar Tripp, Esq.	James Wilson, Esq.
FRANCIS OMMANNEY, Esq.	Ed. C. Hamley, Esq.	H. F. Previt�, Esq.
C. HENDERSON, Esq. (St. Lucia).	Hon. Mark Kerr.	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
C. W. DAWSON, Esq.	Joseph Rippon, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson.

Of the new Members elected this year 3 are resident in Barbados, 2 British Guiana, 2 St. Lucia, 1 Dominica, 1 Trinidad, and 1 Antigua. The next election will be held on Thursday, March 2nd, and it is requested that the names of candidates may be sent to the Secretary before that date.

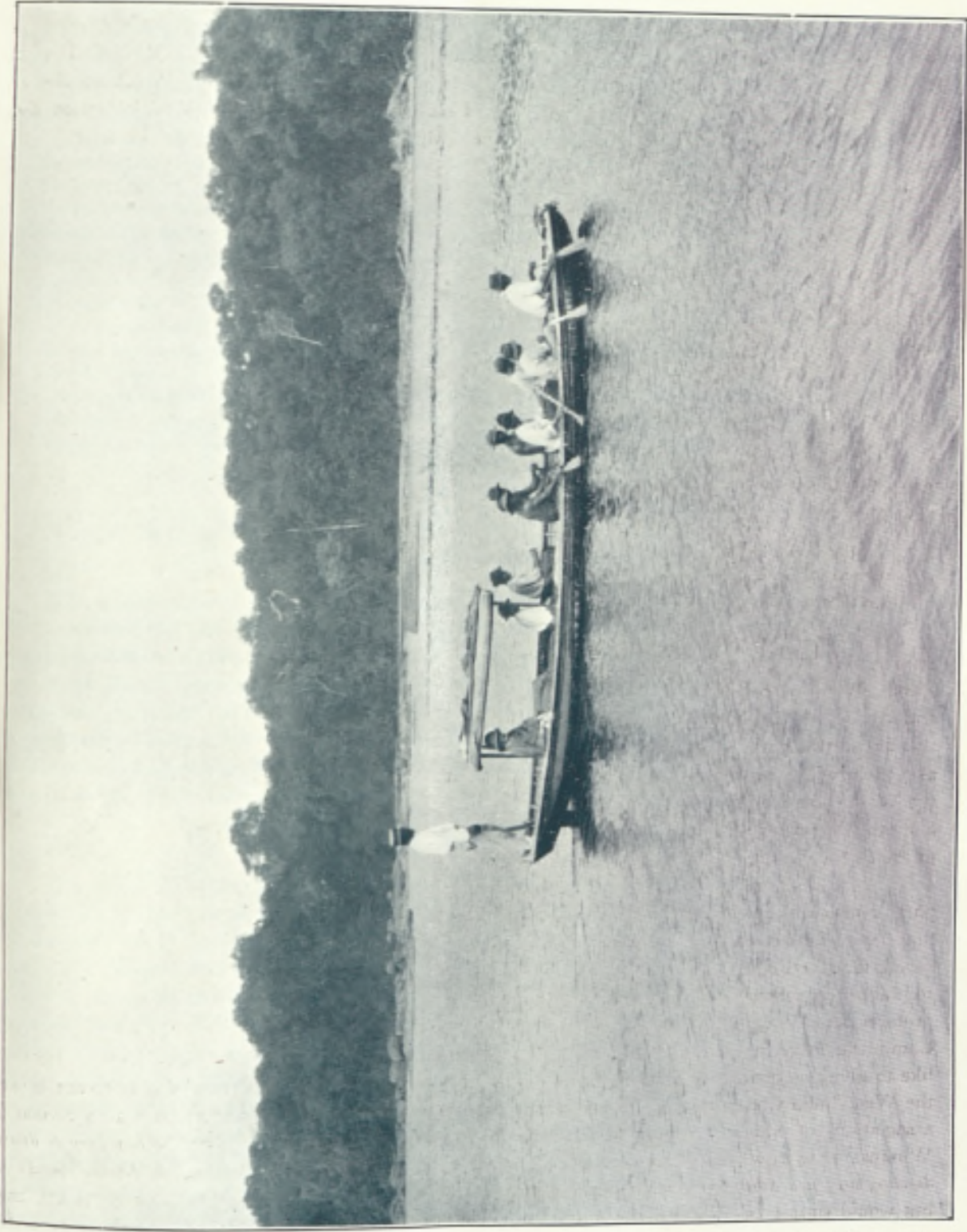
Presentation to Mr. Wallwyn P. B. Shephard, M.A.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive Committee on February 16th, a presentation was made to Mr. Shephard of a cigar box and cigarette case bearing his crest and arms above the following inscription:

“ Presented to Wallwyn Poyer Burnett Shephard by the West India Committee in recognition of his valuable services in connection with the grant of a Royal Charter of Incorporation to that body by King Edward the VII., August 4th, 1904.”

The following Members were present: Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. (in the chair), Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. C. Algernon Campbell, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. Charles S. Parker, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, and Sir Nevile Lubbock, in making the presentation, expressed his pleasure at being able to attend that day for the purpose of offering Mr. Shephard some memorial in recognition of his valuable services as a member of the Committee, not only in connection with the recent grant of a Royal Charter to the West India Committee, but also in relation to his many years work in the anti-bounty movement and other important questions which had from time to time occupied the attention of the Committee in their efforts to promote the welfare of the West Indies.

Mr. Shephard expressed his grateful appreciation of this mark of kindness towards him on the part of his colleagues: a kindness so uniformly manifest that it had encouraged him in coming down that day to face the ordeal of a personal ceremony. The work of the anti-bounty agitation had been severe for all engaged, but the opposition met with was an ultimate source of success, for it taught them to place their reliance on sound general principles in order to combat one of the most dangerous forms of protection. As regards the Royal Charter of last year he had had much pleasure as a member of the Committee in giving his assistance to their Secretary. It was an event in their history. He would like to give two concise quotations from Roman law, still applicable, showing the difference between the West India Committee as it was before and after the Charter. Before, it was a *Societas* (an association) of which “*si quid Societati debetur singulis debetur, et quod debet Societas singuli debent.*” Whereas now it was a *Universitas* or corporation of which “*si quid universitati debetur singulis non debetur, nec quod debet universitas singuli debent.*” He felt he must not detain the Committee any longer but would simply beg leave, if he might, on behalf of his wife as well as of himself, to express his sincere appreciation of the kind courtesy of the Committee in conferring this honour upon him.



From "Six Pictures of the Antilles and British Guiana."

Photo by ALGERNON E. ASSISALA. Copyright.

**RETURNING FROM THE ETABALLI FALLS,
BRITISH GUIANA.**

The London School of Tropical Medicine.

The following letter was circulated among the Members of the West India Committee in this country on the 16th inst. It has already met with a very satisfactory reception, and we reproduce it in full, in the hope that many of our friends in the Colonies will help with their donations the very deserving institution at Greenwich :—

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Chamberlain is to preside over a banquet to be held at the Hotel Cecil on Wednesday, May 10th next, in support of the London School of Tropical Medicine, upon which occasion our Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, and our Deputy-Chairman, Sir Henry K. Davson, have consented to act as Stewards.

The Duke of Marlborough, who is Chairman of the Dinner Committee, has kindly consented to place at the disposal of the Members of the West India Committee a certain number of tickets for which no charge will be made, though it is, of course, expected that those availing themselves of them will subscribe to the fund now being raised on behalf of the School, to which reference is made on pages 56 and 59 of the current issue of the *West India Committee Circular*.

As the number of tickets available will undoubtedly be very largely over applied for, it has been decided to deal with applications in order of their receipt, giving preference to those subscribing according to the amount of their subscriptions.

Will you kindly let me know whether you wish to be present, and what sum you will subscribe, and in conclusion may I also express the hope that even if you cannot attend the banquet you will help with a generous donation the magnificent work being done by the London School of Tropical Medicine?

Awaiting an early reply,

I am, &c.,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary*.

The Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

The arrangements for the Crystal Palace Exhibition are now so far advanced that the West India Committee has been able to give instructions for the erection of the West Indian Court, which will take the form of an imposing structure in the north nave of the Crystal Palace. The West Indies must strive hard if they are to compete successfully with other Colonies for New Zealand has taken considerable space, and the Maori "whare," or house, will be a picturesque feature of the Exhibition. Comprehensive displays will also be made by Gambia, Sierra Leone, Southern Nigeria, the Gold Coast Colony, Lagos, Victoria, Western Australia, the British Central Africa Company, and the Imperial South Africa Association.

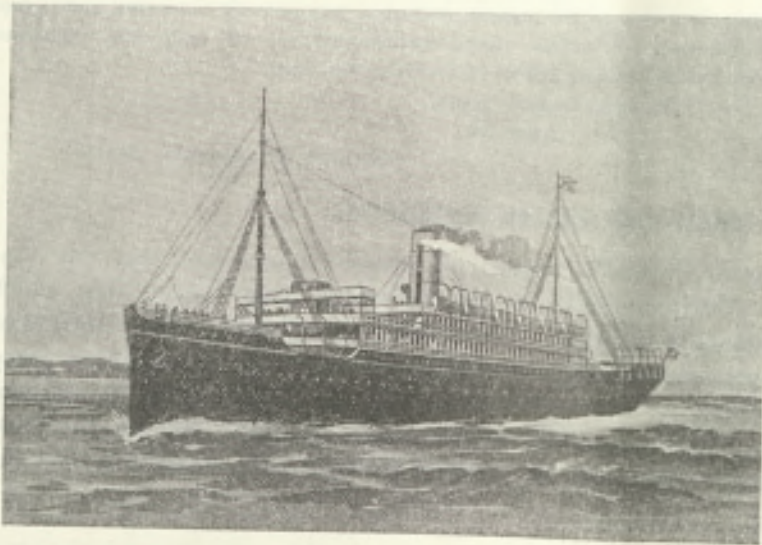
The Launch of the R.M.S. "Aragon."

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company entertained a large number of guests upon the occasion of the launch of their new mail steamer the "Aragon" at Belfast on Thursday, February 23rd. The London party met at St. Pancras at 8.30 p.m. on February 22nd, and were conveyed in a special train composed of sleeping coaches to Stranraer where they arrived at 5.30 on the following morning, and crossed to Larne in the new turbine steamer, with a sea passage of 70 minutes only, and thence proceeded by train to Belfast, which was reached at 8.35 a.m. Here the party was augmented by a contingent from Glasgow and the Midlands, and a breakfast was partaken of at the Northern Counties Hotel. At 12 o'clock a move was made to the yard of Messrs. Harland & Wolff, Ltd., where there was an opportunity of admiring the graceful lines of the new steamer as she lay awaiting the launch. The steamer marks an epoch in the history of the R.M.S.P. Company, as, in addition to being the finest vessel of the fleet, she will be the largest and best steamer engaged in the South American trade, her dimensions being: length, 527 ft. 6 ins.; beam, 60 ft.; with a gross register of 10,000 tons. She is designed to carry a large quantity of cargo, but passenger accommodation on the most sumptuous

scale is her speciality, a point deserving particular mention being that the state rooms are on deck, an improvement that should appeal strongly to intending travellers. The saloon has seating accommodation for 210 passengers, the style being Renaissance, in oak, white, and gold fittings, adorned with cupids and sea trophies. The dome, modelled after that of a Genoese palace, is most ornate and brilliantly lighted. Every provision has been made for the safe navigation of the steamer, and by the adoption of Messrs. Harland & Wolff's latest "Balanced" quadruple type of engines, vibration will be reduced to a minimum. The "Aragon" is schooner-rigged, with two masts, and will sail for Brazil on July 14th.

At 12.15 to the moment, the Countess Fitzwilliam gracefully performed the ceremony of christening the "Aragon," breaking a bottle of champagne on the bows of the vessel, and at a given signal the hydraulic pressure which restrained the ship was released, and she slid gracefully into the water, and was pulled up within her own length, amid the cheers of several thousands of spectators.

After inspecting the shops, the invited guests then drove on outside cars to Ormiston, the residence of Mr. W. J. Pirrie, the Chairman of Harland & Wolff, Ltd., where a gala luncheon, to



The R.M.S. "Aragon," as she will appear when completed.

which some 200 sat down, was served in a large banqueting hall. The toasts included "The King," proposed by Mr. W. J. Pirrie, "The Lord Lieutenant and Prosperity to Ireland," proposed by Mr. Pirrie, and responded to by Mr. Thomas Sinclair, "The Countess Fitzwilliam," proposed by Mr. Owen Philipps, and responded to by Lord Fitzwilliam, and "Success to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company," proposed by Mr. Pirrie, who said that for nearly 70 years the Royal Mail Company has maintained its identity unchanged, and the policy of progress and development initiated by its founders had been carried on

through the greater part of a century to the advantage of British and Colonial interests. The Royal Mail Company did not, however, rely upon its being an old-established concern, or on its past history, to recommend it to-day. It was more vigorous and progressive at the present time than ever before, and by the launch of the "Aragon," which was almost double the size of the largest steamer hitherto possessed by the Company, the Directors had given unmistakable evidence of their determination to keep not only abreast, but even ahead of the times. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Owen Philipps, in responding to the toast, said:—I have on behalf of my colleagues to thank Mr. Pirrie for the kind way he has proposed success to the company. Mr. Pirrie has alluded to the fact that the Royal Mail Company is a British company; it is one of the three great British shipping companies which are precluded by their constitutions from ever being anything but entirely "British"—(hear, hear)—both in their proprietary and directorate. The Royal Mail was granted a Royal Charter in the early years of the reign of Queen Victoria in order to carry the mails between England and the British West Indian Colonies, and this work we have performed with regularity for over 65 years. We prospered with their prosperity, and when the low price of sugar reduced the

West Indian Colonies to a state of severe depression my company shared their adversity. The West Indies are, I hope, again entering upon a period of prosperity—(hear, hear) and I trust that we may be able to make such arrangements with the Government as will enable us to continue to carry on the mail service with the West Indies to the entire satisfaction of the Government and the colonists, and without loss to my company—(cheers.) Our aim has been, as far as possible, not only to meet all the requirements both of the Home and Colonial Governments, but also of the colonists. My company has been doing its share in helping to develop the latent resources of those colonies, and is one of the links binding together this great Empire—(hear, hear.) I know from the correspondence received from the West Indies how important it is for the Empire that the British Colonies in the West Indies should continue to have the benefit of a regular fortnightly mail service to link together the 12 British islands—Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Grenada, Tobago, St. Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat, Antigua, Nevis, St. Kitts—and British Guiana, and also to link them all with the Mother Country. I am pleased to say that to-day we have with us representatives of Spain, Portugal, Brazil, and Argentine, also Nicaragua and Central America generally—(hear, hear). I regret the absence of his Excellency Senor Dominguez, the Argentine Minister in London, with whom, and with Dr. Uriburu, the Consul-General in London, we have the most cordial relations. In Buenos Ayres the company receive the greatest encouragement from the president, Dr. Quintana, and his Government, and especially from Dr. Larata, the able Minister for Foreign Affairs. I feel certain that the "Aragon" will have a warm welcome in Brazil, with which country we have been closely connected for over half a century—(hear, hear).

At the conclusion of the banquet, the invited guests reassembled at the Northern Counties Hotel, and at 5.30 returned once more via Larne and Stranraer. Dinner on the return journey was served on the boat, and St. Pancras was reached, after a most enjoyable expedition, in the early hours of Friday morning. Not a single hitch marred the proceedings, which were very successful in every way, and reflect the greatest credit on the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

Among those present on this auspicious occasion were the Earl and Countess Fitzwilliam, Mr. Owen Philipps, Chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company; Mr. J. Head, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Mr. W. C. Kenny, Directors; Mr. R. L. Forbes, Assistant Manager; Captain G. M. Hicks, Marine Superintendent; Mr. J. E. Wimshurst, Superintendent Engineer; Mr. J. W. Clark, Head of Freight Department; Mr. J. Z. Mayhew, Head of Agency Department; Sir William Q. Ewart, Bart., Chairman Great Northern Railway; Sir Otto and Lady Jaffe; Sir Robert L. Patterson; Mr. R. H. H. Baird, J.P.; Mr. Robert H. Reade, D.L., and Miss Reade; Mr. Thomas Gallaher, J.P., and Mrs. Gallaher; Mr. J. Blakiston-Houston, D.L., and Miss Houston; the Right Hon. Thomas Sinclair, D.L.; The Secretary of the West India Committee; Mr. Henry Plews and Miss Plews; Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. R. J. Kennedy; Sir George Brooke, Bart.; Sir Samuel Black; the Right Hon. Frederick Wrench; Mr. Frank Brooke, D.L.; etc.

The New Line to Bermuda.

The inauguration of the new line of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service from London to Bermuda, Turk's Island, and the north side of Jamaica, was celebrated at a banquet given by Sir Alfred Jones at the Constitutional Club on Wednesday, February 15th. The Duke of Marlborough, Under-Secretary of State, was the principal guest. Among those present were several of our Members, including Colonel Malcolm of Poltalloch, Mr. Lionel de Mercado, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. H. Bailey, Mr. Abrahams, and the Secretary of the West India Committee.

The DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH, in proposing "Success to the New Service," said that the Colonial Office welcomed Sir Alfred Jones's new efforts, as it had welcomed those which he had made in the

past. He was endeavouring to improve the mail service between this country and one of the most important of our possessions. He understood that Sir Alfred Jones wished in his new venture to start steamers which would touch and tap the north of Jamaica and go round by the Bermudas. It was a most worthy aim, and they wished him every success in his enterprise. (Cheers.) The first boat started on Saturday next, and he hoped that it would be the first step towards a further success to be added to those which Sir Alfred Jones had already achieved. (Cheers.)

SIR ALFRED JONES, in reply, said that the great credit of the effort to resuscitate the West Indies was due to their friend, Mr. Chamberlain. It was Mr. Chamberlain who had brought him to bear whatever influence he could to develop Jamaica. As far as the new service was concerned, he was going to show people what Bermuda could produce. The new service was only the beginning of a great service, and it was the beginning of a great service because the Colonial Office had been exceedingly kind to him from beginning to end. He knew they were not commercial, but they were exceedingly kind to commercial people. (Cheers.) If these direct steamers from London were to succeed, however, it must be through the support of the public. The public would get a service once a month. He was trying that service for a year. At the end of a year if they had not sufficient trade for his service he would go elsewhere. He did not fear failure, however; he thought they would go on and make a success of that service. If it could pay its way and leave a little for the owners he would not object. The West Indies had got a little into the background. He hoped that with the aid of the men in the trade and the people in the islands they would come a good deal to the front. (Cheers.) They could be made an enormous success. We had possibilities there that we had never had before. There were sugar, cacao, cotton, fruit, tourists, and many other sources of revenue of which people absolutely did not know. There were groups of men going out to develop new industries, and some of them were Yorkshiremen. (Laughter and cheers.) In conclusion, Sir Alfred Jones renewed his expression of confidence in the future of the new line.

The toast of "Success to the West Indies" was proposed by SIR RALPH MOOR, and MR. ELIOT A. DE PASS, in reply, said that though it was not in mortals to command success, he thought the West Indians had done more, they had deserved it. In the darkest hour of their history they had been told to abandon sugar and grow something else. It seemed very much as though the Australians should say to the bunnies that overran their lands, "There are too many rabbits, produce something else." Well, they had not abandoned sugar, but they did grow something else, and bravely facing the results of bounties, droughts, hurricanes, earthquakes, and eruptions, they had, again and again, put their hands to a new plough. It was no doubt very wrong of the Government to encourage a drought in Europe so as to bring about an advance in the price of sugar. Anyhow, he believed the bounties were now gone for ever, and though sugar would again sell at low prices, it would have to be at the natural price of the product, and the West Indies would be able to hold their own.

Sir Alfred Jones had leapt into the breach at a very critical time in the history of Jamaica, and, although, perhaps, the most roseate expectations of fruit growers might not have been fully realised, he believed the Imperial Direct Service had done much for the good of Jamaica, and if this were so, the new branch of that service, the inauguration of which they were celebrating, would do more still. On the whole the dawn of a brighter era of prosperity for the West Indies was breaking.

Mr. de Pass concluded by paying a tribute to the manner in which the Colonial Office, under Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Lyttelton, had laboured for the best interests of the West Indian Colonies. (Cheers.)

A West Indian Club Dinner.

Sir W. E. M. Tomlinson, Bart., M.P., was the guest of the evening at a dinner of the West Indian Club on Wednesday, February 22nd. Sir E. Noel Walker presided, and amongst those present

were Mr. A. K. Agar, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. W. Gresham Nicholson, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. W. Thorn, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. E. Sturridge, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. Lewis Shephard, Mr. F. W. Scott, Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. Walter B. Kingsford, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. Joseph Simpson, Mr. F. Lowrey, Mr. V. Simpson, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. C. J. Parkington, Mr. Thomas Seal, Mr. J. Arnold, Mr. A. Dexter, Mr. J. Westwood, Mr. F. R. Leistikow, Mr. A. Drysdale, Mr. J. J. Barry, Mr. L. F. Hudson, Mr. C. R. Winn, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, and Mr. Charles Wilson.

The Chairman, in proposing Sir William Tomlinson's health, referred to the many services he had rendered to the West Indies—services that were all the more valuable from the fact that Sir William Tomlinson had no pecuniary or material interests in the colony.

Sir William Tomlinson, in reply to an enthusiastic reception, said that the abolition of sugar bounties had given the West Indies all they had asked, viz.: freedom to accomplish their destiny with complete fair-play and immunity from unfair competition. The West Indies were only a part of the great British Empire, but without going into political questions, on which there might be differences of opinion, he held every Britisher, regardless of party, should do what he could to get fair play for his fellow countrymen. This was what he had tried to do. We had only to look on the map and see the British Isles, surrounded by a continent which had no desire to promote our commercial interests, to realise that the future of the Empire depended on unity. As a matter of fact, our rivals were quite ready to take our trade from us, and we should therefore look forward to a time when the British Empire, firmly united, would be ready to stand its own ground, even with a hostile world around it. This end could only be secured by a thorough understanding with our colonies, of which the West Indies was one of the oldest.

The Cotton Industry.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture is taking steps to assist the cotton industry by making arrangements to secure a fresh supply of Rivers' Sea Island cotton seed for delivery early this year and those who desire a supply of this seed, which will be sold at cost price, that is to say, 5 cents or 2½d. per lb., should communicate without delay with the officers of the Department in the Colonies in which they reside. In each case payment will be required beforehand. The seed will be disinfected on arrival and delivered in quantities to suit applicants. Applications will be received up to March 10th, after which date no requests will be entertained.

We learn that in Manchester the feeling in favour of West Indian Sea Island cotton is becoming more and more marked, and it is thought that it will beat American Sea Island out of the market.

During the past fortnight 137 bales of West Indian cotton have been imported. Medium fine, is quoted in Liverpool 4'00d. per lb.; and Sea Island, medium fine, 11½d. per lb.; fine 12½d. per lb., and extra fine 14½d. per lb.

Consumption of Sugar.

According to the figures given in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, the consumption of sugar in the principal European countries which were signatories of the Brussels Convention, for the first four months of the campaign, from September to November, 1904, would appear to be as follows:—

	1903-4.	1904-5.	
France	360,832	261,756	99,076 tons Decrease.
Germany	521,424	429,331	92,093
Austria-Hungary	221,154	185,702	35,452
Belgium	43,020	33,748	9,272
United Kingdom	430,235	669,426	239,191 .. Increase.
Holland	35,304	38,529	3,225

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

The sixth session of the first Parliament of King Edward VII., was opened by the King with full ceremony on Tuesday, February 14th. There was no reference to West Indian affairs in the King's speech.

The Permanent Commission.

On February 16th, questions were asked by Mr. Gibson-Bowles and Mr. Lough, regarding the Commission, and in reply Mr. Gerald Balfour said that no prohibitive code could be issued under the Sugar Convention Act, except on the report of the permanent Commission that a bounty was granted in that country. No such report had been made with regard to the systems of the United States and Cuba. The Government adhered to its decision that Russian Sugar exported enjoyed advantages of the nature of a bounty.

The Withdrawal of the Troops.

In reply to a question from Mr. Buchanan, as to the cost of military and naval works on various naval stations, which have now been wholly or partly abandoned, the Secretary to the Treasury on February 21st, gave figures, which may be summarised as follows: Cost of military works in the years from 1895-6 to 1903-4, inclusive:—

Halifax	...	...	...	...	...	...	£281,600
Bermuda	...	...	...	...	...	...	355,900
Jamaica	...	...	...	...	...	...	193,000
St. Lucia and Barbados	...	...	...	...	...	...	470,000
							£1,300,600

Cost of naval works in the years from 1895-6 to 1903-4, inclusive:—

Halifax	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 81,550
Bermuda	...	...	...	...	...	...	610,241
Jamaica	...	...	...	...	...	...	67,729
St. Lucia	...	...	...	...	...	...	6709
Antigua	...	...	...	...	...	...	276

Total, military and naval £2,067,105.

The Sugar Convention.

On February 14th, in the debate on the Address, Sir Campbell Bannerman stigmatised the Brussels Convention and asked if all was going smoothly with it. Russia, Argentine, and San Domingo, had all been placed under the ban, but now he understood that our ports were to be opened to sugar from San Domingo. Had the Permanent Commission changed its mind? If so, why had not Russia been relieved as she had requested to be. Mr. Arthur Balfour said that sugar from San Domingo is not prohibited as San Domingo has ceased to give a bounty—(hear, hear)—and that so far as we know Russia has made no application in the course of the past year to be relieved from her penalties under the convention, and there is no doubt that that country does give bounties. As to Brazil and other countries, we have appealed against the decision in their case as we do not think they give a bounty—at any rate, we do not consider it proved that they do. The question of the Sugar Convention is one on which hon. gentlemen dwell with great pleasure, as they think it is one in which the Government have got themselves into a hole. (Opposition cheers.) I take an entirely different view. I think that if I wanted to show the absolute incompetence of hon. gentlemen opposite to deal with economic questions—(Ministerial cheers and Opposition laughter)—I should select the treatment they have given to this question. The right hon. gentleman thinks that the policy of abolishing foreign bounties is contrary to sound national policy and sound political economy, but he has against him every authority worth considering, past and present, politician or economist, and even his own authority, for he told the House that bounties were as bad as protective duties. Whatever temporary benefit the consumer may obtain he holds by the favour of the country paying the bounty. That bounty restricts the area of production, and when the foreign bounty is taken off, up goes the price to our consumer, who has meantime lost all the benefit he might have derived from increased area of production. (Hear, hear.) I do not go so far as to say that the bounties should be abolished if the price of sugar was to be permanently raised; I would allow other nations to tax themselves to give us permanently cheaper sugar, but it is the poorest kind of statesmanship which looks at the price of sugar for one, two, or three months and does not encourage free trade in that product for the benefit of the consumer. Yet the gentlemen who encourage what the right hon. gentlemen describes as a fiscal expedient as bad as Protection call themselves Free Traders. (Ministerial laughter.) They do not know what Free Trade is. (Opposition laughter and Ministerial cheers.)

Notes of Interest.

MR. JOHN BARCLAY. Mr. John Barclay has been appointed an Hon. Correspondent to the West India Committee for Jamaica.

BANK RATE. The Bank of England rate remains 3% (changed from 3½% on April 22nd, 1904), and Consols (2½%) are quoted 91½ as we go to press. We are compelled by lack of space to hold over our list of West Indian Securities.

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. "Jamaican" from Liverpool, for Barbados and Trinidad, March 3rd.; S.S. "Sarstoon" from London for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, and Demerara, March 9th.; S.S. "Cavalier" from Liverpool, for Demerara, March 9th.; S.S. "Explorer" from Liverpool, for Barbados, Demerara, and Trinidad, March 10th.; and the R.M.S. "Port Morant" from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, on March 11th.

ST. VINCENT

ARROWROOT. We are indebted to Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., for two cases of arrowroot grown and packed in St. Vincent. Owing to the poor prices, and the poor demand of recent years, it occurred to Mr. Donald Porter that arrowroot attractively packed in ½ lb. and 1 lb. packets might help to popularise the article as one to be used for daily food. Quite a number of workers are now employed in St. Vincent as the outcome of Mr. Porter's enterprise, which will, we hope, meet with the success it deserves. The prices are 4d. per ½ lb. packet and 7d. per lb. packet. The cases reached us beautifully packed in a manner which reflects the greatest credit on all concerned. The agent is Mr. W. J. Hetherington, Glasgow.

SUGAR IN MAURITIUS.

Presiding over the Annual General Meeting of the Bank of Mauritius, Ltd., on February 17th, Lord Stanmore, the Chairman, said that the result for the past year must be looked upon as very satisfactory. The season, both as regards quantity and price had proved a remarkable contrast to the previous one. It only reached 140,000 tons compared with 215,000 tons, but the increase in price of the commodity more than compensated for the deficiency. The shortage was to be attributed to the effects of the hurricanes which swept over the Island last year, and which had affected plantations to a greater extent than had been at first anticipated. He thought it improbable that the values would again sink to the low level of recent years, but on the other hand the present very high prices were not likely to continue. The next crop promised to be a very good one.

The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "La Plata" anchored off Plymouth on Wednesday, February 22nd, at 9.20 p.m., and the Mails were delivered in London on the following morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Services R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, February 15th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received per R.M.S. "La Plata."

Antigua—The New Central Factory.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) February 7th.—The usual Agricultural Show was to be held on February 23rd.

Cotton picking was in full swing, but it was too soon yet to say what the average yield was likely to be.

The weather had been cool, dry and breezy, and from the point of view of some of those who had not to live by agriculture there, a perfect climate. Those who preferred cane to climate would rather see more rain to assist the young plants and to keep the large acreage of backward cane in growth. The dry weather had begun to ripen the plant canes, and a few estates were preparing to commence crop. The Central Factory was expected to begin operations within the next fortnight or thereabouts.

Barbados—The English Cricketers.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE) February 10th.—The arrival of the English Cricket Team had caused almost entire stagnation of business during the fortnight, most of the stores having been closed. Great interest had been shown in the matches and the attendance had been very good. A dinner was to be given them, and they were invited to a subscription dance on the previous evening. They were also present at the Fancy Dress Ball given by Lady Carter at Government House on the 6th.

The writer regretted to report that on Sunday night, February 5th, the manager of Morgan Lewis estate was shot at by a man, who jumped out of a canefield and wounded him in the neck. The man escaped. This was an outrage that seldom occurred in Barbados, and, coupled with the increase of cane fires, it showed that there was a spirit of lawlessness abroad. On February 4th the telegram was published stating the Secretary of State had informed the West India Committee that the troops were to be removed from St. Lucia and Port Royal, but no mention was made of Barbados; however, no doubt was felt in official quarters as to their ultimate removal. No steps had as yet been taken by the Executive for an increase in the Police Force, and this could not be made efficient in a day.

Negotiations were taking place between a Syndicate and the Tramways Company with a view to their being purchased and worked by electricity. As the mail left, it was said that an English Syndicate had bought out the Tramway Company for £25,000, and it was hoped that this might be only an instalment for the purchase of the Railway.

The Exhibition Committee had been very active, and nine sub-Committees had been formed for the collection of the various exhibitions.

A good deal of cotton had been picked, and onions were ripening rapidly. Many improvements in Estates and machinery were now being carried out, which would not have seen the light had not the rise in price of sugar taken place. No one was so foolish as to think that present rates could be permanent, but they realised that the abolition of the Bounties gave promise of more stability in the market in the future. Muscovado sugar was quoted at 92.75 per 100 lbs and molasses had risen to 20 cents.

All in the Island wished that the contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. might be renewed, but it was felt that, with their small revenue and with the prospect of its being further diminished when the troops were removed, it was impossible to vote an increased subsidy.

Recent shipments of bananas seemed to have arrived in better condition, and if this continued, it was hoped the confidence of shippers might be restored.

The Panama Company were offering inducements for 1,000 Barbados labourers to go over, but not many acceptances had been heard of as yet.

Since last mail there had been little change in the weather. They had had light showers occasionally, but they made little impression on the rain-gauge. High winds had prevailed, and the temperature was remarkably cool. Many estates had begun sugar-making, but some had stopped again, the yield not being satisfactory. Reaping would, however, be very general next week; the yield seemed to be about 1½ hogsheads per acre at present.

British Guiana—The Cable Question.

(A. SUMMERSON, ESQ.) February 8th. It was reported that the local agent of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company had been advised by the Government that it was not their intention to ask the Combined Court for the grant of \$7,200, which was given in addition to the original subsidy on condition that they maintained a duplicate cable between British Guiana and Trinidad. This step should have been taken long ago, as a working duplicate cable had now been non-existent for some years.

The questions of the mail service would also be brought up at the Combined Court. The Secretary of State having intimated that an increased subsidy was necessary for carrying on the Royal Mail Service, the Government communicated with the Chamber of Commerce over the matter, and they had replied that it was necessary for the trade of the Colony that a regular mail service should be maintained. The matter, however, was one for the Combined Court to deal with, but it was felt that any increase in the subsidy should not be a charge on the Colony, as previously when the subsidy was reduced, the Imperial Government took advantage of the whole of this.

There was nothing whatever doing in sugar.

The weather had continued too dry during the fortnight, and good rains were wanted all over the Colony. They had a good shower in Georgetown that day.

Dominica—Electric Light for Roseau.

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.) February 9th. The Agricultural Show was to be held in a fortnight's time.

The Government's scheme for electric light for Roseau was being freely criticised. It appeared that the scheme involved an expenditure of £3,000 for 400 lights, 300 of which were required for public purposes. An alternative proposal of £5,000 for 1,000 lights was discarded, as it was impossible for the Government to get leave to expend the larger sum. Surely it would have been better either to have waited for a year or two, or to have gone to the public for the other £2,000, than to have hastily expended a comparatively large sum of money on a plant that must shortly prove entirely inadequate if the Island developed as was anticipated.

Grenada—Cacao Crop Estimate.

(HON. D. S. DE FREITAS) February 8th. The outbreak of eruptive fever in the parish of St Andrew had been dealt with by Dr. Bennett and Mr R. J. Graves with commendable energy and method. In consequence of their unsparring efforts, the danger of its spreading over a wider area had been removed, and the belief that the disease would entirely disappear in another two or three weeks was reasonably entertained.

Cacao was ripening very slowly, and, therefore, recent pickings had yielded very little. Rain was still much required in the lowlands, and it had been very windy and cool.

(P. J. DEAN, ESQ.) February 9th. The Agricultural Show was to take place on March 16th and 17th. From the cacao figures furnished by the writer (which will be found on another page), it would be seen that they had fallen off considerably in their cacao shipments this year. It was estimated that they would be fully 10,000 bags short at the end of February, and from the appearance of the trees now, it seemed improbable that they would pick this up later.

Jamaica—A New Planters' Association.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, ESQ.) February 6th.—Very active preparations were being made for the representation of the Colony at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, and the occasion was to be marked by the publication of a handbook giving information to tourists as well as settlers, to be entitled "Jamaica in 1905."

The Westmoreland Sugar Planters Association had passed resolutions expressing satisfaction at the formation of the Northside Sugar Planters Association, welcoming their co-operation and expressing the hope that other parishes would soon follow the example. The Committee adopted a resolution to the effect that the price of rum was to be 2d. per gallon more than the price realised for the last crop.

The weather during the last fourteen days had generally speaking been poor for growing crops. There had been a scarcity of rain, but on the whole they had not much to complain of. Vere was dry, the weather being good for reaping, but rain would be acceptable for the growing canes.

Montserrat—Cotton.

(CONRAD WATSON, ESQ.) 7th February.—The greater portion of the cotton crop having been reaped, an estimate could be formed of the probably return per acre. 500 lbs. of seed cotton seemed to be about the average, and as the proportion of lint this year was 26 lbs. in 100 lbs. of seed cotton, the results would be 130 lbs. lint per acre. This was not so

encouraging to cotton planters as the statements in the Agricultural News of "Profits of Cotton Growing in Barbados," and a still greater contrast was to be found in the return last year of 26 lbs. lint per acre from about 240 acres which suffered from diseases and pests.

Nevis—The Sugar Crop.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHANN) February 7th.—A large quantity of cotton had already been reaped, but no definite idea of the final output could yet be gathered, some placing it at over and some considerably under 200 lbs. per acre of lint. The great difference in various districts was very marked, so that although some fields were giving very satisfactory results, the average would be brought down by others less fortunate.

The sugar crop would be much below the average, and it was fortunate that the market was keeping up, as it was only due to this circumstance that some Estates would pull through. The expenditure last year on cultivation generally throughout the Island was materially increased, so that the gross expenditure against 1905 crop does not actually represent the outlay on that crop, but rather upon the increased area which was planted in 1904-5 and will be reaped in 1906; but most accounts were made up from August 1st to July 31st next, so that the crop of this year would have to recoup the largely extended expenditure on the fall of 1904, and beginning of 1905, which was hardly a fair criterion of profit and loss. Added to this difficulty, planters had to face the inevitable rise in wages, which in that Island had been conceded without pressure on the side of labour.

St. Kitts—The Labour Question.

(CHAS. A. SMITH, ESQ.) February 7th.—Local labour troubles had been satisfactorily arranged, and both employers and employed were to be congratulated on their adjustment.

The reaping of the sugar crop was now in full swing on a good many Estates, and general satisfaction was expressed at the yield obtained.

The cotton crop was also well advanced, and one or two shipments had already been made, which it was hoped would turn out well, as every care was being taken with the cleaning, &c.

The figures of produce shipped during 1903 and 1904 (inclusive of Nevis) were as follows:—

	1904		1903	
Muscovado Sugar	21,933	tons	13,233	tons
Vacum Pan Sugar	291	..	488	..
Molasses ...	2,893	puns	2,695	puns
Rum	230	..	205	..

St. Lucia—Panama and the Labour Supply.

(HON. E. DUBOULAY) February 10th.—Consequent upon the work on the Panama Canal having commenced, their people were leaving them fast, being induced to do so by specious promises of emigration agents in Barbados. This boded ill for their agricultural interests, and just at a time when better prospects loomed ahead. They had a large area of Crown Lands, and it would be to the benefit of the Colony were these taken up and cultivated; some inducement might be offered to their people to do so by a free grant of the land they held, after a stated period of occupation and cultivation. The question was a very serious one.

The weather had been dry with occasional showers. Crops were commencing, with fair prospects.

St. Vincent—Cotton Shipments

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & CO.) February 10th.—The steamer that day was taking 74 bales of first quality Sea Island Cotton, the first of the season's crop.

Trinidad—The Labour Question.

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C.M.G.) February 10th.—Further advices from Calcutta warned those in the Island that it was more than probable that their requisition for coolies for the current season would not be met. The continuance of abundant harvests in the recruiting districts kept the labourers contented and comfortable in their own country. This, with the impetus given by present high prices of farmers' canes to the withdrawal of labourers from the estates, which had already occurred to such an extent as to seriously embarrass the planters, threatened grave difficulties in the immediate future. A meeting would shortly be held of the Standing Committee on Immigration and probably also of the Planters in general to consider what had best be done to supply the deficiency of labourers in the Colony. The requisition of the planters for the current season was over 3,200, and the Government estimates had been passed for the introduction of the normal number of 2,400. It was very doubtful whether Madras, if recruiting were started there, would make up the shortage at Calcutta, and China was once more suggested as a recruiting ground. It would, however, take time to establish an agency there and get everything into working order.

Cane farming was the subject of a discussion not yet finished by the Agricultural Society. (Reports of the two meetings of the Society, at which the discussion took place, will be found in the Port of Spain Gazette of the 1st and 8th inst., which may be seen at the West India Committee Rooms—Ed.) 14s. per ton for farmers' canes was now being paid throughout the Colony. Mr. Rolston's remarks at the meeting of the 7th inst. were interesting, as coming from a farmer in Savanna Grande, the headquarters of the Cane Farmers' Association.

It was understood that their Government had been asked to report to the Secretary of State on the subject of Canadian reciprocity. It was questionable whether any good purpose would be served by re-opening negotiations with the Canadian Government. Canada was now taking the bulk of its requirements in sugar from the British West Indies without any treaty. Any possible treaty with Canada would mean a considerable loss of revenue to Trinidad without any corresponding advantage to the sugar planters, while the United States would be sure to view any treaty with that country with disfavour, and most probably retaliate on their cacao and asphalt.

Trade relations with Venezuela had now become so impossible that a final settlement was imperatively necessary. It was currently reported that the United States were about to bring pressure to bear on the Venezuelan Government to enforce fulfilment of their obligations under the recent arbitration. How far this would help Trinidad would depend on the measure of attention the home Government had given to their interests in this movement. Reports from Caracas indicated a very unsatisfactory state of things in that city, and it was said that the United States Minister had everything prepared for an immediate departure.

The weather had continued fine, with occasional light showers.

Sugar making was general and everywhere the crops were turning out short of reduced estimates. It was now thought that the crop of the Colony would be from 25% to 30% short of last year's.

Cacao was also short in many districts, but some excellent crops were being gathered. Ordinary quotations were still in strong demand, principally for Europe. Business had been done for "Ordinary" at 54/-, c and f. Havre, and for "Estates" at 55/6. Local prices remained unchanged, at slightly above these parties. Venezuelans had weakened under heavier supplies and might be quoted at \$12.30 to \$12.60 per fanega, first cost Trinidad.

		Shipments.				
Totals last return		12,887	Trinidad	2228	Venezuela	50 St. Vincent Europe.
Jan. 27	S S "Moscow"	505	"			
" 28	S S "Trent"	1468	"	72	"	"
" 28	S S "Maracas"	2051	"	1570	"	New York
" 31	S S "St Germain"	2347	"	179	"	Europe.
" 31	S S "Tagus"	55	"			Jamaica
Feb. 6	S S "Oruro"	5	"			Canada
" 8	S S "Yucatan"	600	"			Savanna
" 8	S S "P Willem IV"		"	200	"	Europe
" 8	S S "P Willem I"	1000	"	146	"	New York
" 8	S S "Maraval"	1751	"	1498	"	"
		22,959		5592		

Letter to the Editor. The Destruction of Mosquitoes.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

MY DEAR SIR,—When in my pamphlet on the "Destruction of Mosquitoes," Shoeburyness, February 15th, 1905, I alluded to the immunity of Barbados from malarial fevers, and gave as a possible reason thereof, that some cause existed apart from the physical and meteorological condition of that Island, I did not hold in my mind the possibility of this immunity being due to the little fishes called "millions," mentioned by Mr C Kenrick Gibbons in his letter to you, dated February 9th, 1905. I was aware that fishes, and more especially young fishes, eat the larvæ of mosquitos; but that the fishes of Barbados could account for all of the *anopheles* larvæ (supposing such to have ever existed in that Island) was a matter which did not present itself as likely to form a basis for any theory as regards the before-mentioned immunity.

At that time I was not aware of the existence of these tiny midger fishes. What I had in my mind was, that some small insect or microbe, existing in the swamp water or vegetation growing therein, by attacking the larvæ (or eggs) of the *anopheles*, might annihilate them or cause some sort of disease effecting the same thing.

Further, that the attack might be against the perfect insect itself. Or, again, that the water might contain some poison of a mineral nature. The weak point of the above theory is, that the *culex* mosquito, or its larvæ, &c., must be considered immune to such attacks, for, as is well-known, it exists in great numbers in Barbados. We may tabulate the supposed reasons for Barbados being immune to malarial fevers as follows:—

1. Physical and meteorological conditions unfavourable to the *anopheles*.
2. A microbe enemy or a poison of the *anopheles*.
3. The little fishes called "millions," which eat up the *anopheles* larvæ.
4. The possibility that the *anopheles* has never been imported.

As regards these I keep an open mind, but what I wish to impress strongly is, that if either (2) or (3) are found to be correct, we shall have natural advantages for destroying *anopheles* many times more potent than draining, &c., inasmuch as the cost of reproducing these conditions elsewhere may be practically nil. Consequently, I consider, experiments should be made to test these points in every possible manner. If the *anopheles* has never been imported the other theories

No. 4 could be tested by importing the *anopheles*, but such a thing is, of course, out of the question.

No. 1 must stand on its merits, there is no way of testing it; but it is the common theory held by most people who have studied mosquitos. Still it is not proved. On the contrary we can easily find very dry places where the *anopheles* larvæ in tiny pools in the sand close to Damietta, Egypt, and Colonel Ross moreover found their No. 3 could be tested in the manner suggested by Mr Gibbons. There would seem to be no more danger in importing these little fishes to the other Islands than there was in importing the mongoose to kill the serpents in St. Lucia, an experiment that has proved an admirable success! A very short trial would show if the "millions" could reduce the *anopheles* in a given area, which might be chosen at a point isolated as much as possible from other malarious districts, so as to prevent the re-stocking of the place by fresh broods of mosquitos.

As regards No. 2 I had planned to make the following tests, but recall before my tour of foreign service was complete prevented me.

I proposed to take water from two or three swamps at Barbados and to bring it to St. Lucia, keeping it aerated during transit as well as possible. In this water I intended to place some of the *anopheles* larvæ found in a pool in St. Lucia and to watch the results (under similar conditions) in comparison with the remainder of the larvæ kept in the water in which they were all found. I also intended to try to get the female *anopheles* to lay eggs in water from Barbados, comparing results again with similarly treated St. Lucia water. It was a great disappointment to me not being able to carry out the above. All I can hope for is that some person interested locally may do so. The West Indian Islands are favourably situated (even under present conditions) as regards the possibilities for destroying *anopheles*. The results of the works carried out have been most gratifying, though the cost of the methods employed has been considerable. The results of continually making small improvements and additions these Islands will, I am sure, show soon a very great diminution in malarial fevers, but with the bright prospect before them which will begin with the opening of the Panama Canal, West Indians should leave no stone unturned in pursuit of a remedy which may rid them from the curse of the tropics—malarial fevers. It is a question which concerns every individual in the Islands, and the more diligently the work is tackled the greater the results will be. Even more than the islands the great Colony of British Guiana is interested. The theory presented by Mr. Kenrick Gibbons is most valuable, and I hope it may be tested and found completely successful. He even, it only partially effective another point will have been gained in the contest against "malaria."

I esteem it a great honour that you should ask me for my views on this question, and it will always be a great pleasure to me to assist the West Indians by every means in my power, for in so doing I feel I am repaying in some small degree the kindness and hospitality which I met there.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,
W. M. HODDER, MAJOR, R.E.

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 Morning Dip, Barbados."

"The Tourist," Vol. IX., No. 10: Vol. X., No. 1. This publication contains two amusing articles by Mr. H. J. B. Ward, of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, extolling the delights of a cruise in the "Solent." The articles are printed on art paper, and thoroughly well illustrated with half-tone illustrations, of which a typical specimen appears on this page.

The International Sugar Journal, Vol. VI., 1904. We have to thank Messrs Wilkinson & Gaviller for a handsomely bound volume of this useful magazine for the year 1904. We hope that many of our Members will follow the generous example of Messrs Wilkinson and Gaviller, and help us to improve our Library.

Dominica, West Indies, Illustrated and Described. 7" x 5". Cloth boards, price 30 cents (1s 3d). Obtainable of José Anjo, Antigua, and George Tudor, Roseau, Dominica. Mr. José Anjo, the expert photographer of St. John's, Antigua, whose beautiful views of the scenery of the Leeward Islands are already familiar on picture post-cards is responsible for the illustrations of this little book, and inasmuch as the letterpress is contributed by Mr. H. A. Allford Nicholls, C.M.G., who knows all that is worth knowing about Dominica, her history and her people, it is safe to predict a ready sale for this charming souvenir of one of the most beautiful Islands in the West Indies.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) Feb. 27th. "A few light showers have fallen but more rain would be acceptable." British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) Feb. 21st. "Weather dry and rain much wanted." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Feb. 22nd. "Too dry." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) Feb. 24th. "A little rain has fallen generally since last message." Feb. 25th. "Some acceptable rains have fallen in Demerara County." Trinidad (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.) February 18th. "Weather continues dry."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Coconuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.	Botton.
British Guiana—	Tons	lbs.	Tons	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats	lbs.
Jan 1 to Feb 7, '05	15,399	—	1730	3433	55,800	981	5254	856	—
" " 9, '04	15,287	—	946	5404	5160	13	3434	—	—
Jamaica—		Cwts.	Coffee.	Galls		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.	
Apr 1 to Jan 28, '05	7159	19,338	Cwts.	984,566	2,797,243	Cwts.	Stems	75,105,191	10,542
" " 30, '04	8573	18,232		61,207	922,015	132,911	7,282,788	77,734,210	1376
Trinidad—	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.	Copra.
Jan 1 to Feb 8, '05	15,583	3,390,140	960	—	712,400	Puns	Tres.	Tons.	Bags.
" " 8, '04	1,144	4,692,340	20,160	—	328,600	899	42	21,324	1376
						10	—	12,043	
Grenada—	Coffee.								
Oct 1 to Feb 9, '05	Bags.	Bags	Brls.	SPICE.	Cases.		Bags.	Cotton Seed.	Cotton.
" " 9, '04	23	25,626	2289	295	228		124	Bags.	Bales.
	126	40,748	1450	201	162		35		

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "La Plata," (Capt. W. J. Dagnall) Feb 22nd:— Barbados—Mr. A. H. Page, Mrs. Holmes Kerr, Comm. Greatorox, Mr. W. Glover, Mr. A. Davis, Mr. P. C. Harel, Mr. J. P. Greig. Jamaica—Mr. Justice and Mrs. Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. McGregor, Mr. J. Mrs. and Miss Pritchett, Mrs. Jones, Mr. J. P. Doyle, Col. and Mrs. Brodegan, Miss Despard, Mr. H. Young, Mr. J. W. Goodwin, Mr. A. Goodwin, Mr. G. Millbank, Mr. J. C. Smith, Mr. W. H. Tetley, Miss May, Mr. G. W. Wolff. Trinidad—Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson, Mr. C. Greig, Mr. C. Thurkow, Mr. and Mrs. Murato, Mr. C. V. Vlies, Mr. Lamont.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt. H. D. Doughty) March 1st:— Barbados—Sergt. Major and Mrs. Hill, Sergt. and Mrs. Godbolt, Mr. H. D. Clirett. Demerara—Rev. and Mrs. Jeannot, Miss M. Strutt, Mr. E. A. Bugle. Jamaica—Mr. R. H. Reece, Sister A. Wood, Rev. A. W. and Miss Ross, Mrs. B. Hay, Mr. D. G. Cannell, Major F. M. and Mrs. Mangin, Mr. F. and Mrs. Wyndham, Mr. E. Robertson, Mrs. and Miss Buchanan. Trinidad—Mr. W. Jessen, Mr. J. Kidd, Mr. J. Agostini. Antigua—Mr. and Mrs. Bryson.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. W. R. Rowe) Feb 15th:— Jamaica—Sir J. C. Browne, Major C. Browne, Mr. and Mrs. W. Douet, Mr. F. J. Wilmer, Rev. and Mrs. Aldridge, Miss Stanhope, Mr. and Mrs. K. H. Shiers, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. M. Monk, Mr. H. S. Mitchell.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. W. R. Rowe) Feb. 25th:— Jamaica—Capt. A. D. Carden, Prof. A. C. Elliott, Mr. Garland, Capt. and Mrs. F. J. Hunter, Mr. J. L. Pullman, Mr. T. R. Robertson, Mr. W. E. Sutcliffe, Mr. A. H. Stockley, Mr. W. H. Wells, Mr. H. Ward, two Misses Ward, Mr. C. A. Wray, Dr. W. H. Winder, Miss D. Wyllarde, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Abrahams.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—The figures published in Herr F. O. Licht's Circular of the 17th February are interesting, and speak well for the maintenance of good prices from now at least until the commencement of the next beet crop on the Continent. Consumption is satisfactory. Estimates of the existing beet crops are again reduced, whilst the deficiency in the world's stocks is assuming dangerous proportions. These are the figures—

Consumption, September/January, 5 months:—	1904/5	1903/4	1902/3
Convention Europe	1,716,000	1,875,000	1,494,000 Tons.
America	775,000	680,000	798,000 ..
	2,491,000	2,555,000	2,292,000 ..

	ESTIMATED BEET CROPS.			
	1904/5	1903/4	1902/3	1901/2
Convention Europe	3,401,000	4,226,000	3,979,000	5,258,000 Tons.
All Europe	4,681,000	5,874,000	5,561,000	6,750,000 ..
Stocks on 1st February, even dates—				
Convention Europe	2,515,000	2,515,000	3,487,000	3,259,000 ..
Known World... ..	2,817,000	2,817,000	3,758,000	3,598,000 ..

This same well informed authority in discussing the question of sowings for 1905/6 wisely says no one can determine what they will be for some months to come. He suggests a possible increase of 10 to 12 per cent. As this increase, whatever it is, must be compared with the yield of 1903/4, when the weather was normal, and which crop produced some 5,900,000 tons, if it is 10 per cent, we must expect some 600,000 tons more sugar than in that season, bringing the possible out-put up to 6,500,000 tons, or say 1,800,000 tons more than the disastrous season now being dealt with. This looks a lot of extra sugar, and it will be needed to keep prices within reasonable limits, bearing in mind the enormously reduced stocks that will remain on hand at the end of September next. Sugar will be an interesting puzzle for many months to come. For the next six months, all seems plain sailing.

The closing quotations of 88% are, February, 15s. 4½d.; May, 15s. 6½d.; August, 15s. 7½d.; and Oct./Dec., 11s. 8½d. all free on board Hamburg, and in bond.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Europe	2,530,000	3,440,000	3,210,000	3,370,000	2,690,000 Tons
United States	160,000	110,000	150,000	80,000	150,000 ..
Cuba	180,000	160,000	210,000	240,000	120,000 ..
Cargoes afloat	50,000	50,000	50,000	20,000	20,000 ..
Total	2,920,000	3,760,000	3,620,000	3,710,000	2,980,000 ..

Comparative prices of 88% Beet in bond:— 15s. 4½d., 7s. 10½d., 8s. 2d., 6s. 9½d., 9s. 2½d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—There has not been much business doing in crystallised during the fortnight, but the trade seems to be reviving again with the improvement in beet. The general range remains 22s. to 24s., with average qualities 23s. If the retail houses could see their way to reduce our prices from 3d. per lb. to 2½d., at which they are selling *imitations* and Foreign granulated, a larger business would result.

For a cargo of 96 test to Refiners, the value is 16s. to a shade over, on floating terms in bond.

Molasses Sugar is in fair request from 16s. to 19s.

Muscovado.—New grocery Barbados are anxiously looked for, and if of good quality should command about 19s. for the first arrivals. For 89 test to Refiners, 15s. on floating terms could now be obtained, in bond.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905	1904	1903	1902
Imports	5300	5400	2200	5000 Tons
Deliveries	5800	6200	6200	8000 ..
Stocks	9000	11,000	25,000	9000 ..
Quotations of Crystallised, duty paid, average qualities	23s. 0d.	14s. 6d.	14s. 3d.	15s. 9d.

Rum.—Stocks in London:

	1905	1904	1903	1902
Jamaica	6900	7900	9300	6400 Puns.
Demerara	5700	11,700	10,700	9200 ..
Total of all kinds:—	12,600	19,600	20,000	15,600 ..
Deficiency				9664 ..

The market is steady, and the recent quotations of 18. 2d. to 18. 4d., for Demerara must now be considered moderate. Importers being unwilling at present to sell unless at a further advance of 1d., which may possibly be obtained. Jamaica moves off slowly, and the last quotation of 2s. for Standard Home Trade Marks still remains in force. Leewards and other proof kinds are quoted at 1s. to 1s. 5d.

Cocoa—Stocks in London ...

With the exception of Trinidad, which moves off slowly and at slightly easier prices, the demand for British West India cocoa is in every way satisfactory, and there is a good business doing at fully last mail's quotations. The general tone of the market is steady, but in other respects not active, and stocks are abundant, with many complaints from manufacturers about an absence of trade in the country. The closing quotations are, Trinidad, fair collected, 55s., Estate Marks, 55s. to 60s. Grenada, Native, 51s. to 52s., and fermented, 53s. to 55s. From other Islands, Native Cocoa is worth 48s. to 51s., and fermented, 52s. to 54s.

Coffee.—Fluctuating Value of good ordinary Jamaica, 38s.

Nutmegs—Quiet. Latest sales of West India, 71's, 72's at 1s. to 1s. 2d.; 80's, 10½d.; 101's, 7½d.; 120's, 6d. 142's, 5½d.; and 160's, 4½d. **Mace**—Quiet. A few packages sold from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d., with broken, 1s. 1d. **Pimento**—Dull Value of fair, 2½d. **Ginger**—Slow. Small sales of Jamaica, good ordinary, 34s., bright small, 37s.

Arrowroot—Stocks in London:

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
	9073	11,916	13,150	8519	7004 Brls.

The market is quiet, with only small sales at 1½d. for good manufacturing, and a few packages better quality at 1½d.

Lime Juice.—Steady, at 10d. Concentrated, now quoted £14. Hand Pressed, unchanged at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d.

Distilled Oil, value, 1s. 4d.

For Cotton see special Article, page 79.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XXXVIII.



Viscount Ridley.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

March 13th, 1905

Telegrams: "CANIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.

IT seems to us, closely connected as we are with the West Indies, rather remarkable that the gradual change which is coming over the balance of power in the Caribbean should excite so little comment at home; but we hope that it is receiving due attention and consideration in high quarters. Subject to numerous amendments, which do not affect the principle of the decision, if we may except one which affirms that the present case must not be considered a precedent, the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate of the United States has now recommended the Santo Domingo Treaty to the Senate for ratification, by seven votes to five. We may remind our readers that on January 21st last, a protocol was signed by the Dominican Government and the American Minister, by which the United States was to adjust Dominican debts, to arrange methods of payment, and to adjudicate upon unliquidated claims; in other words, assume control of the Dominican Customs' Houses and Customs' officials. This differs but little from the actual declaration of a

protectorate, and our readers have only to glance at a map of the West Indies to see what this means.

The tendency is towards an American sovereignty over the chain of Islands to the north known as the Greater Antilles. To-day the debate on the Santo Domingo treaty opens in the Senate and if the protocol is ratified, and the Dominican Republic falls under the control of the United States, it only remains for the Stars and Stripes to be hoisted on Mole St. Nicholas at the western end of Hayti, and Jamaica will then virtually be surrounded. Of course, our relations with the United States are at present of the friendliest nature—and long may they continue to be so—but we must always consider possible eventualities, and it must not be forgotten that the extraordinary prosperity which prevails in the American possessions in the West Indies is in somewhat striking contrast to the more or less struggling condition of many of the British West Indian Islands. It is quite true that this may be due to the protection given by the United States, but none the less the condition of her Islands is one of extreme prosperity, and this of course comes home to their near neighbours and makes it more important than ever that the British Government should do all in its power to foster the trade and encourage the industries of her possessions in the Caribbean, and in this connection the decision of the Government to withdraw the white troops—though we understand that the case of the Jamaica garrison is still under consideration—and not to incur further expenditure on account of West Indian telegraphs at the present time is the more to be regretted.

THE correspondence which is proceeding in our columns regarding the destruction of the *anopheles* mosquito, which is admittedly the communicating agent of malaria, and the complete immunity from this pest which Barbados alone of all the West Indian Islands appears to enjoy, is of more than usual interest to those connected with the West Indies. Major W. M. Hodder who was recently engaged in drainage and other works in St. Lucia with the object of stamping out malaria, laid stress on the fact that if the reason why Barbados, although it has swamps and the mosquitos might easily be imported, has no *anopheles* and consequently no malaria could be discovered, a much more simple means of destroying the insect would be at hand than by the costly method of drainage and clearing at present employed. Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbons who has resided for many years in Barbados then propounded the interesting theory that this might be due to the presence in the swamps and ponds of Barbados of a tiny fish which exists in such teeming numbers as to earn the name of "millions," whose staple diet is the larvæ of mosquitos. Major Hodder, in an instructive letter, tabulated the supposed reasons for the immunity of Barbados, namely, physical and meteorological conditions unfavourable to the *anopheles*; a microbe enemy or poison to which these mosquitos fall victims; the existence of the voracious "millions;" or the possibility that the *anopheles* had never been imported. Of these four suggested reasons only the second and third could be put to a practical test and already Major Hodder had proposed to take water from two or three swamps in Barbados and watch its effects in St. Lucia when he was recalled from foreign service. No less an authority than Sir Patrick Manson has now contributed his views to the discussion, and in a letter which we give in another column he reminds us that a case of local immunity from malaria analogous to that of Barbados is found in the Pacific Islands, where elephantiasis and filarial diseases are very prevalent, while malaria in many of the islands is unknown. With regard to the Pacific Islands it is possible, of course, that the *anopheles* has never been imported, but this is inconceivable in the case of Barbados, and Sir Patrick Manson admits the possibility of the correctness of Mr. Gibbons' suggestion, though he naturally declines to accept it without further proof. He points out that there is another and an even more important point bearing on the relation of the *anopheles* to malaria, which demands study, and might carry with it useful and practical suggestions. This is, that in certain malarial regions, notably in India, Italy, and Mauritius, there exist circumscribed areas in which, although the

anopheles abound, malaria is absent, and we agree in thinking that every conceivable effort should be made to ascertain the reasons for this apparent anomaly. Many explanations have been put forward, but they are of little value unless substantiated on the spot. This correspondence affords food for reflection, and we shall not be overstating the case if we venture to express the opinion that such discussions are likely to be productive of good and lasting benefit. One thing is sufficiently evident, and that is that the correspondence emphasises the need of our Members supporting to the utmost of their ability that most deserving Institution, the London School of Tropical Medicine, and they will then be in a stronger position when they ask, as we hope they will do, that the theories and suggestions brought to light may be put to a practical test.

Viscount Ridley.

Lord Ridley, the new Chairman of the Tariff Reform League, succeeded his father, the first Viscount, in 1904. He was educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford, and sat for Stalybridge from 1900 to 1904, during which time, as now, he evinced the keenest interest in Colonial affairs. He became a Member of the West India Committee in 1903, and was a deep sympathiser with the West Indies in their troubles when they were oppressed through the State-aided and unfair competition of Foreign Powers, and by speeches in and out of the house and writing in the press, he did much to secure the redress of their grievances. Lord Ridley is a Major in the Northumberland Hussars, and married in 1899 a daughter of Lord Wimborne.

A Roadside Scene, Dominica.

In order to bring the advantages offered by Dominica to young settlers with a moderate amount of capital at their command prominently before the notice of those who are considering upon what career they will enter after the termination of their studies, the West India Committee has just circularised the heads of several hundred schools and colleges, and forwarded to them copies of Mr. H. Hesketh Bell's admirable little pamphlet "Dominica; Hints and Notes to Intending Settlers." Of recent years remarkable progress towards prosperity has been made by this Island, and it has been greatly assisted by the formation of the Imperial Road, which has opened up much fertile land in the interior, and of which a description was given in *The West India Committee Circular*, No. 128. In course of time we may reasonably expect that further serviceable roads may be made to take the place of the picturesque mule paths which are now the principal arteries of the Island.

The Mail Contract.

The Postmaster-General has invited fresh tenders for the West India Mail service in the following terms:—

His Majesty's Postmaster-General hereby gives notice that, on the 31st of this month, 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 the 1st of July, 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 Jan., 1911.

No contract will be made 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.

Since we last went to press we have ascertained that the three alternative proposals for the Mail Service, which were submitted by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the only Company tendering, were as follows:—

1. A tender for the actual cost of the mail service, plus a percentage on the capital employed for a period of

5½ years. (5½ years was fixed upon presumably so that the contract would expire on the same date as the Jamaica contract).

2. A tender for 5½ years for £100,000 per annum, less £1,500 per annum if the ships were permitted to sail from England on Saturdays, and less a further £2500 if the contract were made for 10 years.

3. A tender for £100,000, terminable at 12 months' notice, less £1500 if the ships were permitted to sail on Saturdays.

Tenders were invited in July to be deposited by October last; but no further steps regarding them appear to have been taken until January, when the Secretary of State cabled to the Governor of Barbados that only one practical offer had been received, which would involve the higher subsidy of £100,000, or £15,000 per annum more than the Colonies are now paying; and he suggested that, failing acceptance, the mails of the Colonies should be carried by weight, and the contract discontinued. We have already strongly urged that a contract service may be maintained, and it would appear from the above that this principle has now been accepted. For the sake of reference the following tables showing the amount which each Colony pays towards the present subsidy of £85,000, and the amount paid to the contractors for the inauguration of the Mail Services to those places, will be found useful:—

Amounts now paid by the Colonies.		Particulars of Subsidies paid to R.M.S.P. Co. since 1842.			
Colony	Amount	Year	Duration of Subsidy	Annual Amount	Speeds in knots Transatlantically.
Antigua	£1000	1842 to 1845	4 yrs.	£240,000	8 to 8½
Barbados	4000	1846 " 1850	5 "	240,000	9
British Guiana	4200	1851 " 1863	13 "	240,000	9 & 10
Dominica	450	1864 " 1874	11 "	173,000	10½
Grenada	1000	1875 " 1879	5 "	87,000	10½
Jamaica	2100	1880 " 1885 (July)	5½ "	80,000	11½
Montserrat	200	1885 " 1890	5 "	90,000	12
Nevis	100	1890 " 1895	5 "	85,000	13
St. Kitts	450	1895 " 1900	5 "	80,000	13
St. Lucia	1000	1900 " 1902	2 "	80,000	13
St. Vincent	450	1903 " 1905	3 "	85,000	13 to B'dos and 14 between B'dos & J'ca.
Tortola	50				
Trinidad	4600*				
	£19,600				

* Plus £5000 special contribution for being put on main line.

New Members of the West India Committee.

At a meeting of the Executive on Thursday, March 2nd, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
JOHN PHILLIPS, Esq. (Trinidad).	G. F. Huggins, Esq.	W. Gillespie, Esq.
J. W. D. THORP, Esq. (Barbados).	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.	T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.
H.E. Sir H. M. JACKSON, K.C.M.G. (T'dad.)	Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.

The London School of Tropical Medicine.

We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following donations and promises of subscriptions towards the London School of Tropical Medicine, received in response to the appeal published in our last issue: Messrs. Thomson, Hankey & Co., £10 10s.; The Colonial Bank, £10; Sir Neville Lubbock, K.C.M.G., £5 5s.; Sir Henry K. Davson, £5 5s.; Messrs. Previtte & Co., £5 5s.; Mrs. Alleyne, £2 2s.; Mr. Edward R. Davson, £2 2s.; Mr. Alex. G. Low, £2 2s.; Mr. Allan E. Messer, £2 2s.; The Anglo-Continental Guano Works, £2 2s.; Messrs. Claud Neilson & Sons, £2 2s.; Mr. J. Rippon, £2 2s.; Lieut.-Colonel Frank Galloway, £2 2s.; Colonel Collings, £1 1s.; Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, £1 1s.; Mr. Frank Moore, £1 1s.; Mr. Percival M. Davson, 10s.; Mr. G. P. Osmond, 5s. We may remind our readers that a sum of £6000 of the amount of £30,000 spent by the school in providing laboratories, museums, libraries, and a ward for patients, is urgently



Photo by ALGERNON F. ARPINALL.

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A ROADSIDE SCENE, DOMINICA.

needed and we hope that they will, with generous subscriptions, help this deserving Institution from which they are deriving substantial benefit. Donations should be sent to the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane.

The Colonial Exhibition.

A meeting of the General Exhibition Committee was held at the West India Committee Rooms on the 6th inst., those present being: Mr. Cyril Gurney, Sir E. Noel Walker, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. J. A. Chambers, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. W. Gillespie, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary. Various letters from Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, and Trinidad, the Colonies participating, were read, and an estimate submitted by Messrs. S. Gorer & Sons for the construction of the West Indian Court was considered and accepted. According to the present design, the West Indian Court will occupy about 7,000 square feet, of which each Colony, and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, will have its integral section. A feature of the Court will be an open screen, running all round, of a rich buff colour, the mouldings relieved with lacquered gold, and the facias ornamented with a blue ground, and also relieved with gold; and an inner screen, which it is hoped to construct of sugar canes, which the Colonies have been asked to contribute. Great satisfaction was expressed at the announcement that the Legislative Council of Jamaica agreed, on the 28th ult., to the vote of £1,000 for Exhibition purposes, which was re-introduced through the courtesy of the Governor.

The Crystal Palace Club has kindly offered to make all Members of the West India Committee and West Indian Club, Hon. Members during the period that the Exhibition is open, and we feel sure that our Members will gladly avail themselves of this privilege. The Crystal Palace Club is a social club within the Crystal Palace, and comprises dining-rooms, reading and smoking-rooms, billiard and card rooms, smoking lounge, and ladies' drawing and writing-rooms. The balcony overlooks the grounds, and has a private staircase to the club garden and grounds, and there are also furnished residential chambers for the use of Members at Rockhills House, adjoining the Crystal Palace, with entrance to the grounds. Members of the club enjoy the additional advantage of being members (non-playing) of the London Polo Club and the London County Cricket Club.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain has now identified himself with the Exhibition by consenting to become a patron.

Home Grown Beet.

Under the heading "Back to the Land," a leaflet is being circulated, in which it is stated that it is proposed to form a pioneer company for the purpose of erecting a factory or factories within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland for the manufacture of sugar from beetroots grown within the British Isles. It is pointed out that "for the twelve months ending August 31st, 1903, the European beet crop is reported to have produced 5,860,000 tons of sugar. Of this, 1,557,000 tons were imported into the United Kingdom. Taking the average value at 13/- per cwt., these imports exceed twenty millions sterling in value. The whole of this imported sugar can be profitably grown within the United Kingdom. Beet sugar has not heretofore been commercially manufactured here, because it was not possible for the home manufacturer to make a profit in competition with the Continental manufacturer who received from his Government a bounty, which sometimes exceeded £5 per ton, and in two successive years amounted to £7 10s. per ton paid by the French Government on exports to England. The Sugar Bounties Convention, which came into force on September 1st, 1903, has removed that obstacle, and for the first time the United Kingdom is placed in a position to compete successfully against the foreigner as regards the home production of this important article of food."

It is stated that "the industry is capable of returning over five millions sterling per annum to the manufacturer, and fifteen millions sterling to the agriculturists of Great Britain and Ireland,

also giving employment to hundreds of thousands of workmen." The document goes on to say: "With regard to the Customs Duty payable on imported sugar, viz., 4/2 per cwt., the following correspondence confirms the fact that no duties are leviable on sugar grown within the United Kingdom." This correspondence consists of a letter addressed on October 6th, 1903, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, asking if the existing tax on sugar would be charged on sugar manufactured in Ireland from Irish grown beetroot, in the event, which is not improbable, of this industry being commenced in Ireland shortly.

We have read the Chancellor of the Exchequer's letter in reply very carefully, but fail to find that it supports the contention of the publishers of this home-grown beet circular. On the contrary, though he definitely states that the present duty on sugar is a Custom's duty on imported sugar only, and that no charge is therefore leviable on sugar grown in Ireland, he adds that if circumstances arose calling for an excise duty on home-grown sugar, legislation would, no doubt, be put in train. We do not think any clearer indication could possibly be given that no preference is to be given at the present time to the agriculturists in this country, and, of course, if any such preference were granted, our West Indian Colonies would claim similar treatment for their sugars.

The Java Sugar Crop.

The *Deutsche Zuckerindustrie* gives some interesting particulars regarding the Java Sugar Crop, from which it appears that not only the yield of the crop, but also the saccharine contents of the cane was unusually rich, the total yield being estimated at 17½ million piculs, or 1,086,238 tons. The following table gives the amounts of the Java crops for the past 11 years:—

Years.							Tons.
1904...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,086,238
1903...	...	...	...	...	...	...	931,286
1902...	...	...	...	...	...	...	897,130
1901...	...	...	...	...	...	...	803,735
1900...	...	...	...	...	...	...	744,257
1899...	...	...	...	...	...	...	762,447
1898...	...	...	...	...	...	...	725,030
1897...	...	...	...	...	...	...	586,299
1896...	...	...	...	...	...	...	534,390
1895...	...	...	...	...	...	...	581,569
1894...	...	...	...	...	...	...	530,963

Though crops have been progressive, the number of factories has steadily decreased since 1894. In that year 195 were working, and in ten years the number was reduced to 179.

Tariff Reform.

The Associated Chambers of Commerce at their meeting in London on March 1st, discussed the fiscal question, and, voting by Chambers, carried a resolution in favour of Tariff Reform and the holding of a Colonial Conference. Forty-two Chambers voted for the resolution and twenty-one against, while thirty-nine were neutral. The following is the text of the resolution:—

"That this Association desires to place on record its concurrence with (1) The adoption of such changes in our fiscal system as may be necessary for the defence of the home markets against unfair competition, for lowering the hostile tariffs of foreign countries, and promoting Imperial trade; (2) the desirability of having a conference in London, representative of all British colonies and dependencies, to consult on the best practicable scheme for bringing all parts of the Empire into closer relations with the Mother Country."

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Tariff Reform League held at the House of Commons on March 3rd, the resignation by Mr. C. Arthur Pearson of the Chairmanship was accepted, and Lord Ridley was elected as Chairman in his place. Mr. Chamberlain afterwards delivered a speech regarding the present position and prospects of the Tariff Reform Movement.

During the past fortnight Mr. Charles J. Crosfield, Chairman of Crosfields (Limited), Sugar

Refiners), 323, Vauxhall Road, Liverpool, (President Lancashire Sugar Refiners Association), and Mr. Robert Kerr, Glebe Sugar Refining Company, Greenock (President Clyde Sugar Refiners' Association), were examined by the Tariff Commission as representatives of the Sugar Refining Industry.

The Cotton Industry.

Having received complaints from some of our Members that they were unable to obtain the prices quoted for cotton in our columns, we recently made some enquiries of the brokers to the British Cotton Growing Association, and from their reply we understand that the quotations of West Indian Sea Island in the Liverpool Cotton Association's *Weekly Circular* refer to Barbados and St. Vincent, which have produced cotton superior to the best Sea Island grown on the Islands off Charleston. If West Indian fails to be as long and fine as that, it immediately falls to the value of Floridas, which are now quoted, and if inferior to Floridas it is only comparable with Georgias. Speaking generally, the Leeward Islands have not produced really fine cotton, with the exception of a few bales from St. Kitts-Nevis; but the Antigua, St. Kitts, and Nevis cotton now coming forward shows a distinct superiority over that of last year, owing probably to the new seed supplied by the Department of Agriculture. As regards the position in the West Indies, everything seems to indicate that if prices do not fall materially below the present level the Sea Island Cotton Industry may now be considered fairly established and likely to extend.

Since we last reported 31 bales of West Indian cotton have been imported. Medium fine, is quoted in Liverpool 4'95d. per lb.; and West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 12½d. per lb.; fine, 13½d. per lb., and extra fine, 15½d. per lb.

The West Indian Club.

Many members of the British Cotton Growing Association attended the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club, over which Sir Alfred Jones presided on Wednesday, March 8th. Amongst those present were Sir Ralph Moor, K.C.M.G., Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. Gerald de Mercado, Mr. W. W. Arnott, Mr. A. Hutchinson, Mr. Howarth, Mr. Atkins, Mr. Crapper, Mr. E. S. Ellis, Mr. Forrester, Mr. H. D. Swan, Mr. W. Johnson, Mr. H. Brack, Mr. A. Brack, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. J. J. Barry, Mr. Bance, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. C. R. Winn, Mr. A. E. Messer, Col. R. Brooke, Mr. J. J. Sabey, Mr. J. A. Scott, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. Martins Elliott, Mr. F. G. Bettany, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. C. J. Parkinson, Mr. C. Paddison, Mr. Ernest G. Perne, Mr. David Gillespie, Mr. R. F. Fraser, Lt. A. H. R. Saunders, Mr. J. Saunders, Mr. J. Arnold, Mr. J. Westwood, Mr. A. Dexter, Mr. H. O. Smith, Mr. H. Powell Rees, Mr. Charles Wilson, Mr. F. W. Scott, Mr. C. A. Clark, Mr. W. Hughes-Jones, Mr. Joseph Simpson and Mr. Gerald Briggs. After dinner the final of the Club Billiard Tournament was played, an exciting contest ended by Mr. Arthur Johnson, who defeated Mr. H. Powell Rees by a score of 250 to 225, and thus winning the Sir Alfred Jones Trophy and the Club Cup.

The English Cricketers.

In our issue of the 14th ult. we gave the results of the matches played in the West Indies by Lord Brackley's Cricket Team up to February 11th. Through the courtesy of Reuter's Agency we are now able to place on record the results subsequent to that date, which have been:—

February 16th and 16th—v. St. Lucia	Visitors won by an innings and 262 runs
" 17th " 18th—v. The Garrison, St. Lucia	Won by an innings and 169 runs.
" 20th " 22nd—v. All St. Lucia	Won by an innings and 186 runs.

The Cricketers proceeded to Demerara by the mail of the 27th ult., and will thence visit St. Vincent and Grenada if that Island is free from illness.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

Mr. Norman Lamont, of Messrs. John Lamont & Co., for many years Members of the West India Committee, was on March 4th, returned to Parliament for Buteshire, in the Liberal interest, by a majority of 34.

Cuban Trade.

Earl Percy, answering Mr. Gibson Bowles, on March 1st, said that the Government had made representations to the United States as to the injurious effect upon British trade of the reciprocity treatment between the United States and Cuba, but he regretted that these had had no effect, owing to the fact that the United States held the view that the most-favoured-nation clause did not relate to privileges granted to third persons in return for specific concessions. The Government had no right to make any representation regarding the effect of the reciprocity treaty on the sugar industries of the West Indies, because the latter had no title to claim any privilege under the commercial treaty of 1815.

Troops in the West Indies.

In reply to Mr. W. F. Lawrence (Liverpool, Abercromby), Mr. Lyttelton, on March 6th, said,—It has been decided to withdraw all the white infantry from the West Indian Islands, but the date has not yet been settled. No white infantry has been stationed in British Guiana or British Honduras for many years past. It has not yet been finally decided what artillery will be retained, or where it will be stationed. Adequate naval force will be stationed in the district. It is not desirable in the public interest to give further details. There is telegraphic communication between the Islands and British Guiana. There is no telegraphic communication between them and British Honduras. The subject of West Indian telegraphs has recently engaged the attention of His Majesty's Government, but it is not proposed to incur any Imperial expenditure on this account at the present time.

The Sugar Convention.

On February 27th Mr. Kearley submitted an amendment to the Address, which Sir J. Dickson-Poynder seconded, complaining that the Government, by committing the country to the policy of the Brussels Sugar Convention, had inflicted heavy losses upon trade, diminished employment, and enormously increased the cost of a necessary food to consumers without any compensating advantage. The amendment affirmed also that the Convention ought to be denounced at the earliest possible moment.

Sir W. Palmer combated the contention of the framers of the amendment that the rise in the price of sugar was due to the Convention, insisting that the real explanation of the increase was found in the imposition of the Sugar Duty.

Mr. E. Robertson, condemning the Convention, declared that the poor consumers of sugar, the makers of confectionery, and the fruit-growers had all been injured by the policy of the Government, which was responsible for a jump in the price of sugar from £6 per ton to £16. This was the fruit of Mr. Chamberlain's action.

Mr. Chamberlain disclaimed the honour of being the author of the Convention, which, however, he proclaimed himself ready to defend before any audience of his countrymen. Answering some of the statements made on the other side, he asserted that sugar was as cheap in this country as in any country on the Continent. As to the rise in price, was there, he asked, anything astonishing in the fact that an article of consumption should suddenly go up? He reminded the House of the enhancement of the price of cotton last year and of the increase in the price of onions and wheat. In these cases the rise was rightly attributed by every one to a deficiency in the crops, owing to climatic conditions. A similar explanation accounted for the higher price of sugar; but the Opposition, in their anxiety to vilify the Government, refused to admit this and distorted the facts. The increase in price had coincided with the reports at the end of last year to the effect that there would be short crops in consequence of the drought. Meeting the allegation that the Convention had ruined the jam manufacturers he showed that the wholesale price of jam in 1904 was lower than before the Convention. With regard to the sugar trade, he reminded the House that well-managed firms had made gigantic profits in recent years, and that the business had always been subject to fluctuations. In the past these fluctuations had been caused by the bounties, and before very long the removal of these bounties would operate to prevent fluctuations. He twitted the free-traders with their advocacy of bounties, which were intended to give the growers of beet a monopoly, and then dilated on the importance of increasing the area of production and the sources of production. Already as a result of the Convention 400,000 additional tons of cane sugar had come into the market. But for that, the rise in the price of the commodity would have been much larger. Dealing with the objection that sugar from Russia and Argentina was being excluded from the country, he cited figures to show that our importation from those countries was relatively insignificant, adding that in any case we could not be affected injuriously as we now obtained additional sugar from Germany. Not a word would have been said about this matter if the Opposition had not hoped to make political capital out of it by mixing it up with a subject which was not relevant—namely, the fiscal controversy.

The debate was adjourned, and on the following day Mr. Lloyd-George, who, while admitting that the drought last year must have had an effect upon the price of sugar, insisted that the restrictive effects of the Convention were responsible for the greater part of the enhancement of the price of the commodity. One result of the Convention had been to cheapen sugar on the Continent and to increase the consumption, and this accounted in large measure for the shortage of supply. The Convention had doubled the price of the raw material in this country, while reducing it by one-half abroad, so we had handicapped ourselves very severely with our foreign competitors in the manufacture of sugared products. That was a warning to people who inveighed against "dumping." Every prediction made by the Government had been falsified. They prophesied a decline in the price of sugar, and there had been a rise; they prophesied increased employment, and thousands of men had been thrown out of work, while others had been put on half-time.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence, combating the views expressed by Mr. Lloyd-George, contended that the effect of the Convention would be to extend largely the area of the cultivation of sugar.

Mr. McKenna questioned whether the Government, with the experience they had gained, would enter into a Convention of this kind now, if their hands were untied, but Mr. Gerald Balfour at once intimated across the floor that they certainly would not hesitate to do so. After a speech by Sir W. Thorburn on the other side,

Mr. Bryce, dealing with the broad results of the Convention, said that the price of sugar had been doubled, and that in the trades dependent upon sugar, 12,000 people were without employment, and between 30,000 and 40,000 were on half-time. He disputed the view that the rise in price was due exclusively to natural causes. Less beet was now grown in

France, Germany, and Austria; the Continental consumption had largely increased; and supplies from Russia, Argentina, and other countries had been cut off. These three causes of shortage were directly attributable to the Convention. What had been done might be good for consumers abroad, but it had not benefited us. The Opposition, he said, had never advocated the imposition of bounties; but they saw no reason to object to foreign bounties which benefited us by cheapening goods sent to this country. Turning to the argument that the abolition of the bounties was desirable in the interests of the West Indies, he affirmed that only a few of the Islands were affected by the system, and that the better course would have been to encourage the colonists to adopt scientific methods of cultivation and to use improved machinery.

Mr. Bonar Law, replying to Mr. Lloyd-George, explained that the fall in the price of sugar abroad was accounted for by the fact that the excise duties had been lowered. Dealing with the stock arguments against the Convention, he expressed his complete inability to understand how anybody could say that it was a step in the direction of protection. Mere cheapness, he submitted, was not always a good thing, for a rise in prices might connote better trade and better employment. But he did not agree that the Convention had raised the price of sugar. If it was the cause of the rise, how was it that the rise did not take place sooner! The Convention was signed three years ago, and the average price since then had been below the average price in the three preceding years. Then the Convention came into operation on October 1st, 1903, and the price fell, and six months elapsed before it rose again to the point at which it stood before that date. The real explanation of the rise was the unexpected shortage of the beet supply, which had, however, in a measure, been counterbalanced by the increased production of cane sugar. The fact that the confectioners failed to buy sugar in anticipation of an increase of price went to show that the rise was due to causes which could not be foreseen. In 1889 the confectioners were suffering as they were now, and they begged that the bounties might be removed; now they objected to their disappearance. He laid stress on the benefits which the abolition of the bounties would confer on the West Indies and on the improvement in the prospects of the sugar-refining industry, which, he said, had been fighting with foreign competitors on unfair terms for thirty years; and then he dilated on the beneficial indirect effects of the policy which had been adopted, referring to the demand for machinery which the development of the cane-growing industry would create.

Mr. Lough spoke at length in support of the amendment, and Mr. D. Morgan, Sir J. Joicey, and Mr. Ashton continued the discussion until the suspension of the sitting.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore, the Conservative member for the Gainsborough Division of Lincolnshire, denounced the Convention with vehemence, describing it as a piece of legislation which had made us the laughing-stock of the foreigner.

Mr. Crooks ridiculed the statement that the sugar-refining industry had been ruined by the bounties, and expressed the opinion that the Government must be living in the clouds if they really believed that the Convention had not affected the working classes injuriously.

Mr. Buxton, defining the attitude of the Opposition in regard to the question of price, said they maintained that the Convention had operated to raise the price above the point which it would have reached in consequence of the shortage of the crop. The reason why the price did not go up sooner was that there were large stocks in hand when the Convention was agreed to.

Mr. Gerald Balfour, in winding up the debate, contrasted the divergent views of leading members of the Opposition as to the way in which we should regard the existence of sugar bounties, and asserted that the importation of bounty-fed goods was inconsistent with free trade as understood by Cobden and Gladstone. It was, he went on, the intention of the framers of the Convention to restore natural prices by restoring the natural conditions of supply and demand. He still adhered to the view that the Convention was likely to prevent great and rapid fluctuations of price in future. It had been said that as to three-fourths of it the present enhancement was due directly to the operation of prohibition under the penal clause. As had been shown, however, that evening, the price of sugar in Switzerland, where there was no question of prohibition or of a penal clause, had risen to a higher point than that reached here in the latter half of last year. In the countries which did not go the length of prohibition but imposed countervailing duties against bounties, the price, but for the reduction in excise duties, would have risen as much as in Great Britain. He attributed the rise in this country to the shortage in the supply and to a larger demand for the commodity. The drought, he calculated, accounted for a deficiency of 800,000 tons. The Opposition in their speeches in the country had abstained from saying anything about the effects of the drought, which was not quite honest. He trusted that the factors which now accounted for the rise would prove to be temporary, and he thought that if there was a fair season next year it was practically certain that prices would return to the normal level. Turning to the allegation that our sugar-using industries were suffering through the competition of other countries, he stated that our exports of these goods showed no falling off, and that there was no evidence that the industries were losing their position in foreign markets. Nor was there any evidence pointing to a foreign invasion of our market; in fact, the imports of confectionery proper showed a decline. After deprecating a hasty judgment on a Convention which had only been in operation for eighteen months, he ended by recalling Mr. Gladstone's view that a bounty system was not to the advantage either of the producer or of the consumer.

The amendment was rejected by 276 votes against 211—majority 65. (The full report of the debate is given in the *Times* of February 28th.)

Consular Report.

Finances of Belgium, 1904-5.—The removal of duty from alcohol used for Industrial purposes has been the cause of the starting of two new industries, the production of ether and the manufacture of artificial silk, for which two trades over 40,000 hectolitres of alcohol were used in 1903. Whereas in 1896, 4,811 hectolitres of denatured alcohol had duty to the extent of £8,383 removed, in 1903 the amount of alcohol rose to 60,172, on which duty to the extent of £319,225 was remitted.

Notes of Interest.

JAM. Messrs. John Moir & Son, Ltd., jam makers, have declared a dividend of 10% for the past year.

JAMAICA. A lecture on "Jamaica" (illustrated) is to be given by Mr. Sydney Olivier at that excellent institution, the Working Men's College, Great Ormond Street, on Saturday, March 18th, at 8.30 p.m.

MR. SHEPHEARD'S TESTIMONIAL. We regret that, by an oversight, the names of Sir Henry K. Davson, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, and Mr. E. L. Marshall, were omitted from the list of those present at the presentation of the testimonial to Mr. W. P. B. Sheppard, on February 16th.

"THE CROWN COLONIES." Under the auspices of the Royal Colonial Institute, Sir Charles Bruce will read a paper to-night at the Whitehall Rooms at 8 o'clock on "The Crown Colonies," the Duke of Marlborough, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, presiding.

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.

SUGAR STATISTICS. The Sugar Crop Statistical Sub-Committee, consisting of Mr. Henry Hales, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. A. McConnell, and the Secretary, have now completed the compilation of the figures received from proprietors for 1903 crop and these will shortly be circulated among those who submitted returns. Several suggestions will be made, the principal being that a regular record of mill extraction should be kept, and that sub-divisions of the expenditure both in field and factory would be useful.

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. "Naparima" from Glasgow, for Barbados, Trinidad, and Demerara, March 16th.; the R.M.S. "Bornu" from London, for Bermuda, Turk's Island, and Kingston, Jamaica, March 18th.; S.S. "Spatia" from London, for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, and Demerara, March 23rd.; and the R.M.S. "Port Kingston" from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, on March 25th.

JAMAICA LABOUR. The *Morning Post*, of March 6th, had an interesting article on the labour question of Jamaica, written by a correspondent who has recently made personal investigation in the Island on the subject. He points out that every year more labour is required than is available. As time passes the difficulty will be more keenly felt. Whenever there is any great demand in the Central American Republics for help it will take the workers from this Island. For example, there will be a big rush of labourers to Colon before long to help in the cutting of the Panama Canal. To stop the importation of coolie labour would be fatal to the best interests of Jamaica.

"BARBALENE." We are always glad to welcome minor products of the West Indies, and we have to thank Mr. Arthur C. Ponsonby for a small sample pot of Barbalene, a natural mineral product of the West Indies, which is now being used in the London Hospitals, and recommended by skin specialists as a cure for eczema and kindred complaints. It is accompanied by several testimonials from Dr. Murrell, Skin Specialist at the Westminster Hospital, and others, regarding its efficacy. The name of the preparation is a happy one, indicating as it does that it emanates from Barbados, and we hope that it may have a ready sale. It is prepared by E. Boyce, 544, Mansion House Chambers, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

CUBAN SUGAR. The Nipe Bay Company, a Boston (U.S.) enterprise, has recently acquired an immense tract of land in the province of Santiago, Cuba, and will this year plant it with sugar, says the *Times* of the 8th inst. The company will operate at once on 550,000 acres, and is clearing 14,000 acres additional for cane to be planted next year. It has also arranged for the erection of what will, it is claimed, be the largest sugar mill in the world. This mill will have a capacity of 4,000 bags per day when working full. A railway is to be built from the mill to Nipe Bay, where immense piers were recently completed by the Van Horne Syndicate. At these piers steamers of deep draught can be accommodated, cargo being loaded directly from railway cars to vessels, as tracks have been laid for several hundred feet on the piers.

Letters to the Editor.

The Balance of Power in the Caribbean.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I read with deep interest in your issue of January 31st, a letter from Mr. Edward R. Davson, drawing public attention to West Indian affairs. Since the time Captain Mahan, of whom any country should be very proud, pointed out in *Sea Power* the advantages of certain positions in the Caribbean, the United States have steadily acquired them. Those positions are too well known to need mention, and the alteration of the balance of power has taken place practically with the assistance, or at all events

complacent acquiescence, of this country. The *Outlook*, of the 28th of January, usually a very sound paper, states that from a political point of view they welcome the extension of the Monroe Doctrine, but how far this Doctrine is to extend or any definition thereof, is not stated. Is it to extend to the large States, such as Mexico, Brazil, the Argentine, Chili, and Peru, and what have they to say on the subject? Politically the question is one that perhaps should be lightly dealt with here, and whether British Colonies (we always contend we are the oldest American nation) are to be guarded or controlled by any other nation is one which must be determined by others, but one thing would appear to be reasonable, viz., that the interests and welfare of British subjects in the smallest and apparently unimportant Colonies, if the Empire is to be considered as a whole, should receive as much consideration as the largest and most important. Commercially it would seem that the conquering or control of other islands in the West Indies adjacent to British islands, and having a trade with Great Britain, should not take place without protest, if such trade is to be thereby lost. Has this been the effect of American control and possession of Cuba, Panama, Puerto Rico and San Domingo, and with the possible near fall of Danish possessions?

A Boston paper, the *Golden Caribbean*, of January, 1905, states that during the Napoleonic or Britain's most strenuous period she derived nearly twenty five per cent. of her commerce from the West Indies. No greater inducement to bestir could be held out.

Yours obediently,
J. KEMPLAY.

The Destruction of Mosquitos.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

March 9th, 1905.

DEAR SIR.—The question regarding the influences that affect the distribution of the various species of mosquito is an exceedingly complex one, as indeed is the question of distribution of species generally. Some species may be excluded from a particular locality by absence of necessary conditions, others may be excluded from this locality by the presence of unfavourable conditions; the interplay of both favourable and unfavourable conditions is infinite.

Without further proof, admitting it as a possibility, I would not accept it as proven that Mr. Gibbons' explanation of the absence of *anopheles* in Barbados is attributable to the presence of the little fishes called "millions."

Some years ago the London School of Tropical Medicine sent out an expedition to study beri-beri, and when the study of that subject had been completed, to study the distribution of the various species of mosquitos in the Pacific Islands. As regards mosquito borne disease these Islands have a wonderful similarity to Barbados; elephantiasis and filarial diseases are exceedingly prevalent; malaria in many of them is unknown. Unfortunately the expedition was unable to perform this part of its mission, and the question is still an open one, but it is an important one, and some attempt should be made at a solution, for it may be that conditions that have kept *anopheles*, and, therefore, malaria from spreading in these Pacific Islands are of such a nature that they could be introduced and used elsewhere as a prophylactic measure.

Or it may be as Mr. Gibbons suggests that *anopheles* had never been imported; exceedingly unlikely as regards Barbados considering its proximity to and constant communication with other West Indian Islands, but quite possible in the Pacific Islands.

There is another and even more important point bearing on the relation of *anopheles* to malaria which demands study and might carry with it useful practical suggestions. It is this: in certain malarial regions there are circumscribed areas, islands of health as it were in a sea of disease, in which, although *anopheles* abound, malaria is absent. Such places are known to exist in India, Italy, and Mauritius. An effort should be made to ascertain reasons for this apparent anomaly. A hundred speculations crowd on one to supply an explanation, but until substantiated by actual observation on the spot, it is useless to indulge in them.

The solution of this and kindred problems require a man's whole time and attention, and the first step towards a solution is to find that man; the next to pay him.

I suggest this as a first step in a practical measure to those interested in the health of the West Indies and other malarial countries.

21, Queen Anne Street,
Cavendish Square, W.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK MANSON.

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. In addition to the usual official gazettes, the following papers were received by last mail, and can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms: Jamaica—Blue Book, 1903-1904; Minutes of the Legislative Council of Jamaica, January 27th to September 17th, 1903; Departmental Reports for 1902-3; Appropriation Accounts, 1903 and 1904; Estimates for the year ending March 31st, 1905; Finance Accounts for the year ending March 31st, 1904, and the Laws of Jamaica for 1904. Grenada—Administrative Reports for 1903. Leeward Islands—Acts of the General Legislative Council, 1903. St. Lucia—Annual Administrative Reports. We have also to acknowledge with thanks, the receipt of the following:—

Bulletin of the Imperial Institute. Vols. I. and II., 1903 and 1904. This publication is issued as a quarterly supplementary to the Board of Trade Journal under the personal supervision of Professor Wyndham Dunstan, the Director of the Imperial Institute, which in its new guise is making much headway. The economic collections are being rearranged by Mr. William G. Freeman, and each exhibit has now a descriptive note attached which contributes largely to their utility.

Monumental Inscriptions of the British West Indies from the Earliest Date, chiefly collected on the spot by Captain J. H. Lawrence-Archer (London: Chatto & Windus, Piccadilly.) Lieut.-Colonel Trollope has just presented to our library a copy of this book, which contains inscriptions and records which, in the course of a few generations, would otherwise have been destroyed through neglect, spoliation, effects of climate, and other causes. It is interesting, on looking through the pages, to see how many well-known English names are to be found among those who made Jamaica their home for a short time or for ever.

The Original Lists of Persons of Quality, Emigrants, Religious Exiles, Political Rebels, Serving Men sold for a term of years, Apprentices, Children Stolen, Maidens Pressed, and others who went from Great Britain to the American Plantations 1600-1700. Edited by John Camden Hotten (London: Chatto & Windus, 1874) For a copy of this volume we are also indebted to Lieut.-Colonel F. C. Trullope. It is compiled from MSS. preserved in the State Paper Department of the Public Record Office, and gives also the ages of the emigrants, the localities where they formerly lived in the Mother Country, the names of the ships in which they embarked, and other interesting particulars. The parish registers of Barbados containing Births and Deaths, Lists of Inhabitants, Landed Proprietors, Servants, &c., from 1678-1679.

The Homeward Mail.

The Mail received by the R.M.S. "Tagus," which reached Plymouth at 11 a.m. on March 8th, the letters being delivered by the first post on March 9th, was quite the heaviest on record as far as the West India Committee is concerned, a clear indication of the increasing interest which is being taken in our work. Active measures were being taken regarding the forthcoming Colonial Exhibition, to which reference is made in another column. The question of the mail contract was affording an important topic for discussion when the Mail left, and it appeared to be unanimously agreed that a contract mail service would be essential, though the Colonies were not disposed to pay the enhanced sum asked. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Services R.M.S. "Port Morant" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on March 1st. The R.M.S. "Port Kingston" made another rapid passage of 10 days from Jamaica, arriving at Avonmouth and landing her passengers on Monday, March 13th. We extract the following notes from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's steamer "Tagus."

Antigua—The Central Sugar Factory.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) February 21st.—Mr. Lewton Brain, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, had paid a visit to the Island to inspect the cotton fields, and to report on the "black boll" disease, which, as in Montserrat, had done a good deal of damage. He did not find the disease so very prevalent in Antigua. The cotton was being picked now all over the Island, and the quality seemed good, but it was too soon yet to say what the yield would be.

The fleet arrived on February 9th and left on the 15th, and during its stay the Island had done its best in the way of cricket matches, rifle matches and dances, to entertain it as usual.

The weather had been dry and cool, with a few light scuds of rain of little value for agriculture. The dry weather had ripened the canes earlier than one would have wished, seeing how short they were, and most estates were beginning the crop. The Central Factory at Gunthorpe's was to start on the following day. (From a letter dated February 22nd, we learn that the factory made a most auspicious start, everything working smoothly and well.—Ed.)

Barbados—The Yield of Sugar.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE) February 24th.—The message from the Governor announcing the withdrawal of the troops at an early date, was read to the Council on February 23rd.

There had been several more cane fires, but no detections had ensued. The watchman of Morgan Lewis Estate had been arrested on the charge of shooting the manager.

Mount Standfast Plantation, in the parish of St. Thomas, 338 acres, had been sold to Dr. G. Pilgrim for £4,500, and on February 17th, Lancaster Plantation, St. James, containing 480 acres, was sold out of Chancery to John Hadley Wilkinson, for the sum of £13,409, the appraised value.

The canes were sweet but dry; that is to say, they took less juice to the hogshead than last year, but on the other hand they gave less juice per acre. With the exception of a few estates, the yield in general was not more than 1½ since partially recovered. It was hoped that it would rise to its former figure. Molasses stood at 20 cents

There had been little change in the weather, a few light showers having fallen which hardly amounted in the aggregate to an inch for the month to date. This was nothing unusual for February, but when it was remembered that no good rain had fallen since the middle of October, it was evident that there could not be much moisture in the soil. The pastures were drying up, and the young canes in St. Philip were suffering. There was hardly a green blade of grass on the Savannah. Nevertheless, it was wonderfully cool, and high winds prevailed generally.

British Guiana—The Governor's Speech.

(A SUMMERSON, ESQ.) February 22nd.—The Annual Session of the Combined Court was opened on the 20th ult., when the Governor in his address said that the financial year had been one of some anxiety, it being expected that the revenue would fall short of the estimate by \$108,000. There was, however, no indication that the shrinkage in the commercial activity of the Colony was of a permanent character, and he estimated that the financial year would close with a credit balance of \$5,000. With a view to economising, control of the East India Settlements was to be transferred from the Immigration Department to the Central Board of Health. Touching on prædial larceny, he expressed regret that it still continued in certain localities, and said that, excepting in cases of crime accompanied by personal violence, he was averse to corporal punishment; but as prædial larceny was a crime which must be stamped out as far as possible, and as experience had shown that other forms of punishment had failed to act as sufficient deterrents while flogging was feared, he would not hesitate to use the powers which rested in his hands, and he would expect the magistrates to deal with this crime with the utmost rigour of the law. (The full text of the speech is given in the Demerara Daily Chronicle, mail edition, of February 22nd, and the Argosy of the 11th ult., both of which can be seen at the Committee Rooms.—Ed.)

The half-yearly return of immigrants was laid before the Court of Policy on February 10th. (A copy can be seen at the Committee Rooms.—Ed.)

Dominica—Showery Weather.

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.) February 21st.—Preparations were actively being made for the Agricultural Society's Show. The weather continued showery.

Jamaica—Railway Enterprise.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq.) February 20th.—An important meeting of the proprietors of Clarendon was held at May Pen on the 16th ult., with regard to the proposals for extending the railway from May Pen to Frankfield. A series of resolutions were passed, urging the construction of the railway, and expressing the willingness of the principal proprietors of lands in the Minho valley, through which the railway could be made, to give the tracks for a line through their land free of cost to the Government, and favouring a scheme put forward by Mr. McKinnon for the construction of the proposed line on terms which would obviate the raising of a Government loan, and also an immediate outlay by the Government. (A full report of the meeting is given in the *Daily Gleaner* and the *Jamaica Daily Telegraph* of Friday, February 17th.—ED.)

The report of the acting Registrar General showed the population on March 31st, 1904, to be 797,508, the increase for the year under review amounting to 12,094.

They had been having as a general rule, very reasonable weather

Montserrat—The Cotton Crop.

(CONRAD WATSON) February 22nd.—Almost the last of the cotton crop had been reaped, and 59 bales, containing 34,000 lbs. of Sea Island variety, had been shipped on the 17th ult. for Liverpool. On account of the leaf blister mite, the cotton plants would have to be burned as soon as possible, so that there might be a long interval before anything was planted in adjacent fields.

His Excellency the Governor, was to pay his first visit to the Island on the 23rd ult., and on the 24th the Agricultural Show was to be held.

Nevis—The Mail Contract.

(HON. C. A. SHAND) February 20th.—The cotton crop was turning out very well, and in some places the yield was exceptionally good. It was early to estimate the total output from the whole area planted for 1905, but it would be far in excess per acre of the crop reaped in 1904.

There were rumours that Nevis was not to be included as a port of call under the new mail contract. These, if true, would place Nevis under a grave disadvantage, and the Island was so directly on the route to St. Kitts, that no possible saving could be effected to the Company, whereas the inhabitants of Nevis would be deprived of their last and only sure means of communication with the outer world.

The weather had been very favourable since last mail, and the late canes had been much improved thereby. It was hoped that the sugar crop might turn out better than was once anticipated.

St. Kitts—Cotton Protection Ordinance.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, Esq.) February 21st.—A very necessary protection to cotton growers, in the shape of an ordinance regulating the sale and purchase of seed cotton, had been passed through the Legislative Council. As the matter was one calling for urgent attention, the Government, through their legal adviser, Mr. Watley, were to be congratulated on having come so readily to the aid of growers.

Five ships of the Particular Service Squadron had spent a few days in the roadstead during the previous week, but as no "leave" was granted, little benefit accrued to the community from their visit.

Cold blustering winds, accompanied by frequent showers, had prevailed during the past fortnight, and rendered sugar-making difficult. The young sprouts for the 1906 crop were, thanks to the showers, now making a grand show.

St. Lucia—Too Dry.

(HON. E. DUBOULAY) February 22nd.—The weather continued dry, only light showers having fallen. Cropping was now nearly universal.

St. Vincent—The Eruption Fund.

MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & Co) February 24th.—The weather was everything that could be desired for reaping operations, and was delightfully cool and bright.

Trinidad—Our Relations with Venezuela.

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK) February 24th.—The Agricultural Show had been very successful, the exhibits greatly exceeding in number those of previous shows. Sugars were few in number (many factories not being then at work) but good in quality. Cacao in all shapes, from the pod to the bye product, cacao butter, was excellently represented.

Though London prices for sugar had fallen since crop was started to the extent of 2s. 6d. per cwt., no change had yet been made in the price paid for farmers' canes. No reduction was possible unless all purchasers were agreed, and Mr. Lamont had left for England by the previous mail without leaving any instructions on the subject with his Managers in the Colony.

With regard to Venezuela, much excitement had been raised by the receipt by the Consul in Trinidad of instructions to open the "Orinoco" to goods in transit through the port, free of the 30% duty. There was, however, no actual change in the political situation. The Venezuelan Government had granted special permission to the river steamer "Delta" one of the vessels of the Orinoco Steam Shipping Company, to take transhipment cargo in Port of Spain free of the old 30% duty, but for all other vessels the old 30% duty plus 30% War Tax and 28% territorial duty, were still in force. The only explanation of this preferential treatment was that President Castro held the majority of the shares in the new Orinoco Shipping Company. The Supreme Court of Caracas had given judgment against the New York and Bermudez Company. The and the Venezuelan gunboat "Miranda," it was reported, had gone to Guanoco to take formal possession of the lake. The merchants of Puerto Cabello, La Guayra, Maracaibo, and Caracas were importing very little goods, there being no confidence in the Government and much to fear from internal complications, as well as possible conflict provoked by the President with European and American powers. Foreigners and influential Venezuelans freely expressed the opinion that the deposition of President Castro was the only means of averting national bankruptcy and ruin, besides the destruction of the very large private interests of capitalists, whose life and property were threatened by the present administration.

In connection with the resolution of the Legislative Council on February 6th, 1905, approving of a grant of £1,000 to the Symington Fruit Syndicate, and on the paid-up capital of the Company being increased to £8,000, a further annual grant for the next five years thereafter of a sum equal to 5% on the actual paid-up capital not exceeding £15,000 sterling, provided that the profits earned by the Company in each of those years, exclusive of the 5% per annum paid by the Governor, shall be carried to the credit of the capital account of the Company, a prospectus has been issued by Mr. R. N.

Hodges, Director of the Symington Fruit Syndicate in Trinidad, inviting subscriptions for shares, it being necessary to raise some £4,000 more. The shares are £1 shares, payable 10/- on application and 10/- on allotment.

The fortnight had been for the most part very dry and hot, a few light showers having fallen within the past few days. The sugar factories were in full work, and the fields were being cleared at a rate that pre-acted a very short crop. The shortage was nowhere estimated at less than 30%, but now that so large a proportion of the crop was derived from farmers' canes, reliable estimates were almost impossible.

The continued dry weather had seriously affected cacao pickings, and a marked falling off was noticeable in the shipments as compared with the corresponding period last year. Local prices were well maintained by buying against contracts, but little new business was reported. A fair quantity of Venezuelan had arrived, and changed hands at 812 20.

		Shipments.					
Totals last return	...	22,959	Trinidad	5592	...	...	Venezuela.
Feb. — S.S. "Manzanares"	...	1768	...	213	...	...	New York
" 10 S.S. "La Plata"	...	970	..	...	...	...	Europe
" 10 S.S. "Salybia"	...	1148	..	...	...	...	"
" 13 S.S. "Caprera"	...	1492	..	254	...	...	"
" 14 S.S. "Colonial"	...	200	..	...	...	...	"
" 19 S.S. "Holsatia"	...	4065	..	400	...	...	"
" 20 S.S. "P. Willem II."	...	1182	..	149	...	...	New York.
" 22 S.S. "Grenada"	...	2320	..	1198	...	...	"
		36104		8226			

West Indian Civil Service.

Mr R. J. GRAVES has been appointed a Justice of the Peace for Grenada.

HON. WALTER H. BARNARD has been appointed a Justice of the Peace for St. Lucia.

Captain G. A. HANLEY has been appointed Military Instructor of the Antigua Defence Reserve Corps.

Mr. F. W. COLLIER, Postmaster General, British Guiana, has returned to the Colony, and resumed his duties.

Mr. IRVINE K. REID, M.D., C.M., D.P.H., Government Medical Officer, Berbice, has been appointed a Justice of the Peace for that County.

Mr. NEIL ROSS MCKINNON, of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law, has been appointed to be of His Majesty's Counsel for British Guiana.

Mr. EDWARD H. KING, Third Class Officer, Department of Lands and Mines, has been appointed a Justice of the Peace in and for British Guiana.

Mr. WILLIAM SLOANE ROBERTSON has been re-appointed an Un-Official Member of the Legislative Council, Trinidad, for a further term of five years.

Mr. A. G. W. CHOPPIN, Government Agent and Stipendiary Magistrate, North Western District, has returned to British Guiana and resumed his duties on February 17th.

The undermentioned gentlemen have been appointed members of the Legislative Council of the Presidency of Dominica:—OFFICIAL MEMBERS: The Hon. William H. Porter, the Hon. William Coull, the Hon. Christopher Musgrave, the Hon. S. Rawlins Pemberton, Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., Dr. William R. Williams. UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS: The Hon. L. Alexander Giraud, the Hon. A. D. Lockhart, the Hon. James C. Macintyre, James C. Fillan, Esq., Henry A. Frampton, Esq., Denis O. Riviere, Esq.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) March 13th. "First part of fortnight dry, latter rainy." British Guiana (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.) March 1st. "Nice showers, but more wanted." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) March 2nd. "Demerara 2 inches, Berbice River over 2 inches rain." March 8th. "Weather too dry." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) March 6th. "No rain since last message." Trinidad (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) March 6th. "Too dry." March 13th. "Showery and unsettled." Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) Week ending March 2nd. PORT ANTONIO: "23rd, 24th, 1st, rainy, others fine." KINGSTON: "Fine."

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 Feb. 21, '05	20,367	—	2345	4002	123,280	1386	6640	1031	—
" " 23, '04	17,258	4329	989	5735	5160	13	5182	1138	—
Jamaica—		Cwts.	Coffee,	Galls		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.	
Apr. 1 to Feb. 4, '05	7386	19,692	44,315	990,729	2,978,693	135,414	7,429,909	75,524,541	10,542
" " 6, '04	8890	18,250	63,582	948,063	14,623,875	62,723	7,430,709	78,120,110	—
Trinidad—	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.	Trcs.	Brls.	Asphalt.
Jan. 1 to Feb. 24, '05	44,960	5,553,390	4800	33	1,038,000	959	42	103	18,685
" " 24, '04	8,871	10,442,370	21,280	—	360,040	10	2	—	21,505
Grenada—	Coffee.	Bags.							Cotton Seed
Oct. 1 to Feb. 24, '05	23	31,272							Bags.
" " 24, '04	126	43,196							98
			Brls.	4 Brls.	Cases		Bags.		Cotton.
			2360	306	258		129		Bales.
			1458	205	164		35		8

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Tagus" (Capt. H. E. Rudge) March 8th:—
Barbados—Lieut. E. V. Moore, Mrs. Cockshut, Mrs. N. L. Boxill, Mr. and Mrs. Moore, Mr. G. W. Lupton, Mr. N. Whitworth. **Demerara**—Mr. G. Fryer, Mr. J. Welsh, Mr. M. De Cairos, Mr. and Mrs. Fred May, Mr. D. J. O. Low, **Jamaica**—Mr. S. Carter, Mr. C. S. Smyth, Mr. Hickinbottom, Mr. D. Hamilton, Mr. R. G. Campbell, Mr. T. O. Kirlaw, Miss Muir, Mr. Muir, Mr. J. Hoggan, Lt.-Col. E. C. Malet de Carteret, Mr. and Mrs. V. Bertie, Miss O. Pagan, Miss Macfarlane, Mr. W. B. Scott, Mrs. and Miss Hope, Mr. N. Hope, Mr. Bethune, Dr. and Mrs. Jameson, Mr. R. B. Nowell, Mr. C. O. Smith, Mr. Rogers, Miss Rogers, Capt. S. Hamilton, Mr. J. J. Wharmby, Mr. M. Portman, Mr. P. Ashton, Mr. W. Grenside, Mr. J. Grenside, Miss K. Macdonald, Miss Hemmingway, Mr. A. F. Smith. **Trinidad**—Mr. and Mrs. Straas, Mr. F. A. Warner, R.N., Mr. W. J. S. Tucker, Mr. A. Jackson, Mr. M. Campbell, Mr. Somerville, Mr. G. Disney, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Paul. **Grenada**—Mr. T. J. C. Crump, Mr. C. J. Arthur. **St. Lucia**—Mr. F. Barnard, Mr. G. Barnard, Mrs. L. Colyer.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "La Plata" (Capt. Dagnall) March 15th:—Barbados—Capt. A. B. H. Ray, **Demerara**—Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Innis. **Jamaica**—Mr. M. T. Buchanan, Miss K. Hutchings, Mr. and Miss Hindmarsh, **Trinidad**—Mr. C. S. Rogers, Miss M. Stewart, Miss B. Simpson, Mr. W. Dalrymple. **Grenada**—Mr. G. McGregor Frame. **Demínica**—Rev. L. Callender. **Tobago**—Mr. E. Cochrane, Mr. S. Saville.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Tagus" (Capt. H. E. Rudge) March 29th:—Barbados—Rev. T. Fitzpatrick, **Jamaica**—Miss Maxwell, Miss Morrish. **Trinidad**—Miss I. Wallace.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Morant" (Capt. Owen Jones) March 1st:—Jamaica—Mrs. J. H. Blair, Mr. R. H. Munroe, Mr. F. C. Powell, Mr. P. W. Poole, Mr. J. and Mrs. Phillips, Miss Pringle, Mr. A. H. R. Saunders, Capt. and Mrs. Stewart, Mr. N. Thiele, Mr. T. Beverley, Mr. W. A. Hall, Mrs. Winstanley.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Morant" (Capt. Owen Jones) March 11th:—Jamaica—Mr. M. Grace, Mr. L. T. Jones, Mr. W. H. Menzies, Capt. C. Syer, Miss Withers, Mr. F. Carr, Mrs. J. Segree, Mr. A. J. Thackwell.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons) March 25th:—Jamaica—Dr. S. H. Boutor, Sir S. and Miss Black, Mr. A. T. Carter, D.C.L., Mr. W. Everard, Miss M. Napier, Sir W. H. Preece, K.C.B., Mr. Preece, Mr. and Mrs. Pyper, Mr. W. Richardson, Dr. and Miss Spanton, Mrs. M. E. Shelton, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Thursfield, Dr. and Miss Thursfield.

Some West Indian Securities.

Bank Rate $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ (changed from 3% on March 9th, 1905), Consols 91 $\frac{1}{4}$.

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 - - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " " 1925-42 ...	100	3 $\frac{1}{2}\%$	97-98
194,500.	"	British Guiana 4 " " " 1935 ...	100	4%	105-107
123,670.	"	Grenada - - 4 " " " 1917-42 ...	100	4%	103-106
1,093,907 $\frac{1}{2}$.	"	Jamaica - - 4 " " " 1934 ...	100	4%	108-110
85,479 $\frac{1}{2}$.	"	St. Lucia - - 4 " " " 1919-44 ...	100	4%	103-105
422,593 $\frac{1}{2}$.	"	Trinidad - - 4 " " " 1917-42 ...	100	4%	102-104
100,000	20	Colonial Bank ...	£6	6%	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ -7 $\frac{1}{2}$
15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ...	65	—	25 $\frac{1}{2}$ -26 $\frac{1}{2}$
223,575 $\frac{1}{2}$.	Stock	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4% 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4 $\frac{1}{2}\%$	81-83 $\frac{1}{2}$ d
26,763	5	New Colonial Co., Ltd., ...	5	Nil.	—
46,874	5	" " " " 5% Non-Cum. Pref. ...	5	5%	23-3 $\frac{1}{2}$
347,500.	Stock	" " " " 4% 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red	100	4%	74-76
352,700.	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb.	100	6%	100-103
165,000.	Stock	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock ...	100	Nil.	17-20
115,000.	Stock	" " " " 7% Preference ...	100	2%	89-92
31,250	10	" " " " 4% Extension Preference...	10	4%	8-9
70,000.	Stock	" " " " Perpetual Deb. Stock	100	4%	96-98
78,500.	100	Direct West India Cable Co., 4 $\frac{1}{2}\%$ Reg. Debs. (within Nos. 1 to 1200) red.	100	4 $\frac{1}{2}\%$	100-102
12,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ...	£2 10 0	6%	—
50,600.	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4 $\frac{1}{2}\%$ 1st Mtge. Deb. (within 1 to 1200) red.	100	4 $\frac{1}{2}\%$	100-102
10,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd ...	5	5%	—
88,321	10	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. Ordinary ...	10	—	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1
34,563	10	" " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	10	7s.	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -9
4,669	10	" " " " " 2nd "	10	—	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
80,000.	100	" " " " " 5% Deb ...	100	5%	103-105

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—The position of sugar for the next few months is statistically as sound as ever, but unfortunately the markets are engaged, and will be engaged for the next few weeks, in liquidating the enormous engagements entered into by every grade of speculator in 88% beet for May delivery, and the uncertainty as to how these operations will be settled creates a very uneasy feeling in the various European markets. It is asserted with confidence by many people that the actual sugar does not exist to enable sellers to complete these bargains. By another section of the community this is scouted as being ridiculous. The writer does not venture to solve the problem, but the next few weeks will decide which of these prophets is the correct one, and after it is all over we may hope for more settled markets. We are only now completing the first half of this noted drought season. The next six months may prove very interesting and be productive of many surprises. Beet sowings, the second half of the Cuba crop, the condition of the Java canes when they come to be worked, and above all the type of weather that will prevail on the Continent whilst the crops are growing, each individually and collectively will play its part in determining the future course of prices, and it will take a clever head at the present time to fix any figure at which sugar can be considered "safe." We are not dealing with prices at the normal cost of production, and it is this that makes forecast practically impossible. We have the next beet crop offering at say 3s. od. per cwt. below prices for this spring and summer delivery. This is having its effect on sentiment but it is not adding one single ton to the diminished supply before us for the balance of this season, and herein lies the strength of the position.

The closing quotations of 88% are, March, 14s. 4½d.; May, 14s. 4½d.; August, 14s. 5½d.; and Oct./Dec., 11s. 5½d. in bond, all free on board Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Europe	2,530,000	3,420,000	3,210,000	3,460,000	2,710,000	Tons
United States	180,000	100,000	170,000	110,000	180,000	"
Cuba	230,000	200,000	250,000	300,000	150,000	"
Cargoes afloat	30,000	40,000	50,000	10,000	20,000	"
Total	2,970,000	3,760,000	3,680,000	3,880,000	3,060,000	"

Comparative prices of 88% Beet in bond:— 14s. 4½d. 8s. 3½d. 8s. 5½d. 6s. 3½d. 8s. 11d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—In sympathy with the declining prices in Continental white granulated sugar, and in Refiners' imitations which are now selling at 21s. 3d., duty paid, the demand for yellow crystallised has temporarily fallen off, and prices have been subject to some reduction. The general range is now 21s. to 23s., with average qualities 21s. 6d. The retail trade seem inclined to await the Budget in the vain hopes of a reduction in duty. This adds to the prevailing slackness in business.

The value of a cargo of West India grey crystals is 15s. 9d. on floating terms for 96 test, and this sugar can always be easily sold to cane Refiners in the out-ports. This would be for shipment not later than June next, to come in before the next beet season with its reduced prices.

Molasses Sugar is quiet. Values range from 15s. to 19s. Peruvian syrups are offering at 12s. 9d., in bond, on floating terms.

Muscovado.—Grocery kinds are wanted at prices ranging from 18s. to 19s. and possibly a little over for really good sugar. For 89 test to Refiners, about 15s. od. should be obtainable on floating conditions. Higher prices have recently been offered and refused.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Imports	7000	7000	24,000	6000	Tons
Deliveries	7200	8100	7800	9200	"
Stocks	9200	11,000	23,400	8800	"
Quotations of Crystallised, duty paid, average qualities	21s. 6d.	15s. 0d.	14s. 6d.	15s. 9d.	

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 2 months:

	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Home Consumption	756,000	759,000	709,000	840,000	Galls.
Stocks 28th Feb.	8,425,000	10,164,000	10,103,000	7,960,000	"
Stocks in London:					
Jamaica	6800	7700	9000	6100	Puns.
Demerara	6200	11,500	10,300	9600	"
Total of all kinds:—	20,374	28,987	Deficiency	8613	"

The market for Demerara is firm, with little offering, and prices range from 1s. 2½d. to 1s. 4½d., fair Marks being worth 1s. 3d. Jamaica is quiet, and 2s. remains the value of Standard Home Trade Marks. Leewards and other proof kinds range from 1s. to 1s. 5d. Stocks are diminishing, and the outlook is not unfavourable.

Cocoa.—Board of Trade Returns for 2 months:

	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Imports	4467	6552	5000	7818	Tons
Home Consumption	3361	3862	3045	6762	"
Stocks 28th Feb.	5981	4944	5608	5993	"
Stocks in London	83,000	70,000	76,000	83,000	Bags

For all practical purposes the market is unchanged, and manufacturers only buy to meet current requirements. Trinidad continues neglected from 55s. to 60s. for Estate Marks. Grenada is selling fairly well, but prices are not in all cases maintained. The closing values are, Trinidad, fair collected, 55s., Estate Marks, 55s. to 60s., Grenada, fair, 51s to 52s., and fermented, 53s. to 54s. Cocoa from other British Islands is worth 48s. to 50s. for Native, and 52s. to 54s. for fermented. Deliveries as shown above are not encouraging, but it is premature with two months figures only before us to speak definitely on this point.

Coffee.—Easier. Good ordinary Jamaica, 37s. to 38s.

Nutmegs.—Recent sales of West Indian have been at 1s. 2d. for 67's; 10d. for 80's; 8d. for 93's; and 128's at 5½d.

Mace.—Fair red to pale sold at 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d., and broken, 1s. 1d. **Pimento.**—Small sales of fair at 2½d. and good at 2½d. **GINGER.**—Dull. Small lots sold, bright small, 35s. 6d., and mouldy, 31s. 6d.

Arrowroot.—London figures since 1st Jan.

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Imports	1345	1885	3333	4021	2085	Brls.
Deliveries	2710	3773	2205	3275	2418	"
Stocks, 28th Feb.	8105	10,745	13,352	8465	7767	"

There has been more demand from two manufacturers, and sales of about 2000 barrels have been made from 13d. to 1½d. General business however remains slack.

Lime Juice.—Rather easier, value 9d. to 10d. Concentrated, a shade better, value £14 5s. to £14 10s. Hand pressed, no alteration at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, steady, value, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d.

For Cotton, see special Article, page 93.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XXXIX.



Lieut.-Colonel F. C. Trollope.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

March 27th, 1905

Telegrams: "CARIB. LONDON." Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL

EIGHT years have elapsed since the late Sir Henry Norman, Sir Edward Grey, and Sir David Barbour, the West India Royal Commissioners in their Report condemned the surtax of 4d. imposed by the British Government on Colonies spirits as "unsound in principle," adding that it entailed hardship on the Colonies, and that the answer of the Government to previous remonstrances could not be considered satisfactory, and yet no steps have been taken to remedy this injustice to which distillers in the West Indies are subject. It is a matter which involves no occasion for controversy between "whole hoggars" and "little piggers." The West Indies ask for no preference, but demand to be put upon a footing of equality with the distillers in this country who are deliberately accorded a preference of 4d. per gallon over distillers in our Crown Colonies. But the home distillers command votes in the House of Commons and the West Indies do not, and that is probably why this grossly unfair treatment is still meted out to the latter. We have so frequently dealt with this question in our

columns that we need do no more than summarise briefly how the matter stands. The reason adduced

for the preferential treatment given to the home distiller, has been that the 4d. per gallon is imposed on Colonial and foreign spirits to countervail the alleged disadvantage to which the home distiller is subject through the incidence of excise regulations, and our case has been that if it is fair to compensate the distillers in this country for excise regulations, the distillers in the West Indies, who are also subject to excise regulations which are under the control of the Home Government, should equally be entitled to compensation as against the foreigner of whose excise regulations we know nothing. In 1902 a Commissioner, whose partisan spirit was very generally admitted, his report being challenged by among others a leading organ of the distillers, was sent to the West Indies to enquire into the nature and extent of the excise regulations in vogue there, and he estimated that they cost less than $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per gallon. An examination and scrutiny of the excise regulations in this country would have been the logical sequence, but this has not been granted because it might offend the home distillers, and the amount of the surtax is therefore based on a calculation arrived at in 1866 and includes a sum of $\frac{3}{4}$ d. for compensation for duty on foreign grain; in spite of the removal of the corn duties. Could anything be more preposterous? Then there is the case of methylated spirits. Spirit manufactured in this country for methylation is duty free, but methylated sugar spirit imported from our Colonies, though intrinsically worth only $1\frac{1}{2}$ per proof gallon would have to pay the duty of $11\frac{1}{5}$. We have for many years called the attention of successive Governments to this matter, and have now addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer a further letter urging that it may receive his attention in connection with the forthcoming Budget. We have an unanswerable case, and in the end it must prevail.

THE recent pleasing exchange of courtesies between the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry stationed at Devonport and the people of Dominica, upon the occasion of the centenary of the defence of that Island from the French during that trying period known as La Grange, when the French landed on each side of Roseau and compelled the Governor to retire to Prince Rupert's, serves as a timely reminder of the value which the Mother Country set upon our West Indian Colonies a century ago. Timely, because it provokes comparison between those days and now, when there is the prospect before us of the withdrawal of the troops from those Colonies in the capture and retention of which so much valuable British blood has been spilt. It is noteworthy too that as at present arranged the actual withdrawal will synchronise with the celebration of the Trafalgar centenary, in which those Islands more closely connected with Lord Nelson, such as Nevis which gave him his bride, and Antigua where he was able to refit his ships during his memorable pursuit of Villeneuve, should take a prominent part. We have already expressed ourselves in no unmeasured terms as to the inadvisability of the removal of the troops, and hope that it may not yet be too late for the Cabinet to modify its decision in view of the representations which have been made from all quarters. In any case, if the decision is adhered to, we at least shall not be open to a charge of apathy, as at the deputation which waited upon the Secretary of State on Thursday, March 16th, those present clearly emphasised to him from letters and extracts from local papers received how keen the feeling in the West Indies is on the matter, and further pledged the West India Committee to assist the Colonial Office by every means in its power to provide for the safeguarding of the Islands, should it be really decided to remove the troops.

Lieut.-Colonel Frank C. Trollope.

Lieut.-Colonel Frank C. Trollope, the eldest son of the late General Sir Charles Trollope, was born in 1857, and educated at Eton. He was gazetted to the Grenadier Guards in 1877, and left with the rank of Major in 1894. He was one of the pioneers of military ballooning, and in 1884 accompanied Sir Charles Warren's expedition to Bechuanaland with a balloon detachment. The gallant Colonel saw active service in British Central Africa in the expedition against Makanjua,

receiving the medal with clasp, and was promoted Lieut.-Colonel in recognition of his services in connection with the South African War, 1899-1902. His interest in the West Indies is mainly centred in Barbados, where his sugar estates, Pool and Lord's Castle, are situated. As a Member of the Executive of the Anti-Bounty League and the West India Committee he has devoted much time to advancing the interests of the West Indies.

The Usine Ste. Madeleine, Trinidad.

The building in our full page illustration looks like a railway station; but it is really a Central Sugar Factory, four miles from San Fernando. It was the first erected in the British West Indies, and was founded in 1870 by Sir Nevile Lubbock, the pioneer of Central Factories in these Colonies, who was also responsible for the development of a peasant proprietary which supplies the factory with a great quantity of canes. The principle of the Central Factory system is that a large number of estates are grouped together and their canes ground at one central base, much economy thereby resulting. The canes are brought to the mill by steam railways, of which there are some sixty miles running through the estates. The tall building on the left is the rum distillery.—*Sun Pictures of the Antilles.*

The West India Committee Banquet.

It is hoped that Members will make a particular note of Thursday, June 22nd, which is the date provisionally fixed for a Banquet to be held at the Whitehall Rooms, Northumberland Avenue, to celebrate the incorporation of the West India Committee by Royal Charter. The delegates of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association will be visiting this country then, and it is expected that several of them will be present upon this auspicious occasion.

New Members of the West India Committee.

At a meeting of the Executive on Wednesday, March 22nd, Sir Nevile Lubbock presiding, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
E. S. MORANT-GALE, Esq.	William Gillespie, Esq.	Joseph Rippon, Esq.
MESSRS. JAMES BUCHANAN & SON.	R. Rutherford, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
Mrs. ROWLEY-CONWY.	Col. The Hon. R. S. Cotton.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
ROBERT THOM CAMERON, Esq., JUNR.	Geo. Brown, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
ROBERT THOM, Esq., JUNR.	Geo. Brown, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
ALEXANDER LESLIE, Esq. (B. Guiana).	G. E. S. Fryer, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
C. A. GRAY, Esq. (Trinidad).	L. J. Bernstein, Esq.	E. A. de Pass, Esq.
DAVID BAIRD, Esq.	Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co.	Messrs. Wm. Smith & Co.

The next election will be held on Thursday next, March 30th. Particulars regarding Membership can be obtained from the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

Deputation to Mr. Lyttelton.

A deputation comprising Sir Nevile Lubbock (Trinidad), Sir Henry K. Davson (British Guiana), Mr. Cyril Gurney (Jamaica), Mr. R. Rutherford (Barbados), Mr. E. L. Marshall (Leeward and Windward Islands), and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, waited upon Mr. Lyttelton in his private room at the House of Commons on Thursday, March 16th, with reference to three matters which are at the moment of pressing importance to the West Indies—the withdrawal of the troops, cable communication, and the mail contract. Sir Nevile Lubbock, introducing the deputation, said that he wished to warn the Government of the serious nature of the step they proposed to take in withdrawing the troops from the West Indies, and in confirmation of his remarks he read extracts from several letters

received from the West Indian Colonies, and called attention to the remarks on the subject which had appeared in the West Indian Press. It was felt that the withdrawal of the troops was a retrograde movement which could not fail to lower the prestige of the United Kingdom, more especially having regard to the rapid extension of American influence in the Caribbean, and he expressed, on behalf of the West India Committee, the earnest hope that it might not yet be too late for the Government to reconsider their decision.

Regarding the cable question, he reminded Mr. Lyttelton of the constant representations which had been made both in this country and the Colonies concerning the inadequacy of the present means of cable communication between the Colonies and the Mother Country, and he urged that in view of the large sums which the Home Government were making out of the West Indian currency, they might meet the Colonies half-way and assist in the establishment of a more reliable and effective means of communication, such as would be afforded by the extension of the lines of the Halifax and Bermudas and Direct West India Cable Company from Bermuda to Barbados, and thence to Trinidad, Demerara and St. Lucia.

Dealing with the mail contract, he brought before the notice of Mr. Lyttelton the many resolutions already passed in the Colonies on the subject, which clearly indicated that they were unanimously in favour of the continuance of the mail contract, and were opposed to the suggested conveyance of the mails on a poundage rate. Those interested on this side were entirely of the same opinion.

Other members of the deputation having spoken in confirmation, Mr. Lyttelton, after expressing the pleasure it gave him to meet Members of the West India Committee, indicated that the questions connected with the proposed withdrawal of the white troops and the steps which would have to be taken in consequence, still engaged earnest consideration. As to the cable question, he feared that no financial aid would at the present moment be forthcoming from the Treasury, and said that the progress of experiments with wireless telegraphy was being carefully watched. Regarding the mail contract, he reminded the deputation that further tenders had been invited by the Postmaster-General for the conveyance of the mails.

The deputation having assured Mr. Lyttelton of their wish to do all in their power to assist the Colonial Office to provide measures to safeguard the Islands in the event of the decision of the Government to withdraw the troops being adhered to, which they hoped would not be the case, Sir Nevile Lubbock thanked Mr. Lyttelton for his courtesy in receiving them, and the deputation then withdrew.

The Mail Contract.

The messages and resolutions received from the Colonies since we last went to press leave no room for doubt that the West Indies favour the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company continuing to hold the contract for the conveyance of the mail. There has very naturally been a feeling of dissatisfaction in the Colonies that they were not consulted earlier in the matter. In Barbados the following resolution was passed at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on March 9th :—

"That in the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce any cessation of the regular fortnightly Mail Service between the United Kingdom and Barbados will be detrimental to the general interests of this Island; and as in view of the proposal of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to contract for such a service upon a basis of 3 per cent. interest on the capital employed, and their willingness to open their books to the inspection of the Government, it is evident that the Company are prepared to meet the situation and negotiate further with the Government, the Chamber of Commerce therefore respectfully urge His Excellency the Governor to make such representations to the Secretary of State for the Colonies as may lead to the retention of a regular mail service."

Again on March 18th it was resolved :—

"That in view of fresh tenders for the West India Mail Service having been called for by His Majesty's Post-

master-General for the 31st inst., subsequent to the date of the resolutions passed by this Chamber on the 9th inst. with reference to the Mail Service, it is resolved:—

1. That this Chamber desires to emphasize the fact that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have carried out the present contract satisfactorily.
2. That no new contract should be made without reference to the Colonies affected
3. That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the Governor with the request that they may be telegraphed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, together with the Chamber's resolutions of the 9th inst., in the event of these latter not having been telegraphed to him.

The Legislative Council on March 22nd adopted the following resolution:—

"The Legislative Council of Barbados consider the maintenance of the fortnightly mail between Great Britain and the West Indies as essential to the interests of this Island, and are of the opinion that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company has provided a regular and satisfactory service for the long period of 63 years. The Council trust that means will be found by which the Imperial Government will be able to arrange with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the continuation of the present service, or that all tenders for the new contract will be submitted to the Colonies interested before the acceptance of any particular one, and hope that as the time for sending in tenders for new contracts expires on the 31st inst., His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to transmit this resolution of the Legislature by telegram."—*Reuter.*

The Chamber of Commerce of British Guiana has passed a resolution declaring that as the Royal Mail Steamship Company performs the mail service to the West Indies satisfactorily, the Imperial Postmaster-General should arrange a new contract with the Company at a cost to British Guiana not exceeding in amount the subsidy recently sanctioned by the local Legislature, and that, if necessary, this should be done by a re-arrangement of the mail routes, provided the service remains as good as at present.—*Reuter*, March 16th..

In Jamaica a resolution was passed unanimously at a meeting of the Merchant's Exchange on March 22nd, in favour of the R.M.S.P. Company having the contract, and according to Reuter the public and press are strongly in favour of the Mail Contract being given to the Company, and the planters and merchants are signing a petition urging a renewal of the contract with that Company.

A resolution was passed by the Grenada Agricultural and Commercial Society on the 15th inst., that that body:—

"As representing the agricultural and commercial interests of the Island, views with alarm the prospects of the discontinuance of the Royal Mail Company's subsidised mail service to and from the West Indies after June 30th next, and is of opinion that without such a service it will be impossible to maintain a regularity of mails to and from the Island with the Mother Country, which will be detrimental to the general interests of the community, and a serious menace to the trade of the Island. The society, therefore, respectfully urges on his Excellency the Governor the necessity of the retention of the regular mail service, and, if necessary, that this Island should contribute its proportion of the increased subsidy required, and requests him to communicate with the Secretary of State for the Colonies the views of this society.

At a meeting of planters, merchants, and others resident in the Presidency of St. Christopher and Nevis held on the 20th inst., a resolution was passed:—

"That this meeting strongly urges the renewal of the contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the conveyance of mails between Great Britain and the West Indies, as the service hitherto performed by the Company has given the fullest satisfaction."—*Reuter.*

The West India Association of Liverpool also passed a resolution on March 20th to the effect that it is desirable to renew the the mail contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company on reasonable terms.

The Crown Colonies.

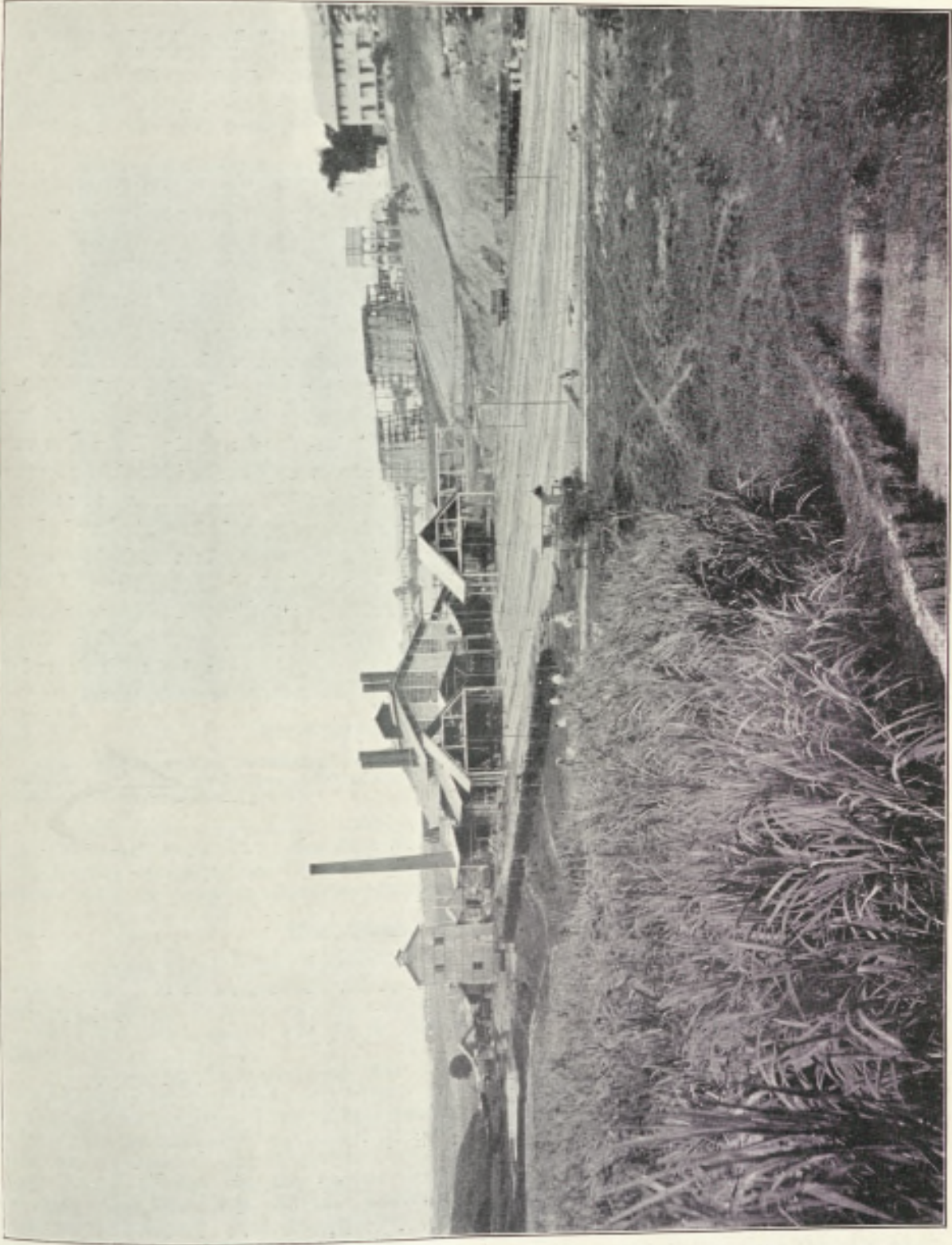
One of our Members, Sir Charles Bruce, delivered an interesting address on "The Crown Colonies" at a largely attended meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute at the Whitehall Rooms on March 14th, the Duke of Marlborough presiding. Those present included Sir Patrick and Lady Manson, Sir William Thiselton Dyer, Sir Edward Wingfield, Sir Frederick Young, Col. Sir Roper and Lady Parkington, Sir James Williamson, the Secretary of the West India Committee, Mr. Benjamin Kidd, Mr. H. de R. Walker, Mr. J. R. Roosé, and Mr. J. S. O'Halloran, Secretary.

Sir Charles Bruce said that while the self-governing colonies, with the exception of a considerable territory in Northern Australia, lay in temperate zones, it would be seen that the Crown Colonies and places, apart from stations occupied for naval and military uses, were almost exclusively

contained within the tropics. During the nineteenth century, when the drift of our colonial policy was towards segregation and the surrender of industry and commerce to free competition, two questions were often asked—"What is the good of Colonies?" and "What are we to do with them?" The general reply—though not without vigorous protest—was, "They are of no good; get rid of them." The twentieth century, he observed, had already formed a saner judgment, and he proceeded to show that our Crown Colonies and places were of enormous and incalculable good. We must frankly abandon the policy of the nineteenth century, based on the conception that it would be possible and desirable to hold our hands and stand aloof from the tropics. We must realise the extent to which our civilisation rested on the productions of the tropics, and recognise that the principle underlying all trade—that exchange of products between regions and peoples of different capacities tended to be mutually profitable—found in commerce between our temperate and tropical regions its most natural expression. We must make up our minds that the chief aim of our administration must cease to be the education of the people in political methods with a view to providing them with an equipment of political leaders and departmental officials. What we had to do was to teach them that the sure foundation of prosperity was the development of natural resources, and that in their aspirations for social equality they would find that industry, business, and commerce were far more profitable levellers than official or political places. Assuming that, whatever might be the established form of government in a colony, the development of its resources was to be the first concern, the conditions essential to such development must first be considered. The conditions were health, labour, organisation of industry, transport, and finance. Sir Charles Bruce dealt with each of these heads, paying a tribute to such volunteer forces as the Royal Colonial Institute, the West India Committee, the Ceylon Association, and the Straits Settlements Association, while he eulogised also the work of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and in connection with health spoke of the work of the London and Liverpool Schools of Tropical Medicine. As to labour, he concluded that, if we were to retain our control of the tropics and draw from them with advantage the products of which they had a monopoly, we should have to look to the immigration of Indians and Chinese for a large share of our labour supply. After drawing attention to the importance of transport facilities in the development of Crown Colonies, he said that the severity of the probable struggle for control of the tropics could not be better illustrated than by the history of the sugar industry. With regard to finance and the question of financial relations between the Mother Country and the Crown Colonies, he remarked that the policy of protection in the accepted sense of the term did not enter into the fiscal system of the Crown Colonies for the best of all reasons—they had nothing to protect. Though a universal Imperial Zollverein might not be possible, there seemed to be no reason why the principles of a Zollverein should not be introduced into the fiscal relations of the United Kingdom with Crown Colonies and places. In conclusion, Sir Charles Bruce suggested, in regard to the question of the Crown Colonies contributing towards the defence of the Empire, that in future the contributions to Army funds should be abolished, that there should be substituted a contribution to the Imperial Treasury for defence funds, and that all the Crown Colonies should be invited to contribute to the funds, according to the measure of their power, on such a basis as might be found most convenient.

Exhibition Matters.

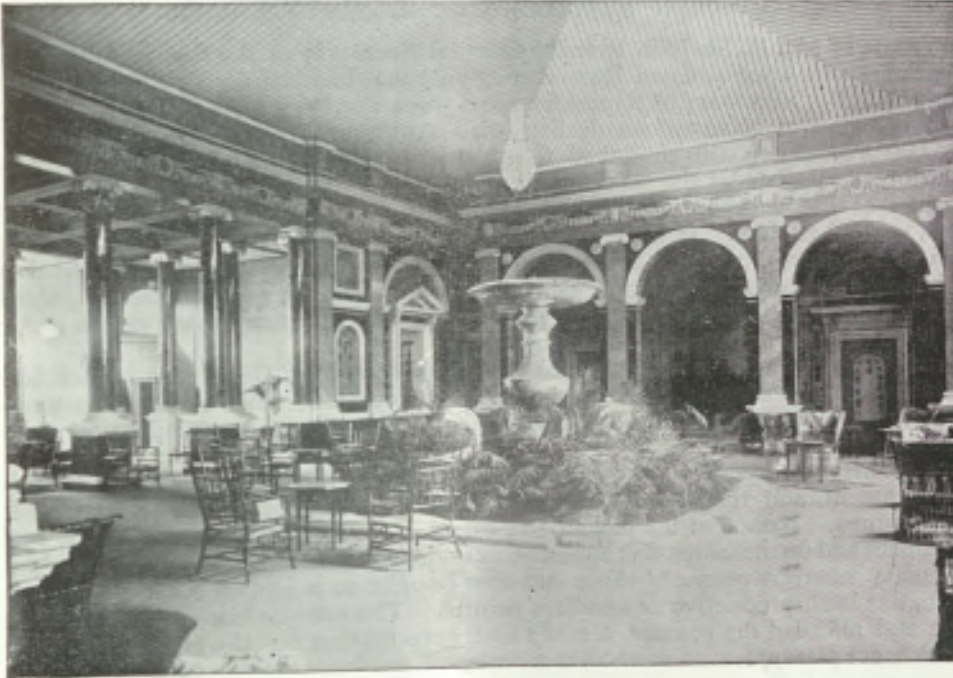
Though no Colonies have on this occasion decided to send an official exhibit, the West Indies thanks to the enterprise of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, Messrs. James Philip & Co., of Fenchurch Buildings, and Messrs. Frank Pink & Co., will be well represented at the second Show of Colonial Fruit which opens for two days at the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster, on Thursday, March 30th next, and the competition between these three companies is likely to be keen. The West Indian section is being organised by The West India Committee.



From "Our Pictures of the Antilles and British Guiana."

THE USINE ST. MADELEINE, TRINIDAD.

With regard to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition which begins at the Crystal Palace on May 6th. the Colonies are now completing their arrangements, and already a consignment of magnificent sugar canes has been received from Barbados. The West India Committee have now obtained the permission of the Army Council for the visit of the Band of the 1st West India Regiment, and through the courtesy of Lieut.-Col. Loscombe and the Officers it is hoped that they will arrive at the end of



The Smoking-Room, Crystal Palace Club.

This illustration shows the smoking lounge of the Crystal Palace Club, of which Members of the West India Committee will, through the courtesy of the authorities, become Honorary Members during the months in which the Colonial and Indian Exhibition is held.

July for a five weeks' engagement. This is the first time the band of the West India Regiment has visited this country since 1886, when they attended the Colonial Exhibition. We give an illustration of the smoking lounge of the Crystal Palace Club, of which our members will be made honorary members during the period in which the Exhibition remains open.

The Santo Domingo Treaty.

The United States Senate adjourned *sine die* on March 18th without voting on the Santo Domingo Treaty. As it was not referred back to the Committee for Foreign Relations it remains on the Calendar and may be taken up whenever the Senate meets, whether in special or regular Session. If a special Session is called it will not be before October. The *Times* Washington correspondent reported on the 19th inst:—

"A Senator who knows tells me that the real cause of the strongest opposition to the treaty was not dislike of the President's new Monroe doctrine or of his forward policy, nor yet dread of seeing an administrative occupation of the Island develop into a protectorate. What weakened the hands of its friends was the nature of the claims to be satisfied under the award from the Customs due. These claims bear the stamp of suspicion if not of obvious fraud. At every point questions concerning them arose. To none of them was any answer forthcoming. They blocked the way. On its own merits the treaty might have been ratified. Loaded down with uncertainties as it was, the sanction of the Senate could not be had. Nor did either the White House or the State Department seem to possess facts on which explanations could be based.

All of which is true, but not the whole truth. The failure to ratify the Santo Domingo treaty, even after the Senate had taken it to pieces and put together a new treaty, is but one incident in the warfare which the Senate wages unremittingly on the President.

Intimations have been heard that European Powers may seize this occasion to enforce their claims against Santo Domingo. But this Government would not regard any such attempt favourably. Admitting the right of creditor Powers to use force in certain circumstances and up to a certain point, that right is held to be in abeyance while this Government is engaged upon an uncompleted scheme of liquidation and its negotiations with Santo Domingo are still proceeding."

Colonial Reports.—The Leeward Islands.

The report of Mr. E. St. John Branch, Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands, on the Blue Book of the Colony for 1903-4, dated December 28th, 1904, has just been published (Colonial Reports Annual, No. 445. For Summary of Report for 1902-3, see *The West India Committee Circular*, Vol. XIX., p. 269). In his general observations dealing with Antigua, Mr. Branch states that the financial condition of the Presidency still continued to cause grave concern, and only the most economically worked estates could pay under the conditions then existent. The labour supply was a valuable asset, and the results of the workings of the new factory at Gunthorpe's was awaited with the greatest interest, and, indeed, anxiety. If its products, which would have a fair field, could hold their own in the markets of the world, up-to-date machinery would quickly take the place of what someone has called the "mechanical menageries" now existing on many estates, and financial equilibrium would be restored. It was hardly likely that cotton planting would increase to any extent in Antigua while there was a hope of sugar being a paying industry.

A strong effort was being made to make Barbuda pay as a Government stock farm, for which purpose it was admirably adapted. Its 62 square miles contained much excellent pasturage, and there were 800 acres of walled enclosures, with drinking pens and everything complete for the herding and capture of stock.

There is little to record of St. Kitts-Nevis. It emerged in 1903 from dependence on the Imperial Government, and there would seem no reason why financial equilibrium should not for the future be maintained. Now that the pauperising effect of doles had been removed, a healthy interest in the Government and its measures was apparent. Nevis has taken very kindly to cotton-growing, and the arrangements whereby peasants' canes are now bought on a sliding-scale, with a minimum price of 6s. per ton, has been productive of excellent results. The scheme has engendered confidence in the Government, and afforded the peasant a ready and sure market for the products of the cultivation in which he took most pleasure.

The finances of Dominica were eminently satisfactory. In spite of various adverse circumstances which marked the course of 1903, and the temporary check experienced by two principal products, limes and cacao, the revenue for the financial year considerably exceeded the estimate.

The disease which affected the lime-trees during the dry season of 1903 was a severe trial to the planters, and caused a very serious diminution of the crop. Thanks, however, to energetic measures that were taken for the eradication of the pest, to improved cultural methods, and to the abundant rains which had characterised the latter part of the year, the lime plantations appeared to have almost completely recovered from the disease that was damaging them. The severe gale, which swept over the southern half of the Island on August 8th, was also a very serious blow to planters, and much accentuated the loss caused by the lime-blight. The cacao plantations suffered considerably from loss of blossom, and the crop fell short by nearly 400,000 lbs. Much damage was done to banana and to fruit trees in general, and the exports in this direction were also much decreased.

Two such severe misfortunes in one year might, under other circumstances, have seriously impaired the progress of a West Indian community, but it spoke volumes for the recuperative power of the Island and for the energy of the planters to find that the check was only of a very temporary character, and that all outward signs of prosperity had barely been affected.

The sale of Crown lands continued satisfactorily, and a number of new settlers possessing moderate capital had been attracted to the Island. Satisfactory progress had been made with the delimitation of the Crown land boundaries, and a large number of squatters have been required to purchase the holdings which they have been illegally occupying. The new road up to the Layou Valley is being gradually extended at the cost of the Crown Land Funds, and further progress will be made in that direction as the demand for land arises.

It was matter for congratulation that one of the chief natural products of the Island was being turned to advantage. The American Company that was exporting sulphur from the Soufrière had commenced operations under very favourable conditions, and the output of this product might be expected to assume considerable proportions.

In spite of the encouragement given to Montserrat in the shape of an Imperial Grant of £600 to the sugar industry, several of the principal estates were planted almost exclusively in cotton, and 35,657 lbs. of cotton, representing £1,486 in value, were shipped. Great disappointment and loss

were experienced by the cotton-growers owing to the appearance of insect pests and fungoid disease, which seriously affected the cultivation in all parts of the Island.

The purchase of papaw milk in the Island gave opportune employment and wages to many of the labourers, and the exports of the papaw were valued at £2,000. Unfortunately, the market for this product is quickly overstocked, and the industry was therefore practically at a standstill. The fruit and onion industries, which should otherwise be most promising, were crippled by the absence of telegraphic communication. It is impossible to encourage and develop minor industries under the circumstances. Fortunately, the Island escaped any serious visitation during the year, but on several occasions exceptionally heavy rains fell, causing landslips and the ghauts to be in flood and doing much damage to the roads. The year was a fairly prosperous one for the Virgin Islands. Parts of the Presidency, however, Anegada and Jost Van Dykes, suffered severely from drought, and a considerable percentage of the stock in the former place died.

We append the usual comparative table showing the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past two years.

		1903-4.			1902-3.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Antigua	...	43,811	16	0½	46,395	0	8
St. Kitts-Nevis	...	39,126	10	2	42,772	14	5
Dominica	...	31,443	7	5	31,044	15	0½
Montserrat	...	7,599	8	2	6,293	10	7
Virgin Islands	...	2,166	18	7	1,848	3	0
		£124,148 0 4½			£128,354 3 8½		

		1903-4.			1902-3.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Antigua	...	50,209	3	1½	48,992	2	10
St. Kitts-Nevis	...	44,782	3	4	43,713	6	5
Dominica	...	31,331	1	9	30,418	16	1
Montserrat	...	9,361	14	5	9,916	15	8
Virgin Islands	...	2,342	1	11	1,854	4	0
		£138,028 14 0½			£134,895 5 0		

The total value of the exports from the Colony during the year amounted to £311,469, as against £317,835 in 1902—a decrease of £6,366. Increases of £22,464 and £434 to British Colonies and foreign countries (other than the United States of America) are shown respectively, and decreases of £11,114 and £18,150 to the United Kingdom and the United States of America respectively.

The Sugar Tax.

Mr. R. Just Boyd, Hon. Secretary of the Manufacturing Confectioners' Alliance, has addressed a letter to the Press regarding the sugar tax, in which he states:—

"It is well that the public should differentiate between the Brussels Sugar Convention and the Sugar Tax. Whether or not the Convention is chiefly responsible for the increase in the present price of sugar may be a matter of opinion, but all parties are agreed that the sugar tax is obnoxious, and that its abolition would be of material assistance to consumers of sugar as a food or as a raw material. Mr. J. Chamberlain in particular has condemned the tax again and again, and no one has ventured to advocate its continuance, except on the ground of necessity. The question is whether the state of our national finances will enable the Chancellor of the Exchequer to dispense with the tax. It is true that some time ago Mr. Austen Chamberlain held out little hope of being able to abolish the duty, but since then the national revenue has shown great increase. The Chancellor wisely refuses to anticipate his Budget statement, but no time should be lost in pressing upon him directly and indirectly the evil effects of this sugar tax. I should like to suggest that your readers who feel strongly in this matter should communicate their views without delay to the local Members of Parliament, whether supporters of the Government or not. The Chancellor of the Exchequer will not then have the excuse urged by one of his predecessors that had there been any real grievance more trouble would have been taken to impress the fact upon him. If the address of any Member is not known communications can, of course, be addressed to the House of Commons."

Messrs. J. Travers & Sons, Ltd., wrote on March 13th to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, indicating that an idea prevailed among retail grocers that a reduction, if not an abolition, of the sugar duty was probable in the next Budget, and that this was paralysing the sugar market; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer replied that if at any time the condition of public finance were to allow of the reduction of the sugar duty, notice would be given to the trade and the public in accordance with precedent and with due deference to modern industrial conditions.

The Withdrawal of the Troops.

The following letter was addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on this subject on the 25th inst. :—

Sir,—We have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 2967/1905 of February last, informing the West India Committee by direction of Mr. Secretary Lyttelton of the decision arrived at by His Majesty's Government to reduce the British military and naval establishments in the West Indies.

The West India Committee has learnt with deep concern of this decision, and as a similar feeling appears to exist very generally throughout the West Indies, as is plainly shown by letters received and articles which have appeared in the Press, we hope that it is not too late to reconsider the matter. Apart from other considerations which must be patent to Mr. Lyttelton, we would especially emphasize the beneficial moral effect which a few white troops exercise in our tropical Colonies.

With questions of public policy it is hardly within our scope to deal, although we cannot think that His Majesty's Government has lost sight of the rapid increase of influence of the United States in the Caribbean, which in conjunction with the probable completion of the Panama Canal, we feel, makes it most important that at the present juncture nothing should be done to weaken the tie which connects these Colonies with the Mother Country, or which should lead to lower the prestige of and confidence in these Colonies.

We therefore most earnestly beg that Mr. Secretary Lyttelton will be pleased to lay before his colleagues in the Cabinet the views which we had the honour to express to him in deputation on Thursday, the 16th inst., with reference to the step which is being taken, and that His Majesty's Government may thereby be persuaded to alter, or at least modify, the decision which has been come to.

Trusting that this matter will receive serious consideration.

We have, etc.,

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office, Downing Street.

NEVILLE LUBBOCK, Chairman,
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

The Budget.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has provisionally fixed Monday, April 10th, for the Budget.

The Colonial Conference.

Mr. Balfour, replying to Mr. Runciman on March 22nd, said that no date had been fixed for issuing invitations to the Colonial Conference next year.

The Naval Bases in the West Indies.

In the House of Lords on Tuesday, March 21st, Earl Spencer, while calling attention to British Naval policy, said he wished to refer to the coaling stations and naval bases in the West Indies. It was proposed to greatly diminish the garrisons and establishments there, and Lord Selborne had stated that the dockyards were to be reduced to cadres. When he was at the Admiralty himself he always avoided using French words, and he did not know exactly what Lord Selborne meant. (Laughter.) He supposed he meant that the dockyards were to be reduced to skeletons; if so, it would have been better to use the English word. (Laughter.) Lord Selborne had said that these naval bases would be immediately available in war time, but it was not an easy matter to speedily restore their efficiency.

The Earl of Selborne in reply said: The noble Earl opposite asked me about coaling stations and naval bases in the West Indies, and criticised my use of the word "cadre." What I meant by the word "cadre" is that we are not to use Halifax, Esquimaux, Jamaica, and these other places in time of peace, but if war broke out to-morrow we could and would at once send *personnel* that would bring these dockyards into full operation. The whole naval strategic situation has undergone a complete revolution since the Carnarvon Commission sat. That revolution is the birth of the American navy.

Coolie Recruiting Prospects.

From advices which we have received from Calcutta, it would appear that the prospects of recruiting of coolie emigrants to the West Indies are decidedly brighter. Severe frosts, a calamity never before known in the United Provinces, seriously damaged the crops. Plague is very prevalent and crops are likely to be very short indeed. We understand that in view of these circumstances, Mr. R. W. S. Mitchell, the energetic immigration agent at Calcutta, who has been touring some eleven hundred miles through the United Provinces, has decided to alter the sailings of the Demerara ships from July 1st., August 23rd., October 31st. and December 23rd., to July 1st., July 30th., August 26th., and October 3rd. By this means expense to the Colony should be saved, and October, the most unhealthy month of the year will be avoided. If crop estimates are correct—and near Cawnpore for example, they have been reduced from 100% to 37%, emigrants should be as plentiful this season as they were scarce last. The floating population whence supplies are mostly drawn, live on the underland of want, but unless urged by actual scarcity they will not emigrate in any numbers.

The London School of Tropical Medicine.

The West India Committee earnestly solicits subscriptions towards the LONDON SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE which needs a sum of £6000 of the amount of £30,000 spent in providing laboratories, museums, libraries, and a ward for patients. Donations may be sent to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. The following subscriptions and promises of subscriptions are acknowledged with thanks:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Mr. C. Czarnikow ...	20	0	0	The Anglo-Continental Guano Works ...	2	2	0
Messrs. Thomson, Hankey & Co. ...	10	10	0	Messrs. Claud Neilson & Sons ...	2	2	0
The Colonial Bank ...	10	0	0	Mr. J. Rippon ...	2	2	0
Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. ...	5	5	0	Lieut.-Col. Frank Galloway ...	2	2	0
Sir Henry K. Davson ...	5	5	0	Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller ...	2	2	0
Messrs. Previt & Co. ...	5	5	0	Mr. Spencer H. Curtis ...	2	2	0
Messrs. Henckell, DuBuisson & Co. ...	5	5	0	Major-General Galloway ...	2	2	0
The New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. ...	5	5	0	Colonel Collings ...	1	1	0
The New Colonial Company, Ltd. ...	5	5	0	Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall ...	1	1	0
Sir W. Robinson, G.C.M.G. ...	3	17	6	Mr. Frank Moore ...	1	1	0
Mrs. Alleyne ...	2	2	0	Mr. Percival M. Davson ...	0	10	0
Mr. Edward R. Davson ...	2	2	0	Miss Wood ...	0	10	0
Mr. Alex. G. Low ...	2	2	0	Mr. G. P. Osmond ...	0	5	0
Mr. Allan E. Messer ...	2	2	0				

Notes of Interest.

SUGAR PRICES. The morning and afternoon quotations of 88 % beet sugar are now posted daily in the West India Committee Rooms.

OVERSEER'S REGISTER. Estates Managers and Proprietors requiring overseers are informed that a list of applicants for such posts is 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.

HURRICANE INSURANCE. At the Agricultural Show at Roseau, Dominica, on February 23rd, Mr. H. Hesketh-Bell, the Administrator, stated that he was in communication with parties connected with Lloyd's who would be very willing to entertain proposals for insurances against hurricanes in the Island.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB. At the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club on Wednesday, March 23rd, Mr. H. Powell Rees presided, and amongst those present were: Mr. H. D. Swan, Mr. J. J. Barry, Mr. J. W. M. Barrett, Mr. F. W. Scott, Mr. John Harrison, Mr. E. W. Nelson, Mr. G. H. Drew, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. W. W. Arnott, Mr. R. D. Leckie, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, and Mr. J. Rippon.

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. "Salybia" from London, for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Demerara and Berbice, April 6th.; S.S. "Belgian" from Liverpool, for Barbados and Trinidad, April 7th.; the R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, on April 8th, and the S.S. "Crown of Navarre" from Glasgow, for Barbados, Trinidad, and Demerara, April 14th.

A PLEA FOR ASSISTANCE. Two organisations which deserve the fullest support from those who have the welfare of the West Indies at heart are the "Women's Self-Help Society" of Jamaica and the "Trinidad Home Industries and Self-Help Association," of which Mrs. Northcote is Vice-President. Both are doing a splendid work, and our Members could not do better than send a substantial order to each for the interesting curios, beautiful lace bark d'Oyleys, etc., which they retail. The address of these institutions will be found in our column, "Where to obtain West Indian Produce" on page xii. of this issue.

COSTA RICA BANANAS. Mr. A. Roger Ackerley, Director of Messrs. Elders & Fyffes, has written a letter to the *Liverpool Post and Mercury*, in which he says: "You state that the imports of bananas from the West Indies last month amounted to 260,000 bunches. As a matter of fact, only about 50,000 bunches came from the West Indies; the balance came from Costa Rica, Central America. Owing to the unfortunate hurricane which took place in Jamaica in August, 1903, the cultivation of bananas in Costa Rica has been increased to such an extent that it is now the leading banana-producing district in the world."

PRAEDIAL LARCENY. We are glad to learn that the Imperial Department of Agriculture proposes to issue a "Précis of Information" regarding praedial larceny in the West Indies. With this object in view the Governments of the various West Indian Colonies have been asked to assist the Department with copies of any laws now in force or with any documents that may be available, such as Regulations or Instructions recently issued, recent official correspondence on the subject, reports of Commissions or Special Committees appointed within the last ten years, and, also, returns showing the number of convictions for praedial larceny and the number of cases of flogging during the last ten years.

THE COTTON INDUSTRY. In an editorial on "Cotton Prospects" in the *Agricultural News* of March 11th, it is stated: "The soil, climate, and labour conditions existing at Barbados, St. Vincent, Montserrat, Antigua, and St. Kitts-Nevis, have shown that with care in cultivation and in picking at exactly the right stage, and free from all extraneous matter, these islands are capable of growing Sea Island cotton of the highest quality and at a lower cost than in any other part of the world." During the past fortnight 309 bales of cotton have been imported into the United Kingdom. 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.

AN EXCHANGE OF COURTESIES. Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, the Administrator of Dominica, received on February 21st the following telegram from the Colonel commanding the 2nd Battalion of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry now stationed at Devonport: "Please convey to the inhabitants, best wishes from the 46th Regiment on the occasion of the centenary of the defence of the island. We are holding a dinner in honour of it, the plate presented by the Colony being used." In reply to this message he sent a telegram expressing the gratitude felt by Dominicans for the kind remembrance, and by mail he further conveyed to the regiment the best wishes of the people of Dominica for the continued glory and prosperity of the splendid regiment, which is so intimately associated with the history of the island.

A FRANK AVOWAL. A significant sidelight upon the complaint of some of the mineral water manufacturers and their political friends that the industry has been ruined by the Sugar Convention, is to be found, says the *Standard* of March 23rd, in the prospectus of Messrs. R. White and Sons, Limited. These well-known manufacturers of mineral waters state that "the accounts for the year ended November 30th, 1904, have not yet been completed. But it is expected that the profits will show a decrease from those of 1903, due, however, to causes which, it is believed, are mainly of a temporary nature." The temporary causes referred to are general bad trade and the shortage in the European beet crop consequent upon the drought, which has resulted in temporarily higher prices. But the Sugar Convention is not "of a temporary nature." It is to be assumed, therefore, that this important firm of sugar users does not subscribe to the doctrine that the Convention is responsible for the late rise in sugar prices.

The Homeward Mail.

The annual exodus from the West Indies seems to be beginning earlier than usual this year, and homeward bookings are reported to be very heavy. The R.M.S. "Atrato" which anchored off Plymouth at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22nd (the mails being delivered by first post on the following morning) brought a full complement of passengers, including Sir Robert Bromley, Administrator of St. Kitts, with whom we have to sympathise upon the death of his father, the fifth baronet, Mr. R. M. Hodges, of the Symington Fruit Syndicate, and Mr. L. H. Lascelles, of Grenada. When the Mail left, the Colonies were busy with their agricultural shows. The sugar crop was in full swing at Barbados and St. Kitts, and a good start had been made in Antigua. We extract the following notes from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's steamer "Atrato"

Antigua—The New Factories.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) March 8th. The factory at Bendalls started work that day. (Dr. Watts writes to inform us that the Gunthorpes Factory is getting on well. There have been the usual minor matters requiring adjustment, but no serious difficulties have been encountered. Starting a new factory with new men in a place where factories themselves are a novelty is an anxious proceeding. An excellent start had been made and a great success was anticipated—Ed.) Although the cotton crop was not a very large one, owing to the very adverse season, quality seemed to be very good. The annual Agricultural Show was held on February 23rd, and in the absence of the Governor was opened by Lady Knollys. Considering the bad season, the exhibits, with the exception of those of live stock, were very creditable, those of cotton being exceptionally good.

Barbados—The Mail Contract.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEVNE) March 8th. Without doubt the question of the Royal Mail contract was a very serious one. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company did not seem inclined to abate their demand for an increased subsidy, and the Colonies were not able to afford the increase. At the same time everyone was alive to the inconvenience

of not having a fixed service, as had been the case with Australia. An important resolution in respect of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's service had been passed by the Chamber of Commerce. (This resolution is given on page 106—ED.)

There had been several incendiary cane fires, which were the more senseless as the crop was in full swing. The writer had not heard of any arrests being made. The people now evidently thought this offence could be committed with impunity.

Owing to the report of several satisfactory shipments, the export of bananas had again increased; but the account by last mail was not so good. Cotton was now being rapidly sent down to the Factory to be ginned.

The first half of the fortnight was absolutely without rain, but the past week had brought some showers to the extent of about an inch. Sugar-making was universal, as there was no time to lose, and tops in many places were drying up as was only to be expected in such weather. The young crop had stood the drought well. The juice was very sweet and the yield had much improved, many estates giving two hogheads per acre, and some more than that. The price of sugar had again improved to \$2 80 per 100 lbs. and molasses remained at 20 cents.

British Guiana—The Chamber of Commerce.

(A SUMMERSON, ESQ.) March 8th. The Combined Court completed its sitting on February 28th. (The elected members reply to the Governor's speech is given in the papers to hand by the mail.—ED.) Mr. George Garnett, as Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, called attention on February 25th to the question of the mail contract, and asked if there were only one tender and whether copies of the tenders submitted by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company had been received by the Colony. As representative of the Company, he assured the Court that it would not continue the service without a subsidy. The Governor, in reply, said that if the three tenders laid on the table were examined, it would be seen that only one could be considered, and a resolution was then passed expressing the willingness of the Court to vote in addition to the present subsidy the equivalent of its share of one half of the additional amount, not exceeding \$3,000.

Mr. Guy Wyatt presided over the half-yearly meeting of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce on Monday, March 6th. He expressed the hope that Sir Neville Lubbock would interest himself in the proposal to establish a West Indian Refinery in Canada. With regard to the proposed beet industry in the United Kingdom, the Colony had nothing to fear so long as it was put on an equal footing with the Mother Country, but if the Imperial Government were to subsidise beet as they subsidised whiskey against West Indian rum, the West Indies would be in a bad way. A resolution regarding the mail service was also passed.

The weather was too dry and good rains were wanted generally. They had had some good showers during the early part of the fortnight, but they were not enough for general requirements.

Dominica—The Withdrawal of the Troops

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.) March 6th. The feeling in the Island with regard to the withdrawal of the troops from the West Indies, was one of surprise; as the work on the Panama Canal progressed, those Islands would occupy an increasingly important position.

The seventh Agricultural Show had taken place a fortnight ago, and although the number of exhibits was practically the same as last year, there seemed to be a lack of enthusiasm about it. Sir Daniel Morris was present, but wet weather marred the proceedings of the opening ceremony. The writer thought that it had been definitely decided to hold the next Agricultural Show in some other district of the Island, and to miss a year, or perhaps two, in Roseau.

At a well attended meeting of the Agricultural Society held on February 25th, Mr. G. Downing was elected Hon. Secretary in place of Mr. A. K. Agar, who resigned the office. A most cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the retiring Secretary, who had held the post since the Society was started in 1899, and who was indeed one of its promoters. The President, Mr. Bell, read an extremely good paper on "Orange Culture in Dominica."

The Legislative Council, whose term of office recently expired, had been re-appointed *en bloc*; Mr. J. Colin Macintyre and Mr. D. O. Riviere being elected to represent the Island in the Federal Council.

The weather was very wet and windy, more like September than March, and seriously interfered with the carnival, which was then taking place.

Grenada—The Hon. Douglas Alexander.

(HON. D. S. DEFREITAS) March 9th. Quarantine restrictions were causing inconvenience by dislocating inter-colonial communication and trade. They were the more irritating because of the absence of any ground for imposing them against the Colony. Daily it was becoming more doubtful whether the team of English cricketers would visit the Island, also in consequence of these restrictions, which had already deprived them of a visit from the Squadron.

On February 15th and 16th there was a most successful race meeting at Grand Ance, organised by Mr. E. M. DeFreitas. The champion ponies from Jamaica, Trinidad, Demerara and Barbados met in keen rivalry; Mr. Darnley DeCosta's Ben Battle proved himself to be a champion among champions by winning a handsome cup given by Sir Robert Llewelyn, and three valuable races. Cups were also presented by the Hon. C. M. Browne, C. M. G., and by Messrs. Thomson, Hankey & Co.

The writer had to record the resignation by the Hon. Douglas Alexander of his seat in the Legislative Council, in consequence of his decision to reside in England for protracted periods. The deep regret with which the Legislative Council received the resignation was shared by everyone in the Colony. Mr. Alexander had held his seat for over eighteen years. The eulogies passed on him by the Governor and the Hon. C. M. Browne did not exceed his merits by a word. He did his duty without fear or favour always, and with a detachment from the personal equation as rare as it was praiseworthy. Of a blameless honour, and of a genial and sympathetic nature, his absence from the Colony would be sincerely felt and deplored by everyone.

Light rains had been falling to the great benefit of the lowlands. Nutmegs were doing as well as to give rise to the hope that they would afford compensation for the short cacao crop.

(P. J. DEAN, ESQ.) March 9th. It would be seen from the crop statistics that they were now over 20,000 bags cacao short as compared with the corresponding period last year. Even with very favourable weather it would be impossible to make this up in later pickings, and it was doubtful if they would reach to within 15,000 bags of last year's crop at the close of this one, on September 30th next.

The cotton crop in Carriacou would also be a short one; it was expected that shipments from there would be about 250 bales short of last year.

The fortnight started with good seasonable weather, bright sunshine and high winds, but this had changed to squally weather with constant showers, very unusual for the time of year.

Jamaica—The Withdrawal of the Troops.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, ESQ.) March 6th—Mr. Cork had given notice to move at the next meeting of the Council, the following resolution:—"That the Legislative Council of this loyal and ancient colony views with regret the decision arrived at by the Imperial Government to abandon the Naval Dockyard at Port Royal, and to remove the Imperial troops."

The repayment of hurricane loans to the Government would, by law, commence in June next, but a number of settlers on the north side had written asking for an extension of the time for repayment. It was understood that the Government would remain obdurate.

Montserrat—Ways and Means.

(CONRAD WATSON, ESQ.) March 8th—The annual Agricultural Show was held on February 24th. His Excellency, the Governor, and Sir Daniel Morris being present.

The object of His Excellency's visit was to make the income of the Island meet its expenditure, this meant the immediate closing of the Poor House and the Library, and increased taxation in every possible direction. An export duty of 4s. 2d. per 100 lbs. had been placed on cotton seed, equal to £4 13s. 4d. per ton. About £3 0s. 0d. per ton, was the net value, the export duty being £1 13s. 4d. more than would be received by the shippers.

The weather had been very dry for the past fortnight.

Nevis—The Agricultural Show.

(HON. C. A. SHAND), March 7th—The great event in Nevis since last mail had been the Agricultural Show, held under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture at the Court House in Charlestown, on February 28th. It proved a success beyond all anticipation, as would be realised from the fact that there were seven hundred and eleven exhibits, all of them of a meritorious character. The members of the Agricultural and Commercial Society spared no efforts to bring the show to a successful issue, and the Court House was transformed into a veritable fairy palace by means of tasteful decorations, which lent an additional charm to the splendid exhibits of flowers, fruit, vegetables, etc., etc., which were of a most attractive and exhaustive nature. Sir Daniel Morris arrived with the Administrator, Mr. Robert Bromley, at a sufficiently early hour to participate in the judging of certain classes which required the eye of an expert, and at 1.30 p.m., the time appointed for the opening of the doors, everything was in readiness. A guard of honour of the Leeward Islands Police Force received the visitors at the Court House entrance, and after an appropriate speech from the Administrator, Sir Daniel Morris gave an address which was received with the applause it deserved. The Administrator then declared the show open to the public, which included representatives of all the different sections of the community. In addition to the prizes in cash enumerated on the programme, Sir Daniel Morris selected certain winners as worthy of special commendation, and distributed among them special diplomas provided by his Department. On the whole, the show was a great success in every way, and it was hoped that it would become an annual fixture.

The cotton ginning had been unfortunate in meeting with several set-backs on account of the machinery working unsatisfactorily which had delayed matters, and a very large quantity of seed cotton was now in store. Sugar manufacture was becoming general, but the crop would be a short one.

The weather had been dry, only light showers having fallen, and high winds had prevailed.

St. Kitts—The Sugar Crop.

(CHAS. A. SMITH, ESQ.) March 7th—High winds and showers still continued, but crops were now in full swing and good progress was being made.

St. Vincent—Improvements for the Cotton Factory.

(Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co.) March 10th—The question of the mail contract had been engaging the attention of all the Colonies interested for some weeks past, and so far as St. Vincent was concerned the hope was general that some arrangement for a contract service would be made and that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company would be met in a liberal spirit.

The Agricultural Show was held on March 9th, under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in their ground at the back of Kingstown. Unfortunately, it rained nearly all day, a most unusual thing for the time of year, and this prevented visitors from being present to the same extent as last year. The exhibits, however, were really good, and it was understood that in point of numbers they outdid last year, which tended to show that increased interest was being taken by the people in preparing for this kind of exhibition.

The authorities were now putting up a new steam engine and boiler at the cotton factory, which might have been done before the beginning of the crop, as the experience of last year's ginning demonstrated this to be an actual necessity.

Trinidad—Current Events.

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C.M.G.) March 10th. The Governor had written to the members of the Planters Committee to consider the question of re-arranging the taxation for Immigration purposes, that he did not consider the present an auspicious moment to move in this matter. The indent for season 1905/6 of 2,400 Indian Immigrants was before the Legislative Council for approval. The writer moved as an amendment that 3,000 be asked for, and had the support, with the exception of one member, Mr. P. C. David, of the whole Council. Mr. Clifford dealt most effectively with Mr. David's speech, closing his remarks with a statement that he questioned "whether the most impartial Government enquiry would be able to shake an opinion so deeply rooted in prejudice." A report of the meeting would be found in the *Port of Spain Gazette* of March 7th, except that it printed "without prejudice" instead of as above.

It was rumoured that President Castro proposed to issue a decree absolutely prohibiting trade between Trinidad and Venezuela in vessels under 40 tons burden. The situation was otherwise unchanged.

The Carnival had passed off quietly. It was degenerating year by year, being now almost entirely confined to the lower classes, who masqueraded without spirit and without humour of any kind. A team of polo players had been on a visit to play the team of the Island, and had beaten the latter badly and shown them that they had much to learn.

The weather during the fortnight had been dry, breezy and very dusty, quite seasonable, but felt severely on sugar and cacao estates after the series of semi-droughts experienced during the last six months.

It was expected that the first week in April would see the close of most of the sugar factories, and if they had a continuance of the dry weather, the much belated cacao crop would be still further affected. This was felt even in the most favoured districts, and the shipments to date showed a very serious decline.

With small supplies, local prices remained firm in spite of lower advices from London. Ordinary was keenly competed for at \$11.80 and Estates grades had advanced to \$12.15. Venezuelas were unchanged at \$13.30.

		Shipments.			
Totals last return	...	26,104	Trinidad	8226	Venezuela
Feb 23	S.S. "Prins Maurits"	787	..	3	..
.. 25	S.S. "Tagus"	659	..	..	Europe
.. 28	S.S. "Crown of Navarre"	722	..	..	..
Mar. 3	S.S. "Martinique"	1951	..	555	..
.. 4	S.S. "Maracas"	2140	..	1359	New York
.. 6	S.S. "Coama"	200	..	..	Canada
.. 6	S.S. "P. Willem III."	740	..	..	New York.
.. ..	S.S. "Conway"	100	..	..	..
.. 8	S.S. "Prins Nederlanden"	685	..	..	Europe.
		44616		10143	

Letters to the Editor.

The Destruction of Mosquitoes.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Botanical Department, Trinidad, February 28th, 1905

DEAR SIR,—The paragraph in *The West India Committee Circular* with regard to "Fish and Mosquitos," is, in my opinion, founded on good evidence.

I have for some years recommended the keeping of gold and other small fishes as a means of getting rid of the larvae of the mosquito, as I have ascertained beyond a doubt by personal experiments that where fish of the right character abound, the mosquito is not permitted to carry out its process of reproduction in the same waters.

Yours faithfully,

J. H. HART.

(We are glad to be able to state that Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbon's theory, propounded in our columns, that the immunity of Barbados from the *Anopheles* mosquito and malarial fever is due to the presence in the water of Barbados of a tiny fish known locally as millions, is to be put to a practical test. Captain Farmer has taken some of the fish to Colon and Mr. Edward R. Dawson has conducted a pailful to Demerara. Further, specimens are being sent to the Zoological Society in London and to the headquarters of the United States Health Authorities. The result will be eagerly awaited.—ED.)

The Trafalgar Centenary.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I have the honour to send to you herewith for the information of your Committee, a copy of the correspondence between His Honour the Administrator of Saint Christopher, Nevis, and myself with regard to the suggested celebration of the centenary of the Battle of Trafalgar and the death of Lord Nelson.

I have been induced to send this correspondence partly in response to the invitation which your Committee has issued in its *Circular* for contributions upon matters regarding the West Indies, and partly to solicit the assistance of your Committee in obtaining for the people of Nevis subscriptions from the British public to erect a hospital to be called "Nelson's Hospital" in commemoration of the centenary of his death.

You are, from previous correspondence, aware of the circumstances in connection with my application to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the pressing need for the erection of a hospital for Nevis, as the present site being in the body of the town is a menace to the health of the inhabitants, and its area too limited for convalescent patients, and I tender to your Committee, on behalf of the people of Nevis, their thankful appreciation of the help that it afforded them in the memorial which I forwarded to the Colonial Office, and which resulted in the appointment of the Honourable C. Arthur Shand as a Member of the Executive Council of the Presidency in the interest of the people of Nevis. I must state that it was not the Government to whom the Nevisians were under an obligation for the former infirmary, as it was the gift of private individuals. The land and the principal ward being the gift of the late Honourable Peter Thomas Huggins, deceased; the second, the gift of the late Sir Thomas Graham Briggs, Bart., while, I believe, the third ward was the gift of the late Reverend Dr. Bovell, deceased. As an absolute necessity exists for the removal of the infirmary from its present site, and as the gentry of the Island are not now in the position to exercise that generosity which heretofore characterised them, the people of Nevis desire to appeal to Englishmen in the United Kingdom to whom the memory of Lord Nelson is a precious relic of the past, to subscribe to a lasting monument to his name in the erection of a hospital in Nevis, the home of his adoption, and from whence he took his bride.

May not the circumstances which the correspondence herein referred to disclose of the former proud position that the Island of Nevis once occupied; the historic facts in connection with the earlier life of Lord Nelson, his marriage in Nevis when Prince William Henry (afterwards King William IV.) gave him his bride, and the fallen position of Nevis through various causes find a responsive echo in the hearts of those who cherish Lord Nelson's memory, and stimulate them to help the Island in her hour of need by the erection of a hospital for suffering humanity, where Lord Nelson's name will ever be remembered?

I, therefore, earnestly solicit you to be good enough to lay the enclosures before your Committee, and I indulge in the hope that it will consider the circumstances of a character sufficient to induce it to grant such assistance in the creation of a fund to be put at the disposal of the Government to erect a hospital for Nevis, as a befitting commemoration of the centenary of Lord Nelson's death.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant.

THOS. LIBURD.

(The correspondence forwarded by the Hon. Thomas Liburd, which is of great historical interest, can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms. It would certainly seem appropriate that those West Indian Colonies more closely associated with the name of Nelson should take a prominent part in celebrating the Trafalgar centenary.—ED.)

Our Library.

The Library of the West India Committee is now being thoroughly reorganised. The bindings of the older books are being restored and many volumes are being rebound and it is hoped before long to issue a complete catalogue for the convenience of our Members. We are receiving much valuable assistance from Members who have been generous in giving prints and engravings to beautify our walls and books to adorn our book-shelves. At a meeting of the Executive Committee on March 22nd cordial votes of thanks were accorded to Sir Henry K. Dawson for presenting to the West India Committee a framed photogravure of the painting of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain by Professor Hubert von Herkomer, bearing the autograph signature of the right honourable gentleman and the artist, and to Mr. G. R. Sandbach for the gift of the following books:—

Jamaica, Its Past and Present State. By James M. Phillippo. Third Thousand. London, John Snow, 1843.
The History, Civil and Commercial, of the British Colonies in the West Indies. By Bryan Edwards, Esq., F.R.S., S.A. Fourth Edition, with considerable additions. 3 Vols. London: John Stockdale, 1807.

An Historical Account of the Black Mayti; comprehending a view of the principal transactions in the Revolution of St. Domingo, with its ancient and modern state. By Marcus Rainesford, Esq. London: Albion Press, 1805.

A History of the West Indies. Containing the natural, civil and ecclesiastical history of each Island. By Thomas Coke, L.L.D. 3 Vols. Vol. 1, Liverpool, Nuttall, Fisher & Dickson, 1808. Vol. 2, London & Paris, 1810. Vol. 3, London: T. Blanchard.

Narrative of a Five Years' Expedition against the Revolted Negroes of Surinam, in Guiana, on the wild coast of South America, from the year 1772 to 1777, elucidating the history of that country and describing its productions, viz. quadrupedes, birds, fishes, reptiles, trees, shrubs, fruits and roots, with an account of the Indians of Guiana and negroes of Guinca. By Capt. J. G. Steadman. 3 Vols. London: J. Johnson, 1796.

We have also to acknowledge the receipt of the following books:—

The Colonial Office List for 1905. London: Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., 10s. 6d. nett. This directory, so ably edited by Mr. W. H. Mercer, one of the Crown Agents, and Mr. A. E. Collings of the Colonial Office, maintains to a remarkable degree its reputation for accuracy and completeness without the latter characteristic involving the additions to its bulk which is so common a failing with works of reference. The present edition has as usual an account of every dependency of the Empire except those administered by the Secretary of State for India and a number of small isolated Islands, and a quantity of new maps have been inserted. We are glad to see that a half page is devoted to particulars of the West India Committee, the names of whose Hon. Correspondents are given.

Notes on Rabbit Keeping in the West Indies. Pamphlet No. 34, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 2d., post free 2½d.). Mr. John Barclay, our Hon. Correspondent in Jamaica and Secretary of the Agricultural Society of that Island, is the author of these notes which originally appeared in the Agricultural News. He deals fully with rabbit keeping in all its aspects—the breeds of rabbits, their proper housing, the principles of breeding, methods of feeding, and the most suitable and most economical foods, as well as some of the common diseases to which rabbits are liable, from *cold in the head* to *dropsy*. With regard to the breed of rabbits best suited to West Indian conditions, Mr. Barclay recommends the Belgian hare. The Imperial Department of Agriculture has imported a number of these animals, which have been kept with considerable success at the Agricultural Schools at St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Dominica, as well as at the Experiment Station at Montserrat. The officers in charge of these institutions report that Belgian hares have done well, and that the demand for the young animals is usually in excess of the supply.

Seedling and other Canes in the Leeward Islands, 1903-04. Pamphlet No. 33 of the Imperial Department of Agriculture (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 4d., post free 5d.). The result of sugar cane experiments carried on under the direction of the Imperial Department of Agriculture at Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis are summarised in a convenient form in this pamphlet. It appears that the canes which gave the best results as plant canes at Antigua last year were: Sealy Seedling, B 156, B 306, and B 208. The same four, but in a different order, head the table of means for three years, and are, therefore, together with B 109 and D 95, mentioned as promising canes for Antigua. Judged as ratoon canes B 109, Sealy Seedling, B. 306, and D 95 gave good results. The Sealy Seedling and B 306 have distinguished themselves in Antigua both as plant canes and as ratoons. At St. Kitts the first place among plant canes last season was obtained by B 393, closely followed by B 208. The latter cane heads the table of means for four years. Among ratoon canes the best were D 115, B 306, and 208, the same three occupying the head of the table of means for three years, though in different order.

His Majesty's Sloop "Diamond Rock." By H. S. Huntington. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. As a good and healthy boys' book it would be hard to beat this one, which recounts in the form of a story the history of that mass of rock to the south of Martinique, which during the French war at the beginning of last century was garrisoned by the crew of a British cruiser who hauled guns to its summit, and was rated on the Admiralty books as H.M.S. "Diamond Rock." The author is an American who seems as familiar with life in Nelson's Navy as if he had been brought up on board a 74, and it is nice to think that our cousins across the herring pond are so appreciative of British daring. Here is a typical passage which should commend itself to our youthful patriots: "A tiny spot of red—the English flag! Ah, my boys, it is a brave piece of bunting that flag, and many a brave heart has beat quicker at the sight of it: . . . And I know another flag, all vivid with stripes and stars; that is a good flag too, just as good as the red one: and they go remarkably well together." An account of the fight between the English prize "Le Curieux" and a French frigate is vividly written, and the story of Tom Reeves' wanderings in Martinique contains much local colour and is informing as well as interesting.

G. E. M. L.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Atrato" (Capt. R. H. Stranger) March 22nd:—
Barbados—Mr. D. C. Da Costa, Junr, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Coad, Mr. Ramsrop. **Demerara**—Mr. J. Fairandean, Mr. T. J. Roy, Mrs. and Miss K. Fleming, Mr. R. Dennis. **Jamaica**—Rev. J. Wynn, Mr. Kinnear, Mr. W. H. Butler, Mr.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—We have had numerous fluctuations in the price of 88% beet during the fortnight, resulting in a final fractional decline at the close on that ruling when the last Mail left. These fluctuations, in nearly all cases attributable to the realisation of the May speculative engagements, have had a very disturbing effect on the course of actual trade, sugar refiners and others hesitating to commit themselves in the present uncertainty as to how low values may go before the liquidation of the speculative engagements is finally complete. These movements in sugar are extremely pleasant all the time prices are advancing, but the inevitable aftermath always comes sooner or later, and this is what we are realising now. Outside these influences sugar is in a very sound position with an important deficiency in stocks and supplies for the next six months, which should serve to maintain something like present prices till the next beet crops approach us.

F. O. LICHT'S CONTINENTAL CONVENTION STOCKS, 1st March:—

	1905	1904	
Germany	913,000	1,323,000	Tons.
Austria	508,000	590,000	"
France	656,000	911,000	"
Holland and Belgium	133,000	297,000	"

2,210,000 ... **3,121,000** .. **Minus.**
911,000 Tons.

The closing quotations of 88% are, March, 14s. 3½d.; May, 14s. 5d.; August, 14s. 6½d.; and Oct./Dec., 11s. 5½d. all free on board Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Europe	2,320,000	3,190,000	3,030,000	2,180,000	2,490,000	Tons.
United States	220,000	130,000	180,000	120,000	190,000	"
Cuba	250,000	250,000	310,000	250,000	190,000	"
Cargoes afloat	30,000	40,000	30,000	10,000	20,000	"

Total **2,820,000** **3,610,000** **3,550,000** **2,560,000** **2,890,000** ..
Comparative prices of 88% Beet in bond:— **14s. 3½d.** **8s. 5½d.** **8s. 2½d.** **6s. 7d.** **9s. 0½d.**

Vacuum Pan Sugar—The Trade demand is still limited both for crystallised and all other kinds of sugar sold in the grocers' shops. This may change after the Budget, and stocks in this position must be greatly curtailed after the prolonged abstention from buying on the part of the retailers. When business is resumed there is none too much sugar to meet any increase in demand. The present range of values for yellow crystallised is 20s. 6d. for inferior grades, up to 22s. for fine sugar in small quantities, the value of average qualities being 21s.

For a cargo of 96 test grey crystals to Refiners, the value is 15s. 9d. on floating terms for shipment not later than June next.

Molasses Sugar is in fair demand from 14s. 6d. up to 18s. 6d. for fine grocery.

Muscovado.—The value of 89 test to Refiners is 14s. 9d. on floating conditions. Grocery kinds are nominally worth 18s. to 19s., duty paid.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Imports	8000	8400	3300	7700	Tons.
Deliveries	8700	10,200	9700	10,700	"
Stocks	9000	10,500	22,000	9100	"

Quotations of Crystallised, duty paid, average qualities **21s. 0d.** **15s. 0d.** **14s. 9d.** **15s. 6d.**

Rum—Stocks in London:

	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Jamaica	6500	7400	8700	5700	Puns.
Demerara	6100	12,400	10,100	9700	"
Total of all kinds:—	12,600	29,800	18,800	15,400	"

There is no change in prices, the market being quite but steady. The recent advance in Demerara is causing buyers to hesitate but the small stocks as shown above lead to strength. The range values is 1s. 2½d. to 1s. 4½d., with fair Marks are still quoted from 1s. to 1s. 5d.

Cocoa—Stocks in London **82,000** **74,000** **85,000** **86,000** Bags.

On the whole the market is steady but the general tone is without any indication of activity. Trinidad remains dull of sale at recent quotations. Grenada and other British Island Cocoa has met with rather more competition at a fractional improvement in prices. The closing quotations are, Trinidad fair collected, 55s. Estate Marks 55s. to 60s. Grenada fair Native, 52s. fermented, 53s. 6d. to 54s. 6d. Native Cocoa from other Islands is worth 48s. to 50s. and fermented 52s. to 54s. There is no special feature calling for remark.

Coffee—Unchanged. Good ordinary Jamaica, 37s. to 38s.

Nutmegs—Recent sales of West Indian include 74's at 18s., and 101's at 7½d. **Pepper**—Pale West Indian sold at 1s. 7d., and broken, 1s. to 1s. 1d. **Pimento**—Dull and easier. Value of fair, 2½d. to 2½d. **Spice**—Retail sales of Jamaica, small dark, 30s. 6d. to 31s. 6d.

Arrowroot—Steady, but quiet. The fortnight sales aggregate 200 barrels at 1½d. to 1½d., chiefly the former price. Stocks in London: **8105** **10,745** **13,352** **8465** **7767** Brls.

Lime Juice—Ranges from 9d. up to 1s., for fine. Concentrated, in better demand, value £15. Hand Pressed, quiet, quotations, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, little doing, value, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d.

Some West Indian Securities.

Bank Rate **2½%** (changed from 3% on March 9th, 1905), Consols **91½d.**

Colonial Bank.

The report for the half year ended December 31st shows a profit balance, including £20,163 brought forward, of £43,769. The directors recommend a dividend of 3½ per cent. for the half year, against 3 per cent. a year ago, leaving £22,769 to be carried forward. Scarcely any change, it is stated, has taken place in the situation; there have been no serious climatic or commercial disturbances. The weather generally throughout the West Indies has been too dry for the sugar crop, which will be short, but the prices now being obtained for both sugar and rum should leave planters a fair margin for profit. According to Sir Daniel Morris, "considerable progress has been made with cotton-growing," and he estimates that "the crop of Sea Island cotton to be reaped by the end of May will reach some 5,000 bales (of 300 lbs. each), and be of the value of about £100,000." The banana crop in Jamaica promises well, but that colony is still suffering from the effects of the hurricane of 1903.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

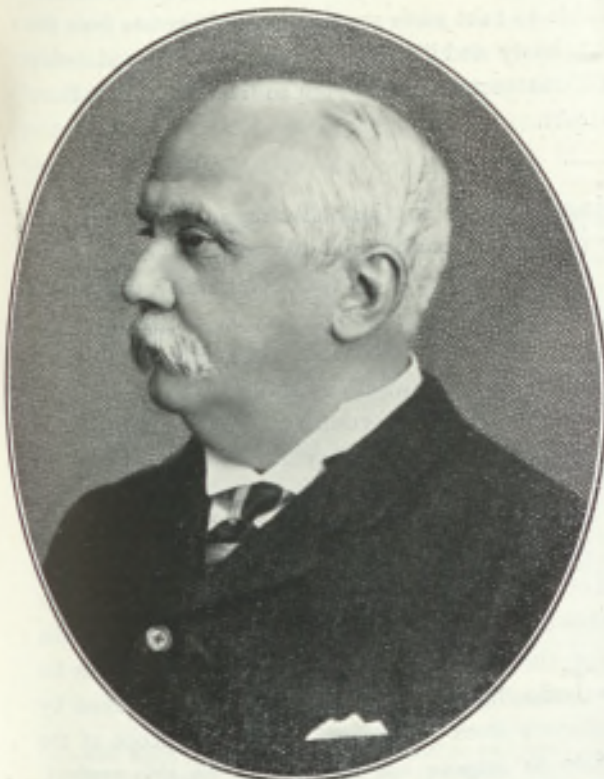
No. XL.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

April 10th, 1905

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.



Sir Charles Bruce, G.C.M.G.

WE can hardly be surprised at the indignation shown by the West Indian Colonies against their treatment by the Colonial Office in the matter of the Mail Contract, and letters have fully confirmed the telegrams, which stated that all the Colonies were in favour of a renewal of the existing contract being granted to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, by whom they have been hitherto so admirably and punctually served. Can anything be more unbusiness-like, or show a greater disregard for the feelings of the colonists than the manner in which the important question of their communication with the Mother-country has been handled? When tenders were called for by the Government only one firm, the R.M.S.P. Co. submitted any; three separate proposals were made by this firm, and we naturally ask why, when these proposals formed a good basis for discussion, they were not communicated in full to each separate Colonial Government, and discussed? No action was more likely to cause offence and delay than that adopted. One proposal only, to meet which a

large additional payment from the Colonies was requested, was telegraphed to the West Indies; it was

the Governor, requesting that the views of this Council, as expressed in this Resolution, may be conveyed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by cable."

The Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, March 28th :

"That this Chamber, whilst adhering to the terms of the Resolution passed on January 24th, would view with regret the discontinuance of a regular Mail connection with Great Britain and the West Indies which has been enjoyed for so many years, and looking at the present excellence and efficiency of the Service provided by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, is of opinion that the best interests of the Colony would be served by the renewal of the contract with the Company, it being distinctly understood that such renewal would not involve payment by Trinidad of a larger sum than at present, and that the advantages secured were commensurate with the proportion of subsidy paid by the Colony as stipulated in the Resolution referred to, viz. : £9600 per annum if Trinidad is made the head-quarters, £4600 otherwise."

The Jamaica Legislative Council, March 28th :

"That, in the opinion of this Council, it will be to the benefit of this Island to continue the existing arrangements with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, rather than that a contract, even if offered at low rate, should be made with any other competing Company."

The Adulteration of Molasses.

The question of the adulteration of Barbados molasses with inferior products has been engaging the attention of the West India Committee, and at a meeting of the Executive held on March 30th, it was decided to communicate with the Colonial Office and the High Commissioner of Canada on the subject. The present position of the matter is set out very clearly in a petition which the Members of the Barbados Agricultural Society and Chamber of Commerce have sent through the Governor, Sir Gilbert Carter, to the Governor-General of Canada. The petitioners point out that anything that tends to depreciate the value of the superior quality of molasses obtained in Barbados from Muscovado sugar causes considerable loss, not only to the producers, but indirectly to the whole community.

On March 13th, the Agricultural Society and Chamber of Commerce addressed a letter to Sir Frederic Hodgson, the then Governor of Barbados, on the subject of mixtures of inferior molasses which were being made and sold in Canada, even in the packages of a well known and old-established firm in the island, and branded with their name as *bona fide* Barbados molasses; and they stated that these mixtures were being sold at much cheaper rates than those ruling for the genuine article, the legitimate trade in Barbados molasses being thereby prejudicially affected.

These representations were forwarded to the proper quarter, the Secretary of State having been received, Mr. Lyttelton again called the attention of the Governor-General to the matter, but no further reply was communicated to Barbados. On September 12th, 1903, Sir Daniel Morris and Mr. J. R. Bovell, in the course of their visit to the United States in the interests of the cotton industry, by permission of the Governor, obtained as much information as they could on matters bearing on the molasses trade with the United States and Canada. In a special report on this subject, they stated* : "Mixtures containing molasses from other countries, and glucose syrup made from Indian corn were repeatedly sold as *bona fide* molasses," and 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."

On January 21st last, an old-established firm in Halifax in a circular letter to their West Indian correspondents regarding the molasses market, stated : "There is quite a quantity of common grades for the 1903-4 crops still on hand; that description can only be sold to mixers out of which to manufacture 'choice Barbados and Puerto Rico molasses' to swindle the public," and on February 4th, the correspondents of a Barbados firm in Nova Scotia stated : "We note that a vessel is wanted to bring 3,000 barrels of molasses from New Orleans to Halifax. This, we have no doubt, is for a firm of mixers here, and as there is no sale whatever in Canada for New Orleans molasses, we have no doubt it will be manufactured and branded "Choice Grocery Barbados Molasses." We really think it would be worth while your Government taking action in this matter, as a fraud is certainly perpetrated at the expense of your Colony." This makes it perfectly clear that the adulteration complained of is still continuing, and the petitioners have, therefore, asked the Secretary of State once more to call the attention of the Governor-General of Canada to the matter.

According to the Canadian Acts relating to the adulteration of foods, drugs and fertilisers, the mixing of inferior articles or cheaper substitutes in imitation of, or sold under the name of another article, constitutes an adulteration, and the offender or offenders are liable on conviction to a heavy penalty; and, we hope, that on representations being made, the proper bodies in Canada may be induced to undertake similar steps to secure the conviction of offenders, as are taken in this country by the Councils.

* Pamphlet No. 28 of the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

Megass as an Absorbent.

With a view to demonstrate the reason for the remarkable absorbing power of the cells of the sugar-cane, the photo-micrographs illustrating these notes have been prepared. Of these, fig. 1 is a longitudinal section of the interior of the sugar-cane showing the cells and tube through which the juice is diffused into them. (30 diameters.)

Fig. 2 is a transverse section of the same, but without showing the end of diffusing tube. (30 diameters.)

And fig. 3 is a greatly enlarged photo showing the end of one of the diffusing tubes and clearly demonstrating that they have a number of inner tubes constituting what are technically known as vascular bundles. (70 diameters.)

From the latter it will be seen the smaller cells appear to radiate from these bundles and gradually growing more distended with juice are displaced by succeeding ones and thus pressed further from the source of supply.

When the sugar cane is under pressure these cells discharge their contents, but sponge-like they rebound on removal of pressure, more or less to their natural size. The writer has often noticed (especially on single low pressure crushing mills) the stream of juice running back to be re-absorbed by the expanding megass and lost as a source of sugar. If practicable, it would be desirable could engineers devise some vacuum suction attachment that would draw this juice from

the roller. The walls that form these cells are not woody indigestible fibre, but digestible cellulose. On analysis they are found to be digestible to the extent of 75 %, therefore they have a feed value for animals, and as a medium for absorbing the molasses nothing could be better. The first experiments confirming this were made at "Rose Hall Estate," British Guiana, where the greatest assistance was given by Mr. Strang, the then building's manager. He and the writer found that 15 % of the fine dry "Cush Cush," as the fine cellular matter is called, that had settled about the factory was capable of completely absorbing 85 % of molasses. It is not desirable, however, to make molasses possible because it subsequently proved on shipment to be liable to set or cake in lumps.

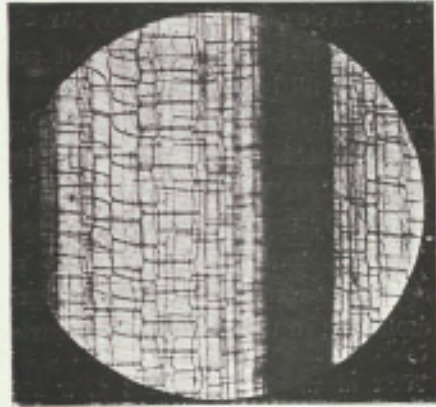


FIG. 1.

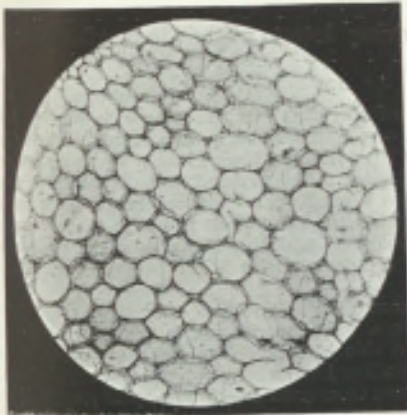


FIG. 2.

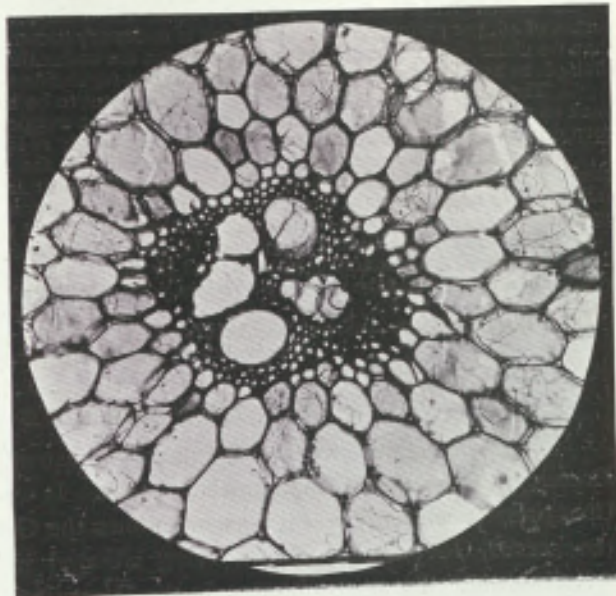


FIG. 3.

The article is sold to the British farmer as a meal suitable for mixing with his other feeds, which has not always been possible in the condition it arrived, in fact, like any new industry, it has had to pass through experimental stages. It is to be anticipated with the latest formula of 25 % of finely screened megass meal, 75 % of molasses, and the product dried to a maximum of 15 % moisture that these defects will be overcome.

The remarks made by Mr. G. Hughes at the East Sussex Farmers Club may bear repetition, viz.:

"Everyone knows that sugar pure and simple cannot be taken in any quantity at a time, because, all being soluble at once, it would nauseate and upset the digestion, but I will show you that molascuit slowly gives up its saccharine matter in a simple experiment by mixing water and decanting, when water is poured upon the sediment, you will note it still yields sweetening matter. It is, therefore, practically a natural food made entirely from the one product, the sugar cane, almost in its natural state, only the cells charged with concentrated molasses instead of original juice."

In conclusion there is no reason to doubt a future awaits this new product judging from the opinions expressed by eminent agricultural chemists, and amply confirmed by those feeding stock on molascuit in this and other countries.

The Rum Surtax.

On March 25th the West India Committee sent the following letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer:—

SIR,—In October last we had the honour to address you on the subject of the surtax of 4d. per gallon imposed by the British Government on rum coming from our West Indian Colonies, and our remarks were then more particularly connected with the bearing of this question upon the appointment of the Duty Free Alcohol Committee; we now venture to approach you in the hope that you will see your way in the forthcoming Budget to recommend the adjustment of the spirit duties in such a manner as to remove the injustice to which distillers in the West Indian Colonies have so long been subjected through the incidence of this impost, which the Royal Commissioners, who visited the West Indies in 1897, characterised as "unsound in principle," adding that it entailed hardship on the Colonies, and that the answer of the Home Government to previous remonstrances could not be considered satisfactory. (Report of the West India Royal Commission, 1897, pages 15 and 16, §§ 95 to 103)

The West India Committee do not wish to trouble you with a lengthy communication on this subject, as they have already so fully expressed their views to you, Sir, and to your predecessors. What we ask is that the distillers in the British West Indies may be put upon 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 regulations 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 surtax of 4d. per gallon appears at present to be based on a report of the Board of Inland Revenue dated as far back as 1866, and still includes an allowance of 3d. as compensation for duty on foreign grain, in spite of the fact that the corn duties were abolished in 1869 and only temporarily re-imposed for one year in 1902.

But it is in the case of spirit for methylation that the hardship is most felt. Spirit manufactured in this country, if used for methylation, is duty free, while methylated spirit imported from the Colonies has to pay a duty of 11s. 3d. per gallon. We wish to make it quite clear that we ask for no preferential treatment; but merely that we may be granted equality of opportunity with the British distiller, which is at present denied to us.

This matter has been the subject of constant representations from the West India Committee, the West India Associations of Glasgow and Liverpool, and British Guiana and the West Indian Colonies, and we venture to hope that you will be pleased to take it once more into your most earnest consideration.

We have, etc.,

The Right Hon. Austen Chamberlain, M.P.,
Chancellor of the Exchequer.

NEVILLE LUBBOCK, Chairman
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

The Administrator's Residence, St. Kitts.

The house depicted in our full-page illustration is "Springfield," in St. Kitts, where Sir Robert Bromley, the present Administrator, resides. It was also the home of his predecessor, Mr. Charles T. Cox, prior to whose régime it was sometimes the Governor's house and sometimes the Administrator's, the actual Government House being situated in the town of Basseterre. The upper part of "Springfield," like many houses in the West Indies, is built of wood and the lower of stone, as a protection against earthquakes. The roof is made of shingles painted red. The mountain at the back is known as Olivees, while the tree in the foreground is the Plumeria or Frangipanni, which gives its name, though not often its blossoms, to the fragrant perfume.

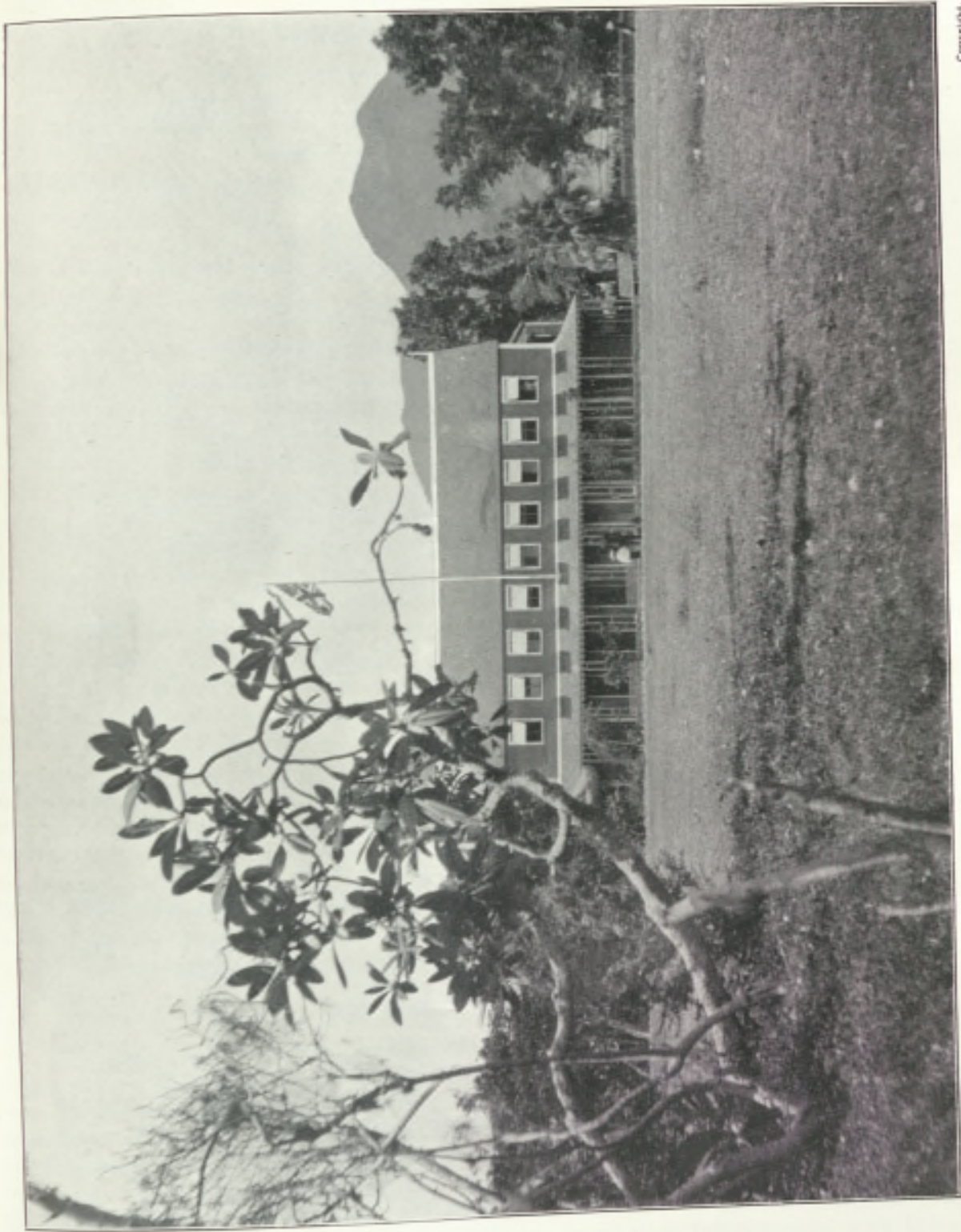


Photo by ALBERTSON E. ASPESALE.

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THE ADMINISTRATOR'S RESIDENCE, ST. KITTS.

The Opposition and the Sugar Convention.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman received a joint deputation from the Confectioners' Association of the United Kingdom and the Manufacturing Confectioner's Alliance, in his private room at the House of Commons on April 6th, with reference to the Sugar Duties and the Brussels Convention.

Mr. E. EDWARDS, the President of the Confectioners' Association of the United Kingdom, said that before 1901, when the sugar tax was imposed as a war tax, sugar had been cheap for a long time, and the trade was flourishing. If no relief was given in the Budget they asked the Opposition to move an amendment calling for the abolition of the sugar duties; and if the Liberal party came into power he hoped that they would give notice at the earliest opportunity that the Brussels Sugar Convention would not be renewed.

The deputation also asked the Liberal leaders to denounce the Convention, and if the Budget gave no relief to sugar, to move an amendment calling for the abolition of the duties.

The other speakers were Mr. BLACKWELL (Crosse and Blackwell), Mr. ROWNTREE, of York, Mr. BROWN (a working man of Stockport), and Mr. PASCALL.

Sir HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, in reply, said that the action of the Opposition in the past had shown that they had a very keen sympathy with the deputation on the question of the sugar duties and also upon the Sugar Convention. The Opposition were a coherent body on those questions; and as he was obliged to go elsewhere, Mr. Bryce would express their views.

Mr. BRYCE said that they were aware of the great blow to the sugar trade by the operation of the sugar duty and partly by the Convention. It had caused suffering to the poor, and especially to women and children, and had been a great injury to the community. This was a war tax which fell upon all classes, and especially the poor; and it ought to be a warning to the country in future to maintain a more pacific sentiment. As to the sugar duty itself, their personal opinion was that the tax ought to be the first to be taken off, as it was a burden upon industry. The principle had been laid down by Sir Robert Peel and Mr. Gladstone as part of sound finance, that where they had to choose between two taxes they ought, if possible, to avoid taxing an article which stimulated industries. Sugar was a valuable food of the poor, which was another point in their favour. To the Convention the Opposition were strongly opposed, not only in regard to the sugar trade, but because it was foolish on the part of the Government to fetter itself and destroy its own fiscal freedom by putting us in the hands of a commission of protectionist Powers who would not be altogether sorry to expose us to some disadvantages. Of course he could not say what any future Government would do, but any Liberal Government would be obliged to consider the whole thing *de novo* in the light of the principles they had so often expressed. When it came to a practical question the deputation might be certain that it would hold a very high place in their thoughts.

The Second Fruit Show.

The second show of Colonial produce, held under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society at their spacious hall in Vincent Square, Westminster, was opened on March 30th for two days. In view of the forthcoming Colonial and Indian Exhibition, for which the Colonies are busily preparing, it was not found possible for the West India Committee to organise an official exhibit; but, nevertheless, through the enterprise of several individual members, the West Indies were strongly represented. The exhibitors included Messrs. James Philip & Co., the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, Messrs. William Pink & Sons, and Messrs. L. Rose & Co., who provided elaborate stalls, while a striking feature of the exhibition was a display of general West Indian produce, made by the Army and Navy Stores, and of fruits by the Army and Navy Auxiliary Stores.

The gold medal of the Royal Horticultural Society was awarded to Messrs. J. Philip & Co.,

for their extensive and interesting exhibit, which was well set out on a long table, and included cane sugar, bananas (fresh, dried, and preserved), with banana flour, citrus fruits, coffee, cotton, and every conceivable kind of West Indian pickles and preserves; they showed too a very large variety of



The Cashew Nut.

This is one of the illustrations reproduced from "The Book of Trinidad" which graced the pages of the R.M.S.P. Company's catalogue of the recent Colonial Fruit Show.

remembered that this is by no means the time of year when these West Indian fruits are seen to the best advantage, and that the distance of the Colonies from the United Kingdom makes early picking of the fruit a necessity, and renders it extremely difficult to ensure its arrival in the very best condition.

It will be remembered that Mr. W. G. Freeman, in his lecture on West Indian fruit at the West India Committee Rooms on January 25th, laid special emphasis on the good done by such exhibitions as those of the Royal Horticultural Society in bringing our colonial fruits before the public, and if the suggestion made some time ago, that permanent exhibition committees should be formed in the islands, were carried out, representative and interesting displays could be ensured for these exhibitions with a minimum expenditure of time and money.

Testimonial to Capt. Baker.

At a large and representative gathering at the Myrtle Bank Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica, on March 15th, Capt. L. D. Baker, the pioneer of the banana industry of that Colony, was the recipient of a testimonial consisting of an elegant silver service and an address in appreciation of his services. The day chosen for the function was Capt. Baker's sixty-fifth birthday. The Archbishop of Jamaica opened the proceedings, and spoke of the devotion, the energy, and the generosity of the gentleman to whom they were doing honour. Capt. Baker was an American, and he was glad that the man who had done so much for that ancient British Colony, was a worthy representative of that noblest type of American citizen which New England had produced in such great numbers. Colonel Ward having spoken, Dr. Pringle reminded those present that when Capt. Baker was associated with Mr. J. E. Kerr and Mr. George Solomon, he was not satisfied with the small beginnings. He realised the probability of an enormous industry in bananas, and he went out in his schooners and extended that trade, which spread all over America to England, and even promised to extend to the Continent. Mr. Charles E. de Mercado then said a few words, and Mr. Robert Craig related how in the early eighties Capt. Baker

vegetables (nearly all of them but little known in this country), and bottled fruits and vegetables from Canada. The bananas shown were of the "Gros Michel" brand, and *Musa Cavendishii* variety, the former from Jamaica, and the latter the well-known "Dagger" brand from Barbados. Messrs. W. Pink & Sons also exhibited four fine bunches of this kind, together with photographs showing how the fruit grows and how it is packed, and the difference in size of various kinds of bananas.

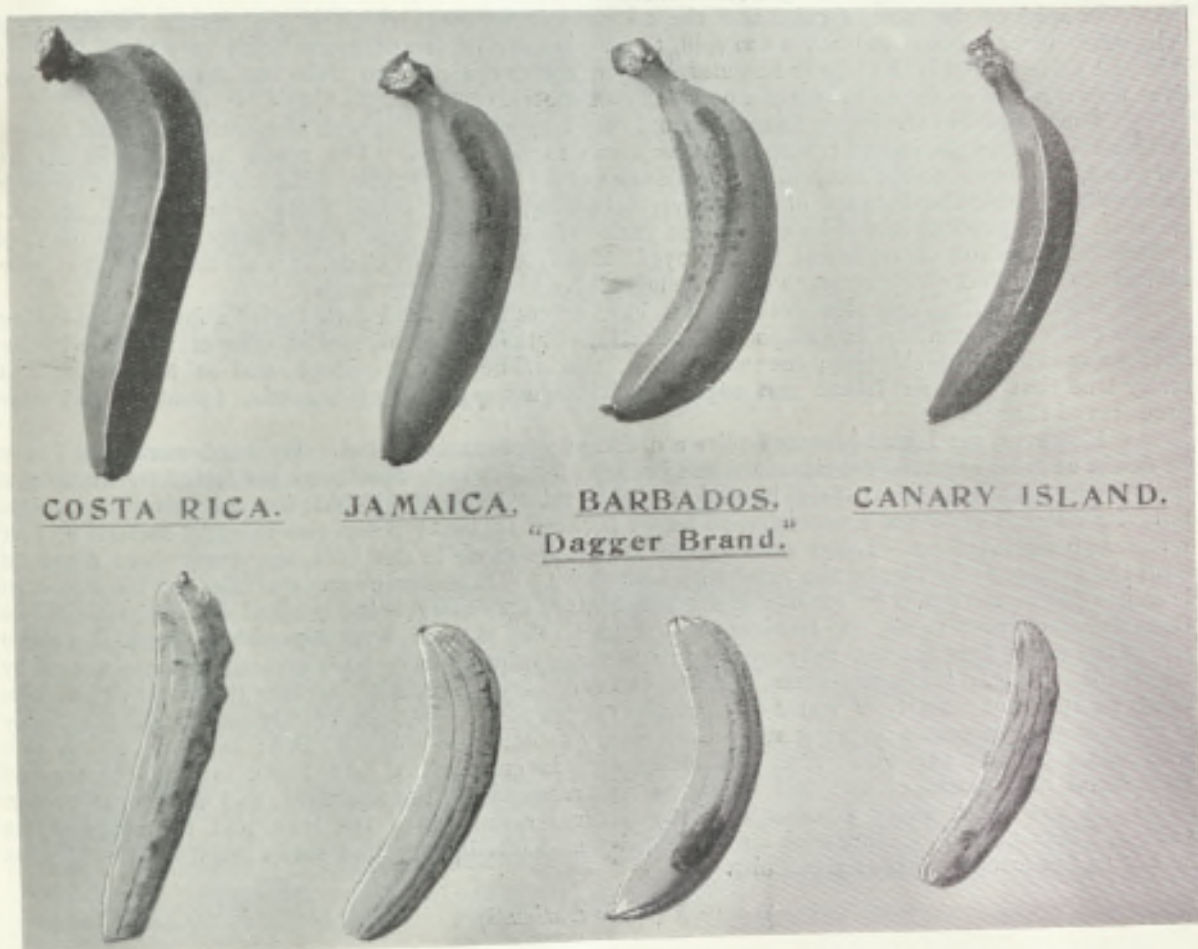
The bananas shown by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, included a very good bunch of the "claret" description, and one of the small "lady's finger" banana, in addition to which there were the usual citrus fruits, many varieties of yams, sweet potatoes, star apples, plantains, custard apples, papaws, besides preserves, pickles, and plants in bottles. An attractive pamphlet was distributed by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, descriptive of the exhibits, which was rendered doubly interesting by illustrations of some of the less known fruits.

On other tables were to be found exhibits of English grown fruits sent for the purposes of comparison, among which the oranges and lemons grown in Glamorganshire, and the oranges, lemons, and shaddocks from Sawbridgeworth, excited general admiration. It was agreed that the quality of the English fruit was much superior to that of the Colonies, but it must be

attempted to ship from Port Antonio. When he came to Port Antonio, the steamship company had filled up the space and left only the deck to pack the fruit on. Capt. Baker was very wrath, and his, the speaker's first acquaintance with him was seeing the Captain swinging over the taffrail, and going with the ship to New York to get his rights. Capt. Baker had done more than all Governments had done for Jamaica. There was no pioneer who built up so substantial a business and created such a trade as Capt. Baker had done. Mr. A. McDowall Nathan having spoken, Mr. Middleton, the Secretary, read the address, and Capt. Baker having replied, the proceedings were brought to a close.

The Canary Banana Industry.

Mrs. A. Maude Bateman, who is a Member of the West India Committee, has been kind enough to communicate to us the following interesting particulars regarding banana cultivation in Grand Canary.



Various Types of Bananas.

On the occasion of the recent Exhibition of Colonial Fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Mr. Frank Pink of Portsmouth, delivered a lecture on Bananas, and showed this striking picture to demonstrate the difference between various kinds of Bananas. Mr. Pink is one of the pioneers of the Barbados Banana Industry. The picture shows the fruit with and without the skin.

The Spanish, in their wisdom, have chosen for production in these Islands, which are off the north-west coast of Africa, articles which do not require any excess of labour, such as cochineal, the vine, and the banana, and it is possibly the influx of the English, full of energy and anxious to make money quickly, both as growers and shippers, which has provided the Spaniard with the necessary backbone to overcome the difficulties of irrigation, disease, and transport. Be this as it may, the

Island of Grand Canary is most flourishing, and most of our West Indian Colonies might learn many a lesson from its agricultural and trade history.

Very many years ago, before the Spaniards possessed it, the islands were covered with luxuriant forests, from mountain peak nearly to the water level, and from the appearance of the water-worn rocks and dry river beds or barancos, the island must in those days have been lavishly supplied with water. However, the trees were cut down, and I have no doubt brought a fortune to the islands, and either through ignorance, or carelessness, or selfishness, or perhaps a little of all, fresh trees were not planted, and consequently the soil became thin and unfertile, and the valuable rainfall—I was going to say—ceased. One might almost say it has ceased when we consider that the mean rainfall for a year in Grand Canary is 8 inches, truly a very meagre supply, and one can hardly credit such a fact when coming from Sierra Leone on the West Coast of Africa, only five to six days off by steamer, where the mean rainfall is 156 inches a year. The little rain there is in the Canaries comes down in the so-called winter months, between November and April, and a good or bad winter is judged by the quantity of rain; last winter being a good one.

In spite of the lack of rain, and the all prevailing dust which is the result, the climate is delightful, never too hot and never too cold, the variations in temperature being very small. In fact it is just perfect, and is the happy home of many a consumptive who went out there to die, and who lives now a moral example to many a poor fellow sufferer.

The Island is of volcanic formation, and very rugged and hilly, with alternating hills and valleys, and for this reason the inland transport leaves much to be desired. The roads in most districts are very bad, and owing to the steep hills, in order to get an easy slope, they wind backwards and forwards and perhaps treble the distance of the proverbial crow, and in many more districts they are non-existent. The produce has to be carried on pack-mules, a slow means of transport, but it does not matter what means of transport is employed, donkeys, mules, or carts, it is all slow, and it is really difficult to see what quicker means could be adopted without a large outlay.

On first arrival one sees nothing but long stretches of sand dotted with a few foreign-looking houses collected sometimes in groups and sometimes standing alone, and in spite of the busy looking harbour crowded with shipping, one wonders at the aridity of the outlook, and as to whether it is really true that such an Island can export such large quantities of bananas, tomatoes, and other products of the soil.

However, the Island presents quite a different appearance inland. By hard work, and I have no doubt at great expense, the Spaniard has brought fertility and wealth to his island by means of a most ingenious system of artificial irrigation. The rainfall is small, but for successful agricultural pursuits water is of course a necessity, so he set to work to build reservoirs in every suitable spot for watering his plantations. Large reserve reservoirs were made in the hills, and these were connected with the smaller reservoirs in the valleys by aqueducts. These reservoirs are filled by the rain when it comes down, and again by springs in the mountains, the water being pressed by volcanic pressure from the arenaceous rocks, and sometimes it comes to the surface with astonishing force. In places where the water does not naturally come to the surface, pumps have been erected and are worked by windmills. By careful management, and by carefully and jealously guarding the water rights, there exists no apparent scarcity of water for agricultural purposes. We can readily understand that happy is the man who possesses a spring and the necessary motor power of his own; and woe to the man who uses a gallon more water than the amount he is entitled to. As I got into the country and understood the system of artificial irrigation as arranged by the Spaniard, and the clever way in which he has taken every advantage of the natural resources of the land, and the shape of the valleys, I became full of admiration for his tenacity and intelligence, and easily understood the success he has had in former years as a colonist.

(To be continued).

The Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

Mr. J. H. Hart representing Trinidad, is the first delegate to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition to arrive. He landed at Southampton on April 6th, with over one hundred and fifty packages of exhibits and a quantity of bamboos seventy-five feet long for decorating the court. He will be followed later by another delegate, Mr. John Barclay from Jamaica who should arrive on April 20th, and Mr. Frank Cundall of the Jamaica Institute. The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, who is representing Barbados should arrive on May 3rd, in time for the opening of the Exhibition by the Lord Mayor of London and the Sheriffs, on May 12th to which date the opening ceremony has now been postponed for the convenience of his Lordship.

Several meetings of the general exhibition committee have been held, the last being on April

3rd, when there were present Sir Noël Walker, Mr. Sidney Olivier, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. H. F. Previté, Mr. J. A. Chambers, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary. In addition to the exhibitors already mentioned, Messrs. L. Rose and Co., well-known for their famous limes and lime preparations, and Messrs. F. Everington & Co., of Dominica, have decided to take space within the West Indian Court. Vouchers have now been received from the Crystal Palace Club admitting our members to the privilege of membership, and these will be obtainable in due course.

The Cotton Industry.

It will be remembered that in April last year when a conference took place between representatives of the British Cotton Growing Association and the West India Committee, we suggested the advisability of cotton experts being sent out to the Colonies. An effort was made to induce the Government to provide funds for this purpose but they did not see their way to. The British Cotton Growing Association then generously decided to make a grant to strengthen the hands of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in this direction. This has enabled Sir Daniel Morris, the Commissioner of Agriculture, to secure the services of Mr. Thornton, who has been appointed cotton inspector in the West Indies. His work will consist of visiting the various plantations and giving advice where necessary. At present, he is specially engaged in making a careful microscopical examination and testing the strength of the fibre. He will also make careful note whatever pests appear, and make provision for their extermination. It is unnecessary to add that this action of the British Cotton Growing Association is very warmly appreciated in the West Indies.

Cotton is now coming forward very freely from the West Indies and the quality seems to be well maintained. During the past fortnight 403 bales were imported into the United Kingdom. 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.

The Barbados Railway.

We are now able to state that the Bridgetown and St. Andrew's Railway, Barbados, has been purchased and are glad to be able to add that in a short time arrangements for working it under the new régime will be completed. Meanwhile, it will probably be carried on as at present, trains being run to meet requirements.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

Military Works at St. Lucia.

On April 4th Lord Tweedmouth asked the Under-Secretary for War whether he could now state the total amount which had been spent on barracks, hospital, and other works in St. Lucia under the War Office or other departments of the Government.

The Earl of Donoughmore said that, as far as he could ascertain, the policy of having considerable works at St. Lucia dated from the third report of Lord Carnarvon's Committee, which was laid before Parliament in 1882. That Committee recommended the adoption of St. Lucia as a coaling station in preference to English Harbour in Antigua. Since 1888, the date of the passing of the Imperial Defence Act, the expenditure at St. Lucia by the War Office was, roughly, £480,000. He was informed that the Admiralty had spent £9,945, raised partly on the Estimates and partly on loan, and the Colonial Office had made no expenditure for Imperial purposes there.

Sugar Beet in England.

On March 28th, Mr. Fellowes in reply to Mr. Bright (Shropshire, Oswestry) said: Several experiments in the cultivation of sugar beet have been carried out in this country, and so far as they go it would appear that the yield compares favourably, both as to quality and quantity, with that obtained in Germany. The information in our possession as to the commercial results of the cultivation of sugar beet is much too meagre to enable me to say that its growth could be profitably undertaken here; but we will keep the matter in view and issue from time to time such information respecting it as may be available and likely to be of service to farmers.

The Sugar Duty.

To a question by Mr. Lough, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has replied: The average

gross rate of duty received on sugar in each financial year since the re-imposition of the Sugar Duty, up to March 31st, 1904, and in the eleven months up to February 28th, 1905, is as follows:—

	s.	d.
Financial year ended March 31st, 1902, the cwt.	3	10'87
" " 1903, "	3	10'21
" " 1904, "	3	11'49
11 months ended February 28th, 1905, "	4	0'06

The increase in the average gross rate in 1904 and in 1905 is due to the fact that, previous to September 1st, 1903, sugar which was imported to be refined in this country was duty paid while in an unrefined condition, and that, from September 1st, 1903, sugar imported to be refined in Great Britain has not been duty paid until after refinement. As a consequence, the average cwt. of sugar, duty paid while unrefined, being of a lower polarization and sweetening power than the average cwt. of sugar now duty paid on delivery from a refinery, was necessarily assessed at a lower average rate of duty. The number of samples of sugar polariscopically examined by the Customs in the above periods and the cost of such examination was as follows:—

	Number of samples polariscopically examined.	Cost of examina- tion thereof.
Financial year ended March 31st, 1902	25,706	£2,159
" " 1903	28,005	2,471
" " 1904	28,176	2,380
11 months ended February 28th, 1905	23,369	1,934

The annual cost to the country of supervising the British sugar refineries in bond is estimated, under present conditions, at £15,600. I am advised that the system of levying the sugar duty on polariscopic test is accepted without demur by all engaged in the trade, and that the polariscopic method of testing sugar is simple, rapid, and accurate, no better method being known or required. Both at home and abroad it is a method understood and practised with satisfactory results both by Governments for sugar revenue and by those engaged in the sugar industry. In view of these considerations, I am not prepared to recommend any alteration in the existing system of collecting the duty.

The London School of Tropical Medicine.

Those of our Members who wish to be present at the Banquet to be held at the Hotel Cecil on May 10th in connection with the London School of Tropical Medicine, are requested to notify the Secretary, if they have not already done so. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain is to preside, and he will be supported by Mr. Lyttelton, the Secretary of State for the Colonies. There will be no charge for dinner tickets; but the number is limited and it is expected that those attending the Banquet will subscribe an amount which will pay for the dinner and also leave a substantial balance over for the good of the hospital. Since we last went to press we have to acknowledge the following donations and promises: Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co., £10 10s.; Sir James S. Hay, K.C.M.G., £2 2s.; Mr. H. F. Previté, £2 2s. These, with the amount already acknowledged in our columns, brings the total amount received in response to our appeal to £103 7s. od.

Notes of Interest.

- CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.** Mr. William Gillespie has been elected a member of the Council of the London Chamber of Commerce.
- CABLE DELAY.** The Martinique-Paramaribo cable was interrupted on April 2nd. Messages are being sent by post from Demerara.
- THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.** At the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club on Wednesday, April 5th, those present included Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. G. Barnard, Mr. L. Hudson, Mr. C. J. Parkinson, Mr. A. Elder, Mr. F. W. Scott, and Mr. W. A. M. Goode.
- OVERSEERS REGISTER.** Estates Managers and Proprietors requiring overseers are informed that a list of applicants for such posts is 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.
- CANADIAN VISITORS.** The Secretary of the West India Committee has been appointed to serve on the Committee of the London Chamber of Commerce now sitting with a view to draw up the programme for the visit of the delegates of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association who are to arrive in this country in the middle of June.

OBITUARY. It is with very great regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Arthur F. Turnbull, which took place from heart failure on Wednesday morning last. Mr. Turnbull was formerly a member of the firm of Messrs. Gregor, Turnbull & Co., of Glasgow, which was lately dissolved, and since then he has been actively engaged in London in furthering the sale of molasses cattle food, and had established an office in Mark Lane. He and his firm before him were for many years Members of the West India Committee, and he was also an original Member of the West Indian Club. The funeral took place yesterday afternoon at Willesden Cemetery.

MAIL OPPORTUNITIES. The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and R.M. Steamers after the departure of the West India Mail to-morrow, are advertised: S.S. "Crown of Castile" from Glasgow, for Barbados, Trinidad and Demerara, April 13th.; S.S. "Yucatan" from Liverpool for Barbados and Trinidad, April 14th.; the R.M.S. "Port Maria" from London for Bermuda, Turk's Island, and Kingston, April 14th.; S.S. "Crown of Navarre" from London for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, and Demerara, April 20th.; and the R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Bristol for Kingston, Jamaica, on April 22nd.

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN GERMANY. According to statistics published in the *Reichsanzeiger*, the quantity of raw sugar produced in Germany during the period from September 1st, 1904, to February 28th last, being the first six months of the 1904-5 sugar campaign, was 1,333,279 metric tons, as compared with 1,625,299 metric tons during the corresponding months of 1903-4. The quantity of refined sugar produced increased from 753,477 metric tons during the six months September, 1903, to February, 1904, to 786,043 metric tons during the six months September, 1904, to February, 1905. The total quantity of beets used during the first half of the present campaign was 10,080,538 metric tons, as compared with 12,677,099 metric tons during the corresponding months of 1903-4. The total output of sugar (raw and refined) during the period September, 1904, to February last, expressed in terms of raw sugar, was 1,510,461 tons, as compared with 1,832,523 metric tons in the corresponding months of 1903-4.

The Homeward Mail.

A number of our Members including Mr. G. Christall, Mr. A. McD. Nathan, Colonel Blagrove, Mr. D. Q. Henriques, Mr. A. Crum Ewing, Mr. G. R. Alston, Hon. Walsh Wrightson, C.M.G., Mr. J. H. Hart, Mr. M. Thompson, Mr. W. H. Parratt, Mr. A. C. Weber, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. J. T. Moir, Mr. T. DuBuisson, Mr. Jarvis, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, and Mr. J. H. Wilkinson were homeward passengers by the R.M.S. "Trent" which reached Plymouth with customary punctuality at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5th. The Mails were delivered in London by first post on the following day, and from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, extracts from which are given below, it will be seen that the fortnight under review from the point of view of weather and the crops was fairly favourable. Much indignation was felt in the Colonies regarding the action of the Government with regard to the Mail Contract, which was generally characterised as most unfair to the present holders, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. Resolutions and expressions of opinion in favour of that Company being given the contract, continue to be received. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on March 30th.

Antigua—Crop Prospects.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) March 22nd—It was felt in Antigua that much harm would be done if the regular steamer service with the Mother Country were suspended.

Crop was in full swing. The juice was of exceptional sweetness, polarising in some cases as much as 2.3 lbs. sucrose per gallon, but the weight of canes per acre was very poor on the whole. The windward districts had the best crops, and some few estates there would even make more sugar than last crop. The last sales of molasses have been at 27 cents per gallon, puncheon included. \$2.70 per 100 lbs. 89 degrees had been offered for muscovado locally, but this price had not found sellers.

An epidemic of influenza was causing some annoyance, but the form was a comparatively mild one and was not leading to fatal consequences.

The weather had been dry and windy, with rather less than an inch of rain for the fortnight at most places.

Barbados—The Mail Contract.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE) March 23rd—The writer moved a resolution in the Legislative Council in support of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, which was seconded by Dr. W. K. Chandler and carried unanimously. (The speeches are fully reported in the local papers of March 22nd.—E.D.). There was no doubt that there was a strong feeling throughout the West Indies in favour of the Royal Mail, and it was ardently hoped that a contract would somehow or other be arranged with them. There was also a widespread opinion that they had not been quite fairly treated by the Imperial Government in this matter.

The Agricultural Society and the Chamber of Commerce drew up a joint petition on the subject of the adulteration of Barbados molasses in Canada, and the writer was one of the deputation which presented it to the Governor on March 22nd.

The writer rejoiced to see that the West India Committee had paid a tribute to the services of Mr. W. P. B. Shephard on behalf of the West Indies, which to Mr. Alleyne's personal knowledge had extended over 30 years. His accuracy and his legal acumen had been only equalled by his untiring industry, and it was amusing when reading the speeches of the defenders of the Brussels Convention to recognize the arguments and even the phrases which were promulgated by Mr. Shephard in letters and pamphlets of long ago. No man more richly deserved a testimonial.

Great inconvenience had been felt since the stoppage of the railway, and it was therefore with great satisfaction that they heard that the Liquidator had telegraphed to Mr. Law authorising him to run two goods trains per week for the carriage of produce. It was to be hoped that this meant that the negotiations between the Company and the new Syndicate might be brought to a successful issue.

The shipment of bananas by the "La Plata" was spoiled, owing to the temperature of the chamber being allowed to go below 60 degrees, and the fruit was therefore delivered in a chilled condition, and obtained very low prices. Otherwise late shipments had been satisfactory, and confidence in the industry was being restored. Shipments of cotton were going forward.

In the earlier part of the fortnight only very light showers prevailed, which were locally denominated "trash-spoilers," which wet the trash and so retarded sugar-making, while not materially benefitting either old or young canes. During the past week, however, heavy showers had fallen, amounting to from 2 to 3 inches, which could not fail to improve the prospects of the young crop. Reaping had been going on as fast as possible, and the yield had improved. The canes were very sweet, and the quantity of juice per cane good, and the shortness in the crop would be caused by the paucity of the canes in the hole, owing no doubt to the severe drought which had prevailed since October. Following the fluctuations of the best quotations in England and the prices in New York, the local market had varied from \$2.50 to \$2.75 per 100 lbs. for ordinary muscovado sugar. Centrifugalized sugar had, however, commanded higher rates in proportion to quality. On March 24th, the price of sugar was \$2.55 for muscovado and \$2.95 for dark crystals. Molasses remained at 21 cents.

British Guiana—Gold Shipments.

(A. SUMMERSON, ESQ.) March 23rd—On March 20th there was a meeting of the Planters' Association, the business of which was purely routine, except that they had applied to the Immigration Agent-General for particulars of the number of immigrants ex "Moy" that were sent to the Hospital on arrival, and those admitted to the Estates' Hospital on allotment. They had also asked him how many of these patients were found to be suffering from Ankylostomiasis.

There was nothing doing in crystals, the price of which was \$3.27½ nominal.

The weather had been much too dry during the fortnight. Showers fell in Berbice on March 16th, and there had been some in town and neighbourhood on the 22nd, but good rains were wanted generally.

The gold entered at the Custom House on the 8th instant, for shipment per R. M. S. "Eden," amounted to 3,645 ozs. 2 dwts. 7 grs., valued at \$64,327.04. Of this amount, the Colonial Bank shipped 1,429 ozs. 16 dwts. 10 grs., valued at \$25,740; and the British Guiana Bank 713 ozs. 5 dwts. 21 grs., valued at \$12,295.40.

Dominica—The Imperial Road.

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.) March 23rd—Work on the Imperial Road was being resumed, but the dry weather that might confidently be expected at that season had not yet begun. This rain, though beneficial to crops, must interfere slightly with the progress of the work on the road.

Grenada—The Agricultural Show.

(MON. D. S. DEFREITAS) 28th March—No fresh case of eruptive fever had occurred in the parish of St. Andrews since last mail. There was now every reason to hope that the disease had entirely disappeared from the small area in which it originated. Apart from the eruptive fever scare, the health of the Island was excellent.

The cocoa pickings during March had been large, and during April they would also have substantial reapings. Thenceforward the cocoa crop would thin off to a total showing a shortage of about 7,000 bags compared with last year's output.

On March 13th, the Agricultural and Commercial Society held two important meetings. The first was attended by Sir Daniel Morris, whose purpose in visiting the Island was to co-operate with the Governor and the Society in re-organizing the Agricultural Department in Grenada. It could not be too strongly emphasised that this scheme, which would be fruitful of results beneficial to the Colony, could only be successful if the planters and agricultural classes would work in co-operation. The second meeting was a Special General Meeting of the Society convened to consider the continuance of the contract mail service by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. It was well attended, and a resolution was adopted unanimously, urging the expediency of the maintaining the present contract service.

The Agricultural and Commercial Society held a Show in St. Georges on March 16th and 17th. It was opened by Sir Robert Llewelyn, who presented a handsome silver cup to the winner of the highest number of prizes in certain prescribed classes. In the cattle and horse classes, the exhibits from the peasants were very good, being better than those from the large estates, which was probably due to the fact that Mr. E. M. de Freitas did not compete for the Governor's Cup, having already won it. Two samples of artificially dried cocoa, exhibited by Dougaldston Estate and dried in a patent cocoa drying machine manufactured by Messrs. John Gordon & Co., were very successful, being perfectly dry, of a uniform colour, and of an easy free "breath." The beans were also plump, round and "polished" qualities due directly to the revolving of the drying cylinder of the machine. Dougaldston Estate had also won the first prize for sun-dried cocoa, and Mrs. Lee-Hennett was awarded first prize for Amateur Photography. Mr. C. F. Anton, the Secretary, was to be complimented on the manner in which he organised the show; everything ran smoothly and successfully.

March had been a fine month on the whole, varied with a certain number of windy and rainy days.

Jamaica—The Agricultural Outlook

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, ESQ.) March 20th—The Government had passed a bill imposing 6% on the present import duties, which equalled about 1% additional *ad valorem*. It was calculated that this would yield about £20,000 or £22,000 or practically the deficit on the transactions of the year 1904/5. This bill would expire on March 31st, 1906.

Much indignation was felt at the Colony not being consulted about the mail tenders and at tenders being advertised for a second time, after those first put in by the Royal Mail Company had been made public.

The tourist season had been a very fine one, and the new hotel at Port Antonio, built and run by American capital, was considered a marvel of beauty, comfort and good management. The year 1905/6 promised to be a very prosperous one for Jamaica.

The weather during the fortnight had been on the whole favourable. Vere had had a few showers (JOHN BARCLAY, ESQ.)—A substantial extension of sugar acreage was taking place at Denbigh and a few other estates, while some had already made small additions to their acreages. There was still some talk of one or two of Mr. Sevell's estates on the north side being thrown up, but probably the present turn in sugar affairs would save them. It would pretty much depend upon the return this year. The crop season was in full swing and over most of the sugar estates the returns were very satisfactory; in Westmoreland especially so.

There was a report some time ago in the *Daily Telegraph* from a correspondent in St. Mary about cocoa trees dying out wholesale; an inquiry was immediately made into the matter by the Board of Agriculture, and special reports had been made showing that the dying out of the trees was simply through the after effects of the hurricane where pruning back, relieving the trees of pods, and moulding up of the roots had not been attended to after the storm, when the severe shaking the trees had got, left them leafless and with a great many of the roots broken. In the west end of the Island comparatively new districts right on the seaboard, formerly devoted to sugar and pen-keeping had been opened up for banana, cocoa and smaller cultivation, whilst in the Green Island district, in the extreme west of Jamaica, the soils were very rich and the rainfall 80 to 100 inches. Over the rest of the Island there was a gradual extension of cocoa planting and in about four or five years there should be a great increase in the exports.

The coffee trees throughout the Island hardly bore at all last season—the effects of the hurricane again—but there was a magnificent blossom this season and coffee growers were looking forward to good crops.

There was not more than 500 acres under cotton at the present moment and the outlook was not for any great extension in the spring planting season. The crops that had been reaped at Springfield and Morelands in Vere district—a very dry locality—were considered very satisfactory.

The Cassava starch venture at Longville was getting on apace, between 300 and 400 acres had been planted and were growing nicely, while more ground was being cleared to plant up to 600 acres in the spring.

There was talk of perhaps two other logwood factories being started besides the one at Spanish Town, one in St. Elizabeth and one in Sav-la-Mar. This would be good for that side of the Island as the logwood trade had been practically dead of late.

Mr. Chalmers from Liverpool, a Tobacco Expert, had returned to the Island on a second visit. He was keen on Jamaica tobacco, but their production was so limited that he could not get what he wanted at anything like the price he considered reasonable to warrant a trade with Great Britain. They had plenty of land of the same nature as that where fancy tobacco was being grown at present and it would only be a matter of getting a reasonable market for planters to take it up again. The cultivation was not so great as it was formerly and the cause of the decrease was put down by some to the Government Tobacco Excise Bill and by others to the freeing of Cuba when a great many Cuban tobacco cultivators returned to their native home.

The price of bananas which usually took an upward turn in the open market of the Island in March to £12 10s. a hundred or 2s. 6d. a bunch at the sea, had not moved as yet and this was put down to the very cold weather prevailing in the United States where there was no increased demand for their fruit yet. The contractors price of course went up in March to £12 10s. a hundred, but they heard that this figure would not likely be reached at all, except perhaps for a short time this year. This would be unfortunate for small cultivators. Trade all over was very dull and there was little money moving. There had been a very large extension in the planting of bananas, however, especially in the irrigated districts, and barring storm there should be a very large increase of production next year.

News—The Agricultural Show.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) March 21st—Sugar making was in full swing, and cotton picking was drawing to a close; returns of the yield of cotton were not yet available, owing to the delay in ginning.

The Acting Administrator consented to distribute the prizes at the Agricultural Show, which was very successful. Although the prizes given were on a most liberal scale, there would be a substantial credit balance to go forward to next year, and as the Government had put a further grant-in-aid of £5 on the estimates, the outlook was hopeful. The Shows were of immense value and acted as a healthy stimulus to the peasant proprietors, who vied with one another in producing something above the common, which could only be done by improved methods of agriculture. The number and quality of exhibits ought to improve each year, as the advantages to be derived by such an institution became more widely recognised. A good many who did not exhibit had already expressed their regret at having stood out, and the writer was sure they would adopt more advanced tactics in the future.

The weather since last mail had been dry, only light showers having fallen.

St. Kitts—Cold and Chilly Weather.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, ESQ.) March 21st—The writer called a meeting of planters and merchants at which members of the Committee were well represented, and a resolution was passed unanimously, strongly urging the renewal of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's contract.

During the fortnight the weather had been cold and chilly for the time of year, and had to some extent prevented the canes from ripening as was expected at that season. Good progress was, however, being made with reaping.

St. Lucia—The Political Crisis.

(HON. F. DUBOULAY) March 24th. With reference to the political crisis in St. Lucia, regarding which the West India Committee made representations to the Colonial Office, a rejoinder by the Un-Official Members of the Council had been sent in through the Administrator to the Secretary of State's communication; in consequence of this, the Governor-in-Chief had agreed to withhold the Ordinance until further instructions were received from the Secretary of State. It was to be hoped that this obnoxious legislation would be dropped or altered.

There had been some welcome showers, and cropping was prospering well.

St. Vincent—Unseasonable Weather.

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & CO.) March 24th—They were having a most unusual season, heavy rains falling every day during what is supposed to be the height of their dry season. As must be expected, this had proved most disastrous to the cotton crop, besides causing the arrowroot to spring, and greatly reducing the yield of starch from the roots.

Trinidad—Cocoa Shipments.

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C.M.G.) March 24th—With regard to the mail contract, there was a general disposition in the Island to continue the payment of the additional £5,000, provided Port of Spain was made the West Indian headquarters.

With reference to Venezuela, Mr. Bax Ironside was leaving that day for England on six months leave, Mr. Wyndham acting for him in Caracas. He was not very hopeful of an early settlement of the various vexed questions, but there appeared to be nothing new in the situation.

The weather had been unsettled all the fortnight, and there had been some heavy showers, rather unequally distributed, all districts, however, getting rain, to the great advantage of agriculturists. It was still unsettled, but it was not likely that the dry season had entirely broken up.

Sugar factories were getting to the end of their cane supply, and another week would see most of them closed.

The supplies of cocoa were rapidly shortening, and the crop would be short of estimates. Further advances in prices for all grades had been registered since last writing. Under heavy buying for the U.S.A. "Estates" qualities had risen to \$12.40 and in some cases \$12.80 and \$13 had been paid for fine lots. The short supply of "Ordinary" combined with a strong demand to complete mail contracts, had forced prices for this grade to \$12. Venezuelans continued scarce, and prices had jumped to \$12.50 and \$12.80. The much needed rains had fallen, but too late to repair the serious damage already done to the crop.

		Cocoa Shipments.			
Totals last return	...	14,616	Trinidad	10,143	Venezuela
Mar. 11	S.S. "Atrato" ...	1072	..	..	..
" 11	S.S. "Savan" ...	582	..	..	..
" 16	S.S. "Maraval" ...	2107	..	898	..
" 18	S.S. "Venezuela" ...	50	..	..	..
" 18	S.S. "Hungaria" ...	1450	..	..	..
" 21	S.S. "P. F. Hendrik" ...	250	..	200	..
" 21	S.S. "Jamaican" ...	15	..	..	..
" 21	S.S. "P. Willem IV." ...	683	..	33	..
Total to date		50,765		11,274	

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Trent" (Capt. A. C. Farmer) April 5th:—
Barbados—Mr. W. Barker, Miss Fountaine, Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis, Mr. Sworder, Sir J. W. Carrington, Mrs. Ganzoni, Mr. J. Ganzoni, Mrs. Buttenshaw, Mr. Liddle, Mr. B. Mason, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Harding, Rev. R. T. Gardner, Mr. and Mrs. Nicolai, Capt. and Mrs. Willis, Sergt. Major G. Grieve. **Demerara**—Mr. T. Hiscocks, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Parratt, Mrs. and Miss Jones, Mr. J. T. Moir, Mr. and Mrs. H. Beedorff, Miss Beedorff, Mr. and Mrs. H. Y. Delafons, Mr. and Mrs. G. Richter, Mrs. Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Weber, Mr. P. Wright, Mr. T. Gomes, Mr. W. Gaskin, Mr. J. Miguera, Mr. J. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Hill, Dr. O. D. Honiball. **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. T. Sproston, Miss G. T. Lewis, Mrs. H. W. E. Storey, Mrs. McNair, Mr. E. Gordon, Mrs. Boggs, Miss F. Corbett, Mr. and Mrs. Griddle, Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Palmer, Mr. N. Rouse, Mr. E. Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. McKay, Mr. and Mrs. Bligh, Miss K. Aldam, Dr. W. Allis-Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Wyndham, Mrs. D. Paine, Mr. A. M. Nathan, Mr. W. P. Jeffreys, Mr. Robertson, Miss Robertson, Miss Brown, Mrs. and two Misses Vandeleur, Mr. J. S. McDonald, Mr. J. Mitchell, Mr. C. Wilkinson, Mr. S. Tamplin, Mr. Newson, Dr. F. J. Waldmeier, Col. and Mrs. Blagrove, Mr. D. H. Graeme, Mr. and Mrs. Aikman, Mr. P. Squire, Mr. C. H. Tetley, Mr. F. E. Tetley, Mr. A. Robertson, Rev. and Mrs. Gibbon, Mr. D. G. Cannell, Miss W. Russell, Mr. W. F. Eaton, Capt. and Mrs. Archer, Mr. J. Corevan, Mr. A. S. Phillips, His Grace the Duke of Montrose, the Rt. Hon. Earl Poulett, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Lambert, Mr. Williamson, Mr. G. M. Gilling, Mr. and Mrs. D. Q. Henriques, Capt. Begby, A. O. D., Mr. and Mrs. Grayson, Prince Noosrut Meerza, Mr. F. J. W. Hunter, Mr. W. Greg, Mr. H. Pike, Mr. J. Webb, Mr. C. J. Dunlop, Mr. A. Crum-Ewing. **Trinidad**—Mr. G. R. Alston, Lady E. Cochrane, Mr. and Mrs. G. Christall, Mr. and Mrs. Cory-Davies, Hon. and Mrs. Wrightson, Mrs. Diosy, Mr. J. H. Hart, Mr. M. Thomson, Miss Conrad, Mr. J. Brailly. **Antigua**—Miss A. Court, Mr. T. DuBuisson, Mr. and Mrs. E. St. John Branch, Mr. W. Hart. **Grenada**—Mr. and Mrs. J. S. de la Mothe, Miss Church, two Misses Morrison. **St. Lucia**—Mr. G. Laffite, Miss Riddick, Miss Melville.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Atrato" (Capt. R. H. Stranger) April 12th:—
Barbados—Mr. E. Hargreave, Mr. A. Field, Mr. G. Carrington. **Demerara**—Rev. Archdeacon and Mrs. Heard, Mr. J. R. Burnett, Mr. and Mrs. Pereira, Mr. C. Duncan, Mr. K. Ferguson. **Jamaica**—Mrs. Burke, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Evans. **Trinidad**—Mr. H. Thorne, Mr. S. Clarke.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. W. R. Rowe) March 30th:—
Jamaica—Mr. E. I. Bingham, Dr. A. A. Barclay, Ald. P. W. Carey, Mr. G. W. Clold, Mr. and Mrs. Collinsplatt, two Misses Dent, Miss F. Thistleton Dyer, Mr. A. C. Elliott, Rev. A. G. Kirkham, Sir J. F. McCraith, Mr. E. McCarthy, Mr. and Mrs. Mache, Mr. C. C. Munton, Mr. W. O'Hanlon, Mr. J. O'Hanlon, Mr. S. H. Pullman, Mr. and Miss L. Spencer, Mr. and Mrs. Sutcliffe, Mr. J. Salaman, Dr. Soley, Mr. W. J. B. Tippets, Dr. W. H. Winder, Mr. W. H. Wells, Mr. C. Bowen, Miss Hopkins, Miss E. Kirby.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. W. R. Rowe) April 8th:—
Jamaica—Mrs. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. H. Carr, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Cooke, Lieut. P. E. Haynes, Miss Holmes, Mr. W. J. Langdon, Mr. J. B. Stiven, Mr. P. Turner.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) April 10th. "Light partial showers." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) March 31st. "We have just had an average fall of 2 inches rain." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) March 31st. "Moderate rains have fallen generally since last message." (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.) March 31st. "Favourable rains." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) April 3rd. "Moderate rains generally, more would do good." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) Week ending March 30th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "23rd, rain, 24/28, fine, 29th, rain." **KINGSTON**: "Fine, with few good showers."

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

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Molascuit.	Rum.	Coconuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.	Cotton.	
	Tons.	lbs.	Tons.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.	lbs.	
Barbados—										
Jan 1 to Mar. 23, '05	726	—	—	—	—	5449	—	—	—	
" " 23, '04	2538	—	—	—	—	6792	—	—	—	
British Guiana—										
Jan 1 to Mar. 21, '05	21,576	—	2497	4240	197,380	1558	17,396	1649	—	
" " 22, '04	23,201	6729	1090	7060	20,160	13	11,610	2220	—	
Jamaica—		Cwts.	Cwts.	Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.		
Apr 1 to Mar. 11, '05	9548	21,242	49,310	1,163,597	3,815,218	141,201	8,237,221	76,407,291	10,542	
" " 12, '04	10,729	18,280	73,190	1,088,145	14,998,797	65,375	7,479,033	78,972,010	—	
Trinidad—	Bags	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.	Trcs.	Drls.	Asphalt.	
Jan 1 to Mar. 23, '05	133,073	8,632,855	10,890	297	2,401,750	Puns.	42	103	Tons	
" " 23, '04	107,997	17,204,680	30,240	—	1,627,740	96	—	28	29,515	
									32,510	
									Copra.	
									Bags	
									2513	
									2417	
Grenada—	Coffee.		SPICE.						Cotton Seed.	Cotton.
	Bags.	Bags.	Brls.	½ Brls.	Cases.	llags.		Bags.	Bales	
Oct. 1 to Mar. 23, '05	23	36,787	2588	337	280	131		255	100	
" " 23, '04	126	55,118	1800	267	255	45		580	125	

Some West Indian Securities.

Owing to pressure in our space we are compelled to hold over our usual table of quotations of West Indian Securities. Bank Rate 2½ % (changed from 3 % on March 9th, 1905), Consols 90 ⁵/₁₆.

The Demerara Railway Company, Limited.

Including the Government subsidy and the amount brought forward, the net revenue for the second half of 1904 was £12,913. After paying the dividend on the Four per cent. Extension Preference shares, the directors recommend a final dividend for the half-year at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the 7 per cent. Preference stock, making 4 per cent. for the year. The directors propose the establishment of a renewal fund, to which a first contribution of £2500 is made, while the balance of £713 is carried forward. The committee appointed to confer with the board on the subject of the arrears of dividend on the 7 per cent. Preference stock have decided that any alteration of the existing rights of shareholders upon the basis of the present revenue might, in view of possible future developments, result in an injustice, and advise that the matter should be allowed to stand over until a more satisfactory forecast of the prospects of the company can be made.

The Colonial Bank.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Colonial Bank, held on Thursday, April 6th, Mr. H. Hankey Dobree presiding, the report, a summary of which appeared in our last issue, was adopted. In the course of his remarks, the Chairman said, that as regarded the general position of affairs in the West Indies, it was unfortunate that the severe drought and consequent shortage in the sugar crop almost all through the British West Indies had prevented planters from realising anything like the advantage which the prices now ruling for sugar afforded—prices caused mainly, if not entirely, by the partial failure of the European beet crop, caused by the drought which prevailed throughout last summer. Still, the situation was on the whole not unsatisfactory. There was a feeling of confidence that there was likely to be a fair margin of profit on the production of cane sugar for some time to come, and it was easier to raise capital on this side for improving the machinery and methods of cultivation and manufacture than it had been for many years. Confidence was returning in this and other countries as to the future of the West Indies. He thought that the future of the banana trade in this country was assured, as that fruit appeared to be becoming to a great extent, as it was in the United States, a food for a considerable proportion of the people.

The Guiana Gold Company, Ltd.

The prospectus of the Guiana Gold Co., Ltd., is being circulated privately by the well-known East India house of Messrs. Allen Bros. & Co. The Company, the capital of which is £35,000 in shares of £1 each, has been formed to acquire from the British Guiana Exploration Syndicate, Limited, certain dredging and prospecting concessions secured by Mr. E. G. Braddon, who, with a considerable experience of alluvial gold mining gained in New Zealand and other parts of the world, first visited British Guiana in 1901/2, to report on the operations of a Company now working successfully on the Essequibo River. Strongly impressed by the richness and the extent of the alluvial deposits of the Colony, Mr. Braddon at the conclusion of his engagement, spent nearly a year surveying and examining various gold districts on behalf of the Syndicate, and finally selected the Konawaruk River dredging concession, the Madhia Creek dredging concession, the Madhia Syndicate, and applied for a prospecting concession covering both banks of the Konawaruk River, bordering the dredging concession. Mr. Braddon, who is the Manager in British Guiana, has now returned to the Colony, and has applied for a prospecting concession covering both banks of the Konawaruk River, bordering the dredging concession. He has also entered into an arrangement on behalf of the Company for an option on favourable terms, over 62 claims and other interests in the Konawaruk Valley. The consideration to be paid to the British Guiana Exploration Syndicate for the purchase of their property, is £1623 in fully paid shares, and outstanding liabilities and expenses which will not exceed £377, will also be paid in cash. Of the £35,000 capital of the Company, approximately £32,000 will be available as working capital, to be devoted as far as possible to the purchase of dredging or other machinery, and such outlay in the Colony as may be necessary for the development on safe and economical lines of the valuable concessions of the Company.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—The tendency of prices during the fortnight has been favourable, and the anxiety about the liquidation of the speculative engagements in 88% for May delivery has been to a considerable extent relieved. No doubt there is still much to be arranged for yet, but the worst appears to be over and this is a relief to the market. The general tone of trade in actual sugar is, however, still far from encouraging, and at the present comparatively high prices the course of business will no doubt be a hand to mouth one for many months to come in face of the lower range of values now appertaining to the next beet root crop in October. A feature of great interest is the reduced estimates of the Cuba crop now rapidly drawing to a close. Whereas once it was suggested that 1,400,000 tons could be produced in that Island, the authority suggesting that fantastic figure now appears to incline towards a crop of 1,100,000 tons only, a difference of some importance in a season when there is no surplus to draw upon. The question of beet sowings is highly interesting, but as yet no one has any reliable idea as to what they will actually be. A marked increase must be expected, the extent of which cannot accurately be gauged till the end of May. We shall want an increase of no mean extent to keep prices on a level that will fall in with the views of the preservers and sweet-meat makers, so prominently voiced on every possible occasion. The interests of growers of beet and cane shrink into insignificance compared with those engaged in these trades, at least according to their selfish views. Looking broadly at sugar, we are in a good position from now to August next. After then we face a new condition of things, the nature of which will depend entirely on the extent of the beetroot crops for 1905/6.

The closing quotations of 88% beet are, April, 14s 4½d; May, 14s 5½d; August, 14s 8½d; September, 13s 5½d; October, 11s 9½d, and November/December, 11s 5½d, all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Europe	2,330,000	3,190,000	3,040,000	3,170,000	2,510,000	Tons
United States	260,000	140,000	210,000	110,000	200,000	"
Cuba	290,000	270,000	340,000	380,000	220,000	"
Cargoes afloat	40,000	40,000	30,000	10,000	—	"
Total	2,920,000	3,640,000	3,620,000	3,670,000	2,910,000	"
Comparative prices of 88% Beet in bond:—	14s 4½d.	8s. 6d.	8s. 3d.	6s. 5d.	8s. 11½d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—There is a slight renewal in the demand for crystallised, which is expected to become more marked after the Budget, which appears to-night, and later on after the Easter recess. Existing highly satisfactory prices look like lasting for some months to come. Quotations are unchanged since the last mail, the value of average qualities remaining 21s., with a general range of 20s. 6d. to 22s. for small lots of choice sugar.

The value of a cargo of 96 test to Refiners is 15s. 9d. on floating terms for shipment up to next June.

Melasses Sugar is in good demand. Values ranging from 14s. 6d. to 18s. 6d.

Muscovado.—Grocery kinds are very scarce, and the first few hogsheads of Barbados, if of good quality, may realise high prices.

For 89 test to Refiners, 14s. 9d. could no doubt be obtained on floating terms, April/June shipment.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902	
Imports	9800	10,600	4300	4000	Tons.
Deliveries	9700	12,000	11,000	12,000	"
Stocks	9600	11,000	22,000	10,000	"
Quotations of Crystallised, duty paid, average qualities	21s. 0d.	15s. 0d.	15s. 0d.	15s. 0d.	

TRIN—Stocks in London:

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	
Jamaica	6300	7800	8700	6200	Puns.
Demerara	6400	12,000	10,000	10,000	"
Total of all kinds:—	12,700	20,800	18,700	16,200	"
	19,942	28,562		Deficiency 8620	"

A moderate business has been done in Demerara from the recent landings, at 2s. 3d. to 1s. 4½d., being steady prices and the value of fair Marks remains 1s. 3d. Jamaica moves off slowly on the basis of 2s. for fair Standard Home Trade Marks. Leewards and Foreign kinds remain at 1s. to 1s. 5d.

COCOA—Stocks in London 80,000 77,000 83,000 81,000 Bags.

The market is, if anything, a shade better, but no general advance in prices can actually be recorded. The demand for Trinidad has improved, with fair collected however still at 55s. and Estate marks 55s. to 60s. Grenada is selling well at 52s for fair Native, and 53s 6d. to 54s. 6d. for fermented. From other Islands, Native cocoa is worth 48s to 50s. and fermented, 52s. to 54s.

Coffee.—Unchanged. Value of good ordinary Jamaica, 37s to 38s.

Buttermeas.—Recent sales of West India, 68's at 1s. 2d., 81's at 11d., 90's at 9d., 100's at 7½d., and 125's at 6d.

MACE.—Business in fair pale 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d., red, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d., and broken, 11½d. to 1s. 1d. **Pimento.**—Slow, fair bright, 37s. to 39s., and common to good common, 33s. to 36s.

Arrowroot—Steady, with sales of about 1200 barrels, fair to good manufacturing, all at 1½d.

London figures since 1st January:	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	3740	3358	4438	5221	4211
Deliveries... ..	4640	5962	3588	4376	4272
Stocks, 31st March	8570	10,029	13,074	8564	8039

Lime Juice.—Steady at 9d. to 1s. Concentrated, value £15. Hand Pressed, quoted 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, firm, at 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d.

For Cotton see Special Article, page 131.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XX.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XLII.



Prof. J. B. Harrison,

C.M.G., M.A., F.I.C., F.C.S., F.G.S.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

April 19th, 1905

Telegram: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.

WE have no hesitation in saying that the manner in which the question of the West Indian Mail Contract is being dealt with by the Government is by no means creditable to the departments concerned. Such was our opinion, and moreover the unanimous opinion of the West Indian Colonies, when the amount of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's offer was disclosed, and fresh tenders were invited for March 31st, and Lord Stanley's remarks to the deputation which waited upon him on March 17th, serve to strengthen our view. If his Lordship was correctly reported, it appears to us that the cardinal principle of public tenders has been violated. To allow a private offer—not a public tender—to enter into competition and then, when particulars of the only public tender submitted are known, to decline the latter, and—the terms of the private offer not being disclosed—to invite fresh tenders, is essentially unfair. When it was found that the West Indian Colonies were not in a position to vote the increased sum asked for by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company

in their first tenders, the obvious course for the Government to have pursued in connection with an

old and respected Company, who had served them faithfully for more than sixty years, was to have taken them into consultation, and endeavoured to find some way of getting out of the difficulty. Not only did they not do this, but they kept the Company at arms' length, and it now appears that they have received, subsequent to the date of the expiry of the term for tendering, the private offer made to them by parties who had been made acquainted with the tenders of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. Public tenders were subsequently called for without, however, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company being made acquainted with the nature or terms of the private offer. Unless there is some justifying explanation behind all this, which has not been made known, the Government lay themselves open to a serious charge, and we believe that this is felt in the West Indian Colonies, who will resist most firmly the efforts to foist upon them a mail service which they do not want, and to prevent them from having one which they do. Probably the question of the passenger service has not received any consideration from the Postmaster-General, but it is one which has to be seriously considered by the Colonies. In all the circumstances, no one can blame the West Indies if they take the only course remaining to them for the protection of their rights and interests, by refusing to vote the necessary subsidies. In any event it seems monstrous that matters so largely concerning the West Indian Colonies and involving the payment by them of a large sum of money should be settled on this side without their being given the slightest opportunity of expressing their views and wishes regarding the proposed contract.

THE Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to enquire into the question of the use, without payment of duty, of spirits in arts and manufactures, is a striking instance of the deliberate ignoring of the interests of the Colonial distillers for those of the home distiller, to which we are becoming accustomed. The recommendations which the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his Budget statement, indicated that he hoped to adopt, leave the matter, so far as the Colonial distiller is concerned, practically as it was before. It is proposed to allow the home distiller 3d. for every proof gallon of methylated spirit used for industrial purposes, and to knock 3d. off the surtax on imported methylated spirit, whether from the Colonies or foreign countries. The Committee do not seem to realise that according to the existing regulations, methylated spirit imported has to pay the full duty as well as the surtax, as the regulations only permit spirit being methylated in bond; and this effectively precludes the possibility of importing methylated sugar spirit into this country. As regards the cost of Excise control, the Committee point out in paragraph 11 that they have not attempted to investigate all the elements that entered into the calculation, but have accepted the figures that have been established by law and practice as applicable to the present situation. Again, in paragraph 32, they state that to relieve imported spirit from the surtax, which is needed to counterbalance the burden imposed on production in this country by the Excise regulations, would be manifestly unfair; and its effect would be to give to the State aided spirits from Germany or Russia a practical monopoly of the market in this country for industrial spirit. We may well ask, where do the Colonies come in, and what possible defence can there be for classifying our Colonies in this connection with foreign countries? No, after all, the report of this Committee does, perhaps, bring the matter one step further forward, for it exposes the extraordinary weakness of the cause of the home distillers, who are deliberately accorded protection against their Colonial brethren, and the more this is emphasised, the more likelihood there is of redress being granted. Only recently, enactments have been passed in the West Indies strengthening the Excise regulations, and the argument of the distillers is thus becoming more and more weak. In his speech at the Annual Meeting of the Liberal Union Club on April 12th, Mr. Chamberlain stated that he believed that the taxes upon spirits undoubtedly had a protective effect, and to this we would add, that though there may be justification for placing the distillers in this country on a footing of

equality with the foreigner by putting on a duty to countervail the Excise regulations to which they, the home distillers, are subject, and the bounty which some foreign spirits enjoy, it is iniquitous that they should be protected against the distiller in the Colonies. We hope that these considerations may receive the attention of the Colonial Office, and that justice may prevail.

Prof. J. E. Harrison, C.M.G., M.A., F.Z.C., F.C.S., F.G.S., &c., &c.

The name of Professor Harrison is a well-known one in West Indian circles, and the confidence reposed in him in British Guiana, the colony in which he is now located, is well shown by his recent appointment as Director of the newly constituted Department of Science and Agriculture, in addition to Government Analyst and Chairman of the Board of Agriculture. To the push and enterprise of Prof. Harrison, working in conjunction with his friend, the late Mr. J. S. Jenman, is in a great measure due the success of the experiment with seedling sugar canes, which has now reached a point at which it is confidently stated that a materially enhanced yield may be looked for from the older class of canes, and what is equally important, an enhanced power of resisting disease. What this means to the sugar planter can only be fully understood by those who have valiantly fought through the heat and burden of the hard times seen by the sugar industry in recent years.

Port Mourant.

As in Holland, the front lands in British Guiana are below the level of the sea, and they are protected from the encroachment of the ocean by dams, constructed by the Dutch. The land is drained by an elaborate system of canals and sluices, called locally "trenches" and "kokers." A further set of canals, known as navigation trenches, are utilised for conveying the sugar canes from the cane fields to the factory. The vessels used for this purpose are iron, flat-bottomed punts, which are hauled along in strings by mules, which walk on the adjacent dam. On reaching the factory, the punts are brought up alongside the "carrier," an endless belt which carries them along to the mill. The factory in our illustration is Port Mourant, Berbice, over which the writer was shown by the courteous manager, Mr. H. E. Murray.

The English Cricketers.

Lord Brackley's team of English Cricketers reached Plymouth by the Mail on April 19th, after a most successful tour in the West Indies. We are now able to give the results of the tour.

January	13—v. Jamaica	...	...	...	...	A draw
"	16—v. An Eighteen of Jamaica	...	...	...	...	A draw.
"	17—v. The Garrison	...	...	...	...	Visitors won by 42 runs.
"	21—v. Jamaica	...	...	...	...	Visitors won by an innings and 169 runs.
February	2—v. Barbados	...	...	...	...	Visitors won by an innings and 181 runs.
"	4—v. An Eighteen of Barbados	...	...	...	...	A draw
"	6—v. The West Indies	...	...	...	...	Visitors won by an innings and 17 runs
"	8—v. Barbados	...	...	...	...	Barbados won by 10 wickets
"	16—v. St. Lucia	...	...	...	...	Visitors won by an innings and 262 runs.
"	18—v. The Garrison, St. Lucia	...	...	...	...	Visitors won by an innings and 169 runs.
"	22—v. St. Lucia	...	...	...	...	Visitors won by an innings and 186 runs.
"	27—v. Barbados Garrison	...	...	...	...	A draw.
March	2—v. British Guiana	...	...	...	...	Visitors won by 234 runs.
"	6—v. British Guiana	...	...	...	...	Visitors won by 42 runs
"	14—v. St. Vincent	...	...	...	...	A draw.
"	17—v. St. Vincent	...	...	...	...	A draw
"	23—v. Trinidad	...	...	...	...	Visitors won by an innings and 14 runs
"	28—v. Trinidad	...	...	...	...	Trinidad won by 120 runs.
April	4—v. The West Indies	...	...	...	...	Visitors won by 4 runs.
"	6—v. Trinidad	...	...	...	...	Trinidad won by 5 wickets.

The Mail Contract.

Vehement protests against the action of the Colonial Office regarding the West Indian Mail Contract continue to reach us from the West Indies. Immediately after the departure of last mail we were informed by cable that a petition signed by over 560 leading agriculturists and merchants in Jamaica had been presented to the Governor stating that the planting and mercantile community views with the greatest concern the present deadlock regarding the Mail Contract, and respectfully suggest negotiations should be entered into with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the renewal of the contract, feeling convinced that a satisfactory settlement will result. The petitioners state that they consider that the loss of the Royal Mail Service would be disastrous to Jamaica, and that the present uncertainty is very detrimental to West Indian business. The cable adds that the elected members, with one exception, have expressed approval of the increased subsidy for the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

On April 17th we were informed by Reuter's Agency that the Government of British Guiana had been requested in a memorandum signed by all the elected members, all the financial representatives, and the whole of the Chamber of Commerce, to cable to the Postmaster-General and the Colonial Secretary asking that no contract for the West Indian mails should be fixed until the full terms were submitted to the Colonial Legislatures, and that, if anything like equal terms were submitted, preference should be given to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the present contractors.

The Barbados Chamber of Commerce passed the following resolution on April 18th:

"That this Chamber desires to reiterate its former conclusions that no mail contract between the United Kingdom and the West Indian Colonies should be entered into unless full details of the same are first submitted for the consideration and decision of the Legislature; and in view of the large trade and labour interests of the Colony which are involved in the retention of this island as the headquarters of the service as at present, the Chamber of Commerce is further of opinion that the existing contribution of £4,000 per annum should not be continued if any change be made in this direction.

"Moreover, having regard to the fact that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company has been, since the establishment of the service 65 years ago, the only line which has held the contract (which it has performed satisfactorily), this Chamber considers that the Company is entitled to the best and most preferential consideration in awarding the contract."

A deputation waited on Sir Gilbert Carter, the Governor, on the same day, to request him to forward the above resolution telegraphically to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The views of those interested on this side fully coincide with those expressed in the Colonies. At a meeting of the executive of the West India Committee held on Thursday afternoon, Sir Nevile Lubbock presiding, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

"That this meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee strongly urges the desirability of the contract for the conveyance of the West Indian mails remaining in the hands of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and furthermore that the terms of any proposed contract should be submitted for the consideration of the different Colonies interested before it is definitely concluded."

In view of the importance of the matter, it was decided to send the following telegram to Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies: "At a meeting of Executive of West India Committee to-day it was rumoured that West India Mail Contract likely to be settled without any reference to the Colonies concerned, and in a manner contrary to their unanimous wish. We are requested to say greatest dissatisfaction will be felt both here and in the Colonies if, without reference to them, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company is passed over, and Committee doubt whether in such a case the Colonies will agree to vote any subsidy for the services—Lubbock, Chairman; Aspinall, Secretary, the West India Committee."

A deputation waited upon the Colonial Secretary and the Postmaster-General at the House of Commons on April 11th, consisting of Mr. Owen Philipps (Chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company), Sir James Fergusson, M.P., Sir Joseph Savory, Sir Nevile Lubbock, Sir Henry Davson, and Mr. Forbes.

The deputation having been introduced by Sir Joseph Dimsdale and Mr. Alban Gibbs, the Members of Parliament for the City, Mr. Owen Philipps said that the company was formed in 1839 by a band of patriotic merchants in the City with the object of bringing the West Indies into close communication with the mother country. The company was the first steamship company to be established by Royal charter, and it was granted a Royal charter for carrying the mails, and had carried them for over 63 years. During the whole of that period the company had performed the mail service practically without a complaint, and successive Postmasters-General had expressed their satisfaction with the way in which the contracts had been carried out. The present contract expires on June 30th next. In July, 1904, tenders for a new contract were invited by public advertisement, and on October 1st the company submitted three alternative tenders—viz., (1) the Postmaster-General to pay the net cost of performing the mail service, plus 3 per cent. for interest on the capital

employed: (2) £100,000 per annum for 5½ years, with a reduction of £1,500 per annum if the steamers were permitted to leave England on Saturdays, and a further reduction of £2,500 per annum if, within two years from the commencement of the contract, the period was extended to ten years from July 1st, 1905; (3) £100,000 per annum, subject to 12 months' notice on either side, with £1,500 reduction per annum for a Saturday departure from England; and in their covering letter, in accordance with the suggestion contained in the form of invitation to tender the company offered to submit alternative schemes, and intimated that some of them could be performed at a reduced cost. The directors devoted a great deal of thought and attention to the preparation of these tenders, and in submitting them they had in view the very considerable loss the company had sustained during the first four years of the present contract. The tenders were apparently transmitted by the British Government to the Governors of the various colonies in the West Indies, and at least one of the Governors revealed the amount of one tender, and it so became public property. Consequently the amount of this tender became known to competitors in this country. In March, 1905 (a period of nearly six months having elapsed since the tenders were lodged), his Majesty's Postmaster-General informed the company that their tenders were declined, and stated his intention of calling for fresh tenders. The company (while fully recognising that His Majesty's Postmaster-General was not bound to accept any tender) ventured to point out that as the amount of the previous tenders had been made public, and as theirs were the only tenders lodged on October 1st, 1904, it appeared to be unduly hard treatment that they, with their honourable record of over 60 years' service to the Empire, should be exposed to further public competition without first being given an opportunity of negotiating and submitting their alternative schemes at reduced cost, referred to in their covering letter of October 1st, 1904. Further tenders were invited, and the company by that time (March 9th, 1905) had in their possession the voyage accounts of the mail steamers for the year 1904, which, owing to recent improvements in trade with the West Indies, enabled the directors with an earnest desire to meet the wishes of his Majesty's Government, to send in a series of fresh tenders at reduced amounts. The company was granted a new Royal charter in 1904, making it an "all-British company," so as to prevent its ever being sold to or controlled by foreigners; and the directors could not think that his Majesty's Government, at a time when foreign Governments were encouraging steamship enterprise, would desire to limit or annul the sphere of this company's operations. The company had three-quarters of a million sterling invested in steamers employed in the West Indian mail service. The withdrawal of the mail contract would probably throw these fine vessels out of employment, and cause grave detriment to the company's business. All the West Indian Colonies and British Guiana had expressed a strong desire for a renewal of the contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. In view of the entirely satisfactory manner in which the Royal Mail Company had hitherto carried on the service with which it had been entrusted by his Majesty's Government, and the fact that the amounts of the company's original tenders, lodged on October 1st, 1904, had been made public, and also bearing in mind the expressions of opinion received from the West Indian Colonies, the directors ventured to ask for a conference, in order that the important question of the mail contract might be fully discussed. Other members of the deputation having spoken,

The Postmaster-General said (according to the report in the *Times*) that as the Government, after receiving the tender of the Royal Mail Company, had an offer from a private source at a lower figure, they considered they had treated the company with great fairness in inviting them and allowing them to tender again. The result of the receipt of fresh tenders showed that the Elder, Dempster Line were prepared to do the work at a lower price than the Royal Mail, and the Government proposed to entrust the duty to them. The Colonial Secretary returned a similar reply, and the deputation withdrew.

We are also advised by cable that the Legislative Council of Trinidad have passed a resolution protesting against the contract being decided without its being submitted to the Colonies, and the Chamber of Commerce is taking similar action.

In Jamaica, the Merchants' Exchange have gone even further, and have passed a unanimous resolution, firmly protesting against the mail contract being given to Elder, Dempster & Co. They have requested the Governor to telegraph immediately to the Colonial Secretary and the Postmaster-General.

The following resolution was passed at a special meeting of the Dominica Branch of the West India Committee on April 4th, the Hon. H. A. Alfred Nicholls presiding:—

"That, in the opinion of the Dominica Branch of the West India Committee, any cessation of the West Indian Mail Service—which has been carried on by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in an efficient manner since the year 1842—will be a retrograde step that will give a serious set-back to Dominica's prosperity, and that will tend to weaken the ties binding the Colony to the Mother Country."

"All-British" Cables.

The West India Committee received, on April 10th, the following statement from the Secretary of the Colonies, on the subject of cable communication in the West Indies:—

"The question of cable communication in the West Indies was referred to an Inter-Departmental Committee, and their Report has been carefully considered by His Majesty's Government.

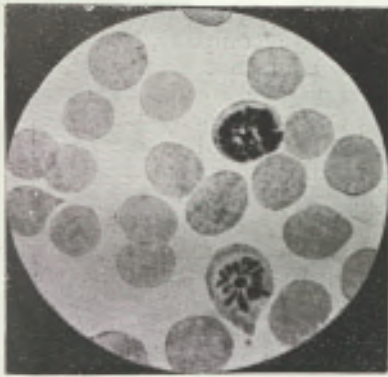
"As the Report was of a confidential character, it is not possible to publish it; but it may be stated that it was based upon offers which were received from both the West India and Panama Telegraph Company and the Direct West India Cable Company to extend all-British communication to St. Lucia and to improve communication between the Colonies, and especially between Trinidad and British Guiana.

"The acceptance of the Committee's recommendations would have involved the grant of a subsidy from Imperial funds; and as, in view of the decision no longer to maintain St. Lucia as a defended coaling base, His Majesty's Government have been unable to entertain the proposal to grant such a subsidy, it must be left to the West Indian Colonies to meet from their own resources the cost of any improved or additional telegraphic facilities which they may require."

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on April 13th, a Sub-Committee, consisting of Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. A. N. Lubbock and the Secretary, were appointed to consider and report upon this statement.

The London School of Tropical Medicine.

Since we last went to press we have received, in subscriptions and promises, in response to our appeal on behalf of the London School of Tropical Medicine: Sir Hubert E. Jerningham, £5 (annual subscription); Sir Charles Bruce, G.C.M.G., £5 5s.; Mr. H. Hales, £3 3s.; Mr. George Hughes, £2 2s.; Mr. John McNeil, £3 3s.; making a total of £136 14s. 6d. (The total given in the last *West India Committee Circular* was incorrect.)



The Malaria Parasite.

This interesting photo-micrograph shows the malaria parasites within the blood corpuscles of a human being.

to be needed. A second laboratory testifies to the necessity which exists of expansion, if the utility of the work is to be maintained.

The Hospital, through which the party were shown by Dr. G. C. Low, is a pattern of order, cleanliness and thoughtful management. The main ward is well lighted, and the beds are so placed between windows that each patient has whatever natural light is obtainable. The beds are so placed between windows that each patient has whatever natural light is obtainable. The operating room appeared to be well fitted and of the most modern description; and although an operation had just been performed, all signs of disorder were being quickly cleared away. There is a ward for paying patients, a guinea weekly, otherwise all are treated free of cost. Many thousands pass through the hospital yearly, relieved, if not permanently cured, and it might well be suggested that, as others have endowed beds, it would be a suitable acknowledgment of this magnificent work if there was one bearing the name of the British West Indies. At least, it is clear that this institution, which is doing such beneficial work, should receive the fullest measure of support and encouragement from our West Indian Colonies.

The Colonial Exhibition.

As the date of the opening of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition approaches, arrangements are naturally hastened on, and already we are glad to be able to say that the bulk of the exhibits have arrived. It would be premature to disclose their nature, but we think that they will open the eyes of



Photo by ALBERTUS K. ASPINALL.

SUGAR CANES ENTERING THE FACTORY,
PORT MOURANT, BERBICE, BRITISH GUIANA.

Copyright

some of the British public, who still think that the West Indies are only capable of producing volcanic eruptions, hurricanes and sugar. Mr. John Barclay, the Commissioner for Jamaica, arrived by the mail on Thursday, and, with Mr. Hart, who represents Trinidad, has taken up his quarters at the West India Committee Rooms, where he will be glad to see anybody on matters regarding the Island from which he comes. The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, who will represent Barbados, is due to arrive by next mail.

The Canary Banana Industry.

(Continued from page 129).

The Malvoisie vine was once the staple product of the Island, but it became impossible to grow it any more, owing to disease and it was ruthlessly uprooted to make room for cochineal. However, it was decided to import vines from America and elsewhere, and wine which obtained a ready market was then successfully made and the export trade in it increased rapidly. In 1885, it was valued at £4,855, while in 1890 it reached £25,000.



The Exhibit which gained a Gold Medal.

This picture shows part of the exhibit of West Indian produce made by Messrs. Philip & Co. at the recent show of Colonial Fruits at the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall. Fruits and preserves were daintily laid out on long tables, and attracted much notice.

This reviving interest in the land was an excellent thing for the island, and was, I am glad to say, largely fostered and maintained by Englishmen. Attempts were also made to plant the land formerly devoted to cochineal with tomatoes, potatoes, oranges and bananas, and the success of all these industries has now, I venture to state, far exceeded all expectations. The taste for the tomato and banana is especially one to be acquired, and so to speak it grows on one. Twenty-five years ago it was unknown to the average Englishmen; the demand outside the island was at first therefore small. One grower of bananas, who claims to have made the first export, delights to tell how he shipped ten bunches to the order of a shop in London. By 1883 it had become a regular article of commerce, and now the annual export from Las Palmas alone is about 1,800,000 bunches, and each year increases as the demand at home and on the Continent increases.

The varieties of the *Musa sapientum*, as the banana is called by Linnaeus, are legion, but whether by accident, or wisdom and good intent, the right variety is grown in Las Palmas. The Chinese, or Governor and Cavendish banana was planted, and it is this banana which, owing perhaps to a different cultivation, or more suitable soil, is being produced with even greater success in Barbados, West Indies.

It is short in stature as compared with some varieties—perhaps about ten feet tall, and has a strong stout stem with broad expansive leaves one continuous phalange of green—at least, they ought to be continuous, but even the balmy breezes of Las Palmas tear them into strips until they resemble the leaves of the coconut palm, and the hurricanes which periodically visit Barbados soon blow even

this species of banana flat to the ground and destroy the crop. As much as possible the trees are sheltered by walls, but in Las Palmas it has been unnecessary to go to much expense in this direction, as the winds are not strong enough to be destructive, and after all a wall could give little or no protection in a West Indian hurricane.

The fruit is fairly small, sufficiently delicate in flavour and texture to be extremely palatable, and at the same time strong enough to withstand the necessary handling and packing for a long voyage. An acre of land in Las Palmas carries about 960 plants in the form of young suckers, or transplanted stools. As the object of the grower is to produce bunches as large and as perfect as possible, great care is taken not to exhaust the tree. All suckers thrown up from the stool during its extreme youth are ruthlessly cut away. When the mother tree has made healthy progress, one or two suckers are allowed to grow, and in time from these four or five plants grow up to maturity, and so the plants increase and multiply. As soon as a plant has produced a bunch it is cut down to about 2 feet and transplanted to new ground, where it is allowed to produce for one more year, and after that it is destroyed. Every six or seven years the ground ought to have a long rest before being replanted, and a variety of crop would probably be beneficial. A sucker when planted ought to be about 2 feet over all, or perhaps from four to six months old, and all the superfluous suckers would go to make fresh plantations, or be sold as plants. It is easy to see how quickly land can be brought under cultivation, and judicious care as to the suckers chosen and the time of planting ensures a large crop at a suitable time of the year, namely, during the winter and early spring, when the home fruit is still ungrown and unripe. Then the banana, if well packed so as to reach the market unchilled and sound, fetches its best prices.

The soil most advantageous to the banana is deep, well-drained, rather moist loam, rich and fertile, and when planting and transplanting a large hole is made to remove the roots without injury, and a little manure ensures vigorous growth. The stems and portions of the plants which are cut away are also chopped up and packed round as a surface dressing to rot and become vegetable manure. Above all, and most important of all, the trees are thoroughly irrigated about once in eight days. To facilitate this they are planted in furrows, or in ridged up squares, each square containing three or four stools; the water is supplied from a tank or reservoir, and is in turn allowed to fill and soak each furrow or square. One man with a hoe turns the sods and forms the inlets and outlets for the water, and will, in an astonishingly short time, saturate a whole plantation. When the water supply is worked on the co-operative system, or by the Government, each grower is allowed the water supply for so many hours in the week.

The benefit of the water tanks and reservoirs built by the cochineal grower is again being felt by the banana grower, and the expense of the original outlay has been recouped over and over again. I would therefore say to the Barbados grower, *spend the first profits in building tanks and sinking wells to be pumped by acornotors, co-operatively or otherwise.*

From the process of preparing and holeing the ground for the reception of the banana suckers to the period of maturity, there is, comparatively speaking, little labour required. The land is occasionally weeded to prevent a wastage of the nourishment in the soil, and this is quickest and most economically done at first by horse hoeing and ploughing between the rows. This is the usual course while the plants are sufficiently regular, but very often at this stage potatoes or indigo, vanilla, cacao, etc., are grown in between the rows. There is thus no loss of time, and the land is fully utilised for producing other paying crops. The weeding must then be done by ploughing and by hand. Besides the weeding, the superfluous suckers must be periodically removed, and the barren stools uprooted, but this, with the planting and sale of suckers, and the transplanting of stools and watering, are about the only needful processes of banana culture, besides the reaping.

(To be continued).

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

The Mail Contract.

In reply to a question from Mr. T. Chamberlayne, the Colonial Secretary stated, on April 18th, that the question of the mail service to the West Indies was still under consideration, and that he was not in a position to make any announcement on the question at present. A question was also put by Sir Howard Vincent to the Postmaster-General as to whether due consideration would be given to the 63 years' service of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, to the favourable resolutions of Colonial Legislatures respecting it, and to the Company's offer to carry the mails on a basis of 3% return on the capital invested in the services. Lord Stanley's reply was in the affirmative, but he added that these points were not the only ones to be considered.

New Members of the West India Committee.

Our total Membership now exceeds 1000: we hope that our Members will not allow it to remain at that figure but will make it their object to raise it to 2000. This may seem a large increase, but it surely should not be difficult for each of our Members to send in the name of at least one candidate interested in the West Indies. If they would do this a Membership of 2000 would soon become an accomplished fact! We would remind readers that forms of application for Membership can be obtained in *any* quantity from the Secretary. At a meeting of the Executive on Thursday, April 13th, the following new Members were elected:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconded.
Messrs. M. H. PATTINSON & SONS.	H. F. Previté, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
BENJAMIN BROWN, ESQ.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Arthur N. Lubbock, Esq.
FRANK PRESTON, ESQ.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Arthur N. Lubbock, Esq.
THE GOLOFINA TOBACCO CO.	E. J. Marshall, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
THE INSTITUTE OF MINES AND FORESTS (B. Guiana).	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
T. ELTON MILLER, ESQ. (Trinidad).	Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G.	H. McLelland, Esq.
WILLIAM SCOTT, ESQ. (Trinidad).	Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G.	H. McLelland, Esq.
HUGH C. MCKINLAY, ESQ.	R. Rutherford, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.

Trade Relations with the Colonies.

Mr. Chamberlain presided at the annual meeting of the Liberal Union Club, at the Westminster Palace Hotel, on the 13th inst., and in the course of his remarks he said that he wished every one could see for himself what was likely to be the result of the commercial treaties recently concluded by Germany, against which our Government was powerless, because they had no weapon with which to fight. In the future the desirability—he might almost say the necessity—of meeting the wishes of the Colonies would day by day become more evident. President Roosevelt had openly declared that one of his great objects was to connect the United States more closely with Canada by reciprocity, and if we rejected a similar proposition made to us, was it not too much to expect that Canada might not turn in another direction? He urged the members of the association not to be cast down by any temporary check, but to pursue this great policy to a success which would be more complete the longer it was delayed. A resolution was subsequently carried, after some discussion, approving the propositions in regard to the reform of the fiscal system as laid down by the Prime Minister at Manchester.

The Naudet Process of Sugar Manufacture.

The Naudet process of sugar manufacture which has been experimentally tested in the Caroni Factory of the Trinidad Estates Company in Trinidad has, we understand, proved very successful. 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. It is thought that a shredder for the megass might advantageously be used as it was found that the megass was insufficiently opened by single milling. The extraction of sucrose amounted to about 91%, but with shredded megass it is expected to attain 94%. The megass burnt well after drying, and filtration was perfect.

The British Cotton Growing Association.

The Duke of Marlborough addressed a largely attended meeting of the Bolton Operative Cotton Spinners Association, on April 13th, in support of the Cotton Growing Association. He said that they were faced with the probability that in ten years' time the demand for cotton was bound to be greater than the supply. It was no use waiting until they were face to face with the difficulty, and they were not going to sit still and do nothing. They could not any longer allow themselves to be entirely dependent upon cotton from the United States. The Colonial Office could not undertake cotton-growing, but what they could and would do was to give the British cotton-growing movement their sympathy and co-operate with them in order to make the enterprise as successful and profitable as possible. He alluded to the admirable work which Sir Daniel Morris had accomplished in the West Indies, and said that the Colonial Office were prepared to send out a cotton officer to West Africa to do there what Sir Daniel had done in the West Indies. His scientific knowledge would be placed at the disposal of the experts of the British Cotton Growing Association. He further said that

if a deputation went from Lancashire to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and said that they were willing to spend £300,000 or £400,000 for the purpose of developing cotton-growing, and that they were prepared to devote a large sum of that money to a country like Northern Nigeria, and suggested that he should put down one or two millions of money to build railways, he thought he would favourably receive the proposal.

The Commissioner of Agriculture has issued full particulars as to supplying seed for next season. Planters in the Sea Islands have, it appears, resolved not to sell their seed to communities outside South Carolina; but, fortunately, the West Indies are now practically independent of the Sea Islands. It is proposed, in order to safeguard the prospects of the cotton industry, that the Department of Agriculture should undertake to acquire all the best seed that can be spared, and have it carefully hand-picked, disinfected and supplied to the planters at cost price. We shall be glad to furnish planters desiring it with full information on this point, or they may obtain it direct from the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

The Saman Tree in the Botanical Gardens, Trinidad.

In a recent issue we gave an illustration of the huge Saman tree which rears its umbrella-shaped form west of the ball-room, of the Government House, Trinidad, and we now repro-



Photo, ALGERNON E. ARNOLD.

The Great Saman Tree.

[Copyright.]

duce a photograph taken looking up into its branches. The branches of this tree give foothold to innumerable plants, which one would imagine would kill their host. They, however, are not parasites which live by sapping the energy of the tree, but "epiphytes." They live on air. Orchids, which would be considered rare at home, and a variety of grasses and lianes, hang from the giant limbs of this monster. The tree also gives sanctuary to all sorts of creeping and crawling things, from the manicoú, a sort of opossum, to the hairy tarantula spider.

The New Trinidad Gulf Steamer "Naparima."

Through the courtesy of the *Daily Mirror* we are able to reproduce this picture of the "Naparima," the new shallow draft steamer constructed by Messrs. John I. Thornycroft & Co., for Trinidad, where she will ply between San Fernando and Cedros. She is 140ft. long, and 21ft. broad, and her guaranteed speed is 13 knots. Accommodation is provided for 30 first-class, and 100 second-



class passengers. The "Naparima" has completed her trials and is being slightly modified to enable her to proceed under her own steam to Trinidad.

"Directions about a Cocoa Walk."

Many of our Members connected with the cocoa industry in the West Indies will doubtless be interested in the following extract from Blome's "Description of Jamaica," published in 1672, giving directions for starting a 'Cocoa Walk.

First, take up 5 or 600 Acres of Land, which will be sure choole in a good place proper to produce the Cocoa, which will cost for the Surveying and Patent	100 0	For 20 Axes, 20 Bills and 20 Hoos for them	005 0
For 3 Negro men, and as many Negro women at 20 ^s per head	120 0	For 6 Negroes Dyet, for Six months at 25 ^s per day, until you have some provisions Grown in your Plantation	018 5
For 4 White Servants with their Passage and Dyet for a year	080 0	For an Overseer to look after the Servants for his Wages and Diet at 40 ^s per Month	024 0
		In all	257 5

And for the employing these Servants in your Plantation as followeth: supposing them to Land, and to be on the Plantation the first of March, and that they have by the middle of that month (as they may very easily) cleared a convenient place, and built fitting housing for the lodging them. Then put them to falling, cleaning, and planting a Potatoe pece of 4 Acres, which ten hands will very well do by the middle of April; after this, you may clean, and plant with Rue and Plantin-Trees, until the last of February, which is above 10 Months; in which time they may with ease have cleaned and Planted 21 Acres, besides keeping them clean which are Planted, and are still a Planting; and in this time, which com-pleats the Year, you may be full of Potatoes and Corn, and within 2. Months of the new Year, with Plantins, and a small stock of Hoggs, and Fowles; so that you will be at no more charge for Provisions for your Servants. And then to keep this clean, and to plant the Cocoa-Walk, and for five more Negro Men, and 5 Negro-Women to buy about the first of March following, at 20^s per Negro comes to 200^s.

And in that Month you will have Planted *Cocao-Trees* out of the Nuts, or Seed, betwixt all the Rows of the Plantin-Trees, that are 6 foot high; so that by the first of June, the whole 21 Acres that were planted the last Year, will be full of *Cocao-Trees*, and by that time you will have (besides much other work done) 21 Acres of *Cocao-Trees* in the ground, which in less than 4 years, from the Planting, will begin to bear Coils, and in a year after, produce compleat Cropps. And according to experience, an Acre doth produce every year about 1000 pound Weight; which at Jamaica is worth 4l. per Cent. which for the 21 Acres, doth amount unto 840l. per Ann. Although this last year, by reason their Cropps were blasted, it is at present far dearer, the Hundred weight at London being now worth 18. pound Sterling.

The charges of gathering and houseing the *Cocao*, is inconsiderable, only Cloths or Hags to put it in, which with some other incident charges, may be reckoned at the most (as all things else have been) to Amount to 42 l. 15 s. more, which makes up just 500 l.

Note, that all this that is Planted is done in 15 months, and the *Cocao* bears not compleatly until the sixth year from the first beginning, or coming; so that you will have four years and nine months at liberty with your *Servants*, either to encrease the *Cocao-Walk*, building of convenient houses, and making of Gardens for pleasure; or else you may fall on *Ginger*, *Indico*, or some other Commodity for present profit, which perhaps may be necessary for such as cannot forbear their Money, until the *Cocao-Walk* doth come to perfection as aforesaid; after which, you will find sufficient profit as is exprest, Sicknels, Mortality, and running away Excepted. Yet it cannot be expected, but that as the Island encreaseth in this Commodity, they must some-what abate the present Price, and content themselves with a more moderate Gains.

And according to this Calculation proportionably a greater or lesser *Cocao-Walk* may be undertaken, and performed.

Consular Reports.

Mexico, 1903.—According to the report of Mr. Birckland, there a was great falling-off, both in quantity and value, in the export of coffee for the year, 447,065 cwts. being exported in 1902, and 352,057 cwts. in 1903, valued at £912,837 and £743,739 respectively, but new estates are coming slowly into bearing, and it is quite possible that in another year or so the output will increase considerably. Mexican coffee is principally sent to the United States and Germany, a much smaller amount coming to the United Kingdom and France. In 1902 the value of the dye woods including logwood and fustic exported was £110,434, whereas in 1903 it decreased to £96,398; these woods are sent almost exclusively to the United Kingdom. The vanilla harvest was more abundant than that of previous years, the exports in 1903 amounting to 222,594 lbs. as compared with 113,576 lbs. in 1902; during the latter half of the year most of the vanilla was sent to New York, which serves as a distributing centre.

Amsterdam, 1904.—Mr. Consul Robinson, in his report to the Foreign Office on the trade of Amsterdam for 1904, says:—"The year was one of considerable importance to the sugar trade of all European countries, being the first year of the application of the Brussels Sugar Convention. The ultimate consequences cannot as yet be entirely appreciated, for the reason that it came into operation simultaneously with a large deficiency in the beetroot crop. An active and extensive speculative demand sprang up in consequence, and the prices of both beet and cane sugars have very considerably advanced. Beet sugar, quoted at about 8s. 4½d. per cwt. at the beginning of the year, closed at about 14s. 5½d. per cwt. on December 30th. Cane sugar from Java rose from 9s. 3d. per cwt. to 15s. 3d. per cwt. in the same period. The part played by the Brussels Convention in this connection appears to many competent observers to have been unduly exaggerated. They express the opinion that the probable effect of the deficient crop has been immediately exaggerated by an army of speculators working on the apprehensions of the public, and that the coming into force of the convention would, apart from the simultaneous deficiency in supplies, have had but a comparatively insignificant effect on prices. As far as the producers of sugar are concerned, the year promises not unfavourably, and the prospects of the Java sugar plantations are much brighter than they have been in past years."

Santa Marta, Colombia, 1904.—The United Fruit Company is at present conducting an experimental farm of cotton on a small scale in this district, and the plants are looking fine and healthy, abundantly covered with buds, promising a good crop. Suitable labour, however, being scarce and expensive, it does not seem probable under these conditions that the industry will prove sufficiently remunerative to warrant its continuance. The cultivation of bananas is steadily increasing. The very high for molasses and muscovado sugar for local consumption, and the acreage occupied is a large proportion of the cultivated land. During the past year, however, prices have dropped more than 50 per cent., and the cost of labour remaining the same, many sugar cane planters have been obliged either to abandon their plantations or turn their cultivations into bananas or pastures. A considerable quantity of cacao is cultivated and the quality is very good, obtaining high prices abroad. Latterly, however, it is all being sent to the interior, where the production is insufficient for the consumption, and the price that cacao commands is so high that importations are being made through Barranquilla from Ecuador, Venezuela, &c.

Notes of Interest.

WEST INDIAN CLUB. Lord Alverstone, Lord Chief Justice, is to be entertained by the West Indian Club at dinner on May 3rd, when the chair will be taken by Sir Henry K. Davson.

MESSRS. JAMES PARK & CO. We are advised of the establishment of Messrs. James Park & Co., at 69, Wall Street, New York, as West Indian and General Export and Import Merchants.

OBITUARY. We regret to announce the death of one of our Members, Sir Neale Porter, late Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, who died very suddenly on Saturday, April 15th.

A HANDSOME MODEL. On Tuesday, April 18th, a fine model of the R.M.S. "Port Kingston" of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service was shown publicly at the offices of Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., 4, St. Mary Axe.

BANK RATE. Owing to pressure on our space, we are compelled to hold over our usual table of quotations of West Indian Securities. The Bank Rate remains at $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ (changed from 3% on March 9th, 1905), and Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}\%$) are quoted $90\frac{1}{2}$.

OVERSEER'S REGISTER. Estates Managers and Proprietors requiring overseers are informed that a list of applicants for such posts is 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.

MAIL OPPORTUNITIES. The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships after the departure of the West Indian Mail on Wednesday next are advertised: S.S. "Savan," from Glasgow, for Barbados, Trinidad and Demerara, April 27th; S.S. "Frednes" from Liverpool for Demerara, May 6th; and S.S. "Albanian" from Liverpool, for Barbados and Trinidad, May 6th.

THE DEFENCE FORCES. One of our members, Mr. Arthur M. Lee, has generously offered a £20 silver challenge cup for individual shooting among members of the Defence and Reserve Forces in Antigua, which has been cordially accepted. Realising the importance of the maintenance of a proper defence force in St. Kitts, Mr. Lee has now intimated his willingness to do the same for that Colony, provided that a proper Mounted Defence Reserve is constituted.

SIGN OF THE TIMES. A healthy sign of the times or rather a sign of the healthy times succeeding to abolition of bounties is afforded by an advertiser in our columns to-day, who wants an experienced sugar chemist and a practical planter "to take over estates worked by old methods and convert them into up-to-date plantations." We should like to see many more enquiries of this sort from the West Indies.

A NEW STEAMER. The "Crown of Castille," a steamer specially built for Messrs. Prentice, Service & Henderson's "Direct" Line of Steam Packets to and from the West Indies, was successfully launched on March 23rd last. Her dimensions are:—length over all 400ft., breadth 53ft. 2½in., depth moulded 28ft. 4in. Her weather decks are sheathed with wood, and she is fitted throughout with electric light. The passenger accommodation has had particular attention, and everything has been arranged by the builders to make their accommodation comfortable.

THE BERMUDEZ ASPHALT CO. With reference to the seizure of the property of the New York and Bermudez Asphalt Company by the Venezuelan Government, to which we referred in a recent *Circular*, the position appears to be one of considerable doubt and uncertainty. The property at present remains in the hands of the receiver appointed by the Venezuelan Government, and the New York and Bermudez Asphalt Company, who claim to be the rightful owners of the property, continue to make representations at Washington and elsewhere, with a view to obtaining the restoration of the property.

CANE DISEASE IN HAWAII. Mr. R. L. C. Perkins, of Hawaii Experiment Station, calls attention to another cane disease, which in many respects resembles that called "Top-rot" by Wakker and Went in their work on cane diseases. He states that the leaves of the crown are in bad cases all killed; the youngest ones become a putrid mass of intolerable stench; the stems contain little juice and are extremely brittle. As the top dies the lower eyes grow out in the young cane. Old cane does not seem to be affected by this disease. One or more of the so-called "rust" diseases are also often present on the diseased cane. So far, however, no full knowledge has been obtained of the character and identity of this new pest. The Hawaiian sugar industry seems to be under a somewhat unfortunate cloud just now. Disease and insect pests are seriously affecting the crops, and it will require much labour on the part of the savants stationed there to root out these evils.—*The International Sugar Journal*.

Letter to the Editor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

17th April, 1905.

DEAR SIR,—Though the superior quality of pure cane crystallised sugar over dyed beet imitations known as "yellow crystals" is manifest, it has always seemed to me that the marking of cane sugar at a $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. higher than the imitations by retailers, cannot fail materially to have curtailed its distribution. In this connection it may be of interest to your readers to know that the Retailers' Sugar Association, which orders these matters, has recommended in their latest circulars that these two sugars should be sold at the same price.

Yours obediently,

FAIR PLAY.

[“Fair Play's” statement is correct. On April 6th, retailers were authorised to sell at the following *minimum* prices. Demerara $2\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb., and Yellow Crystals $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.; and on April 13th owing to the action of a large trading Company the price was altered to $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. for both descriptions. This alteration should undoubtedly facilitate distribution.—E.D.]

Our Library.

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 Mr. J. R. Boosé for the gift of a well preserved copy of:—

“A description of the Island of Jamaica with the other Isles and Territories in America, to which the *English* are related, viz.: Barbados, St. Christophers, Nevis or Mevis, Antego, St. Vincent, Dominica, Montserrat, Anguilla, Barbada, Bermudes, Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, New York, New England, New Foundland. Taken from the Notes of *St. Thomas Linck*, Knight, Governour of Jamaica; and other Experienced Persons in the said Places. By Richard Blome. London: Printed by T. Milbourn, and sold by the Book-sellers of London, and Westminster, 1672.” Though the maps are unfortunately missing, this book, from which we give an extract in another column, is a valuable addition to our Library.

Information in regard to Agricultural Banks. Pamphlet No. 35, Imperial Department of Agriculture, obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms. This pamphlet embodies papers read in the West Indies by Mr. W. Fawcett, of Jamaica, and Mr. Luke M. Hill, of British Guiana, and an extract from Mr. Olivier's recent report on Jamaica, regarding Agricultural Banks, it being considered desirable that full information upon this important subject should be placed in the hands of all classes of the West Indian community. Sir Daniel Morris, in an introduction, states that this subject might usefully be brought up for discussion by Agricultural Societies.

The Agricultural News, Vol. IV, No. 78. Imperial Department of Agriculture, obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 1d. The appearance of this review has been much enhanced by the addition of a cover. A feature of interest is a letter from Mr. Arthur M. Lee, of our Executive Committee, regarding cotton as a catch crop in St. Kitts. Mr. Lee gives his experiences, which tend to show that cotton can be very usefully grown as a catch crop. If this is found practicable elsewhere, the area capable of being planted in cotton in the West Indies might easily be doubled, but it does not seem quite clear to us whether, if this were done, the present satisfactory prices would be maintained.

A few West Indian Recipes. We are indebted to the Pure Cane Sugar Company, of Fenchurch Buildings, for a useful pamphlet of “West Indian Recipes.” It contains a comprehensive list of the many products of the West Indies from which tasty dishes can be made, with concise directions for making them. There is also a short and interesting account of how cane sugar is made. If well distributed, this pamphlet should assist materially in bringing our West Indian produce before the public.

Mont Pelee and the Tragedy of Martinique and The Tower of Pelee, New studies of the Great Volcano of Martinique. Philadelphia and London. J. B. Lippincott Company.

The photograph of the new central factory in Antigua, which appeared in our issue of January 17th, was taken by Mr. José Anjo, the well-known photographer of Antigua, and the compiler of the interesting little book of views of Dominica, which we recently noticed in these columns. Had we known this at the time, we should, of course, have given due recognition to Mr. José Anjo's skill.

The Homeward Mail.

The R.M.S. “Orinoco” anchored off Plymouth at 9.50 a.m. on Wednesday, April 19th, and the Mails were delivered in London on the following morning. Among the passengers were the following Members of the West India Committee:—Mr. Hugh Clifford, C.M.G., Mr. W. C. Dyett, Mr. A. Summerson, Mr. H. L. Humphrys, Mr. J. R. Parnell, Mr. C. G. A. Wyatt, Dr. John Hutson, Mr. R. Thom, and Mr. J. L. Stoute. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. “Port Morant” from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on April 12th. We extract the following items of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents received by the R.M.S. “Orinoco.”

Antigua—Poor Weight of Canes.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) April 5th—Crop was in full swing. Owing to the poor season last year, the weight of the canes was very poor on most estates. On the writer's estate the plant canes only average 17 tons cane per acre, as against 26 tons average over a number of years. The price of molasses had advanced to 24 cents per gallon, punchon included. No business was being transacted in the local sale of sugar for shipment, planters being more in favour of sending on their sugar on consignment to the Canadian market.

There had been a break in the long run of dry weather, and during the fortnight the conditions had been unsettled, with frequent light showers, amounting to between $\frac{1}{4}$ and 2 inches on most estates. This weather would be very valuable for the young canes, which were suffering a great deal, and would give them a good early start. The rain had not been sufficient to interfere seriously with manufacture or cane haulage, and at the same time it had not been enough to start the large acreage of backward ratoons in the Island into growth again. The weather still appeared unsettled.

Barbados—The Withdrawal of the Troops.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE) April 7th—A long message from the Governor with reference to the withdrawal of the troops had been published in the papers (these can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms—Ed.) stating that all the War Department properties would be sold. The House of Assembly had passed an abstract resolution, expressing the opinion that all Colonial military lands mentioned in the message should be retained by the Colonial Government on the terms and conditions mentioned in Lord Ripon's despatch of 1894, and in addition that the following Imperial military lands—viz., St. Ann's Fort and the adjacent Savannah (that is, the Savannah entirely encircled by the public highway), the Hastings Rocks and the open grass lands adjacent, Queen's House Retreat and the lands attached thereto, and the Rifle Range—should be acquired by the Colonial Government, if possible, on the same terms and conditions as those affecting the retention of Colonial military lands.

With regard to the mail contract, it was hardly possible, one would think, for the Government to ignore the wishes, so emphatically expressed, of every one of the West Indian Colonies, that the services of the R.M.S.P. Co. should be retained.

A long despatch had just been received from the Canadian Government relative to the mixing of molasses in Canada. This, with various statistics, was being dealt with by a joint Committee of the Agricultural Society and the Chamber of Commerce, and would be published in due course.

It having been intimated that the Governor of British Guiana intended to send back a large number of pauper Barbadians, who had spent the great part of their lives, as well as their strength and money, in that Colony, the Legislature had passed an Act prohibiting the importation of such, who had been absent more than five years preceding, unless they could get someone to guarantee their maintenance.

Sir George Pile had resigned the Presidency of the Agricultural Society, and the Hon. F. J. Clarke had been elected in his place. Mr. Laurie Pile was elected to the vacant Vice-Presidency. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Sir George for his long and able services.

A few nice showers had fallen in some places, but as a rule the rainfall for March did not exceed three or four inches. Sugar-making was being pressed on vigorously, and the yield had slightly improved; but there was no reason to alter the estimate that was originally made of 45,000 lbs. The price of sugar, which had dropped to \$2.55 rose to \$2.78, but had that day dropped to \$2.60, and molasses had reached the excellent price of 24 cents per gallon.

British Guiana—Shipment of Gold.

(J. C. McCOWAN, ESQ.) April 5th—Mr. A. Summerson, the Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee, having returned to England, the writer had assumed duties as Hon. Correspondent.

Crystals were quoted at \$3.52 $\frac{1}{2}$, but very little sugar was being made.

Gold, amounting to 2293 ozs. 19 dwts. 10 grs., valued at \$40,605.34 was shipped by the mail.

They had had good rains during the fortnight, and the weather generally was favourable.

Dominica—Electric Lights.

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.) April 5th—Particulars regarding the proposed scheme for lighting Roseau by electricity had been published in the Official Gazette. It appeared that the plant now being laid down included a power station capable of developing seven times the horse power required for the proposed actual installation, and that as the demand increased, more dynamos could be added. The cost of several small dynamos would exceed the cost of one large one, but taking into consideration the probable slow demand for electricity among private individuals, the Government would seem to have acted wisely. Also, the town of Roseau was offered five times its present amount of light for the streets at an increased cost of about 11%.

The local branch of the West India Committee held a meeting on April 4th at the Court House, Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls presiding, to consider the question of the mail contract. (The resolution appears on page 143.—Ed.)

Shipments of green limes were now beginning to be made to New York.

The weather still continued showery.

Grenada—The Mail Contract.

(P. J. DEAN, ESQ.) April 7th—With reference to the mail contract, it was thought that the resolutions sent home from the different Colonies should carry some weight in securing a continuance of a contract, but unless it was renewed to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, as it appeared pretty unanimously to be the opinion it should be, outside of official circles, the writer was afraid that they in the smaller Islands would suffer considerably.

They had experienced unseasonable weather during the fortnight; rains had commenced and all vegetation was springing. Whether this would benefit them in their crop shortage remained to be seen. They had reduced their crop deficiency in cocoa during March by 3000 bags, and would further reduce by about the same quantity during April, but it was doubtful whether they would come within 10,000 to 12,000 bags of last crop.

Jamaica—Central Factory for Vere.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, ESQ.) April 6th—Active efforts were being made to start a central sugar factory in Vere. They were having fine rains, which appeared to be general.

Montserrat—Increased Taxation.

(CONRAD WATSON, ESQ.) April 3rd—In his speech at the opening of the Federal Council, the Governor expressed the hope that Montserrat would be free at the end of the current financial year. Increased taxation was being much felt locally. There was very little money in circulation, and the purchasing power of the labourer was therefore limited. With a view to retrenchment, the poor house, which maintained an average of 50 paupers, was to be closed, effecting a saving

of £400, but the hospital, which only housed an average of three, was still kept up at a cost of £150 per annum. The public library had also been closed, to save £50.

All lands, with the exception of such as were suitable for lime cultivation, were being gradually abandoned; it was hoped that with the revival of the cotton industry some capitalists might have been induced to lease or purchase one or all of the several properties now abandoned, but with very slight inducements for investing and handicapped by heavy export dues, there was no probability of such hopes being realised.

67,189 lbs. of cotton had been shipped for the crop.

Hevis—The Trafalgar Centenary.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) April 5th—There seemed to be a lull in the efforts on the part of the Government to provide suitable Trafalgar centenary celebrations, but it was hoped that this was merely temporary, and it would be a pity to permit such a memorable occasion to pass unnoticed.

The cotton crop had been kept back to some extent by difficulties experienced with the new oil engine at the ginney; but latterly these had been overcome and the output had averaged about six bales per diem of 200 lbs. net, for the past few days. It was evident that the crop would not reach the figure at which it was originally estimated, and as far as could be gathered from various sources, it would total about 700 bales of 200 lbs. each.

On some estates the yield in sugar was turning out very poorly, and the crop would be below an average one. The young sprouts had made a very healthy start and looked vigorous. With fair following weather, next year's crop promised to be a large one, as a largely increased area had been planted for 1906.

Since last mail frequent showers had fallen, but no heavy rains, and the land was still in want of moisture.

St. Kitts—Sugar Crop.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, ESQ.) April 4th—Crops were being reaped, although the weather on the windward side of the Island still continued showery. The young crop was looking vigorous.

Sixteen cents (puncheon included) per wine gallon was being offered for molasses, and a considerable quantity had been disposed of at that figure.

St. Vincent Cotton.

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & CO.) April 7th—The weather was everything that could be desired, but the crops were all going to be short, the cotton turn-out especially being a failure.

Trinidad—A Wireless Telegraphy Station.

(EDGAR TRIPP, ESQ.) April 6th—A feature of the fortnight had been the visit of Lord Brackley's cricket team.

The wireless telegraphy station was being erected in Port-of-Spain, and the dynamo house was already complete. The sale of Crown lands had been resumed, and a large number of applications filed with the Warden of Naparima for land in the Oropouche Lagoon. Shipments of sugar had been very heavy during the week.

The Hon. Hugh Clifford returned home by the mail.

(Being compelled to go to Press with this issue on the day of the arrival of the mail, we must apologise for giving briefer extracts than usual from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents.—ED.)

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt. H. D. Doughty) April 19th:—
Barbados—Mrs. and two Misses Jones, the Rev. F. H. Barnett, Mrs. W. K. Chandler, Miss Arnold, Dr. and Mrs. J. Hutson, Capt. and Mrs. Magan, Miss Alleyne, Miss E. C. Bovell, Mr. and Mrs. J. Collins, Mr. R. Thom, Mr. J. L. Stoute, Mr. H. Walton. **Demerara**—Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Humphrys, Mr. J. R. Parnell, Mr. A. D. Ferguson, Mr. J. Wilson, Mr. G. C. A. Wyatt, Mr. and Mrs. Summerson. **Jamaica**—Mr. G. White, Col. J. S. Walker, Mrs. Preston, Miss Wilmott, Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs, Mr. and Miss Gilbert, Mr. J. F. Hillier, Mr. and Mrs. Young, Mr. E. Simpson, Mr. E. Hellyer, Mr. Lloyd-Davies, Mr. B. Blake, Mr. J. Garnett, Major G. Hutton, Mr. J. Barclay, Mr. L. B. Oughton, Col. Curran, Mr. and Miss Bowring, Major H. H. Harvest, Mrs. King, Mr. T. O'Brien, Mr. C. R. Harvey, Mr. J. Weeks, Mr. G. Payne, Capt. McFie, Capt. Knox, Lt. Redman. **Trinidad**—Mr. and Miss Varley, Mr. F. Varley, Sir C. and Lady Forster, Mr. Fisher-Smith, Miss Hickman, Lady Kitson, Mr. R. W. Hinners, Mr. J. C. Duff-Gordon, Mr. W. F. Cornwall, Mr. Munton, Mr. Peto, Mr. H. Clifford, C.M.G., Mrs. Clifford, Mr. and Mrs. G. Bushe, Mr. W. L. Nicol, Mr. W. C. Dyett, Viscount Brackley, Mr. C. Foley, Mr. A. Somerset, Mr. R. Burns, Mr. H. Pritchard, Mr. P. Keck, Mr. C. Edden, Capt. Wynyard, Mr. C. Drummond.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Trent" (Capt. Farmer), April 26th:—Barbados—Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls, Mr. A. Maclardy, Mrs. Cummins, Miss U. Piggott, Mrs. Wilkinson, Miss F. Raynes. **Demerara**—Miss G. Field, Mr. A. Lene, Mr. E. Raynes. **Trinidad**—Mr. A. Browne, Mr. E. G. Marriot. **Dominica**—Miss E. Agar, Mr. A. K. Agar. **St. Lucia**—Mrs. M. Kerr, Miss Shankland.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt. Doughty), May 10th:—Trinidad—Mr. and Mrs. Kochen, Mr. Chapman, Miss L. Cipriani.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Morant" (Capt. Owen Jones), April 12th:—Jamaica—Mr. J. W. Astley, Mrs. and Miss Braham, Mr. A. E. Calvert, Mr. Garland, Mr. M. Grace, Mr. J. Goode, Mr. S. Goode, Mr. Hewlitt, Mr. C. M. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Hodgkinson, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Henty, Sir D. D. King, Mrs. Liddell, Miss Pantou, Dr. and Mrs. Paul, Mrs. Ross, Mr. F. Rathbone, Miss Webb, Miss H. Ward, Miss L. Ward, Mr. Ward, Mr. E. Cole, Col. and Mrs. Mathias, Rev. J. H. Moore, Mr. G. J. Johnston, Mr. Tummany.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Royal," April 22nd:—Jamaica—Col. A. E. Sandbach, Mr. F. P. Driver, Master Westmoreland, two Misses Foster, Miss H. Rogers.

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.

The Hon. E. ST. JOHN BRANCH, Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands, has arrived in England on leave of absence.

Mr. B. MASON, late of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, leaves for British Central Africa on May 12th, to take up his appointment as Clerk to the Treasury. Mr. Mason is a younger brother of Dr. G. B. Mason, who is Medical Officer and Commissioner of Anguilla.

Mr. E. C. PHILIPPO, of Jamaica, has accepted an appointment in the Public Works Department of Lagos, West Africa. — *Morning Post*

The Editor of the "Royal Standard" newspaper of Turks Islands, informs us that the Hon. C. R. HINSON died on the 14th instant, aged 75 years. Mr. Hinson was elected to the Legislative Council in 1864, and has sat continuously for over 40 years, and during the last 25 years as Unofficial Member. During this long public career Mr. Hinson acted in practically every honorary capacity; and as a mark of the high respect in which he was held by the Executive and the community, His Honour, Mr. Commissioner Young, requested permission of the family of the deceased gentleman for the funeral expenses to be made a charge on the Public Funds.

Dr. A. E. IRELAND, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., has been confirmed in the appointment of Medical Officer at Grand Turk, vice Dr. L. O. Crosswell, who has taken up an appointment in Jamaica. Dr. Ireland was recently made an Official Member of the Legislative Board.

Dr. T. R. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., who came out by the last "Direct" liner, has been appointed Assistant Commissioner and Medical Officer at Salt Cay, vice Dr. Ireland promoted.

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana (Messrs. Booker Bros, McConnell & Co., Ltd.) April 13th. "Weather favourable for cultivation." (Messrs. H. K. Davson & Co.) April 14th. "Weather continues favourable." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) April 19th. "Weather dry; some rain would be acceptable." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) April 19th. "Too dry." Trinidad (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) April 11th. "Fine, with occasional light showers." Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) Week ending April 6th. PORT ANTONIO: "30/31 rainy; 1/5 fine." KINGSTON: "Fine, with few good showers."

Export of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan 1 to April 6 1905	1904	Jan. 1 to April 5 1905	1904	April 1 to March 11 1905	1904	Jan 1 to April 7 1905	1904	Oct 1 to April 6 1905	1904
Sugar	4078	5072 Tons.	22,520	23,907 Tons.	9548	10,729 Tons.	157,551	126,403 Hgs & Brls	...	...
Molasses	9097	10,143 Puns.	1558	213 Puns.	...	...	1485	397 Puns.	...	...
Rum	4329	7130	1,163,597	1,028,145 Galls.	297	45 Puns.	...	...
Molascult	2501	1150 Tons.	...	...	...	22 Tons	...	...
Cocoa	8809 lbs.	21,242	18,280 Cwts	9,939,645	20,170,890 lbs	41,928	57,040 Bks
Coffee	19,310	73,190	10,890	35,449	25	126
Coconuts	215,980	45,960	3,815,218	14,908,797	3,176,740	2,034,540	...	...
Copra	2492	3508 Bks.	278	286 Bales
Cotton	10,542	...	...	...	1747	1851 Bks
Cotton Seed	32,915	40,145 Tons.	...	...
Asphalt	76,407,291	78,972,010	...	...	...	...
Oranges	8,237,221	7,479,031 Bchs.	...	...	...	...
Bananas	141,201	65,375 Cwts.	...	...	2739	1990 Brls.
Pimento	372	310 Brls.
Spice	331	269 Cases
Gold	19,689	15,175 OZS	...	...	...	...	134	47 Bks
Diamonds	1814	2221 CARATS	...	...	...	...	...	...

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Coffee — Unchanged. Good ordinary Jamaica, 37s to 38s

Nutmegs — Irregular and lower. West India sold, 68s at 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d., 78s at 9d., 87s at 9d., 100s at 7d., 110s at 7d., 125s at 6d., and in shell at 5d. **Alfalfa** — Steady, pale sold at 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d., red, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d., and broken, 1s. 2d. **Pimento** — Value, 24d. to 24d. **Ginger** — Selling well. Jamaica middling to fair bright at 36s to 38s 6d., ordinary in good ordinary, 30s to 33s 6d.

Arrowroot — Steady. Further sales of good manufacturing St. Vincent, amounting to some 700 barrels, at 1 1/2d. Stocks in London:

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Stocks, 31st March	8570	10,029	13,074	8564	8039 Brls

Lime Juice — Unchanged, at 9d. to 1s. Concentrated, steady at £15. Hand Pressed, quiet at 2s 6d. to 2s 9d. Distilled Oil, no alteration, value 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d.

The Produce Markets' Summary—continued.

Sugar.—LIGHT'S CONTINENTAL CONVENTION STOCKS, 1st APRIL—

	1905	1904.	
Germany	835,000	1,199,000	Tons
Austria	457,000	488,000	"
France	602,000	803,000	"
Belgium and Holland	115,000	263,000	"

2,009,000

2,753,000

**Minus
744,000 Tons.**

LIGHT'S VISIBLE SUPPLY ON 1st APRIL—

	1905.	1904	1903.	
Europe	2,107,000	2,876,000	2,814,000	Tons
United States and Cuba	599,000	428,000	585,000	"

2,706,000

3,304,000

3,399,000

LIGHT'S CONSUMPTION, SEPTEMBER/MARCH, 7 MONTHS—

	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Europe	2,238,000	2,507,000	2,030,000	Tons.
United States	1,028,000	968,000	1,001,000	"

3,266,000

3,475,000

3,031,000

Declining prices have again been the order of the day, brought about chiefly by the liquidation of the speculative engagements for May delivery and which to some fair extent have been transferred into August, and will then have to be dealt with, entailing possibly more weakness and in any case creating a feeling of unrest in the market as that month approaches. Another and perhaps equally important point has been the shrinkage in consumption owing to the higher prices ruling than during a long series of years, and which have created a hand to mouth policy of buying on the part of the Trade, and which must be reckoned on from now till the new crop. Such a policy, however sound, is not conducive to advancing prices, although undoubtedly it tends to keep values steady when they have reached a point that is universally considered sound. What that point is, depends on many matters and is always difficult to define. As things look at present consumption will probably lag behind some 300,000 to 400,000 tons compared with last year, in which case there will be enough sugar to go round, and prices are still highly satisfactory to producers.

The closing prices of 88% beet are as follows:—April, 12s. 8d.; August, 12s. 11½d.; September, 12s. 0d.; and October/December, 10s. 11d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Europe	2,210,000	2,940,000	2,830,000	2,960,000	2,340,000	Tons
United States	270,000	150,000	210,000	120,000	170,000	"
Cuba	310,000	260,000	350,000	390,000	210,000	"
Cargoes afloat	30,000	30,000	20,000	10,000	10,000	"

Total

2,820,000

3,380,000

3,410,000

3,480,000

2,730,000

Comparative prices of 88% Beet in bond:—

12s. 8d.

8s. 7d.

8s. 4½d.

6s. 1d.

8s. 10½d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—Up to the time of the last fall in 88% beet a good business was doing in crystallised at steady prices. Now, unfortunately, the demand is all checked by the prevailing distrust, and close quotations are difficult to give. The nominal range is 19s. 6d. to 21s., with 20s. 0d. for average qualities, which compares with 15s. at this date in 1904 and 1903 and with 14s. 6d. in 1902, an appreciation which Importers cannot fail to be pleased with, notwithstanding the reduction from the late unjustified inflation.

The value of a cargo of West Indian centrifugals on basis of 96 is 15s. 0d. for Refiners' use on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar is about unchanged. Values ranging from 14s. to 18s.

Muscovado.—Small sales of grocery Barbados from 19s. 6d. to 20s. for fine quality.

For 89 test West Indian to Refiners. 14s. 3d. in bond should be obtained on floating terms.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	
Imports	14,000	14,000	5500	15,000	Tons
Deliveries	11,000	14,000	13,000	14,000	"
Stocks	12,000	12,000	22,000	13,000	"

Quotations of Crystallised, duty paid, average qualities 20s. 0d.

15s. 0d.

15s. 0d.

14s. 6d.

TRIN.—Board of Trade Returns for 3 months:

	1905.	1904	1903.	1902.	
Home Consumption	1,103,000	1,189,000	1,033,000	1,201,000	Galls.
Stocks 31st March	8,327,000	10,043,000	9,946,000	8,092,000	"

Stocks in London:

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	
Jamaica	6700	8100	8000	6500	Puns.
Demerara	6300	12,100	9900	10,800	"
Total of all kinds	20,685	28,832	9900	10,800	"

The Market is quiet but steady. Sales of Demerara during the fortnight have been made from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4½d. Jamaica, although slow, is a shade firmer, with a quotation of 2s. 1d. for Standard Home Trade Marks. Foreign kinds range from 1s. to 1s. 5d.

COCOA.—Board of Trade Returns for 3 months:

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902	
Imports	6570	10,536	7977	10,015	Tons.
Home Consumption	5210	6392	5029	8796	"
Stocks 31st March	5560	5924	6079	5474	"
Stocks in London... ..	77,000	88,000	87,000	71,000	Bags.

The Market is steady, but the general tone is quiet. Trinidad is a shade firmer, fair collected being worth 56s., and Estate marks 56s. to 61s. Grenada is unchanged, with fair Native at 52s., and fermented 53s. to 54s. 6d. From other Islands Native Cocoa remains at 48s. to 50s., and fermented 52s., 54s. Home consumption is poor by the light of the Board of Trade returns printed above.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XX.

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STATIONERS HALL.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XLII.



Mr. John R. Bovell.

F.L.S., F.C.S.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

May 8th, 1905

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6842 CENTRAL.

WE have good reason to be satisfied with the latest development of the question of the West Indian Mail Contract which is, we feel, a matter for congratulation, no less to the West Indies and the Colonial Office than to ourselves—to the West Indies and the Colonial Office because that department has now given a further earnest of its desire to study the wishes of our West Indian Colonies and to ourselves, because the West India Committee has once more shown how well able it is to uphold the best traditions of the past, and to represent in an effective manner the views of the Colonies. Our undisguised satisfaction may at first seem a little illogical, as we have been informed by the Secretary of State that the Mail Contract will be discontinued after June 30th next, although we recently so strongly urged the necessity for its continuance: but the reason for it is that the West Indian Colonies are not, after all, to be compelled to contribute towards a subsidy to a Mail Service carried out by another firm which, rightly or wrongly, they do not want. We are fur-

thermore now inclined to the belief that eventually their views on the matter will receive still

further consideration. Meanwhile, we understand that after June 30th the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company will continue to run its steamers as at present, pending further arrangements, so that there will be no cause for anxiety as to the provision of adequate mail opportunities and facilities for passengers and cargo; and no apprehension need be felt in the smaller Colonies that their wants and requirements will be lost sight of. For this we feel sure the Colonies will duly show their gratitude to the Company, which has served them for over sixty-three years—has served them, indeed, since the mails were first conveyed by steam. In conclusion, we may perhaps be permitted to add one word, and that is to congratulate the Colonies upon the manner in which they have pulled together in this matter, thereby giving substantial evidence of the value of that unity and co-operation which it should always be their aim to attain.

We have heard a great many complaints about the Brussels Sugar Convention,—one of the brilliant diplomatic successes of Lord Lansdowne, which M. Yves Guyot described as “The most important achievement of economic Liberal policy in Europe since the signing of the Commercial Treaties of 1860.” But, however clearly we refute the assertions, they continue to be reiterated, and now we are asked to believe that the Convention, having done every possible harm to what is called “our greatest home sugar industry”—which, of course, is sugar refining, but is intended to mean sugar plums—has now failed to attain its own object. This is a new departure in criticism. The rise in sugar was once the great cry; but now the public know that it was caused by a falling off in the beetroot sugar crop of more than a million tons. Then we heard much about shutting out Russian sugar; but now the public know that wherever Russian sugar goes it displaces an equal quantity of German or Austrian sugar, which comes here instead. The critics then fell back on the great increase in consumption on the Continent, which they represented as being a most disastrous result of the Convention. As producers we naturally regard it as one of the greatest blessings that has been conferred upon us by that free trade measure. It is probably the first time in the history of industry and commerce that increased consumption has been regarded as an economic evil. But at last they think they have hit the right nail on the head when they declare that the Convention has not attained its own object. It has abolished all bounties in the contracting States, and penalized any other countries that persist in giving bounties. Those countries will, no doubt, soon put their houses in order, and refrain from a practice which now puts them at a disadvantage. They will soon cease to infringe the principles of Free Trade, and we shall have no further trouble. But, it is suggested, there are preferential railway rates and steamer freights. Well, we doubt not that the Permanent Commission will be quite ready to deal with them so soon as it is shown that they amount to a bounty. They are being carefully watched, no doubt, but no bounty can be shown until it is proved that rates and freights have been reduced, by government interference, below cost price. There is only one bounty which the Convention—or rather the Commission—has failed to abolish, and that is in France, which for some mysterious reason, has been exempted from one of the most essential prescriptions of that engagement, namely, that everyone of the contracting States shall refine in bond. All have complied except France. Why this is permitted no one knows, and it is to be hoped that the matter will receive continued attention.

Dr. John R. Bovell, F.L.S., J.C.S.

Mr. John R. Bovell (whose portrait we give on the preceding page) was born and educated in Barbados, in which Colony he was the pioneer of the experiments with seedling canes, for which he has earned the gratitude of the sugar cane producing world. In 1882 Mr. Bovell embarked upon his public career as Parochial Treasurer and Collector of Rates for the parish of St. John, and in April,

1883, he was appointed superintendent of Dodd's Reformatory. He was a member of the local committee for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1885, and in the following year was made superintendent of the Botanical Station. In 1890 the Secretary of State for the Colonies availed himself of Mr. Bovell's experience with wayward youths, and he (Mr. Bovell) went to Antigua, and started Skerrett's Training School in that Island. He was elected Vice-President of the Windward District Agricultural Society in 1890, a member of the Commission to enquire into sugar cane borers in 1898, and chairman of the Emigration Committee. From this brief summary it will be seen that Mr. Bovell is a most useful and capable member of the community, among which he is so deservedly popular. He is F.L.S., F.C.S., and a Justice of the Peace.

Our Jamaica Laundresses.

There are laundresses and laundresses in the West Indies, and many a well dressed youth fresh from St. James' has been brought to the verge of tears when his piqué fronted shirt has been brought to him after passing through the hands of the workwoman whose mode of cleaning it appears to be to roll it into very small compass and hit it violently and repeatedly against the nearest rock, while she stands ankle deep in a river with her skirts tucked between her legs. The good ladies in our illustration are however of a different stamp. In scrupulously clean dresses they preside over the wash tub with dignity and grace.—See full-page illustration from "Sun Pictures of the Antilles."

New Members of the West India Committee.

Since we last went to press there has been no meeting of the Executive Committee and consequently no election; but we have now 17 candidates awaiting election, and we hope that Members already on our list will help us to augment this number, and to bring our membership up to 2000 with as little delay as possible. Fresh forms of application for membership have been drawn up, and on these, full particulars of the Committee are given. Any number of copies can be obtained from the Secretary.

The West Indian Mail Contract.

Having regard to the present position of the question of the West Indian mail contract, to which we refer elsewhere, there is no need for us to give in our columns the numerous resolutions and representations regarding it which we have received since we last went to press. On April 29th the West India Committee addressed the following letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

SIR,—On the 18th inst. we had the honour to telegraph to you with reference to the question of the West Indian Mail Contract, and we expressed a doubt whether, in the event of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company being passed over without reference to the Colonies, the Colonies would agree to vote any subsidies for the services.

That there existed good grounds for our statement is shown by the fact that the Legislative Council of Jamaica on the 26th inst. unanimously passed a resolution refusing to confirm the proposed contract with Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., protesting at the attempt of the Government to force this contract upon the Colony, and further protesting against the intimation that if the Elder, Dempster contract be declined, no other contract will be accepted by the Home Government. The Legislative Council of Trinidad, also, have passed a resolution, as we were informed by cable on the 27th inst., refusing to approve the mail contract.

The endeavour which is being made to force the contract through by intimating that if it is not accepted there will be no contract service, is particularly resented throughout the West Indies; and in Antigua, Dominica and Grenada, the subsidy was, we understand, voted by the Council in ignorance of the fact that other favourable offers had been received, while in St. Kitts-Nevis the unofficial Members of the Council, with one exception; also the merchants and the planters have earnestly requested us to urge you to accept the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's modified terms.

This feeling is also shared by merchants and corporations in this country trading with the

West Indies, and we feel that it augurs ill for the future of our West Indian Colonies if a matter so closely affecting their interests as that of the mail service, which largely concerns their every-day life, is to be settled contrary to the wishes of the Colonies immediately concerned.

When tenders were invited in July, 1904, only the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company tendered, and the amount for which they asked having been disclosed, a private offer was received from another firm to perform the service for less, and subsequently, without the terms of the private offer being made public, fresh tenders were invited.

We cannot feel that this is equitable treatment where tenders are called for, more especially in the case of an old and respected Company, which has served the Government and the Colonies concerned, faithfully and to their satisfaction, for more than sixty years, and we believe that if in the first instance the three tenders had been communicated to the Colonies, or if the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company had been called into consultation, a satisfactory contract would have resulted.

In conclusion, we venture to hope, Sir, that you will do us the justice to believe that in making these representations we are expressing the unanimous wishes of the West Indian Colonies, which have been already shown by countless resolutions which have reached you; and bearing in mind the confidence which you and your predecessors have placed in the West India Committee in the past, we most earnestly trust that you will be pleased to consider these representations, and give the Colonies an opportunity of considering the proposals made by the other Companies which tendered for the West Indian mail service.

We have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servants,

(Signed)

N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

On May 5th the following letter was received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

SIR,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton to inform you that, after considering the views of the West Indian Colonies on the two alternatives which were presented to them in connexion with the question of the West Indian mail contract, viz., acceptance of Messrs. Elder Dempster's tender and discontinuance of the mail contract, His Majesty's Government have decided to adopt the latter alternative, and the mail service under contract will be discontinued as from the 30th of June next.

The Governors of the West Indian Colonies have been so informed by telegraph, and full explanations will be embodied in a despatch to be sent by next mail, a copy of which will be published and given to Parliament.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. P. LUCAS.

May 4th, 1904.

The Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

We give below a series of announcements regarding the Colonial and Indian Exhibition for the guidance of our Members and visitors from the West Indies, many of whom will doubtless like to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded to them of being present at the opening ceremony on May 12th. They need have no fear that everything will not be in readiness on that day. Mr. J. H. Hart, the Commissioner for Trinidad, and Mr. John Barclay, the Commissioner for Jamaica, have since their arrival been working with a will, and Mr. Forster M. Alleyne, the Commissioner for Barbados, arrived at Southampton by the R.M.S. "La Plata" on Thursday, and is already actively engaged in completing the arrangements for the Barbados section. We recently wrote to the Secretary of State for the Colonies placing before him details regarding the representation of the West Indian Colonies, and in reply we were informed that he had read them with interest, and that though it was uncertain whether he would be able to attend the inaugural ceremony he would in any case endeavour to make an early visit to the exhibition.

The Governments of Barbados, Grenada, and Trinidad are evincing a keen interest in the arrangements, and many private firms are also helping. The Direct West India Cable Company, for example, has generously offered to present a gold medal to the Colony showing the best all-round exhibit irrespective of size. But at a meeting of the Exhibition Committee at Kingston, Jamaica, on

April 8th, a letter was read from Mr. Wortley, of the Government Laboratory, whom the Committee had asked to act as Assistant to the Commissioners, and to be in attendance all the time at the Jamaica Court at the Exhibition. Mr. Wortley in his letter stated that he had been able to arrange with Dr. Cousins for a capable substitute to do his work at the Laboratory, at no expense to the Government, but that His Excellency the Governor had refused to grant him leave of absence. A further letter was sent to the Governor asking him to reconsider his decision, and it is with regret that we learn from the local press a reply has been received from Sir J. Alexander Swettenham stating that

"The request might be warranted if (1) Jamaica or the world contained only one person capable of doing efficiently the work of an Assistant in the exhibition and (2) that one person was Mr. Wortley—but these premises have not been demonstrated

"Mr. Wortley entered the service on April 1st, 1902, in a new department which is engaged on very important work under Dr. Cousins

"The Governor is not prepared to disturb the continuity of that work, or to inconvenience Dr. Cousins, although the latter has expressed his willingness to be inconvenienced."

The Government of Jamaica also refused to give free transit to exhibits over the Government railways, although the shipping companies have with one accord consented to carry goods for the exhibition freight free both in their coastal steamers and all the way from Jamaica to this country.

Notwithstanding little difficulties which have been encountered, the Exhibition promises to be most successful, and a large attendance is looked for. If only a tithe of those attending the Exhibition can be persuaded to turn their attention to West Indian produce, and to use in their households colonial cane instead of foreign beet we shall be more than content.

Exhibition Announcements.

Time open.

The Colonial Exhibition at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. from May 12th to Sept. 23rd.

Means of Access.

There are over 300 trains to and from the Crystal Palace daily. Through tickets including rail and admission are obtainable at the following stations:—Victoria, Holborn, Ludgate Hill, and London Bridge. The journey takes about 20 or 25 minutes. *Time Tables and Railway Guides can be obtained free of charge from the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.*

The Opening Ceremony.

This will be performed on Friday, May 12th next, at 2 p.m. by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London. *Tickets giving admission to the Palace on this occasion are obtainable by Members of the West India Committee and visitors from the West Indies free of charge from the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.*

The Commissioners for the Exhibition.

While in this country the West India Committee Rooms will be the head-quarters of the Exhibition Commissioners, and it is requested that all communications may be addressed to them there, although they will of necessity be in attendance at the Exhibition very often. The names of the Commissioners are:—

BARBADOS: Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee.

JAMAICA: { Mr. John Barclay, Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee.

{ Mr. Frank Cundall, Secretary, The Institute of Jamaica.

TRINIDAD: Mr. John H. Hart, F.I.S., Superintendent of the Botanical Department, Trinidad.

Letters regarding general Exhibition matters should be addressed to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

The Crystal Palace Club.

Throughout the period during which the Exhibition is open, the Members of the West India Committee will, through the courtesy of the Committee of the Crystal Palace Club, be Honorary Members of that Institution. The Club comprises dining rooms, reading and smoking rooms, billiard and card rooms, a winter garden or smoking lounge within the Palace, and ladies' drawing and writing rooms. Members may introduce guests—ladies or gentlemen. A balcony overlooks the grounds, and there is a private staircase to the Club garden and grounds. Furnished residential chambers are provided for the use of Members at Rockhills House (the former residence of Sir Joseph Paxton, the designer of the Palace), adjoining the Crystal Palace, with entrance to the grounds. Members will



The Hall of the Crystal Palace Club.

Throughout the summer the Members of the West India Committee will be Honorary Members of this palatial Club, the entrance of which is quite near the West Indian Court.

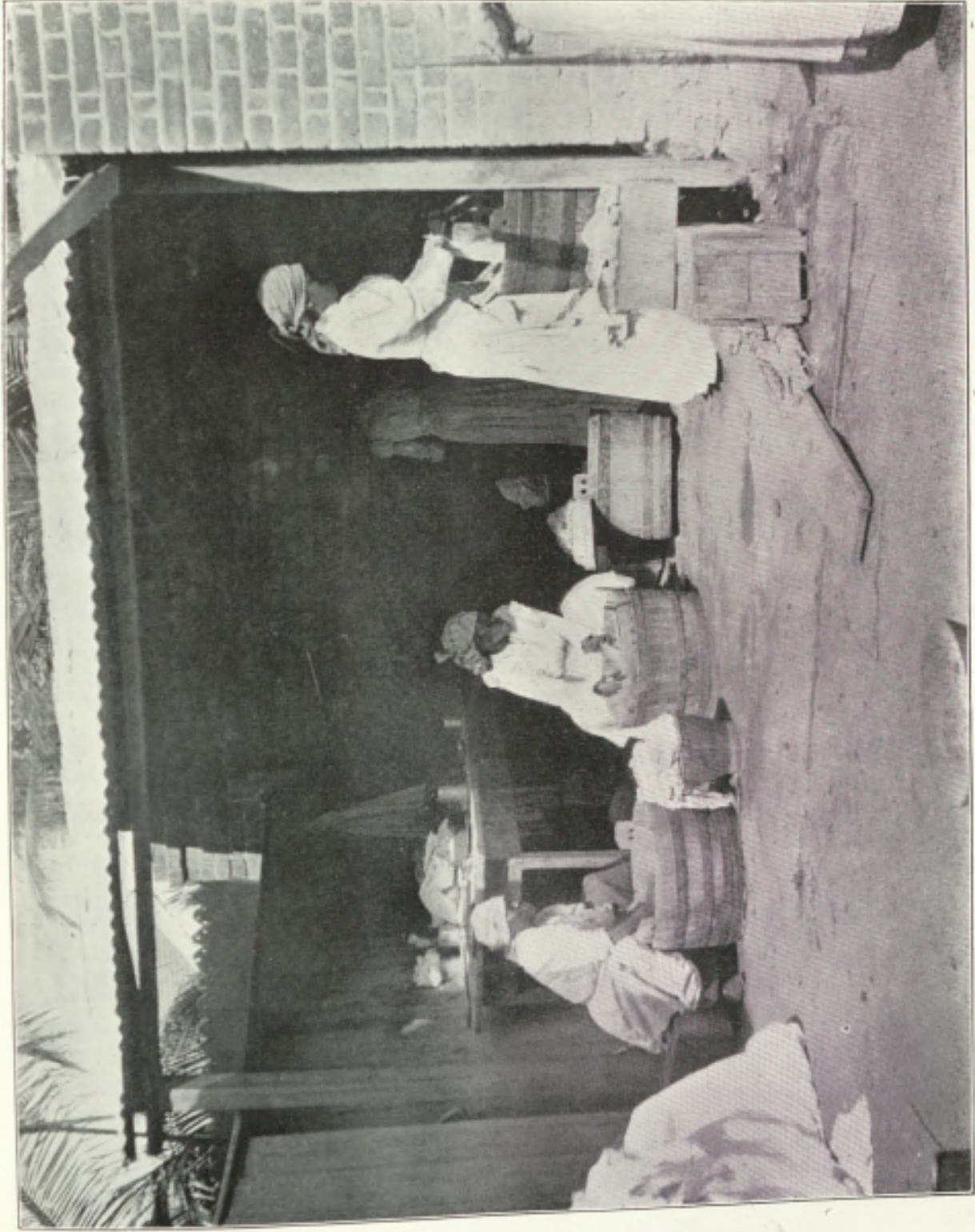
have the additional advantage of membership (non-playing) of the London Polo Club and the London County Cricket Club. *Those of our Members desirous of availing themselves of the privileges offered by the Crystal Palace Club will require vouchers which are obtainable free of charge from the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.*

The Withdrawal of the White Troops.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council of Barbados, on Tuesday, April 18th, the following resolution was moved by the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne:—

"That the Legislative Council have heard with deep concern the announcement that the Imperial Government intend to withdraw British troops from the West Indies, and especially from Barbados, which has been for so long the headquarters of the British forces in this portion of the West Indies. They trust that His Majesty's Government may yet see fit to alter their decision."

In moving the resolution, he said that he intended to be very guarded in his words, lest it should be supposed that anything like a panic prevailed in Barbados. In truth, he did not know that



From "San Pictures of the Antilles and British Guiana."

Photo by ALBERTUS E. STRIJK, Copyright.

OUR JAMAICA LAUNDRESSES.

anything less like one had ever existed than at that moment. The relations between all classes were perfectly amicable. They knew that their interests were interdependent, and everything was working harmoniously. Even among those whom they designated criminals, the cases of serious violence were very few. Still, as prudent men, they were bound to look ahead, and to view possibilities. It was not thirty years since a white agitator set their excitable people into a flame; and not much more than a year since Trinidad had to appeal to them for troops to quell a riot, with which the local police were quite unable to cope. He therefore considered that the presence of white troops was most desirable, and should be looked upon merely as a reasonable insurance against loss of life and property. They had been taught by a great statesman lately to "think Imperially." How was the lesson being brought home to the Colonists? The islands for which Nelson fought and Rodney fell were to be denuded of the support of the Mother Country, and were to be dependent in the time of danger on the assistance of a single cruiser, summoned by telegraph (if it was not cut off), from heaven knows where. Could there be greater humiliation than this? What sort of Imperialism was this? If Great Britain intended to maintain her sway over the West Indies, was this a time to loosen her grasp? The United States had already laid their hands on Cuba and Porto Rico, and St. Domingo and the Danish Islands would soon follow. An influential divine, at a public meeting in Jamaica (Canon Kilburn), recently said that he saw no future for Jamaica but by annexation to the United States. Was this what the British Government wanted to drive all the Islands into doing? If so, a more short-sighted policy, from the Imperial point of view, could not be devised. When the Panama Canal was constructed, it would become the high road from England to Australia, New Zealand, China and Japan, and these Islands would become of incalculable value. He said, then, that the troops ought to be maintained in the interest of the Empire itself, for if removed, and the barracks pulled down, and the land sold, they would never be replaced.

Mr. Alleyne's remarks were received with cheers, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

The Institute of Mines and Forests.

It is with great satisfaction that we are able to announce that at a recent meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, the Institute of Mines and Forests of British Guiana were appointed Hon. Correspondents of the West India Committee. The objects of this Institute, which was incorporated by Ordinance in 1890, are to protect and develop the mining and forest industries of British Guiana, to collect, record and forward to the Government information regarding these industries, to make suggestions as to suitable legislation, and to undertake the settlement by arbitration of disputes arising out of dealings or relations connected with these industries. The President is the Hon. B. Howell Jones; the Vice-President, Professor Harrison; and the Secretary, Mr. T. Sidney Hargreaves. By this appointment it is hoped that the West India Committee may be able to bring more prominently before the public notice in this country, the immense possibilities afforded by the undeveloped hinterland of British Guiana.

Sugar in Hawaii.

A correspondent in the Hawaiian Islands writes to the *International Sugar Journal*: Sugar conditions for 1904 have been the worst which these Islands have ever experienced. Early in 1903 the now celebrated leaf hopper made its appearance very generally all over the Islands, and its ravages were most decidedly severe. Not only the hopper, but other fungus diseases cropped up, and nearly ruined many plantations. The estimated loss in tons of sugar was something like 70,000, and in actual cash over \$4,000,000. The result was that, with a few exceptions, everybody lost money, and business generally was in a very critical condition. The advance in the price of sugar

will really save these Islands from a very serious financial disaster. The hopper, though still with us in fairly large numbers, is not doing the same amount of damage as formerly. Numbers of enemies have appeared, or are being introduced by our efficient Entomological Department. Of the latter it may be said a more elaborate or more perfect one does not exist anywhere in the world, and with the scientific skill now employed by our Planters' Association, the time is not far distant when we shall have under control the insects which have so menaced our sugar industry. Though the present crop will not be a large one, prospects for the 1906 crop are very promising. Our 1904 crop, as you may have observed, was only 367,475 short tons, being 70,516 tons less than the 1903 crop. It is further to be observed that the cane grown under irrigation is increasing; for 1904 244,610 short tons were produced by irrigation, and only 122,865 tons were produced without. A large irrigation project is fairly under way in our district; and if brought to a successful issue will enable us to treble our output which is at present in normal years an average of 15,000 tons. By reclaiming dry and barren lands with irrigation water we alone can develop an output of 15,000 tons, and adjoining plantations can always be sure of a certain and paying crop.

The West Indian Club.

Bishop Montgomery, the newly-appointed Prelate of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the trustees of Codrington College, Barbados, was the guest of the evening at the West Indian Club dinner on Wednesday, May 3rd. The Hon. A. C. Ponsoby occupied the chair, and after the usual loyal toast said how glad they were to welcome Bishop Montgomery, whose name was so closely associated with Barbados and that beautiful college on the Windward coast, which in the past had been such an important factor in the educational life of the West Indies. It was with the greatest satisfaction that he, the speaker, with his friends, Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Shephard, and the Secretary of the West India Committee had been able, in 1898, to avert the threatened closing of this old-established University. He hoped that before many years were past the Bishop would be able himself to visit Barbados and see for himself this seat of learning. Adverting to the recent appointment received by Bishop Montgomery, he said how pleased they were that the first public appearance of the Bishop as Prelate of that most distinguished order, St. Michael and St. George, should be at one of their social gatherings at the West Indian Club, and he hoped that he might have many happy years in which to enjoy the distinction conferred upon him by the Government. Bishop Montgomery in reply, after thanking the Club for inviting him to be present that evening, said with reference to Codrington College that nothing could absolve the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel from the responsibility of the Codrington College Trust, to the terms of which they always intended strictly to adhere. The Archbishop of the West Indies and Bishop Parry had been consulted in the matter of the up-keep of the College, and the General Synod now meeting in Barbados had been asked to submit schemes to show how the College could best be managed, and allowed a greater measure of self-government without prejudice to the terms of the trust. He realised that no one could or should govern without seeing for themselves the people over whom, and the place in which they were to govern, and accordingly he hoped very much that in 1908 he might, if he were spared, go personally to the Colonies and see for himself their conditions and requirements. The Society of which he was Secretary had no greater sympathy for any Colonies than they had for the West Indies, which had now, he hoped, satisfactorily turned the corner. With regard to the most distinguished Order of which he was appointed prelate, he referred to the assistance which had been forthcoming from other members of it towards equipping the chapel now established in St. Paul's Cathedral, and he indicated that a feature of this innovation would be special services on

the days dedicated to St. Michael and St. George. In conclusion, he again thanked the club for their kindness in extending to him such a welcome that evening.

The company, which included Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. C. Stringfield, Mr. F. R. Leistikow, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Dr. Wise, Mr. G. F. Burn, Mr. Grant, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. A. Hutchinson, Mr. A. D. Ferguson, Mr. Vickers, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. W. C. Dyett, Mr. Arthur Nash, Mr. C. E. Davies, Mr. Owen Philipps, Colonel Philipps, Mr. A. M. Nathan, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. N. Besey, Mr. Chas. Wilson, Mr. Walter B. Kingsford, Mr. C. T. Berthon; Mr. A. E. Messer and Mr. G. H. H. Pile, then adjourned to the smoking-room, and a pleasant evening was subsequently spent in the Club room.

On the Existence of Cement Materials in Trinidad.

BY R. J. LECHMERE GUPPY.

The essential ingredients found in Portland cement are lime, alumina, and silica. Other bodies are present in nearly all samples, but in a less proportion, such as magnesia, iron, soda, &c., but these may be considered non-essential. When not in large proportion such bodies do not seem injurious, but when they exceed a small percentage the quality of the cement is impaired. In the best Portland cement the proportions are lime, 57 to 64 per cent.; silica, 20 to 23 per cent.; and alumina, 8 to 12 per cent. Materials containing such proportions of these ingredients if existing in a suitable state of combination, would be proper for the manufacture of cement. It is only in a few cases, such as the Lehigh Valley, in Pennsylvania, where materials are found containing the right proportions naturally. In most places it is found necessary to mix materials, namely, chalk or limestone and clay, to obtain the proper proportions, and this causes an increase of expense in the manufacture. But in Trinidad we have an unlimited quantity of material containing not only the right proportions of the necessary ingredients, but also in the best possible condition for manufacture. Thus in our deposits we have the following advantages: 1. Exact suitability of material; 2. Unlimited quantity; 3. Accessibility.

The oceanic deposits of Naparima consist of beds varying in component proportions of lime silica and alumina, the first-named substance ranging from 25 to 90 per cent., the second from 5 to 50 per cent., and the third from 5 to 40 per cent. Beds can be selected containing nearly, if not quite, the exact proportions required for cement, and if any bed is found lacking any ingredient in suitable proportion, such can be found in an adjoining bed. Thus one layer of the Globigerina Rock contains about 80 per cent. of calcareous matter, an adjoining bed contains 20 to 30 per cent. of argillaceous matter. These two can be mixed in the required proportions. The state of extremely minute division in which the material exists would render the process of disintegration and mixing one of the easiest. Indeed, a great advantage of the material found here is the ease with which it can be disintegrated and mixed ready for the process of burning, and this quality together with the approximately correct proportions of ingredients contained in it will render the cost of manufacture the least possible.

There is a point in the selection of material which must be carefully borne in mind, as I believe want of attention to it has caused, and will cause, much disappointment on this head. All deposits from water, of whatever kind, are liable to a change in their constitution, caused by an action similar to that which takes place when cement is mixed with water. It is probable, however, that the natural process taking place as it does in materials not artificially prepared, is extremely slow and gradual. When this action has taken place the material is no longer capable of "setting" as cement and plaster of paris do. This is the case with the material called "Anhydrite," found in the Westmoreland Gypsum Mines. This substance, though apparently the same as the true gypsum, being alike in its mode of occurrence, and differing in appearance in characters discernible only by the expert, is not capable of being made into plaster of paris. Many of the Naparima beds are affected by an analogous

condition which is brought about by a partial solution and re-deposition of certain constituents; calcareous matter in the case of limestones and calcareous marls, and siliceous matter in rocks in which silica occurs. In my paper on the Naparima Rocks, published in the *Geological Magazine*, 1900 (page 323), I attributed the induration of the argilline of the Naparima Hill to this cause, and I then stated that a similar change had also affected other portions of the Naparima Rocks. Where, therefore, this change has taken place it would be of no use to employ the material for cement making. Fortunately the test for this condition is very easy, and can be applied by any one of ordinary common-sense.

The London School of Tropical Medicine.



ANOPHELES MOSQUITO.

There still remain a few tickets available for the Banquet in connection with the London School of Tropical Medicine, to be held at the Hotel Cecil, at 7 for 7.30 p.m., to-morrow, but it is essential that those desirous of being present should notify us and forward their subscriptions to-night *without fail*. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain will preside, and will be supported by Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies, and there will also be present the Duke of Marlborough, Lord Brassey, Lord Strathcona, Lord Rothschild, and many other notabilities. The following is a complete list of the subscriptions

and promises of subscriptions which we have so far received, making a total of £166 2s. 6d.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Mr. C. Czarnikow	20	0	0	Mrs. Alleyne	2	2	0
Messrs Curtis, Campbell & Co.	10	10	0	The Anglo-Continental Guano Works	2	2	0
Mr. H. H. Dobree	10	10	0	Mr. Spencer H. Curtis	2	2	0
Messrs Thompson, Hankey & Co.	10	10	0	Mr. Edward R. Davson	2	2	0
The Colonial Bank	10	0	0	Lieut.-Col. Frank Galloway	2	2	0
Sir Charles Bruce, G.C.M.G.	5	5	0	Major-General Galloway	2	2	0
Mr. Bunnell Burton	5	5	0	Sir James S. Hay, K.C.M.G.	2	2	0
Sir Henry K. Davson	5	5	0	Mr. G. Hughes	2	2	0
Messrs. Henckell, Du Buisson & Co.	5	5	0	Mr. Alex. G. Low	2	2	0
Sir Neville Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	5	5	0	Mr. Allan E. Messer	2	2	0
The New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co.	5	5	0	Messrs. Claud Neilson & Sons	2	2	0
Messrs. Previt & Co.	5	5	0	Mr. J. Rippon	2	2	0
The New Colonial Company, Ltd.	5	5	0	Mr. H. F. Previt	2	2	0
Mr. E. A. de Pass	5	5	0	Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller	1	1	0
The West India Association of Glasgow	5	5	0	Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall	1	1	0
Sir Hubert Jerningham, K.C.M.G.	5	0	0	Colonel Collings	1	1	0
Sir W. Robinson, G.C.M.G.	3	17	6	Mr. Frank Moore	1	1	0
Mr. H. Hales	3	3	0	Mr. Percival M. Davson	0	10	0
Mr. John McNeil	3	3	0	Miss Wood	0	10	0
Mr. A. McDowell Nathan	3	3	0	Mr. G. P. Osmond	0	5	0

Even if members are unable to be present at the Banquet, we sincerely hope that they will contribute towards our fund. Perhaps they will be prompted to do so by our illustration of the formidable *anopheles* which, with others of a similarly dangerous character, it is the object of the London School of Tropical Medicine to stamp out.

The Cotton Industry.

An important conference of cotton growers was held at the Commercial Hall, Barbados, on April 14th, under the auspices of the Barbados Agricultural Society. Mr. F. J. Clarke presided, and there was a large attendance. Sir Daniel Morris delivered an interesting address, a summary of which appears in the *Agricultural News*, and which is also reported in the *Barbados Press*. He gave much advice and information to planters, which should prove extremely useful. He laid great stress upon

the importance of the careful selection and disinfection of seed, and said that it was important that the distribution of seed for planting purposes should be placed in the hands of a central authority.

During the month ended April 30th 529 bales have been imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted 4.90d. per lb.; and West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 12½d. per lb.; fine, 13½d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb.

The Barbados Light Railway, Ltd.

Such is the title of the new Company which has purchased the undertaking of the Bridgetown and St. Andrew's Railway Company in Barbados. The directors are Mr. C. J. P. Cave, of Ditcham Park, Petersfield (who, with his father before him, has been for many years a member of the West



A view on the Barbados Light Railway.

This photograph was taken near Bath Station on the breezy windward coast of Barbados.

India Committee), Mr. G. F. Burn (also a member), and Mr. F. H. Cripps. Mr. Burn is to go out to Barbados early in June, the intention at present being that he should remain in the Island until the new methods of working are thoroughly established. We say "new methods" because the purchasers of the line propose to avoid the heavy cost of fuel, which has always been a serious handicap to the railway, by introducing self-propelled motor carriages, at any rate for the lighter passenger traffic. For the present, steam locomotives will be retained for goods work, but we understand that oil fuel will be largely substituted for coal. By the adoption of these methods, and with the assistance of the subsidy promised by the Barbados Government, it is confidently anticipated that the results will be satisfactory. The registered office is at 9, Great George Street, Westminster, and Mr. F. H. Cripps is the secretary.

The Canary Banana Industry.

(Continued from page 146).

The banana, unlike the vanilla and pumpkin, &c., is self-fertilizing, and gives no trouble in that process, besides being a most interesting botanical study. The flowers present the appearance of long spines of a reddish colour. They are in reality packed close together and enclosed in large red leaves, which are cemented one to another, thus forming an air-tight envelope. The yellow stamens of the flower stand in a ring round a taller green column or stigma, which rises up in the centre. These stamens of course contain the pollen, which is to call the unripe seeds lying at the bottom of the column into fuller development. One wonders how this is to be done, as it is impossible for the



A Barbados Banana Plantation

[Copyright.]

This is a typical picture of a Banana Plantation in Barbados. It will be noted how much smaller the trees are than those of the Jamaica Banana. We are indebted to Messrs. William Pink & Son, the importers of the well-known "Dagger" brand of Bananas, for the loan of the photograph from which this illustration is reproduced.

pollen to fall upwards to the tiny expansion at the top of the stigma, from whence it penetrates to the seeds. By careful watching, one sees that at a certain moment of maturity nature arranges that the central column, or stigma, shortens in length by bending down from the middle until it is low enough for the expansion at the top to rub on the pollen. This done it straightens itself again, the protecting leaves wither and fall off while the stamens lie down and only the case of seeds swell and grow.

They grow and the weight of the fruit, possibly exceeding 100 lbs., as it reaches maturity is often too heavy for the juicy mother stem to support them. The trees must be watched therefore, and carefully propped before they fall and, perhaps, injure the fruit.

When the ripening period arrives, an experienced man visits them daily, and at the first sign of a change of colour he makes his selection. He takes with him a number of metal discs marked according to grades, such as "double," "1," "2," "large," "extra," "giant," according to the denomination of the grades used by that particular grower. He presses one of these into the stem of each bunch he selects, according to the grade to which he considers it belongs.

(To be continued).

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

The Troops in Jamaica.

Replying to Sir T. Dewar, Mr. Arnold-Forster states, in a written answer, that it is proposed to withdraw the three companies of British infantry quartered in Jamaica, and to replace them by four companies of the West India Regiment.

The Rum Surtax.

On May 3rd, in reply to Mr. Joseph Nolan, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said: "It is not proposed to introduce any measure giving preferential treatment to West Indian spirit, but if these proposals of the Industrial Alcohol Committee are adopted by Parliament—and I shall introduce legislation for that purpose—spirits from the West Indies will derive substantial benefit from the new arrangements, in common with all other other spirits, whether imported or home made."

[As the recommendation of the Industrial Alcohol Committee if adopted will leave the relative positions of the Home, Colonial and Foreign distillers unchanged, it is not easy to see how the West Indies will derive substantial benefit.—Ed.]

The West Indian Mail Contract.

Mr. Lyttelton, replying to the Master of Elibank, states, in a written answer, that the annual contributions at present made by the Colonial Governments to the subsidy paid by His Majesty's Government to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company are as follows:—Trinidad (including a special contribution of £5000 paid to the Company for placing the Colony on their main line), £9600; British Guiana, £4200; Barbados, £4000; Jamaica, £2100; Grenada, £1000; St. Lucia, £1000; Antigua, £1000; St. Vincent, £450; Dominica, £450; St. Kitts-Nevis, £550; Montserrat, £200; and Virgin Islands, £50.

The Jamaica Banana Subsidy.

Mr. Lyttelton informs Colonel Lockwood that the main object of subsidizing the Jamaica Direct Service was to stimulate the fruit trade between the United Kingdom and the West Indies, and the effort has been successful. The contract provided that bananas should be bought for shipment by the subsidized steamers, and this provision is fulfilled. The right hon. gentleman considers that the Jamaica growers receive benefit from the subsidy in the form of a market which would not otherwise be open to them, and that there is no reasonable ground for seeking to alter the terms of the contract.

Mr. Lyttelton states, in reply to Mr. Guthrie, that no modifications have been made in the Elder, Dempster contract of April 19th, 1900. The steamers at present employed in the service satisfy all the requirements, with the possible exception of the provision as to speed, with regard to which there have been negotiations with the contractors; and one of the steamers employed largely exceeds the requirements of the contract as regards both speed and capacity. No deduction has been made from the subsidy payable to the contractors. The obligation to purchase at current market rates 20,000 bunches of bananas for each voyage has been carried out by the contractors, with the exception of a period subsequent to the hurricane of August, 1903, when no bananas were procurable. No part of the contract has been assigned or underlet, but the contractors have appointed Messrs. Elders and Fyffes, Limited, their agents for carrying out that part of the contract which relates to the purchase of fruit. The condition requiring that the contract steamers should call at Port Antonio has been waived with the consent of the Jamaica Government, a service carried on by Messrs. Elders and Fyffes between Montego Bay and Manchester being accepted in the first instance as an equivalent. Since the discontinuance of that service the contractors have initiated a new service between England and the northern ports of Jamaica, the continuance of which will be conditional upon its receiving reasonable support from the Jamaica fruit growers.

Our Appointments Register.

The register of overseers seeking employment kept at the West India Committee rooms has proved so advantageous to employers and employed that it has been decided to develop the arrangements, and a printed letter and form have now been prepared in the following terms, which speak for themselves:—

The West India Committee,
(Incorporated by Royal Charter).

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON, E.C.

DEAR SIR,

With reference to your application for an appointment as..... I beg to say that if you will be so good as to fill up and return to me the annexed form, your name shall be placed on our register of applicants for appointments in the West Indies, for twelve months or until suited.

If after twelve months you have not been successful in obtaining an appointment, it will be necessary for you to renew your application.

It must be clearly understood that the West India Committee can itself offer no openings for employment, but keeps the register for the convenience of its Members and of those seeking appointments on estates and elsewhere in British Guiana and the West Indies.

Yours faithfully,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

Form annexed.

This form must be filled up and returned with copies of testimonials to—
The Secretary.

The West India Committee,
(Incorporated by Royal Charter)
15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Ref. No.....

Being desirous of obtaining an appointment as..... I shall be glad if you will kindly place my name on your register of applications for appointments, for one year from this date, or until suited.

I enclose copies of testimonials from:—

.....of.....
AND
.....of.....

(Each applicant is required to furnish two testimonials, one of which should be from his late or present employer)
Copies only should be sent.

Particulars to be filled in by the Candidate.

Age next Birthday.....
Height.....
Chest measurement.....
Present occupation.....
(Or if out of employment, last occupation)
Where educated.....
Father's name.....
profession.....
address.....
Name in full.....
Address.....

Copies of this form can be obtained from the Secretary, and the list of applicants will be always open for the inspection of our Members.

Colonial Report—St. Vincent.

We have received the report of Mr. Edward J. Cameron, the Administrator of St. Vincent, on the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1903-4, forwarded to the Colonial Office on January 31st last. The Land Settlement or Peasant Proprietary Scheme Estates continued much in the same condition as last described, though a certain advance was made in the direction of the establishment of economic plants of a permanent nature as against provision crops, which had previously absorbed the efforts of the peasantry for the most part. In this connection the appointment of the Agricultural Instructor, who has been constantly on and around the estates in touch with the people, has done good. No further lands were acquired during the year.

The great agricultural feature of the year was the inauguration of the Sea Island cotton industry. The results have been certainly encouraging: 136 bales of excellent cotton realising from 4d. (this figure is for the Upland quality) to 1s. 3½d. per lb. have been shipped from the Colony since April, 1904, and the present area in cultivation, from which the crop was being taken off at the time of writing, is approximately 1,471 acres. With these prices, which moreover leave a fair margin for a fall, the industry should certainly pay and go some way in assisting to restore the Colony's sorely shattered prosperity.

During the year a cotton ginning factory of the most modern approved pattern, planned by the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture after a personal inspection of many cotton estates in the Southern States of America, visited specially in connection with the desired revival of this industry in the West Indies, was erected and equipped with six single action Macarthy gins supplied by three different firms, by which the first experimental crop of Sea Island cotton was effectively handled. The cost of the factory, erected with the object of assisting to raise the fallen fortunes of the island and so improve the condition of its people, was defrayed from the Soufrière Eruption Fund.

The following is a table of the total Revenue and Expenditure for five years, 1899 to 1903-4:—

YEAR.	REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE		TOTAL.	
	Local ...	Imperial Grant	Local ...	Imperial Grant		
1899...	£29,218	34,075	£30,322	17,533	47,855	£15,438 Surplus.
		£63,293				
1900...	28,376	2,050	29,081	7,040	36,121	5,695 Deficit.
		30,426				
1901-2	23,705	2,907	26,149	3,423	29,572	2,960 "
		26,612				
1902-3	25,931	3,361	25,758	2,632	28,390	902 Surplus.
		29,292				
1903-4	20,944	5,572	26,657	1,158	28,115	1,599 Deficit.
		26,516				

In his concluding remarks the Administrator states that the general condition of the Colony in 1903-4 may be said to have been one of gradual recovery after the terrific experiences of the previous ten months, but its strength has been greatly impaired by this second convulsion, following on the terrible 1898 hurricane, and recuperation cannot be, even if assisted by much improved circumstances, other than a very gradual process. Moreover the "Relief" remedy, which has had perforce to be so largely applied in these two illnesses, is a dangerous drug, and apt to leave enduring ill-effects on the constitution.

Consular Reports.

Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, 1904.—The export of sugar in 1904 showed a decrease of 12,000 tons. The figures for the past four years show a continued decrease. The total export of sugar in 1904 was 18,311 tons as compared with 30,341 tons in 1903.

Austria-Hungary, 1900-1904.—Dealing with the methods used for balancing the Budget of 1904, Mr. Alan Johnstone, Councillor to H.M. Embassy states in his report that in consequence of the Brussels Sugar Convention the money voted by Parliament as bounties on exported sugar, and which amounted to 13,800,000 kr. per annum (£575,000), was no longer paid to the sugar manufacturers, but having been voted by Parliament, was used as a means of covering what would otherwise have been a deficit. One consequence of the Convention was an increase in the production of sugar intended for home purposes and a consequent increase in the return from excise too, which was estimated in the Budget to produce 7,000,000 kr. (£291,666) more than in 1903.

Calais, 1904.—The production of sugar in this district was less, the acreage of beet cultivation smaller, and price of sugar higher. In some quarters large manufacturers were accused of forming a "ring" to keep up the prices, and suggestions were made as to State regulated prices. A company had begun work in the Calais and Boulogne District for drying beetroot for cattle food. At Lille the crisis in the sugar industry was at its climax in February, when the price in Paris was 18s. 6d. A large number of works were closed, the price coming below cost of manufacture. Sugar beetroot was scarce, and the total production of European sugar was 20 per cent. less than in 1903. Stocks therefore diminished, and prices rose nearly cent. per cent., the present rate being £1 15s. 4d.

The total production of sugar (cane and beet) in the world from September 1903, to September 1904, is reported at 12,610,000 tons; allowing that a stock of three weeks (300,000 tons) is necessary to pass from one campaign to another, the totality of sugar on the market for consumption between September 1904, and September 1905, would be 12,110,000 tons, or about 1,000,000 tons below the quantity produced in the preceding year. The stock on the French market in the beginning of December was 687,195 tons. Though there appears to be an increased tendency to export, a home consumption of 45,000 to 50,000 tons a month leaves scant margin for foreign demands. The production of alcohol (23,848,000 gallons) was more than double that of the previous season. Farmers continued to increase the cultivation of beets, but the dry summer lessened results, and the production of alcohol will be reduced by about 20 per cent., the production for the first three months of the season being 17,028,000 gallons, against 19,052,000 gallons for the corresponding period in 1903. Prices rose in consequence, the average in Paris, from October to December, being £2 2s. per hectolitre (22 gallons) at 90 degrees, against £1 12s. per hectolitre for the same period in 1903. The scarcity of sugar beet reduced the production of molasses and of alcohol extracted therefrom, the quantity in the first three months of the season being 1,030,000 gallons, against 1,320,000 gallons in 1903. Production of alcohol from fruit and wine increased remarkably, from 990,000 gallons in 1903 to 3,850,000 gallons in 1904.

Notes of Interest.

THE GENERAL MEETING. In the absence of Sir Nevile Lubbock, the chair at the Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee on Thursday next, May 11th, will be taken by Sir Henry K. Davson at 3 p.m.

Mr. C. A. CAMPBELL. Mr. Colin Algernon Campbell, whose father now holds the respected position of Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England, has joined the Board of the London Assurance Corporation. Both are Members of the Executive of the West India Committee.

OBITUARY. It is with great regret that we have to record the death of Sir Robert Herbert, who for many years was Permanent Under-Secretary for the Colonies, which occurred on Friday night at his seat, Ickleton, Great Chesterford, Essex. He was born in 1831.

OVERSEER'S REGISTER. Estates Managers and Proprietors requiring overseers are informed that a list of applicants for such posts is 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.

MAIL OPPORTUNITIES. The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and Royal Mail steamers after the departure of the West Indian Mail on Wednesday next are advertised: S.S. "Dictator" from Liverpool, for Barbados (for Barbados and West Indian Islands), May 12th; the R.M.S. "Port Morant" from London, for Bermuda, Turk's Island and Kingston, Jamaica, May 12th; S.S. "Spheroid" from London, for Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Demerara and Berbice, May 18th; S.S. "Cuban" from Liverpool, for Barbados and Trinidad, May 19th; and the R.M.S. "Port Antonio" from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, May 20th.

CENTRAL FACTORY IN JAMAICA. According to our Jamaica Correspondent, efforts are being made to start a central sugar factory in the parish of Vere, in Jamaica. Mr. E. A. de Pass has recently returned from a visit to that Island where, in conjunction with his partners, he purchased "Morelands" and "Olive Park" estates, which are contiguous to "Hillside" and "Raymund's" estates, of which they are already part proprietors. The situation and conditions of these plantations peculiarly adapt them for a central factory scheme. Mr. C. E. de Mercado, the resident partner of Messrs. Lascelles de Mercado & Co., in Jamaica, arrived in this country by the "Port Kingston" on April 25th, with a view to making the necessary arrangements.

LIVERPOOL AND THE WEST INDIES. At the Annual Meeting of the West India Section of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce on April 28th, the Report of the Committee was adopted, and Mr. J. E. Tinné and Mr. J. W. Scholefield were re-elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. The report deals chiefly with the rice trade with Cuba, which was the subject of representations to the home Government, and on January 24th last a deputation from the Chamber waited upon Lord Lansdowne to point out the serious effects which the proposed increase in the duty on rice imported into Cuba would have on British interests. H.M. Minister at Havana was instructed to do all in his power to assist the British rice trade with Cuba, with the result that the proposal for doubling the duty on rice, brought before the Cuban House of Representatives, was referred back for re-consideration, and is now unlikely to be adopted.

The Homeward Mail.

Among the many passengers by the R.M.S. "La Plata" which anchored off Plymouth at 1.30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3rd, were the following Members of the West India Committee:—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Hon. B. Howell Jones, Dr. Alfred L. Wykham, Mr. J. W. Thorp, Mr. J. Wilson, and Colonel F. C. Trollope. The Mails were delivered by the 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 on April 25th. We extract the following items of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents received by the R.M.S. "La Plata."

Antigua—Sugar Prospects.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) April 18th—Estates were rapidly getting through their acreage. In some places the juice was rather full of non-sugar bodies, which caused considerable trouble and loss in manufacture. Probably the very poor season had had a good deal to do with this, so much of the cane was really sun-ripe rather than fully grown. Naturally, with such a bad season, the crop of peasant cane was very small. Not more than about a fourth of the quantity bought last year at the Bendalls factory had so far been bought this year. The price paid at this factory for canes delivered in March was 13s 2½d. per ton.

The fortnight has been almost rainless, and the weather rather hotter than was usual at this time.

Barbados—Banana Shipments.

(HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE) April 19th—A very strong feeling prevailed in the Island that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company had not been fairly treated, and also that the request of the Colony that the conditions of any contract should be submitted to the West Indies before being accepted by the Postmaster-General had been entirely ignored.

Sir Daniel Morris on April 14th gave a most instructive address before the Agricultural Society on the subject of cotton, and that industry now appeared to be on a thoroughly substantial basis. More bananas also were being shipped, but the long six months' drought had militated against the size of the bunches, so that many hundreds were being sold locally which, had they been larger, would have been shipped.

The molasses question in Canada was still being dealt with.

The decline of the price of sugar to \$2.40, in spite of the predictions of their friends in England, gave cause for apprehension. A very small portion of the crop had yet been sold. Molasses stood at 21 cents.

The fortnight up to date had been entirely without rain. Notwithstanding this, the young canes continued green, except in some parts of the upper portion of St. Philip, and the yield of the old crop generally has improved. The roads were deep in dust, and rain was badly wanted.

British Guiana—The Mail Contract.

(J. C. McCOWAN, Esq.) April 19th—The question of the rum surtax was again to be considered at the next meeting of the Planters' Association.

The fact that the Post Office were negotiating with Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. for the mail contract was known on Saturday April 15th, and the matter was at once taken up, with the result that a letter signed by all the members of the Court of Policy and the Financial Representatives, and another by the Chamber of Commerce, were sent to the Government Secretary on Monday, the 17th, asking the Governor to telegraph immediately to the Postmaster-General and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, requesting that no contract be entered into until further details of all tenders and offers for the performance of the mail service were submitted to the various Colonial Legislatures, and stating that on anything like equal terms the preference should be given to the present contractors. A second letter from the unofficial members of the Legislature was being sent in to the Governor on April 19th, asking him to cable again to the Secretary of State. The feeling in British Guiana was very strong that the Government had decided to make the change without considering the wishes of the different Colonies in the matter, and that this decision was come to some time ago.

There was nothing doing in crystals.

The weather had been showery in the earlier part of the fortnight, but it had since set in dry again. Good rains were wanted generally.

British Honduras—The Estimates.

(HON. A. R. USHER) April 13th—The estimates for the financial year 1905-6 had been passed by the Legislative Council, and the revenue of the Colony had been put down at \$332,250.00, and expenditure \$325,827.98. The estimated amount of surplus at April 1st, 1905, was \$146,720.52.

The weather appeared to be settled dry, and operations of getting out both mahogany and logwood had commenced.

Dominica—The Mail Question.

(E. A. AGAR, Esq.) April 19th—The Legislative Council held its opening meeting on the 7th.

They had learnt by cable on April 18th that the Colonial Office proposed giving the mail contract to Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., though it was not confirmed, and no details had been received. The Council of the Dominica Agricultural Society, at a meeting on April 19th, passed the following resolution, which fairly represented the public feeling on the subject:—"That whereas the services of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have given general satisfaction for many years, in the opinion of the Council of the Dominica Agricultural Society it will be a matter of deep regret if the Imperial authorities be unable to make arrangements with this Company for a renewal of the mail contract."

The weather continued dry.

Grenada Improved Outlook for Cocoa.

(P. J. DEAN, Esq.) April 21st—The attitude taken up by the Government over the question of the mail contract, cable communication and the retention of the troops was by no means encouraging.

It was pleasing to be able to report a more favourable outlook for their cocoa crop. Shipments had been coming forward more freely during the fortnight, and their shortage at the end of this month would be reduced to 8,9000 bags.

Jamaica—A New Central Factory.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq.) April 19th—The weather during the fortnight had been favourable. At last it seemed probable that a start would be made with the long wished for and much talked of Central Sugar Factories. Messrs. C. E. de Mercado, of Messrs. Lascelles de Mercado & Co., Jamaica, and Mr. E. A. de Pass, of London, who had recently visited the Colony, had bought the estate of "Moreland," in Vere, with the purpose of running a central factory there, and Mr. A. W. Parquharson, of "St. Jago" and "Amity Hall" estates in Vere, had bought the adjacent estates, "Chesterfield" and "Perrins" for the same purpose. It was said that he would erect a large factory at "Amity Hall."

The seasons continued favourable for planters. The price of bananas had gone up, as was usual at that time of the year, and there would be a good demand until July, when the prices drop again.

(R. CRAIG, Esq.) April 15th—The weather had suddenly become more favourable, and the barometer had been low for weeks. Another week should see the last of the tourists. Bananas were much better than expected, but would not be plentiful before June or July.

Nevis—Extension of the Cotton Industry.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) April 19th—Nearly all the cotton had been picked, but there was still a good quantity unginced. The writer was pleased to say that the ginning was working much more satisfactorily. The quality of the oil used had much to do with the difficulties. The sugar crop was being rapidly reaped, but would be distinctly below the average.

The cotton industry appeared likely to be considerably extended in Nevis next planting, which would lead one to suppose that the results of the year's crop had so far been satisfactory. Very few account sales had yet been received, but the writer had heard of some lots which realised 18 2d., and one which netted 15 3d. per lb. It was hoped that a great deal of the uncultivated land might soon be taken up for cotton growing, especially when the new road, which would tap the best cotton land, had been constructed.

St. Kitts—Sugar Shipping Facilities.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, Esq.) April 18th—From recent telegrams it was learnt that the Imperial Government were still disinclined to respect their rights in the matter of the mail contract. It was hoped that the plain speaking on the part of the larger Colonies would avail, and so save the situation.

The year's output at the Spooner's ginnery had now been completed. At the two others operations were still going on. Figures would be sent when all was completed.

Occasional showers were helping forward the young canes without retarding reaping operations, which were making good progress. So far they had been well served by Messrs. Pickford & Black in the matter of space for their sugars.

St. Lucia—The Withdrawal of the Troops.

(HON. E. DE BOULAY) April 20th—The question of removing the troops seemed to have been decided in the affirmative, as all stores in the Island were being offered for sale, and it was generally understood that by the end of the year the garrison will have left.

The action of the Government with regard to the mail service was much to be regretted, in view of the long service of the Royal Mail, and a strong protest had been sent in, signed by most of the principal merchants and unofficial members of the Council, against this action.

The weather was still dry. They had about four weeks more cropping.

St. Vincent—Cotton Growers and the Mail Contract.

(Messrs. D. K. POITRE & Co.) April 20th—The Cotton Growers' Association (which was the most representative body in the Island) had passed on the 19th a strong resolution, urging that, having regard to the long and efficient mail service afforded by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the continuance of the same would be of benefit to the Colony, and urging the renewal of the contract with that Company by giving the preference to it on anything like even terms.

Trinidad—Cocoa Deliveries.

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C.M.G.) April 20th—The public telegrams which reached Trinidad on the 17th and following day conveyed the first intimation of the intentions of the Government with regard to the mail contract and on the following day a meeting of the Unofficial Members of Council was held, and a resolution passed, protesting strongly against the acceptance of a contract involving the payment by the Colony of a large subsidy, and vitally affecting its interests, without the terms of the contract being submitted for the consideration of the Legislative and Executive Councils and the mercantile community. The Governor was requested to forward this resolution by cable to the Secretary of State. On the evening of the same day the Governor received a long message, which he condensed in the form of a Minute and summoned a meeting of the Council on April 20th to consider it. Meantime the Chamber of Commerce had called a meeting for 9 o'clock, but this was postponed, at the Governor's request, until 2 o'clock, in order that his Minute should be submitted. As the mail contract affected the mercantile community to a greater extent than any other portion of the people, the Legislative Council, after a short discussion, adjourned until Saturday, the 22nd, so as to have the benefit of the opinions expressed at the Chamber. It was felt that in the contract it was proposed to accept, Trinidad, in having unduly charged, in view of the fact that Barbados was to continue to be the headquarters of the mail ships.

Sugar making was fast closing up, but deliveries of cocoa for the fortnight had been on a larger scale than was anticipated, and it seemed possible that they might this month reach the same figures as for the corresponding period of last year, although even this would leave a considerable shortage on the crop. Prices, in the face of the large deliveries, remained very firm, with a strong advancing tendency for the "Estates." Business had been done for "Ordinary" grades at 54s. c. and f. Havre, and fine "Estates" had been sold to the United States at a parity of 57s. 6d. Arrivals from the Main had been excessively few, and in consequence prices had risen to \$13 for fair quality.

The weather continued hot and dry, with some sultriness, the last few days indicating a near approach of rains. These were much wanted throughout the Colony.

Our Library.

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. Since we last went to press we have received the following publications:—

The Agricultural News, Vol. IV, No. 79 (Obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 1d., post free 1½d.). Rationing Sea Island cotton is the subject of the principal article in this issue of the fortnightly review of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and a report of the conference of cotton growers recently held in Barbados, will be read with interest by proprietors.

Journal of Jamaica Agricultural Society, No. 4, Vol. IX, April, 1905. We have received the April number of this admirable monthly Journal, now in its ninth volume. Useful articles regarding ticks, bees, poultry, rabbits, horse-breeding and fruit marks are given, and also seasonable hints on general agricultural topics, all of which we think would be of great value to agriculturists, not in Jamaica alone, but the West Indies in general. We note, also, subjects dealt with by the Board of Management, among which the most important are coolie immigration, the Direct Line contract, and the report of the Agricultural Conference in Trinidad.

Ten Thousand Miles through India and Burma. By Cecil Headlam. London: J. M. Dent & Co. The Oxford University Athletics' cricket team were fortunate in having with them such an accomplished raconteur as Mr. Headlam when they visited India under the captaincy of Mr. K. J. Key in the year of the Coronation Durbar. Besides placing a very complete record of a very successful tour before his readers, the author gives in the pleasing style to which we have become accustomed by his previous works, telling descriptions of the principal places visited. The team included G. H. Simpson-Hayward and H. J. Powys Keck who recently visited the West Indies with Lord Brackley's team. Mr. Headlam's book will be a fitting companion on our library shelves to Mr. P. F. Warner's "Cricket in Many Climes," which is always very much in request.

Sugar Cane Experiments in the Leeward Islands. Part II., price 1s., post free 1s. 1d. This paper gives the report on experiments conducted in Antigua and St. Kitts. In forwarding it to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Dr. Francis Watts stated that the season, from the irregularity of the rainfall, presented considerable difficulties in connection with the application of manures, with which this part of the publication mainly deals. The bulk of the report is greatly lessened by making the comparisons upon the weight of the canes instead of upon the sucrose contained in the juice; at the same time it is believed that this does not diminish either the accuracy or the interest of the volume. By summarising the work of the past four years in connection with plant canes, and of the past three in connection with ratoons, it is hoped that definite and concordant results are put forward for the guidance of planters. These results are in close accord with the experience of planters on a large scale, and, as the recommendations following therefrom are of a very simple character, it is hoped they may be followed in practise with satisfactory results.

Mont Pelée and the Tragedy of Martinique. By Angelo Heilprin. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company, 15/- net. Though it may seem captious to do so, we must seriously challenge the accuracy of the appellation given by Prof. Heilprin to the dread volcano of Martinique. In the local journal, *Les Colonies*—a facsimile of the front page of the paper appears in this work—the mountain was called *La Montagne Pelée*, the bald mountain. But *Mont Pelée*, with the double "e," as it is termed by the learned Professor appears to us to be wrong. If the masculine word "Mont" is used as a prefix the mountain should surely be *Mont Pelé*. *Mount Pelée* or simply *Pelée* might be accepted, but *Mont Pelée* cannot pass muster. Putting this question on one side however, we have nothing but praise for Professor Heilprin's book which is weirdly fascinating, recalling as it does so vividly the disastrous visitation of May, 1902, when upwards of 30,000 souls were overwhelmed in a few brief moments by that disastrous blast from Pelée. The author paid two visits to Martinique after an interval of three months; in the latter part of May, 1902, and again in August. During the later visit it was his privilege to be a close witness of the second great death-dealing eruption, and he had therefore the marked advantage of being able to make his own investigations on the spot. One of the most interesting chapters of the book is the one in which comparison is drawn between Pelée and St. Pierre, and Vesuvius and Pompeii. The facts of the disaster of 1902 and 79 are closely compared, and the analysis, to the mind of the author, clearly allows of the assumption, even if it does not supply an adequate demonstration of the fact, that Pompeii and its inhabitants were destroyed somewhat in the manner of St. Pierre by an explosive and tornadic blast and not through simple incineration as has generally been assumed by historians and geologists. The book is copiously illustrated, largely by photographs taken by the author, and merits, as it has doubtless already attained, a large circulation.

We have also to acknowledge with thanks the gift of the following books for our library:—

- The West Indies and the Spanish Main**. By James Rodway, F. I. S. The Story of the Nations series. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1899.
- Mary Paget**. A Romance of old Bermuda. By Minna Caroline Smith. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1900.
- The Conqueror**. Being the true and romantic story of Alexander Hamilton. By Gertrude Franklin Atherton. London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd., 1903.
- The Butterfly Hunters in the Caribbees**. By Dr. Eugene Murray-Aaron, F. E. S., F. Z. S. E. London: Sampson Low, Marston & Co., 1904.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "La Plata" (Capt. W. J. Dagnall) May 3rd:—
Barbados—Mr. W. E. Smith, Dr. W. H. Bayley, Mr. J. W. Thorp, Mr. C. Y. Simpson, Mrs. Walton, Mr. J. Troillet, Mr. A. Troillet, Mr. and Mrs. Bouniq, Miss Baginski, Lieut. P. C. Guy, Miss Harford, Mr. A. H. Easty, Lieut. Burns, Capt. and Mrs. E. A. A. de Salis, Hon. and Mrs. F. M. Alleyne, Mr. O. H. T. Dudley, Col. F. C. Trollope, Mr. R. S. Morton, Mr. A. B. Morton, Miss Freeland, Mr. T. S. Hicks, Mr. E. Clarke, Mr. E. L. Talma, Mr. H. A. Bros, Mrs. Swaby, Capt. Wiig, Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Holford, Mr. E. Smith, Mr. Munro, Mr. W. Von der Heyde, Captain Jolliffe.
Demerata—Mr. C. E. Shepherd, Hon. and Mrs. B. H. Jones, three Misses Jones, Mr. J. Dalzell, Mr. A. F. Sharer, Mr. F. W. Linck, Mr. J. Bourke, Mr. W. Whyte, Mr. T. Fairbairn, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. L. Kerr, Mr. J. Shand, Mr. and Mrs. Wreford, Miss Garraway, Mr. G. Sanford, Mr. G. R. de Freitas. **Jamaica**—Mr. W. Evans, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, Sergt.-Major Booker, Hon. L. J. Bertram, Hon. P. Stern, Mr. K. Roy, Col. Townshend, Mr. and Miss

Hindmarsh, Mr and Mrs A R. Reed, Mr E. C. Tucker, Mrs. M. L. Thiele, Mr and Mrs. Scholes, Mr and Mrs. Herbert, Mr. H. Brockwell, Sir G. and Lady Dallas, Mr A. L. Bowker. **Trinidad**—Mr. J. Sergeant, Mr. H. A. Hearn, Mr. J. H. Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. Spyer, Mrs. J. H. Hart, Mr. R. A. Low, Mr. W. Messervy, Mr. J. Kapajort, Mr. J. Wilson, Mr. H. O. Mordaunt, Mr. T. G. O. Cole. **Antigua**—Miss Ronan, Mrs. D. J. Martin, Mr. J. W. A. Maginley, Dr. and Mrs. Wykham. **Dominica**—Mr. and Mrs. Skinner, Mr. A. D. W. Skinner. **Grenada**—Mr. J. McGilchrist, Dr. and Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Alexander. **St. Kitts**—Mr. B. Davies. **St. Lucia**—Mrs. Lindsey.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt Doughty), May 10th:—**Barbados**—Mr. E. L. Skeete. **Demerara**—Miss E. Palmer, Dr. A. Wylie, Mr. Gaskin, Mr. Gomes, Mr. G. W. Schmidt, Very Rev. Dean and Mrs. Caswell. **Jamaica**—Miss Lewis, Baron G. Plessen, Dr. J. Ogilvie, Capt. J. H. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Douman, Mrs. Cork. **Trinidad**—Mr. Kochen, Mrs. and Miss I. Cipriani. **Antigua**—Mrs. Bryson, Mrs. Goodwin. **St. Lucia**—Mr. A. Drysdale, Mr. and Mrs. H. Kitchener. **Dominica**—Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton. **Grenada**—Mr. T. J. C. Crump.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), April 25th:—**Jamaica**—Mr. M. Abbood, Miss Austin, Mr. Arden, Dr. G. H. Bontor, Sir S. Black, Miss Black, Miss Bevan, Hon. A. H. Baring, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Burnham, Mr. Bevans, Mr. Blair, Miss Colmer, Mr. Challoner, Mr. A. T. Carter, Mr. Cole, Mr. Sassy, Miss E. K. M. Cox, Mr. C. E. deMercado, Mr. E. A. dePass, Mr. Drybrough, Miss M. P. Dodd, Mr. R. S. Durston, Mr. Drewitt, Mr. Daulton, Miss M. C. Edgar, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Forsyth, Mr. and Mrs. E. Gumsion, two Misses Sainsbury, Mrs. and Miss Galloway, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Huntriss, Col. and Mrs. Hassell, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Horn, Mr. and Mrs. Higgins, Mr. Hobbs, Miss Hutchinson, Miss Hamilton, Mr. Holloway, Mr. Harris, Mr. J. T. Jones, Miss Kirkwood, Mrs. H. Kerr, Mr. and Mrs. Knecht, Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Kerr, Mr. R. Little, Mr. M. Lopez, Mr. and Mrs. Lancaster, Mr. and Mrs. Limpus, Mr. and Mrs. Lang, Miss Lynch, Mr. J. G. Makin, Mr. and Mrs. McMahon, Mr. H. E. McGill, Col. Malcolm, two Misses Murgatroyd, Mr. Menzies, Mr. Madgwick, Miss Morris, Miss Noble, Miss Napier, Mr. Nosworthy, Dr. O'Gorman, Sir Wm. Preece, Mr. Preece, Mrs. E. Pershouse, Miss Pullen-Burry, Mr. J. Pullman, Mr. Payne, Mr. Plunkett, Mr. Playfair, Mr. Parkinson, Miss Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. and two Misses Phillipps, Mr. W. Richardson, Mr. E. H. Robertson, Mr. C. Ricketts, Mr. C. A. Reynolds, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Roche, Mr. C. Shaw, Dr. and Miss Spanton, Mr. and Mrs. Sutcliffe, Mr. and Miss Sampson, Mrs. Sharpe, Mr. Stephenson, Mr. Stewart, Capt. Sandys, Mr. Stockley, Miss E. Tetley, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Thursfield, Dr. Thursfield, two Misses Thomas, Mr. La Trobe, Miss Turner, Mr. Vivian, Miss B. Watson, Mr. J. G. Johnstone.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston," (Capt. J. G. Parsons) May 6th:—**Jamaica**—Mr. L. A. Archer, Mrs. Garvin, Major A. E. Kershaw, Mr. J. Lang, Rev. and Mrs. T. D. MacNee, Mr. R. Stagg, Mr. W. Stagg, Miss Smith, Mr. B. P. Tait.

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. H. D. PHILLIPS, District Commissioner, Toledo, British Honduras, has left the Colony for England on six months' leave. Mr. J. Taylor, Keeper of the Belize Prison, acts as District Commissioner, and Mr. W. H. Hoar as Keeper of the Prison.

Mr. E. F. H. Cox, Deputy Clerk of the Courts, St. Andrew, Jamaica, who is now in England on leave, has obtained an extension until the 14th of July next.

The Hon. C. MUSGRAVE having resigned the duties of Superintendent of Crown Lands in Dominica, they have been taken over by Mr. W. A. Miller, the Colonial Engineer and Surveyor-General.

Mr. W. SCOTT EVANS, of the Colonial Secretary's Office, Jamaica, is proceeding to the West Coast of Africa to serve under the Government of Northern Nigeria.—*Morning Post*

Mr. J. H. ENNOWES has resigned his appointment as Private Secretary to the Governor of the Windward Islands.

Mr. WILLIAM A. PARKER has been appointed Official Receiver, Georgetown, Demerara.

Mr. A. E. ELDRIDGE has been appointed an Official Member of the Legislative Council of Antigua.

Dr. G. W. PATERSON, Medical Officer No. 1 District, Grenada, has been granted five months and nineteen days' leave of absence from April 21st.

During the absence on leave of the Hon. T. B. OUGHTON, Solicitor-General, Jamaica, Mr. H. I. C. BRONN, Barrister-at-Law, has been appointed to act as Solicitor-General and as a Member of the Legislative Council.

Mr. ROBERT BRYSON has been appointed an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of the Presidency of Antigua.

The resignation of Mr. O. HUMPHREYS as an Official Member of the Legislative Council of Antigua has been accepted by His Excellency the Governor.

During the absence on leave of the Hon. HUGH CLIFFORD, C.M.G., Mr. W. M. GORDON will act as Colonial Secretary, and Mr. C. J. ROOKS as Assistant Colonial Secretary, Trinidad.

During the absence on leave of Mr. J. H. HART, Mr. W. LESLIE has been appointed as Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Hon. W. ROBERTSON has been appointed an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, Trinidad, for a further period of five years from November 14th, 1904.

Mr. WILLIAM ROBSON, formerly of the Royal Gardens, Kew, has been appointed Curator of the Experiment Stations at Montserrat, West Indies.

The Hon. J. L. BERTRAM, Auditor-General of Jamaica, has arrived in England on leave. Mr. W. C. G. ARROWSMITH, Chief Clerk of the Audit Department, has taken over the duties of Auditor-General.

Captain J. H. LEARMOUTH, Inspector-General of Police of the Leeward Islands, is to be transferred to Cyprus in a similar capacity. Formerly an officer in the 12th Lancers, Captain Learmouth has since the year 1886 served in the Civil Service of South Australia, Lagos, the Bahamas, and for the past ten years in the Leeward Islands.

In the absence of the Hon. ST. JOHN BRANCH, Colonial Secretary and Attorney-General of the Leeward Islands on leave, the duties of Colonial Secretary are being performed by Mr. EDWARD B. JARVIS, and those of the Attorney-General by the Hon. SHOLTO R. PEMBERTON.

Mr. C. C. GREAVES, Mr. M. EVELYN and Mr. JOHN EVELYN have been appointed to be a Committee for the purpose of arbitrating should any difficulties or disputes arise, between the peasant proprietors and the estates in Nevis contracting with the Government to purchase canes from peasant proprietors.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) April 25th. "Very dry; rain wanted." May 8th. "Light, partial showers." British Guiana (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) May 4th. "Some showers have fallen, but more rain much wanted." (Messrs. H. K. Davson & Co.) May 6th. "Weather is favourable for the growing crops."

Export of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to April 19 1905	1904	Jan. 1 to April 19 1905	1904	April 1 to April 8 1905	1904	Jan. 1 to April 20 1905	1904	Oct. 1 to April 20 1905	1904
Sugar	7607	8933 Tons.	23,022	24,538 Tons.	752	18 Tons.	195,844	199,770 Bks. & Wrbs	...	...
Molasses	13,738	15,147 Pns.	1558	213 Puns.	...	...	1762	751 Puns.	...	...
Rum	4810	7516 "	90,853	81,964 Galls.	52	22 Tns	...	...
Molascut	2774	1280 Tons.	...	...	103	55 Brls.	...	...
Cocoa	17,809 lbs.	1,071	28 Cwts.	297	...	43,161	57,518 Bags.
Coffee	794	648 "	...	...	23	126 "
Coconuts	216,080	46,040	56,650	8600	3,475,740	2,756,425	...	...
Copra	3193	6260 Bags	...	...
Cotton	278	286 Bales.
Cotton Seed	1747	1851 Bags.
Asphalt	35,430	46,337 Tons	...	...
Oranges	141,050	3500	...	...	...	...
Bananas	245,805	3356 Bunchs.	...	...	2846	2124 Brls.
Pimento	851	...	...	...	381	550 1/2 Brls.
Spice	345	275 Cases.
Gold	23,754	18,557 OZS	...	...	...	...	137	48 Bags.
Diamonds	1922	2430 CARATS.	...	...	...	...	...	...

Some West Indian Securities.

Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.		Date.	Divident.	Price.
100,000.	Stock	Antigua - - 4 per cent. Redeemable 1919-44 ...	100	4 %	101-103
375,000	"	Barbados - - 3 1/2 " " " 1925-42 ...	100	3 1/2 %	99-101
194,500	"	British Guiana 4 " " " 1935 ...	100	4 %	106-108
123,670.	"	Grenada - - 4 " " " 1917-42 ...	100	4 %	101-103
1,093,907 1/2.	"	Jamaica - - 4 " " " 1934 ...	100	4 %	109-111
85,479 1/2.	"	St. Lucia - - 4 " " " 1919-44 ...	100	4 %	103-105
422,593 1/2.	"	Trinidad - - 4 " " " 1917-42 ...	100	4 %	103-105
600,000	"	Trinidad - - 3 " " Inscribed Stock 1922-44 ...	100	3 %	90-92
100,000	20	Colonial Bank ...	£6	6 %	61-7 1/2
15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ...	70	—	28 1/2-29 1/2
209,800.	Stock.	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4% 1st Mtge. Deb	100	4 1/2 %	82-84
26,763	5	New Colonial Co., Ltd. ...	5	Nil	5-5 1/2
46,874	5	" " " 5 % Non-Cum Pref. ...	5	5 %	23-3 1/2
347,500	Stock.	" " " 4 % 1st Mtge Deb. Stock red	100	4 %	74-76
352,700	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb	100	6 %	100-103
165,000.	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock	100	Nil.	17-20
115,000.	Stock.	" " " 7 % Preference	100	6 %	87-89 1/2
31,250	10	" " " 4 % Extension Preference...	10	4 %	8-9
70,000.	Stock.	" " " Perpetual Deb. Stock	100	4 %	96-98
78,500	100	Direct West India Cable Co. 4 1/2 % Reg. Debs. (within Nos 1 to 1200) red.	100	4 1/2 %	100-102
12,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ...	£2 10 0	6 %	—
50,600.	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4 1/2 % 1st Mtge. Deb. (within 1 to 1200) red.	100	4 1/2 %	100-102
10,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. ...	5	5 %	—
88,321	10	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. Ordinary	10	—	1-3
34,563	10	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	10	7 1/2 %	8 1/2-8 3/4
4,669	10	" " " 2nd "	10	—	7 1/2-8 1/4
80,000.	100	" " " 5% Deb	100	5 %	104-106

Bank rate 2 1/2 % (changed from 3 % on March 9th, 1905), Consols 89 1/4.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—With the liquidation of the huge May account in 88% now practically completed, violent fluctuations have been of daily occurrence, creating a most uneasy feeling in the market and entirely demoralising all legitimate business. The anticipated revival in the trade demand so universally expected after the late Budget has again to be postponed, distributors both Wholesale and Retail being afraid to commit themselves to any general buying, and operating in a manner that will leave them protected in the event of a still further decline in prices. These speculative fluctuations are extremely disturbing, and often productive of more loss than gain to those who engage in them. From what now appears, it is well recognised there will be no absolute want of sugar for the next five months, and the interest in the future may now be transferred to the new beet crop being put into the ground, and the various climatic influences that will attend it in its growth till October next. With normal weather and the anticipated increase in sowings, the extent of which no one is aware of at present, we must expect a large addition to the Beet production next season, but coming as it will on considerably reduced stocks, the effect on prices is not likely to be very important. Sooner or later the price of ready 88% quoted below will have to join that of October/December, whatever it is when these months come, and this is the barometer that wants watching far more than the fact of there being a reduction of 50 000 tons or so in any cane crops, or the misleading figures placed before the world from time to time of what is generally called "consumption," and which in reality is only distribution.

The moment's quotations of 88% are:—May, 11s. 11½d.; August, 12s. 2½d.; September, 11s. 5½d.; and October, December, 10s. 3d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	Tons
Europe	2,160,000	2,840,000	2,780,000	2,900,000	2,170,000	
United States	280,000	190,000	250,000	130,000	220,000	
Cuba	360,000	240,000	370,000	430,000	190,000	
Cargoes afloat	40,000	40,000	20,000	10,000	—	
Total	2,840,000	3,310,000	3,420,000	3,470,000	2,580,000	
Comparative prices of 88% Beet in bond:—	11s. 11½d.	9s. 0d.	8s. 3½d.	6s. 4½d.	9s. 6d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—The break up of the Beet root market has entirely demoralised all sugar, and for the moment it is practically impossible to effect sales of crystallised. Some small lots have been sold from 19s. to 19s. 6d. for yellow, making the value of average qualities 19s., with a general range of 18s. to 20s.

For 96 test to Refiners somewhere about 14s. 6d. should be obtainable on floating terms, but in the present unsettled state of the market few Refiners can be induced to make purchases.

Molasses Sugar is in good demand from 13s. to 17s. Sales made to arrive at 12s. in bond, for 89 test, on floating conditions.

Muscovado.—Small lots of fine grocery Barbados may still be quoted about 19s. to 19s. 6d. A good business has been done in 89 test to Refiners from 14s. down to 13s. 6d. on floating terms for sugar near at hand and now shipping. The latter price however is no longer obtainable.

Wheat India Figures since 1st Jan.		1905	1904	1903	1902	Tons
Imports	...	16,000	17,000	7,000	19,000	
Deliveries	...	12,000	16,000	15,000	15,000	
Stocks	...	14,000	14,000	21,000	15,000	
Quotations of Crystallised, duty paid, average qualities	19s. 0d.	15s. 6d.	15s. 0d.	14s. 0d.		

Rum—Stocks in London:		1905	1904	1903	1902	Puns.
Jamaica	...	7300	7600	9600	6800	
Demerara	...	6200	12,000	10,000	10,400	
Total of all kinds	...	21,033	28,178	...	Deficiency 7145	

The tone of this Market is undoubtedly quiet and our large distributors complain bitterly about the smallness of the demand from the general body of consumers. Jamaica remains steady at 2s. 1d. for fair Standard Home Trade Marks. Values of Demerara range from 1s. 2½d. to 1s. 4½d., with 1s. 3d. for fair marks. The stocks of this rum are greatly reduced as will be seen by the figures printed above. Leewards and other proof kinds range from 1s. to 1s. 5d.

Cocoa—Stocks in London:		1905	1904	1903	1902	Hags.
	...	77,000	93,000	84,000	72,000	

Cocoa shows little alteration, with the exception of Native West India which is here and there 1s. lower. Trinidad is still quiet, but prices are steady, viz., fair collected, 56s., and Estate Marks 56s. to 61s. Grenada is selling well for fermented kinds from 53s. to 54s. 6d., with a special Mark even at 55s. The value of fair Native now barely exceeds 51s. From other Islands Native Cocoa ranges from 48s. to 50s.

Coffee.—Steady. Good ordinary Jamaica, 37s. to 38s.

Almonds.—Irregular. Last sales of West India 63's to 64's at 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d., 76's at 1s., 82's at 9d., 98's at 8d. to 8½d., 110's at 7d., 120's at 5½d., and in shell at 4½d. **Macce.**—Steady, good pale sold at 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d., fair pale 1s. 3d., red 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d., and broken, 11½d. to 1s. **Pimento.**—Quiet. Value, 2½d. to 2½d. **Spice.**—In good demand. Jamaica sold, middling to fair bright, 42s. 6d. to 47s.; low middling, 38s. to 41s.; ordinary to good ordinary, 32s. to 37s.; low lean and dark, 29s. to 32s.

Arrowroot—London figures since 1 Jan.		1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Imports	...	5038	5354	4468	6572	5859
Deliveries	...	6602	8068	5487	6076	5603
Stocks, 30th April	...	7905	9922	11,205	8215	8356

A quiet but steady Market, with sales amounting to some 500 barrels, chiefly good manufacturing at 1½d.

Apple Juice.—Steady, at 9d. to 1s. Concentrated, nominal value, £14 10s. to £15. Hand Pressed, unchanged 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, steady at 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XX.

ENTERED AT
STATIONERS HALL.

TUESDAY, MAY 23rd, 1905.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XLIII



Mr. John Hinchley Hart, F.L.S.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

May 22nd, 1905

Telegrams: "CARTH, LONDON." Telephone: 6842 CUMFRIAT.

THE Colonial and Indian Exhibition was opened with great éclat on Friday, May 12th, and upwards of 84,500 visitors have already passed the turnstiles. The West Indian Court has been a centre of attraction, and the crowd on Saturdays has been so great that it is as much as the attendants can do to keep the people moving. Of this large number of visitors it is safe to assume that the majority have never seen a sugar-cane or had practically demonstrated to them the difference between Colonial cane and foreign beet sugar, and judging by the keen interest shown, they are likely to turn an attentive ear to their mentors and profit by their experience. Two large bottles containing respectively cane and beet sugar and bearing a label inviting the public to "smell this," and "now smell this," will, we fancy, do much good in this direction. Few care to smell the beet twice! But there is plenty to be seen besides sugar, and it is interesting while standing about the Court to hear the remarks of astonishment at the great diversity of the produce from Colonies which so many thought could only nurture grievances and sugar. Certain it is that the

BARBADOS, JAMAICA, TRINIDAD, and GRENADA, to say nothing of the several enterprising private exhibitors, are to be congratulated upon the very representative collection which they have brought together for the edification of the British public. While dealing with this matter we must express our satisfaction at the support given by the Imperial Department of Agriculture to our recent suggestion that Exhibition Committees might be appointed in the West Indian Colonies and a permanent Court maintained in London, from which specimens might be drawn for display at provincial Shows. In the *Agricultural News* of May 6th, this question is warmly taken up, and the recommendation is made that it might usefully be considered and discussed by the Chambers of Commerce, the Agricultural Boards, and the Agricultural Societies. We hope that it will not be lost sight of. When once the principle is agreed to, we shall be only too glad to endeavour to give practical effect to the suggestion, believing it to be in the best interests of the West Indies that they should be represented and brought before the notice of the people at home on every possible occasion.

Mr. John Hinchley Hart, F.L.S.

Mr. John Hinchley Hart, F.L.S., the Trinidad Commissioner for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, whose portrait we give on the preceding page, and who will soon have completed thirty years' service in the West Indies, at present occupies the position of chief of the Botanical Department in Trinidad, which Colony he has served faithfully for the past eighteen years. He also has charge of the Botanic Station in the Island of Tobago, is *ex officio* a member of the Trinidad Agricultural Society, and a Government member of the Committee of the Public Library in Trinidad. He was formerly in the Botanical Service of Jamaica for a period of nearly twelve years. Mr. Hart is the author of a work on the cultivation and curing of cacao, which for some years has been a standard work of reference for planters in the tropics, and he also edits a bulletin of information on tropical agriculture, which is regularly issued by the Government of Trinidad. In 1893 Mr. Hart travelled in Central America, and was the means of introducing several new species and varieties of cacao to the West Indies. He holds a commission as captain in the Trinidad Volunteer Light Infantry, and is now on the reserve of officers. Mr. Hart possesses to a marked degree the gift of organisation which has contributed so largely to the success of the Trinidad Court at the Crystal Palace.

The Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee was held at 15, Seething Lane at 3 p.m. on May 12th, Sir Henry K. Davson, in the absence of Sir Nevile Lubbock through slight indisposition, presiding. Those present were: Sir Charles Bruce, Sir Francis Fleming, Sir E. Noël Walker, Mr. E. Anderson, Mr. John Barclay, Mr. A. Cory-Davies, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. T. Du Buisson, Mr. W. C. Dyett, Mr. Alex. K. F. Duncan, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. William Gillespie, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. E. Kynaston, Mr. Henry Langridge, Mr. Alex. G. Low, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. A. Boyd Neilson, Mr. Charles S. Parker, Col. Sir J. Roper Parkington, J.P., Mr. Owen Philipps, Chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, D.L., Mr. Henry F. Prévité, Mr. John Price, the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. Joseph Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. H. K. Franklin Smith, Mr. J. Herbert Scrutton, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. S. Arthur Smith, Secretary New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company), Messrs. Smith, Bros. & Co., Lieut.-Col. F. C. Trollope, Mr. W. Mitchell Thompson, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. Charles Wilson and Mr. T. B. Younger.

In moving the adoption of the Report and Statement of Income and Expenditure, SIR HENRY K. DAVSON said: Gentlemen, I think this is the first time for eight years that the Annual Meeting has not been presided over by our respected Chairman. He happens on this occasion to be away, and you will therefore miss his lucid survey of the events of the past year, so far as the West India Committee is concerned. The most important, of course, is that referred to in the first paragraph of the Report—the grant to us by the King of a Royal Charter of Incorporation. I need not dwell on this Royal recognition of the West India Colonies, as you will remember that a Special General Meeting was held in the autumn to commemorate the greatest event that has ever occurred in the history of the West India Committee. I think that my colleagues of the West India Committee will bear me out in saying that the Royal recognition has not only constituted us a legal entity, but has given us a status with the Colonies and with the public in England greater than we have ever held before. I think that we ought to feel grateful in the first place to the Colonial Office for its great support in obtaining this Charter, as well as for the attention it has always given to us as the representatives of the West India Colonies, for we represent no clique, no section, no special industry, our honest endeavour being to do the best we can for all concerned. This, I feel, is certified by the fact that 335 new Members of various callings and professions were elected in the past year, and 60 up to the present moment for this year, making our total Membership over 1,000, which I hope will be doubled in course of time. (Hear, hear).

Among the interesting events that followed on the granting of the Charter, I may mention that a testimonial was presented to Mr. Shephard by the Committee for the very ready and able assistance he has rendered to our able Secretary in connection with our application for the Charter, and all the various details attendant, and for which the legal acumen of both gentlemen so well qualified them.

Perhaps our financial position claims the next place in my summary. You will see, in looking at the Statement of Income and Expenditure, that although the former has been larger than in any previous year, the latter has been large in proportion. This goes to show the extent of the increased work that has devolved on us. Printing and stationery form a heavy item; but in looking at this we must consider the fortnightly *Circular*, so ably edited by our Secretary, and which has now become a popular periodical, and you will recognise the value of the return we get for the outlay.

Gentlemen, I think we can congratulate ourselves on the operations of the past year, and the only sad feature in the Report is that it contains an obituary. Death has removed several members, and I should like to make special mention of Mr. Edward George Barr, one of the oldest members of the Executive Committee, who was a familiar figure at their meetings, and whose voice and counsel carried weight, and was always listened to with respect.

There are several other matters to which I should like to invite your attention, but I must not detain you too long. Our cable communication has long been in a most unsatisfactory state. Representations have been made to the Government with the object of securing an all-British cable, but I regret to say that no hope has been held out that any aid will be forthcoming at present. Closely associated with this is the threatened withdrawal of the troops from the West India Islands, and representations have been made by resolutions and by deputation to the Colonial Office; and although no definite promise has been given that the idea will be abandoned by the War Office, the fact that the withdrawal has been delayed gives us hope that it will not be persisted in. The danger of leaving the Colonies unprotected is apparent to all. We have in times past had occasion to see what would have been the result of leaving them to their own devices. I allude, of course, to internal troubles, for we have no fear of invasion, and can so far look with equanimity on the vast influence acquired, and being acquired, by the great American Republic under the Monroe doctrine. They already possess the right of way through the Isthmus of Panama; Cuba and Porto Rico are virtually theirs; San Domingo is already under their spell; and they have negotiated for St. Thomas and Santa Cruz. By the acquisition of all these points of vantage, they will be the masters of the Caribbean Sea; and although the two flags will continue to fly together, we know that this country is the only one that recognises and acts up to the theory of the Open Door. It is for this, among other reasons, that the West India Committee have been so earnest in pressing for the proposed all-British cable, and it is also for this reason that they have so strongly supported the unanimous voice of the whole of the West Indies in advocating the claims of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. They felt that this Company were the pioneers of the connection by steam with the Colonies, that they have served the Colonies faithfully for over sixty years, and that they should not now be lightly thrown over. The Secretary of State has given his consideration to the appeal, but with the result that although the Company is not to be displaced by any other, the contract ceases on June 30th next. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have, however, intimated that they intend until further notice, to continue to run their steamers as before, and it is certain that the Colonies will give them every encouragement.

Reference has been made in the Report to the lectures that have been given in this room. These lectures have become very popular, and have been well attended. It is a general desire that they should be continued, and any offer by any of the general Committee to deliver a lecture, or any assistance they may render in obtaining lecturers, will be thankfully received by the Executive. The Library, of which we have a good nucleus, is worthy of your attention. You will notice that all the books have been rebound. You will also notice that the Library admits of expansion, and I may add that contributions towards it will be gratefully received.

One word as regards the effect on the Colonies of the abolition of the bounties. I think that I am correct in saying that that measure, for which we are largely indebted to Mr. Chamberlain, has had the beneficial result we all expected. Confidence in the West Indies has been restored, and so far as sugar is concerned, I think I may say that its future is assured. Every fluctuation, however, gives rise to a cry from those who are unreasonably antagonistic to the West Indies. You will remember that owing to the short crops on the Continent there was a considerable rise in the price of sugar, which led to an agitation on the part of the confectioners, and to attacks in Parliament by several members against the measure which was condemned as being the cause of dear sugar, and to a demand that the Convention should be denounced. The absurdity of this cry is now made apparent. The rise was originally due to the short crops, to which I have referred, and was further increased by speculation. Sugar was advanced for the moment, and now that this is over there has been a fall of something like £4 per ton, bringing the price down to a normal figure, but there has been no recantation by either the confectioners or their friends in Parliament.

Gentlemen, I now have pleasure in moving the adoption of the Report and Statement of Income and Expenditure. (Cheers).

SIR CHARLES BRUCE: It gives me great pleasure to second the motion for the adoption of this report, which will always be a document of interest in the history of the West India Committee, as it is the first which has been issued under the rules formed by the Executive Committee, and approved by the Lords of the Council. It seems to be in every way an admirable and model report, both as regards substance and form. It is observed that the membership of the Committee has very largely increased, and without any special effort. The reason seems to me very plain. In the first place, all those interested in the West Indies have recognised that the Committee has always worked with a single eye to the collective interests of the West Indies; and, fortunately, they have within the last few years largely increased their influence by the assistance derived from the Colonial Office, which Department, I believe, is now thoroughly convinced that they learn from the West India Committee the real wishes of the different parts of the West Indies. I have said that I think the form of the report is admirable, because one or two points in which a difference of opinion might exist between the Committee and the Colonial Office are so alluded to that no feeling of antagonism could be caused. With regard to the withdrawal of the troops, my own opinion is that the question of the defence of our tropical Colonies must be left to be worked out by the War Office. I think that they are best fitted to make a plan by which the operations of the Army and Navy will defend all our interests, and have no doubt whatever that the plan adopted will give every possible security to the West Indian Colonies, both internally and from outside aggression. In the matter of the mail contract, I am sure that between the West India Committee and the Secretary of State an amicable arrangement will be arrived at. (Hear, hear).

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and adopted unanimously.

SIR E. NOEL WALKER: In moving that the Members retiring from the Executive Committee by rotation be re-elected, I feel that I have only to read their names to commend them to your acceptance. They have been connected with the commercial and agricultural interests of the West Indies for more than one generation. I would like to say that I have been very much impressed with the tactful and effective way in which Sir Nevile Lubbock has carried on his relations with the Colonial Office—(hear, hear)—and also I am sure that I only express the general feeling here in wishing to see Sir Henry Davson occupying his position in the Committee for a long time to come. (hear, hear.) There is one point I wish to mention. I have been a Secretary for upwards of 30 years, and I know a great deal about the work, and I must say that we are fortunate in having the services and long may we retain them—of the gentleman who now holds that position to the West India Committee. The success of the *Circular* is mainly due to the energy and aptitude of Mr. Aspinall (hear, hear)—and the increase in our membership is greatly due to the courtesy and readiness which he shows to every individual Member. I consider it myself only a duty of acknowledgment and encouragement, and I am sure all present will agree with me, to express our gratitude to Mr. Aspinall for those services.

MR. WILKINSON, I have much pleasure in seconding the motion. With regard to our Secretary, whom I have frequent opportunities of meeting, there is no man who would push the

Committee along better, and I think the increase in our Members is very much due to him. I have just returned from Barbados, in which Island the membership is growing, and I may say that in that Colony the West India Committee is very much appreciated.

The resolution that Sir Neville Lubbock, Sir Henry K. Davson, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. A. Wolseley, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. C. S. Parker and Mr. H. A. Trotter, retiring from the Executive Committee by rotation, by virtue of Article VI. of the Royal Charter, be re-elected, was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

SIR HENRY DAVSON: With regard to the remarks about our Secretary, I will most heartily endorse all that has been said, and I know I am only expressing the feelings of our Chairman when I say that I cannot speak too highly of the efforts he has made in the working of this Committee. Reference has been made to the *Circular*, and all will agree that he has made it what it is. I am going to ask you to record on the Minutes that we heartily appreciate the services of Mr. Aspinall. (Hear, hear.)

MR. OWEN PHILLIPS proposed a vote of thanks to Sir Henry Davson for occupying the chair, which was carried unanimously; and SIR HENRY DAVSON having returned thanks, the meeting terminated.

The Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

As in the forthcoming issues of the *West India Committee Circular* we propose to give a series of special articles dealing in turn with the exhibit of each West Indian Colony represented at the above Exhibition, we will only at present briefly describe the West Indian Court, and endeavour to give some idea of what it contains, without dealing too closely with the merits of the several exhibits.



A Corner of the Barbados Section.

The Court, which stands back in a splendid position in the North Transept of the Crystal Palace, occupies a space of 7000 square feet, and is surrounded by a handsome screen of architectural design, having facias of peacock blue supported on Georgian columns decorated in deep buff, and relieved with mouldings forming rectangular panels. There is an inner screen of lofty sugar canes, which form a striking feature, and which will, it is hoped, serve to remind the British public that cane sugar comes from our Colonies and beet sugar from foreign countries, and induce them to ask for and insist upon getting pure cane sugar, which is *really* pure, sweet and economical.

Entering through the wide arch nearest the centre transept, the visitor finds himself in the JAMAICA Section. Two large banners, bearing the coat of arms of the Colony, adorn the main entrance, and the passage to the adjacent sections is under an arch surmounted by a large crocodile. Among the preserves there is also a turtle surrounded by the many succulent products with which its name and substance are connected. To the right and left of the entrance are large show cases for Jamaica cigars, cigarettes and tobacco belonging to the Montpelier Cigar Company and Messrs. B. & J. B. Machado, both of Kingston, Jamaica. To the left again is a very complete collection of samples of Jamaica woods, arranged like books in a book-shelf, each sample having its name on the back. A screen carries a number of pictures of Jamaica life and scenery, among them being several

notable works of Mr. J. Kirkpatrick, and here, too, is a table of literature and files of the newspapers of the Island. Portraits of the Governors of the Island occupy another screen on the right hand side of the Section. Seeds, seed ornaments, lace bark in many forms, bitter-wood cups, and walking sticks of

various woods are shown in great quantities, and are already finding a quick sale. In glass cases adjoining, the more valuable specimens of lace work and jippi-jappa hats are displayed. Of consumable Jamaica produce, sugar, cocoa, coffee, cassava, arrowroot, tapioca, bread fruit, pimento, and almost every conceivable kind of tropical commodity are to be found, so closely has the Exhibition Committee in Jamaica and Mr. John Barclay, the Commissioner, devoted themselves to the task which was set them. Jamaica tea is a welcome novelty, the development of which it will be very interesting to watch. Messrs. William Alfred Jones & Co., of Liverpool, show Jamaica cigars and bananine, a banana flour. A more comprehensive exhibit than that in the Jamaica Court it would not be easy to find.

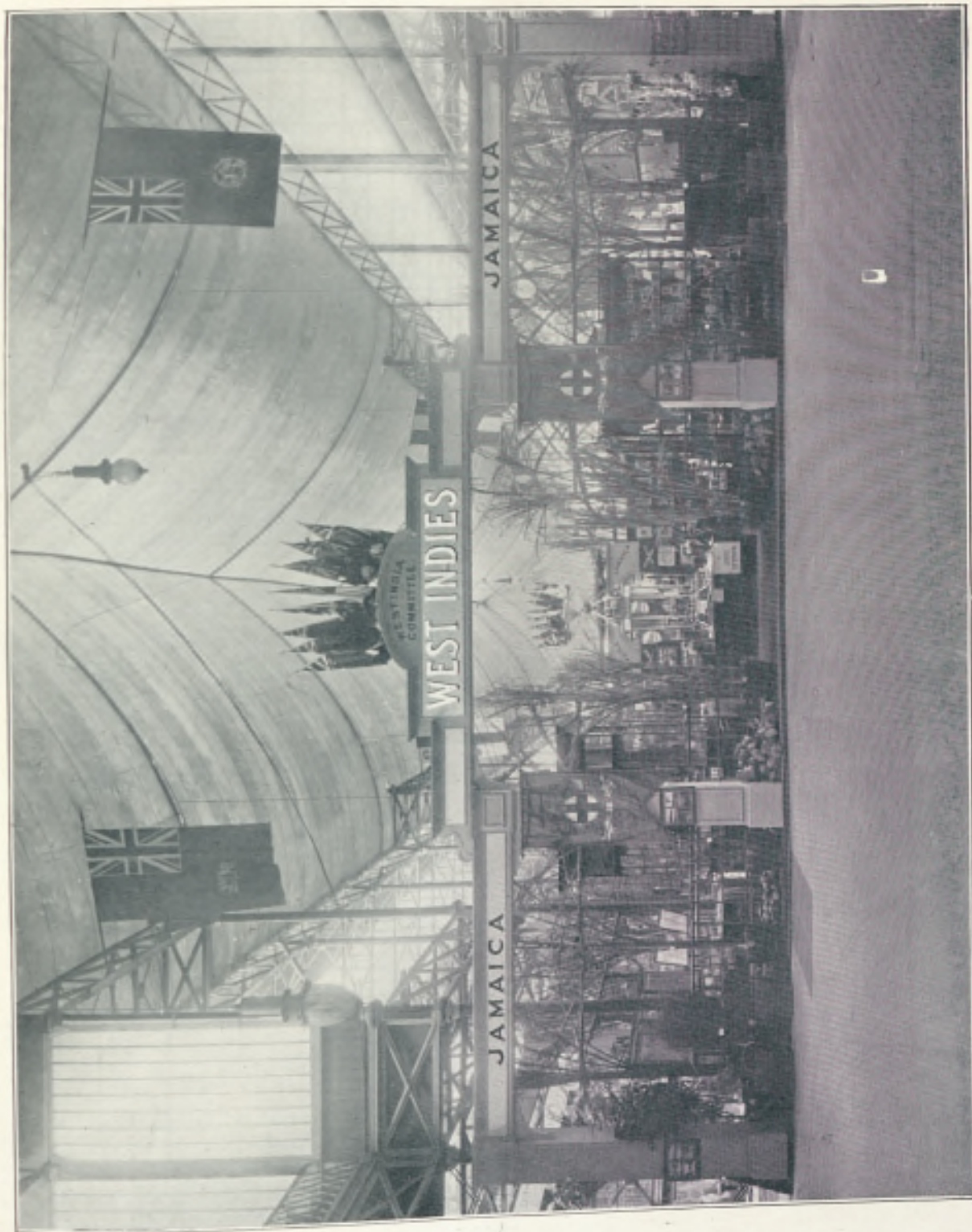
Passing under the archway, the GRENADA Section is found on the left. The most striking object in this is the gold mace of the Colony, which was sent out to Grenada in a ship called the "Baillies" in the year 1791, and now makes its reappearance in England for the first time since that date. This Island being known as the "Spice Island of the West," it is natural that spices should form a prominent feature in its display. Various stuffed animals, including a monkey and several specimens of mongoose, will also prove an attraction, while bottled fruits, preserves and spices are attractively shown in sample glasses. The exhibits are clearly set out on an open show stand painted buff colour picked out with blue. This is flanked by two glass cases in which the choicest articles are displayed. Below are some fine samples of leather and the wonderful conch shells so much run after by tourists. Coral, too, of most fantastic shapes, bulks largely in this section. There is also a fine collection of Carib implements, the only relics now remaining of the former inhabitants of the Island. Mr. C. Falconer Anton is to be congratulated upon the collection which he has got together; the more so as we believe this to be his first experience of Exhibition work.

To the left again is the BARBADOS Section arranged under the supervision of the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, the Commissioner for the Island, in which sugar is very naturally a prominent feature. This, with rums, coloured and uncoloured, is shown in great variety in glass-stoppered bottles, each bearing a distinctive label, with the arms of the Colony neatly printed upon it in blue. Liqueurs, arrowroot, tous-les-mois, cassava products, candied shaddocks, grape fruit, preserves, pickles, and hot sauces are shown on a central stand, consisting of two columns with tiers of shelves, the columns being connected by an arch bearing the name of the Colony in blue letters on a blue ground. Manjak, pottery, a statuette of coral rock, models of a flying-fish boat and estate carts are set out on shelves about the sugar cane screen which surrounds the section, and below are baskets of yams, eddoes and Sea Island cotton. A wonderful collection of Barbadian seeds, made by a girl of 13 years of age, has been found a space near the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's exhibit, referred to below. Mr. H. Martin Sells has kindly lent for exhibition in this Court a large glass case containing coral and flying and other fish of great interest.

To the immediate right of the crocodile arch, are two shelves of samples of manures, shown by the Anglo Continental Guano Works. Near by is a comprehensive display of limes and lime products by Messrs. L. Rose & Co. A pyramid of bottles of lime juice supports a golden dome, crowned by a basket of roses, which serves to remind visitors of the name of this enterprising firm. Facing this is an octagonal stall for the sale of West Indian produce. Messrs. James Philip & Co., the Pure Cane Sugar Company, have a large show-case beyond this stall, containing every kind of West Indian produce imaginable; and across the gangway Messrs. F. Everington & Co., of Melville Hall Estate, Dominica, exhibit limes, cassava, and other local produce.

Further to the right is the Section occupied by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, who show besides many bottled fruits and preserves, a fine model of the West Indian mail steamer "Tagus."

Passing again down the middle gangway, the visitor then reaches the TRINIDAD Section arranged personally by Mr. J. H. Hart, the Commissioner, who, it is easy to see, has had previous experience of Exhibitions, in which the products exhibited are extremely numerous. The Section is surrounded by red baize, which, though lessening the light appearance of the sugar cane screen, certainly shows off the exhibits to very great advantage. On the left on entering is a wide range of Lake Asphalt Company. Manjak, petroleum and kerosene are appropriately situated near this exhibit, and mention must be made of a dress model showing what Trinidad can do in the way of dyeing. Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes are shown under glass, and nutmegs, coffee, rice, starches are on a long table close by. Lace bark d'oyleys and lace of great value also find a place in a glass case, as also as fine a display of Trinidad cocoa as has ever been shown, we may venture to say. The samples are in tall glass stoppered bottles. Messrs. Seigert's world-famous "Angostura" bitters are exhibited by Messrs. Kuhner, Henderson & Co. in an octagonal show case, and Messrs. Sutton show tropical seeds in a similar case. Messrs. Cadbury Brothers also have a representative exhibit as befits this important firm which owns estates in Trinidad. Messrs. Negretti & Zambra show to advantage



THE SOUTH END OF THE WEST INDIAN COURT,
COLONIAL & INDIAN EXHIBITION.

replicas of the various meteorological articles used in the Botanical Gardens. Crocodiles, vampire bats, and models of remarkable verisimilitude to nature are offered for sale and delivery at the close of the Exhibition, and we may safely say that when the close does come Mr. Hart's tables will be swept clean in a very short time.

The above may serve to convey some slight idea of the diversity of the exhibits in the West Indian Court, and will, we hope, induce those interested on this side speedily to visit the Palace.



Willing Workers at the West Indian Court.

In order that the West Indian Court might be ready for the opening ceremony on Friday, May 12th, it was necessary to work for the best part of the preceding night. The Exhibition Commissioners received much assistance from Members of the West India Committee, who flung themselves nobly into the breach. The shift of workers in our illustration are: top row, Mr T. Hankinson; Mr. Patrick Gillespie; Mr J. H. Hart, Commissioner for Trinidad; Mr A. Elder; Mr Otto Rochs; The Secretary of the West India Committee; Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Commissioner for Barbados, and Mr J. W. D. Thorp.

Throughout the summer we shall be busily at work developing the Exhibition in many respects. Mr. H. Martin Elliott, for example, has kindly consented to organise a West Indian bookstall which will contain only books on the West Indies and by West Indians.

The Opening of the Exhibition.

A luncheon was given at the Crystal Palace on May 12th to celebrate the opening of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition by the Lord Mayor of London, who drove down to Sydenham in full state, accompanied by the Aldermen and Sheriffs. There was a very large attendance, which

included many prominent visitors connected with the West Indies, among whom were Sir Henry and Lady Davson, Mr. Forster M. Alleyne, Mrs. and Miss Alleyne, Mr. John Barclay, Mr. and Mrs. de Pass, Mr. J. H. Hart and Mrs. Hart, Mr. C. E. de Mercado, Mr. Owen Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. J. Rippon, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Rutherford, Mr. J. W. D. Thorpe, and Colonel Frank C. Trollope.

In proposing "The British Colonies and Dependencies, and Success to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition," the Lord Mayor referred to the great importance of the first part of the toast, because of the wonderful capabilities of the Colonies in producing the necessaries and luxuries of life in quantities large enough to supply the wants of all the inhabitants of the British Empire. The organisers of the Exhibition had brought before the British public an object lesson which would show the extent of our Empire beyond the seas, and such a one as had not been seen since the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in 1886. He could not help thinking that the spirit of enterprise had not departed from us when a private organisation was able to do what in other countries was helped by powerful Government departments. Indeed, with regard to the British Colonies, it was seen that in most cases the magnificent Empire over which His Majesty reigned had been built up, not so much by the Government, as by the enterprise of private citizens. (Applause.)

The Hon. W. P. Reeves, Agent-General for New Zealand, replied for the self-governing Colonies, and the Right Hon. Sir West Ridgeway, late Governor of Ceylon, for the Crown Colonies, and the latter believed that the progress made in Ceylon in the past ten years was typical of the condition of all the Crown Colonies under the good guidance of the Foreign Office. Sir Henry Davson, Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee, returning thanks on behalf of the West Indies, laid stress on the importance of the minor industries which were springing up in those Colonies, in addition to the great one of the production of sugar. In British Guiana, the Colony with which he was connected, they had gold and minerals, and it was hoped that before long rice would be largely exported. In Trinidad there was cocoa, and in Jamaica the all-important industry of fruit-growing, while great attention was being paid to tobacco, which they hoped would soon rival that of Cuba. In Barbados—where it used to be said that only sugar could be grown—the best Sea Island cotton in the world was produced, and a banana similar, if not superior, in quality to the Canary banana, was being successfully exported. Grenada—which was also represented in the West Indian Court—was world-famous for her cocoa, which had now quite supplanted sugar as the principal article of export.

An adjournment was made to the Centre Transept, where a large number of visitors awaited the opening ceremony, which then took place, the Lord Mayor and party afterwards visiting the West Indian Court.

Exhibition Announcements.

Hours open.

The Colonial and Indian Exhibition at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Sundays excepted). Admission 1/-.

The Attendance at the Exhibition.

In the first eight days during which the Colonial and Indian Exhibition has been open the total attendance of visitors amounted to 84,668.

The Crystal Palace Club.

Those of our Members desirous of availing themselves of the privileges offered by the Crystal Palace Club will require vouchers, which are obtainable free of charge from the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Visit of Canadian Delegates.

Being desirous of improving the trade relations between Canada and the West Indies, the West India Committee have invited fifty of the delegates of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to a luncheon at the Crystal Palace on Friday, June 23rd. Further particulars regarding the arrangements will be announced in due course.

Members' Day at the Exhibition.

It has been decided to make Thursday a special or Members' day at the Exhibition, when a special table will be reserved for Members of the West India Committee in the Restaurant for dinner. The first dinner will be on Thursday, June 1st, at 8 p.m., when it is hoped that several Members will attend to discuss and settle further arrangements. In June a special dinner of the West Indian Club will be held at the Palace.

Railway facilities.

There are over 300 trains to and from the Crystal Palace daily, from Victoria, Ludgate Hill and London Bridge—time, 20 to 30 minutes. The High Level station is quite near to the West Indian Court.

TO THE PALACE

Victoria—*High Level*: 11.2, 1.34, 3.10, 6.32, 7.15.
(There is also a fast train on Saturdays at 3 p.m.)

Victoria—*Low Level*: 11.23, 1.53, 3.10, 6.45, 7.33.

London Bridge—*Low Level*: 11.23, 1.20, 3.11, 6.32,
7.12

Ludgate Hill—*High Level*: 11.9, 1.12, 3.31, 6.25,
7.32.

FROM THE PALACE.

Victoria—*High Level*: 3.23, 4.55, 6.55, 10.10, 11.43

Victoria—*Low Level*: 3.48, 4.45, 6.45, 10.35, 12.27

London Bridge—*Low Level*: 3.21, 4.25, 6.40, 10.20,
11.51

Ludgate Hill—*High Level*: 3.51, 4.44, 8.35, 9.25,
10.30

The Commissioners for the Exhibition.

While in this country the West India Committee Rooms will be the head-quarters of the Exhibition Commissioners, and it is requested that all communications may be addressed to them there, although they will of necessity be in attendance at the Exhibition very often. The names of the Commissioners are:—

BARBADOS: Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee.

JAMAICA: { Mr. John Barclay, Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee.
Mr. Frank Cundall, Secretary, The Institute of Jamaica.

TRINIDAD: Mr. John H. Hart, F.L.S., Superintendent of the Botanical Department, Trinidad.

Letters regarding general Exhibition matters should be addressed to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Scething Lane, London, E.C.

The Rum Surtax.

The West India Committee has received the following reply from the Chancellor of the Exchequer to their letter of March 25th last on the subject of the Rum Surtax.*

SIR,—I am desired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to say, with further reference to your letter of March 25th last, that before making his Budget statement he gave careful consideration to the question of imported alcohol; and having regard to the findings of the Committee appointed to consider the question of its use for manufacturing purposes, he announced his intention of proposing certain alterations, which will benefit spirit from the West Indies, in common with all other spirit, whether imported or home-made. Mr. Chamberlain cannot, however, adopt your proposal to exempt West Indian spirits from the surtax applicable to all imported spirits.

I am, &c.,

(Signed)

GEORGE H. DUCKWORTH.

May 8th, 1905.

The Cotton Industry.

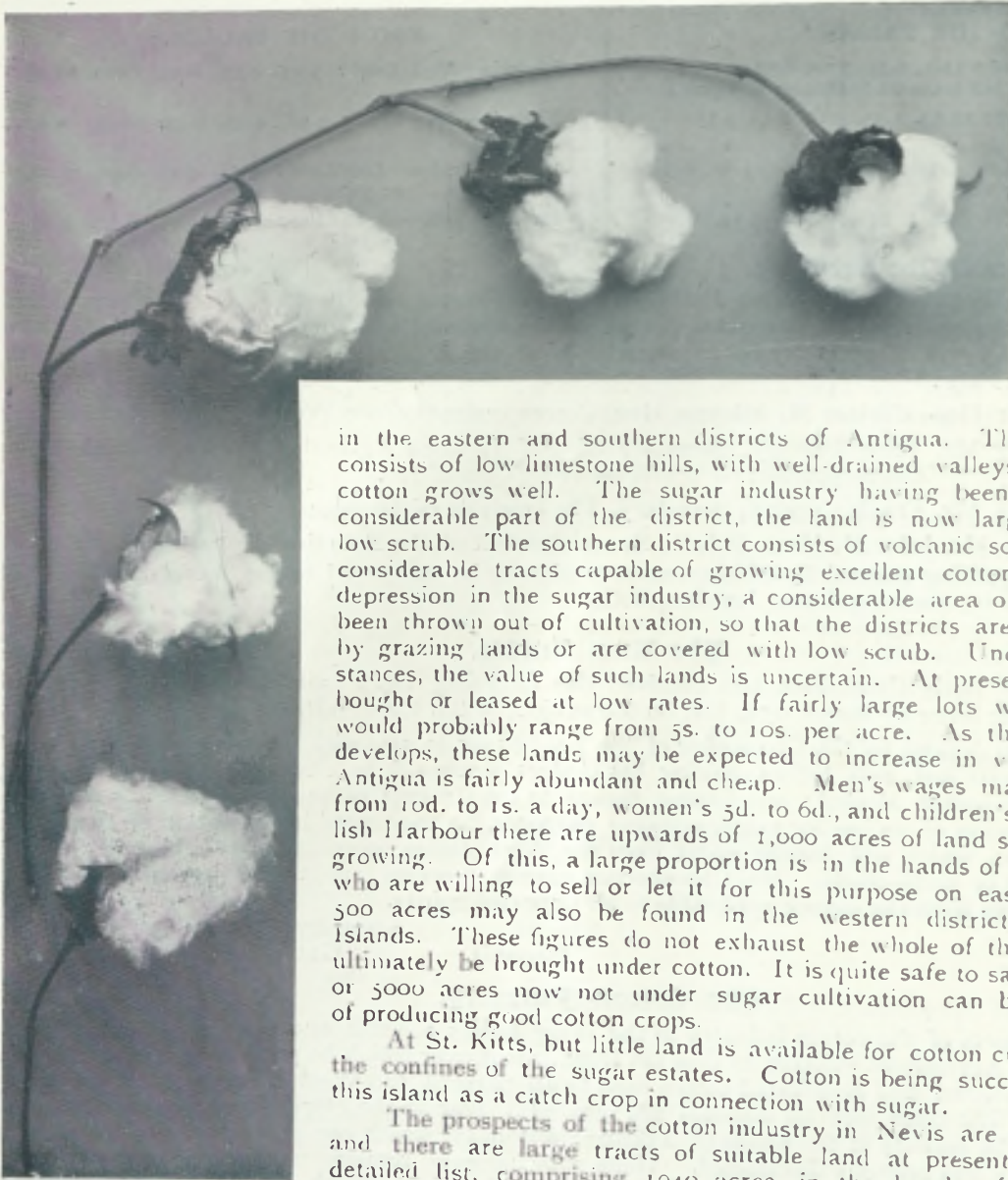
The prospects of the cotton industry in the West Indies are still encouraging. The Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture informs us that the Department over which he presides is busy arranging for a supply of selected and disinfected cotton seed to all parts of the West Indies. All the leading people who have first-class seed for disposal are turning it over to the Department, in order that the distribution may be entirely in the hands of a central authority, which can guarantee that the seed is of the best quality and properly disinfected. There still, however, remains much to be done to ensure the continuance of the industry on a permanent basis. The recent high prices of sugar to some extent weakened the interest of some people in cotton, and again the present season, owing to the severe drought, resulted in a smaller crop than was anticipated; but it is, notwithstanding, gratifying to observe that in islands like St. Vincent, Montserrat and Nevis, where no other organised industries exist, cotton is being taken up with energy.

In our issue of the 11th ult. we omitted to mention that the Treasury, on his recommendation, did actually grant £200 towards providing funds for cotton experts, and a good share of this money has already been spent to the great advantage of the Colonies concerned. The Commissioner expressed great appreciation at the action taken in the matter by the West India Committee.

During the past fortnight 603 bales were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 5.10d. per lb.; and West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 12½d. per lb.; fine, 13½d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb.

* See West India Committee Circular 149, p. 126.

Cotton in the Leeward Islands.



Sea Island Cotton.

By kind permission of the editor of "Technics".

Dr. Francis Watts has drawn up a memorandum giving particulars regarding land suitable for cotton cultivation in the Leeward Islands, from which it appears that probably some 2000 acres of land adapted to cotton growing exist

in the eastern and southern districts of Antigua. The eastern district consists of low limestone hills, with well-drained valleys and flats, where cotton grows well. The sugar industry having been abandoned in a considerable part of the district, the land is now largely covered with low scrub. The southern district consists of volcanic soils, and there are considerable tracts capable of growing excellent cotton. Owing to the depression in the sugar industry, a considerable area of these lands has been thrown out of cultivation, so that the districts are largely occupied by grazing lands or are covered with low scrub. Under these circumstances, the value of such lands is uncertain. At present they could be bought or leased at low rates. If fairly large lots were taken, rentals would probably range from 5s. to 10s. per acre. As the cotton industry develops, these lands may be expected to increase in value. Labour in Antigua is fairly abundant and cheap. Men's wages may be reckoned at from 10d. to 1s. a day, women's 5d. to 6d., and children's 3d. Near English Harbour there are upwards of 1,000 acres of land suitable for cotton growing. Of this, a large proportion is in the hands of the Government, who are willing to sell or let it for this purpose on easy terms. Some 500 acres may also be found in the western district, known as Five Islands. These figures do not exhaust the whole of the land that may ultimately be brought under cotton. It is quite safe to say that some 4000 or 5000 acres now not under sugar cultivation can be found capable of producing good cotton crops.

At St. Kitts, but little land is available for cotton cultivation beyond the confines of the sugar estates. Cotton is being successfully grown in this island as a catch crop in connection with sugar.

The prospects of the cotton industry in Nevis are most favourable, and there are large tracts of suitable land at present unoccupied. A detailed list, comprising 1940 acres, in the hands of 11 owners, has been submitted to him, from which it appears that the owners are in most cases prepared to let these lands on lease at the rate of 10s. per acre per annum (in some cases 15s. is asked), or to sell at prices ranging from 40s. to 50s. to £5 per acre. Mr. F. R. Shepherd writes: "It would appear that some 2000 acres of land could be had for rent in Nevis on seven years' lease for about 10s. to 15s. per acre, and that some 700 acres of this land could be purchased from £2 10s. to £5 per acre in large plots. The labour supply is fairly good, prices ranging as follows:—Men from 8d. to 10d. per day, women 4d. to 5d., children 3d."

Cotton growing has been taken up with some degree of energy in Anguilla, but there appears to be little land available for rent, and labour is not very abundant.

Land on which Sea Island Cotton may be profitably grown in Montserrat may be estimated at 4000 to 5000 acres. It is somewhat difficult to give the probable price of land, for so much must

depend upon the future of the muscovado sugar market. Land in the vicinity of the town or specially adapted for the cultivation of cotton would probably realise £2 to £3 per acre. There has been so far a fair supply of labour for picking, the prices paid being from 1s. to 1s. 2d. per 100 lbs.

A limited amount of land is available in the Virgin Islands. At present cotton growing has not taken a very firm hold in the Virgin Islands, and labour is not very plentiful.

The London School of Tropical Medicine.

The large Banqueting Hall at the Hotel Métropole was full to overflowing on the occasion of the Festival Dinner in aid of the London School of Tropical Medicine on Wednesday May 10th. Mr. J. Chamberlain presided, and there was a distinguished company present, including Sir James S. Hay, Sir William Robinson, Colonel Sir Roper Parkington, Sir Alfred Jones, Sir Francis Lovell, Sir William Haynes Smith, Sir C. A. Moloney, Sir Ralph Moor, Mr. Bunnell Burton, Mr. C. Czarnikow, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. A. G. Low, Mr. Charles E. de Mercado, Mr. Michelli, Mr. A. McDowell Nathan, Mr. H. F. Previté, Mr. J. Rippon, and Mr. R. Rutherford.

Mr. Chamberlain said he could not think of any subject of scientific research and philanthropic enterprise that was more interesting than the work in which the school was engaged. He dwelt on the continued expansion of British territory, and on the noble work in administration, and in the solution of every problem of statesmanship performed by a mere handful of men, who, in their devotion to the Empire, too often left their health and their lives behind them. We should do all we could to reduce this blood tribute paid to the Empire, and he strongly urged the claims of the school on the people of London. Mr. Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, afterwards proposed "The Empire," to which Lord Strathcona responded. Subscriptions and donations amounting to over £10,000 were received during the evening.

The Memorial to the late Field-Marshal Sir H. Norman.

Many friends of the late Field-Marshal Sir Henry Norman being desirous of perpetuating his memory, a committee has been formed to collect subscriptions for this purpose. Those who wish to subscribe are requested to pay their contributions as early as possible to the Secretary of the West India Committee. We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following subscriptions towards this fund: The West India Committee, £10 10s.; The West Indian Club, £5 5s.; Hon. J. Allwood, £5 5s.; Mr. Robert Craig, £5; Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, £1 1s.; The Archbishop of the West Indies, £1.

The Canary Banana Industry.

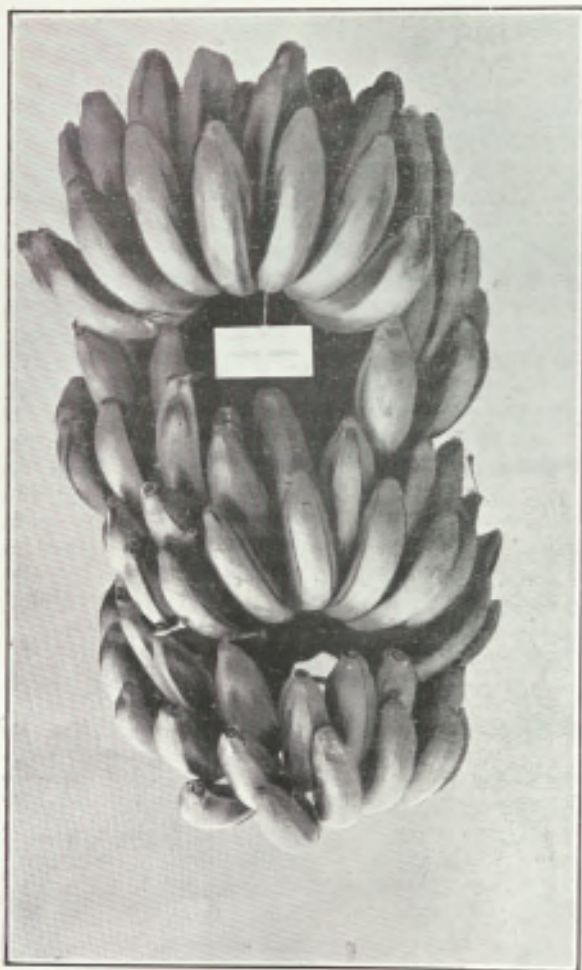
(Continued from page 169).

The cutters then soon follow on and sever the stem with two blows; the first allows the bunch to drop gently, thus decreasing the distance to the ground, and the second lands it safely without bruising it. Most especial care is taken to prevent the skin of the banana receiving the smallest injury, as wherever bruised it quickly turns black and goes bad until it is unmarketable. If far afield the bunches are first wrapped in blankets and packed in an iron pack-saddle on donkeys or mules, often six on each mule, the dead leaves of the trees being stuffed in between the bunches and the saddle to prevent concussion, and they are taken to the nearest packing-house. If it is possible to get a cart near, the bunches are taken to it on women's heads, and are wrapped and packed in just the same way in the cart.

A well-organized, well-ventilated and business-like packing-house must be a joy untold to the grower. There he sees the fruit of his labour ranged in graded collections on their shelves, bananas perhaps on one side, tomatoes collected on shelves according to size and degree of maturity on another, potatoes in another part, and so on.

The crates and boxes are put together in another room. For these the wood is imported from Norway through a London agent, all ready cut in various sizes. These only require to be nailed together, and this is generally done by girls or women. A good worker, I was told, could put together about fifty or sixty banana crates in a day.

For packing, the boxes and crates are taken into the fruit room with supplies of newspaper and sheets of cotton wool, nails, and hammer to each packer, who are generally men. The paper and cotton wool, which, by the way, are imported from London, are placed on wooden horses. A sheet of



Barbados "Claret" Bananas.

The Banana mostly grown in Barbados is the *Musa Cavendishii*, which is practically identical to the Canary Banana. Other varieties are, however, also grown in the Islands, such as the "Claret" Banana, of which, through the courtesy of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company we are able to give this illustration. This fruit was exhibited by the Company at the recent show of Colonial fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall, when it was greatly admired.

paper is laid on the ground, and on it a sheet of cotton wool. The bunch of bananas is carefully placed on it and covered entirely with cotton wool, then wrapped in paper. The crate is then amply padded with dried banana leaves, or straw, which has been stored for convenience in the loft or room above the fruit room, and on packing day is supplied through trap-doors. The bunch is laid in the nest securely packed in, and the few remaining laths nailed on. It is then marked with the mark of the exporter and the name of the island, and put away in another room ready for transport to the town.

Daily cargoes are wanted for ships calling Sundays not excepted, and owing to the perishable nature of the fruit, growers are, as a rule, anxious to get them off as soon as possible. However, during my stay at Las Palmas, the prices at home were very low owing to the excellent fruit harvest on the Continent and in England, and the shipment of bananas was being consequently delayed as much as possible. Occasionally the farmers were even tempted to cut the bunches while still very green in order to delay maturity, hoping that prices would improve.

The crates are packed on drays, with scaffoldings built on them in either iron or wood, of such a size as to hold eighty-one crates. The drays are built with springs, so that the fruit may be jolted and bruised as little as possible. The crates on reaching town are then stacked on the mole, and either packed into the small, but fast and well-ventilated, steamers alongside, or are supplied in lighters to the larger vessels. When one realizes that the cargo of each steamer ranges from 8,000 to about 15,000 or more bunches according to its size, one wonders no longer at the steady stream of carts constantly passing to the mole and returning too with supplies of wood, paper, straw, oil, and the other necessities of life.

(To be continued).

The West Indian Mail Contract.

Such important questions are involved that we give the full text of Mr. Lyttelton's despatch to the Government of the West Indian Colonies respecting the West Indian Mail Contract, which was issued as a Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 2481] on the 9th inst. It will be interesting to have the views of the Colonies upon this document. Having already expressed in our last issue the reasons for our satisfaction at the recent decision of the Secretary of State regarding the matter we do not feel that it is incumbent upon us to criticise the despatch at the present time. It runs as follows:—

You will have learnt from my telegram of the 4th instant of the decision which has been arrived at with regard to the West Indian Mail Service. The matter being now closed, I am in a position to give public expression of my own views and those of His Majesty's Government on this subject, thereby, I hope, removing some of the misunderstanding which has, in my opinion, prevailed, and giving guidance in the event of similar circumstances occurring in future.

Downing Street, May 5th, 1905.

2. There are certain conditions which always have affected and always will affect any agreement between an individual, a private Company, or Association, on the one side and the Imperial Government and the Governments of the West Indian Colonies on the other side. In the case of any contract for a mail service or other general service there are virtually on the Government side not one but two parties. One party is the Imperial Government. The other is the six Governments of six separate Colonies, two of those Colonies being groups of separate islands, and the Windward Islands, though under one Governor, being, as a matter of fact, not one Colony but three.

3. Under the contract which will expire on the 30th of June next a total subsidy of £84,500 per annum has been paid since Trinidad has been included in the main line. Of this amount the Imperial Government has paid £59,900 per annum and the combined Colonies £24,600 per annum. In other words the Imperial Government has paid more than two-thirds of the amount, and the combined Colonies less than one-third. It is evident, therefore, that considering the Imperial Government on the one hand and the combined Colonial Governments on the other as two partners, the Imperial Government is beyond question and to an overwhelming extent the predominant partner. But the six separate groups of Colonies cannot be treated as if they were a combined whole, for the interests and the conditions of the different islands and of British Guiana vary very greatly, and the interests of, e.g., Jamaica, may well be less akin to those of Trinidad than to those of the United Kingdom.

There are, therefore, seven partners, and it would be well within the mark to say that the pecuniary interest of one of the partners—the United Kingdom—is, taking the case of Trinidad, which by special arrangement and for a special concession pays at the present time an exceptional contribution of £9,600 per annum, six times as great as that of any of the others. Indeed, the case can be put still stronger; for, inasmuch as the solvency of Antigua, Montserrat, and St. Vincent has for some years past only been maintained by aid from the Imperial Exchequer, their contributions are to some extent Imperial contributions.

4. Now it is evident that, when a contract is made with an individual or a company in which the Imperial Government and six separate groups of Colonies are interested, one member of the partnership must act on behalf of all. It is equally evident that the member of the partnership that can act to the best advantage, and it may be fairly said the only member that can from the nature of the circumstances possibly act with something like full knowledge of the conditions and the equities of the case, is the Imperial Government, or rather the representative of the Imperial Government, in other words the Postmaster-General. It is evident that, as the firms likely on any occasion of the kind to tender for a service such as the West Indian Mail Service are located in the United Kingdom, the tender must be negotiated in the United Kingdom. It is equally evident that the Imperial Postmaster-General, with the vast experience of postal matters and mail contracts which is accumulated and concentrated in the General Post Office, is the only possible agent for making the contract.

5. The next point to consider is the following. If the Imperial Government pays more than two-thirds of the subsidy, it is perfectly obvious that the Imperial Government must have, as already stated, the predominant voice. It is, therefore, not inequitable that, when tenders have been received by the Postmaster-General, when they have been sifted and compared by his expert advisers, when they have been submitted to the Lords of the Treasury, who control the amount of the Imperial subsidy, and to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, those tenders which the Imperial Government is not under any circumstances prepared to accept should be eliminated, and only the one tender or the alternative tenders which the Imperial Government can accept should be submitted for the consideration of the Colonial Governments. To invite the views of the Colonial Governments or the Colonial communities upon offers which under no circumstances would be accepted by His Majesty's Government would be simply to waste time and to cause unnecessary irritation and debate.

This is, I think, an adequate answer to the various representations which were made both from the Colonies and by certain associations connected with the West Indies here, to the effect that no decision should be come to as to the acceptance or rejection of the tenders until the Colonies had had an opportunity of expressing their views upon them.

6. It is not always possible to refer out all the tenders, either for want of time or because it is necessary to avoid publicity; and it is, as I have already said, useless to invite the Colonies to express opinions upon tenders which the Postmaster-General has judged to be out of the question. Those who maintain that the Colonies ought to have an opportunity of knowing the terms of the various tenders before a final decision is taken are really contending that, whenever a contract is tendered for, all the offers of all the tenderers should be laid before every Legislature and every Chamber of Commerce in the West Indies, and that the publicity given to a tender, which has been complained of in the present instance, should be multiplied and made the invariable rule. I do not admit that this contention is either possible or desirable. From time to time tenders have been referred to the

Colonies for an expression of their views, and I hope they will be again, when the Imperial Government is prepared to accept one of two or more alternatives, and when there is no urgency in time and no reason for not giving publicity; but not infrequently it must happen that all that can be done is for the Secretary of State to ascertain, as far as possible, some time before the tenders are called for, what are the special needs of this or that Colony in such matters as cold storage facilities, landing of passengers, and so forth, what each Colony can afford, and of what any Colony may have complained since the existing contract took effect; and, subsequently, when the tenders have been called for, have been received, and have been sifted, to consult the Governors in the first instance and, if it is feasible and necessary, subsequently the Legislatures, as to the tender or tenders which His Majesty's Government is prepared to accept, and as to no others.

In the present instance, the utmost pains had been taken beforehand by obtaining memoranda from the Colonies and by consulting the Governors, when on leave, to ascertain the special requirements of the various Colonies, and it was with full knowledge of their wants and full regard to their interests that tenders were invited and were considered when received.

7. I now wish to turn to the circumstances attending the recent call for tenders. After much thought and consideration had been given to what were supposed, and I believe rightly supposed, to be the requirements of the Colonies, tenders for a mail service for 5½ years were asked for, returnable on the 1st of October last. One Company, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, tendered, and it sent in three alternative tenders, an abstract of which is enclosed. Two of the tenders specified an annual subsidy of £100,000, and also varied the conditions prescribed in the tender form; and the remaining tender was held to be inadmissible, as asking the Government to undertake a speculative liability without any power of effective control over the causes affecting that liability. The Lords of the Treasury would only agree to consider the £100,000 tender, which the Royal Mail Company intimated that they were not prepared to reduce, on condition that the excess of the subsidy over the existing subsidy was contributed by the West Indian Colonies. I was aware that the Colonies, or most of them, were not in a condition to increase their subsidies, and in confidentially consulting the Governors by telegraph I expressed that opinion, and recommended that the contract should be allowed to lapse. I should explain that it would not have been possible to send out the tenders for consideration by the Colonial Legislatures without incurring the publicity of which complaint was subsequently made. The replies which I received to my confidential inquiries led me to think that my view was fairly generally shared; and I was confirmed in thinking so by finding that when the Governor of Barbados, by a misunderstanding, communicated the terms of my telegram to the House of Assembly, the House of Assembly resolved that they were prepared to pay up to the existing subsidy, but no more. In other words, in the one case in which a Colony was consulted, in the sense in which representations have been made that the Colonies should be consulted, the opinion given was against an increase of subsidy, even though the decision were to involve discontinuance of the service.

8. It was therefore decided by His Majesty's Government that the contract should be discontinued as from the 1st of July next. Before, however, this decision had been acted upon and announced, an offer was made to the Postmaster-General by the firm of Elder, Dempster & Company, which had not competed in the previous tenders—an offer far more advantageous than the offer which had been made by the Royal Mail Company, being, in fact, an offer, not at a specific sum, but to perform the service for such money as was at the disposal of His Majesty's Government. The Postmaster-General having, with my concurrence, already determined to refuse the tenders of the latter company, it was open to him then and there to entertain this new proposal, especially as indications Stanley held—and I entirely agree with his opinion—that, in view of the length of time during which more especially of the fact that the sum asked for by the Company in the tender had been referred to with all the world of repeating their tenders, and, if possible, making them more satisfactory to the Government. Tenders were again accordingly invited, in identically the same terms, and for the same period, viz., 5½ years. They were made returnable on the 31st of March, and a letter, explaining the reasons for the course taken, was addressed to the Royal Mail Company from the Postmaster-General on the 14th of March, in answer to an enquiry from the Company. The conditions under which the new tenders were invited were therefore perfectly well understood by the Royal Mail Company, with the result that in tendering they largely reduced their previous offers in face of the competition which the new call for tenders implied.

9. In answer to this second invitation, four different firms tendered. Abstracts of these tenders are enclosed. The first tender of the Royal Mail Company was inadmissible for reasons already

given. The other tenders, with one exception, asked for a 10 years' contract. None of these other tenders complied with the conditions laid down by the Postmaster-General, and all of them contained extraneous conditions which the Postmaster-General was not able to accept. They, therefore, could not be considered in competition with the tenders which did satisfy this essential requirement. Of those tenders that which was most advantageous, and which fully satisfied the conditions laid down by the Postmaster-General, came from Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company, and seeing that time was pressing, and that it would be useless to send out full particulars of offers, which His Majesty's Government were not prepared to prefer to a more advantageous tender made in a free and fair competition, I thought, and I still think, that the best course was taken, under the circumstances, in telegraphing confidentially to the respective Colonial Governments, and intimating that His Majesty's Government had provisionally accepted this tender, subject to no serious objection being raised by the Colonies, and that the alternative to not accepting it was the previous alternative of discontinuance of the contract.

10. In the meantime the Colonies and such representative bodies as the West India Committee in this country had ascertained that the Royal Mail Company's tenders had not been accepted, and representations reached me on their behalf, which were duly communicated to the Postmaster-General. The contention apparently was (1) that a contract should be maintained, and (2) that it should be given to a particular Company, that Company not having furnished the best tender or complied with the terms of the tender form, and its tender not having commended itself to the party to the contract which finds two-thirds of the subsidy. It seemed to me then that the best course was to put the terms of my confidential telegram before the Colonial Legislatures, and to ask them to choose, without any pressure, between acceptance of the Elder, Dempster tender and discontinuance of the contract. To this course exception has been taken because the Colonies were not given an opportunity of considering the other tenders. I have explained that the reason was the futility of asking them to consider offers which the Postmaster-General was not prepared to accept. My telegram, which was dated the 19th of April, intimated that on the receipt of replies a final decision would be taken, and that in the event of preponderance in favour of acceptance, any particular objecting Colony would be expected to pay the existing contribution. In the meantime the Royal Mail Company—which had in October declined to reduce its demand for a subsidy of £100,000 per annum, and which had subsequently complained that it had been placed at a disadvantage through that figure becoming known—finding that there was competition, made a series of fresh offers after the opening of the tenders. On the 19th of April they offered to accept all the Postmaster-General's conditions for an annual subsidy not exceeding £85,000 per annum for 5½ years; on the 24th of April, when the terms of Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company's tender had become public property, they made the same offer for £80,000; and on the 25th of April they telegraphed to the Colonies, so informing the Postmaster-General and myself, that they would, on a 10 years' contract, perform a modified service for £75,000. I therefore thought it necessary to warn those Colonies which had not yet taken a decision on my telegram, that, the tenders having been opened, His Majesty's Government could not be parties to any further competition between the tenderers.

11. It might have been said that preponderance, so far as replies were received, was in favour of acceptance of the Elder, Dempster tender, but the opposition of, at any rate, two of the most important of the Colonies was sufficiently unfavourable to lead His Majesty's Government to the conclusion that the safer course, though not the more convenient, would be to discontinue the contract. This course has accordingly been taken, as you will have learnt from my telegram, and such inconvenience as may result must be attributed to the desire of the Imperial Government not to thrust upon the Colonies the acceptance of an offer which, however advantageous, is apparently distasteful. The Colonies will in turn, I hope, realise that they must not attempt to prescribe to the Imperial Government the choice of contractors, irrespective of the results of competition and the merits of the particular offers which competition has elicited.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

Rum Surtax.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., asked the following question in the House of Commons, "Whether it is not a fact that if the recommendations of the Industrial Alcohol Committee are carried out the relative positions of the home distiller, the colonial distiller, and the foreign distiller will remain unchanged, and how the West Indies can derive substantial benefit as indicated by him, as a surtax will still be imposed equally on Colonial and foreign spirit." The Chancellor of the Exchequer said in reply that "Distillers generally will derive substantial benefit from the encouragement that will be given to the consumption of alcohol for industrial purposes, and the West Indian distiller will have the opportunity of sharing in such benefit."

The Elder Dempster West Indian Contract

On May 16th, Mr. Whitley, Halifax, asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the contract of April 19th, 1900, between the Crown Agents and Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. had been fulfilled in respect of Clauses 2 and 3 thereof; and, if not, whether any steps had been taken to bring about the full services contracted for.

Mr. Lyttelton, Warwick and Leamington: "The contract has been fulfilled in regard to all the provisions of Clauses 2 and 3, except in so far as two of the steamers now on the line have failed to show themselves capable of maintaining the speed required by Clause 3 (b). This matter has formed the subject of correspondence and negotiations between the Jamaica Government, the contractor, and myself, with a view to securing satisfactory fulfilment of the intention of the contract."

The Abandonment of St. Lucia.

Mr. Balfour, in Committee of Supply on the vote of £98,595 for the Treasury, on May 11th, explained the views held by the Committee of Defence on the subject of our Imperial needs, and in the course of his remarks said: "It seemed to us, with the changes in naval warfare, with the changes in the seat of sea-power of other nations, a redistribution of both our Fleet and our Army was desirable; and we have gone upon the broad line that, as the British Fleet and as the British Army should be available for the defence of the British Empire in all parts of the world our force should be as far as possible concentrated at the centre of the Empire, from which it could be distributed as each necessity arose to that part of the Empire which stood most in need of it. I have to acknowledge that this has rendered unnecessary expenditure which has been undertaken under a different view of our military needs. I mention that because it is a subject which has occupied the attention of the member for the Forest of Dean. The most notable case is the case of St. Lucia. The general problem was considered by a Commission, of which Lord Carnarvon was the head, and it was in deference to Lord Carnarvon's recommendation that St. Lucia was made a great naval base. One of the reasons for making it a great naval base was that it was not further than 80 miles from the French naval station in those seas. What was a reason for having such a base at St. Lucia in Lord Carnarvon's time is a reason for not having it there at the present time. We have to take into account the theory of torpedo-boats. It is a distinct disadvantage for any harbour required as a place of repair, refitting, and refreshment that it should be within easy reach of a hostile or potentially hostile Power. There is more in the abandonment of St. Lucia than that. The Defence Committee, who have considered the matter with the advice of the Admiralty and War Office, do not think St. Lucia is likely to be the scene of any great naval operations. It is not a place which we think could be with advantage used, or is likely to be required to be used, for our purposes; and with the modern battleship there are strong reasons for thinking that in so far as we required any place of coaling and refitment in those seas, both Jamaica and Trinidad would be better. The harbour at St. Lucia, though sheltered, is not very convenient, and does not hold a large fleet. These are the reasons why St. Lucia ceases to be regarded as a great naval station. This is all in obedience to a trend of opinion which Lord Carnarvon's committee were strongly in favour of—namely, that we should cease to scatter our forces in small isolated bodies throughout the world, and that we should concentrate them in important tactical units, have them under our hand, and be able to use them in places where they would be most likely to control the hostile forces of any enemy we are likely to have to deal with."

Federation of the West Indian Colonies.

At the evening sitting in the House of Commons on May 17th, Mr. Norman Lamont called attention to the administration of the British West Indian Colonies, and moved that, in the opinion of the House, it was desirable to extend federal institutions in those Colonies in order to improve and cheapen the administration. His main complaint was that the islands were overburdened with officials and encumbered with conflicting tariffs.

Sir C. Dilke moved as an amendment that no change in the institutions of the islands will be satisfactory which does not recognise the predominant interest of the majority of the taxpayers in the administration. The House, he held, was agreed that the present system was unduly dear and might be improved, but more drastic remedies than federation were required.

Mr. Bryce could not understand why the Government had allowed the tariffs to grow up, and urged that the judicial officials and executive administration were manifestly excessive. Any savings which might be effected in the cheapening and consolidation of the offices should be devoted to internal improvements. Mr. W. F. Lawrence spoke in favour of centralisation.

After some further discussion, which disclosed unanimity as to the necessity for prompt reforms in the administration of the islands,

Mr. Lyttelton, with regard to a suggestion that a benevolent despot should be set up, did not think it was a practical proposal. They must remember that some of the islands had enjoyed, practically, self-government; and he could not agree that it would be desirable to make so drastic a

change. They should not forget that some of the islands were separated by 1000 miles, and, as to federation, he thought it was as extravagant an idea as it would be to suggest the federation of the Isle of Man and Madeira. He did not deny that there was very much community of interests between the islands as a whole, and he hoped they might gradually be gathered together in time. He, however, regarded the proposal to federate them under one Governor-General as premature. He wished the House to understand that union was the policy of the Government, but union not forced, the result of administrative operations. As to the tariff question, the duties imposed were revenue duties, and not of a protective character. He doubted whether any amalgamation would lead to the cutting down of the very moderate salaries paid to Judges, magistrates, and the officials generally; but the Government were in favour of further unification. The present, however, was not a suitable moment for making constitutional changes.

Sir E. Grey pointed out that the Commission which inquired into the state of the islands some years ago were not empowered to go into the question of federation. He did not know whether an advance towards unification had been made since then, but certainly during the two months he was in the islands he saw more chief justices than he was likely ever to see again. He, however, should be opposed to imposing anything on the islands which would be offensive to the sentiments of the Colonies; but he hoped the Colonial Secretary would lose no opportunity of encouraging federation.

The motion and amendment were withdrawn. (See the *Times*, May 18th, 1905).

Notes of Interest.

CABLE DELAY. Another break occurred in the Demerara cable on the 11th inst., and the Colonists are again dependent upon steamers and fast schooners for the cable despatches.

PLANTATIONS-IN-AID ACT. In the Legislative Council of Barbados on May 2nd a Bill to extend the provisions of the Plantations-in-Aid Act, 1902, for four years, was advanced through all the stages and passed.

SUGAR PRICES. The morning and afternoon quotations for 88% Beet are now posted daily at the West India Committee Rooms. We shall be glad enough to telegraph the prices to members desirous of having them, at a cost of 6d. per telegram.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB. Lord Alverstone and others associated with the British Guiana and Venezuela Boundary Arbitration, are to be entertained by the West Indian Club at dinner on May 31st, 1905. Sir Henry K. Davson will preside, and amongst those who have accepted invitations to be present are: the Attorney-General, the Consul-General of Venezuela, and representatives of the Foreign and Colonial Offices.

BARBADOS OIL. We are authorised to state that there is no real foundation for the belief expressed by Dr. W. K. Chandler, in the debate on the West Indian Petroleum Company (Concession) Bill in the House of Assembly on April 11th, that the Admiralty were doing their best to induce some English capitalists to come forward and make experimental borings for oil. Nothing is known of it by the Secretary to the Admiralty, and no such proposals have been before the Admiralty.

APPOINTMENTS REGISTER. The register of applicants for appointment as overseers and other positions connected with West Indian estates, can be seen by Members at the West India Committee Rooms. Full particulars regarding the applicants are now given, together with two testimonials from each. Members receiving applications from those desiring appointments may refer the applicants to the West India Committee, who will supply a form of enquiries for the candidates to fill up.

BEET v. CANE SUGAR. As is pointed out in the *Produce Markets Review*, it is a striking fact that during the first four months of 1905, as compared with last year, we imported 88,649 tons less beet sugar and 44,372 tons more cane sugar. In round figures this year only 33½ per cent. of our supplies of raw sugar were formed by beet and 66½ per cent. by cane. The main increases in the latter were 19,700 tons from Java and 13,000 tons from Peru, India and the Straits sent us 3,600 tons more, the West Indies 6,400 tons more, and other countries 5,500 tons more.

CANE FARMING. An important meeting of Trinidad sugar estates' proprietors was held at the West India Committee Rooms on Thursday, May 18th, to consider various questions regarding cane farming in Trinidad. Sir Nevile Lubbock presided, and there were present Mr. Norman Lamont, M.P., Mr. Lionel G. Arbutnot, Messrs. Arbutnot, Latham & Co.; Mr. George Christall, Chairman, Mr. W. Mitchell Thompson, Trinidad Estates Co., Ltd.; and Mr. W. A. Tennant, Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co. A provisional agreement was arrived at regarding payment for canes, which it is hoped will prove acceptable to proprietors and cane farmers alike, and copies of this have been sent out to the Colony.

MAIL OPPORTUNITIES. The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and Royal Mail steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail on Wednesday next are advertised: S.S. "Crown of Granada" from Glasgow, for Barbados, Trinidad, and Demerara, May 25th.; S.S. "Jamaican" from Liverpool, for Barbados and Trinidad, May 26th.; S.S. "Sarstoon" from London, for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Demerara and Berbice, June 1st; S.S. "Explorer" from Liverpool, for Barbados (for Demerara and West Indian Islands) June 2nd; and the R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, June 3rd.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE BANQUET. Notices regarding the Banquet to be held at the Whitehall Rooms on Thursday, June 2nd, to celebrate the grant of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, have now been posted to members. Among those who have accepted invitations to be present on this occasion are: The Duke of Marlborough; Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, High Commissioner for the Dominion of Canada; Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies; Mr. C. P. Lucas, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies; Sir Henry Bergne, Chief British Delegate to the Permanent Commission at Brussels; Mr. T. J. Pittar, Commissioner of Customs; and the following Members of Parliament: Sir Howard Vincent, Colonel Denny, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, Mr. C. McArthur, Mr. David Melver, and Mr. James Reid. There is every prospect of a very large attendance.

The Homeward Mail.

The number of visitors from the West Indies is larger than usual this year, and every homeward steamer brings its full complement of passengers. Mr. Eustace Greg, the Hon. T. Slyne, Mr. W. Douglas, Mr. Edward R. Davson, the Hon. G. S. Seton-Browne, Mr. W. E. Hunter, Mr. S. Manning, Colonel W. A. Collings, Mr. G. McG. Frame, Mr. J. J. Law and Mr. H. N. Carvalho arrived home in the R.M.S. "Tagus," which reached Plymouth at 11.0 a.m. on Wednesday, May 17th. The letters were delivered by the first post on the following morning. When the mail left the decision of the Government regarding the question of the Mail Contract was not generally known, and the storm of indignation was at its full. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Antonio," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, May 10th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents received by the R.M.S. "Tagus":—

Antigua—The Price of Farmers' Canes.

(Hos. A. St. G. SPOONER) May 3rd. The price for March canes (138 24d. a ton) paid by the Bendal's Factory had had a stimulating effect to the small growers, resulting in a satisfactory increase in the amount of cane cultivation on neighbouring and formerly abandoned estates. The juice this crop had been exceptionally rich in sucrose. Most estates were getting juice polarising about 2 lbs. of sugar per gallon. Molasses was being sold at 27 cents a gallon, but there was very little offering, on account of the poor crop. Sugar was not being sold to local exporters to any extent this crop, nearly all of it finding its way to the Canadian market.

The fortnight had been dry, with the exception of light showers falling at its beginning and ending. The young plant cane crop was looking well in spite of the low rainfall.

Barbados—Scarcity of Rain.

(T. W. WILKINSON, Esq.) May 6th.—The sugar market declined on May 5th to \$2.15, and even at this figure buyers were not active in making purchases, as only small lots were required to complete orders. Molasses sold at 2½ cents per gallon.

The weather continued very dry, although a few light showers had fallen, and as crops were being brought to a close, planters would soon find it difficult to provide green fodder for their stock. The young canes were holding well, but would want heavy rains soon.

British Guiana—Rain still Wanted.

(J. C. McCOWAN, Esq.) May 4th.—A meeting of the Planters' Association was held on May 2nd, when the proposed amendments to the Immigration Ordinance were discussed. The Association was to send in a letter to the Government, a copy of which would come forward by next mail. With reference to the immigrants ex "Moy," the Immigration Agent-General had replied to their enquiry that 86 were sent to the Colonial Hospital on arrival, 105 to Estates Hospital on agricultural work, and these should never have been recruited. Eight were reported by the District Medical Officer as unfit for work. There was nothing doing in Crystals, and the price quoted was \$2.80 to \$2.90.

The weather had been too dry. There were light showers in some districts, but good soaking rains were wanted generally.

Dominica—The "Planters' Week."

(E. A. AGAR, Esq.) May 4th.—With a view to getting all the planters to come into Roseau at the same time, the Administrator organised a "Planters' Week" during Easter, the programme consisting of dances, a concert, cricket match, gymkhana, &c. Unfortunately, the weather was rather wet, which marred the proceedings. It was hoped that this would become an annual festival.

Mr. Bell had informed the public that he had obtained a grant from Mr. Carnegie for the purpose of erecting a library. As soon as it was complete, it was proposed to convert the present Victoria Memorial Library into a museum for local collections, an institution that had long been wanted.

A Committee of some 12 planters, representative of the different districts, had been formed to meet Sir Daniel Morris on his visits to the Island, to talk over local agricultural affairs. This was an excellent idea.

Jamaica—The Question of Education.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, ESQ.) May 1st—The Collector-General had introduced an Ordinance to alter the present Spirit License Law. The tavern-keepers were much opposed to the measure, especially the clauses making a proprietor of a tavern liable to prosecution if any person were found on the premises after 11 p.m., and those in respect to Sunday closing. The Bill was likely to be vigorously opposed.

The Governor had informed the Education Board that the code governing education in the Colony must be altered, so that the Government should not be called upon to find over £60,000 per annum. This had created great indignation, and from the clergy generally, who thought that while the grant should be kept down to the figure named in their present financial depression, no hard and fast rule should be made, as, on the return of prosperity to the Colony, more money should be spent, as the masses were very insufficiently educated. A Committee had been appointed from the Board of Education to wait on the Governor on the subject.

As a whole, the weather had been favourable during the past fortnight. Rain, however, was wanted in the eastern portion of the Island.

Montserrat—Cotton.

(CONRAD WATSON, ESQ.) May 3rd—Preparation of land for planting cotton was being pushed on, and a large acreage would be under cultivation this year.

The weather for the fortnight had been showery, and the drought appeared to be breaking.

Harris—The Cotton Output.

(HON. C. A. SHAND) May 3rd—Cotton ginning was progressing rapidly, and the bulk of the crop had been baled. The total output would probably not realise anything like as much as was originally anticipated, and the writer placed it at something between 600 and 700 bales each. But even with this falling off, cotton this year would have proved itself a valuable supplementary crop, and there was every probability of it assuming larger dimensions in each succeeding year. Had the planters relied solely on sugar this season, they would have been in a sorry plight, as the disastrous effects of drought had entirely counteracted the boom in the sugar market. The peasant proprietors especially, who invariably planted their cane crops late, had been hard hit by the dry weather, and the tonnage of cane available for sale to those Estates under contract to purchase them would fall far short of the totals of the previous year.

News had reached them by the mail that their popular Administrator was returning to the Presidency in October next, bringing his family with him; so the rumours with regard to his resignation were mere fabrications.

The weather since last mail had continued very dry, only occasional light showers having fallen.

St. Kitts—Promising Young Canes.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, ESQ.) May 2nd—The weather still continued showery, and the young canes were looking well and vigorous, and at the same time crops were being rapidly pushed on. The drop in prices was unfortunate, as they had been looking for the high prices to be maintained throughout this month at least.

St. Vincent—The Carib Canal.

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & CO.) May 4th—The Director of Public Works, Grenada, and the Director of Surveys of the Island had been commissioned by Sir Robert M'Levelyn to visit the Carib country, and report on the feasibility of restoring the Carib country canal, and the publication of their report was awaited with some anxiety. The writers had been informed, however, that there was an intention of only restoring the canal as far as Orange Hill, thus leaving out of cultivation the largest and, what was prior to 1902 the finest, Estate in the Island.

Trinidad—The Labour Question.

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C.M.G.) May 5th—The Governor had appointed a Committee to enquire into and report upon matters relating to the Labour Question. The Committee was composed of the following gentlemen:—Hon. R. H. McCarthy (Chairman), Hon. Edgar Agostini (Attorney-General), Hon. S. Henderson, Hon. H. A. Alcazar, Rev. Dr. Morton, Mr. P. Abel, Mr. H. C. Stone (Sub-Protector of Immigrants) and Mr. A. Mungal (an East Indian). Mr. Henderson was leaving for England shortly, and others of the Committee might also be leaving for vacations or otherwise, so it might possibly be some time before a report was sent in.

The annual exodus bade fair this year to be above the average, and public business for the next six months would be mainly carried on by Acting Officials. Among the departures by the mail was that of Colonel Brake.

With regard to Venezuela, there was nothing much to report. Mrs. Castro had just concluded a visit of a couple of weeks to some friends in the Island, and a few of the merchants of Port of Spain had sent an invitation to President Castro to visit Trinidad on his way back to Caracas from Bolivar that week. The invitation was declined.

Occasional showers had relieved the heat and dust somewhat, but abundant rains were much wanted everywhere in the Colony.

A continuance of favourable weather had materially increased supplies of cocoa, and in face of large deliveries prices had weakened. There had been little demand, either from Europe or the United States, although the markets in both places were firmer. "Ordinary" was quoted at 53s. to 55s., c. and f. Havre, and fine grades were in strong demand at 57s. Venezuelan qualities were still in short supply at prices unchanged.

		Cocoa Shipments.			
		Trinidad	Venezuela		
Total at last return	...	74,225	13,858	Europe	
April 10	S.S. "La Plata" ...	812	"	New York	
" 2	S.S. "Citta de Messina" ...	780	50	Europe	
" 9	S.S. "Statia" ...	54	"	"	
May 1	S.S. "St. Germain" ...	2401	372	Canada	
" 1	S.S. "Ocamo" ...	12	"	New York.	
" 1	S.S. "Prins Maurits" ...	1598	650	"	
" 3	S.S. "Grenada" ...	1966	537	"	
" 3	"P. Fred Hendrik" ...	1889	103	"	
		83,065	15,808		

Our Library.

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. Since we last went to press we have received the following publications:—

The Tower of Pelée: New Studies of the Great Volcano of Martinique. By Angelo Heilprin. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1904. 15s. net. In this book Professor Heilprin deals with the remarkable column of rock which rose from the midst of the crater of Pelée after the eruptions of 1903. "The Tower of Pelée" he calls it, as "no other name," it seemed to him, "more appropriately conveys the picture of the giant core of rock, nearly 1000 feet in height at the time of its greatest development, and 350-500 feet thick at the base, which Pelée had bodily lifted and pushed out from its summit during a period of a full year and more." The rise and fall of this mass of rock is fully described, and the author expresses little doubt that the Tower of Pelée was merely the ancient core of the volcano which had been forced from the position of rest in which solidification had left it. The book has 24 excellent half-tone illustrations, of the eruption of Pelée on August 30th, 1902, being particularly fine and striking. The peculiar effect of the ashes is shown in a picture of Trécheur, which has the appearance of a village after a heavy fall of snow.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Tagus" (Capt. H. E. Rudge) May 17th:—**Barbados**—Mr. N. McLean, Mrs. Whitfield, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Hunter, Mrs. W. C. Bailey, Capt. Laing, Mr. R. Fullerton, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Law, Mrs. and Miss Trimmingham, Mr. H. F. Trimmingham, Mr. M. M. Irving, Col. W. A. Collings, Mrs. Baily, Mrs. G. W. Barefoot, Mr. and Mrs. S. Manning, Mr. J. Manning, Mrs. H. W. Reece, Miss L. E. Jones, Mr. G. H. Simpson-Hayward, Mr. H. N. Carvalho, Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Inness, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. Edwards, Mr. H. D. Chrett. **Demerara**—Mr. W. Douglas, Mr. H. A. Phillip, Mr. A. Carroll, Mr. and Mrs. F. White, Mr. A. Murison, Mr. A. Lavender, Mrs. G. Garnett, Miss Greig, Mr. B. Castor, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. R. Ferguson, Lady Wolseley, Miss Copeland, Hon. Evelyn Ellis, Mr. E. Greg, Mr. and Mrs. M. Kiell, Miss C. E. Young, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel, Mrs. Walters, Mr. T. Breen, R.N., Lieut.-Col. Denys, Mr. D. Drake, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Parkes, Mr. N. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bell, Miss Cribbs, Mr. Baden Powell, Mr. J. A. McConnie, Mr. C. A. Head. **Trinidad**—The Right Hon. Earl Dundonald, Mr. A. S. Williams, Lieut. Col. H. E. Brake, C.B., Mrs. Eric Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Siegert, Dr. Fabien, Mr. and Mrs. B. Stephens, Hon. and Mrs. D. Slyne, Mr. D. Macgillivray, Hon. P. David, Mr. L. P. Pierre, Mrs. Lamont, Mr. J. R. Gouvea, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. H. Nott, Mr. J. A. Bulmer, Mr. and Mrs. Macgregor Frame, Mr. M. Sharp. **Antigua**—Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Eldridge. **Dominica**—Rev. F. Bellandean. **Grenada**—Hon. and Mrs. S. Seton-Browne, Mrs. A. H. B. Gall, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Gay, Mr. J. Baron, Mr. A. J. H. Carhill, Mr. W. C. Dalrymple. **St. Kitts**—Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Wade, Mrs. J. W. Thurston. **St. Lucia**—Mr. G. Anderson. **St. Vincent**—Rev. J. M. Brown, Mrs. J. G. Porter.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "La Plata" (Capt. Dagnall), May 24th:—**Demerara**—Mr. C. Farquharson, Mr. L. Henery, Mr. Lilley. **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. T. Doumani. **Trinidad**—Capt. J. T. Hamlyn.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), May 10th:—**Jamaica**—Mr. W. C. Aiken, Mrs. Allen, Mr. J. Abouillard, Mr. T. A. Ashman, Mrs. J. Allwood, Rev. and Mrs. Atkin, Col. and Mrs. Bayley, Capt. and Mrs. Colley, Mr. and Mrs. Carr, Hon. P. C. Cork, Mr. E. Dunn, Mr. Gibbons, Lieut. Ireland, Mr. A. J. Johnson, Mr. Leader, Mr. A. A. Melhado, Mr. E. J. Morales, Mrs. and Miss Manley, Rev. and Mrs. Muirhead, Mrs. Otley, Mr. and Mrs. Pyper, Mr. and Mrs. Payne, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Sanguinetti, Mr. C. B. Stiven, Col. and Mrs. Seaton, Mr. P. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. Tapley, Mrs. J. Verley, Lord Walsingham, Mrs. G. Williams, Rev. S. J. Washington, Mr. H. Norman, Mr. W. Bruvin, Mr. E. L. Hamilton.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), May 20th:—**Jamaica**—two Misses Reid-Campbell, Miss E. Ellis, Mr. A. L. Edwards, Mr. H. E. McGill, Mrs. Murphy, Mr. A. J. Chapple, Col. Serj. Major J. Wheeler.

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. COLIN REES DAVIES has been appointed Registrar-General, British Honduras.

Mr. WILLIAM GRAEME FULTON has been appointed to be a Justice of the Peace for British Guiana.

Mr. F. N. MARTINEZ has returned to Barbados, and resumed his duties as Consul for the Republic of Panama on April 24th, 1905.

Hon. F. M. ALLEVINE, M.L.C., has been granted four months' leave of absence from Barbados from April 22nd, 1905.

During the absence on leave of the Hon. D. SLYNE, Trinidad, Mr. E. ECKEL has been appointed to act as Receiver-General.

Mr. EDWARD BELL, Inspector of Police, St. Kitts-Nevis, has been appointed to act as Inspector-General of the Leeward Islands Police Force.

During the absence on leave of the Hon. W. C. L. DYER, Trinidad, Mr. E. C. SEINNER has been appointed to act as Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council.

Mr. EUGENE CIPRIANI has been re-appointed an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago for a further period of five years from March 9th, 1905.

During the absence on leave of Lieut.-Col. H. E. J. BRAKE, C.B., D.S.O., Trinidad, Deputy Inspector-General G. D. SWAIN has been appointed to act as Commandant of the Local Forces and Inspector-General of Police.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) May 22nd. "Light partial showers." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), May 18th (dated 16th). "Heavy showers have fallen at intervals."

Export of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan 1 to May 3 1905	1904	Jan 1 to May 2 1905	1904	April 1 to April 15 1905	1904	Jan 1 to May 3 1905	1904	Oct 1 to May 3 1905	1904
Sugar	8783	11,057 Tons.	23,027	25,098 Tons.	1427	85 Tons.	223,666	235,158 Bks & Brls	---	---
Molasses	17,595	21,038 Pns	1652	441 Pns	---	---	2300	887 Pns	---	---
Rum	---	---	4844	8125 ..	141,555	156,591 Galls	---	---	---	---
Molascult	---	---	2727	1360 Tons	---	---	---	---	---	---
Cocoa	---	---	---	11,809 lbs.	1925	107 Cwts	13,604,505	23,229,650 lbs.	51,201	50,455 Bags.
Coffee	---	---	---	---	947	2558 ..	11,770	46,240 ..	23	126 ..
Coconuts	---	---	221,280	93,540	327,250	37,080	3,060,240	3,199,525	---	---
Copra	---	---	---	---	---	---	3523	6768 Bags.	---	---
Cotton	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	550	450 Bales.
Cotton Seed	---	---	---	---	---	---	40,548	47,840 Tons.	3560	2864 Bags.
Asphalt	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Oranges	---	---	---	---	242,500	14,850	---	---	---	---
Bananas	---	---	---	---	634,052	25,883 Bchs.	---	---	---	---
Pimento	---	---	---	---	1512	448 Cwts	---	---	---	---
Spice	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Gold	---	---	30,283	22,305 OZS	---	---	---	---	---	---
Diamonds	---	---	2253	3003 CARATS	---	---	---	---	---	---

SPICE: (3153 2274 Bks
402 370 1/2 Brls
367 200 Cases
53 15 Bales)

Some West Indian Securities.

The West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

The report for the half year ended December 31st states that the available balance is £9,135, from which it is proposed to make a payment of 5s per share on account of arrears of dividends to December 31st, 1904, on the 1st Preference Shares, carrying forward £494. This will leave dividends in arrear on the 1st Preference Shares amounting to £3,456, and on the 2nd Preference Shares to £12,606. The expenses of repairing cables during the half year were £10,424, against which £4,050 has been received for the charter of the company's repairing steamer "Henry Holmes." These expenses are, however, exclusive of a further expenditure of £3,446, which has been charged to reserve, in respect of the repair and partial renewal of the two cables between Jamaica and Puerto Rico. Instead of the expected improvement in the company's traffic receipts there has been a decrease during the half year of £1,862, as compared with the corresponding period, and those for the current half year also show a decline. In December a contract was entered into with the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company for the manufacture of 215 knots of cable for stock, which have since been delivered in the West Indies.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The Annual General Meeting of this Company will be held at noon, on Wednesday, May 24th at the Cannon Street Hotel. From the Annual Report of the Court of Directors, it appears that for 1904 the total receipts again show an increase over those of the previous year, and after charging £87,127 19s 5d. (as compared with £54,238 8s 8d. for the year 1903) for depreciation on the Fleet and Property, and transferring £14,524 12s. 1d. to the Insurance Fund, making that Fund £215,000, there remains a balance of £8,274 7s. 11d. which the Court recommend should be carried forward. The Court feel that the steadily improving state of the Company's Accounts will be gratifying to the Proprietors as indicating that substantial progress is being made, and the Directors believe that, with the advent of the new Mail Steamers "Aragon," 9,795 tons, nearly completed, and the "Amazon" 10,000 tons, and "Araguaya" 10,000 tons now building—this progress will continue. Regarding the West Indian trade and the Mail Contract, the Directors say: "During the latter part of the year 1904, there was some improvement in the trade with the West Indies, which for many years had remained in a very depressed condition, and notwithstanding the serious competition which has been experienced, not only from the presence of a British Subsidized Line to Jamaica, but from many Foreign Lines of steamers, the traffic by this Company's Steamers has increased. The reorganisation of the West India Cargo Service and the placing on the route of the three new cargo steamers, "Conway," "Caroni" and "Catalina," referred to in the last Report of the Directors, have proved beneficial to the Company's interests. In July, 1904, His Majesty's Postmaster-General invited tenders for the performance of the West India Mail Service, the contract for which expires on 30th June next. The tenders for this service had to be lodged by 1st October, 1904, and the Directors on that date sent in three alternative tenders, with a covering letter, offering, in accordance with the suggestion contained in the form of invitation to tender, to submit schedules for alternative routes, some of which the Directors intimated could be carried out at a reduced cost to the British Government and the West India Colonies. The Company's tenders were the only tenders lodged at that date. The Directors very recently learned that after the amount of one of their tenders had (in January, 1905) been made known in the West Indies, His Majesty's Postmaster-General received a private offer from another firm for the performance of the Mail Service. The Directors received no intimation from the Postmaster-General until 9th March, 1905, that he was unable to accept any of their tenders, and that fresh tenders were to be invited, and would require to be lodged by 31st March. By that time the Directors were in possession of most of the completed voyage accounts of the West Indian Mail Steamers for the year 1904, and although they had then no knowledge of any private offer having been made, they were in a position to modify the amounts of some of their previous tenders, and they lodged with the Post Office six alternative tenders, and again offered to submit alternative schedules of routes. In view of the information which has recently been given in the public Press, the Court do not consider it necessary to enter into further particulars regarding the various tenders, but they desire to inform the proprietors that, recognising the strong desire expressed by the West Indies for a continuation of the mail service (which for 64 years has been satisfactorily performed by this Company), they made considerable modifications in their offers for a renewal of the contract. His Majesty's Government have now intimated that the contract mail service will be discontinued from the 30th June next; but the Court of Directors have, pending further arrangements, notified the Company's agents in the West Indies that the existing Mail Service will be maintained."

Bank rate 2 1/2 % (changed from 3 % on March 9th, 1905). Consols 90.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—The extravagant and unjustifiable prices of 16s., and over, paid for 88% beet last January have brought about the usual result, viz., a large curtailment of distribution and a policy of hand to mouth buying on the part of the Trade and Consumers which invariably ends in upsetting all expectations and causing a return sooner or later to natural prices. This is what has now taken place, and probably by this time we should have reached the bottom of the market, but it now appears we have to face a new beet crop in October, if all goes well with it during the growing period, of abnormal extent, the factory estimate of sowings being 17 per cent. over the last two seasons. If this proves to be correct, and if the crop comes up uninjured, we may have to deal with an output exceeding that of the largest yet on record, viz., in 1901/2, when the figure reached for all Europe was 6,850,000 tons. This does not look like a wise step on the part of the Continental growers, and may possibly fail to give them their first cost of production. The European crop of this year is estimated at 4,650,000 tons, so there will probably be a large addition to next year's world's supplies, but with more reasonable prices say from 10s. to 11s., basis 88%, consumption may once again expand and help to reduce the surplus. The position is undoubtedly disappointing, but after all is said and done, 10s. to 11s., basis 88%, are not break neck prices and compare favourably with the average of the last ten years, viz., 9s. 2d., for which we have to thank the organisers of the Brussels Convention. The speculation in sugar collapsed when 16s. was reached and has been dead without hopes of revival ever since. Perhaps this is after all for the best, as it will allow trade to follow its natural course.

The moment's quotations of 88% are:—May, 11s. 11d.; August, 12s. 1½d.; September, 11s. 7d.; and Oct./Dec., 10s. 1d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Europe	1,940,000	2,550,000	2,510,000	2,620,000	1,840,000	Tons.
United States	270,000	190,000	260,000	120,000	220,000	..
Cuba	360,000	230,000	370,000	440,000	180,000	..
Cargoes afloat	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	—	..

Total 2,590,000 2,990,000 3,160,000 3,200,000 2,240,000 ..

Comparative prices of 88% Beet in bond:— 11s. 11½d. 9s. 7½d. 8s. 3½d. 6s. 2½d. 9s. 7½d.

Crystallised Sugar.—Prices are following the general trend of the Market and Wholesale buyers are nervous in the general want of confidence and buy now quite sparingly. The latest sales have been on the basis of 18s 6d for average qualities, and the general range may be placed at 17s. 6d to 19s. 6d. For 96 test to Refiners it is not easy to give a quotation. Possibly 13s might be found to be the nearest price on floating conditions. Refiners are shy of entering into fresh engagements in the unsettled condition of the market.

Molasses Sugar.—Fairly steady. Values range from 12s 6d. to 16s 6d.

Muscovado.—Little offering on the spot and values more or less nominal. For 89 test to Refiners somewhere about 12s is the approximate value on floating terms.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902	
Imports	19,000	18,000	9,000	23,000	Tons.
Deliveries	13,000	18,000	17,000	17,000	..
Stocks	15,000	14,000	21,000	18,000	..

Quotations of Crystallised, duty paid, average qualities 18s. 6d. 16s. 3d. 15s. 0d. 14s. 0d.

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 4 months:

	1905	1904.	1903.	1902.	
Home Consumption	1,387,000	1,516,000	1,359,000	1,560,000	Galls
Stocks 30th April	8,278,000	9,750,000	9,964,000	8,212,000	..
Stocks in London—Jamaica	7900	7600	9600	8100	Puns
Demerara	6000	11,600	9400	9700	..
Total of all kinds	21,847	27,464	—	Deficiency 5617	..

The market remains quiet and buyers seem to be quite indifferent. Quotations remain unchanged, viz., 2s. 1d for fair Standard Home Trade Marks, Jamaica, 1s. 3d. for fair Demerara, with Leewards and other proof kinds, 1s. to 1s. 4d.

Cocoa.—Board of Trade Returns for 4 months:

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	
Imports	7923	12,466	10,029	11,750	Tons
Home Consumption	6606	7878	6812	10,429	..
Stocks 30th April	5073	6114	6041	4890	..
Stocks in London	78,000	81,000	85,000	67,000	Bags

There is no change in the general position of the market. Prices are practically the same as last mail, viz., Trinidad fair collected, 56s.; Estate Marks, 56s. to 61s.; Grenada fair, 51s., and fermented, 53s. to 54s. 6d. From other Islands Native cocoa ranges from 48s. to 50s., with fermented, 51s. to 54s. Consumption, as shown by the above Board of Trade Returns, is not elastic. Imports in these days of cost and freight business are entirely a matter of Manufacturers' requirements for the time being.

Coffee.—Rather better. The value of good ordinary Jamaica is 38s. to 39s.

Ruticags.—Steady. Fair sales of West India 66's at 1s. 3d., 70's at 1s., 80's at 10½d., 92's at 9d., 110's at 7½d., 110's at 5½d., 122's at 5½d., 152's at 4½d., and in shell at 4½d. to 5d. **Mace.**—Quiet. Fair to good pale sold at 1s. 3d. to 1s. 5d., and red, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. **Pimento.**—Very quiet. Fair, worth about 2½d. **Ginger.**—In good demand and dearer. Jamaica sold, good to fine, 59s. to 67s. 6d., low middling to middling, 44s. to 55s., ordinary to good ordinary, 35s. 6d. to 43s., small lean and dark, 29s. to 33s.

Arrowroot.—Steady, with sales of manufacturing St. Vincent to the extent of about 600 Barrels at 1½d.

Stocks in London	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.
	7905	9922	11,205	8215	8356

Lime Juice.—More demand, value 10d. to 1s. 2d. Concentrated, steady, at £15. Hand Pressed, unchanged at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, value, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XX.

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STATIONERS HALL.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XLIV.



Mr. John Barclay.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEBTHING LANE, LONDON.

June 5th, 1905

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6692 CENTRAL.

Is there to be a West Indian Mail Contract or not? This is a question which still awaits an answer, because the statement that after June 30th, the Mail Contract which in various forms the West Indies have enjoyed for over sixty years is to be entirely dispensed with, cannot be accepted as final, and we still hope that it may be possible to obviate the inconvenience which would inevitably result from a departure from the present practice of carrying mails and passengers. Trinidad, Jamaica, and perhaps Grenada might not find their position so seriously prejudiced, but what of Barbados, British Guiana, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and the Northern Islands? How long will they tolerate the uncertainty and irregularity of communication which must be the outcome of a non-contract service? With the contract, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company were losing money on the intercolonial route and it is hardly reasonable therefore to expect that they will continue for any length of time to maintain the same service without a contract. No, we are as firmly convinced as

ever that for the commercial and social welfare of these Colonies a contract service is absolutely

essential, and that to allow it to lapse entirely would be a retrograde movement, which in view more especially of the rapid expansion of foreign influence in the Caribbean it is our most sincere desire to avert. We have already shown in our columns how eagerly America is exploiting the West Indian Islands, while Germany, France and Holland find it worth their while to subsidise steamship companies, whose vessels visit the foreign islands in the West Indies, and we cannot think that this is a time for the Mother Country to be sparing in her attentions to a group of Colonies which are coveted by most nations though—and say it we must—held in little regard by herself. This however is a matter to which we propose to refer in a subsequent *Circular*, and we may therefore now confine ourselves to considering how best to get out of the present difficulty. We have all along contended that inasmuch as the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company was the only Company to submit tenders for the service in response to the Postmaster-General's invitation of July last, the fairest course to adopt would have been to open negotiations with them regarding the three alternative schemes which they submitted, any one of which would, we maintain, have afforded a basis for a settlement. This would we believe meet with the unanimous approval of the Colonies in which the preponderance of feeling is distinctly in favour of the Company, which has borne the heat and burden of the day through the many years of depression to which our West Indian Colonies have, through no fault of their own, been subjected. Mr. Lyttelton has, we feel sure, the welfare of the West Indies at heart, and we may hope therefore that this possible solution of the present difficulty will receive his consideration. There is still another alternative. Might not the existing arrangements be continued for a further period of six months, or a year, as we suggested as far back at February last in order that the Colonies and the Colonial Office may be able to reconsider the matter in all its bearings? It is true that it has been shown that the service as carried out at present is not remunerative, but with certain adjustments and concessions—we have in our mind the possible extension to Canada—a very different complexion might be put upon affairs. We throw out these suggestions for what they are worth. The Colonial Office, we believe, fully realises the difficulty of the situation, and by its refusal to compel the Colonies to have a service which they do not want, has shown its willingness to consider the wishes of the Colonists. We realise the difficulty ourselves; and it is for this reason that we refer once more to this all-important question.

WE give to-day the first of a series of short articles by Mr. William G. Freeman, the Superintendent of the Colonial Economic Collections at the Imperial Institute, which will deal in turn with each of the several exhibits in the very successful West Indian Court at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition at the Crystal Palace. Pending the award of prizes, which will be made in July next, it has not been thought desirable to make these articles too critical; but when the Exhibition closes we shall be able to deal at length with the various lessons to be learnt, which are not merely concerned with the actual objects displayed, but with their packing, their arrangement, and their general utility from a practical and commercial standpoint. So far, Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad, and Grenada have no cause for complaint at the attendance at the exhibition, which as shown in another column, has been extremely satisfactory. Fresh attractions are being constantly added to the West Indian Court, among the latest arrivals being exhibits from such well-known firms connected with the West Indies, as the Molascuit Company, the Montserrat Company, and the Anglo-Continental Guano Works, and we shall be glad to hear from others desirous of exhibiting, though it must be understood that our space is limited. As regards future arrangements we would refer our readers to the list of announcements in another column, adding a reminder to our Members that the visit of the delegates of the Canadian Manufacturer's Association is fixed for Friday, June 23rd, when it is hoped that there will be a large

attendance. In conclusion we may add that the illustrations of the West Indian Court, which temporarily take the place of our series of West Indian views, will appear fortnightly while the Exhibition is open, are from photographs specially taken for the West India Committee.

Mr. John Barclay.

Mr. John Barclay, the Jamaica Commissioner for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, is Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society and Editor of its monthly journal; he also acts as Secretary to the Board of Agriculture in Jamaica. Like many men prominent in the annals of Jamaica, he is a Scot, and was born at Kilwinning, Ayrshire, in 1870. He studied agriculture for some time at the West of Scotland Agricultural College, and before leaving his native heath was keenly interested in athletics, holding the half mile running championship of Scotland in 1895. Mr. Barclay has, however, thrown in his lot with Jamaica, where he is absorbed in his work. Although he has only been there eight years, he is more familiar with that Colony, its climate and its productions, than many men would be in a life time, because he has been so closely associated with the agriculture of the Colony, in organising local Agricultural Societies, of which there are some forty-five affiliated to the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and in arranging Agricultural Shows, besides being in constant correspondence with agriculturists of every branch. Mr. Barclay has recently been appointed an Hon. Correspondent to the West India Committee, of which he is a Member.

The West India Committee Banquet.

Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford and the Secretary—the Dinner Committee entrusted with the arrangements for the banquet to be held at the Whitehall Rooms on June 22nd to celebrate the grant of the Royal Charter of Incorporation to the West India Committee—will be glad if those Members wishing to be present on this auspicious occasion will notify them with as little delay as possible. At present there is every prospect of the attendance being large and influential, among those who have accepted invitations being:—The Duke of Marlborough, Lord Strathcona, Lord Glanusk, Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies; Mr. C. P. Lucas, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies; Bishop Montgomery, Sir Henry Berne, Chief British Delegate to the Permanent Commission at Brussels; Mr. T. J. Pittar, Commissioner of Customs; Sir Charles Bruce, Sir William Robinson, Sir Thomas Sutherland, M.P., Sir Howard Vincent, M.P., Sir Frederick Young, Sir M. M. Bhownaggee, M.P., Lieut.-Gen. John W. Laurie, M.P., Hon. E. St. John Branch, Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands; Colonel Denny, M.P., Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., Mr. C. McArthur, M.P., Mr. David McIver, M.P., and Mr. James Reid, M.P. The chair will be taken by Sir Nevile Lubbock, who will be supported by the Deputy-Chairman, Sir Henry K. Davson. There will be music during dinner, and arrangements have been made to photograph those present. The photograph will, it is hoped, be reproduced in the *West India Committee Circular*.

Canada and the West Indies.

In writing to accept an invitation to our banquet on June 22nd, to inaugurate the grant of the Royal Charter, Lord Strathcona wrote, that as Governor of another old and historic Corporation, the Hudson's Bay Company, "I can appreciate more fully than I otherwise would be able to do, the satisfaction of the Committee in being thus honoured by the King. The rapidly growing trade relations between the West Indies and Canada . . . is still another reason why I am greatly pleased to accept." With a view to further such trade relations, the West India Committee have invited the delegates of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, who will arrive in this country very

shortly, to a luncheon at the Crystal Palace on Friday, June 23rd, with a view to their inspecting the West Indian Court at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition. We feel sure that, having regard to the hospitable manner in which our delegates were treated when the meetings of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire were held in Canada, our Members will signify their appreciation by attending in large numbers on this occasion. Tickets, price 7s. 6d. each, can now be obtained upon application to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

New Members of the West India Committee.

The total number of new Members elected to the West India Committee during the present year now amounts to 65. Forms of application for Membership can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. At a well-attended meeting of the Executive on Thursday, May 25th, Sir Nevile Lubbock, presiding, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
J. M. FLEMING, Esq.	G. C. A. Wyatt, Esq.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.
EDWIN R. DEAR, Esq.	C. K. Gibbons, Esq.	T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.
GERALD GRELL, Esq.	Walter S. Vaughan, Esq.	E. A. Agar, Esq.
J. SCULLY, Esq.	His Honour H. H. Bell, C.M.G.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
E. H. CONNELL, Esq.	W. C. Hutson, Esq.	E. L. Skeete, Esq.
JOHN BARCLAY, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
J. J. WILKIE, Esq.	Allan E. Messer, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
MESSRS. JOHN GORDON & Co.	Hon. D. S. De Freitas.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
F. A. SKEETE, Esq.	Edgar Tripp, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
H. S. TAPPIN, Esq.	Edgar Tripp, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
JOSEPH LOTA, Esq.	Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G.	L. G. Alston, Esq.
D. A. MAJANI, Esq.	Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G.	G. Bruce Austin, Esq.
EDGAR MAINGOT, Esq.	Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G.	L. G. Alston, Esq.
R. P. MACKENZIE, Esq.	Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G.	E. C. Skinner, Esq.
MESSRS. ELLIS KISLINGBURY & Co.	H. H. Dobree, Esq.	Mewburn Garnett, Esq.
JAMES PARK, Esq.	John Farr, Esq.	Messrs. Outerbridge & Co.
A. D. C. ADAMSON, Esq.	William Gillespie, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
MESSRS. WM. REID & Co.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
MARTIN ELLIOTT, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.	W. P. B. Shephard, Esq.
MESSRS. A. S. LASCELLES & Co.	W. P. B. Shephard, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
PERCY ODAMS CORNWELL, Esq.	George Hughes, Esq.	E. Packard, Esq.
JOHN H. HUETT, Esq.	George Hughes, Esq.	E. Packard, Esq.

Barbados at the Colonial Exhibition.

By W. G. FREEMAN, B.Sc., F.L.S.

The West Indian exhibit at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition now being held at the Crystal Palace, is admittedly second to none in attractiveness and interest. The great difficulty which has confronted those responsible for the arrangement of the exhibits has evidently not been how to fill the space allotted to the respective Colonies, but rather how to find room for all the material sent for exhibition, though I am told that the Court is considerably larger than was originally intended, occupying as it does no less than 7000 square feet. Barbados has sent over a wealth of exhibits, and the products of the Colony would have made a much more effective display could the specimens sent have been distributed over a Court three or four times the area of that which they now occupy. The

Exhibition Committee in Barbados and the Commissioner, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, have undoubtedly accomplished their task very satisfactorily, almost all the chief products of the Colony being represented by specimens which have evidently been carefully selected, labelled and packed. It is too much to expect that in an exhibition of the products of one of the oldest British Colonies there should be many novelties such as may be seen, for instance, from little explored territories in Africa. The Exhibition has rather for its object to show to the British public the staples which Barbados can produce, to epitomize their mode of manufacture and the conditions under which they are produced, and to extend knowledge of the conditions of life under which our fellow countrymen live and work in their tropical home.

The predominant position occupied by sugar as the staple product of the Colony is emphasized by the large number of specimens of canes which form the screen of the Court and add so much to its ornamental effect, and also by the extensive series of specimens of sugar and the bye-products obtained in its manufacture. Nearly one half of the total number of specimens exhibited are sugar products, and there is no cause for the complaint, too often to be made against exhibitions of this kind, that every thing is shown but the important product of the country. The various grades of crystal sugars, syrup, sugar, and muscovado, the subsidiary specimens of clarified cane juice, massecuite and megass, together with the fresh canes and the photographs of estates, the models of plantation carts with their loads of hogsheads and puncheons bring home to one the local conditions and the main features of the industry, and indicate very clearly its possibilities and limitations.

Tangible expression of the success which has attended the revival of the important cotton industry is afforded by the samples of seed cotton, lint, and cotton seed from seven estates in the Island, and a good summary of the recent activity in this direction is given in the Barbados handbook, to which reference is made below.

The new and developing banana industry was worthily represented on the opening day by three magnificent bunches of Barbados bananas, shown by Messrs. William Pink & Sons of Portsmouth, which afforded irrefutable evidence of the fact that Barbados can produce bananas of first class quality, and that they can be so packed and transported as to reach this country in the best possible condition. Barbados bananas are, however, as yet little known in London, and it is satisfactory to learn that arrangements have been made for a constant supply to be sent and exhibited at the Palace. The Barbados handbook, it should be noted, gives a good account of the initial difficulties encountered and now happily overcome, and the measure of success which has attended the efforts of the Imperial Department of Agriculture to create this new industry.

The principal edible pulses, grains and starches are well represented by samples of pigeon peas, ground nuts, cassava, arrowroot, tois-les-mois, indian corn, etc., and the roots and tubers by fresh specimens of yams, sweet potatoes and eddoes. All appear to have arrived in good condition and steps will be taken to impress upon the visitors to the Exhibition that the sweet potatoes and yams are staples of food of the labouring classes, and take the place of the potato of temperate climes. The traveller, of course, recognises them as old acquaintances and knows their value, but to the stay-at-home Briton they are not familiar, and by a few concise notes it will be possible for him to become acquainted with their worth, and realise something of the condition of life in far-off parts of the Empire.

Pickles and preserves are well represented by a considerable number of specimens. The majority, judging by external appearance only, are of good quality, though a few, for example the various sugar cakes, are, it must be admitted, below the average of similar sweetmeats sold in London, thus emphasising the fact that it is only desirable to exhibit those that can be supplied on a commercial scale, care and attention being paid to the packing and general style in which they are put up.

The flying fish industry is much to the fore with spirit specimens of the fish, models of a fishing boat, nets and pickled fish from the factory recently opened at Bridgetown. The nature and importance of the flying fish industry of Barbados has never fully been realised in this country, and the specimens form a very interesting exhibit.

The mineral resources of the island are indicated by specimens of manjak, petroleum, crude and refined asphalt, infusorial earth, ochreous clays, and volcanic dust from the eruptions in St. Vincent of 1812 and 1902. The specimens appear to be good and representative.

Ornamental seeds are, as usual, strongly represented. Their attractive appearance always renders them of great interest to visitors, and in an exhibition they may well be made to serve a useful purpose in decorating the Court and attracting visitors to other and more important objects, as economic products their value, of course, is low. A figure in Barbados coral of a negro woman with a basket and hoe catches the eye. The photographs round the Court serve their purpose very well to indicate the general conditions of life in one of the most pleasant and healthy of the British tropical Colonies.

The Court is also supplied with the current issues of the *West Indian Bulletin*, *Agricultural News*, and other publications of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, which are available to visitors in search of further information regarding recent agricultural work in the Colony.

Taken as a whole the Barbados Court affords a good idea of the natural capabilities of the Colony. Sugar, on which the fortunes of Barbados have been dependent for the last hundred years or so, appropriately occupies the predominant place, and gives the distinguishing character to the whole court. At the same time the more important of the minor industries,—cotton and fruit are well represented, whilst the products of local importance, but which are not likely immediately to figure in the export returns are also shown.

The Exhibition Committee in Barbados are to be congratulated on having got together this representative collection of exhibits, for the care taken to ensure their arrival in England in such good condition, and for the excellent handbook; to the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne and the West India Committee are due the thanks of all for their labours in arranging the Court, and placing before the public in attractive guise a tangible demonstration of the products and resources, and the general condition of life in Barbados.

In conclusion, a word must be added regarding the tastefully got-up handbook, issued under the authority of the Committee appointed by the Government of Barbados to make the necessary arrangements for the Exhibition. The cover, printed in three colours, is from an artistic design by Lady Carter, the wife of the Governor of Barbados, and represents sugar canes swathed round with a Union Jack with a characteristic background of cabbage palms, and a windmill. The pages of this book contain much historical, agricultural and general information concerning the Colony, which will prove interesting and instructive to visitors.

Exhibition Announcements.

The Attendance at the Exhibition.

The attendance at the Exhibition since the opening has been 165,549.

Hours Open.

The Colonial and Indian Exhibition at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Sundays excepted). *Admission 1/-*

The Hospitable Crystal Palace Club

Those of our Members desirous of availing themselves of the privileges offered by the Crystal Palace Club will require vouchers, which are obtainable *free of charge* from the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Members' Day at the Exhibition.

Several Members visited the Palace on Thursday, which, as already announced, it has been decided to make Members' Day, when a special table is reserved for Members in the restaurant. It may be mentioned that Thursday is firework night. *Members intending to be present are requested to notify the Secretary by Thursday morning.*

The Visit of Canadian Delegates.

As announced in another column, the delegates of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association will be entertained at the restaurant at the Crystal Palace on Friday, June 23rd, at 1 p.m. Sir Neville Lubbock will preside, and it is hoped that a large number of our Members will be able to attend. Tickets, including admission to the Palace, can be obtained from the Secretary, price 7s. 6d. each. Train leaves Victoria S.E. & C.R. at 11.30 a.m.

A Series of Popular Lectures.

Under the auspices of the League of the Empire, and at the instance of Mrs. Ord Marshall, its energetic Hon. Secretary, Mr. John Barclay inaugurated a series of lectures on the West Indian exhibits on Friday, May 26th, before an appreciative audience, gathered together at short notice by Mrs. Marshall. The Earl of Meath and other distinguished members of the League were present. Mr. Hart has undertaken to give similar lectures weekly, at half-past three every Thursday, when many of our Members will, we hope, attend.



Copyright

The West India Committee

A PORTION OF THE BARBADOS COURT,
COLONIAL & INDIAN EXHIBITION, 1905.

Railway Facilities.

There are over 300 trains to and from the Crystal Palace daily, from Victoria, Ludgate Hill and London Bridge—time, 20 to 30 minutes. The High Level station is quite near to the West Indian Court.

TO THE PALACE.

Victoria—*High Level*: 11 2, 1 33, 3 10, 6 32, 7 15.
(There is also a fast train on Saturdays at 3 p.m.)
Victoria—*Low Level*: 11 23, 1 50, 3 10, 5 10, 7 33
London Bridge—*Low Level*: 11 23, 1 20, 3 11, 6 32,
7 12.
Ludgate Hill—*High Level*: 11 9, 1 12, 3 31, 6 48,
7 32.

FROM THE PALACE.

Victoria—*High Level*: 3 23, 4 55, 6 55, 10 10, 11.
Victoria—*Low Level*: 3 48, 4 45, 6 45, 10 35, 12 27.
London Bridge—*Low Level*: 3 18, 4 25, 6 32, 10 20,
11 55.
Ludgate Hill—*High Level*: 3 51, 4 44, 8 35, 9 25,
10 30.

The Commissioners for the Exhibition.

While in this country, the West India Committee Rooms will be the headquarters of the Exhibition Commissioners, and it is requested that all communications may be addressed to them there, although they will of necessity be in attendance at the Exhibition very often. The names of the Commissioners are:—

BARBADOS: Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee.

JAMAICA: Mr. John Barclay, Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee.

Mr. Frank Cundall, Secretary, the Institute of Jamaica.

TRINIDAD: Mr. John H. Hart, F.L.S., Superintendent of the Botanical Department, Trinidad.

Letters regarding General Exhibition matters should be addressed to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

The Removal of the Troops.

In the Barbados House of Assembly, on May 16th, the Solicitor General, as Senior Member of the Special Committee appointed to draft a petition to His Majesty the King with reference to the removal of the troops from Barbados, handed in the following Report:—

The Committee appointed to draft a petition to His Majesty the King with reference to the removal of the troops from Barbados have the honour to submit the following draft petition:—

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

The humble petition of the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly, elected by Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects of the ancient Colony of Barbados to represent their interests in the General Assembly, who, as such representatives, most humbly approach Your Gracious Majesty, and pray that they may be allowed to submit as follows:—

1. The House of Assembly regret to learn that Your Majesty's Government have expressed an intention to remove the Imperial Troops from this island.

2. For more than a century it has been the policy of the Crown to maintain a small garrison of British troops at Barbados, whose presence is a manifest link with the Mother Country. To reverse this policy now, after it has been consistently pursued for so many years, is liable to be interpreted as indicating the cessation of England's interest in the welfare of this Colony.

3. The area of Barbados is only 166 square miles, but the population numbers upwards of 200,000; and although our people are as a whole quiet and law-abiding, there is present (as in all dense populations) an element of disorder and improvidence. On this section of the community the presence of the troops cannot but exercise a restraining and quieting influence, and the total withdrawal of the English garrison would be an experiment the result of which cannot be foreseen.

4. If the declared intention of the Imperial Government to remove the troops from this island be carried into effect, local measures of defence will be necessary, and the Colony can ill afford to incur any additional expenditure.

5. For the removal of the Imperial troops from the West Indian Colonies, your Petitioners have seen three reasons suggested—

- (a) The operation of the Monroe doctrine
- (b) The policy of concentration.
- (c) Economy

With reference to the reason marked (a), your Petitioners beg most respectfully to submit that to allow British Colonies to look for protection to the operation of a doctrine promulgated for its own purposes by a foreign Government is dangerous in principle, and not consistent with the traditions and dignity of the British Crown. It is certainly a novel kind of Imperialism.

(b) The policy of concentration, however admirable it may be for the navy, is, your Petitioners suggest, inapplicable to the handful of the land forces in garrison at Barbados. For that small garrison, while of incalculable value to this Colony as a strong influence tending to law and order, would be an insignificant factor in the defence of the Home Country, which rests primarily with the Navy.

(c) The annual cost to the Imperial Treasury of the upkeep of the small Barbados garrison is insignificant, and economy can hardly be seriously urged, especially in the case of such an opulent country as the United Kingdom, with an annual elastic revenue of millions of pounds. Moreover, your Petitioners venture to assert that, with reference to a mighty Empire like that of England, there are considerations far more potent than economy.

6. Not only is it expedient from the internal point of view of this Colony that a British garrison should be maintained here, but also, owing to geographical position, Barbados forms a convenient centre from which troops can speedily be sent to other West Indian Colonies needing such assistance. In proof of this, it is only necessary to point to the assistance afforded Trinidad in 1903 on the occasion of the Red House Riots there, when troops from Barbados were on duty in Trinidad within forty-eight hours of the receipt of a telegram invoking military aid.

Wherefore Your Majesty's humble and loyal Petitioners, the Speaker and Members of the Assembly of this Your Majesty's ancient Colony of Barbados, most dutifully approach the Throne and pray:—

That Your Majesty will be pleased to urge the reconsideration of this most important matter, with a view to the modification of the policy of Your Majesty's Government, so as to permit a garrison of Imperial troops to continue to be stationed at Barbados.

The petition closes with the usual prayer.

The British Guiana Boundary.

A dinner was given by the West Indian Club at the Hotel Cecil, on Wednesday, May 31st, to meet the Lord Chief Justice of England and others associated with the British Guiana and Venezuela Boundary Arbitration. Sir Henry K. Davson presided, and there was a large attendance, including:— Sir Robert B. Finlay, M.P., Sir Augustus Hemming, Col. Sir J. Roper Parkington, Sir Thomas Lipton, Mr. E. Alberga, Mr. G. Allen, Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Mr. J. Arnold, Mr. G. R. Askwith, Mr. P. Archer, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. John Barclay, Dr. W. Barter, Mr. W. Bramall, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. Cecil Browne, Mr. H. S. Browne, Mr. H. Bertram Cox, Mr. E. H. Chambers, Hon. Hugh Clifford, Mr. C. A. Comacho, Mr. S. Cooper, Hon. P. Cork, Mr. Cowan, Mr. R. Currie, Mr. C. E. Davies, Capt. Davson, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. E. H. Draper, Mr. W. C. Dyett, Hon. W. Scott Evans, Mr. E. Flynn, Mr. W. St. J. Fox, Mr. E. Flynn, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. P. N. Sutherland Graeme, Mr. R. Griffin, Mr. C. A. Harris, Mr. Haselwood, Mr. E. A. Hay, Mr. A. Hirsch, Mr. A. N. Homer, Mr. J. Huett, Mr. A. Hutchinson, Mr. Eyre Hutson, Mr. H. G. O. Bax-Ironside, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. R. M. Johnson, Mr. Alex. Kenealy, Mr. W. B. Kingsford, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., Mr. H. L. Lewis, Mr. C. P. Lucas, Mr. A. Melhado, Mr. Lionel de Mercado, Mr. C. E. de Mercado, Mr. A. E. Messer, Major G. F. M. Montgomery, Mr. John Nash, Mr. A. McD. Nathan, Mr. E. Ostert, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. H. J. Perkins, Mr. E. G. Pern, Mr. Owen Philipps, Mr. H. D. Pilcher, Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. H. F. Previtè, Mr. E. M. Randall, Mr. F. G. Rayment, Mr. J. H. Reddan, Prof. Emil Reich, Mr. A. H. L. Richter, Mr. J. Rippon, Capt. W. P. Roche, Mr. S. A. T. Rowlatt, Mr. C. Russell, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. E. Samuels, Mr. F. W. Scott, Mr. J. A. Sellers, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. K. F. Smith, Mr. H. O. Smith, Mr. C. B. Stamp, Mr. H. D. Swan, Mr. E. Sturridge, Mr. C. W. Stevens, Hon. P. Stern, Mr. Cyril B. Tubbs, Hon. J. Turner, Mr. H. C. B. Underdown, Hon. Francis Villiers, Mr. A. F. C. Weber, Mr. J. Westwood, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Dr. J. C. P. Widdup, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Dr. A. L. Wykham, and Mr. C. R. Wynn.

After the usual loyal toasts the Chairman proposed "The Guests of the Evening," and said that the West Indian Club returned their grateful thanks to Lord Alverstone and those associated with him in the matter of the Venezuela boundary arbitration. After alluding to several points which occasioned the dispute, he said that the award, which was in favour of Great Britain, was a triumph of arbitration, because it was received on both sides with satisfaction. The consequences to British Guiana, he considered, could not be overrated. It might seem a long time before they had returned thanks for all the benefits received, but he reminded them that it was not until last year that the boundary was actually fixed.

Lord Alverstone, in reply, said that it was a matter of very great congratulation to them that the West Indian Club, a young but flourishing club, should have conceived the happy idea of bringing together nearly every one who was connected with the British Guiana and Venezuela boundary arbitration. It was not an occasion for making any serious speech, and he proceeded to speak individually of those who were connected with the arbitration and who had rendered valuable service to Great Britain. It was a privilege to have had the opportunity of taking part in the arbitration, to meet the distinguished advocates on the other side, and to form friendships which had lasted long after the question had passed away. (Hear, hear).

Sir Augustus Hemming then gave the toast of "International Arbitration," and observed that the issues involved in some disputes were so great that it was not possible for them to go to arbitration.

The war between Japan and Russia was one instance. They could, he considered, congratulate themselves on the result of the Venezuelan arbitration, and feel that justice had been done to both parties.

The Attorney-General responded to the toast, and remarked that arbitration at one time was not very popular in this country. On one occasion a motion in favour of arbitration which was brought forward in the House of Commons was opposed by Lord Palmerston, who contended that no arbitrator in other countries could be found who would do justice to Great Britain. Lord Alverstone had broken the spell against arbitration, and the position which Great Britain had assumed had been vindicated, and in future we might look forward with perfect confidence to receiving our due when we appealed to the system of arbitration. There were, of course, matters affecting independence and honour, or the vital interests of a country, which no nation worthy of the name could ever leave to the decision of an arbitrator: but there were many occasions on which petty disputes could be settled before they developed into serious causes of discord between nations. He did not look forward with any sanguine hope to the realisation of the dream of the "federation of the world," but he looked forward with great confidence to the elimination of many of the causes of war.

Mr. C. A. Harris, in an amusing speech, then proposed the toast "The Colony of British Guiana," and the chairman having replied, the proceedings were brought to a close.

Great credit is due to Mr. Allan E. Messer, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. A. Johnson and the Hon. C. Russell, who made the arrangements for this dinner, a feature of which was a fine display of West Indian fruits, including: red bananas, apple bananas, oranges, grape fruit, star apples, naseberries, mangoes, limes, and shaddock.

British Grown Cotton.

In order to indicate the nature and importance of the new movement to promote the cultivation of cotton in British territory, and to illustrate the dependence of one of our greatest manufacturing industries on a regular and adequate supply of raw material, an Exhibition is being held at the Imperial Institute under the auspices of the Board of Trade in conjunction with the British Cotton Growing Association. A private view was held on Friday, June 1st, and was attended by the Prince of Wales, who stayed nearly an hour, and showed a keen interest in the exhibits. His Royal Highness arrived at 11 o'clock, and was received by Sir Francis Hopwood, Permanent Secretary of the Board of Trade, and Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., Director of the Imperial Institute, among the others who were present being: The Duke of Marlborough, Sir William Thiselton Dyer, Sir Alfred L. Jones, Sir Alfred Moloney, Sir Ralph Moor, Sir William Haynes Smith, Sir E. Noel Walker, Mr. C. P. Lucas, Mr. Arthur Pearson, Mr. Hugh Clifford, Mr. E. L. Oliver, and a large number of representatives of the press.

The exhibition, which has been arranged under the direction of Professor Wyndham Dunstan, is very representative, the Colonial Governments concerned, as well as the principal manufacturers in this country, having assisted by sending exhibits both of material and machinery. The exhibition will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during June and July, when the following members of the staff of the Imperial Institute will afford any special information which may be required: Mr. F. W. Barwick, Dr. S. E. Chandler, Mr. W. G. Freeman, and Dr. Ernest Goulding.

In the preface to the very comprehensive catalogue of the exhibition, Professor Dunstan summarises the circumstance which have led to the present situation as follows:

"Whilst the United Kingdom is one of the principal users of raw cotton, the principal producer is the United States of America, and upon America this country depends at present for its supply of raw material. If this supply should fall short, or be obtainable at an enhanced price, a great national industry, involving the employment of a large population is jeopardised. Without taking account of those artificial causes which lead to a rise in the value of raw cotton, it is now evident that our almost entire dependence for this supply on one country, which is liable to great and natural fluctuations in its production, and is likely itself to require an increasing quantity of the raw material for its own factories, is attended with great danger.

"This danger was first realised at the time of the American Civil War, when this country suffered severely from a deficiency in the supply of cotton. A Cotton Growing Society was formed to encourage the production of cotton in other countries, but with the resumption of a supply from America this enterprise waned, and public interest in it disappeared.

"Three years ago a natural shortage in the American crop, the effect of which was intensified by artificial financial operations, again seriously affected the manufacturers of this country. Again public attention was directed to cotton production, and a Cotton Growing Association was formed with a view to promoting the growth of cotton in the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown. Since the crisis at the time of the American Civil War in the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown. Since the crisis at the time of the American Civil War public opinion has changed in many respects. To-day the movement for providing cotton on our own soil should command greater public support, because it is evident not only that the movement will assist the stability of the foremost of our national industries, but also that cotton cultivation may be the means of establishing the prosperity of many of our own possessions, and especially those which are undeveloped estates."

"The new movement has to depend chiefly on private enterprise and individual subscriptions for its support. The British Cotton Growing Association looks to the manufacturers and people of this country for substantial help."

Turning, now, to the Exhibition itself, we may very briefly describe the exhibits, though we feel sure that our Members will visit the Imperial Institute, and see for themselves this collection. The Exhibition begins with specimens of the plants, both dried and living, the former showing the ripe bolls from which the wool is bursting. Maps and lists of the cotton areas of the world are given, with statistics of production, and photographs illustrating the cultivation in Egypt and America. Specimens of the soils in which the plant is grown, and of the insect enemies that attack it are given, and the main feature of the Exhibition is a display of various cottons grown in British possessions and neighbouring countries. They are mounted in glass-fronted frames and inclined stands, each specimen being accompanied by a card on which some fibres are drawn out against a black background, showing the length of the staple again a scale, and the character of the fibre. From the West Indies large samples of Sea Island cotton are shown by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, the Islands represented being Barbados, St. Vincent, Antigua, St. Kitts and Nevis. There is also an exhibit of ten different varieties, lent by the Botanic Gardens of Georgetown, British Guiana. A diagram on a central screen shows, by the height of columns, the exports of cotton from the British West Indies from 1801 to 1903, the figures being as follows:—

Year.	Exports (lb.)
1801	10,000,000
1836	8,000,000
1900	319,000
1901	280,000
1902	302,000
1903	412,000

The Memorial to the late Field-Marshal Sir H. Norman.

Since we last went to press we have received the following subscriptions towards the fund being raised with the object of perpetuating the memory of the late Field-Marshal Sir Henry Norman, a former Governor of Jamaica, and Chairman of the Royal Commission which visited the West Indies in 1897:—The West India Association of Liverpool, £5 5s.; the Hon. W. Fawcett, £1 1s., making, with the amounts acknowledged in last *Circular*, £35 8s. Those who wish to subscribe are requested to forward their donations to the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

Sugar Prices.

In the House of Commons on May 24th, Mr. Platt-Higgins (Salford, N.) asked the Secretary to the Board of Trade to what extent had the price of sugar fallen during this year, what was the present price, what was the price now quoted for delivery during the last quarter of the present year, and what was the average price of sugar during the ten years prior to the signature of the Brussels Convention.

Mr. Bonar Law (Glasgow, Blackfriars): The price of 88 per cent. beet sugar f.o.b. Hamburg at the beginning of January was 14s. 10d. per cwt., and this had increased by the middle of January to 16s. The price on May 18th was 11s. 7½d. The price quoted on May 18th for delivery in November-December was 9s. 11d. The average price of the same sugar in the ten years 1892-1901 was about 10s. 9d. per cwt.

Mr. Gibson Bowles: Will the hon. gentleman explain how it is that sugar has doubled in price in some places? Mr. Bonar Law: I strongly doubt the fact, and I would need to know whether it is a fact. Mr. Gibson Bowles: I can assure the hon. member that it is a fact all the same.

In the House of Commons on May 25th, Colonel Sadler (Middlesborough) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention had been directed to the fall in the price of sugar, to-day's value being 5s. per cwt. below what it was in January last, whilst new-crop sugar was quoted at under 10s. per cwt., or less than 1d. per lb.; and whether, having regard to the relative rate of the duty to the total value of sugar when it was imposed, he would favourably consider a *pro rata* reduction.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Austen Chamberlain): Yes, sir, I am aware of the fall in the price of sugar from the abnormal prices of last January; but I cannot admit the possibility of varying the duty *pro rata* with changes of price. The hon. member is in error in thinking that the price of sugar is lower than it was when the duty was imposed.

Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) asked whether it was not true that sugar was nearly double the price now as compared with the period before the duty was imposed, and whether the right hon. gentleman attributed the rise to the duty or the Convention.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that the hon. member was endeavouring to put an argument in the form of a question. If the hon. member would put a question on the paper he would endeavour to answer it.

The Sugar Duty.

In the House of Commons on May 30th upon the consideration of the Finance Bill in Committee, Mr. Channing moved a new clause with the object of abolishing the sugar duty imposed during the war. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that it was imposed during the war in the first instance to meet the expenditure of the war; but it was intended to remain after the war one of our financial resources. In the main, the sugar duty was a tax upon food, but even as a tax on raw material it did not stand alone. Cocoa beans, and tobacco were raw materials subject to taxation, and he might find other instances. More than a slight reference to the Brussels Convention would be out of order. He had defended the policy of that Convention in replying to a deputation, and upon a fitting occasion would be ready to justify the action of the Government. It was, no doubt, perfectly true that certain industries had been encouraged and fostered by the abnormally low price of sugar in the past, but that was not a natural price at which sugar could remain in any circumstances for any length of time, or a price that could be attained except by artificial means; and it was surprising that the hon. member with his strict economical views should desire that an industry should exist on an artificial basis when it could not subsist under fair terms of trade competition. The effect of the Brussels Convention had been to withdraw an artificial stimulus from particular industries obtained at the expense of another industry equally deserving and which left the favoured industries on a footing of insecurity not beneficial to trade generally. No doubt the rise in the price of sugar last year, due largely to circumstances wholly unconnected with the Convention, was detrimental to the trade, but fluctuations in the sugar trade were known before the Convention or the tax existed, and the liability to such fluctuations was increased when the market was dependent upon one source of supply. The best defence against such sudden fluctuations was to secure that other sugar which was being driven out of the market by artificial competition should be able to compete on fair terms and to provide that we should have a wider area of production from which to draw supplies. The inconvenience caused by the rise was great, but it had been exaggerated. Failures in the confectionery and mineral water trades had not been substantially larger than in other years; and the returns supplied by the Board of Trade seemed to show that the alteration in price since the Convention came into force had not been such as to prevent the making of very good profits. He did not dispute that the great and sudden rise due to shortage of crop had been highly injurious to trade, but prospects for the future were brighter. The price at the beginning of January was 14s. 10d., and increased by the middle of that month to 16s. But by May 18th it had fallen to 9s. 11d. for delivery in November. The average of the ten years 1892-1901 was 10s. 9d. He did not understand why the fact that they had a tax on sugar consumed at home should affect the export of confectionery and other manufactured articles which obtained a drawback. As a matter of fact the figures he had before him did not bear out the suggestion made. The import figures included as confectionery a good deal not generally regarded as such, and, so far as the exports were concerned, which were much more nearly true confectionery, the decrease was very slight indeed; nor would the figures, even though less favourable, afford a conclusive reason for abandoning permanently so important a source of revenue. The tax produced very nearly six millions of revenue last year, and he did not know where he could look to recoup to the Treasury the sum which would be lost by the abandonment of the tax. It was quite obvious he could not agree to part with it in the current year, and neither did he feel inclined to pledge himself to its abandonment at a future time. If it were true, as he believed, that one source of our indirect taxation on which we had so largely relied in the past—namely, the tax on alcoholic drinks—was going to produce less to the revenue in proportion than in former years, that was a reason the more for finding other sources of indirect taxation which might go some way to meet the difficulty. It was often said the tax on beer, spirits, and tobacco need be contributed to by no man unless he pleased. That was perfectly true, but we must have some taxation which citizens could not decline to contribute to by simply changing their habits or altering their form of expenditure. The sugar tax was one to which every one contributed, and, taken in conjunction with the rest of our system of taxation, he did not think it imposed an undue burden upon any section of the population. He could give no pledge that he would make it his business to secure a withdrawal of the tax. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Channing's resolution was defeated by a majority of 65. (For, 166, against, 231).

The Canary Banana Industry.

(Continued from page 190).

The value of the land has increased almost incredibly. A piece of land which was pointed out to me, was valued some few years ago at 300 pesetas (a peseta being equal to about 7d. English money), and now it would fetch at least 30,000 pesetas. In the parts known as the banana districts, where the bananas extend for miles, and wherever the eye rests, the land could not be bought for less than £1,000 per acre. This sounds like a fairy tale, I confess, but I was assured that it is a fact. After all it is conceivable when one remembers what heavy crops the trees yield. It is calculated that the crop per imperial acre of the banana is 133 times more productive by weight than a wheat crop, and 44 times more than the potato. The nutritive properties are also much in excess, so that a loaf of bread made from the banana flour is 25 times as nutritive as the ordinary wheaten loaf eaten in this country. It might be as well to remember this in our West Indian Colonies, where flour is largely imported. The banana is a new product, and the facilities for frequent shipment probably not as good as they might be so far. If it was found impossible to ship some of the bunches in perfect condition, I should certainly advise their being picked quite green when there is more than 71 per cent. of starch in them. They might then be dried in the sun, or in ovens, and ground by special mills into flour to supply the demand in the island.



Loading Crates of Bananas at the Docks.

Being now a thoroughly well-established trade in Grand Canary, the shipping competition is tremendous, and tends to keep the prices up and the trade in a healthy paying condition for the growers. Some of the shipping firms own land there and grow their own bananas, besides buying outright more from other growers. This system is often the most satisfactory plan for the farmer, as he then runs no risk of the fruit rotting through bad weather and lengthened voyages before it reaches the market, and the home market prices, whether good or bad, would be a matter of indifference to him. On the other hand some planters have found it advantageous to ship their bananas, paying the freight, which is anything from 9d. to 1/6 per crate of any size, according to the home port it is destined for, and a commission to an agent who arranges for a sale at home on the most advantageous terms. The profit then, whatever it may be, goes to the farmer.

We are told by botanists that the banana is certainly one of the oldest products of human tillage, so old in fact that the parents from whom it is supposed we are all descended, we are told, rested to the soothing murmur of the plantain leaves. We also know as a fact that, for countless ages, it has been propagated from suckers, each plant so to speak cutting itself up in smaller plants and so on possibly for countless ages more. Surely there must be some natural limit to this wonderful power of longevity. The potato and the vine have long ago succumbed to disease through being propagated in a similar manner, yet the banana goes on successfully year after year resisting the inevitable tendency to degeneration. Long may it do so.

E. MAUDE BATEMAN.

Colonial Reports—Bermuda.

Mr. Eyre Hutson, in his Annual Report on the Blue Book of Bermuda for 1904, states that much public concern was caused towards the close of the year by reports which were circulated on the subject of the reduction of the Imperial Establishments in the Colony. The reduction of the military establishments determined on will be a reversion to the establishment maintained in the Colony previous to the South African War, and will undoubtedly cause a decrease in business transactions, and consequently a decrease in revenue. The reduction of the number of employees in the Naval Dockyard will have a similar effect, especially in the parish contiguous to the dockyard. The report closes with the significant statement that so long as the Colony can rely on the New York market for the disposal of its agricultural produce at remunerative prices, and provided renewed attempts be made to encourage the tourist traffic to the Colony, there should be no appreciable decline in the Colony's prosperity.

Consular Reports.

The Sugar Industry of Hawaii.

The export of raw sugar from the Hawaiian Islands during the year ended June 30th, 1904, amounted to 328,791 tons, valued at £5,012,219, all of which went to the United States. Other articles exported amounted in value to £173,969 only. According to Mr. Consul Layard's Report, there were in 1903-4 fifty two sugar plantations in the Hawaiian Islands, mostly belonging to joint stock companies, with outputs ranging between 350 and 35,000 short tons (2000 lbs.) of sugar per annum. Although scattered over different islands, all these plantations have agencies in Honolulu. All the sugar produced is shipped to the United States, and, owing to the restrictions of the United States navigation laws, entirely in American bottoms, with the result that, there being insufficient tonnage to carry the produce by the cheaper route round the Horn, a great part (about one-third) of the staple has had to be conveyed at enhanced rates overland to New York via San Francisco. The sugar-producing islands of the group are, in the order of their output, Hawaii, Oahu (on which Honolulu is situated), Maui and Kauai, with an acreage of 94,000 acres planted with cane for the crop of 1904, and an acreage under cultivation of some 220,000 acres altogether.

For the year ended December 31st, 1904, the total crop for the whole group reached 367,475 short tons (328,102 tons avoird.), compared with 437,991 short tons (391,063 tons avoird.) in the previous year—a fall of nearly 63,000 tons, but a larger total than that of 1902, and, with the exception of the crop of 1903, the highest that has yet been recorded. Much damage has again been experienced from the ravages of the "leaf-hopper" (*Perkinsiella saccharicida*) and other pests, whilst in some parts fungus diseases have also been prevalent. It is, in fact, only by the employment of the greatest skill and care, combined with the most progressive methods of irrigation, fertilisation and the like, that plantations have been able successfully to fight against these drawbacks and the handicap of dear labour and cheap sugar prices.

Since the date of last report there has been a steady advance in prices of sugar. From 3'87 c. per lb. for 96° centrifugals in New York, values increased until, at the end of 1904, the price on this basis was 4.83 c. per lb.

The labour question, in connection more particularly with the sugar plantations, is a very serious one for the territory. Chinese immigration is now strictly prohibited, whilst of the Chinese already resident here before the annexation of the islands to the United States, and of the Japanese still arriving, the number who are constantly returning to their homes constitutes an incessant drain on the necessary supply, which is scarcely compensated for by fresh immigration. Experiments have been made with gangs of Korean labourers, but they compare unfavourably with Japanese and other nationalities. It has even been attempted to settle specially selected American farmers on plantations to cultivate cane, but this and other similar experiments have all resulted in failure. The difficulty will be an ever-present one until and unless the importation of Chinese labour is sanctioned.

In this connection it would be well to point out that in other branches of employment the supply of labour is fully adequate to meet the demand.

The Industries of Porto Rico.

Mr. Consul Churchward reports that in 1904 the sugar industry of Porto Rico underwent a marked development. The manufactured tobacco trade for export was also extended considerably. The sugar crop of 1903-4 yielded 116,000 tons, the heaviest ever recorded in Porto Rico. It is the result of the great development of the sugar centrals in the last few years now arriving at their proper condition of efficiency. The value of the crop was £786,245 more than that of the previous year.

Two new centrals came into work during the year, one at Juncos and the other at Naguabo.

while a third is planned for next year at Fajardo. Nearly all the old factories of any importance have improved their plants and systems, and great activity is shown all round in opening up new cane areas to supply the growing capacities of the mills.

Agricultural labour in the sugar districts suffered somewhat during the year from agitations and strikes for higher wages, based upon the rise in the price of sugar and upon a demand of equal wages to those ruling in the United States. This latter is the outcome of the official affiliation of the Porto Rican Labour League with the American Federation of Labour.

The strike was successful in a few places, but in general it failed, owing to the abundance of unoccupied hands available through the failure in coffee.

Cacao in Samoa.

Reporting on the trade of Samoa for 1904, Mr. Acting-Vice-Consul Trood states that cacao plantations, small and large, are all doing well. This product, although it will live here with the most unfavourable surroundings, requires, where a good crop is expected in five years from the time of planting, much care and attention, for unless the trees are carefully weeded and freed from all scrub and grasses the crop will be much delayed. On this account plantations owned by companies enjoy a great advantage over those started by small proprietors, who in many instances are not only unable to procure labour as easily as do the large plantations, but often find it difficult to raise money to pay for labour when they get it. Consequently, in their case trees which would produce heavy crops in five years' growth on the larger holdings bring little return to them for seven or even eight years. For this reason, as stated in previous reports, cacao is not a good or even a safe investment for the small capitalist, unless he uses it merely as a subsidiary to other less uncertain enterprises. Dr. Wohltmann (the Government *Auskunft* states) considers that not less than £2500 are requisite to start a cacao plantation. The managing director of the Upolu cacao plantation places the cost per acre, from clearing the land to gathering in of the first crop, at £25 to £30 per acre.

Other drawbacks exist besides the difficulty of obtaining labour. Various diseases, especially where the ground is not kept thoroughly clean, infest the trees, and in Samoa, as in other tropical countries, the rat is a standing menace, for it has been known to eat or damage half the crop on some plantations. However, as the rat is kept down by some planters by means of poison, and also as it does not much frequent places where water is scarce, there is good hope for believing that in time it will be got rid of. The introduction of the mongoose (*ichneumon*) was recommended, but as it appears that eventually he ceases to destroy rats and substitutes for them, as his food, poultry, sugar-cane, and even cacao pods, this idea has been given up.

A small plantation 20 miles from Apia, to the westward—started four years ago—yielded its proprietor at the end of 1904 6000 lbs. of cacao from eight acres, worth in Apia 6d. per lb. The export of cacao in 1904 was about 20 tons.

As no dependence can be placed on the Samoans in the matter of labour, not even at the high rate of 2s. per day, with the privilege of using for food any bananas and cocoanuts growing on the plantations, the Government is taking steps to assist the planters. Two years ago the Deutsche Samoa Gesellschaft, an important German company, imported nearly 300 Chinese labourers, who have given entire satisfaction to their employers. The cost, including their passage from and back to China, averages £2 10s. per month net. The men themselves only receive a wage of 10s. per month, with free board, lodging and medical attendance, and find their own clothing. The Government has sent one of its officials to China to engage 500 Chinese labourers, but so far the result has been discouraging, and it is feared that it will not be possible to get more than 200. Under these circumstances, the Government is endeavouring to recruit black labour from those Islands in the Solomon group belonging to the United Kingdom. On this head it may be said that Kanaka labour is preferred by many planters. Not only is it cheaper, but the men are docile, good-tempered and fairly industrious.

Trade Relations of Trinidad and Venezuela.

Mr. Acting Consul Andral in his report on the trade of Caracas gives the following account of the political situation with regard to the relations of Venezuela with Trinidad:—

"In December, 1903, the Government of Venezuela decreed that a port should be made at Cristobal Colon, a small bay in the Gulf of Paria, near Guiria. The object of this was to provide a port in Venezuela, near the Orinoco, where the transhipment of goods destined for Ciudad Bolivar could be effected. The port was declared open to foreign commerce from June 1, 1904, but it has not the necessary facilities (although works are in progress) for this traffic, and up to the present it has not been visited by any ocean ships. There are no wharves, and the lighters are inadequate. Moreover, there is another reason, which will prevent Cristobal Colon from becoming a regular place of call for the present at least—there are no commercial houses established in the place, which is not even a village, and it is only now that some buildings are being erected. Merchants in Ciudad Bolivar would therefore have to send agents there to attend to their imports, or establish branch houses, and neither plan is expedient under actual conditions of trade, nor is it a necessity to make use of Cristobal Colon, as nearly all the firms have correspondents in La Guaira or Caripano, where they can be attended to with greater facility and security.

and perhaps cheaper. In the month of September the custom-house at Cristobal Colon was raised to the first rank with the same powers as that of La Guaira.

After the port had been opened to perform the work which had hitherto been done in a foreign port, the Venezuelan Government lost no time in putting in force the clause of the fiscal law which permitted the addition of an extra 30 per cent. to the duties on goods transhipped in the West Indies. This action has done a great deal of harm to the trade of Trinidad, and for the moment has occasioned some inconvenience to the inhabitants of the eastern part of Venezuela.

Besides Cristobal Colon another port was opened to commerce in 1904. This is Tucacas, a terminus of the Bolivar Railway Company (British). It is nothing but an open roadstead, and the approach is not easy for large ships. A small village exists, composed of the dwellings of the employes of the Bolivar company, and up to now has given no signs of growth. The district behind Tucacas is rich, however, and a great part of the trade of Puerto Cabello was derived from this district, so that should the port become frequented by foreign ships the commerce of Puerto Cabello would be much affected. Thus far it has only been visited by two British ships carrying coal for the railway company."

Notes of Interest.

A CABLE. Cable communication with Demerara, which was interrupted on May 11th, was restored on Sunday, May 28th.

OUR EXECUTIVE. Mr. Norman Malcolmson of the firm of Messrs. S. Dobree & Sons has been elected a Member of the Executive Committee.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the past fortnight 315 bales of Cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Cotton is quoted in Liverpool: West Indian medium fine, 5.40d.; and West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb., and extra fine, 15½d. per lb.

OBITUARY. We regret to have to record the death of Mr. Hugh Gough Arbuthnot, senior member of the firm of Messrs. Arbuthnot, Latham and Co., which took place in London on June 1st. Mr. Arbuthnot was one of His Majesty's Lieutenants for the City of London.

A WEDDING. A marriage has been arranged between Sir Alexander Swettenham, K.C.M.G., Governor of Jamaica, and Mary Emily, elder daughter of Mr. R. P. Copeland, D.L., Kibblestone Hall, Stone, Staffordshire, and grand-daughter of the late Mr. W. T. Copeland, D.L., M.P.

TRINIDAD LAKE ASPHALT. In the autumn of the year 1900 two sample pavements of compressed Trinidad Lake asphalt were laid in Paris, in streets where they were exposed to very heavy traffic. After a prolonged trial these pavements have now been accepted by the city authorities, and compressed Trinidad Lake asphalt, which has long been the standard pavement of America, is now admitted to tender for all street paving work in the City of Paris.

OBITUARY. It is with sincere regret that we have to record the death of Mr. John Manning Lloyd, who was for over forty years Secretary of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, a position from which he retired in December, 1903. Mr. Lloyd, who still attended regularly at the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's offices at Moorgate Street until three weeks ago, was enjoying a holiday at Ramsgate where he caught a chill. Pneumonia supervened and he passed away on Sunday morning last.

APPOINTMENTS REGISTER. The register of applicants for appointment as overseers and other positions connected with West Indian estates, can be seen by Members at the West India Committee Rooms. Full particulars regarding the applicants are now given, together with two testimonials from each. Members receiving applications from those desiring appointments may refer the applicants to the West India Committee, who will supply a form of enquiries for the candidates to fill up.

A CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION. We have received a copy of the Annual Report and Catalogue of the Trinidad Home Industries and Self-Help Association, which records a useful year's work of this body, which has a claim to support, because it encourages gentlewomen in reduced circumstances to become self-supporting, and provides them with a means of disposing of the profits of their labour. The Association was organised in 1901 by Lady Moloney, and was reorganised on July 4th, 1904. When new premises were opened at 31, Frederick Street, Port-of-Spain—note the address, charitable reader,—by Mrs. Hugh Clifford, who succeeded Lady Moloney as President.

MAIL OPPORTUNITIES. The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and Royal Mail steamers after the departure of the West Indian Mail on Wednesday next are advertised: S.S. "Bryssel" from Liverpool, for Demerara, June 9th; R.M.S. "Port Maria" from London, for Bermuda, Turk's Island, and Kingston, Jamaica, June 9th; S.S. "Cheniston" from London, for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Demerara, and Berbice, June 15th; S.S. "Mexican" from Liverpool, for Barbados and Trinidad, June 16th; and the R.M.S. "Port Kingston" from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, June 16th.

The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Atrato" anchored off Plymouth at 11.45 a.m. on Wednesday, May 31st. She carried a full complement of passengers, including Hon. Oscar Marescaux, Mr. James Peet, Dr. G. L. Latour, Hon. J. de la Mothe, Mrs. and Miss A. Crum Ewing and His Grace the Archbishop of the West Indies. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Royal," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth, on Wednesday, May 24th. When the Mail left, the question of the Mail Contract was still the subject of discussion, and the feeling was that ultimately a contract service would be indispensable. Mr. Frank C. Cundall was among the passengers by the R.M.S. "Port Kingston," which arrived at Avonmouth at 8 a.m. yesterday after a splendid voyage of ten and a half days. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received by the R.M.S. "Atrato":—

Antigua—Young Canes Slow.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) May 17th—The weather had been very dry and windy, but the young canes could not yet be said to be suffering, although growth was slow. Crop was coming to a close on some estates, although on the Windward Estate, where it was better, it would not be finished before the end of next month. Molasses was being sold at 25 cents, puncheon included.

Barbados—The Removal of the Troops.

(T. W. WILKINSON, ESQ.) May 20th—At a meeting of the House of Assembly on May 16th, the Committee appointed to draw up a petition to the King with reference to the removal of the troops, handed in their draft. (This appears in the *Agricultural Reporter* of May 20th—Ed.) The Bill to give effect to the recommendations of the Quarantine Conference, held last year, was before the House of Assembly on May 9th.

The sugar market had again declined to \$1.90, while molasses had advanced to 22 cents. This crop season had been one of disappointment, although prices were higher than last year's. Planters, in the early part of the season, were persuaded to hold their sugar, as there was every prospect of the market advancing. Now they had to sell at greatly reduced prices. Only 17,000 tons of sugar had so far been shipped, although reaping closed early on many estates.

838 bunches of bananas, one barrel of yams, and one barrel of potatoes were shipped by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and 694 crates, containing 700 bunches of bananas, by Messrs. H. E. Thorne & Sons, Ltd.

The annual meeting of the Barbados Telephone Company was held on May 15th and a dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. for the half-year was declared.

Within the past few days there had been some nice showers, but as the land was very dry, more rain was still wanted for the young crop.

British Guiana—The Cable Breakdown.

(J. McCOWAN, ESQ.) May 17th—There was nothing doing in produce, and the quotations of \$2.50 to \$2.55 were only nominal. They noticed with regret the continued fall in prices in the United Kingdom and the States.

The cable between Trinidad and the Colony had been interrupted since May 11th, and they understood that the repairing steamer was on her way to effect the necessary repairs.

The chief local event had been the commencement of the libel action against the *Argosy* Company by Mr. Thorne, a schoolmaster. The damages claimed were \$5000.

British Honduras—American Corn.

(HON. A. R. USHER) May 19th—There was a great scarcity of corn in the Colony, owing to the failure of crops last season, and nearly all that was required had to be imported from the United States.

The weather had been rather broken lately, but operations of getting out mahogany and logwood had been going on slowly, and there were prospects of a fair season's output.

Dominica—Imports and Exports for 1904.

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.) 18th May 18th—The Basinville district, in the interior, was now becoming an important centre, and as fresh men settled on the land and road communication improved steadily, the disadvantages of isolation under which that locality suffered a few years ago had practically disappeared. The labour difficulty, too, had been satisfactorily settled, as it had been found that the better-class immigrants from Montserrat took readily to the life, and there was a large community of them in the district. Wages were certainly higher than on the coast, but the planters there maintained that that was set off by the greater efficiency of the labour. The opening of the work on the Panama Canal might cause temporary trouble in the labour market, but that was unlikely to affect seriously those estates that gave constant employment.

The writer forwarded the table of imports and exports for 1904, classified, which can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms. From this it appears that recovery from the misfortunes of 1902 had been disappointingly slow. Although the total imports and exports are less than for 1903, if goods in transit be eliminated, both show a slight increase.

1,106,564 lbs. of cocoa, valued at £21,325, were exported in 1904, as compared with 1,005,500 lbs., valued at £21,472, in 1903. The total value of lime products exported in 1904 was £28,986, as against £23,420 in 1903, the actual amounts being:—

	1903.		1904.	
Limes (fresh)	7539 brls.	£2639	8162 brls.	£2857
" (pickled)	704 brls.	£264	865 brls.	£324
Lime Juice (raw)	129,316 gals.	£4849	234,972 gals.	£6853
" (concentrated)	66,700 gals.	£14,175	83,727 gals.	£17,792
Reduced to gallons raw juice	963,660 gals.		1,291,047 gals.	
Lime Oils				
The weather continued wet and windy		£1493		£1160

Grenada—The Nutmeg Market.

(HON. D. S. DE FREITAS) May 18th—The weather during the fortnight had been hot and showery. Within the past few days they had had some good soaking downpours, which were always welcome in May, when the cocoa trees commenced to put forth blossoms. Blossoms had appeared early this year. The recent fall in the price of nutmegs in London was extremely disappointing, especially as the trees were now yielding an abundant crop. The future of this staple—second in importance to cocoa alone in Grenada—was likely to be marked by further depreciation, as production was gradually but surely overstepping consumption. A comparatively large area of land, which was adapted to little else, had been cultivated with nutmegs, so when a further decline in price occurred, Grenada would suffer not inconsiderably.

(P. J. DEAN, ESQ.) May 18th—During the past three days there had been fine rains, which, if they continued, would bring on cultivation rapidly. The sowing of corn had been general, both in the Island and Carriacou, and on an increased area. The cocoa crop showed a shrinkage of 7712 bags, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, and as the shipments from May to October were expected to be nearly equal to last year, the writer still thought that they would finish crop with a deficiency of 8000 bags.

Jamaica—American Enterprise.

(J. L. ASIDENHEIM, ESQ.) May 15th—The Governor had replied to the Board of Education, refusing to recede from his position of fixing £60,000 per annum as a maximum for the educational vote.

The "Rio Cobre Hotel" at Spanish Town, owned by the Government, had been leased to an American syndicate. The writer was informed that the lessees would run this hotel in conjunction with the "Mandeville Hotel". It was also rumoured that another American syndicate was negotiating for a site, in the vicinity of Kingston, for the purpose of erecting a first-class hotel. It was said that this would be in conjunction with the "Titchfield Hotel" at Port Antonio. Ample preparations, therefore, were being made for the next tourist season.

The Electric Light Company of Kingston had also changed hands. It had been acquired by the Electric Car Company, which was owned in Canada. The result would be that Kingston, as well as St. Andrew, would be better lighted, and probably at a cheaper rate.

The Kingston Choral Union, a dramatic and operatic company of natives, would be going to England during the fall of this year. They were going under the auspices of Dr. James Johnston, and he was to lecture, while they would give entertainments with negro melodies and jubilees, &c. This company achieved an Island reputation there last tourist season, giving performances both at Constant Spring and Myrtle Bank Hotels.

On the whole, the weather had been seasonable during the past fortnight.

(Westmoreland Planters' Association) May 15th—Crops had been small, especially the rum crop, as planters had made all the sugar they could on account of the high price of that commodity. The weather had been seasonable, nice rains falling every day. All estates had increased their cultivation, and there should be large returns next crop.

Montserrat—The Export Duty on Corn.

(CONRAD WATSON, ESQ.) May 17th—A few light showers of rain had fallen during the past fortnight, but heavy rains were much needed to enable planters to push on the preparation of the land for sowing of cotton seed in June. It seemed strange that while the Cotton Growers' Association and the Imperial Government were discussing the expenditure of large grants to establish the cotton industry in Africa, the same Government was imposing a tax of 3d. per lb. on cotton grown in the Island.

Nevis—A Short Sugar Crop.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) May 17th—Some of the account sales to hand for cotton were most satisfactory, being as high as 1s. 3d. per lb.; but it was to be regretted that the quality of the output had not been maintained throughout, and in some instances as low as 10d. and 11d. per lb. had been reached. Of course there are many causes which might have contributed to so wide a margin, and so much depended upon the handling of the cotton seed from the time it was picked until it was ginned, and even in the ginning very different results can be achieved. Cotton was still in its infancy, and experience alone could put the industry on a substantial working basis. It was satisfactory that the planters in Nevis were fully alive to the advantages of co-operation, and a special meeting of the Agricultural Society had been arranged to discuss the whole question of cotton, which Dr. Watts had been invited to attend.

The sugar crop was almost reaped, and would be a very short one.

The weather since last mail had changed for the better, and frequent showers had fallen, but the land was still dry, and wanted a good soaking rain.

St. Kitts—Cotton as a "Catch Crop."

(CHARLES A. SMITH, ESQ.) May 16th—Crops were now drawing to a close, and it was a matter for regret that the reign of good prices had been such a short-lived one. The weather was all that could be desired, except in the Valley, where a few showers would be beneficial for the coming crop.

Preparation for cotton planting was being started again, and some difference of opinion existed as to its being able to be grown as a "catch crop". It had been found to interfere with the growth of the canes to some extent, and the area might be somewhat reduced this year in consequence.

St. Vincent—The Cable Subsidy.

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & Co.) May 19th—Speculation had been rife as to the intentions of the Governor during his present visit to the Island, where he was to remain ten days. It was thought his visit might augur for good, and that they should see the Carib Country opened up again; but from what had transpired they feared it was the other way—in the shape of withdrawing the subsidy of £100 from the Grammar School from March 31st last, and giving notice to the Cable Company that their subsidy would not be forthcoming after March 31st next. Those in the Island were at a loss to understand why the pruning knife should be applied in the first instance to what every right-thinking inhabitant of the Colony considered the two most useful institutions they had, while others that could be dispensed with without any ill effect remained untouched.

Trinidad Cocoa Exports.

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C.M.G.) May 19th—The Committees on the Labour Question and on the Sale of Crown Lands continued their sittings. The Governor had gone on a ten days' visit to Tobago, and things generally were quiet and dull.

Cane cultivation for 1906 was looking very healthy and promising.

The weather seemed to have broken up, and they might expect a good deal of rain for the next few months. It had rained ten days out of the past fortnight, and the last four days the showers had been heavy. The change was welcomed by all.

Cocoa had been coming in in quantities during May. The increased deliveries have in no way affected local prices, although the eagerness to buy was not so evident. The better tone in London was attracting more cocoa to the market, where shippers seemed to look for a rise. "Estates" quality might be quoted at 55s., and "Ordinary" at 53s. c. and f. Havre. Fine grades for the United States were realising \$12.40 per 110 lbs. Venezuelans were still scarce, and one large shipment of 700 bags changed hands at prices ranging from \$12.60 to \$13.00.

The amounts of balata, manjak and copra exported from the colony during the year ending April 30th are respectively—5,405 bales, 265 tons, and 3,768 bags.

Cocoa Shipments.

Total at last return	...	...	83,065	Trinidad	...	15,808	Venezuela.		
May 5 S.S. "Tagus"	...	...	1847	"	...			...	Europe
" 8 S.S. "Rosetti"	...	...	780	"	...	320	"	...	"
" 13 S.S. "Sparta"	...	...	2650	"	...			...	"
" 13 S.S. "Maracas"	...	...	1252	"	...	309	"	...	New York
" 15 "P. der Nederlanden"	...	...	2347	"	...			...	"
" 16 S.S. "P. Willem"	...	...	1384	"	...	290	"	...	"

Our Library.

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. Since we last went to press we have received the following:—



The Queen Pine.

This picture is a reproduction of one of the illustrations in Richard Ligon's "True and Exact History of Barbadoes," which has just been presented to our Library. Ligon's description of how to eat the pine is very amusing. He found the juice "in a high degree delicious, but so mild as you can distinguish no taste at all; but when you bite a piece of the fruit, it is so violently sharp, as you would think it would fetch all the skin off your mouth; but before your tongue have made a second trial upon your palate, you shall perceive such a sweetness to follow as perfectly to cure that vigorous sharpness; and between these two extremes of sharp and sweet lies the relish and flavour of all fruits that are

generosity." After many exciting situations and the marriage of one of the daughters, the widow and the remaining girl suddenly find themselves compelled to escape from the Island in a most ignominious manner, in order to avoid arrest.

A True and Exact History of the Island of Barbados. By Richard Ligon, gent. We have to thank Mr T. J. Wilkinson for a copy of this very rare and valuable book, which was printed for sale by Peter Parker, at his shop at the 'Leg and Star' over against the Royal Exchange, and Thomas Guy at the corner shop of Little Lombard-street and Cronhill, 1673. We have already reproduced in the *Circular* a map (see No. 128, page 250), which unfortunately is not whole in this copy, and we now present to our readers a wood-cut of the "Queen Pine," which faces page 84. This book is an important addition to our library, which we are anxious to make complete and thoroughly representative.

The Husband Hunter. By Martin Elliott. London: Simpkin, Marshall & Co 3/6. This book—whose characters the author claims to be "typical of life in Barbados"—gives an account of the adventures of a theatrical widow who, being left with two grown-up daughters, sets out to hunt for a husband for each of the girls, and incidentally, too, one for herself. Her choice falls on the West Indies, which have been described by a friend as a place where "the mere fact of being English is a sufficient recommendation for an *entree* into the highest society," a fact that at once recommends it to the widow. Although in the very first chapter this lady is described, and rightly, as an adventuress, she retains the interest, if not the sympathy, of the reader during her stay in Barbados, where, but for an unfortunate occurrence, whereby the wife of the Governor of that Colony becomes her enemy, the husband hunter would no doubt have been quite successful. However, she makes a great friend of an old planter, who, in his treatment of the party, proves the truth of the saying that "West Indians are proverbial for their warm-heartedness and

In the relation of the incidents of the stay in Barbados, the style is clear and to the point, and no time is lost in long descriptions, so that the book is quickly read, although it covers a good deal of ground. Local events, such as the arrival of the steamer at Barbados, are dealt with in a realistic manner that cannot but amuse those to whom they are familiar, and for this reason the work should be particularly interesting to those who have visited or are about to visit the West Indies. In the concluding paragraph reference is made to the contemplated withdrawal of the troops, and in connection with this the author pays a graceful tribute to the West India Committee, who, by the way, have just welcomed the gifted author as a member of their body.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Atrato" (Capt. R. H. Stranger) May 31st:—
Barbados—Mr. W. Scott-Heriot, Mr. C. P. Douglas, Mrs. T. H. Sealy, His Grace the Primate of the West Indies, Mr. A. G. Trower, Mr. F. A. Kent, Mr. D. Morrison. **Demerara**—Mr. and Mrs. H. de R. Barclay, Dr. and Mrs. R. B. T. Stephenson, Mr. J. Ross, Mr. J. J. Chapman, Mr. C. A. McLean, Mr. J. C. Gibson, Mr. T. Elliott. **Jamaica**—Hon. Oscar Marescaux, Mr. W. Wulff, Mr. W. Isaacs, Mr. C. Wollen, Mr. and Mrs. T. S. McNeel, Miss Gunion, Mrs. and Miss A. Crum-Ewing, Mrs. H. C. Whitelocke, Mr. and Mrs. Maddock, Miss Riordan, Mr. H. Allanson, Mrs. Newton, Miss Hudson. **Trinidad**—Rev. and Mrs. Image, Mr. J. Peet, Mrs. L. Mathieu, Mr. and Mrs. Olivieri, Mrs. Carry, Dr. G. A. Vincent, Mrs. E. Giuseppi, Miss L. Ganteaume, Mrs. J. G. de Gannes, Mr. T. A. Thompson, Mr. L. M. Bon-signac, Mrs. J. Wilson, Miss M. C. Legourre, Mr. F. C. Shaw, Miss Bunce, Mr. and Mrs. Gibbon, His Excellency A. L. Pell dram, Mr. C. Hoffmann. **Dominica**—Mrs. Elliott, Mr. E. W. Hutton. **Grenada**—Mr. F. A. Corea, two Misses Corea, Dr. G. L. Latour, Mr. D. Alexander, Hon. J. T. de La Mothe, Mrs. Hayward.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Tagus" (Capt. H. E. Rudge), June 7th:—Barbados—Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Burn. **Demerara**—Mr. F. B. Galls, Mr. and Mrs. J. Conyers, Mr. J. Dalzell, Mr. and Mrs. Downer, Mr. Wm. Whyte, Mr. R. T. Wright. **Jamaica**—Mr. M. P. Tennant, Mr. E. Pratt, Capt. W. H. Nightingale. **St. Lucia**—Mr. Echlin, Mr. and Mrs. Stagg.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. Owen Jones), May 24th:—Jamaica—Mr. S. H. Allwood, Mrs. and Miss Anderson, Lieut. and Mrs. Bullock, Mrs. J. H. Clarke, Mr. F. P. Driver, Mr. S. W. Elliott, Mr. S. H. Garner, Mr. J. E. James, Miss Keeling, Rev. J. Langdon, Mr. A. P. Lyon, Mrs. W. L. Lyon, Miss Riley, Dr. Strachan, Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. and Mrs. Sant, Mrs. and two Misses Sturridge, Mr. E. L. Greene.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. Owen Jones), June 3rd:—Jamaica—Miss M. Carter, Miss A. E. Cooke, Mr. and Mrs. J. Carson, Mrs. Hutchings, Miss C. F. Jackson, Mrs. Lake, Mr. C. McMahon, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Payne, Miss E. Straehler, Mr. V. Townsend, Lieut. T. Boswell, Mr. and Mrs. Hackett, Capt. A. I. Smith.

HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), June 5th:—Jamaica—Mr. T. N. Aguilar, Mr. Archer, Genl. and Mrs. Black, Mr. and Mrs. Balfour, Miss M. M. Barrows, Mr. W. Bourke, Mr. A. Clodd, Mrs. W. C. R. Chandler, Hon. T. and Miss Capper, Mr. F. C. Cundall, Miss Dignum, Mr. G. Desnoes, Mr. B. Edwards, Mr. A. W. Farquharson, Lieut. Ferguson, Mr. R. G. Foster, Mr. C. J. Gillies, Mrs. Garvin, Miss Gray, Mr. Grundy, Capt. Hingley, Mr. A. R. and Mrs. Hamilton, Mr. J. W. and Mrs. Middleton, Mr. D. Middleton, Mrs. and two Misses Muirhead, Mrs. and Miss French Mullen, Mr. G. May, Hon. J. W. Mitchell, Lieut. Maule, Miss Nuttall, Miss Nixon, Mrs. O'Brien, Mrs. Price, Mrs. and Miss Roper, Mr. and Mrs. Robison, Capt. Russell, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. H. C. Robison, Dr. A. A. Robinson, Miss Smith, Mr. K. V. Samuel, Mr. E. S. Samael, Major Samman, Mr. T. J. and Mrs. Sims, Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith, Mr. R. Stagg, Mr. W. Stagg, Mr. and Mrs. Syer, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Scharschmidt, Mrs. and Miss Sutton, Miss Smith, Col. A. E. Sandbach, Col. Talbot, Mr. E. Thompson, Mrs. and Miss Wynne, Mrs. Van Waterschoot, Mr. G. H. C. and Mrs. Wright, Mrs. R. S. Hamilton, Mrs. D. F. Hall, Miss L. Hall, Dr. G. D. Hamilton, Miss N. N. Comac, Mr. A. W. Lamb.

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. C. O. POLONAI is acting as Assistant Receiver-General of Trinidad

HON. F. M. MAXWELL, Attorney-General of British Honduras, has been made a K.C.

Mr. R. D. ANSTED has been selected for the office of Superintendent of Agriculture in Grenada.

Mr. E. M. RENAUD is acting as Consul for Honduras during the absence from British Honduras of Mr. A. O. Meyer.

Mr. E. A. N. GEGG is acting as Consul for Nicaragua during the absence from British Honduras of Mr. C. R. Usher.

MAJOR D. D. BARNES has been made a Commissioner of Roads, British Honduras, in the place of Mr. C. R. Usher, resigned.

Mr. H. B. WALCOTT, Treasurer and Collector of Customs, returned to British Honduras and resumed the duties of his office on May 8th.

CAPTAIN A. S. BOWEN, Trinidad Light Horse, has been granted leave of absence from the Colony from May 13th to September 12th, 1905.

The HON. THOMAS CAPPER, Inspector of Schools, Jamaica, and Mr. DAVID BALFOUR, Clerk of Courts, Kingston, Jamaica, will arrive in England next week on leave of absence.

The HON. OSCAR MARESCAUX, Nominated Member of the Legislative Council, Jamaica, has arrived in England on leave of absence, extending from May 15th to December 31st, 1905.

The leave of absence granted to SIR ROBERT BROMLEY, Bart., Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, has been extended from April 26th until October next, when he will return to the Colony.

The HON. E. DEBOULAY, our Hon. Correspondent in St. Lucia, has been reappointed an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of St. Lucia for a further period of six years from August 31st, 1904.

Mr. H. P. C. STRANGE, District Commissioner, Corosal, British Honduras, having left the Colony on six months' leave of absence, Mr. R. WYATT, Assistant Superintendent of Police, performs the duties of his substantive office in addition to those of District Commissioner of Corosal.

MR. LAURENCE LEWTON-BRAIN, Mycologist and Lecturer in Agriculture on the Staff of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, has accepted the appointment of Assistant Director of the Pathological Division of the Experiment Station of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association, and vacates his present appointment next month.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) June 5th. "Heavy rains generally throughout the Island." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.), June 5th. "Weather continues favourable in Berbice." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ended May 25th. **KINGSTON**: "Fine, occasional showers." **PORT ANTONIO**: "Heavy rains."

Export of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan 1 to May 18 1905	1904	Jan 1 to May 16 1905	1904	April 1 to May 6 1905	1904	Jan. 1 to May 19 1905	1904	Oct. 1 to May 16 1905	1904
Sugar	10,952	14,398 Tons	23,027	25,614 Tons.	2870	1445 Tons	227,770	283,572 Bks & Brls	27	126 Bags
Molasses	70,706	24,087 Pms	1652	441 Pms.	---	---	2322	1051 Pms	---	---
Rum	---	---	4873	8301 ..	210,387	255,136 Galls.	103	24 Trcs.	---	---
Molascult	---	---	2729	1360 Tons	---	---	134	56 Brls	---	---
Cocoa	---	---	1950	21,524 lbs.	3859	1327 Cwts	346	50 Pms.	---	---
Coffee	---	---	---	---	2298	5674 ..	24,384,630	15,571,405 lbs	52,750	60,459 Bags
Coconuts	---	---	---	---	607,100	273,980	11,770	52,480 ..	23	176 ..
Copra	---	---	221,280	131,344	---	---	4,451,140	3,330,925	---	---
Cotton	---	---	---	---	17,509 lbs	---	3523	6768 Bags	---	---
Cotton Seed	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	594	500 Bales
Asphalt	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3749	3871 Bags
Oranges	---	---	---	---	---	---	47,723	53,295 Tons.	---	---
Bananas	---	---	---	---	825,350	1,452,000	---	---	---	---
Pimento	---	---	---	---	1,690,551	69,768 Hchs	---	---	---	---
Spice	---	---	---	---	4506	753 Cwts	---	---	---	---
Gold	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3326	2457 Brls.
Diamonds	---	---	12,862	25,771 Ozs	---	---	---	---	413	278 1/2 Brls
	---	---	2374	1734 Carats	---	---	---	---	431	227 Cases
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	154	58 Bags

Some West Indian Securities.

Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Dividend.	Price.
100,000	Stock	Antigua - - 4 per cent. Redeemable 1919-44 ...	100	4 %	102 104
375,000	"	Barbados - - 3 1/2 " " 1925-42 ...	100	3 1/2 %	99 101
194,500	"	British Guiana 4 " " 1935 ...	100	4 %	106 108
123,670	"	Grenada - - 4 " " 1917-42 ...	100	4 %	101 103
1,093,907 1/2	"	Jamaica - - 4 " " 1934 ...	100	4 %	109 111
85,479 1/2	"	St. Lucia - - 4 " " 1919-44 ...	100	4 %	103 105
422,593 1/2	"	Trinidad - - 4 " " 1917-42 ...	100	4 %	103 105
600,000	"	Trinidad - - 3 " " Inscribed Stock 1922-44 ...	100	3 %	90 92
100,000	20	Colonial Bank	100	6 %	6 1/2 6 1/2
15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company	£6	---	30 31
209,800	Stock	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4% 1st Mtge. Deb.	70	---	82 84
26,763	5	New Colonial Co., Ltd.,	100	4 1/2 %	---
46,874	5	" " " " 5 % Non-Cum. Pref.	5	Nil	---
347,500	Stock	" " " " 4 % 1st Mtge Deb Stock red.	5	5 %	2 1/2 3 1/2
352,700	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb.	100	4 %	74 76
165,000	Stock	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock	100	6 %	101-104
115,000	Stock	" " " " 7 % Preference	100	Nil	17 20
31,250	10	" " " " 4 % Extension Preference ...	100	6 %	87 89
70,000	Stock	" " " " Perpetual Deb. Stock	10	4 %	8 9
78,500	100	Direct West India Cable Co., 4 1/2 % Reg. Deb. (within Nos. 1 to 1200) red.	100	4 %	96 98
12,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd.	100	4 1/2 %	100 102
50,000	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4 1/2 % 1st Mtge. Deb. (within 1 to 1200) red.	£2 10 0	6 %	---
10,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd.	100	4 1/2 %	100 102
88,321	10	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. Ordinary	5	5 %	---
34,563	10	" " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	10	---	1 1/2
4,669	10	" " " " 2nd "	10	5s.	7-7 1/2
80,000	100	" " " " 5% Deb	100	---	5 1/2 6 1/2
				5%	104 106

The West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

Presiding over the fifty-sixth Ordinary General Meeting of this Company on May 24th, Mr. Walter B. Kingsford said that it was a matter for regret that the traffic receipts for the past half-year showed a decrease of £1862, and that those for the current half-year also showed a considerable decrease at the time when the report was issued. Since then, however, they had received the returns for May 15th of the estimated traffic receipts, and these, he was glad to say, showed a marked improvement. They feared, however, that this might be due entirely, or in a great measure, to special circumstances which were likely to prove of merely a transient character. The decrease of £1862 arose from there having been less telegraphic activity at the Isthmus of Panama. This was due, in the first place, to the fact that in the corresponding period certain important political changes were taking place on the Isthmus, and, secondly, to the fact that in the corresponding period the French Company's traffic was diverted to their lines, owing to an interruption in their route, which lasted three months. In looking through their traffic statistics for the half-year under report, he noticed with regret that their traffic receipts at the British West India stations had remained absolutely stationary as compared with those for the December half of 1903. This was somewhat disappointing, because they had good reason to anticipate that there would certainly be some increase owing to the failure of the Continental beetroot sugar crop, the higher prices consequently obtained for West Indian sugar, and also to the reported improvement generally in the commercial prospects of the West Indies. Their cable between Jamaica and Colon had been interrupted since January 9th, and up to this date they had been unable to undertake the repair of it as their repairing ship had been fully engaged in other parts of their system. The services of the ship were continually in request owing to the volcanic and generally unfavourable sea bed upon which their cables unluckily had to be laid. They hoped, however, that the repair of the Demerara-Trinidad section, upon which the ship was engaged, would very shortly be completed, and she would then be able to take the other work in hand. During the early part of last year they were in confidential communication with His Majesty's Government with reference to extending the cable system in the West Indies, and certain proposals were made by them which involved, if carried out, the grant of an Imperial subsidy. They all, doubtless, had read recently in the papers that under the new National Defence scheme for the Empire the Government had decided to withdraw the white infantry from the West Indies and to reduce the naval forces in those waters, and also to discontinue the maintenance of St. Lucia as a defended coaling station. In these greatly altered circumstances the Colonial Office had recently informed them that their proposals, which involved the grant of an Imperial subsidy, could not be entertained. Mr. Kingsford then moved the adoption of the report, a summary of which appeared in the last issue of the *West India Committee Circular*, and the payment of a dividend of 5s. per share on account of arrears of dividend on the First Preference Shares. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Henry Holmes, and carried unanimously.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

At the Annual General Meeting of this Company on Wednesday, May 24th, Mr. Owen Philipps, Chairman, dealing with the report—a summary of which appeared in the last issue of the *West India Committee Circular*—said that the increase in gross revenue necessitated a very considerable increase in expenditure; but the net result was considerably better than in either of the two preceding years, and had enabled them to set aside for depreciation the sum of £87,000, as compared with £54,000 in 1903, being an increased provision for depreciation of £33,000. During the last two years they had disposed of three cargo vessels which were no longer suitable, and had replaced them by six modern cargo boats, being an increase in the fleet of three vessels. They had been obliged to employ a certain number of chartered vessels, but the number of vessels on time charter was reduced, and their policy was to limit the number as much as possible. One of the difficulties of the West Indian trade was that homeward cargoes were not always obtainable. The business of the Company had been rapidly increasing, and had necessitated a reorganisation and increase in establishments, both at home and abroad. The new Mail Steamer "Aragon" would take her place on the Brazil route on July 14th, and orders for two similar mail steamers had been placed. The West Indian mail service had been performed with regularity, and notwithstanding the severe competition, the traffic by the steamers had increased. They had continued to do all in their power to assist in the development of the latent resources of the West Indian Colonies. The Imperial Department of Agriculture had been successful in restarting the old West Indian industry of cotton growing, and to encourage this important industry they were carrying the cotton at a low rate of freight. They had also carried a considerable amount of West Indian fruit, and had held two Exhibitions of West Indian fruits in London, under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society, in order to bring the products of the West Indies before the English public. His Majesty had recently granted a Royal Charter of Incorporation to that old and representative body, the West India Committee, and under their auspices there had just been opened a West Indian Exhibition at the Crystal Palace. In order to assist the Colonies concerned, they had agreed to carry all exhibits for that Exhibition freight free. Referring to the question of the West Indian Mail contract, he reminded the proprietors that in each of the four years from 1900 to 1903 inclusive there was a heavy loss in carrying out the mail contract; but in spite of the fact that the Company was losing heavily, they carried out the terms of the contract with the Government. In July, 1904, the new contract was put up for public competition, and tenders had to be submitted by October 1st, 1904. The Company submitted alternative tenders, which were subsequently made known and declined on March 8th, 1905, and at the same time new tenders were again publicly invited. In view of the improvement in West Indian trade during 1904, the Royal Mail Company were able to submit amended tenders. He would not give a detailed account of the negotiations, but he thought proprietors would agree with him that from the first as the facts had been fully dealt with in the press, but he thought proprietors would agree with him that from the first they had done all in their power to meet the views of all concerned. During the last two years they had devoted a great deal of time and attention to placing the West Indian mail service on a sound commercial basis, and they were now prepared to meet any emergency. (Applause.) The mail contract expired on June 30th, after which date they would continue to run their vessels in the West Indian trade, and, pending other arrangements with the Government, the Colonies might rest assured that the Company would take whatever steps might be necessary to safeguard their interests. (Applause.)

Mr. Philipps then moved that the report and accounts be approved and adopted, and Sir James Fergusson seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously. Sir Joseph Savory, Bart., and Mr. William C. Kenny were re-elected Directors.

Bank rate $2\frac{1}{2}$ % (changed from 3 % on March 9th, 1905), Consols $90\frac{7}{8}$ xd.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

SUGAR.—Licht's Visible Supplies, 1st May, even dates.

	1905.	1904	1903.
Convention Europe	1,903,000	2,579,000	2,543,000
United States	643,000	431,000	643,000
	2,546,000	3,010,000	3,186,000

Licht's Consumption, 8 months, September/April.

	1905.	1904	1903.
Convention Europe	2,499,000	2,852,000	2,292,000
United States	1,153,000	1,130,000	1,130,000
	3,652,000	3,982,000	3,422,000

The market is kept continually in a state of uncertainty owing to the liquidation of the late speculation, the engagements extending right up to August next, being far from settled. On one day a certain amount of covering of "bear" sales takes place, and prices are forced up 3d. to 6d. per cwt. As soon as this comes, and it is very short-lived, a reaction sets in with more "bear" selling at the advance which is soon again lost, plunging the market into renewed gloom and intensifying the absence of all confidence, which has been the noticeable feature ever since the market started to collapse last January. The result of all this is that Refiners and the Trade will only buy from hand to mouth, and will enter into no forward engagements, more especially as the next crop of beet for October to March delivery is offering at close on 2s. per cwt. less than the existing one. When these two prices come together confidence may return, but scarcely till then, and in the meantime sufficient sugar exists for all requirements up to the commencement of next season.

The moment's quotations of 88% are:—June, 12s. 3½d.; August, 12s. 3½d.; September, 11s. 9d.; Oct., 10s. 4½d.; and November/December, 10s. 3d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Europe	1,950,000	2,550,000	2,540,000	2,640,000	1,870,000
United States	270,000	220,000	300,000	140,000	240,000
Cuba	360,000	220,000	350,000	440,000	170,000
Cargoes afloat	20,000	10,000	40,000	10,000	10,000
Total	2,600,000	3,000,000	3,230,000	3,230,000	2,290,000

Quotations of 88% Beet, 5th June:—
 12s. 2½d. 9s. 2½d. 8s. 2d. 6s. 1½d. 9s. 4½d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar—There has been an improved demand for yellow crystallised, and a large business has been done at steady prices, ranging from 17s. 6d. for inferior grades up to 19s. 6d. for small lots of fine grocery. The value of average qualities remains 18s. 6d.

For a cargo of 96 test to Refiners, if near at hand, probably 13s. 3d. on floating terms could be obtained, but there are few buyers for later shipments.

Molasses Sugar is steady, prices ranging from 12s. 6d. to 16s. 6d.

Muscovado.—Some useful grocery Barbados sold at 17s. 6d. For 80 test to Refiners 12s. is obtainable for shipments already here. Sugar due in a fortnight remains unsold at that price.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902
Imports	22,000	24,000	12,000	28,000
Deliveries	15,000	20,000	18,000	18,000
Stocks	16,000	17,000	22,000	22,000

Quotations of average qualities, crystallised
 18s. 6d. 16s. 0d. 15s. 0d. 13s. 9d.

Rum.—Stocks in London:

	1905	1904	1903	1902
Jamaica	7900	8400	9500	8400
Demerara	5400	11,300	8900	9100
Total of all kinds	21,200	27,958		Deficiency 6665

The market remains steady so far as prices are concerned, but the tone is far from brisk, which is not unusual during the summer months, now upon us. The value of fair Demerara remains 1s. 3d., fair Standard Marks of Jamaica, 2s. 1d., and Leewards, 1s. to 1s. 4d.

Stocks of Demerara Rum are getting into a narrow compass.

Cocon—Stocks in London:

	1905	1904.	1903	1902.
	73,000	92,000	85,000	66,000

There is no alteration in the market. The tone remains steady but quiet, with no special feature calling for remark. Last mail's prices are unaltered, viz., Trinidad fair collected, 50s.; Estate Marks, 50s., 58s., and up to 62s. for extra fine; Grenada fair, 51s., and fermented, 53s. to 54s. 6d. From other Islands the value of Native remains 48s. to 50s., and fermented, 51s. to 54s.

Coffee.—Quiet. Good ordinary Jamaica, 38s. to 39s.

Nutmegs—West India, firm. Sales of 65's to 68's at 1s. 3d., 70's at 11d., 92's at 9d., 112's at 6½d., 120's at 5½d., 140's at 4½d., and 160's at 4d. **Mace**—Steady. Fair to good pale sold at 1s. 3d. to 1s. 5d., red, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. and broken at 11d. **Pimento**—Easier. Value of fair, 2½d. **Ginger**—Quiet, unchanged.

Arrowroot—London figures since 1 Jan

	1905.	1904	1903.	1902	1901.
Imports	8691	6853	5450	8246	10,263
Deliveries	8215	9567	6392	7361	7485
Stocks, 31st May	9896	9922	11,285	8604	10,874

Quiet, but steady, with sales during the fortnight of about 400 Barrels good manufacturing St. Vincent at 1½d.

Lime Juice—Unchanged at 10d. to 1s. 2d. Concentrated, easier, at £14 10s. Hand Pressed, no alteration, value, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, quoted 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XX.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XLV.



Mr. Frank Cundall, F.S.A.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

June 19th, 1905

Telegram: "CABLE, LONDON." Telephone: 6692 CENTRAL.

THE sub-Committee appointed by the West India Committee to consider the question of cable communications in the West Indies, held its first meeting on June 7th. The statement forwarded by the Secretary of State to the effect that in view of the decision no longer to maintain St. Lucia as a defended coaling depôt, the Government had been unable to entertain the proposal to grant a subsidy and that it must be left to the West Indian Colonies to meet from their own resources the cost of any improved or additional telegraphic facilities which they may require, was under consideration, and a letter on the subject has since been addressed to the Colonial Office. The question of telegraphic communication has been prominently to the front for many years, and while it affects not only the West but also the East, the work of linking up the Empire has in no part of the world been so persistently supported and so successfully brought about as it has been in the East and with Australia by the continued efforts

of such stalwarts as Sir Edward Sassoon, M.P., and Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P. Further

progress in this direction was made at a recent meeting at Treasury Chambers, Whitehall, on June 8th, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced to a deputation that the telegraph rate to India would in a few months be reduced from 2s. 6d. to 2s. a word, and the rates to Egypt to 1s. a word. It must be admitted that a comparison between these rates and those now existing to the West Indies, is by no means easy, as there are many points in favour of the East. On that side communication has been kept practically constant. One cable has been triplicated over some sections, and these cables again have been strengthened by diverse routes until a system has been formed during the last thirty-five years which is now practically not only impregnable, but in every way successful, and of the greatest use to the Government and public. The building up of this gigantic network of cables, to the advantage of which the Chancellor of the Exchequer attaches much importance, was assisted by the Government, and although private enterprise may be capable and willing to go to the utmost limits, as it has done eastwards, we cannot feel that the refusal of the Government to participate in the arrangements for improvements in telegraphic communication, of which they must surely feel the need as much as anyone, is the best policy to adopt towards the West Indies. We are further of opinion that Government support will be absolutely necessary if the reduction of cable rates and the improvements of cable communications to these Colonies are to be brought about. We cannot doubt that the statement of the Secretary of State above referred to will have been received with the keenest disappointment in the Colonies. The withdrawal of the troops, the abandonment of the mail service, and the refusal of assistance for cables, will surely provide sufficient food for thought for some time to come, and we do most earnestly hope that the Government may be brought to realise that the policy of retrenchment, when it militates against efficiency, may be carried a little too far.

A CORRESPONDENT, who conceals his identity under the pseudonym "A. Wake," writes to suggest the desirability of holding a conference in London of representatives of the various West Indian Colonies to discuss matters concerning their welfare. He further mentions three questions which he thinks might be discussed by such a conference—namely, mutual co-operation in West Indian affairs, and the appointment of a representative and council in London to assist the Secretary of State upon all West Indian matters. We fear that the writer of this letter is not so fully conversant with the working of the West India Committee as he might be, otherwise he would realise that in it an organisation exists which is fully able, and does give to the Secretary of State and the permanent officials at the Colonial Office—many of whom have never visited *any* of our Colonies, much less the West Indies—the value of the local experience and knowledge of its Members, all of whom are closely identified with the commercial and social welfare of the West Indies. We think that even those who do not always see eye to eye with us will admit that since the reorganisation of the West India Committee in 1898, the West Indies have, through its exertions been brought more prominently to public notice on platform and in the Press than was the case for many years previously, and with further encouragement from the West Indies themselves on the one hand, and the Colonial Office on the other, the value of this good work can be materially enhanced. The machinery exists, and it is, indeed, already in motion. It can be quickened by the Colonies themselves, who should do their utmost to bring our Membership nearer to 2,000 than to leave it at the 1,000 which it has now reached, and should support more actively than ever our efforts on their behalf.

WITH this issue we give a map to demonstrate the remarkable increase of American influence in the West Indies which has taken place during recent years. While in 1897 the interest of the United States in the Caribbean was only sentimental, they now hold Puerto Rico, and have an

immediate influence over Cuba, the Isle de Pinos, Santo Domingo at the western end of Hayti, and Panama, while they have also been negotiating for the Danish Islands of St. Thomas and Santa Cruz. The British Government appear to watch matters complacently, and it may, of course, be possible that they have some mutual understanding with the United States which has not been made public. Be this as it may, it is, as we have already pointed out, a patent fact that those places to which the United States turn their attention enjoy a degree of prosperity which it is not given to many of our



American Influence in the West Indies.

The object of this small map is to demonstrate the remarkable increase of American influence in the West Indies. The shaded parts denote places which—with the exception of Florida—have fallen under the influence of the United States within the last seven years. The United States value the West Indian Islands so greatly that they also have been negotiating for St. Thomas and Santa Cruz. As already pointed out, it will be noted that they have only to acquire Molde and St. Nicolas at the eastern end of Hayti, and they will then have complete command of the passage to Canada, and Jamaica will be virtually surrounded. In view of this rapid Americanization, and the prosperity which follows it, it is hardly to be wondered at that our loyal colonists look askance at the recent policy of the Government in deciding to withdraw the troops, abolish the mail contract, and refuse a subsidy for the proposed all-British cable.

own islands in the West Indies to enjoy, and it is natural, therefore, that those connected with our Colonies should begin to ask why this is the case, and to express the devout hope that the British Government may pursue a more enlightened policy towards them.

Mr. Frank Cundall, F.S.A.

Mr. Frank Cundall, the cultured Secretary and Librarian of the Institute of Jamaica, who has recently arrived in England, has had a wide experience of Exhibition matters, having acted as Assistant-Secretary to three very successful Exhibitions of the South Kensington series—the "Fisheries," "Healtheries," and "Inventions"—and to the British section of the Paris Exhibition of 1889. He

was also Chief Assistant to the Secretary to the Royal Commission of the famous Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1886, the memory of which will never fade, and his presence, therefore, among us as a Commissioner for Jamaica for the Colonial Exhibition at the Crystal Palace is additionally useful, and the Colony which he represents may rest assured that with Mr. Cundall and Mr. John Barclay on the warpath its interests will be adequately safeguarded. Mr. Cundall was born in 1858, and educated privately and at King's College School, London. With his father, Mr. Joseph Cundall, he was actively engaged from 1877 to 1890 in editing the "Illustrated Biographies of Great Artists" and other art publications. He has occupied his present position in Jamaica since 1891, and for fourteen years has devoted himself assiduously to developing the latent artistic sense of the Jamaican with a considerable degree of success. Having succeeded in adding to the library of the Institute every book connected with Jamaica ever published, he is now extending his operations to West Indian literature generally. Mr. Cundall is the author of many works, including "Reminiscences of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition," "The Landscape and Pastoral Painters of Holland," "The Story of the Life of Columbus, and discovery of Jamaica," "Bibliotheca Jamaicaensis," "Studies in Jamaica History," and lastly that valuable series of instructional pamphlets beginning with Jamaica in 1895, and ending, for the present at any rate, with the volume of which a brief review appears in the present *West India Committee Circular*. Mr. Cundall is a Member of the Board of Education of Jamaica, one of the Directors of the Mico Training College, and a Trustee of Wolmer's School. He also occupies a seat on the Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Financial Board.

Our Banquet on June 22nd.

As already indicated, the attendance at the Banquet to celebrate the grant of the Royal Charter of Association on Thursday, June 22nd (7 for 7.30 p.m.), will be large and representative. The Right Hon. A. Lyttelton has consented to propose the toast of "The West India Committee," to which Sir Nevile Lubbock will respond. Lady Carter, wife of the Governor of Barbados, has kindly designed a menu card for the occasion.

Trinidad at the Colonial Exhibition.

By W. G. FREEMAN, B.Sc., F.L.S.

Cacao forms at the present time approximately one half of the total exports from Trinidad, the value of this product shipped from the Colony having risen from a little over £500,000 in 1897 to over £1,000,000 in 1904. The importance of the industry to Trinidad is brought home to the visitor by the wealth of material by which it is illustrated at the Crystal Palace Colonial Exhibition. There are flowers and pods, excellently preserved in formalin, and some of the latter are cut open, displaying the seeds, so that it is possible at a glance to note the distinguishing features of Criolla, Forastero, and Calabarillo varieties. Dried pods of *theobroma bicolor* are of interest for comparison with the better known and more important species which yields the cacao of commerce. The commercial staple is well illustrated by some sixty to seventy large samples of cacao beans. The samples, lent by Mr. J. Hoadley, illustrative of the results obtained from his new cacao drier will be of considerable value to all practically interested in this product. Those unfamiliar with the mode of cultivation and manufacture of cacao, will certainly be able to learn much if they carefully look over the photographs with which the exhibit is so plentifully furnished. These include cacao plantations, individual trees showing the pods borne on the thick stems and branches, the operation of picking, breaking, sun-drying and artificial drying. Nor are the later processes of manufacture neglected, and stick chocolate and cocoatina provide the links

which allow the stay-at-home Briton to connect the more familiar products with the raw material from which they are derived.

Sugar with its by-products is well represented. There are abundant fresh canes, &c., and the chief grades of sugar produced in the Colony are shown, including white, yellow and grey crystals, and molasses sugar, and also molasses and rum. "Molascuit" - the new cattle food manufactured from molasses and the cellular fibre of the sugar cane after it has been crushed - affords an instance of the practical utilization of a previous waste product.

The export of coconuts from Trinidad is an industry of considerable standing, and some 10,000,000 nuts are annually sent out of the Colony. The preparation of copra, which is so important an industry in the East, has only recently been extensively taken up in the West Indies. The specimens in the Court show that copra, of apparently good quality, can be prepared in Trinidad, and it is gratifying to note that during the last two years the exports have increased nearly three-fold. Coconut oil, of which such large quantities are produced for local consumption, and to a less degree for export, is also represented, together with the coconut meal made from the cake left after the expression of the oil, *i.e.*, the "poonac" of Ceylon and the East. If this meal is available in sufficient quantity there should be a market for it in the West Indian Islands, where relatively enormous quantities of oil cake and other cattle foods are imported annually. Manufactured products of coconut oil are represented by a number of kinds of soap of good appearance and coconut pomade.

The coffee exhibit is of interest owing to the number of kinds of coffee brought together. In addition to the ordinary well-known "Arabian" and "Liberian," there are the large beans of the Abbeokuta variety of Liberian, Sierra Leone coffee (the produce of *coffea stenophylla*), the new *coffea robusta*, and also the beans of a hybrid, which originated in the Botanic Gardens between *C. stenophylla* and *C. liberica*.

Lime juice, so important in other parts of the West Indies, is only made on a comparatively small scale in Trinidad, although the lime tree grows abundantly in the Colony. A few samples of lime juice are exhibited.

Considerable attention has been paid to essential oils by the Botanic Department of Trinidad, and the possibilities of the Island in this direction are sufficiently indicated by a set of some fourteen specimens, including oil of orange, clove oil, nutmeg oil, citronella oil, *cavanga odorata*, oil of limes, *etc.* Samples are also exhibited of camphor, distilled from *cinnamomum camphora*, introduced by the Botanic Department from the East. Citronella oil is noticed in the handbook as an industry which could be developed at short notice should favourable conditions arise in the world's market.

A great portion of Trinidad has probably too high a rainfall to allow of cotton being extensively cultivated, but that it is possible to grow cotton of good quality is demonstrated by a bale of Sea Island cotton and the samples of other varieties exhibited. A sample of Creole or native cotton sent to the Imperial Institute from Trinidad in 1904 was valued at 8½d. to 9d. per lb. at a time when "middling" American was quoted at 7¾d.

Leaf tobacco, cigars and cigarettes indicate the potentialities of the Colony in respect to the fragrant weed. Trinidad-grown tobacco is stated to have been sold on the London market for fair prices.

The exhibit of rice affords proof of the suitability of local conditions to the cultivation of this product. It is an industry which might well be extended, especially considering that during the last three years, to go no further back, some 20,000,000 lbs. of rice have had to be imported annually into the Colony to supply local demands. Starches are also well represented, but, with these products again, the supply is not sufficient to meet local demands.

Trinidad is very rich in timber, and the specimens of woods exhibited give some idea of the

resources of the Colony in this product. In common with several of the other West Indian Islands the cost of felling and local transport is high, and although some timber is exported there is a very large import of the cheaper kinds of wood.

The giant bamboos, some eighty feet long and about ten inches in diameter at the base, will cause astonishment to many, especially, perhaps, when they consider that after all the bamboo is "only a grass." The finest examples are placed in the centre of the Palace, away from the Court, in which there was no room to display them satisfactorily.

The chief exhibits in the animal products group are the sounds of a fish which are exported as "West Indian isinglass." This trade is, however, mainly a transit one. Honey of very good appearance is shown, and previous samples have been valued at a good figure in London. There seems no doubt that Trinidad is able to produce good quality honey, and in time this should figure more prominently as one of the exports of the Colony.

Trinidad, almost alone amongst the British West Indian Islands, is fortunate in possessing a valuable asset in its mineral deposits, and asphalt from the famous pitch lake at La Brea ranks third in importance among the exports from the Colony. Representative samples of the crude and refined product, are exhibited, accompanied by excellent photographs of the interesting region where this source of wealth occurs. Manjak or glance pitch and petroleum are also shown.

There are many other products of minor importance to which attention might well have been drawn, but perhaps these notes will be sufficient to indicate the representative character of the exhibits. The Court contains in addition a large series of photographs illustrative of the general conditions of life in the Colony. Detailed information is available from the various handbooks, guides, etc., which may be seen in the Court, and the comprehensive summary of the exports and imports of Trinidad, specially prepared by Professor Carmody for this Exhibition, entitled "Statistics of Trinidad Trade." A special feature of great value in this pamphlet is the series of statistical diagrams, showing plainly and at a glance, the importance of the various industries, and also the direction of trade. Mr. J. H. Hart, the Superintendent of the Botanic Department, is almost constantly in attendance, and places his knowledge of Trinidad and Trinidad products freely at any one's disposal. Every one concerned, both in Trinidad and in England, must be congratulated on having brought together, in such good condition, a collection so representative of the products and resources of Trinidad.

Exhibition Notes.

Hours Open.

The Colonial and Indian Exhibition at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Sundays excepted). Admission 1/-.

A Club Dinner.

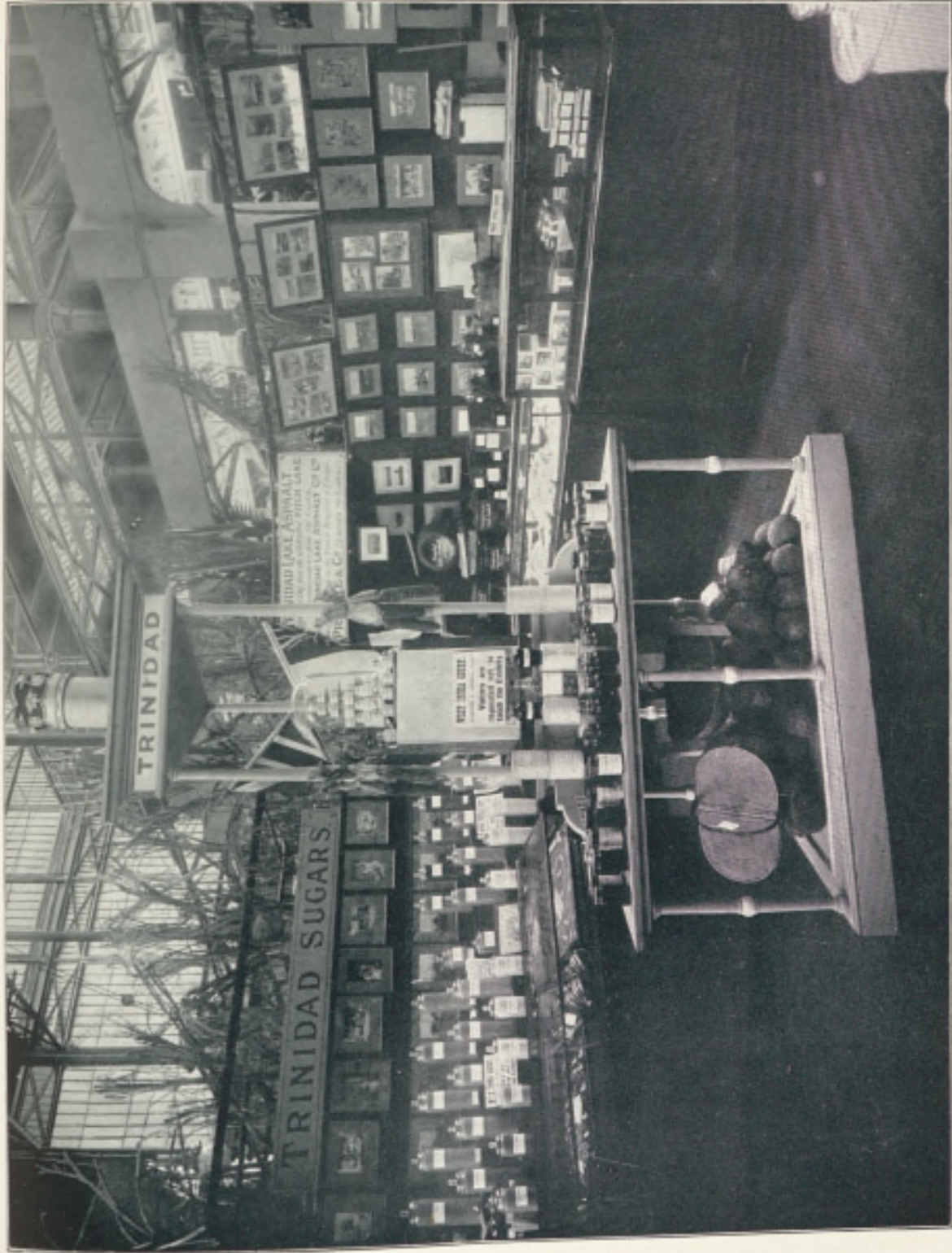
On July 29th the West Indian Club will hold one of its fortnightly dinners in the restaurant at the Crystal Palace, so that its Members may have an opportunity of inspecting the West Indian Court. The hour fixed is 7.30.

The Crystal Palace Club.

Those of our Members desirous of availing themselves of the privileges offered by the Crystal Palace Club will require vouchers, which are obtainable *free of charge* from the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Members' Day at the Exhibition.

Thursday, as already announced, has been made Members' Day, and a special table is reserved for Members in the restaurant. Many of our Members have availed themselves of this opportunity



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The West India Committee.

A CORNER OF THE TRINIDAD COURT,
COLONIAL & INDIAN EXHIBITION, 1905.

of visiting the Court and witnessing Brock's magnificent firework display which takes place on that evening. *Members intending to be present are requested to notify the Secretary by Thursday morning.*

An Opportunity for Exhibitors.

There is still a little space remaining for exhibits genuinely relating to the West Indies, and we shall be glad to place this at the disposal of firms desirous of exhibiting, subject to their consenting to pay a proportion towards the decoration of the Court, attendants, &c. Among new comers since we last went to press are: The Montserrat Co. (Messrs. Evans, Sons, Lescher & Webb), the Stirling Boiler Co., Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., and the Anglo-Continental Guano Works, Ltd., all of whose exhibits will be described in due course in our columns.

The West Indian Produce Stall.

One of the features of the Exhibition is the West Indian Produce Stall, organised by the West India Committee. Here a diversity of West Indian produce, of such well-known firms as Messrs. James Philip & Co., Messrs. L. Rose & Co., the Montserrat Co., Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co. (arrow-root), is retailed, and finds a ready sale. Part of this stall is allotted to West Indian literature, under the control of Mr. Martin Elliott. Books regarding the West Indies and works by West Indian authors are offered for sale, with satisfactory results.

Our Canadian Visitors.

The arrangements for the visit of delegates of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to the West Indian Court are now complete. Our visitors will leave Victoria (S. E. and C. Railway) at 11.33, and upon arrival at the Palace will be conducted through the Court. At 1.0 o'clock they will be entertained at a luncheon, Sir Nevile Lubbock presiding. Tickets, 7s. 6d. each, including wines and admission to the Palace, are obtainable from the Secretary the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane. Return 1st Class Tickets are also obtainable at the reduced rate of 1/7 each by the 11.33 train from Victoria (S.E. & C.R.), to which special coaches will be attached for the visitors.

The Attendance at the Exhibition.

The attendance at the Exhibition since the opening day has been 290,667. A large number of visitors from the West Indies are included in this number, among those who have signed our register being Sir C. C. Knollys, Lady Knollys, Mrs. Alleyne, Miss M. Alleyne, Mr. G. Browne, Mr. Frank Cundall, Mr. W. C. Dyett, Mr. Franklam, Mr. and Mrs. L. Geoffrey, Miss Harford, Mr. S. H. Henderson, Mr. W. Henderson, Mr. Ernest D. Hulton, Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis, Miss A. Johnson, Mr. Norman Lamont, M.P., Mrs. Lamont, Mr. G. C. May, Mr. Thomas S. McNeil, Mr. J. W. Middleton, Mr. F. G. Olivide, Miss H. W. Packer, Capt. W. W. Rhodes, Mr. E. Seymour, Mr. J. C. Sharp, Mr. W. Simms, Mr. J. A. R. Stollmeyer, Mrs. Stollmeyer, Mr. J. L. Stoute, and Mr. H. C. Swan. On Bank Holiday the crowd was enormous. From morn till dewy eve—it rained heavily from 5 o'clock—a surging and struggling mass of people poured through the Court. Though the crowd was well-behaved and orderly, it is probable that more good is done on quiet days, when the attendance is not so large. Certain it is that the enquiries received are more numerous when the visitors are fewer.

Railway Facilities.

There are over 300 trains to and from the Crystal Palace daily, from Victoria, Ludgate Hill and London Bridge—time, 20 to 30 minutes. The High Level station is quite near to the West Indian Court.

TO THE PALACE

Victoria—High Level: 11.2, 1.33, 3.10, 6.32, 7.15.
(There is also a fast train on Saturdays at 3 P.M.)
Victoria—Low Level: 11.23, 1.50, 3.10, 5.40, 7.33.
London Bridge—Low Level: 11.23, 1.20, 3.11, 6.32,
7.12.
Ludgate Hill—High Level: 11.9, 1.12, 3.31, 6.48,
7.32.

FROM THE PALACE.

Victoria—High Level: 3.23, 4.55, 6.55, 10.10, 11.
Victoria—Low Level: 3.48, 4.45, 6.45, 10.35, 12.27.
London Bridge—Low Level: 3.18, 4.25, 6.32, 10.20,
11.55.
Ludgate Hill—High Level: 3.51, 4.44, 8.35, 9.25,
10.30.

The Commissioners for the Exhibition.

While in this country, the West India Committee Rooms will be the headquarters of the Exhibition Commissioners, and it is requested that all communications may be addressed to them.

there, although they will of necessity be in attendance at the Exhibition very often. The names of the Commissioners are:—

BARBADOS: Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee.

JAMAICA: { Mr. John Barclay, Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee.
Mr. Frank Cudall, Secretary, the Institute of Jamaica.

TRINIDAD: Mr. John H. Hart, F.L.S., Superintendent of the Botanical Department, Trinidad.

Letters regarding General Exhibition matters should be addressed to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Beet Prospects on the Continent.

According to Licht's monthly report, the growth of beets in Germany under the influence of the rainfall in most districts has on the whole undergone a really satisfactory improvement. The backwardness compared with the previous year will soon fully disappear, if warmth and frequent



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New Barracks at the Morne, St. Lucia.

In connection with the proposed removal of the troops from St. Lucia, this illustration of the new barracks on the Morne, near Castries, will be of interest. The erection of these three blocks of single men's quarters was begun as recently as 1903. Our illustration is from a photograph by Mr. Delacourt Kell, of Castries.

and Holland reports are uniformly satisfactory, but in Sweden and Denmark growth is backward.

The Retailers' Sugar Association.

The Committee of the Retailers' Sugar Association have just issued their report, from which it appears that a Standing Committee meets at 12.30 every Friday to deal with correspondence and fix prices for the ensuing week. These prices are advertised in several papers, and take effect on the Tuesday following. During the past twelve months, the Association has brought about six changes in price, and its Committee think that it has enabled growers to tide over a very difficult time. Owing mainly to the existence of the Association, the minimum profit on sugar has averaged ½d. per lb., and the Retailers' Association Committee hope to secure this profit in future, and they help also to reduce the evil of cutting sugar, which only results in the bringing about of general lowering of prices.

rains are experienced. In Austria the weather has been similar to that in Germany, though in parts of Bohemia there were floods and mud stoppages. Beetles and vermin are causing damage in Hungary. In France the growth of beets had made an advance. In consequence of the rains no work could be done in the fields for some days, so that here and there the singling out of the plants has retrograded still further, and some dry days would therefore be welcome. Though the development has not yet reached the condition of last year, still with further favourable conditions the same progress may soon be expected. From Belgium

Antigua Central Factory.

Our illustration shows an interior view of the new Central Sugar Factory at Gunthorpe's, Antigua, which was constructed by the Mirrlees Watson Company, Limited, to the designs and specifications of Mr. Claude T. Berthon, Consulting Engineer. The factory is now concluding its first crop, which has been run through with great success as far as the performance of the machinery



Interior of the Gunthorpes Sugar Factory, Antigua.

We are indebted to Mr. José Anjo, for the photograph of the interior of Gunthorpe's Sugar Factory, from which this illustration is reproduced.

is concerned, though, on account of a dry season, the supply of cane has, we understand, been disappointing. The arrangement of the evaporating plant is clearly shown, the triple effect and two vacuum pans being connected to a central condenser, exhausted by a dry slide valve air pump.

The Brussels Commission.

The report of Sir Henry Bergne, the British delegate, on the sitting of the International Sugar Commission during the Spring Session, 1905, has just been published (C.D. 2531). The Commission met at Brussels from the 6th to the 11th of April, and immediately proceeded, at the request of the British Government, to examine anew the fiscal system applied to sugar in various countries, respecting which countervailing duties had been fixed in October, 1904. These included Bolivia, Greece, Guatemala, Hayti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, the Philippine Islands, Portugal, and the Portuguese possessions. As regards Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Philippine Islands, the Commission agreed to call for supplementary information on the sugar system in those countries, and to suspend, in the interval, the application of the countervailing duties, the rates of which had been previously fixed. As for Greece, the Republic of Hayti, Portugal, and the Portuguese possessions, the Commission considered that there was no need to apply the penal clause, basing its decision on fresh information at its disposal; consequently the countervailing duties, fixed in October, 1904, for those countries have not been maintained.

Besides these countries the Permanent Commission had to consider the system to be applied in the contracting states to sugar from the Argentine Republic, Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, the United States of America, Mexico, Porto Rico, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

In view of the new system established by the enforcement from January 1st, 1905, of the Argentine Law of January 30th, 1904, the Commission decided, in the case of the Argentine Republic, to reduce to the figures given below the uniform duty of 50 fr. per 100 kilog. which had been provisionally adopted for sugars of Argentine origin:—

	Per 100 kilog.	
	Fr.	c.
Refined sugar, or sugar polarizing 96 degrees and more	19	90
Unrefined sugar, or sugar polarizing less than 96 degrees	15	5
Candied sugar	10	50

As the Customs duties on sugar imported into the Argentine Republic are levied in gold, the value of the gold peso—that is to say 5 fr.—was taken as the basis in fixing the above countervailing duties.

Pending a fresh decision, the Commission suspended the application of countervailing duties which had been fixed on sugar of Brazilian origin, at the session in October 1904. The Permanent Commission agreed to adjourn provisionally the examination of the Cuban legislation and any decision as regards sugar from Cuba.

By a decree of December 5th, 1904, the import duties levied on sugar imported into the Dominican Republic were reduced to rates below the figures fixed by Article III. of the Convention. Consequently the Permanent Commission decided to suppress the countervailing duties previously fixed with regard to sugar from the Dominican Republic. The Commission pronounced in favour of the adjournment of the decision to be taken respecting the *regime* to be applied to sugar from the United States and from Porto Rico. After an examination of the sugar *regime* in Mexico the Permanent Commission were able to state that this *regime* does not call for the application of countervailing duties. The Commission decided that there was no need to fix countervailing duties as regards sugar from Uruguay and Venezuela. At the thirty-ninth session, held on April 11th, 1905, the Permanent Commission examined the request for admission presented by the Swiss Federal Government. The exchange of views on this subject showed that the Commission is not unanimous with regard to the admission of Switzerland on special conditions to the number of the states forming the Sugar Union. It was understood that the Belgian Government should undertake to continue through the diplomatic channel the discussion started on the subject of this request.

Trinidad Mangoes.

Mr. J. H. Hart, the Commissioner for Trinidad for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, has been active in his efforts on behalf of the Islands which he represents since his arrival in England. By the mail of June 1st, he received a consignment of mangoes from the Colony, consisting of some of the best East Indian varieties, namely, Martin's, Peter's, Gordon, Belmont and d'Or. The major portion of the fruit on arrival was fully ripe and in splendid condition, and after consultation with the West India Committee it was decided to offer a portion of it to the King, who was graciously pleased to accept two dozen of the fruit, for which he specially thanked Mr. Hart. A smaller consignment was sent to the Director of the Royal Gardens at Kew, and Sir William Thiselton Dyer wrote that they arrived "in supreme condition and were quite a revelation." He also stated that he had with him an old East Indian official, who declared them to be equal to anything he had met with in India.

The West Indian Cotton Industry.

During the week before last the meetings of the second International Cotton Congress were held in Manchester, and many important subjects affecting the interests of the great cotton industry were discussed. On the 9th inst. Mr. J. Arthur Hutton, Vice-Chairman of the British Cotton Growing Association, read a most interesting paper regarding the recent operations of that body. He reminded those present that the steady increase of demand during recent years, accompanied as it had been by no corresponding increase in supply, resulted in a climax in 1904, when many of the cotton mills of the world had to run short time or to stop entirely. The situation had for the moment been relieved by the wonderful crop produced in the United States last season; but they all recognized that should the weather conditions in America be as unfavourable this year as they were in 1903, the crop



A Cricket Group in Antigua.

This group was photographed by Mr. José Anjo, of Antigua, upon the occasion of the recent cricket match between the Officials and the Antigua Cricket Club in the Island. His Excellency Sir C. Courtenay Knollys, Governor of the Leeward Islands, sits in the centre, and Lady Knollys sits in the top row, next to Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, Administrator of Dominica, who is next to Mr. G. O. Nugent, Clerk to the local Executive Council.

might be little more than 10,000,000 bales, and they would again have a recurrence of speculation, with disastrous results for every user of cotton. The large accumulation of capital in the hands of a few individuals gave the speculator an immense power in dealing with the supplies of raw material, and if the cotton industry of Europe was to maintain its position, it was absolutely essential that new sources of supply should be developed as soon as possible. What America was aiming at to-day was to reduce the production of cotton, so as to keep the price high. What was wanted were large supplies of cheap cotton. It was also extremely doubtful whether the United States could produce increasing quantities sufficient to meet the natural increase in the demand for cotton. It had been estimated by Mr. Henry C. Kittredge that 35,000,000 acres was the limitation of the amount of land which the Southern States could economically give to this one agricultural product. If this estimate were correct, and assuming America had the necessary labour for its effective cultivation, in seven

years from now the maximum production of the United States will have been reached. If, therefore, in the meantime Europe had not provided herself with other sources of supply, they would then see the cotton trade develop into a struggle for supplies of the raw material, and they would meet with a period of speculation and gambling which might result in the partial ruin of the cotton industry of Europe. Having briefly given the history of the formation of the British Cotton Growing Association, Mr. Hutton went on to say that it was in the West Indies that the efforts of the Association had been most successful, and this was principally due to the fact that the plantations were in the hands of Europeans, and that the Association met with most hearty co-operation from the Imperial Department of Agriculture, which took up the cause of cotton-growing with the greatest zeal. In no other part of the Empire had the Association's work advanced so rapidly, or so nearly approached a commercial basis. Fortunately, it had been proved beyond all possible doubt that the West Indian Islands could grow Sea Island cotton of the best possible quality, and that the planter could make money out of it. If it came to a question of competition, the conditions were so much more favourable in the West Indies than the planters there could produce Sea Island cotton more economically than could be done in the United States. Cotton from the West Indies was arriving now by every steamer, and the bulk of it was selling at 16d. to 18d. a pound, and the quality was very much improved and considerably better than the average quality of American Sea Island cotton.

News by the mail regarding cotton is of a hopeful nature. The conference at Barbados was undoubtedly very useful. Cotton was still being shipped from some of the northern islands, and there was likelihood of an appreciable quantity being shipped from second pickings in Barbados. The Department of Agriculture had entirely provided for all the seed required in the West Indies, and no anxiety need therefore be felt as to the quality of the crop to be reaped next year.

During the past fortnight 416 bales were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 5.45d. per lb.; and West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb.

The Prospects of Tobago.

The Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture has returned from a tour in the Southern Islands—St. Vincent, Grenada, Tobago and Trinidad. He spent four days at Tobago with the Governor, Sir Henry Jackson. A large meeting of planters was held in the Court House at Scarborough on Wednesday, May 24th, and a visit was subsequently paid to the Botanic Station, where admirable work is being done in distributing cacao and other economic plants, the Government Stock Farm, and cacao and rubber estates at Richmond belonging to Captain Short. The Commissioner, in a letter to the Committee, expresses the opinion that Tobago is looking up. Several new men with capital have gone in for cacao, and altogether he was favourably impressed with the improved prospects of the Island. Much of this success is undoubtedly due to Sir Henry Jackson, who adopts a sympathetic attitude regarding agricultural matters, and takes a keen personal interest in the circumstances of the planting community, with the result that both in Trinidad and Tobago the agricultural interests will be appreciably advanced.

The Memorial to the late Field-Marshal Sir H. Norman.

Many friends of the late Field-Marshal Sir Henry Norman being desirous of perpetuating his memory, a committee has been formed to collect subscriptions for this purpose. Those who wish to subscribe are requested to pay their contributions as early as possible to the Secretary of the West India Committee. We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following subscriptions towards this fund: The West India Committee, £10 10s.; the West India Association of Liverpool, £5 5s.; the West Indian Club, £5 5s.; Hon. J. Allwood, £5 5s.; Hon. Henry Sewell, £5 5s.; Mr. Robert Craig, £5; Hon. J. M. Farquharson, £2 2s.; Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, £1 1s.; Hon. Thomas Capper, £1 1s.; Hon. W. Fawcett, £1 1s.; Mr. Francis B. Lyons, £1 1s.; the Archbishop of the West Indies, £1—making a total of £43 16s.

Spanish Sugar.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

In the House of Commons on June 6th, Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) asked the Secretary to the Board of Trade, with regard to the prohibition of the importation of Spanish sugar, if he would say what weight of sugar constituted an appreciable quantity; whether, seeing that this prohibition took

place some two years after the condemnation of Spain by the Brussels Permanent Commission without any further action on the part of that body, the Government reserved to itself the right of suddenly excluding any sugar imports from condemned quarters, including the 20 countries dealt with by the Permanent Commission in October, 1904; and, if so, whether the trade had any safeguards against such proceedings.

Mr. Bonar Law: I am not prepared to give a figure which would be universally applicable, the matter being one for consideration having regard to the circumstances of each case. It is the duty of His Majesty's Government, on the occurrence of an appreciable importation of sugar from a country reported by the Permanent Commission to grant a bounty, to take the measures prescribed by the Convention. The decisions of the Commission in October, 1904, to which reference is made have been suspended or revoked on the appeal of His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Lough: Does that imply that, supposing that sugar is brought in from any of these 20 countries, there is no risk of its being prohibited in the same way as the sugar imported from Spain is prohibited? Mr. Bonar Law: It does imply that.

Mr. Gibson Bowles (King's Lynn): Have His Majesty's Government or the permanent officials in Brussels settled what weight of sugar constitutes an appreciable quantity? Mr. Bonar Law: That is left to His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Lough: So His Majesty's Government is solely responsible for the prohibition? Mr. Bonar Law: It is responsible in this sense, that it has only done it in order to fulfil an undoubted obligation under the Brussels Convention. (Cheers and counter-cheers.)

Another pro-Bounty Fallacy Exposed.

During the late discussion regarding the rise in price of sugar the opponents of the Brussels Convention endeavoured to make the public believe that the retail price of sugar was lower on the Continent than it was in this country. This fallacy is exposed in a return which has just been, at the instance of Mr. Gibson Bowles, issued by the Board of Trade showing the price per pound retail of the kind of sugar most largely consumed by the working classes, whether refined or unrefined, on or about the 1st day of March, 1905, in the capital cities of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, France, Holland, Russia, Denmark and Great Britain respectively, together with the amount, in English currency, of the existing Customs and Excise Duties respectively per pound in each case.

NOTE.—The prices given in this Return are the prices of the kind of sugar most largely consumed by the working classes in each capital. It is not to be understood that the prices refer to a uniform grade of sugar in the various capitals.]

Country and Capital City.	Retail Price. d. per lb.	Customs Duty. d. per lb.	Excise Duty. d. per lb.
GERMANY:			
Berlin	2½	1·02*	0·76
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY:			
Vienna	3¼	1·98*	1·72
Budapest	3¼		
BELGIUM:			
Brussels	3½	1·11*	0·87
FRANCE:			
Paris	3½	1·44*§	1·18§
HOLLAND:			
Amsterdam†	4½	2·45†	2·45
RUSSIA:			
St. Petersburg	4½	4·22	1·23
DENMARK:			
Copenhagen	2½	0·73	0·27
GREAT BRITAIN:			
London	2½	0·45	—

* In the cases of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium and France, imported sugar is subject to Excise duty in addition to import duty proper. The "Customs duty" stated above for these countries includes the total amount of duty payable on importation—i.e., it includes both import and excise duty.

† In the case of Holland, imported sugar is subject to excise duty only.

‡ Amsterdam has been taken instead of the Hague.

§ Including also the "taxe de raffinage," levied equally on imported sugar and on sugar of home production.

The Cuban Sugar Crop.

According to Willett & Gray's trade journal, the few factories still grinding in Cuba are doing so under great difficulty on account of the lack of facilities for transportation, the heavy rains having softened the soil and roads. The scarcity of labourers is also a strong factor in the situation, and in two districts some factories have stopped grinding, although there is still cane to cut. The new and old cane is growing luxuriantly. Unless sufficient labourers can be secured to clear the fields, which are being covered with weeds, the growth of cane may be interfered with seriously. When weather permits, preparation of the soil and the planting of canes go on rapidly, and are being executed on a large scale in Matanzas.

Consular Reports.

Alexandria's Sugar Supply.

Sugar to the value of £157,000 was imported during the year 1901, 77 per cent. being supplied by Russia, and 22 per cent. by Austria.

Cocoa for Philadelphia in 1904.

During the year 1904, 614,926 lbs. of crude cocoa valued at £15,441 12s., and 163,526 lbs. of coffee valued at £3,988 4s., were imported from British Colonies.

Austria-Hungary's Sugar Exports.

The export of sugar, which reached its zenith in 1903 with about 710,000 tons, fell in 1904 to 510,000 tons, the decrease being principally in raw and refined sugar to the United Kingdom and raw sugar to America. The rise in price, however, partially covered the loss to the monarchy.

The German Beet Sugar Industry.

In his supplementary report on the trade of Germany during 1904 Mr. Consul-General Schwabach states that at the beginning of the year the price of raw sugar was £8 10s. to £9 per metric ton. Prices advanced steadily throughout the year, and at its close stood at £14 10s. per ton.

The German production of raw sugar in the season of 1904-5 was estimated in October at 1,518,070 tons against 1,897,000 tons in 1903, and in December at 1,525,113 tons against 1,929,415 tons in 1903. Only a few of the sugar works benefited to the full extent from the high prices, as the great majority had already sold large quantities at low, though profitable, prices. For refined sugar prices moved generally in sympathy with those for raw sugar, and advanced rapidly during August to November. The favourable development of the home consumption, the great demand for manufacturing purposes by the jam industry, owing to the plentiful fruit crop, and, lastly, unexpectedly large purchases for the United States account, kept prices very steady.

The prices of sugar per 100 kilos. during 1904 fluctuated as follows:—

Month.	Price per 100 Kilos.	
	Raw Sugar.*	Ground Mellis †
January 2nd	£0 16 10	£1 15 0
April 1st ...	0 17 0½	1 15 0
July 1st ...	0 18 8½	1 17 6
October 1st	1 2 10½	2 1 6
November 1st	1 3 6	2 2 3
December 28th	1 8 7½	2 7 7½

* F.o.b. Hamburg.

† F.o.b. Berlin

The Relations of Venezuela and Trinidad.

Mr. Consul de Lemos in his report on the trade and commerce of Ciudad Bolivar for 1904, refers in the following terms to the relations between Venezuela and Trinidad:—

"By a Presidential decree dated May 23rd, 1904, the custom-house at this port was re-opened as from June 1st following. On the same day a further decree was issued, the effect of which was to extend the 30 per cent. surtax duty on goods imported direct from foreign colonies to all goods even transhipped in foreign colonies to Venezuelan ports. These latter transhipment goods were previously not subjected to this additional tax as long as direct consular invoices and bills of lading from Europe or the United States were furnished with each shipment. In fact the imports and exports of Ciudad Bolivar were formerly almost exclusively effected in shallow river steamers via Trinidad, British West Indies, where many regular steamship lines call both outward and homeward bound.

The transshipment of goods by these means was a great facility and convenience, especially to importers, who were thus enabled to bring out regular and moderate supplies by these fast Atlantic lines and get them in fresh condition all the year round. The imposition of enhanced duties on the transit traffic via Trinidad has obliged merchants to abandon this route, and vessels have to be brought out direct from Europe and the United States to Bolivar.

The Orinoco River during the dry season lasting from December to April, is blocked by shallows, which do not admit of vessels drawing more than 8 or 9 feet coming up to this port with safety. Consequently during this period regular imports cannot be effected as vessels attempting to come up are liable to go aground or have to be lightened at heavy expense. Lately a special and private concession has been granted to one of the boats of the Orinoco line of steamers, a Venezuelan company, by which goods shipped in transit via Trinidad by this particular steamer are exempted from the surcharge of 30 per cent. on the duties. No official notification has, however, been published in regard to this concession.

Sulphur, Fruit, and Asphalt in Sicily.

In his report on the trade of Sicily for 1904 Mr. Sidney Churchill deals with the competition between Sicilian and American sulphur, and in view of the developments of the sulphur industry in the West Indies, his remarks will be of interest.

"For many years the sulphur mining industry of Sicily has been one of its most important sources of wealth. At the end of 1903 there existed no less than 685 mines, employing 30,818 individuals, and showing an output of 3,428,691 tons of sulphur ore. During the last few years, owing to the short term still to run of the combination of the mine owners with the Anglo-Sicilian Sulphur Company, the sulphur mining industry has been passing through a crisis which is now approaching its culminating point, the contracts expiring on July 31st, 1906. The Anglo-Sicilian combination has been decidedly to the advantage of all concerned. When the combine ceases the Anglo-Sicilian Sulphur Company will have on hand a stock equal to about a year's consumption. It cannot be supposed that in disposing of this stock the company will necessarily take into consideration either the feelings or the interests of its late associates, who will, in consequence, have to pass through a period of stagnation. Added to this is the question of the development of the Louisiana sulphur mines. Sicily would lose heavily if the United States sulphur market was lost to it, or if American sulphur found a ready market in Europe. Shipments of American sulphur to Europe are reported. In France, another good market for this product, the American mineral has been taxed 8s. per ton as refined sulphur. This in itself is a point in favour of Sicilian sulphur."

Regarding the fruit trade he states that Sicily has 10,390,000 citrus fruit trees, each tree producing an average of 352 fruits. Besides the trade in oranges, lemons, mandarins and citrons, there is a considerable Sicilian production of fine candied fruits. Unfortunately the cost of sugar to the manufacturer of these is such that there is no field for a profitable export trade. Oranges sold in the street or at the popular marionette shows are invariably peeled, and the peel is then sun-dried for export.

The export of asphalt from the port of Syracuse has considerably increased. The quantities shipped from Syracuse and Mazzarelli were about 75,542 tons, of which 65,320 blocks of compressed bitumen, equal to 1,633 tons, and 69,100 sacks of pulverised asphalt rock, equal to 3,455 tons, were shipped at Syracuse to various destinations.

The Consular District of Hamburg. The rise in Sugar.

Consul-General Sir William Ward states: "The unexpectedly large inland German consumption of sugar on the one hand and the drought of the past summer, which largely reduced the production, on the other, were the prominent causes which led to the considerable rise in the sugar prices in the year 1904. Though it had been fully expected that there would be an increase in the German sugar consumption during the first period after the date at which the provisions of the Brussels Convention came into force, it was by no means anticipated that consumption would then, and also subsequently to that period, develop to such an extent as has actually been the case in this country and in France, and also, though in a minor degree, in Austria. Whilst this largely-increased consumption materially caused prices of sugar to advance last year, the unexpected and long summer drought prevailing, particularly in Germany during the past summer, both by restricting production and by interrupting the traffic on the River Elbe, had a similar effect upon the sugar market.

The total exports of sugar of all sorts from Hamburg in 1904 experienced a falling off of nearly 2,000,000 bags, the countries to which the exports showed the most important falling off having been the United Kingdom and Japan. The exports, on the other hand, to British India and to China, and likewise to the United States of America, were more extensive than in 1903. The exports to Canada were quite inconsiderable.

The complaint frequently heard of late in the United Kingdom that the only effect of the Brussels Convention has been a serious rise in the price of sugar, which has not only been prejudicial to the interests of the British public at large, but also to many important branches of industry at home, appears, in view of the circumstances alluded to above, to be to a great extent unfounded. Sufficient allowance is apparently not made by persons holding such views of the circumstance that the past year—that is to say, the first year during which the provisions of the Brussels Convention were in full force—was an abnormal one in so far as the production and consumption of sugar, more especially in Germany, were concerned, and that it was these facts which caused the great rise in the sugar prices, but that this combination of causes is not likely to recur in the year 1905.

The year's aggregate imports of cocoa to Hamburg were the largest on record, and reached 573,825 bags, as against 409,435 bags in 1903 and 371,100 bags in 1902. German consumption is stated to have likewise increased in the same proportion, and will, it is thought, probably continue to increase still further in view of the undiminished popularity of cocoa as an article of food. The prominent sorts of cocoa imported to Hamburg are Guayaquil, African (Accra, Congo, Cameroons, Lagos, St. Thomé, Victoria), Bahia, Samana, Ceylon and Java, Trinidad, Caracas, San Domingo, &c."

Notes of Interest.

OBITUARY. We have with regret to record the death of Mr. R. N. Hodges, of the Symington Fruit Syndicate, which took place on May 22nd last.

MR. HART. Mr. Hart, the Commissioner for Trinidad, has been elected a Member of the Royal Institute of Public Health, in recognition of a paper which he submitted to that body dealing with the contamination of water supplies.

BANK RATE. Owing to pressure on our space, we are compelled to hold over our usual table of quotations of West Indian Securities. The Bank Rate remains at $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ (changed from 3% on March 9th, 1905), and Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}\%$) are quoted $90\frac{3}{4}$.

COTTON EXHIBITION. We are informed that the attendance at the Exhibition now being held at the Imperial Institute with the object of illustrating British cotton cultivation and the commercial uses of cotton has been very satisfactory. The Exhibition is open daily (Sundays excepted) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A GIFT ALLIGATOR. We have to thank Mr. Edward R. Davson for a very fine specimen of alligator, nearly five feet long, which was caught in the Abary Creek, Berbice, British Guiana. The alligator, which was remarkably well stuffed in the Colony, will add much to the interest of the little collection which we are forming in the Committee Rooms.

A USEFUL EXHIBIT. Mr. Randolph Rust, of Trinidad, has been good enough to present to the Committee samples of crude petroleum, samples of refined oil, and photographs of the oil works of the Oil Exploration Company of Canada, Ltd., in the Mayaro-Guayaguayare district of Trinidad, which will form a valuable object lesson to numerous callers at the West India Committee Rooms.

WEST INDIAN CLUB DINNER. At the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club on Wednesday, June 14th. Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock presided, and amongst those present were: Mr. H. Bailey, Mr. F. Berger, Mr. H. Berger, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Dr. H. E. G. Boyle, Mr. W. C. Dyett, Mr. B. Edwards, Mr. R. H. R. Kerr, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Schult, Hon. G. Seton-Browne, Capt. Seton-Browne, Dr. Ernest Sturridge, and Dr. A. L. Wykham.

OUR MEMBERSHIP. Owing to the Whitsuntide holidays there has been no meeting of the Executive Committee, and consequently no election of Members since we last went to press. We now have ten candidates awaiting election. Forms of application for Membership are obtainable from the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., and we hope that our Members will help us to bring our Membership up to 2000.

AMERICAN BEET SUGAR. According to a recent issue of Willett & Gray's weekly statistical sugar trade journal, fifty-five sugar factories with a capacity for slicing daily 39,200 tons of beets were operated during the season 1904-5. Six factories with a capacity of slicing 3350 beets daily are in building for 1905-6, these figures including two factories (1200 tons of beets) being rebuilt. In Canada four factories were worked during 1904-5, with a capacity for 1950 tons of beets.

APPOINTMENTS REGISTER. The register of applicants for appointment as overseers and other positions connected with West Indian estates, can be seen by Members at the West India Committee Rooms. Full particulars regarding the applicants are now given, together with two

testimonials from each. Members receiving applications from those desiring appointments may refer the applicants to the West India Committee, who will supply a form of enquiries for the candidates to fill up.

TURKS ISLAND. The Canada-Jamaica Steamship Line, Messrs. Marsh and Marsh, Toronto, Ontario, have decided to let their steamers call at Turk's Island on their route south, with the idea of trying to work up a salt trade with Cuba and Jamaica. Mr. B. C. Frith, who is agent for this line in the Turk's Island, has already orders for 2400 bushels, 2100 of which went forward to Jamaica by the S.S. "Veritas" on the 24th inst, the first of the steamers to call. This movement of inter-colonial trade deserves every support.

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW. The Archbishop of the West Indies, President in the West Indies of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, attended a conference in the Southwark Chapter House on the 12th inst. In the course of his remarks he said that the work was steadily growing in Jamaica, each year adding a few chapters. He had been seeking opportunities for advancing the work of the Brotherhood in the other Islands, and had spoken in the cathedrals of Trinidad and Barbados on its behalf. He trusted that in these places a good beginning was being made.

CABLE COMMUNICATION. A meeting of the Cable Communication Sub-Committee, consisting of Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. R. Rutherford and the Secretary, was held on the 8th inst. The statement submitted by the Secretary of State indicating that it must be left to the Colonies to meet from their own resources the cost of any improved or additional telegraphic facilities which they might require, was under consideration, and it was decided to ask the Colonial Office to permit the Committee to peruse the Report of the Inter-departmental Cable Committee.

MAIL OPPORTUNITIES. The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and Royal Mail steamers after the departure of the West Indian Mail on Wednesday next are advertised: S.S. "Naparima," from Glasgow, for Barbados, Trinidad, Demerara, and Berbice, June 23rd; S.S. "Gladiator," from Liverpool, for Barbados (for Demerara and West Indian Islands), June 23rd; S.S. "Statia," from London, for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Demerara, and Berbice, June 27th; S.S. "Dahomey," from Liverpool, for Demerara, June 30th; S.S. "William Cliff," from Liverpool, for Barbados and Trinidad, June 30th; and the R.M.S. "Port Antonio," from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, July 1st.

LAND IN SANTO DOMINGO. The British Vice-Consul at Santo Domingo (Mr. H. H. Gosling) reports that lands suitable for fruit growing, cocoa, sugar, coffee or tobacco are very cheap in that Republic; they may be bought for from 1 to 2 dollars per acre. The mineral deposits are very rich but have never been very thoroughly worked. The new mining laws are favourable to investors. Deposits of copper, gold, iron, coal, asbestos and phosphate have been recently discovered. Ways of communication are, however, bad; and there is an opening for the building of a railway connecting the southern ports with the interior, where there are valuable forests of hard wood and pine. Other enterprises which would undoubtedly pay would be the construction of an aqueduct and waterworks to supply the city of Santo Domingo with water; an electric tramway in the same city; and the establishment of wireless telegraphy locally and in connection with the new stations in Porto Rico and other neighbouring islands.—*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 3385.*

The Homeward Mail.

Quiet progress is recorded in the letters received by the homeward Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's steamer "Trent," which reached Plymouth at 1.40 p.m. on June 14th. The crop season had practically closed when the mail left, and many planters were enjoying their well-earned holiday. Among the passengers by the mail were Captain T. Constantine from Jamaica; Hon. E. Agostini, Commander Hon. W. H. Coombs, R.N., Mrs. René de Verteuil, Hon. S. Henderson and family, and Mrs. Warner from Trinidad; Hon. F. Gurney and Mr. D. L. Slinger from Grenada; His Excellency Sir C. Courtenay Knollys and Lady Knollys from Antigua; Hon. E. du Boulay, Hon. G. and Mrs. Graf and Mr. A. M. Lee from St. Lucia; and Mr. George Carrington and Mr. and Mrs. Valdemar Hanschell from Barbados. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Antigua—Troublesome Drought.

(Hon. A. St. G. SPOONER) May 30th—The weather continued distressingly dry, and the drought was the more felt because of the high wind blowing. Water was getting quite scarce in the country districts not served by the Wallings' reservoir, and grass and provisions were in very short supply. The canes were being severely tried, but were not seriously

damaged so far, although, of course, growth had been very much checked. The young ratoons were feeling the weather to a greater extent than the young plants. Crop was coming to a close on some estates, and many others were really only keeping back to keep the stock alive on the cane tops.

Molasses had been selling at 25 cents, puncheon included.

Barbados—Official Changes.

(T. W. WILKINSON, ESQ.) June 2nd—It was with great regret that the writer had to record the retirement of Sir George Pile from the chair of the Legislative Council, of which he had been President for 23 years. Lady Pile's precarious state of health and his own declining years had forced Sir George to resign—a step which every one deplored, for he enjoyed universal popularity in both branches of the Legislature in which he had served.

There had also been two resignations in the House of Assembly, and Mr. Stoker, their Attorney-General, had come forward as a candidate for one of the vacant seats. It was the desire of the Colonial Minister that this official should be a member of the House, in order to carry on the business of the Government; but as this office was now performed by the Solicitor-General, there was some doubt of his succeeding in securing election. There were several candidates for the two vacant seats, so the election was likely to be a strongly-contested one.

On the previous day the sugar market had been very dull, but a small quantity of sugar was sold at 82.00. The molasses crop was practically closed, but 22 cents was still being offered.

The fortnight continued dry up to May 25th, but on the following morning they had a heavy rain of from three to nine inches over the whole Island. This had come in time to save the young canes, which would have been well-nigh ruined had the drought continued much longer. The planting of minor crops had been greatly retarded by the lack of rain, so that this fall had been indeed a welcome one.

British Guiana—Good Rains.

(J. C. McCOWAN, ESQ.) May 31st—There had been no meetings of the Legislature or the Planters' Association during the fortnight.

The weather was favourable. They had had good rains during the fortnight, perhaps a little heavy in places, and too light in others. On the Corentyne Coast the fall had been much too light.

Dominica—Cocoa Prospects.

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.) June 1st—It looked as if their output of cocoa would be very good this year, as for the first quarter they had exported more than half the total of last year's crop. Prospects for the coming crop were reported to be good throughout the Island. A considerable increase in the lime crop might also be looked for, and the trade in fresh limes to New York was now in full swing.

Empire Day was duly celebrated on the 25th in glorious weather. The arrangements made in Roseau were entirely for school children. The proceedings began by reading the prize essays in the morning, and in the afternoon the schools within reach of Roseau marched with flags to the Botanic Station, where the children sang a patriotic song and saluted the Union Jack. Athletic sports were then held, the children entering keenly into them. After refreshments, the prizes were distributed, and the proceedings terminated with a short address from the Treasurer, the Administrator being absent through illness. Celebrations were held, too, in several other districts.

The wet season has now thoroughly set in, though they had had no lack of rain at any period of this year.

Grenada—Cattle Disease.

(C. FALCONER ANTON, ESQ.) June 1st—The Governor returned to the Colony from St. Vincent by the mail steamer on May 23rd, and Sir Daniel Morris—who was also a passenger on his way to Tobago—landed, and was met by some of the members of the Agricultural Experiment Committee of the Agricultural and Commercial Society. An Ordinary Meeting of the Society was held on June 22nd to consider a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to Amend the Cocoa and Nutmeg Ordinance of 1896," which had been referred to the Society by the Governor.

Anthrax had unfortunately carried off several animals, cattle and mules, at Dugaldston, in the parish of St. John. The origin of the disease had been traced to a bull imported from St. Vincent, and slaughtered on the estate.

Nevis—American v. West Indian Cotton.

(HON. C. A. SHAND) May 30th—The sugar crop was almost reaped, and the lower prices realised by later shippers had materially affected results in many cases.

Cotton was making good progress in Nevis, and the writer believed it would prove the salvation of the Island if cultivated on proper lines. The action of the American growers of Sea Island cotton in refusing to dispose of any seed to the West Indies distinctly showed that there was a feeling of jealousy and uneasiness as to the future of the cotton industry in those parts. But it must not be forgotten that the original seed came from the West Indies, and therefore, with proper care and selection, it ought to be quite possible to continue the growth of good staple Sea Island cotton from the seed at present available. The interchange of the seed from cotton giving the best results in the various Islands should preclude the possibility of the evil effects attendant upon continuous crops from the same source.

There had been a continuance of refreshing showers, though no general heavy rain had fallen.

St. Kitts—Rain Wanted.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, ESQ.) May 30th—High winds prevailed, and as crops were now nearing completion, good showers would be welcomed for the coming crop. The steady fall in prices had put a very different complexion on the results of the current year to what was expected when they started reaping.

St. Lucia—Crop Finished.

(SYDNEY D. MELVILLE, ESQ.) June 2nd—The weather was now showery after a good deal of drought. Crops were practically over.

St. Vincent—Rainy Season Sets in.

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & CO.) June 2nd—The weather was rainy and squally, and it was fortunate that the crops were pretty well all reaped, as it was thought that the rainy season had thoroughly set in.

Trinidad—Crown Lands.

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C.M.G.) June 2nd—For some time past the Government had been considering the question of the advisability of restricting the sale of Crown lands in view of the rapidity with which this valuable asset of the Colony was being diminished by alienation. There remained now but a limited acreage of cultivable land, after allowing for reserves, as recommended by the Forest Officer. A Committee was appointed to consider and report on the subject, and its work was almost completed. The acreage alienated during the last ten years was vastly in excess of available means of cultivating it. Not only was the labour supply insufficient for existing cultivation, but in most cases the alienation of fresh lands, now only to be found in remote districts, entailed a large increase in what must be for many years to come unproductive expenditure by the Government on roads and other means of communication, besides the necessity of providing water supply, schools, police control, &c., in the new centres of population. Private owners of land—mostly more or less worked out lands—had had no difficulty during the past twenty years in obtaining £4 per acre for it, while the Colony sold without competition virgin and fertile lands for £2 per acre. The time had undoubtedly come for the Government to insist on having full value, together with some guarantee that the lands would be brought into cultivation within a fixed period from time of purchase. The guarantee was necessary to guard against the speculator, who bought only to sell again at a profit, and the purchaser of small lots, who bought to make what he could out of the saleable timber on them and charcoal out of the rest, leaving the land at the end of a couple of years or less to grow up in bush.

The writer regretted to record the death, on the previous night, of Mr. Louis B. Siegert, of pneumonia. His brother, and partner in the firm of Dr. J. B. Siegert & Sons, was in Europe.

Rain had fallen every day of the fortnight, occasionally heavily. These continual rains had greatly retarded crop operations, and in consequence deliveries had fallen short of anticipations.

Prices remained steady, but little new business was reported. Sales of Estates to the United States had been made at the equivalent of 55s c. and f. Havre. Sales of Ordinary had been made at 53s.

Venezuelan grades continued scarce, but prices were unaltered.

Cocoa Shipments.

Total at last return		92,942	Bags	Trinidad	16,117	Venezuela		
May 19	S.S. "Atrato"	1527	"	"	"	"	...	Europe
" 23	S.S. "Crown of Navarre"	513	"	"	"	"	...	"
" 23	S.S. "Manzanares"	320	"	"	255	"	...	New York
" 24	S.S. "Maraval"	1512	"	"	536	"	...	"
" 27	S.S. "Oruro"	130	"	"	"	"	...	Canada
" 30	S.S. "P. Willem IV."	1828	"	"	350	"	...	New York
" 31	S.S. "Martinique"	2560	"	"	343	"	...	Europe
June 1	S.S. "P. Willem I."	2352	"	"	125	"	...	"
		103,711			17,726			

Letter to the Editor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

London, May 30th, 1905

DEAR SIR—A speaker at one of the West Indian gatherings during the past winter suggested that it might be an advantage to the West Indies that representatives of all the Islands and Demerara should in the near future meet in conference in London to discuss questions connected with their own welfare.

I think, Sir, that the proposal is worthy of the most careful consideration of your Committee.

I would suggest that the conference might discuss such questions as—

1. Mutual co-operation in West Indian affairs.
2. The appointment of a representative in London (the present Chairman of the West India Committee would be an admirable selection, if he would act).
3. The appointment of a Council to assist the Secretary of State for the Colonies on all purely West Indian subjects.
4. The Council to be composed of ex-Governors and retired Government officials, merchants, property owners, &c., who have served or have had occupations in the West Indies, and would be nominated, for instance, by the Chambers of Commerce in the West Indies and Demerara.
5. Other questions, which it is unnecessary to enter into at this stage.

These reforms would, I presume, have to be submitted to Parliament in order to give the Council a status, but there would probably be no objection, as the Council would be advisory and the responsibility of the Secretary of State would not be lessened.

I wish to make it quite clear that my suggestions are not intended as any reflection on the Colonial Office, either now or in the past. The Secretary of State and the officials are only too anxious to do what they can in the interest of the Colonies, but the work at the present time is far too great for the Crown Colonies to be given that comprehensive attention which is necessary. It is the system which requires alteration.

If your Committee could assist in carrying through any such re-arrangement, it would, I think, be regarded by your members as a fitting sequel to its labours in connection with the abolition of the foreign bounties.

The West Indies have much vitality, but never will the utmost be made of opportunities for turning it to account until their consideration is undertaken with a knowledge of the local circumstances.

In conclusion, I would say it is my firm opinion that the federation of interests which would thus be brought about would have better results than federation from a purely administrative point of view.

Yours truly,

A. WAKE.

Our Library.

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. Since we last went to press we have received the following:—

The Bulletin of the Imperial Institute. Vol III, No 1. 15. This useful quarterly Bulletin is now published for the first time independently of the *Board of Trade Journal*; it also appears in an enlarged form. Many subjects of interest to those connected with the West Indies are dealt with, including petroleum from the Mayaro-Guayaguayare District of Trinidad; Ramie Rhea, or China Grass, and the cultivation of Bananas and Pineapples.

The Agricultural News. Vol IV, No 82. (Obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 1d., post free 1½d.) The subject of the leading article is the cultivation of cocoa in the West Indies, and of the improvements which have taken place in the last few years in the cultivation of this article, as shown in the discussion in connection with this industry at the West Indian Conference last January in Trinidad, which is of much interest. A letter from a special correspondent in Jamaica to the *Louisiana Planter* on the revival of the sugar industry in that island is deserving of attention.

The West Indian Bulletin. Vol VI, No 1 (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 6d.) This number contains very valuable and interesting reports of the recent proceedings of the Agricultural Conference (1905) on the subjects of Cane Farming in British Guiana and Trinidad; The Principal Fungoid Diseases of the Sugar Cane, by L. Lawton-Brain, B.A., &c.; Insect Pests affecting the Sugar Cane, by H. A. Ballou, B.Sc.; The Field Treatment of Cane Tops for Planting Purposes, and The Polarimetric Determination of Sucrose on the Establishment of the Central Sugar Factory in Antigua, by Dr. Francis Watts. There is also a very important report and discussion on "The Experiments in Improving the Health and Productiveness of Cocoa Trees," the opening paper regarding which was read by Mr. J. H. Hart.

The West Indies. Painted by A. S. Forrest, described by John Henderson. London: Adam & Charles Black, 20s. To those who appreciate the impressionist style, the pictures of Mr. Forrest—which appear to be the *raison d'être* of this book—will commend themselves. Many are very charming and all effective, though to some they may not fully convey the idea of tropical life and scenery. At any rate, the pictures are admirably reproduced from the originals, which have recently been exhibited at the Dutch Gallery, and it is many years since so well got up a book has been devoted to the West Indies. The letterpress, like the pictures, is mainly devoted to Jamaica; and though we think the writer would have done well to have avoided certain political questions—regarding which it is not easy for any one who has not resided in the West Indies for any length of time to form a correct judgment—the descriptive chapters are chatty and interesting.

The Handbook of Barbados: Colonial and Indian Exhibition, 1905. Issued under the authority of the Committee appointed by the Government of Barbados. (Obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 6d. post free.) Barbados falls under rather a different category to other islands as regards the need for the issue of a handbook, inasmuch as the island is already so densely populated that it does not require settlers, but only needs to call public attention to its industries and produce with a view to its disposal to the best possible advantage, and to its climatic and social advantages, in order to attract tourists. The present handbook gives very concisely, historical, agricultural and general information regarding that Colony, which cannot fail successfully to accomplish this double purpose. A catalogue of the Barbados Section at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition is given and the whole is neatly bound in a cover bearing a design, in three colours, of sugar canes entwined with a Union Jack, and a background of cabbage palms and a windmill, designed by Lady Carter. No reference whatever is made to the West India Committee, and this may at first sight appear to be due to a lack of gratitude though we prefer to think that it is an oversight.

Jamaica in 1905. A handbook of information for intending settlers and visitors. By Frank Cundall, F.S.A. H. Sotheran & Co., 140, Strand, W.C. 6d. Mr. Frank Cundall, the Secretary and Librarian of the Institute of Jamaica, in 116 pages of this handbook amply testifies to the correctness of the statement of Sir James Crichton Browne: "Jamaica has three magnificent assets—its climate, its scenery, its soil," which figures on the page facing the preface. The present issue is a new and entirely remodelled edition of a work which first appeared under the title "Jamaica in 1895: A Brief Handbook of Information for Intending Settlers and others," compiled with a view to giving, in a handy form, such particulars concerning the island as might prove useful chiefly to intending settlers. In furtherance of this object, short notices have, as hitherto, been included on the various articles of cultivation in the island. The handbook has thirteen illustrations, a rainfall map and a general map of Jamaica. Mr. Cundall has undoubtedly performed his work admirably, and from our experience of the wants and requirements of the numerous applicants for information regarding Jamaica who visit the West India Committee Rooms, we can safely say that the demand for the work will be considerable. The cover of the book is embellished with a picture of a group of coco-nut, palms, admirably reproduced in the colourtype process.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Trent" (Capt. A. C. Farmer), June 14th:—
Barbados—Mr. F. Young, Mr. and Mrs. V. Hanschell, Mr. G. W. Hutchinson, Mrs. Howell, Mr. and Mrs. H. Austin, Mr. F. Greenway, Mr. G. Carrington, Mrs. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Hammond, Mr. G. Hammond, Mr. T. Hill.
Demerara—Mrs. L. L. Kerr, Mrs. C. Morris, Canon and Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. and Mrs. C. Edington, Mr. Covey, Canon and Mrs. Elliott. **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. R. F. M. Peason, Mrs. Rackham, Mrs. A. Smith, Lieut. W. A. Beckett, Mr. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Samuels, Mrs. Hart, Rev. and Mrs. Mackintosh, Mr. J. Cassis, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Dunn, Mr. and Mrs. Cargill, Mr. J. Plant, Mr. and Mrs. W. Cocking, Mrs. C. Thompson, Mr. M. T. Buchanan, Mr. S. Matthews, Capt. T. Constantine, Mr. Abbott. **Trinidad**—Mr. Scheult, Mrs. Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Mendes, Miss Bolan, Mrs. Rene de Verteuil, Mrs. J. Miller, Mr. J. S. Miller, Mrs. E. M. Read, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Berkeley, Hon. E. Agostini, Hon. S. & Mrs. Henderson, Miss W. Henderson, Mrs. Perez, Mr. J. Cagninacci, Mr. H. Kuhl, Mr. R. Mitchell, Mr. S. Dreyfus, Mr. J. Miller, Mr. W. Todd, Hon. W. H. and Mrs. Coombs. **Antigua**—Dr. and Mrs. Mackie, Mrs. Heath, Mrs. and Miss Robertson, His Excellency Sir C. C. and Lady Knollys. **Dominica**—Mrs. Sowray, Mr. C. S. Kitching. **Grenada**—Mrs. Currie, Miss K. Clarke-Holman, Mr. D. L. Slinger, Hon. F. and Mrs. Gurney, Mrs. Tarring. **St. Lucia**—Mr. Boyer, Miss Denehey, Hon. E. du Boulay, Mr. and Mrs. G. Graf, Mrs. L. Devaux, Mr. A. M. Lee, Mr. Guy du Boulay.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Atrato" (Capt. R. H. Stranger) June 21st:—**Barbados**—Major Todd, Demerara—Mrs. Longley, Miss McKinnon, Dr. Valance, Mr. W. A. S. Lamborn, Mr. C. Bud, Rev. T. Wilks, Mr. and Mrs. Downer, **Jamaica**—Sergt. and Mrs. Stedman, Major Hutton, Mr. A. Gill, **Trinidad**—Dr. and Mrs. Stollmeyer, Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey, **Grenada**—Mr. A. Lewis

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Tagus" (Capt. H. E. Rudge), July 5th:—**Barbados**—Rev. and Mrs. Howell, Miss Haynes, Mrs. Thelwall, Mrs. Walton, **Demerara**—Mr. C. A. Comach, **Trinidad**—Mr. J. Disney, **Antigua**—Mr. H. L. Humphrys

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), June 17th:—**Jamaica**—Mrs. A. Buckley, Judge F. E. Cole, Mr. A. W. Clarke, Mr. A. T. Cleal, Lieut. H. F. Granville, Mrs. T. A. Gill, Lieut. C. D. Harris, Mr. D. Ferrard, Miss G. E. Marsh, Miss C. G. Pearman, Miss S. Orrett, Miss E. Shearer, M. J. Thomas, Mr. J. R. Benyon, Mr. A. M. Lamb.

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.

Dr. J. P. TULLOCH has been appointed Medical Officer of the Chaguana District of Trinidad.

Mr. J. E. A. FARFAN is acting as Stipendiary Justice of the Peace of Port of Spain, Trinidad, during the absence on leave of Mr. M. J. Berkeley.

Mr. W. F. LAW, M.B., Bac. Surgeon, M.D., Dublin, Medical Inspector, has been appointed to act as Deputy Registrar-General, British Guiana.

Surgeon-Captain R. C. BENNETT, Trinidad Light Horse, has been granted leave of absence from the Colony from May 15th to November 14th, 1905.

The Hon. R. S. A. WARNER, K.C., has been appointed to act as Attorney-General of Trinidad during the absence on leave of the Hon. E. Agostini, K.C.

During the absence from Trinidad of Mr. JAMES PEET, who is at present in this country, Mr. JAMES COMMISSIONG has been elected to act as Chairman of the Naparima Local Road Board.

The Hon. Commander W. H. COOMBS, Protector of Immigrants, Trinidad, having proceeded on leave, Mr. H. C. STONE acts as Protector and Mr. W. KNOX as sub-Protector of Immigrants.

In the absence from British Guiana of the Hon. B. HOWELL JONES, the Hon. ROBERT G. DUNCAN has been provisionally appointed a Member of the Executive Council of the Colony.

Mr. F. J. PERKINS, late Assistant-Commissioner of the Lands and Mines Department of British Guiana, has been appointed Surveyor-General of British Honduras, and leaves England about the end of August.

The Hon. W. P. LEACOCK, M.L.C., has been appointed President of the Legislative Council, Barbados, vice Sir GEORGE C. PILE, Kt., who, to the sincere regret of everyone in the Colony, has resigned as from May 29th, 1905.

Mr. G. H. MAY has been appointed an Inspector of Police in Trinidad. He was formerly connected with the British Guiana Constabulary, but in 1895 he proceeded to Fiji, and became Commandant of Armed Constabulary in that colony. He also acted as Aide-de-Camp to Sir Henry M. Jackson, who was Governor of Fiji from 1902 till 1904, and was then appointed Governor of Trinidad.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) June 19th. "Weather all that can be desired."
British Guiana (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), June 15th. "Weather favourable for cultivation."
Jamaica (Messrs. E. A. de Pass & Co.), June 14th. "Splendid rains, Vere."
 (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended June 8th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "1st and 2nd fine, 3rd to 6th rainy, 7th cloudy." **KINGSTON**: "1st to 7th fine, with occasional showers, 8th raining."

Export of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to June 2 1905	1904	Jan. 1 to May 31 1905	1904	April 1 to May 27 1905	1904	Jan. 1 to June 2 1905	1904	Oct. 1 to June 1 1905	1904
Sugar	14,553	25,402 Tons.	23,027	25,617 Tons.	3675	2280 Tons	261,571	308,803 Bgs & Brls	---	---
Molasses	29,182	26,754 Pms	1652	441 Pms	---	---	2322	1193 Pms	---	---
Rum	---	---	5064	8374 "	343,374	406,895 Galls.	103	24 Tms.	---	---
Molascuit	---	---	2773	1,440 Tons	---	---	134	50 Brls	---	---
Cocoa	---	---	4350	25,204 lbs.	5223	3555 Cwts	346	50 Pms.	---	---
Coffee	---	---	---	---	3000	6191 "	16,816,485	25,469,570 lbs	55,897	62,084 Bags
Coconuts	---	---	237,255	131,344	760,760	334,680	11,770	59,795 "	23	126 "
Copra	---	---	---	---	---	---	4,616,940	3,763,725	---	---
Cotton	---	---	---	---	17,599 lbs.	---	4695	9124 Bags.	647	751 Bales
Cotton Seed	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4276	4783 Bags
Asphalt	---	---	---	---	---	---	21,493	57,812 Tons	---	---
Oranges	---	---	---	---	1,067,900	360,600	---	---	---	---
Bananas	---	---	---	---	2,318,860	124,520 Bunchs	---	---	---	---
Pimento	---	---	---	---	8536	2820 Cwts.	---	---	---	---
Spice	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Gold	---	---	36,039	28,917 ozs.	---	---	---	---	3538	2512 Brls
Diamonds	---	---	2645	4447 carats.	---	---	---	---	465	396 1/2 Brls
									452	335 Cases
									158	60 Bags

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—The Sugar Markets of the world continue in a very unsettled condition, the result of the late extravagant prices produced by the speculation so often referred to in these writings, curtailing as they have done consumption everywhere. Prices are still falling and presently we may return to a range that will stimulate the distribution of sugar and so arrest any further decline, but that seems scarcely yet. Sugar in the shops is still dear—in fact it is dearer than it ought to be, seeing the prices ruling in the importing market. In the meantime the August liquidation still hangs over us, and as time passes on we rapidly lessen the period between now and the next beet crop, which can be bought at about 15. 0d per cwt. below current rates for ready sugar, causing Refiners and the Trade to buy only for their daily requirements, a policy they no doubt will pursue till the two prices come together. The beet crop of next season seems to be coming up satisfactorily, although it has made a late start. This can easily be remedied by favourable weather, and while some people are suggesting a late harvesting of the roots, it will be necessary to take into consideration the September price, which is now not far short of 15. 6d. per cwt. over that of the winter months. If this premium or anything like it is maintained till the end of the season, an early instead of a late crop may well be undertaken. Our carry-over into next season will evidently be ample, and if the weather is favourable a large beet crop may have to be dealt with.

The moment's quotations of 88% are:—June, 21s. 8½d.; August, 11s. 9½d.; September, 11s. 4d.; Oct., 10s. 1d.; and November/December, 9s. 9½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Europe	1,690,000	2,260,000	2,240,000	2,360,000	1,520,000	Tons.
United States	230,000	210,000	320,000	110,000	260,000	"
Cuba	330,000	180,000	340,000	430,000	150,000	"
Cargoes afloat	20,000	20,000	30,000	10,000	—	"
Total	2,270,000	2,670,000	2,930,000	2,910,000	1,930,000	"
Quotations of 88% Beet:—	11s. 8½d.	9s. 1½d.	7s. 10½d.	6s. 1½d.	9s. 3½d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—There has again been a good business doing in yellow crystallised at prices ranging from 17s. 6d. for inferior grades up to 19s. 6d. for small quantities of fine sugar, and the value of average qualities remains 18s. 6d. Refiners will not contract for 96 centrifugals unless already arrived, the nearest quotation for which is 13s. 3d. on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar is also in good demand, values ranging from 12s. 6d. to 16s. 6d.

Muscovado.—For 89 test to Refiners a close quotation cannot be given. Importers have offered to sell down to 11s. 6d. on floating terms, and some small lots arrived on the quay have been taken thereat, but sales forward are quite impracticable. Later business has been done at 11s. 3d.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902	
Imports	27,000	27,000	14,000	36,000	Tons
Deliveries	17,000	22,000	20,000	20,000	"
Stocks	19,000	17,000	23,000	28,000	"
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	18s. 6d.	15s. 9d.	14s. 9d.	13s. 6d.	

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 5 months:

	1905.	1904	1903.	1902.	
Home Consumption	1,663,000	1,768,000	1,657,000	1,657,000	Galls
Stocks 31st May	8,223,000	9,873,000	9,793,000	9,793,000	"
Stocks in London:					
Jamaica	8000	9200	9300	8900	Puns
Demerara	5200	10,700	7700	7000	"
Total of all kinds	21,113	28,017	7700	6904	"
				Deficiency	

There is no change in the market. Fair Demerara is still quoted 1s. 3d. Standard Home Trade Marks of Jamaica, 2s. 1d., with Leewards at 1s. to 1s. 4d. Tone quiet.

By the Board of Trade Returns published above, Consumption does not appear to expand, and our stocks are reduced only by lessened Imports.

Cocoa—Board of Trade Returns for 5 months:

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	
Imports	9985	14,402	12,396	13,126	Tons
Home Consumption	8503	9096	8746	11,555	"
Stocks 31st May	4843	6485	5873	4211	"
Stocks in London:	74,000	92,000	84,000	63,000	Bags

A steady but not active market. We are now in the summer months, when manufacturers are less fully employed. Home Consumption lags behind, and stocks, although reduced, are sufficient for all present requirements. In prices there is no alteration, and quotations remain as follows:—Trinidad fair collected, 56s.; Estate Marks, 56s. to 58s. and up to 62s. Grenada fair, 51s., and fermented, 53s. 54s. 6d. From other Islands Native Cocoa is worth, 48s., 50s., and fermented, 51s., 54s.

Coffee—Rather firm. Good ordinary Jamaica, 39s. to 40s.

Nutmegs.—Steady. West India sold, 63's at 1s. 4d., 70's at 1½d., 80's at 1od., 94's at 8d., 100's at 6½d., 145's at 5d., and in shell at 4½d. **Madace.**—Steady. Good pale sold at 1s. 5d., fair pale, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d., and fair red, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. **Pimento.**—Slow, from 2½d. to 2¾d. **Ginger.**—Jamaica in good demand and dearer. Fair to good bold sold at 60s. to 69s., low middling to middling, 48s. to 58s., ordinary to good ordinary, 40s. to 46s., and small, 36s. to 38s.

Arrowroot.—Only retail sales of good manufacturing at 1½d. Market dull.

Lime Juice.—Value, 11d. to 1s. 1d. Concentrated, steady, at £15. Hand Pressed, unchanged, at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, steady, at 1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XX.

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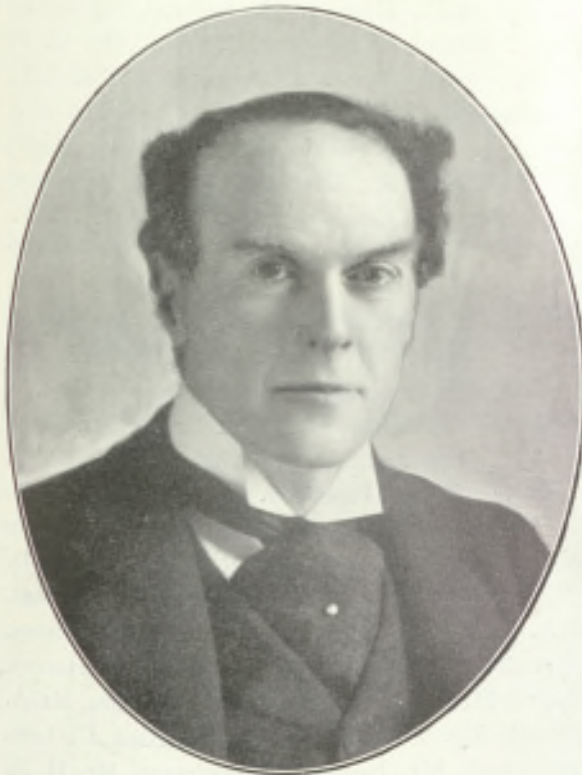
MONDAY, JULY 3rd, 1905.

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The Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, K.C., M.P.
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

July 3rd, 1905

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.

As we did after the memorable Banquet given by the West India Committee to Sir Nevile Lubbock in November, 1903, we now present to our Members a special number of *The West India Committee Circular*, giving on this occasion a verbatim report of the speeches at— if we may say so—the equally successful gathering on June 22nd at the Whitehall Rooms, when a large number of Members were present to celebrate the grant of the Royal Charter of Incorporation to the West India Committee. In spite of its being Cup Day at Ascot, and in spite of the weather being, suitably enough, almost tropical, the attendance was large and very representative, while the presence of Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and of so many distinguished guests representing the Colonial Office, the Foreign Office, the Board of Customs, and our friends in Parliament, to whom the West Indies owe so much, gave additional significance to a gathering which received the honour of a message from the King himself. Several delegates of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, who are visiting this country, were also present, and the remarks of Lord Strathcona and of the Hon. J. D. Rolland the *doyen* of our visitors from the Dominion, lead us to the belief that the Banquet, and the Luncheon to the Canadian Delegates on the following day—of which we also give a report in the present *Circular*—

may be the harbinger of closer trade relations between two British Colonies, whose commercial wants may be said to be interchangeable. This being, however, a matter to which reference will be made in the usual fortnightly issue, we need not discuss it here, but proceed at once with an account of the brilliant function of June 22nd.

The West India Committee Banquet.

Mr. E. Luxmore Marshall, Mr. Joseph Rippon, and Mr. R. Rutherford, are to be congratulated upon the success which attended the Banquet held at the Whitehall Rooms on Thursday, June 22nd, to celebrate the grant to the West India Committee of the Royal Charter of Incorporation (dated August 4th, 1904) by the King. Proceedings throughout were of a very enjoyable character, and there was no hitch whatever in the arrangements, which were admirably carried out by the manager of the Whitehall Rooms and his assistants. The guests began to arrive soon after 7 o'clock, and at 7.30, to the tune of "The Roast Beef of Old England," Sir Nevile Lubbock took the chair, supported on his right by the Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, K.C., M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies, and on his left by Lord Strathcona, High Commissioner of Canada.

Among the distinguished company present were: Lord Glanusk, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., Sir Henry K. Davson, Sir W. E. M. Tomlinson, Bart., M.P., Hon. J. D. Rolland, Sir Charles Bruce, G.C.M.G., Sir Henry Berne, K.C.B., Sir Frederick Young, K.C.M.G., Mr. C. P. Lucas, C.B., Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., Rev. Canon Sir James Philipps, Bart., Col. E. D. Malcolm of Poltalloch, C.B., Lieut.-Gen. John W. Laurie, C.B., Mr. Owen Philipps, J.P., Mr. T. J. Pittar, C.B., His Honour Sir R. Bromley, Bart., Sir J. Roper Parkington, J.P., D.L., Major-Gen. Sir H. Green, K.C.S.I., Sir M. M. Bhowagree, K.C.I.E., M.P., Professor H. von Herkomer, R.A., Mr. George Martineau, C.B., Mr. Arthur A. Pearson, C.M.G., Mr. Alexander Wylie, M.P., Mr. David McIver, M.P., Mr. J. H. Harrison, M.V.O., Mr. C. McArthur, M.P., Mr. Walsh Wrightson, C.M.G., Mr. J. H. Hart, F.L.S., Mr. Basil H. Soulsby, F.S.A., Mr. James Reid, M.P., Hon. B. Howell Jones, Mr. G. E. Amyot, Mr. W. E. Atkinson, Mr. H. B. G. Austin, Mr. G. Leslie Bannerman, Mr. Claude T. Berthon, Mr. A. E. Boland, Mr. E. St. John Branch, Mr. T. R. Bryden, Mr. T. W. Bullock, Mr. G. F. Bushe, Mr. G. Carrington, Rev. J. Clarke-Smith, Capt. T. Constantine, Mr. J. C. Coode, Mr. C. Kinloch Cooke, Mr. H. E. Cooke, Mr. John Cragg, Mr. Frank Cundall, Mr. C. Czarnikow, Mr. C. E. Davies, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. I. B. Davson, Mr. P. M. Davson, Mr. C. W. Dawson, Mr. C. E. de Mercado, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. Anthony Dey, Mr. T. du Buisson, Mr. W. P. Ebbels, Mr. A. F. Elmslie, Mr. J. B. Elmslie, Mr. A. Crum Ewing, Chairman of the West India Association of Glasgow, Mr. A. W. Farquharson, Mr. A. D. Ferguson, Mr. J. D. Flavelle, Mr. W. G. Freeman, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. William Gillespie, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. G. Graf, Mr. R. K. Gray, Mr. A. Guest, Mr. L. Guggenheim, Mr. F. Gurney, Mr. C. A. Hampton, Mr. G. C. Hampton, Mr. V. Hänschell, Mr. Lloyd Harris, Mr. Lionel Harvey, Mr. Robert Harvey, Mr. Charles Haynes, Mr. P. Hoare, Mr. J. H. Huett, Mr. G. Hughes, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. Llewellyn Jones, Mr. Walter B. Kingsford, Mr. Elliot G. Louis, Mr. Alex. G. Low, Mr. C. Mackintosh, Mr. D. Mackintosh, Mr. J. S. Mackintosh, Mr. Norman Malcolmson, Mr. H. R. Mann, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, Mr. L. A. Martin, Mr. Charles McNeil, Mr. Frank Moore, Mr. A. McDowell Nathan, Mr. Anthony D. Nicholls, Mr. E. Packard, Mr. J. Peet, Mr. Frank Preston, Mr. H. F. Previtè, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. G. S. Seton-Browne, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. B. Franklin Smith, Mr. H. K. Franklin Smith, Mr. C. W. Stevens, Mr. J. Stevenson, Mr. W. C. Stringfield, Mr. H. D. Swan, Mr. F. C. Tiarks, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. A. S. Williams, Mr. Guy C. Wyatt, Dr. A. L. Wykham, Mr. W. N. Whympers and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

THE CHAIRMAN having said grace, a sumptuous repast as set forth on the menu, of which the following is a transcription, was served :—

Wines.	Menu.	Dinner Committee.
Dry Sherry	Melon des Antilles Consommé à la Barbadienne. Crème St. Vincent.	E. LUXMOORE MARSHALL. JOSEPH RIPPON. R. RUTHERFORD. ALGERNON E. ASPINALL. <i>Secretary.</i>
Liebfraumitch.	Saumon Sauce Hollandaise. Blanchaille à la diable	
HEIDSIECK & Co., Dry Monopole, 1898.	Poularde poêlée à l'Estragon.	
DEUTZ & GELDERMANN, Gold Lack, 1898.	Punch à la Dominicaine Selle de Mouton à la Broche	
Liqueurs. Falernum Liqueur.	Petits Pois au beurre. Ignames Rissolées.	
Château Lafite, 1894.	Cailles de Vigne Bardées Salade. Chips.	
Martinez's Port.	Asperges en Branches.	
JAMAICA CIGARS.	Turban d'Ananas Ste. Lucie. Fondu à la Canadienne	
	Bombe Martinique. Génoise au Curaçao.	
	Dessert West Indian Fruit Blue Mountain Coffee, with pure Cane Sugar.	

After dinner, grace was said by the Rev. Canon Sir James Philipps, the respected father of Mr. Owen Philipps, and the toastmaster having called for silence, SIR NEVILLE LURBOCK, Chairman of the West India Committee, rose and said: The toast which I have to propose to you is the toast which we are always accustomed to drink the first on all festive occasions like the present; it is that of "His Majesty the King." You all know that His Majesty has no more loyal subjects than his subjects in the West Indies. I may tell you, anticipating what I am sure would be your wishes, that the Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee and myself have sent a telegram to His Majesty the King in the following words:—"The West India Committee, assembled at a banquet to celebrate the grant to them of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, desire us to convey to your Majesty their grateful thanks. They further desire us to take this opportunity of giving expression to their feelings of loyal affection towards your Majesty and the Royal Family." (Cheers.) Gentlemen, I give you "His Majesty the King."

The toast was drunk with cordial enthusiasm, the band playing the National Anthem.

THE CHAIRMAN: My Lords and Gentlemen, the next toast I have to propose to you is that of "Her Majesty the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the other Members of the Royal Family." I think you will all agree with me that Her Majesty has endeared herself to the people of this country, I may say of the Empire, not only by her beauty, but by the great interest which she never fails to take in the poor and the suffering. With regard to the Prince and Princess of Wales,

as you all know, they recently made a tour through some of our Colonial possessions, in which, I think, everybody admitted that they won golden opinions. They are about, as you are aware, to make a tour through our dominions in India, and I think you will all agree that they are acting very wisely in making themselves thoroughly well acquainted with that vast Empire of which the Prince of Wales is in all probability destined to become the King. I beg to give you the toast of "Her Majesty the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the other Members of the Royal Family."

The toast was duly honoured, the band playing the National Anthem and "God bless the Prince of Wales."

The Toast List and Programme of Music.

TOAST LIST.	PROGRAMME OF MUSIC.
<p>-----</p> <p>The King. Proposed by the Chairman.</p> <p>The Queen, Prince & Princess of Wales and the other Members of the Royal Family. Proposed by the Chairman</p> <p>The Houses of Parliament. Proposed by the Chairman</p> <p>Responded to by Lord Strathcona, G.C.M.G., and W. F. Lawrence, Esq., M.P.</p> <p>The West India Committee. Proposed by the Rt. Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, K.C., M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies</p> <p>Responded to by Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.</p> <p>The Empire. Proposed by Sir Henry K. Davson.</p> <p>Responded to by the Hon. J. D. Rolland, lately Vice-President of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.</p>	<p>-----</p> <p>"The Roast Beef of Old England"</p> <p>March "With Sword and Lance" ... <i>Starke</i></p> <p>Valse "Rose Mousse" <i>Bose</i></p> <p>Selection "Veronique" <i>Messager</i></p> <p>Song "Bedelia" <i>Schwartz</i></p> <p>Pizzicato "Joyeux Matin" <i>Challemont</i></p> <p>Valse "Monte Cristo" <i>Kollar</i></p> <p>"The Maple Leaf for Ever" <i>Muir</i></p> <p>Fantasia "The Catch of the Season" ... <i>Haines</i></p> <p>Entracte "Faute des Roses" <i>Berger</i></p> <p>Serenade "Slumber Song" <i>Squire</i></p> <p>Two Step "Navaho" <i>Alayune</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Director—Mr. Hubert Delma</p>

The Right Hon. ALFRED LYTTELTON, K.C., M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies: Mr. Chairman, my Lords and Gentlemen, I am sorry to have to announce to you that although there is no revolution going to take place in this country, yet, owing to the Cabinet not having finished their business this afternoon, I am summoned to the House of Commons immediately, and so your Chairman has been good enough to put me up, not under the ten minutes rule, but under the two minutes rule. (Laughter.) It has been complained recently in the House of Commons that it is impossible to describe or to explain any Bill in ten minutes, and it surely, therefore, *a fortiori*, is absolutely impossible to do anything approaching justice to "The West India Committee" in the beggarly allowance of two minutes. But although I begged that the Chairman would ask any of the numerous orators whom I see round me, and who would have done due justice to this toast, to take my place, he said that the company would rather that I said a few words of goodwill—(cheers)—a wish which it is my entire pleasure to obey. But it must be only two minutes, and I have not, I am afraid, had time to



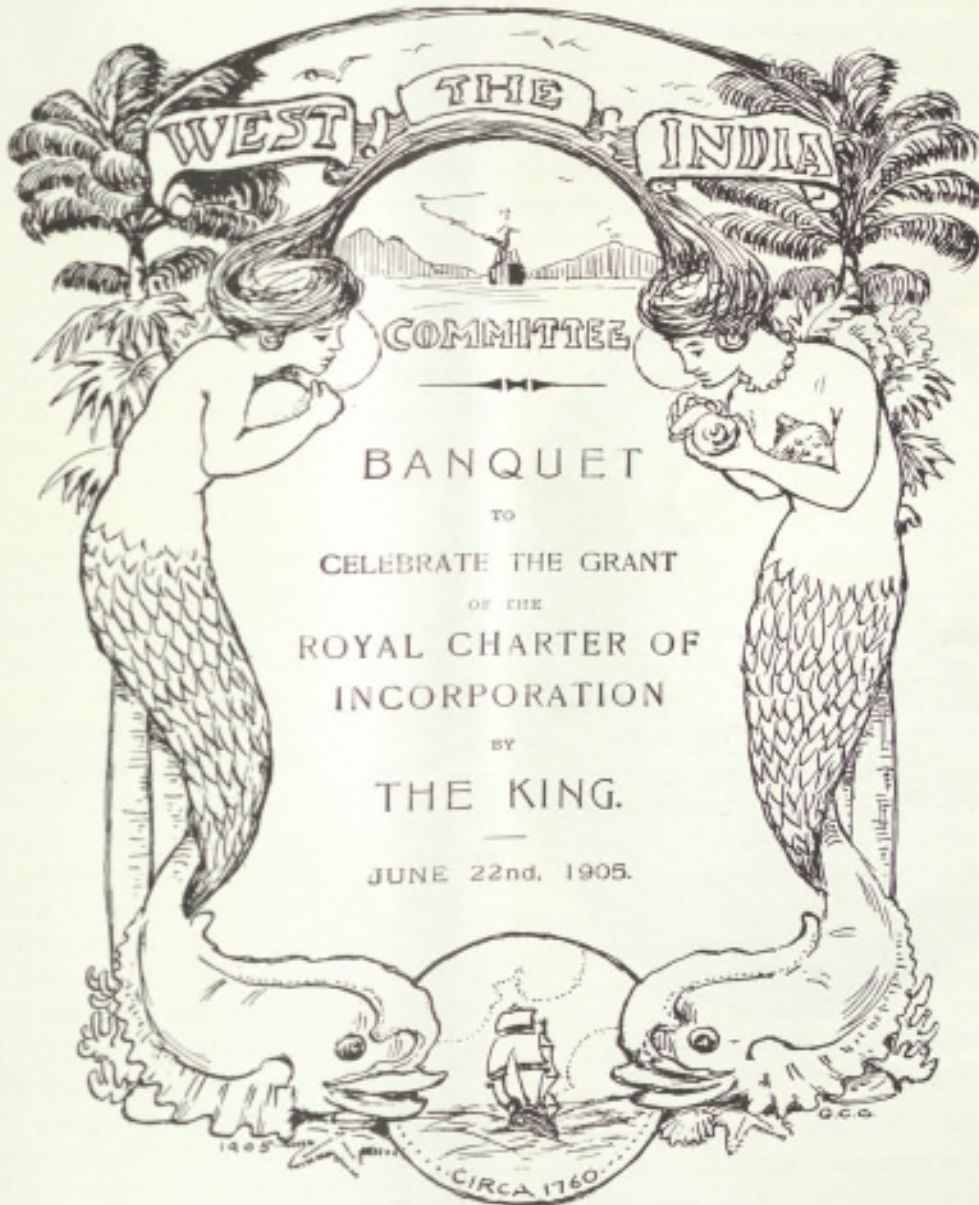
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The West India Committee

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE BANQUET,

JUNE 22nd, 1905.

condense into suitable epigrammatic form all the feelings that surge in my breast when I think of the West India Committee. But I may say this, that they have been uniformly kind to me personally, that they have been of great assistance to me, that they keep us in the Colonial Office well informed—*“hear, hear,”* and laughter—and, let me add, well criticised. (Renewed cheers and laughter.) And



The Front of the Menu of the Banquet.

This design was specially drawn for the occasion by Lady Carter, wife of the Governor of Barbados, to whom the West India Committee is accordingly indebted.

I can conceive no function more worthy of a kind and genial friend than first to give you information, and nothing that endears him so much, perhaps in a remote future, as when he gives you sincere and candid criticism. (Laughter.) Both those functions have been performed by my friends around me. Let me assure them that I accept most of their information, and that I thoroughly enjoy and

appreciate their criticism. (Renewed laughter and cheers.) Gentlemen, it is quite time that I must go, but let me first wish to the West India Committee long life, prosperity, and all possible good. (Cheers.) Mr. Lyttelton then left, the toast having been drunk with enthusiasm.

THE CHAIRMAN in responding said: My Lords and Gentlemen, but for Mr. Lyttelton's hasty departure from us I should have had to rise before this to thank him for the very kind manner in which he proposed the toast of "The West India Committee," and you all for the very kind way in which you received that toast. We are met together this evening, as you all know, to celebrate the granting to us of a Charter by His Majesty the King recently, therefore, it is a proper opportunity for me to give you some little information with regard to the history of the West India Committee. (Hear, hear.) Like many other influential bodies the origin of the West India Committee is lost in the mists of antiquity, but we have records which go back to 1769. At that time apparently one of



Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
Chairman of the West India Committee.

the chief duties of the West India Committee was making arrangements with the Admiralty for convoys to accompany the fleets which sailed from the shores of this country to the West Indies. It appears to have been the custom for the West India fleet and for the convoy to meet together in the Downs; then they all sailed off together, and they had a rendezvous at Madeira, and then from Madeira they sailed on to the West Indies. Subsequent to that there is a record of certain correspondence with Lord Nelson and with Admiral Keppel. There is a very interesting letter on record from Lord Nelson in reply to one which the West India Committee sent to him congratulating him on his voyage to the West Indies in pursuit of the French fleet, and his having returned home and found that he had been right in his surmise that they were there. Lord Nelson in his very modest reply said that in pursuing the French fleet to the West Indies he was only performing his obvious duty, and he added that the West India Committee might feel perfectly happy in the fact that the militia forces of the West Indies were perfectly competent to repel any attack which could be made upon them by any troops which

the French fleet could have carried, at any rate until succour arrived. I am afraid, gentlemen, that if Lord Nelson were alive to-day he could hardly say as much. It is one of the points that I shall have to say a word about by-and-by, that we fear the West Indies are left rather denuded of any sort of protection. (Hear, hear.) I must refer again to the West India Committee. After that there appears to be a record of banquets at which royalties were present, and I daresay most of you have seen that very quaint picture in the back room of one of the banquetting tables with no guests, but with all the seats, and the names of all the guests who were to be present.* Amongst them are the names of the

* Sir Nevile Lubbock referred to Cruikshank's water-colour plan of the tables of the West India Committee Banquet, now in the possession of the London and India Docks Company, and lent by them for the occasion. It was placed on an easel in the reception room. A reproduction of the painting was given in *The West India Committee Circular*, No. 73.

Duke of Clarence, who was afterwards William IV., and the Duke of York; and amongst them also are several names which are well-known to us West Indians at the present day. I am afraid that there are not many representatives of them at the present time—such names as Daniel, Michael Cavan, Marryat, and so on appear upon the chairs at this banquetting table. That picture is supposed to have been painted about the year 1815. Not long after that came the abolition of slavery which, of course, was a great blow to the West Indies. It completely upset all their labour conditions, but the West Indies apparently recovered from that within a comparatively few years. Then came the worst blow of all, which was the equalisation of the sugar duties. The passage of a measure like that would not generally be supposed to have had a very large bearing upon humanity generally. The fact that slave-grown sugar was to pay the same duty as free-grown sugar might well be supposed to be, by people casually looking at it, a measure of no very great importance to the world at large, but I think it can be very conclusively shown that probably no measure has been so disastrous in its effect upon the human race as the measure for the equalisation of the sugar duties. (Hear, hear.) It can be almost conclusively proved that at least 1,000,000 of our fellow-creatures were condemned to the horrors of the slave trade, with the subsequent horrors of slavery in the West Indies—or, rather, in Brazil and in Cuba—who would certainly, if that measure had been delayed for two or three years, never have been made slaves of at all. I have looked into this matter rather closely, and I think I can assure you that if any of you have studied the history of that time you will find that these facts can be almost conclusively proved.

After that, Gentlemen, the West Indies began gradually to recover, but they were still oppressed by this competition with slave-grown sugar in Cuba, because Brazil abolished slavery long before Cuba did; but at last Cuba abolished slavery, and then, of course, we thought that we should have doubtless a fair chance of equal competition with the rest of the world. Not a bit of it. Then came the worst trouble of all—the European sugar bounties. No sooner had we begun to get upon our legs than we found these bounties were started. We did not at first realise their importance; we none of us, I think, conceived the immense effect that they were going to have upon the West Indies. But after these bounties had been pushed to a great extent—that is to say, the Government bounties—there came another bounty on the top of them, a bounty which is known as the cartel bounty, and that cartel bounty was absolutely the finishing touch. It is not too much to say that had those cartel bounties gone on for another year, or had there been no prospect of their abolition, the sugar industry of the West Indies would undoubtedly have been given up. But I may add a great deal more than that. I happen to know that there is hardly any doubt that the sugar industry of Java would have been abandoned also. (Hear, hear.) It was perfectly obvious to everybody who grew sugar, and who had not got some unnatural, some artificial advantage, that it was perfectly hopeless for them to compete against those cartel bounties, combined with the Government bounties. When I tell you that at that time the price of beetroot sugar was £6 a ton, and that the bounties which they received amounted to £4 a ton, you will understand how absolutely hopeless it must have been for anybody to have competed against such a state of things.

Well, in dealing with the bounties to-night, I must say this much with regard to the discussion which has taken place with reference to the Convention lately, that those who have been attacking the Government for having been parties to the Brussels Convention ought to be only too grateful to them, because but for that Convention there is no question that the price of sugar would have been fabulous this year. (Cheers.) We should have had absolutely no sugar to depend upon except the beetroot sugar in Europe, and, as you know, last summer was an exceptionally dry summer, and the beetroot crop of Europe was enormously deficient. It was deficient to the extent of very nearly 1,250,000 tons, and as the whole crop of Europe is about 6,000,000 tons, it must be obvious

to everybody what a fabulous price we must have had to pay for sugar in this country had it not been for the Brussels Convention, which maintained the cane sugar production, and, in fact, not only maintained it, but tended somewhat to increase it. (Cheers.)

I think that brings the West India Committee up to date. I would only like to add one word more in regard to my early experience of the West India Committee. At that time they had a practice which I think had a great deal to commend it, and it is one from which we have departed of late, I fear without any very great advantage. In my young days, when we had to attend a deputation—say a deputation of the West India Committee waited upon a Minister—it was always the duty of the Secretary to state our case to the Minister, and the Chairman and the Deputy-Chairman and the rest of the Committee sat round and smiled their approbation. (Laughter.) Now, in these degenerate days, when we go to a Minister, the Chairman and the Deputy-Chairman and other members of the West India Committee are expected to confront the Minister, and the Secretary sits upon the chair and smiles his approbation. (Renewed laughter.) That is the only difference in our practice that I can call to mind.

Well now, Gentlemen, I think I have said enough about the West India Committee, and I wish, before I sit down, to propose an important toast. It is that of "The Houses of Parliament." (Cheers.) I very much regret that our old friend, the Duke of Marlborough, is not able to be present to-night. He fully intended to come, but when he accepted our invitation, I think, like our Secretary, he perhaps overlooked the fact that there is a very important function going on to-day elsewhere, and he, as you know, has been one of the house party at Windsor Castle, and consequently he was unable to be present here to-night. I very much regret his absence, because I should like to say, and I should have liked to have said it if he had been here, that he has always shown himself to be a great friend of the West Indies, and of the West India Committee. He has attended our dinners, and on one occasion he was pleased to come to the West India Committee Rooms to preside over a meeting we had to hear a lecture by Sir Patrick Manson. (Cheers.) But I am very glad to see we have here another old friend in Lord Strathcona. (Renewed cheers.) I think that we all feel that there is some sort of a natural bond, whether of sympathy or of sentiment, let us hope that some day it may be something more, between the West Indies and Canada. Lord Strathcona was good enough to say in accepting our invitation, that he not only would be glad to be amongst West Indians, but he was glad to be present here to-night, taking an interest as he did in the question of the commercial relations between Canada and the West Indies. (Cheers.) I do not propose to go into that question to-night, because Sir Henry Davson has got a toast to propose to you almost immediately, and he will deal with that question. But I should merely like to say this, that I think, as regards sentiment, the sentiment of the West Indies for Canada is quite as great as that of Canada for the West Indies, that there is every possible wish on the part of the West Indies to do what they can to promote a commercial arrangement with Canada. Lord Strathcona knows that there have been difficulties in the way, difficulties which it was quite impossible at the time for the West Indies to surmount, but I think I may say, and I think West Indians here will confirm us in the view, that those difficulties are rapidly passing away, and for my own part I have very great hopes that within the next two or three years some commercial arrangement with Canada may be found to be of advantage both to the West Indies and to Canada. (Cheers.) I might, perhaps, in connection with that subject, make just one remark; Canada has shewn her wish to approach the West Indies by reducing the duties on West Indian sugar by 33½%. Whatever the Canadian Government may wish, unfortunately so long as Canada cannot take anything like the whole of the production of the West Indies, that reduction in the duty very largely goes into the pockets of the Canadian refiners, and is not the advantage to the West Indies that might be expected. There are times, when the supply from the West Indies is small, when the West Indies do undoubtedly

benefit by the duty ; but during the latter months of the year, when the Demerara crop is on—which is the largest crop of the West Indies—the West Indies derive no benefit. That is not the fault of Canada. Canada could not do more than she has done in indicating her wishes in the matter—(cheers)—and as long as the West Indies can see their way to do it without loss, they will be only too glad to make some arrangement with Canada.

I have to propose to you the House of Lords. As I have stated, we often hear it said that the House of Lords is a drag upon the Constitution of this country. I think that those of you who have risked your lives on a motor-car must have realised the great advantage of an efficient drag. (Laughter.) I know that I have, and I am generally very glad when the drag is put on. (Renewed laughter.) But more especially is an efficient drag necessary and of advantage when you get a rash and headlong chauffeur. Now, I think you will all admit that there are plenty of rash and headlong chauffeurs in the House of Commons—(laughter)—and therefore I think the fact that we have a drag in the House of Lords is of enormous importance to the country. (Cheers.)

Passing away from the House of Lords to the House of Commons, I am very glad that we have here a good many members of that House who have shown themselves very good friends to the West Indies, and they have devoted a great deal of time in the past to master the questions in which we were deeply interested at the time when the sugar bounties was a leading question before the House of Commons. They gave us most important assistance and most important advice, and I wish that more of them were here. But still, several of them are with us to-night, and I am very glad to take this opportunity on behalf of the West Indies of thanking them for all they do for us. (Loud cheers.)

I have only to add that the sugar bounties question is not the only question that interests the West Indies at the present moment. There are other questions. I will not say that they are exceedingly acute, but at any rate they are very important. There is the question of the postal service, the question of the telegraph service, and the question of the withdrawal of the troops. (Hear, hear.) I do not know that we have anything more to ask our House of Commons friends for at the present moment than to keep these questions before them, but we should like and we should be very glad if, when Mr. Lawrence replies for the House of Commons, he could give us some sort of assurance that our friends will continue to take an interest in our welfare, and that we may still approach them in regard to any question that interests us. (Cheers.)

Gentlemen, I have detained you a long time. (Cries of "No, no.") I now beg to give you the toast of "The House of Lords and the House of Commons," coupled with the names of Lord Strathcona for the House of Lords and of Mr. Lawrence for the House of Commons.

The toast was drunk with the utmost cordiality.

THE CHAIRMAN subsequently said: Gentlemen, I think you will all like to hear this telegram which I have just received from Lord Knollys:—

"I have had the honour of submitting to the King the telegram signed by you, the Deputy-Chairman and the Secretary of the West India Committee. I am commanded by His Majesty, in reply, to inform you that it gave him much pleasure to approve of a Royal Charter of Incorporation being granted to the Committee, and that he highly appreciates their words of loyal devotion towards him and the Royal Family.—
KNOLLYS."

The announcement was received with prolonged cheers.

LORD STRATHCONA: My Lords and Gentlemen, it is a very great pleasure to me to be here this evening with the West India Committee, celebrating as it does its new and its Royal Charter, with the other guests. I know how much you miss in not having here to-night the Duke of Marlborough. You would have had from him an address to which you and all of us would have listened with very great pleasure, and with instruction as well, both with regard to the House of Lords and other pertinent matters. For myself, I am but a very recent importation into the House of Lords, while he is one of the oldest members, or rather representing one of the oldest. But even he and I are somewhat akin, as I mentioned to him once while we were sitting together at a dinner such as this of to-night. He is the lineal descendant of the great Marlborough; I am the successor of that same Marlborough as at this moment, the Governor of another old Company—the Hudson's Bay Company, of which the Duke of Marlborough was the third Governor, the first being the gallant Rupert, the second James II., who was not long a King, and the third the great Duke of Marlborough, and in this respect we come together somewhat, he and I. (Cheers.)



Lord Strathcona, G.C.M.G.

High Commissioner for Canada.

It is, however to me a very great privilege to be with you this evening, and I can see how proud you must feel, what a great satisfaction it must be to you, Sir, and the other members of the West India Committee, to know that you have the patronage of our King in giving you a Royal Charter. (Cheers.)

The Company with which I am connected had its Royal Charter too, from Charles II., and I am glad to say that to-day, although it is pretty nearly 250 years—two centuries and a half—ago, it is still alive, it is not effete, but it has all the vitality it had in its youth. So I hope it may be with your Committee, Sir, and with everything connected with the West Indies, that this is a beginning only of a time of such prosperity as they had eighty or a hundred years ago, at a time when it was the ambition of young men from every part of the Kingdom I presume—I know it was from that portion of it to which I belong, Scotland—to get either to India or the West Indies, and I believe a very great many of them went to the West Indies. There is a gentleman sitting near me this evening who has had family connections with the West Indies for more than two centuries—almost two centuries and

a half—beginning at a time when my own Company, if I may presume to call it so, commenced to have an existence. Perhaps, therefore, I can speak more freely of these things, and perhaps with a better knowledge and understanding of them than I can of the great advantage it is to the United Kingdom and the Empire as well to have two Houses of Parliament—one the Commons, who are all-powerful, and who use that power for the best interests of the community. I think, however, that it is well that there is a drag upon the chariot sometimes, and we are all aware that there have been occasions on which the House of Lords has done a true service to the State in giving time for reflection, and not passing hastily measures which were put before it. (Cheers.)

You have referred, Sir, to Canada and its relations with the West Indies, and remarked that it is so far little else than sentiment; but I do assure you that the feeling of Canadians is not only kindly, but most cordial towards the West Indies. I believe that they will hold out the hand of fellowship on all occasions with regard to commerce, and with regard to everything that goes to the mutual benefit of Canada and the West Indies, of Great Britain and of the Empire. We have in Canada the nation first born among the nations of the Empire, and we have also in Australia a Commonwealth. Let us hope that there will be ere long another Commonwealth, a Dominion, or call it what you may, in South Africa. And why should we not look forward also to have yet another of the West Indies?—these all giving strength to themselves, and strength also to the parent country and to the Empire of which we are all so proud. (Cheers.)

But Canada has not stopped altogether at sentiment. It has shown that it was anxious to give a substantial benefit to the West Indies, and I am glad to think that all Canadians were pleased to see the stand that this Government took on a certain occasion, some two years or a little more ago, when a nation, in its pride and its power, thought it would punish Canada for the preference she gave to the Mother Country. (Cheers.) On that, Canada determined that she would assert what she believed to be her right, and in doing so she put on duties as against that nation—only doing what it had first done to her—that it should not receive the same advantageous terms as other countries, but should have a tax put upon its goods. She chose to favour the Mother Country, and Canada put a surtax against the importation from Germany, including other things, of sugar. What was the result? I have been handed here two or three figures which show what it was. In 1903 the imports of sugar into Canada from Germany were equal to \$3,116,741 in value. The next year, after the surtax was put on, what were they?—\$368,717 only. (Cheers.) While, with regard to the West Indies in 1903, the value of the sugar coming from the West Indies to Canada was \$1,094,785, while in 1904 it was \$3,854,903. Thus the position was reversed. The decrease in the importation of German sugar was \$2,748,024, while the increase in West Indian was \$2,760,118. (Cheers.)

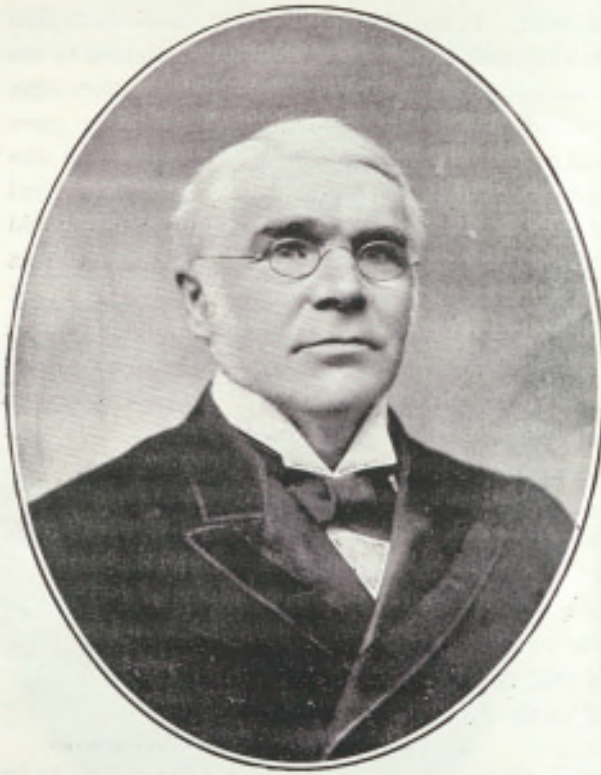
I hope it may be looked upon as a good earnest, a good beginning, and that we shall have within a comparatively short time those commercial and other relations and ties as between Canada and the West Indies; but Canada is a portion of the great Empire, and Canada has no desire to be anything else. This is only a beginning of what, in a comparatively short time, has been done in these relations between these two countries, and I am sure that the wish and prayer will go out for their increase and strengthening from all of us who look to the best interests of the West Indies, of the Dominion of Canada, and of the Empire.

It is not my desire or my wish to detain you, and I am very greatly pleased indeed, Sir, to be here. I was much pleased to listen to your account of the West Indies, and to know that there is a lifting of the cloud. It may not appear to be very great, it may not appear to be very clear, but we shall have, no doubt, a clear sky hereafter.

With regard to Canada, there is a small matter to which I would refer. A few years ago I was approached with regard to the making of an electric tramway in Jamaica, and I am glad to say that we did take up that project—that it was Canadians who took it up, and I had the privilege of being one of them. That is a tramway which I understand is doing very well indeed, and is doing much good for the people of Kingston and the surrounding districts. That is one thing, but it is what we have a right to look forward to. I thank you much for coupling my name with this toast, and I thank you, my Lords and Gentlemen, for the kind manner in which you have listened to me. (Cheers.)

MR. W. F. LAWRENCE, M.P.: Mr. Chairman, my Lords, and Gentlemen, I esteem it no little honour to have my name connected with this toast; and not merely is it an honour, but it is, among

West Indians and at a West Indian dinner, one of the greatest pleasures that I am able to respond for the House of Commons on this occasion. I cannot help, when answering to-night for the House of Commons, remembering that it is ten years ago, within a very few months, when I had the pleasure of being entertained in that most hospitable island of Barbados. (Hear, hear). And I was able, with some prescience, if I may modestly say so, to be a prophet (for the prophesy came off) when I informed the Barbadians that, judging from my diagnosis of the future, the chances were that before very long the people of England would see the justice of their demand, namely, that the West Indians should have the same equality of opportunity in the markets of the Mother Country, as others, in other commodities than sugar, were allowed. I am glad to think that what I then said has been proved to be true, and what I have for many years advocated in the city which I have the honour to represent,



MR. W. J. LAWRENCE, M.P.

Lately Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of the Anti-Romily League.

has been endorsed by the people of this country. I feel convinced, too, that the justice of the policy which was then carried out, namely, the abolition of the sugar bounties has been appreciated, and there will be no going back. (Cheers.)

I feel very much the honour of having to follow the noble lord who has just preceded me. I little thought that to-night I should have the pleasure of standing next to a distinguished Canadian, and I cordially sympathise with the remarks that he has made, namely, that Canada and the West Indies should be more closely drawn together. (Hear, hear.) It is all the more interesting to me since the few tons of sugar I have been permitted to make have been sent to the markets which he knows so well. He has kindly referred to the fact that the great company, of which he is so distinguished a member,—I believe the President—synchronises in its early foundation with the connection of my modest name with the fortunes of the West Indies. For seven generations we have, like some of you here, cultivated the soil of the West Indies, and I venture to think that our days of trouble and trial are passed, inasmuch as we who are interested in the soil of the West Indies may look forward with a very certain hope that we shall get the reward of our labours. (Cheers.) It is a fact that in days gone by, for the last generation or so, those who sowed could not foretell what kind of harvest they would get in the markets of the world. Some have criticised the Brussels Convention; but it is not merely an act of justice; it is obviously an act of common-sense. So far from restricting, so far from increasing the price of the commodity from which the world draws so much happiness, it creates the cultivation, inasmuch as it sets free the cultivation in the tropics; so that side by side with the cultivation in the temperate zone, these two great districts may yield their produce for the benefit of mankind, and I am sure that that policy will not be gone back upon. (Cheers.)

I understand my name is to-day associated with this toast, and I speak on behalf of those of my colleagues of the House of Commons who have for many years borne the burden and the heat of a somewhat, for a long time, unpopular movement, but we do not regret the long lane, because the

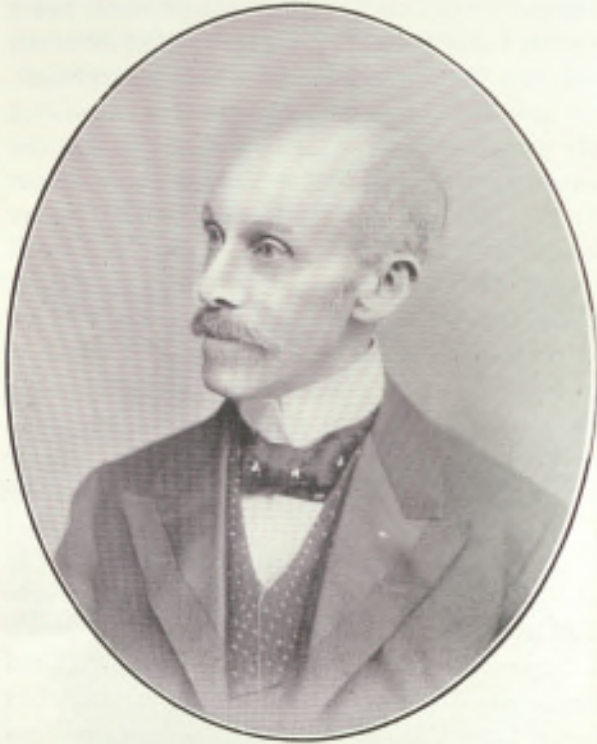
ending has come ; and we little thought when the ending would come we should be entertained at this handsome reception this evening. (Hear, hear). I can assure you, we in the House of Commons, who for so many years have been as it were like Sisyphus rolling the stone uphill, appreciate the kindness and the courtesy which the West India Committee have always shown us, and we wish it God-speed in the work which it has before it. (Cheers.) When I mention those of my colleagues, I am sure many of you who know the work which has been done by certain of us will regret, though in silence, some who have passed from us whom we should have been glad to have seen here to-night. My friends, Colonel Milward (hear, hear), and Mr. Donald Nicol, may worthily be mentioned, but I assure you, in the questions which still lie before the West India Committee, we shall, all of us, in our humble station, be prepared to do all we can to advance the great interests which we represent. (Cheers.) I am one of those who believe that however little the islands in this so-called or once-called Spanish Main may now be depreciated ; yet assuredly when the Panama Canal comes they will rise in value, and will only be second to the great importance which they held in the estimation of our grandfathers ; and it ill becomes this Government or any other Government which succeeds it, to lay little stress on the loyalty that is embosomed in those islands ; it becomes them assuredly to do all they can to cement the union which at present brings us, the Mother Country, and those islands together, and they ought to hesitate before they do anything to sap those loyal feelings which are still worth having, although the population expressing them may not always be of so white a colour as we are here to-night. (Cheers.) Be sure of this, the loyalty of those islands is second to none in the length and breadth of the British Empire, and they hold a position of advantage on one of the great trade routes in the future to be made ; and therefore let us do nothing to sap the loyalty or to show in any sense that we do not appreciate the feelings which over and over again they have shown by their suffering and their sacrifice. (Cheers.)

When I speak for the members of the House of Commons who together with me worked in advance for the interests which you represent, I quite recognise that as the representation is only limited in numbers, we could have effected nothing had it not been that there sat on the front bench of the House of Commons a man of distinguished Imperialism, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain. (Loud cheers.) With all our zeal and all our labours we should have been but flies on the coach wheel had it not been that Mr. Chamberlain made the country at large think of our Imperial duties and our Imperial responsibilities. (Loud cheers.)

While thanking you for the handsome manner in which you have drunk the health of the House of Commons, of which the members here are humble representatives, we shall do well to remember that we have a friend like Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, who can look beyond the narrow seas of the United Kingdom to the great world Empire which belongs to it. (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

SIR HENRY DAVSON : Mr. Chairman, My Lords and Gentlemen, the toast which has been entrusted to me is a double one, "The Empire and our Guests." The first portion looks very formidable, and might lead you to imagine that I was about to tire you with an elaborate disquisition on Imperialism, but I can at once relieve your minds by the frank assurance that I have no intention of being guilty of such a breach of hospitality. In fact, the subject has been already dealt with. The word Empire has pervaded the whole proceedings of the evening. The enthusiastic cheers which greeted the loyal toasts spell the word "Empire." The hearty response which greeted the toast of the Houses of Parliament proved our respect for those two august Assemblies as the guardians of the Empire. The replies were made by one who has spent a great portion of his life in efforts for the consolidation of the Empire and by one who has done good service to that section of the Empire known as the West Indies. Gentlemen, the word "Empire," so rich in its suggestions, brings back to us the memory of one of the most distinguished statesmen of modern times, who first put the idea of

Empire into language, I mean the late Lord Beaconsfield (cheers) and it revives our gratitude to the first Colonial Minister who not only emphasised that language, but who had the courage to put the theory into practical shape by his courageous recognition of the value and importance of the Colonies. I refer of course to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain. And this brings me to the names of those who have so loyally supported him. Sir Henry Bergne and Mr. Pittar, whom we welcome to-night, were the British delegates who protected the interests of the Empire at the Brussels Conference. Mr. Lucas and Mr. Pearson are here, fresh from the Colonial Office, to pronounce their blessing on us



Sir Henry W. Dawson.

at this our celebration of the bestowal to us by the King of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, obtained through the influence of the Colonial Secretary, who at great personal inconvenience has honoured us with his presence for a short period. We have Colonial Administrators who have come here as the official links between the Colonies and the Mother Country. We have Members of Parliament whose health has been proposed under a separate toast, but whom I claim individually under this toast. We have a well-known friend who has done much for the Empire in connection with a kindred Association, whose motto is the "King and the United Empire," Sir Frederick Young, and lastly, Gentlemen, we have our distinguished visitors from the premier Colony of the Empire, the great Dominion of Canada (cheers), who have set a great example in their endeavours to weld together the various units of the Empire. I remember as far back as 1863, when the idea seemed to be still a dream of the future, a number of prominent Members of the Canadian Parliament paid a visit to the West Indian Colonies.

It was at the time when the late Sir Francis Hincks was Governor of British Guiana, and who was previously, as well as subsequently, Finance Minister of Canada, in order to see if some inter-colonial relations could be established between us. Nothing came of it at the moment, but the Canadians never lost sight of it, with the result that they have since given us a preferential tariff in favour of our staple product. (Cheers.) The finances of the West Indian Colonies were not sufficiently elastic at the time to enable the West Indies to reciprocate in the way that I hope they may be able to do later, but in the meantime they have earned our gratitude, and it is under this feeling that I couple with the toast the name of the Honourable J. D. Rolland, of Quebec. (Cheers.)

The toast was drunk with enthusiasm, the band playing "The Maple Leaf for Ever" and other patriotic airs.

The Hon. J. D. ROLLAND: Mr. Chairman, my Lords, and Gentlemen, it is a great pleasure to me to have the honour of assisting at this banquet. When yesterday Mr. Murray, the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, informed me that I should have to respond to this toast, I accepted with pleasure, and my only regret is that a better speaker was not chosen. You will believe me when I say that Canada has been working to improve her commercial relations with the West Indies. In

times past we had a line of steamers running, but they did not give us satisfaction, and pressure was brought to bear upon the Government to enter into a contract with another company. The contract has been renewed for this year, with permission to continue the service, but the contract has only been renewed for one year, and if the relations are not more satisfactory our Government will go to another steamship company, because we realise that if we want to have trade, we must afford great facilities of transport. (Hear, hear.)

One of the principal articles that we import is sugar, and I had intended to say a few words upon that subject, but our friend, Lord Strathcona, has given you so much valuable information that it is unnecessary for me to say very much more in regard to it. I am sure that the figures which his Lordship gave to you, showing that the importation of sugar from the West Indies into Canada had enormously increased, must have been very gratifying to you, and it must be a greater gratification to you to know, as I am informed, that for the last six months the progress has been continued. Of course, I may say that before this change took place, the sugar that we had been using was not so good as that which my parents used to have, because that was the sugar of the West Indies. (Cheers.)

Not only has the trade from the West Indies augmented, but we are now shipping from Canada the products of our country, which used before to be imported from the United States. This trade between Canada and the West Indies has considerably increased, and no doubt before long it will increase still further. The West Indies are now regarded in Canada as one of our winter resorts. In this way people from Canada pass their winter in the West Indies, and before I left, a friend of mine, a Member of Parliament, who had just returned from the West Indies, informed me what a splendid time he had had there during the winter season, and I have no doubt in this part of the Empire people will be able to combine a pleasure visit with the maintenance of business. (Cheers.)

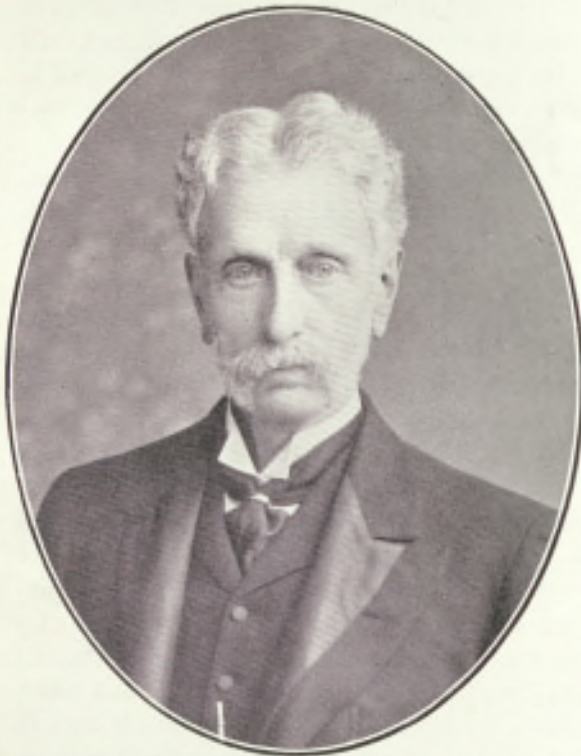
Gentlemen, as the representative of the Canadian manufacturers, I may say that since we arrived here we have been everywhere received by friends. I have been to England on many occasions before, but never before have I experienced and appreciated the hospitality of the English people to Colonial people. I have been coming backwards and forwards to England for the last twenty years, but never in my life have I received such hospitality as the present deputation of Canadian manufacturers has received from the commencement of our visit to London. Our appreciation of your kindness will, I am sure, be shown by the increased affection which we entertain for England, and no memory will be more agreeable to us than our reception by the King. (Cheers.) I have been asked what was the relation of the French Canadian to the English? Well, as I told a friend of mine, we have no complaint of the English Crown, because, as I had occasion to say once in Paris, we govern ourselves, we have our liberty, and as long as the English Government will treat us as we are treated to-day, I repeat, in the language of one of our foremost politicians, the last gun between England and France has been fired. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, I thank you very much.

SIR FREDERICK YOUNG: Gentlemen, if you will do me the favour to refer for a moment to your toast list, you will not perceive that my name is upon it. I therefore beg to say that I have been called upon very unexpectedly to propose a toast, which I do with the greatest possible pleasure. If ever there was an occasion on which it was my delight to take part in a public meeting of this kind, it would be the present one, when, in the language of that very distinguished statesman, to whom it would be the present one, when, in the language of that very distinguished statesman, to whom reference has already been so aptly made—Mr. Chamberlain—we ought to think Imperially. (Cheers.) It has struck me in listening to the speeches that have been made this evening that that sentiment is entertained and heartily endorsed by every one present. (Renewed cheers.)

I have the honour to propose to you the health of your Chairman (cheers), a gentleman whose career I have long admired and witnessed with the greatest possible satisfaction. I do not at this moment refer more particularly to the reasons which would make him honoured on every occasion.

which he has taken a distinguished part, but I may refer more particularly to the active part he took in reference to a matter of which we have known so much. It is what he did in reference to the great Brussels Convention. That was enough to win for him the regard and esteem of every Briton, and of every one connected with the West Indies.

In my very early life my family were a good deal interested in the West Indies. I may say I almost lisped the word "sugar." That word in those days meant that prosperity of a considerable kind was attached to the West Indies, and my family were a good deal connected as ship-owners with the West Indian trade. Of course, I have known, through a very long life all the history of the ups and downs, and particularly the downs, of the West Indies during the last few years, but I am delighted to find and to hear from all those who are best able to judge, that all that long period of depression is



Sir Frederick Young, K.C.M.G.

Vice-President and formerly Hon. Secretary of the Royal Colonial Institute.

rapidly passing away, and that a cycle of prosperity in the future is likely to take place in those Colonies which form so important a part of the British Empire. I will not detain you any longer at this late hour. I could say a great deal more with reference to my friend your Chairman, but I have said enough, I hope, to commend my toast to you and that you will all most heartily drink it. (Cheers.)

The toast was received with the warmest cordiality, every one rising to his feet and joining in singing "For he's a jolly good fellow."

THE CHAIRMAN, who on rising to speak was received with cheers, again and again renewed, said: My Lords and Gentlemen, I beg in the first place to thank my old friend, Sir Frederick Young, for the very kind things he has said of me in proposing the toast of my health to you, and I have to thank you all, Gentlemen, most warmly for the cordial manner in which you have received the toast. I do not propose to inflict another speech upon you this evening, but I was asked just now by one of the gentlemen of the Press what advantage to us accrued from the Charter. I might perhaps say just one word on this subject. I think that you all know that the Charter confers upon us what I believe

is a most valued privilege of every British born subject, that we can now sue, and we can be sued. (Laughter.) There are, I know, cynical gentlemen who say that they do not know which of the two is the greater calamity, but at any rate, joking apart, I think you will all admit that being more or less a rope of sand for the last hundred and fifty years, it is time we got something like a legal status. That the Charter has now given us, and I think it is a very proper thing that we should have that status. I do not propose to detain you any longer, but I beg to thank you once more for the very cordial manner in which you have received the toast of my health. (Cheers.)

The band then played "God save the King," and the company gradually dispersed.

The Luncheon to the Canadian Visitors.

A number of the Delegates of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association who are visiting this country were entertained by the West India Committee at luncheon at the Crystal Palace on Friday, June 23rd. The principal object of their visit was to enable them to inspect the very representative exhibits of Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad, and of numerous private exhibitors connected with the West Indies in the Colonial Exhibition. The party, numbering in all nearly one hundred, travelled to the Palace in special saloon carriages attached to the 11.33 train from Victoria, and were received on arrival by Mr. Schenk, Chairman of the Crystal Palace Company, and Mr. Cozens, the Managing Director of the Company. They proceeded at once to the West Indian Court, where they spent over an hour closely inspecting the various exhibits, which were explained to them by Mr. J. H. Hart and representatives of each of the Colonies above named.

At one o'clock an adjournment was made to the Club Restaurant, where a *recherche* luncheon was served, among those present being:—Sir Nevile Lubbock, Sir Henry K. Davson, Mr. Arthur A. Pearson, C.M.G., Mr. T. C. Macnaghten, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., Hon. J. D. Rolland, Mr. H. E. Bond, Mr. T. B. Botham, Mr. W. A. Campbell, Mr. L. H. Cashmere, Mr. W. B. Chalmers, Mr. S. H. Chapman, Miss A. S. Clarke, Mr. J. H. Cozens, Mr. Charles E. de Mercado, Mr. Frank A. Derry, Mr. W. C. Dyett, Mr. A. L. Eastmore, Mr. & Mrs. E. Fairbairn, Mr. W. Grose, Mr. F. Gurney, Mr. & Mrs. Hankinson, Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Hart, Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Holland, Mr. R. H. Hooper, Mr. Geo. Hughes, Mr. W. Johnson, Mr. Llewellyn Jones, Mr. Howard A. Kennedy, Mr. Hartmann Krug, Mrs. Annie M. Krug, Mr. H. H. Lang, Mr. E. Leigh-Bennett, Mr. C. McCulloch, Mr. J. McCulloch, Miss M. McFarlane, Mr. T. Macfarlane, Mr. W. Malcolm, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, Mr. W. J. Murphy, Miss W. Pearson, Mr. C. A. Philip, Mr. Henry F. Previt , Mr. Joseph Rippon, Commander F. Roope, R.N., Mr. R. Rutherford, Miss Rutherford, Mr. E. Schenk, Mr. G. S. Seton-Browne, Mr. G. A. Somerville, Mr. C. Spence, Mr. W. R. Spence, Mr. P. Stern, Mr. H. D. Swan, Mr. Frank Waller, Mr. J. P. Watson, Mr. Fred White, Dr. & Mrs. Alfred L. Wykham, Mr. E. Wroughton, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

THE CHAIRMAN, in offering a welcome to the delegates, said he thought their Canadian friends, in going through the West Indian Court, must have been struck with the fact that there were a great many West Indian products which were suitable for consumption in Canada. (Hear, hear.) Already Canada took a large quantity of their sugar. He did not think Canadians had developed sufficiently to absorb much of their rum, but that would come later on. (Laughter.) The taste for cocoa had increased, and the time was coming when Canada would be able to consume the whole of the sugar products of the West Indian Colonies. (Hear, hear.) For many years past there had been a strong wish in Canada for some closer commercial relationship between the West Indies and Canada, and he was bound to say that, so far as Canada had been able, she had given proof of her wish to meet the West Indies half-way. As they knew, Canada had made a reduction in the tax on sugar in favour of the British Colonies of $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent., and the effect of that reduction had been very largely to substitute West Indian sugar for German sugar in Canadian consumption. Canada might very naturally think that she deserved more reciprocity on the part of the West Indies. He wished to say he was sure that, so far as sympathy and sentiment went, there would be every wish on the part of the West Indian Colonies to reciprocate with Canada; but hitherto there had been insuperable difficulties in the way. For some years the West Indies had been passing through a very bad time. They found that their sugar was shut out of the British markets by the foreign bounties, and practically the only market open to them was that of the United States. He did not believe he was saying too much when he asserted that the salvation of the West Indies had been entirely due to the United States. Canadians would easily understand in those circumstances that it would have been quite impossible for

the West Indies to do anything which could have been thought unfriendly to the United States. If America had believed that the West Indies were acting in an unfriendly manner she could have shut their sugar out of her markets, and that would have been a very serious thing. Hence the difficulty of the West Indies in meeting Canada half-way. But circumstances had changed. The consumption of their sugar in Canada was rapidly increasing, and it was quite clear that the day was not far distant when Canada would be able to take the whole of their sugar. (Cheers.) He had not the least doubt when that day arrived—probably it would not be long—there would be no difficulty whatever on the part of the West Indies in substituting the products of Canada for those of the United States. Lumber, flour and salt fish for instance, could be got from Canada as well as the United States. He was quite sure that when the time came the West Indies could safely do so they would only be too glad to enter into closer reciprocal arrangements with Canada. (Cheers.)

The HON. J. D. ROLLAND, in reply, said the delegates had seen the products of the West Indies, and he had no doubt, when the means which the Canadian Government were taking to protect trade between the West Indies and Canada had been completed, what had hitherto been a small trade would reach millions of dollars. (Hear, hear.) The great difficulty hitherto had been that of communication. There had been complaint about the sea-carrying contract, but that had now been renewed, with promise of improvement. If it were not improved, he believed there were a great many shipping companies in England who would be ready to undertake that traffic. The province of Quebec, from which he came, was a great consumer of molasses and bananas. He knew that was not the time to make speeches. He had to thank the people of this country for the great kindness bestowed upon the delegates since they landed, and he hoped their visit of that day would be beneficial to them, and to their West Indian friends. (Cheers.)

On the invitation of the Palace authorities the delegates afterwards were present at the various entertainments which were taking place.

The West India Committee.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE is an Association of Planters, Merchants, and others interested in the British West Indies and British Guiana. The Objects of The West India Committee are to promote the general welfare of the British West Indies and British Guiana, and by united action to further the interests of those Colonies.

The West India Committee Circular, containing a Review of the Work of The West India Committee, Notes on West Indian Affairs, Statistics as to Cacao, Sugar, Molasses and Rum, Coffee, Cotton, Nutmegs, Mace, Pimento, Ginger, Arrowroot, Lime Juice, Gold, Minerals, &c., &c., Home Arrivals and Departures by the Mail Steamers, &c., is posted to Members fortnightly.

The West India Committee Rooms are conveniently situated upon the first floor at 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., next to Mark Lane Station, upon the Metropolitan and District Railways, and form a useful rendezvous for gentlemen from the West Indies, when they visit their Merchants in the City. Writing materials are provided, and in addition to the Official Gazettes, Parliamentary Papers, etc., all the West Indian newspapers are, through the courtesy of their Editors, filed.

Particulars regarding Membership can be obtained on application to the Secretary, West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. Minimum Subscription, £1 1s. per annum (no Entrance Fee).

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XLVI.



His Honour Edward J. Cameron, C.M.G.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SERRING LANE, LONDON.

July 3rd, 1905

Telegram: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6882 CENTRAL.

THE key-note of several of the speeches at the successful West Indian Banquet on June 22nd was trade between the West Indies and Canada, and the liberality of the Canadian Government in giving a preference of 33½ per cent. to West Indian sugar was rightly commended. Unfortunately, however, almost before the lights of this historic banquet were extinguished, the regrettable news reached us from Canada that the Canadian Refiners had once more decided to retain for themselves the whole of the 33½ per cent. preference, as they did when it was first granted in 1898. This it is, of course, in their power to do by basing their offer for sugar on the New York prices, and the advantage to the West Indies of the Canadian preference becomes once again more than problematical. It will be within the recollection of our Members that when, in the early days of this Canadian preferential treatment, the Canadian refiners prevented the West Indian sugar producers from obtaining any advantage from it, strong representations were made by the West India Committee, which resulted in a compromise

being arrived at, whereby the Canadian refiners agreed to give up a part of the 33½ per cent. by offering 12 cents per 100 lbs. for centrifugal sugar and 10 cents. per 100 lbs. for muscovado sugar above the New York price for West Indian sugar, or, say one half of the preference. Their agreement to do so expired, however on the 30th ult., and, in spite of the efforts of Messrs. G. P. Mitchell & Sons, Ltd., and Messrs. A. G. Jones & Co., who have been very solicitous on our behalf, the refiners have refused to renew it for the present. They state that they have still on hand the larger portion of their purchases of raw sugar for this year, together with a very large quantity of refined sugar, and their storage capacity is so overtaxed that they cannot hold any more. They have, however, promised to endeavour to resume the old arrangement as soon as it is possible to do so. This decision of the Canadian refiners means the suspension of shipments of West Indian sugar to Canadian markets, from which so much had been looked for, and it raises the important question of what must be done when the object and purpose of a preferential tariff fails, and the advantage of the preference is derived, not by those for whom it was primarily intended, but by others for whom it was not primarily intended. Members will be glad to learn that we are in communication with the High Commissioner of Canada on the subject and that our representations have already been forwarded to the proper quarter in Canada, where we hope that steps will be taken to provide for the carrying out of the preferential treatment in the spirit in which it was first accorded to the West Indies. Dealing now with trade between Canada and the West Indies generally, it must be admitted that there is much room for improvement. In 1904 the trade was estimated at £1,400,000 as compared with £800,000 in 1902, and though the increase is satisfactory it is not so much a matter for congratulation when we compare it with 1893, in which year the value was £1,401,839. But the feeling in favour of closer trade relations between the two Colonies is greater now than it has been for many years, and if there is no such set back as would be caused by the withdrawal of the preferential advantages given by Canada to the West Indies, we may expect to see a marked increase in trade in the future. The requirements of the West Indies are many. Lumber, salt fish, horses, oats, peas, ale and beer, spirits, plumbers' stores, breadstuffs, dairy produce and meat are all wanted, and there is no reason why such supplies should not largely be drawn from Canada instead of the United States, in future, if they can be sent in fast steamers direct, and if Canada studies the wants of the West Indies as regards packing and quality, and adopts the same trade methods as have proved successful in the relations between her southern neighbours and the Islands.

THE attendance at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition at the Crystal Palace continues to be extremely satisfactory, and it is gratifying to be able to record that so far no hitch whatever has occurred in the arrangements, which, thanks to the cordial co-operation between the Commissioners and the London Exhibition Committee, have been characterised by their smoothness. It is always said that exhibitions are at their best when they are half over, and it is certain that every week since May 12th, has witnessed some slight improvement, and we venture to think that the West Indies will come through the ordeal of the judging and prize awards with flying colours. A meeting was held at the Exhibition Offices on June 26th, at which an influential and impartial jury of award was appointed, and it is hoped that they will get to work with their interesting task in about a fortnight's time. Our friends in the West Indies will be pleased to learn that in addition to the ordinary collective awards, the best, second best, and third best individual exhibits in every competing class will be specified by the jury, and we ourselves propose in due course to secure the publication of a critical report upon the various exhibits. It will be left to the same jury to decide which collective West Indian exhibit is to receive

the handsome medal so generously offered by the Direct West India Cable Company. Our Members will recollect that early in the year we made a suggestion that each island should appoint a *permanent* Exhibition Committee with a view to securing the representation of the West Indian Colonies on every possible occasion, and to obviate the necessity of appointing a fresh committee to deal with each case as it arises. This suggestion met with the cordial support of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and we are now glad to be able to announce that the subject was discussed at the last general meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Grenada, and that it was decided to appoint such a committee in the island. A collection of representative exhibits will gradually be got together, and this will form a nucleus to be drawn upon when required. Grenada is most certainly to be warmly congratulated upon her enterprise in this matter. Already, two further Exhibitions are in the air, one being a show of Colonial fruit to be held under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society at Vincent Square, Westminster, on December 5th and 6th next, and the other, the Annual Colonial Products Exhibition to be held in the fine St. George's Hall at Liverpool from January 30th to February 8th, 1906. As we have so frequently stated, we believe implicitly in the desirability of our Colonies bringing prominently before the British public their mineral, agricultural and manufacturing resources, of which, unfortunately, too little is known in this country, and the West India Committee, therefore, most readily offer their services with a view to securing their representation on every possible occasion. The expenses of a provincial show such as the one at Liverpool would be by no means heavy, and it is our opinion that with the co-operation of the shipping companies, much might be done for a less sum than £200 collected among all the Colonies. Each Colony might contribute towards this amount in proportion to its size, and we feel confident that they would afterwards find that money well spent. We shall be glad if our members will bring this matter before the local agricultural and commercial bodies, and favour us with their views as soon as possible, as time in matters of this sort is everything.

This Honour Edward J. Cameron, C.M.G.

Mr. Edward J. Cameron, the Administrator of St. Vincent, who has just been granted a well-deserved birthday honour, he having been appointed a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, was educated at Shrewsbury School, Clifton College, and Merton College, Oxford. His Colonial career began by his appointment as private secretary to Sir C. C. Lees, Governor of the Bahamas, in 1882, and he migrated with the Governor to the Leeward Islands in January, 1884. In November of the same year he was transferred to Sierra Leone as Acting Colonial Secretary and Treasurer. He was appointed a J.P. and a visiting justice Freetown Gaol. From December, 1885, to July, 1886, he acted as Colonial Secretary and Treasurer. In 1887 he went to the Virgin Islands, and was appointed a Member of the Leeward Islands Legislative Council in the same year, and of the Executive Council in the following year. He became Commissioner of Turk's Island in March, 1893, and acted as Judge of the Supreme Court on several occasions. His appointment as Administrator of St. Vincent dates from 1901.

The Birthday Honours.

Among the recipients of birthday honours on the occasion of the King's birthday on June 30th were several gentlemen connected with the West Indies.

Order of St. Michael and St. George.

Mr. EVERARD FERDINAND IM THURN, C.B., C.M.G., has been appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and Mr. EDWARD JOHN CAMERON, Administrator of St. Vincent, has been made a Companion of the same Order. Mr. WILLOUGHBY MAYCOCK, an

estates' proprietor in Barbados, who has for many years been one of our members, is also appointed a Companion of the Order as Superintendent of the Treaty Department of the Foreign Office.

Imperial Service Order.

Among the appointments to the Imperial Service Order were Mr. WILLIAM HENRY BAILEY, Colonial Postmaster of Barbados; Mr. HERBERT ARTHUR BROOK, Member of the Legislative Council and Registrar of Records of the Bahamas; Mr. ROBERT WILLIAM SPAN MITCHELL, C.M.G., Government Emigration Agent in Calcutta for British Guiana, and Mr. FRANCIS SPENCER WIGLEY, Magistrate and Coroner of St. Kitts, each of whom becomes a Companion of the Order.

Grenada at the Colonial Exhibition.

By W. G. FREEMAN, B.Sc., F.L.S.

Grenada has for many years relied on cacao as the mainstay of its prosperity. As we had occasion to mention in discussing the Trinidad Court, cacao has in that Colony, during recent years,



The Social Hall of the R.M.S. "Aragon."

Many novel features are to be found in the new R.M.S. "Aragon," prominent among which is the social hall, a spacious apartment resembling the now familiar lounge of a first-class hotel. This is a marked improvement on the old saloon, as will be seen from our illustration.

rapidly ousted sugar from its former predominant position. In Grenada the sequence of events has been very similar, but the decisive step was taken at a much earlier date, so that comparatively few people now connect Grenada with sugar production. The cacao exhibit, although not extensive, is of

great interest, because, like the much larger display of Trinidad, it is indicative of the progress which is being made in agricultural methods in the West Indies. The two samples of peasant-cured, sun-dried cacao represent the old order of things, whilst the new order is represented by the bag of cacao exhibited by the Hon. D. S. de Freitas, from Dougaldston estate. As the label in the Court states, this cacao was placed direct from the fermentation boxes into one of the cacao-drying machines manufactured by Messrs. J. Gordon & Co., and completely dried and polished, without breakage, *in twenty-four hours*. The quality of the product is made evident by the fact that the sample exhibited gained the first prize at the recent Agricultural Show in Grenada. This sample, and that in the Trinidad Court, dried in Mr. J. Hoadley's machine, are worthy of the serious consideration of all cacao producers. The cultivator in temperate climes has long been forced to recognise that old methods must be replaced by new if he is determined to hold his own in the struggle for existence. In the tropics, owing to special circumstances, this necessity has not yet been so universally brought home, but here also increasing competition must inevitably result in success falling only to those who by taking advantage of each improvement turn out produce of high and uniform quality, by the most economical and up to date methods.

Spices rank next in importance to cacao among the products of Grenada, the actual figures for 1903 being: Cacao, £230,957; spices, £31,594. Well-preserved nutmegs, as they drop from the trees, are exhibited, showing the fleshy, somewhat peach-like fruit burst open along one side, displaying the nutmeg in its hard brown case, partially covered by the brilliant orange-red mace. Nutmegs and mace, in the familiar dry condition in which they come on the market, are also shown. The other spices represented include ginger and cardamoms.

Cotton stands third in the list of Grenada exports. The value of cotton and cotton seed exported in 1903 was about £5,300. Grenada for many years was apparently the last stronghold of the former important cotton industry of the West Indies, owing to cotton having remained throughout a staple product of Carriacou, one of the dependencies of the Colony. Some samples of Sea Island cotton are exhibited, but there is no information as to whether they were grown in Grenada or in Carriacou.

With cotton we come to the end of the chief products of Grenada, no other, with the exception of live stock, contributing more than a few hundred pounds towards the total value of the Island's exports. Although not exported to any large extent, there is a small intercolonial trade in fruit carried on between Grenada and some of the other West Indian islands, and the fame of Grenada oranges is by no means confined to their place of production. Specimens of mangoes, granadilla, cashew nuts, limes, water melons, preserved so as to retain their fresh appearance, and a large series of preserves, including some very nice-looking fruit jellies, sufficiently represent the capabilities, actual and potential, of Grenada fruit production. Coco-nuts are also exhibited.

Cassava cakes alone represent the farinaceous products of the island. Amongst other plant exhibits of minor importance are ornamental seeds with pendants, charms, and other objects, showing how they may be utilised, pickles, palm-leaf duster-brushes, straw hats, a large wooden pestle and mortar for pounding cassava, &c., and a nest of those strong Carib baskets which can be put to so many uses in the West Indies.

A series of tanned skins is perhaps the most important item to notice under the head of animal products. Of great interest to many will be the stuffed specimens of mongoose, the animal whose introduction, originally to serve a useful purpose, has had such a baneful effect in many parts of the West Indies. Corals, sea fans, fish, conch shells, stuffed birds, sea urchins, and a monkey are of interest in exhibiting some of the more characteristic forms of animal life of the Colony. A series of Carib implements brings us into touch with the earlier inhabitants of Grenada.

A large view of St. George's Harbour is the sole illustration available to allow those not familiar with the Island to realise the lovely scenery of Grenada. The Colony's mace, which arrived

in the Island on November 28th, 1791, in the "Baillies," attracts much attention. Undoubtedly the whole exhibit does great credit to Mr. P. J. Dean, Chairman, and Mr. C. Falconer Anton, Secretary of the local Committee, which includes the Hon. F. Gurney, Hon. G. S. Seton Browne, and the Hon. E. M. de Freitas. Although comparatively small, and scarcely of the same representative character as those of other West Indian islands—notably Jamaica, Trinidad, and Barbados—the Grenada exhibit should serve a useful purpose in demonstrating the actual and possible sources of prosperity of one of the most picturesque, and fortunately, one of the most flourishing of the West Indian islands. Continued prosperity will probably be maintained by the introduction of improvements in the preparation in the staple crop, and the cacao exhibit in the Court serves as an excellent example of the efforts being made towards this end.

The New Ferment "S.T."

A new fermentation process has been discovered by Mr. Grove Johnson, of Messrs. Johnson and Hare, which, if the merits claimed for it are substantiated, should prove of considerable importance to the West Indies. It is known as *Saccharomyces Thermantitum*, which is abbreviated to "S.T.," and its chief peculiarity lies in its power of resistance to high temperatures in the presence of moisture. It can be purified by raising the temperature to 180° Fahr., a method which leaves the ferment unharmed and vigorous, while eliminating all the foreign organisms. By this new process it is claimed that brewing is now rendered possible in countries where it has hitherto not been possible without expensive ice plants, and, what is also an important matter, raw cane sugar can be used as well as inverted. When fermentation is suspended or ceases, "S.T." sinks as solid as putty, rendering it unnecessary either to skim or cleanse, and the ferment is removed solid, thus obviating yeast pressing. The development of this process will be watched with interest.

The Mining and Forest Industries of British Guiana.

We recently referred to the appointment of the Institute of Mines and Forests of British Guiana to act as a corresponding body to the West India Committee and the good results which were likely to accrue from giving greater publicity to the progress of the mining and forest industries in our great South American Colony. We are now able, through the courtesy of Mr. T. Sidney Hargreaves, the Secretary of the Institution, to publish the following figures shewing the progress of development during May.

Gold Production of British Guiana during May, 1905.

District	Ozs	dwts.	grs	Royalty \$ cts.
Barima ...	1778	06	21	1244.84
Barama ...	992	04	00	694.54
Cuyuni ...	1353	10	06	947.46
Groete Creek ...	144	03	04	100.91
Puruni ...	537	18	00	376.53
Mazaruni ...	710	18	00	497.63
Essequibo ...	793	01	16	554.46
Potaro ...	1566	11	10	1096.20
Demerara River	48	11	10	34.01
TOTAL ...	7923	13	09	\$5546.51

Exports of Gold, Diamonds and Forest Products from British Guiana during May, 1905.

	Quantities.	Values. \$ cts.
Gold, Raw Gold ...	5376 ozs.	95,283.21
Diamonds, rough ...	1076 carats	6,271.00
Timber, C.H., &c. ...	21,998 cubic ft.	11,533.28
Lumber, Mora, &c. ...	8275 cubic ft.	1,457.72
Railway Sleepers ...	500	200.00
Shingles ...	85,700	359.30
Wallaba and Hard Wood Posts ...	170	277.88
Woods, Cord-wood and Firewood, &c. ...	5204 tons	865.60
Charcoal ...	6093 bags	3,180.00
Gums, Locust Gum ...	150 lbs.	32.80
Balata ...	10,776 lbs.	3,623.80
Rubber ...	45 lbs.	45.00

In commenting on the result Mr. Hargreave writes that there are distinct signs of progress in



[The West India Committee.

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**PART OF THE GRENADA COURT,
COLONIAL & INDIAN EXHIBITION, 1905.**

the industry. For the first time in history, an organised attempt is being made to prospect the Corentyne, the greatest river in this colony of great rivers, and one of which, so far as our gold industry is concerned, the possibilities are yet unknown.

Steady and continuous development work has been pursued at the Barima Mine, the result of which will no doubt become public property. On the Peters' Mine a large amount of money has already been spent in development work and machinery, and the Company is now constructing a road from Cartabo point at the junction of the Mazaruni and Cuyuni to the mine on the Puruni. The Omai mine has been sending down regular shipments for some time, and the hydraulic machinery has been working splendidly. The dredger, which was formerly on the Barima River, has been transferred to Omai, where it has been working day and night continuously for several months with excellent results. A new Company, the British Guiana and General Prospecting Syndicate has already commenced operations with an excellent *personnel*.

The production from the placers continues much the same. The proposed new mining regulations are very wisely being postponed, and it is hoped that when the revise is completed sufficient time will be given to allow of their being submitted to experts at home before they are submitted to the Legislature. We have been so unfortunate in the past with hurried legislation, which has either had to be reconsidered or has become a dead letter, because unworkable, that it would be a pity to repeat the experiment.

The Governor, Sir Frederic Hodgson, is evincing a most lively interest in the development of the Colony, and he left on June 13 for the North West to inspect the gold field, concerning the richness of which something interesting should be heard at no distant date.

The Memorial to the late Field-Marshal Sir H. Norman.

Many friends of the late Field-Marshal Sir Henry Norman being desirous of perpetuating his memory, a committee has been formed to collect subscriptions for this purpose. Those who wish to subscribe are requested to pay their contributions as early as possible to the Secretary of the West India Committee. We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following subscriptions towards this fund: The West India Committee, £10 10s.; the West India Association of Liverpool, £5 5s.; the West Indian Club, £5 5s.; Hon. J. Allwood, £5 5s.; Hon. Henry Sewell, £5 5s.; Mr. Robert Craig, £5; Hon. J. M. Farquharson, £2 2s.; Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, £1 1s.; Hon. Thomas Capper, £1 1s.; Hon. W. Fawcett, £1 1s.; Mr. Francis B. Lyons, £1 1s.; the Archbishop of the West Indies, £1; Mrs. George Henderson, 10s. making a total of £44 6s.

The West Indian Mails.

The Postmaster-General has announced that although the contract for the West Indian packet service expired on the 30th of last month, the Royal Mail Company is carrying on its steamship services precisely as under the contract, and for a short time, and until further notice, letter and parcel mails for the West Indies and Central America will be sent as heretofore by the Company's steamers leaving Southampton on alternate Wednesdays.

The West India Committee have addressed an enquiry to the Colonial Office as to what steps it is proposed to take with reference to the homeward letters, it appearing that the statement of the Postmaster-General refers only to the outward mail.

The Canadian Government have entered into a contract with Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., for a monthly service from Montreal in the summer and Nova Scotia in the winter, to Nassau, Cuba, and Mexico. The first steamer, the "Yoruba," will sail very shortly. The contract with Messrs. Pickford & Black for the Canada and West Indian service was stated last week to have been extended on the present lines over another year, when the question will again be re-opened.

As we go to press we learn that the contract with Messrs. Pickford & Black for the mail service between Canada and the West Indies has been renewed for five years. 11.30 a.m., July 4th.

The R.M.S. "Aragon."

During the past week the Chairman and the Court of Directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company entertained a large number of guests connected with the West Indies and South America upon their magnificent new steamer, the "Aragon," which, though destined for the Brazil route, will serve to give further assurance to the West Indies of the forward policy adopted by this old-established Company. On Tuesday last, a cloudless summer day, it was the privilege of the writer to join a distinguished party at 9.40 a.m. at Waterloo Station, whence he was conveyed with them in a special train at Southampton Docks. The "Aragon" lay alongside the Quay, and her graceful lines and fine appearance at once excited general admiration. She is a schooner-rigged

vessel with two masts, and in addition to being the finest vessel in the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's fleet, will be the largest steamer engaged in the South American trade. The visitors included Sir Henry and Lady Beigne, Sir W. and Lady Baillie Hamilton, Mr. E. St. J. Branch, Sir Charles Bruce, the Earl of Dundonald, Sir Henry Davson, Mr. C. A. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur N. Lubbock, Major and Mrs. Molyneux Montgomerie, Mr. David MacIver, M.P., Colonel Sir Roper Parkington, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Pearson, the Earl of Stamford, Mr. R. V. Vernon, and Sir E. Noël Walker. Proceeding on board they were met at the top of the gangway by Lady Ferguson and Mr. Owen Phillips, Chairman of the Company, and were conducted over the ship by the courteous officials of the Company while she glided down the Solent. Though the "Aragon" is designed to carry a large quantity of cargo, it is safe to say that never before in the history of the Company has so much attention been paid to the wants and requirements of passengers, all the first-class staterooms being on deck, while many of the cabins are arranged on the tandem principle, so that even those on the inside enjoy a side light along a passage communicating with the open air.



On the Sports Deck of the R.M.S. "Aragon."

A feature of the new R.M.S. "Aragon" is the Sports Deck, on which there is an abundance of mechanical apparatus for the delectation of athletic passengers. Major G. Molyneux Montgomerie, an estates' proprietor in St. Kitts, is shown in this illustration indulging in post prandial exercise on a species of spring saddle, which is very popular in Germany. The Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands, the Hon. E. St. J. Branch, is looking on.

in the saloon, and the opportunity was taken by Lord Stamford and Directors upon their enterprise, his remarks being punctuated by the ringing cheers of the assembled visitors. Southampton was reached at four o'clock, and half an hour later the special train returned to London with the invited guests, who were all agreed that the outing had been a most enjoyable one.

Papaya Juice.

Papaya juice is extracted from the fruit of the papaw tree, which grows rapidly, attaining its full bearing capacity in a year, according to the Annual Report for 1904 of the United States Consul A. J. Lespinasse, in Tuxpam, Mexico. It produces from 40 to 50 papaws of a dark green colour, ripening to a deep yellow, in shape resembling a squash. A very light superficial incision is made in the fruit, from which exudes a clear water-like juice, which, on exposure to the air, becomes opaque. As it drips from the fruit it is received in a porcelain-lined receptacle. As it is very corrosive, metal receptacles would injure its appearance and qualities. It possesses great digestive virtues, and the refined article is considered superior to all animal pepsins.

Another noteworthy feature is the provision of single berth cabins, which will be appreciated by those who do not like others to see their suffering—not that many can possibly suffer from *mal de mer* on this very steady vessel—and the unsociable. The Cabins de Luxe—of which there are six suites—attracted perhaps most attention. Each suite comprises a bedroom and a sitting-room, with a bathroom adjoining, the furniture, fittings and general appointments being all in the best possible taste, and reminding one, with their silk-panelled walls, of *appartements au premiere* in our large hotels, rather than cabins aboard ship. At one o'clock a luncheon was served in the dining saloon, which is arranged on the latest restaurant system, the meals being *à la carte*; and shortly afterwards the "Aragon"—which had now reached the needles—was swung round on the glassy waters of the Solent, and headed for home. On the return journey tea was served to congratulate the Chairman

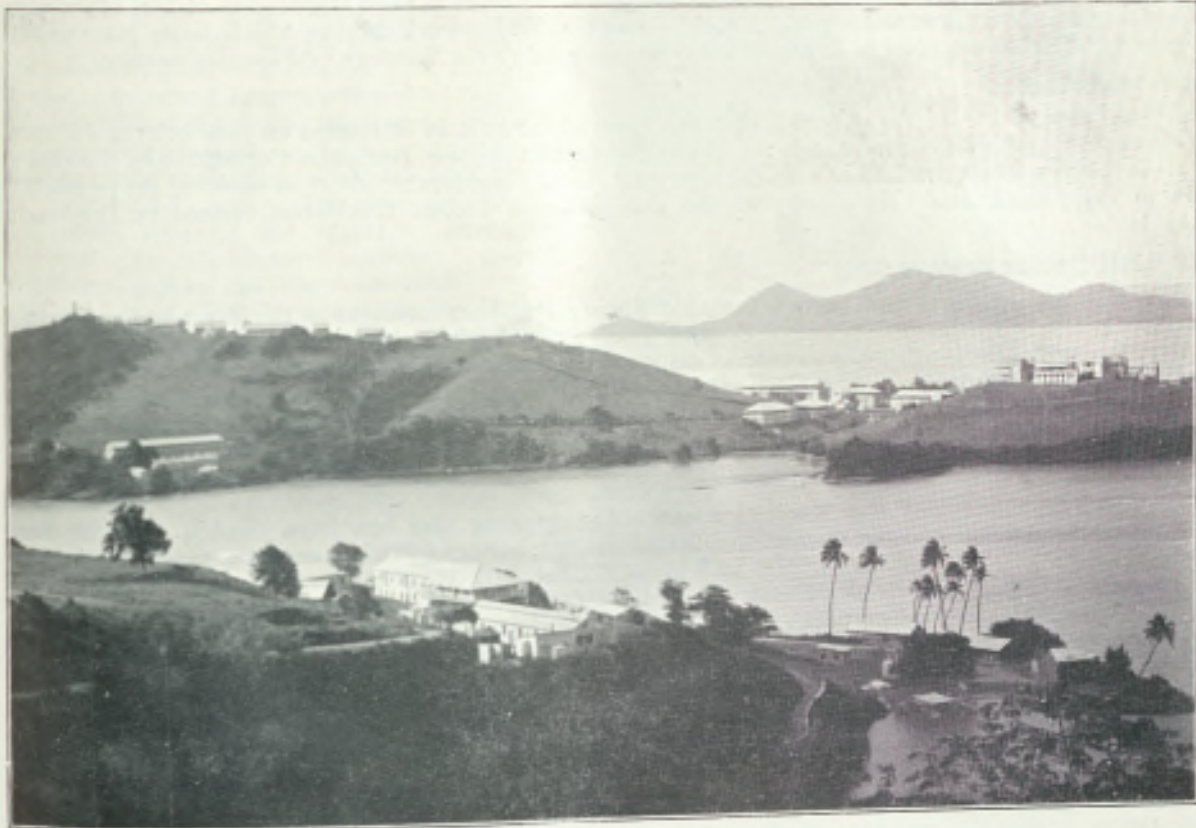
After the desired quantity has been collected, the juice is placed in shallow porcelain or glass-lined pans and allowed to evaporate. While this is not a very delicate or difficult operation, it requires considerable attention, so that the juice will dry uniformly and the product be white and well granulated. In its granulated state it is shipped to the United States, undergoes a refining process, and is sold as the papaw of commerce for medicinal purposes.

The ripe papaw is palatable, and an excellent aid to digestion. Meat wrapped in papaw leaves for a short time becomes quite tender without any impairment in appearance or taste.

In extracting the juice the hands should be protected by rubber gloves, as in its crude state it attacks the tissues. An average tree will produce about one-fourth of a pound of the granulated juice. It sells in the United States for from \$4 to \$6 per pound in the crude state.

Withdrawal of the Troops from the West Indies.

Protests continue to be received from the West Indies regarding the proposed withdrawal of the troops, and in this connection this view of the Vigie in St. Lucia, taken from La Toc by Mr.



The Military Barracks on the Vigie, St. Lucia.

Delacourt Kell, the well-known photographer of that Island, will be of special interest. To the right of the picture are the military hospital, the barracks of the West India Regiment, and the married quarters, all quite recently erected. Behind them on the hill to left are the white soldiers' barracks, which are the only buildings not recently erected.

Exhibition Notes.

Hours Open.

The Colonial and Indian Exhibition at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Sundays excepted). Admission 1/-

Railway facilities.

There are over 300 trains to and from the Crystal Palace daily, from Victoria, Ludgate Hill and London Bridge—time, 20 to 30 minutes. The High Level station is quite near to the West Indian Court.

The Crystal Palace Club.

Those of our Members desirous of availing themselves of the privileges offered by the Crystal Palace Club will require vouchers, which are obtainable *free of charge* from the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

An Opportunity for Exhibitors.

There is still a little space remaining for exhibits genuinely relating to the West Indies, and we shall be glad to place this at the disposal of firms desirous of exhibiting free of charge subject to their consenting to pay a proportion towards the decoration of the Court, attendants, &c.

Members' Day at the Exhibition.

Thursday, as already announced, has been made Members' Day, and a special table is reserved for Members in the restaurant. Many of our Members have availed themselves of this opportunity of visiting the Court and witnessing Brock's magnificent firework display which takes place on that evening. *Members intending to be present are requested to notify the Secretary by Thursday morning.*

Grateful Barbados

At a meeting of the Local Exhibition Committee held in Barbados on June 9th the following resolution was adopted unanimously:—"That the thanks of the Barbados Committee be tendered to the West India Committee and to its Secretary for their considerable effort in securing the representation of the products of this Colony at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition opened in London in May last.

The West Indian Produce Stall.

A brisk business has been transacted during the past fortnight at the West Indian Produce Stall, organised by the West India Committee. Lace bark articles, bitter wood cups, arrowroot, honey, limejuice, &c., have been so readily disposed of that it has been necessary to cable to the West Indies for further supplies. The Committee will be glad to receive suitable produce, curios, etc., for sale at this stall. They should be addressed carriage paid and invoiced, to the Secretary, West India Committee, Crystal Palace, Sydenham, S.E.

The Attendance at the Exhibition.

The attendance at the Exhibition since the opening day has been 359,984. Among those who have signed our register during the fortnight are:—Their Highnesses the Gaekwar and the Maharanee of Baroda with suite, Mr. and Mrs. Adams, Mr. R. Allandon, Mr. E. Bascombe, Rev. Archdeacon Bindley, Mr. R. W. Bradley, Mr. D. W. Brown, Mr. E. Calder, Mrs. F. V. Calder, Mr. K. M. Calder, Miss Lyon Campbell, Mr. A. Carroll, Commander H. H. Coombs, R.N., Mr. Estcourt H. Cresswell, Mr. E. M. Cutting, Mr. J. de la Mothe, Dr. Edward R. C. Earle, Mr. Maxwell Earle, Mr. C. R. Egerton, Mr. A. E. Eldridge, Mr. F. E. Eldridge, Mr. J. B. Ellis, Mr. J. D. Ellis, Mr. Alex. Crum Ewing, Mr. A. D. Ferguson, Mr. L. F. Fledman, Miss Fox, Miss Harford, Mr. J. H. Hart, Mr. D. Holland, Mr. Lacy Hulbert, Mr. J. Alex. Maclaren, Mr. J. E. Mackenzie, Mr. W. Malcolm, Mr. J. U. Manning, Mr. S. Manning, Mr. Prof. A. M. Masain, Director of the Baroda Museum; Mr. Geo. C. May, Mrs. Miller, Mr. D. Middleton, Mr. F. W. Moss, Miss Moss, Lieut. Col. E. Moulton-Barrett, Dr. Adrian A. Robinson, Mr. J. Peet, Mr. J. G. Peguenie, Mrs. Plaxton, Mr. James Podd, Mr. and Mrs. E. Haughton Sanguinetti, Mr. A. Seton-Browne, Mr. G. S. Seton-Browne, Mr. W. R. Spence, Mr. and Mrs. L. Steele, Mr. James Verley, Miss Verley, Mr. J. Darrell Wall, Mr. Peter Wood, and Mr. P. M. Wood.

West Indian Club Dinner.

The fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club was held at the Crystal Palace on Thursday, June 20th, in order to enable members and their friends to visit the West Indian Court at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition. Among those present were: Mr. J. Arnold, Mrs. Arnold, Miss E. E. Arnold, Mr. R. S. H. Baiss, Mr. Claude T. Berthon, Mr. E. Carpenter, Mr. F. M. Coke, Mr. C. A. Comacho, Mr. J. H. Cozens, Mr. H. J. Crocket, Mr. and Mrs. Hood Daniel, Mr. G. A. Daniel-Tyssen, Mr. H. B. Day, Mr. C. E. de Mercado, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. J. F. de la Mothe, Mr. C. de Thierry, Mr. W. C. Dyett, Miss Dyett, Miss Q. Dyett, Dr. E. R. C. Earle, Mr. Maxwell Earle, Mr. B. Edwards, Mr. A.

Elder, Mr. A. W. Farquharson, Mr. Cecil Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Hare, Miss Harford, Miss Jessie Hostyn, Mr. and Mrs. Huett, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. J. D. Johnson, Dr. and Mrs. Johnson, Mr. W. A. Kaye, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Lubbock, Miss Mahon, Mr. and Mrs. Allan E. Messer, Miss M. Palmer, Mrs. Penman, Mr. Edgar Renman, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rippon, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Robison, Mr. and Mrs. R. Rutherford, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Sabey, Mr. S. T. Scharsmidt, Mr. R. Schult, Mrs. C. Schult, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Slinger, Mr. and Mrs. Seton-Browne, Hon. P. Stern, Mr. H. D. Swan, Mrs. F. C. Tiarks, Miss Tiarks, Miss A. Tiarks, Lieut.-Col. F. C. Trollope, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Turner, Mr. John Turner, Mr. R. V. Vernon, Mr. E. A. E. Wall, Mr. J. Darrill Wall, Mr. N. Barry Wall, Mr. J. S. Westwood, and Miss Blanche Westwood.

Consular Reports.

The Price of Sugar in France.

In his report on the trade of Dunkirk for 1904, Mr. Consul Taylor states that sugar exports to the United Kingdom amounted to 34,637 tons, an increase of 10,051 tons compared with the preceding year. The retail price of loaf sugar at Dunkirk, which fell 2d. per lb. in September, 1903, rose $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in September, 1904, and a further $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in March, 1905. The present price (May) for loaf sugar is 45 c. per $\frac{1}{2}$ kilo (about 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb.) During the season 1904-05 up to March 31st, the production of sugar in France amounted to 626,572 tons, a reduction of 141,870 tons compared with the preceding season. There was also a decrease in the production of alcohol from beet. At the end of February (first five months of the season 1904-05) the quantity produced amounted to 18,250,000 gallons against 23,550,000 gallons in the preceding corresponding period. The consumption of sugar, which increased very largely from September, 1903, has been falling very considerably. Comparing the eight months' September to April, 1904-05, with the preceding corresponding period, there has been a decrease of some 100,000 tons in the consumption of sugar in France. It is estimated that there will be an increase of from 23 to 30 per cent. in the acreage under sugar beet in France, but the actual season (April-May) has been most unfavourable for sowing and for the growth of the seed, the temperature keeping so much below the average.

Sugar, Coconuts and Rubber in Beira.

Within the territories of the Mozambique Company there has hitherto been only one Company engaged in sugar planting and refining. This company, which is of French origin, exported during 1904 sugar to the value of £39,099. Another important undertaking of a similar character is, however, now in course of arrangement higher up the Zambezi within the Sena district. This Syndicate recently concluded arrangements with the Government under which it acquires 12,500 acres of land for sugar cultivation. The contract further covenants that the Company shall complete the erection of a refinery capable of manufacturing a minimum quantity of 150 tons of sugar per week by June 1st, 1908. The two existing sugar companies on the Zambezi, one of which, as stated, is engaged in the territory of the Mozambique Company, whilst the other is established in Crown territory beyond the river, are said to have exported during 1904 about 7,000 tons of sugar.



On board the R.M.S. "Aragon."

Mr. R. V. Vernon, of the Colonial Office, is here depicted indulging in the manly pursuit of boxing with a figure-ball on the sports deck of the R.M.S. "Aragon." The figure on the left is the Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands, on an automatic sculling machine, emulating the prowess of the Governor of the same colony, who won the Diamond Sculls at Henley.

Great activity continues to be displayed in the extensive plantation of coconut palms. Both the governing company and private individuals and associations are doing their utmost to establish this profitable industry, and existing plantations are commencing to assume considerable magnitude. It will, however, be several years before the resulting copra and fibre figure largely in the export statistics of the territory. It is roughly estimated that the amount of land already planted with coconut palms in various stages of growth may amount to 2,500 acres.

A noticeable increase in the export of rubber is shown to have taken place in 1904, between 80 and 90 tons having been shipped from this port. Of this about 20 tons were collected and exported by, and for account of, the Government, the balance being for the most part collected by the natives, sold by them to British Indian merchants, and by the latter either exported or handed on to European houses in payment, or part payment, for trade goods supplied. There is beyond doubt a large amount of rubber belonging principally to the *Laudolphia Florida* variety to be found in these regions. Attempts have been made to acclimatise the Ceara species, as also the Maniçoba plant, but, although the trees thrive rapidly, and attain to considerable size and luxuriance of foliage, they yield practically no rubber at all. For the present the Mozambique Company has prohibited further rubber collections in several very large areas, which formerly yielded the first-named variety of rubber freely, and has, in addition, reserved further valuable areas as yet untouched, apparently for its own private exploitation. The former measure is a very proper and salutary one, and gives to districts which have been heavily tapped in past years time to recuperate; but the latter is considered heavily to handicap private collectors, who find themselves compelled to compete with the Government in circumstances distinctly unfavourable to them. The cost of collection and export, moreover, is enormous, so much so that rubber collectors state that they are forced to the supposition that rubber collected in the territories, though theoretically free, is by no means encouraged by the Government.

Notes of Interest.

CABLE. The Demerara cable was again interrupted on the 1st instant.

SEED IN FRANCE. According to the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, it appears that during the first five months of the present year, 4863 tons of beet seed were imported into France, as compared with 2842 during the whole of 1904, 2821 in 1903, and 3207 in 1902.

THE COTTON INDUSTRY. During the past fortnight 229 bales of cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Cotton is quoted in Liverpool: West Indian medium fine, 5.85d.; and West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb.

BEET IN URAGUAY. The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* is advised from Monte Video that the experiments with the cultivation of sugar beet begun in Uruguay in 1902 have not shown satisfactory results, owing to the quality of the seed. The Société Giraud has addressed to the Chamber a petition asking that the tax on foreign sugar may be raised from one cent to two cents per kilo. If this request is granted, the Société will continue its experiments.

THE BANANA INDUSTRY. Messrs. Elders & Fyffes, Ltd., state that the total importation of bananas into this country for the six months to June 30th amounted to 2,395,351 bunches, as compared with 1,416,873 bunches during the same period in 1904, showing an increase of 978,478 bunches. Of this increase Jamaica and Costa Rica bananas accounted for 681,792 bunches, the total of these varieties for the respective half-years being 662,142 and 1,343,934 bunches.

MAIL OPPORTUNITIES. The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and Royal Mail steamers after the departure of the West Indian Mail on Wednesday next are advertised: R.M.S. "Bornu," from London for Bermuda, Turk's Island and Kingston, Jamaica, July 8th; S.S. "Crown of Navarre," from Glasgow, for Barbados, Trinidad and Demerara, July 11th; S.S. "Savan," in lieu of S.S. "Salybia," from London, for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Demerara, and Barbice, July 13th; and the R.M.S. "Port Royal," from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, July 15th.

IMPERIAL TIES. Mr. Chamberlain, speaking on June 27th, at a luncheon given to the Canadian manufacturers by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, insisted on the value of greater social intercourse between the members of the Imperial family. The new century had brought forward the most important questions which had ever faced civilised men. What was to be the future of what was still called our Empire? Could its various States be united? Could they all stand shoulder to shoulder in a common effort? He did not doubt the strength of the ties of sentiment, but they were not enough. What we had to do was to cement the relationship, and all that he asked was that we should treat our friends a little better than our enemies. A full report of the speech is given in the *Times* of June 28th.

The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Orinoco," anchored off Plymouth at 12.40 p.m. on Wednesday, June 28th. Among her passengers were the following Members of the West India Committee:—Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Mr. W. Horne, Mr. E. K. Lane, Mr. E. C. Skinner, Dr. Carl Bovallius, Mr. R. A. Barclay, Mr. J. G. W. Hazell, The Ven. Archdeacon T. H. Bindley, and The Ven. Archdeacon of Trinidad. The Mails were delivered by first post on the following morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Services, R.M.S. "Port Antonio," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth, on June 21st. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received by the R.M.S. "Orinoco":—

Antigua—Crop below the Average.

(HGN. A. ST. G. SPOONER) 14th June.—It was interesting to know that an arrangement was likely to be arrived at in Trinidad regarding the value of the canes sold to the factories. In Antigua the standard of 44 per cent. on the f.o.b. value of 96 crystals seemed to work quite satisfactorily, and it left the Central Factory Board the option of basing the price either on the New York, the Halifax, or the British quotations, whichever seemed to them to give the highest f.o.b. value.

Crop was rapidly coming to a close; it was difficult to say yet what the out-turn would be, but there was no doubt that it would be considerably below the average. Molasses was last sold at 25 cents, but this crop's business in the article was practically over.

It was satisfactory that in spite of a bad season, the output of cotton in the Island had considerably increased, and the quality much improved, very little cotton was of value less than a 15s a pound in this country, while the best had fetched 15s 3d. They had now two export strings to their bow, and if sugar fell in price the acreage in cotton would as surely increase. Unfortunately, there were some estates where, owing to soil conditions, it was sugar or nothing. Of course, with cane and cotton equally profitable, a rotation of crops became possible, to the benefit of both, and the area that could be effectively served by a Central Sugar Factory became greater, provided the haulage facilities could be extended.

The weather had been stormy and boisterous during the fortnight, but unfortunately the much needed soaking rains seemed as far off as ever. The Island was distressingly dry. Nearly all the ponds were either dry or with no water in them fit for use. The young plant canes were holding out well, but growth of course was very slow; the ratoons were feeling the weather more seriously. The writer could not remember such a long period of drought since 1894.

Barbados—Favourable Weather.

(T. W. WILKINSON, ESQ.) 17th June.—With regard to the troops, they were anxiously waiting to see what was going to be done, and they were using every effort on their side to prevent their being removed.

The election for the House of Assembly was to take place shortly, and there was rather a keen interest being taken in it, as two new members would have to be elected for St. Michael Parish, the former members having resigned.

The weather for the past fortnight was all that could be desired, and the Island was beginning to look quite green once again. A few estates were still grinding, but by the end of June, reaping operations would have closed.

British Guiana—Corentyne wants Rain.

(J. C. McCOWAN, ESQ.) 15th June.—The proceedings of a Meeting of the Legislature on June 9th, are to be found in the mail edition of the newspapers. The proposed amendments to the Immigration Ordinance had not yet come up for discussion.

Sugar was still on the down grade. A large parcel had recently been sold at \$2 50½, but since then a small lot had been disposed of at \$2 50; probably even the latter price could not be obtained on the day of writing.

The weather had been favourable during the fortnight, but on the Corentyne Coast they still wanted heavy rains.

Dominica—Increasing Trade.

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.) 15th June. The new passenger jetty was nearing completion. It was placed at the south end of Roseau, near the present fish market. This should be a great convenience to tourists and others, as the present jetty was always congested with cargo when steamers were in port. The increasing trade of the Island would shortly entail a thorough overhauling of existing cargo arrangements.

The weather continued wet and windy.

Grenada—A Permanent Exhibition Committee.

(P. J. DEAN, ESQ.) 15th June.—The repeated suggestion that it was desirable to have a permanent Exhibition Committee in the Island was receiving attention. The subject was discussed at the last General Meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, and at a Committee meeting on June 14th. Such a Committee would be appointed by the Society, and gradually a collection of exhibits would be made which would form the nucleus for exhibition when required. The Society had removed to more desirable premises on the Carenage.

By the last Mail, Mr. H. D. Anstead, B.A., the new Superintendent of Agriculture, had arrived, and when the appointment of the Agricultural Inspector was made, they might look for good work from the combination.

During the past fortnight they had had good seasonable weather with rains daily, which was forcing on cultivation, and prospects were encouraging. They were still reducing their cocoa crop shortage, which at the end of June should not show a deficiency of much more than 5,000 bags, as compared with last year.

(C. FALCONER ANTON, ESQ.) 14th June.—A General Meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society was held on June 2nd, when the principal item on the agenda paper was a Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Cocoa and Nutmeg Ordinance, 1896, which had been referred by the Government for an expression of opinion thereon from the Society.

Anthrax has re-appeared at Dougaldston. A fatal case occurred on the previous Sunday after an interval of about nine days, the victim in this case being a sheep.

A resolution has been passed at the Meeting on June 2nd, urging upon the Government the necessity for taking steps to disinfect all pastures, buildings and other places where cases of anthrax had occurred, or might occur, and for destroying infected stock and compensating owners.

Jamaica - The Central Sugar Experiment Station.

(J. L. ASHENDEEM, Esq.) 14th June.—The last 14 days had been very uneventful. The Governor was taking a vacation in the Highlands of St. Elizabeth.

Dr. Cousins, the Island Chemist, in his Annual Report had stated that during the past year, some 578 samples of sugar products had been dealt with at the Central Sugar Experiment Station provided for by the funds from the Grant-in-Aid, 1902. A large number of samples of rum from distilleries had also been analysed, and the Fermentation Chemist had paid visits to the different estates in the Island. A preliminary survey of the conditions under which the different classes of Jamaica rums were produced, was made and circulated among the estates concerned.

Under Section 2 of Law 20 of 1905, the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Privy Council, had increased the payments to be made under Section 6 of Law 14 of 1891, by employers of immigrants upon the allotment to them of such emigrants, from £17 10s. to £21.

A public meeting was to be held in Kingston on June 15th, with regard to the decision of the Governor not to grant more than the £60,000 per annum in any year for Educational purposes.

Since last Mail they had been having generally in the Island their regular "seasons." As usual, minor damages had taken place therefrom to the roads, etc., but the benefit which would result to agriculture from these rains would far exceed these small losses. During the past seven days Clarendon and Manchester had had seven inches.

Montserrat - Cotton Planting.

(CONRAD WATSON, Esq.) 14th June. The weather for the past fortnight had been showery and favourable for the planting of cotton, which had been pushed on. The bulk of the last crop sold from 15s. to 15s. 2d. per lb., a few small lots reaching 15s. 3d.

Nevis - The Value of a Subsidiary Industry.

(HON. C. A. SHAND) 13th June.—The cotton crops was expected to come up to 700 bales of 200 lbs. (Sea Island Cotton) which worked out at about 140 lbs. of lint cotton per acre all round. Some had done much better than others, both in yield and price, the prices having ranged from 10d. to 15s. 3d. per lb. The planters were so alive to the necessity of attaining greater uniformity, that the Hon. Dr. Watts was being invited to a special meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, to discuss the whole subject of the treatment of cotton, and it was hoped that in future it might be possible to secure uniformity. Without cotton this year, Nevis would have indeed fared badly, as the sugar crop was one of the worst on record.

All sorts of rumours were in circulation with regard to the methods of Mail carriage after the end of June, and doubtless the actual termination of the present contract would be productive of fresh developments.

The weather since last Mail had been all that a planter could desire, and the Island was looking quite fresh and green.

St. Kitts - Crop nearly Over.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, Esq.) 13th June.—A good many estates had now completed crop, and forcing weather was now wanted for the young canes.

Cotton preparations for 1906 had been begun, and the quality of their exported cotton seemed to have been well maintained.

St. Lucia - The Mail Service.

(SYDNEY D. MELVILLE, Esq.) 16th June.—They were looking forward with some apprehension as to what would follow the termination at the end of June, of the Royal Mail contract, and regarded with decided disfavour the prospect of a spasmodic itinerary. Leaving the Island without a regular and assured Mail service, would be such a retrograde step that they could hardly believe that such a course would finally be adopted.

They had had some welcome showers, but they had been very partial.

St. Vincent - The Soufriere Cooling Down.

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & Co.) 16th June. They had learnt that "Pelée" was again in eruption and causing some alarm in Martinique, but the Soufriere was cooling down rapidly, the lake being nearly as large as prior to May, 1902, and moss growing on the sides of the crater almost to the water's edge. This had been learnt from persons who had been frequent visitors to the mountain within the past few weeks, and whose statements were thoroughly reliable.

A good deal of mischief had been caused through a report that anthrax had broken out among cattle in the Island, the result being that the other Islands had forbidden the landing of any animals from St. Vincent, which would prove a great hardship to those who raised cattle for export. What made matters worse was the fact that no one seemed to know of a single case having broken out in the Island, and the authorities, so far as the writers could learn, had not taken steps to contradict the report.

Trinidad - Cocoa Deliveries.

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C.M.G.) 16th June.—The weather continued as reported by last Mail. The demand for sugar for local consumption was still rather strong, especially for molasses sugars. This apparently had induced one firm to bring back from London over 2,000 bags with a view of selling in the Colony. The Government, most unjustifiably in the writer's opinion, had, by resolution of Council, waived the import duty on it.

Since last reports cocoa deliveries had been plentiful, and in consequence prices had declined. Favourable weather had greatly improved crop prospects, and sales had been made at lower prices. Large contracts for August delivery to U.S.A. had been made for Estate kinds at the parity of 54s. c. and f. Havre, and Ordinary was now quoted at 52s. 6d. Venezuelan grades had been more plentiful, but prices were unaltered, \$12.60 per fanega.

Total at last return		Cocoa Shipments.			
June	3 S S	Bags	Trinidad	17,726	Venezuela
	3 S S "Trent"	103,744	1852		
	6 S S "La Plata"	3234	50	483	Europe
	8 S S "Hispania"	1150	700	50	New York
	9 S S "Caroni"	1262	1885		San Francisco
	10 S S "Savan"	1885	3050	652	Europe
	10 S S "P. Willem II"			127	
	15 S S "P. Maurits"				New York
		116,897		19,038	

Letters to the Editor.

Another Pro-Bounty Fallacy Exposed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—It is possible that some "opponents of the Brussels Convention endeavoured to make the public believe that the retail price of sugar is lower on the Continent than it was in this country," but I do not recollect any such attempt on the part of any well informed person. What was urged was that the effect of the Convention had been to increase the price of sugar in this country and to decrease it on the Continent. This cannot be described as a fallacy; as a matter of fact the argument is confirmed by the Board of Trade Return which you quote. I trust that you will allow me to make this clear to your readers.

Yours, etc.,

The Editor of the *Sugar Users Journal*.

(We are glad to receive this assurance that no "well informed person" attempted to lead the public to believe during the recent agitation that the retail price of sugar was lower on the Continent than it was in this country. It was certainly reiterated on every possible occasion by the pro-Bounty party that the effect of the Convention had been to increase the price of sugar in this country and to decrease it on the Continent, and it is certain that many were led to believe—and were evidently intended to believe—that sugar had become cheaper on the Continent than in this country. It was the price of sugar and not the amount of duty, which was in question. The price of sugar is identical in both places, but the public were persuaded that the Convention had created an artificial cheapness abroad and an artificial dearness in this country. If the object of the pro-Bounty party had been to state the plain fact that in France, Germany, and Belgium, owing to the abolition of Bounties, a reduction of the consumption duty had become possible, and had so far reduced the duty paid value of sugar in those countries, it would have been easy to have simply said so, and thus avoided all misunderstanding; but that, apparently, was not the object the agitators had in view. It has been conclusively proved that the Convention was not responsible for the recent rise in sugar. If it had been, it would have raised the price to the whole world, and not merely to the British consumer. It has been pointed out quite truly that as the Convention enabled France, Germany, and Belgium to reduce their duties and thereby increase their consumption, it so far created a larger demand for sugar, but if that for the moment may have given an impetus to the market, it is only temporary, because whatever may be the world's consumption of sugar, that consumption will always be supplied on the basis of the natural cost of production. There is nothing whatever in the figures of the Board of Trade Returns to justify the remarkable assertion that it confirms the statements of the pro-Bounty agitators.—ED.)

A Proposed West Indian Conference.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

June 28th, 1905.

DEAR SIR,—I was greatly interested in the paragraph you published in your *Circular* of June 20th re "A. Wake's" suggestion to hold a West India Colonial Conference in London, and would suggest that the present time is very suitable, as we have the Colonial Exhibition at the Crystal Palace and the Cotton Exhibition at the Imperial Institute to study from.

I have just returned from just such a Conference, having been invited to attend the first annual International Tropical Agricultural Congress at the Hôtel de la Société d'Encouragement à l'Industrie Naturelle to Paris. At the conclusion of our five days' work all the delegates spoke of the great benefit they had received from our meeting. We started at 9 a.m. sharp, and it was often 6 or 7 p.m. before we had finished.

Our programme consisted of exactly 100 papers, to be published or read by the six sections. Of these I heard eight or nine delivered, including Dr. Laveran's, of L'Institut Pasteur on "Maladies à Trypanosomes aux Colonies," and Dr. Soskin (Director of *Der Tropenpflanzer*) on the "The Cultivation of Cotton in the German Colonies." I noticed cotton and rubber attracted by far the greatest attention. Only two papers were on cocoa, Mons. Elot's (the Government chemist at Guadeloupe) and my own.

Should we arrange a Conference in London, we could, as in Paris, visit Kew and the Exhibitions under expert guidance, and inspect the growing plant or the products themselves; and as the delegates expressed great pleasure at the visits we paid to L'Institut Pasteur and Messrs. Menier's Chocolate Factory, similar visits might be arranged over here.

Anything I can do in the columns of my paper to help the idea will be done with pleasure.

I would take this opportunity of telling you personally how very useful I have always found *The West India Committee Circulars* when I read them, and to say that the desire to obtain them regularly is one of the great reasons of my wishing to join your Committee.

Yours very truly,

HAROLD HAMEL SMITH,
(Editor of *Tropical Life*.)

(Mr. "A. Wake's" suggestion was rather that a political Conference should be held. There is much to be said in favour of Mr. Harold Hamel Smith's suggestion, which will receive careful attention, though it is to be doubted whether it would be possible to arrange for a Conference this year. We shall be glad to have the views of the Imperial Department of Agriculture on the subject. Possibly that useful organisation might see its way to co-operate.—ED.)

Our Library.

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. Since we last went to press we have received the following:—

Cultivation of Oranges in Dominica. Imperial Department of Agriculture. Pamphlet Series, No 37. Price 4d., post free 4½d. (Obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms.) Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, Administrator of Dominica, has devoted much time and attention to stimulating interest in the establishment of new industries in the Island, and this small pamphlet should do much to further the educational process regarding Dominica, which was inaugurated by his admirable brochure, "Notes and Hints to Settlers." The Commissioner of Agriculture hopes that these notes will be

useful to those who have already embarked in the industry, and also of service in directing attention to its possibilities in the future. For the successful establishment of an orange industry great attention will have to be paid to gathering and marketing the fruit. It would be specially unfortunate if, in the initial stages, Dominica oranges were allowed to receive a bad name in the European or American markets. This can be avoided only by the exercise of the greatest care in selecting and shipping the fruit. Individual shippers must realize the importance of avoiding the shipment of any but the most carefully-selected fruits, which should be graded according to size and quality, and packed in boxes specially constructed for the purpose. In an appendix Mr. Bell gives some interesting figures regarding the Jamaica orange and grape fruit industry, which has now become of such considerable value to the Colony.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt. W. H. B. Triggs), June 28th:—**Barbados**—Lt. Col. and Mrs. Cosmo Gordon, Mr. W. H. Hesketh, Miss Wilkinson, Mr. C. G. Eden, Mr. and Mrs. W. Horne, Mr. Hankey, Ven. Archdeacon T. H. Bindley, Mr. C. M. Austin, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Miss Delamere, Mr. T. Hill. **Demerara**—Mr. R. A. Barclay, Mr. C. F. Davson, Mrs. Davson, Dr. P. H. Delamere, Dr. C. Bovallus. **Jamaica**—Mrs. R. Henriques, Mrs. E. K. Isaacs, Mrs. C. H. A. Isaacs, Mr. F. B. Brown, Mrs. Brown, Mr. F. E. Hopkins, Miss Isaacs, Miss Solomon, Mr. H. W. Mortlock, Miss A. M. Hanna. **Trinidad**—Ven. Archdeacon of Trinidad, Mrs. F. Gransaul, Mr. W. M. Dickson, Mr. and Mrs. Warner, Miss E. Harrigan, Mr. M. Alonzo, Mr. G. White, Mr. E. C. Skinner. **Antigua**—Mrs. R. McDonald, Mr. E. K. Lane. **Grenada**—Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Steele. **St. Kitts**—Mr. E. S. Delisle. **St. Lucia**—Mr. and Mrs. Billingham, Capt. Nicholl. **St. Vincent**—Mrs. Evans, Mr. J. Hazell.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Trent" (Capt. A. C. Farmer), July 5th:—**Barbados**—Rev. and Mrs. Howell, Mrs. Boxill, Miss Haynes, Mrs. Thelwall, Mrs. Walton, Mr. R. C. Catford, Mr. Warwick, Mrs. and two Misses Chandler. **Demerara**—Mr. C. A. Comach, Mrs. Hewick. **Jamaica**—Mr. W. Booker, Miss Burke. **Trinidad**—Mr. B. Sifontes, Miss Coleby. **St. Lucia**—Mr. and Mrs. George Barnard.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), June 21st:—**Jamaica**—Mr. P. H. Bather, Mr. F. L. Bather, Mr. R. W. Bradley, Mr. E. F. Chester, Hon. J. V. and Mrs. Calder, Major Close, Mr. E. E. Cox, Mr. E. C. d'Azevedo, Mr. E. Dottridge, Mr. A. de Salamos, Mrs. Gibb, Mr. J. Grey, Major Hamilton, Mr. J. W. Hill, Mr. Hutchinson, Miss Holliday, Mrs. Haggart, Major Nunn, Mr. A. J. and Mrs. Priest, Mrs. and Miss Sewell, Hon. T. H. and Mrs. Sharp, Mr. Thwaites, Mrs. Todd, Mr. St. G. V. Thompson.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), July 1st:—**Jamaica**—Mr. A. Clodd, Mr. C. Del Castillo, Mr. E. F. H. Cox, Mr. M. Hall, Rev. T. J. O'Mahony, Mr. Mellish, Mr. W. P. Micheln, Mr. E. J. Morales, Mr. J. E. Sharp, Hon. T. H. and Mrs. Sharp, Miss Carter, Mr. W. Olive, Mr. J. Tutson.

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. J. ARTHUR KING, Crown Solicitor, has returned to British Guiana from leave of absence, and resumed the duties of his office.

Mr. E. L. SKETE has returned to Barbados, and resumed his duties as Acting Superintendent, Government Industrial School.

The appointment of Mr. F. R. SHEPHERD, as Agricultural Superintendent and Curator of the Botanical Station, St. Kitts, has been confirmed.

During the absence of Mr. H. B. G. AUSTIN from Barbados, Mr. C. C. WEATHERHEAD has assumed the duties of Acting Consul for Sweden and Norway.

During the absence on leave of Mr. T. H. WARNER, Mr. LECHMERE GUPPY, junr., has been appointed to act as Warden of Tacarigua and Blanchisseuse, Trinidad.

The Hon. JOHN MARTIN, Registrar of the Supreme Court, has returned to Grenada from a three months' holiday, spent partly in Bermuda and partly in Barbados.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has been pleased to signify his confirmation of the appointment of Mr. A. L. MANSFIELD as Assistant Agricultural Instructor, British Guiana.

Mr. RANDOLPH RUST has succeeded Mr. E. C. SKINNER as Acting Member of the Legislative Council, in the place of Hon. W. C. L. Dyett. Mr. E. C. SKINNER has returned to England.

Mr. CHARLES L. BOISSIERE has been appointed to act as Government Veterinary Surgeon and Examiner of Animals, Trinidad, during the absence on leave of Mr. J. D. MILLER, of the Trinidad Light Horse.

Mr. E. M. DE FREITAS has been appointed to act as an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of Grenada, during the absence of the Hon. J. T. DE LA MOTHE, who has been granted leave of absence to November 21st next.

During the absence on leave of Mr. C. PRUDHOMME DAVID and Mr. S. HENDERSON from Trinidad, Mr. I. A. WHARTON and Mr. JOHN HENDERSON have been appointed to act as Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council.

His Excellency the Governor having left the Colony on leave, the administration of the General Government of the Leeward Islands has devolved on His Honour H. HESKETH BELL, C.M.G., Administrator of the Presidency of Dominica.

During the absence of Mr. V. HANSHELL from Barbados, Mr. V. C. HANSHELL will act as Consul for Germany, Consul for the Netherlands, and Vice-Consul for Russia, Mr. S. H. MCCORMICK as Consul for Peru and Mexico, and Mr. G. A. LARSEN as Consul for Denmark.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) July 3rd. "Weather all that can be desired."
 British Guiana (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), June 27th. "Weather favourable generally, but too dry in Berbice." June 29th. "Some acceptable rains have fallen in Berbice."
 (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) June 29th. "Moderate rains generally. Heavy on Albion Estate."
 Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended June 22nd. KINGSTON: "15th to 22nd, fine." PORT ANTONIO: "15th to 18th, rainy; 19th to 21st, fine."

Export of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to June 16 1905	1904	Jan. 1 to June 15 1905	1904	April 1 to May 28 1905	1904	Jan. 1 to June 16 1905	1904	Oct. 1 to June 16 1905	1904
Sugar ...	18,115	26,063 Tons.	23,347	27,207 Tons.	3749	2823 Tons	270,966	357,365 Bks & Brls.	...	...
Molassos ...	30,298	34,140 Pns	1652	441 Puns	...	...	2887	1193 Puns.	...	...
Rum ...	...	...	3642	9171 "	383,434	477,312 Galls.	178	27 Tcs	...	...
Molascult ...	...	...	2794	1771 Tons.	...	...	165	58 Brls.	...	...
Cocoa ...	...	...	7800	33,987 lbs.	7104	4666 Cwts	346	75 Puns.	57,027	64,040 Baks.
Coffee ...	...	...	...	...	3568	6,569 "	...	...	23	126 "
Coconuts ...	...	...	237,271	152,540	804,410	302,530	4,770,140	3,892,425	...	...
Copra ...	...	...	...	...	17,569	1348 lbs.	506,1	10,218 Baks.	667	983 Bales.
Cotton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1426	6703 Baks
Cotton Seed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Asphalt ...	...	...	...	...	1,295,900	399,900	4,298	61,415 Tons.	...	...
Oranges ...	...	...	...	...	2,733,999	179,650 Bunchs	...	...	...	...
Bananas ...	...	...	...	...	11,778	2979 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Pimento ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spice ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gold ...	...	...	39,307	33,091 OZS.	...	...	...	...	3715	2777 Brls.
Diamonds	...	...	3251	4596 carats.	...	...	...	...	470	457 1/2 Brls.
									469	362 Cases.
									165	87 Baks.

Some West Indian Securities.

Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Dividend.	Price.
100,000	Stock.	Antigua - - 4 per cent. Redeemable 1919-44...	100	4 %	102-104
375,000	"	Barbados - - 3 1/2 " " 1925-42...	100	3 1/2 %	99-101
194,500	"	British Guiana 4 " " 1935...	100	4 %	104-106
123,670	"	Grenada - - 4 " " 1917-42...	100	4 %	101-103
1,093,907 1/2	"	Jamaica - - 4 " " 1934...	100	4 %	109-111
85,479 1/2	"	St Lucia - - 4 " " 1919-44...	100	4 %	103-105
422,593 1/2	"	Trinidad - - 4 " " 1917-42...	100	4 %	103-105
600,000	"	Trinidad - - 3 " " Inscribed Stock 1922-44...	100	3 %	88-90
100,000	20	Colonial Bank ...	£6	6 %	6 1/2-6 3/4
15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ...	70	—	29 1/2-30 1/2
209,800	Stock.	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4% 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4 1/2 %	82-84
26,763	5	New Colonial Co., Ltd. ...	5	5 %	2 1/2-3 1/2
46,874	5	" " " 5 % Non-Cum. Pref. ...	5	5 %	72-74xd
347,500	Stock.	" " " 4 % 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4 %	100-103xd
352,700	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company 6% Deb.	100	6 %	17-20
165,000	Stock	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock	100	Nil.	87-89
115,000	Stock,	" " " 7 % Preference ...	100	6 %	87-89
31,250	10	" " " 4 % Extension Preference...	10	4 %	8-9
70,000	Stock.	" " " Perpetual Deb Stock	700	4 %	96-98
74,500	100	Direct West India Cable Co., 4 1/2 % Reg. Deb. (within Nos 1 to 1200) red.	100	4 1/2 %	99-101xd
12,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ...	£2 10 0	6 %	—
46,500	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4 1/2 % 1st Mtge. Deb. (within 1 to 1200) red.	100	4 1/2 %	99-101xd
10,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. ...	5	5 %	—
88,321	10	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. Ordinary ...	10	—	1 1/2-2
34,563	10	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	10	5s.	8-8 1/2
4,669	10	" " " 2nd " ...	10	—	5 1/2-6 1/2
90,000	100	" " " 5% Deb ...	100	5 %	101-104xd

Bank rate 2 1/2 (changed from 3 % on March 9th, 1905), Consols 90 1/2

The Produce Markets' Summary.

SUGAR—Licht's Consumption, September/May, 9 Months.

	1904/5.	1903/4.	1902/3
Convention Europe	2,790,000	3,210,000	2,580,000 Tons
United States	1,300,000	1,290,000	1,280,000 "
Total	4,090,000	4,500,000	3,860,000 "

Licht's Visible, 1st June, even dates.

	1905.	1904	1903.
Convention Europe	1,640,000	2,260,000	2,260,000 "
Total Visible	2,230,000	2,670,000	2,940,000 "

The reduction in Consumption, shown above, is an apt illustration of what always happens when prices of any commodity are forced above their natural level by speculation, and the return to reasonable prices which we are now reaching will inevitably sooner or later restore confidence and cause the distribution of sugar to flow in its natural current. The decline which set in last January from 16s. to 16s. 6d. for 88% has been persistent, interrupted now and again by speculator's operations it is true, but the downward course which was inevitable has been steadily maintained and has produced surprise only to those who will never believe any market can decline but must always advance, a fatal theory which has caused losses times without number. However, we are now well down, and presently we may hope to feel secure. In the meantime the growing beet crops are favourably reported on, and with propitious weather will give the world all the sugar it will want next season, coupled with the cane supply, which is an increasing quantity. High prices are all very well for the short life they live, but reasonable ones with undisturbed trade are in the end far more beneficial to producers, and this is what looks like being in front of us, provided crops do not fail again.

The moment's quotations of 88% are:—July, 11s. 0d.; August, 11s. 1d.; September, 10s. 8½d.; October, 9s. 8½d.; and November/December, 9s. 6½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Europe	1,680,000	2,250,000	2,230,000	2,370,000	1,500,000 Tons
United States	220,000	200,000	310,000	130,000	280,000 "
Cuba	330,000	150,000	340,000	400,000	130,000 "
Cargoes afloat	20,000	20,000	30,000	10,000	10,000 "
Total	2,250,000	2,620,000	2,910,000	2,910,000	1,920,000 "
Quotations of 88% Beet:—	11s. 0d.	9s. 4½d.	7s. 9½d.	5s. 11½d.	9s. 3½d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar—At a decline of 3d. some fair quantities of yellow crystallised were sold early in the fortnight, but the recent fall in beet has shaken confidence, and the trade now refuse to buy, waiting for a steadier tone in the market for raw sugar. Quotations therefore are uncertain, and 18s. must be considered the outside value of average qualities. For 96 test, if arrived, possibly 12s. 3d. to 12s. 6d. could be obtained, but Refiners will not entertain any proposals for future shipments and will only buy sugar available for melting at once.

Molasses Sugar is still selling readily from 12s. 6d. to 16s. 6d.

Muscovado.—Some sales have been made of grocery sugar on the spot from 15s. 9d. to 17s. 6d., but the demand is spasmodic and uncertain. To Refiners a large business was done early in the fortnight in 89 test on floating terms, at 10s. 9d., with a portion at 11s., and one isolated lot at 11s. 3d. At the present moment Refiners are unwilling to pay over 10s. 6d., and that price is none too easy to obtain.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905	1904	1903	1902
Imports	28,000	30,000	16,000	40,000 Tons
Deliveries	19,000	24,000	21,000	21,000 "
Stocks	19,000	18,000	23,000	31,000 "
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	18s. 0d.	15s. 9d.	14s. 9d.	13s. 3d.

Rum.—Stocks in London:

	1905	1904	1903	1902
Jamaica	8700	9800	9300	9600 Puns.
Demerara	5000	10,500	7700	9000 "
Total of all kinds	22,220	28,360	17,000	18,600 "
Deficiency				6140 "

The market has assumed a very quiet appearance, and our buyers are quite disinclined to make any offers at the moment. With this state of things prices are quite nominal, and recent quotations of 1s. 3d. for fair Demerara and 2s. 1d. for approved Standard Home Trade Marks of Jamaica must be considered quite outside ones. Leewards at 1s. to 1s. 4d. are in the same category. This is not the season of the year when Rum usually shows any activity, and it is to be hoped that later on the demand will improve. This time last year Demerara was selling at 7d., and Jamaica at 1s. 9d.

COCOA.—Stocks in London:

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.
	78,000	95,000	81,000	62,000 Bags.

The market remains dull, but prices are nominally unchanged—viz., Trinidad, fair collected, 56s.; Estate Marks, good to fine, 56s. 58s., and up to 62s. for special lots. Grenada fair, 51s.; fermented, 53s. to 54s. 6d. From other Islands Native Cocoa is worth 48s. to 50s., and fermented 51s. to 54s. Circumstances do not point to any advance in prices, and trade is bad.

Coffee.—Unchanged. Value of good ordinary Jamaica, 39s. 40s.

Nutmegs.—Steady. West India sold, 60's at 1s. 8d., 72's at 1s. 1d., 80's at 10d., 90's at 8½d., 100's at 7d., 112's at 6d., 120's at 5½d., 130's at 4½d., and in shell at 3½d., 4d. **Mace**.—Fair to good pale West India sold at 1s. 4d., 1s. 5d., pale reddish, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d., and fair to good red, 1s., 1s. 1d. **Pimento**.—Quiet at 2½d. to 2½d. **Singer**.—Lower dark lean, 37s. 6d.

Arrowroot.—Dull, and only retail sales made of good manufacturing at 1½d. Our chief buyers are not operating for the moment.

Lime Juice.—Steady. Value, 11d. to 1s. 2d. Concentrated firmer, at £15 5s. Hand Pressed, unchanged at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil quoted 1s. 7d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XX.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XLVII.



Mr. W. E. Smith

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

July 16th, 1905

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 8642 CENTRAL.

THE question of cable communication with and among the various West Indian Colonies continues to receive the constant attention of the West India Committee, and though progress may seem to be slow, it is at any rate sure, and it must not be supposed that the sub-Committee appointed to deal with the matter at Seething Lane has been idle. What the Colonies ask for is a more reliable, a cheaper, and an all British service. Jamaica has, for the past seven years enjoyed, through the Direct West India Cable Company an economical and efficient service. The rate to and from Jamaica is 3s. per word, and since the cable was laid there has not been recorded a single interruption in the service. It is not, therefore, surprising in the circumstances, that those connected with British Guiana, for instance, should look askance at having to pay 7s. a word, and having further to submit to the aggravation and loss caused by the frequent breakdown of the cable. We have very often pointed out in these

columns how great this loss to planters and merchants is, especially when the break occurs, as it so

often does, at crop time, when it is of the utmost importance that the Colony should be kept in close touch with the markets of the world. It is much to be regretted that our sub-Committee has not been permitted to peruse the Report of the Inter Departmental Cable Committee. But as it is a confidential document, the only course to adopt is to endeavour to ascertain from the two cable companies concerned, what the nature of their proposals for improved cable communication was, and, as the Imperial Government is not prepared to assist financially, to devise means for giving effect to such of the proposals as may best commend themselves to the Colonies. On such lines our sub-Committee is proceeding, and there is no reason to doubt that with the hearty co-operation of the West Indian Colonies and of the General Managers of the two cable companies, their efforts will not be made in vain. The matter is one of pressing importance; and closely concerning as it does the commercial welfare of the West Indies, it should be constantly the subject of discussion at meetings of the merchant bodies in the West Indies, whose expressions of opinion always carry so much weight at home.

ON another page we give an illustration of the West Indian Produce Stall, which stands in the centre of the West Indian Court at the Colonial Exhibition at the Crystal Palace. Here almost every kind of West Indian produce is displayed, and such articles as sugar, preserves, honey, lime juice, and arrowroot find a ready sale among the numerous visitors to the Exhibition. We know from practical experience that when the public buys West Indian produce it always wants more, and it is safe, therefore, to assume that one of the results of the present Exhibition will be to build up a valuable *clientèle* for the West Indies which will discard foreign beet sugar, and insist in future on using the wholesome, sweet and economical pure cane sugar of our Colonies; and if to this is added sympathy and probably a visit to the West Indies—whose attractions are made so manifest through the medium of the West Indian Court—the good done will be incalculable. While on the subject of West Indian produce, we may ask the question whether all our Members realise the force of the old adage, "Charity begins at home"? It is, perhaps, hardly a question of charity, but do all our Members themselves use West Indian produce in their own households, and set the good example to others? Do they begin the day with a cup of the fragrant Blue Mountain coffee of Jamaica, sweetened with pure cane sugar, and at nightfall soothe their nerves with a Jamaica cigar, the best of which is fully equal, if not superior, to the better-known Havana? We must confess to feeling somewhat of a doubt on this point, and for that reason we take the present opportunity of urging our readers to support the Colonies in the welfare of which they are interested, by using and urging their friends to use on every possible occasion West Indian produce, which for wholesomeness and purity cannot be beaten all the world over. In the advertisement pages of the present issue we give a list of well-established business houses where the produce can be obtained, and if our readers are in search of further information a letter addressed to the Secretary or to the Manager of the West Indian Produce Stall at the Crystal Palace will receive due attention.

Mr. William Edward Smith.

Mr. William Edward Smith, who has just reached these shores from the West Indies as Commissioner for Trinidad at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, is General and Traffic Manager of the Trinidad Government Railways, to which he was appointed in 1894. He obtained his railway experience on the London and North-Western Railway, with which he was connected from 1872 to 1882. From 1883 to 1886 he was Assistant Traffic Manager of the Indian Guaranteed Railways (Scinde, Punjab and Delhi), and Acting District Traffic Manager of the Lahore and Delhi division. In 1889 he was appointed General Manager of the Bridgetown and St. Andrew's Railway in Barbados. Twelve months after his appointment in Trinidad he was granted a special allowance for re-organising

the Railway Department. It will be remembered that Mr. Smith recently went on a special mission to Jamaica to investigate the methods of handling freight there, and his very useful report was subsequently published as a special paper of the Agricultural Society.

New Members of the West India Committee.

Fifteen new Members of the West India Committee were elected at the fortnightly meeting of the Executive on Thursday, July 6th, bringing the total number elected during the current year to 80. Full particulars regarding membership can be obtained from the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London. We append the names of those elected on the 6th inst. :—

Name	Proposer.	Seconder.
Major-General the EARL OF DUN- DONALD, C.B., C.V.O.	Col. W. A. Collings	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.
W. H. S. SHEARS, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.	H. A. Trotter, Esq.
E. T. GAY, Esq.	Robt. J. Graves, Esq.	P. J. Dean, Esq.
J. M. ROSADO, Esq.	Hon. A. R. Usher	E. A. de Pass, Esq.
H. D. SWAN, Esq.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.	C. Algernon Campbell, Esq.
WILLIAM R. SPENCE, Esq.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.	C. Algernon Campbell, Esq.
Messrs. LINDO, DACOSTA & MORRISON	Messrs. E. A. de Pass & Co.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
E. ST. G. TUCKER, Esq.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.	E. Luxmoore Marshall, Esq.
HAROLD HAMEL SMITH, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.	Messrs. Jos. Mackintosh & Son
HON. PHILIP STERN	R. Rutherford, Esq.	E. Luxmoore Marshall, Esq.
A. E. BOLAND, Esq.	L. Guggenheim, Esq.	W. P. B. Shephard, Esq.
The Hon. EVELYN ELLIS	E. A. de Pass, Esq.	C. E. de Mercado, Esq.
Messrs. FARQUHARSON & MILHOLLAND	E. A. de Pass, Esq.	C. E. de Mercado, Esq.
CLIFTON FLANAGIN, Esq.	C. K. Gibbons, Esq.	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.
Captain J. E. MACKENZIE	Cyril Gurney, Esq.	H. A. Trotter, Esq.

forthcoming Arrangements.

In order to give our Members an opportunity of inspecting the very representative Exhibition illustrating British cotton cultivation and the commercial uses of cotton which is now being held at the Imperial Institute, the West India Committee have decided to hold a reception at the Imperial Institute from 4 to 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 26th. Tea and light refreshments will be provided, and there will be *no charge* for tickets, which are now obtainable from the Secretary, the West India Committee. As a large attendance is anticipated, it is requested that an early application may be made.

As many of our Members have not yet visited the West Indian Court at the Colonial Exhibition, a dinner will be held at the Crystal Palace on Thursday, July 27th, at 7.30 p.m., in order to give them an opportunity of doing so, and also of witnessing the firework display. It will be a ladies' night, and the price of each ticket, including admission to the Palace, will be 5s.

Jamaica at the Colonial Exhibition.

By W. G. FREEMAN, B.Sc., F.L.S.

In the last two colonies with which we have been concerned, namely Trinidad and Grenada, we have had instances of two British West Indian Islands where cacao has replaced sugar as the chief product. In Jamaica also sugar has been deposed from its old position, not in this case by cacao, but by fresh fruit. The following table, taken from Mr. F. Cundall's "Jamaica in 1905," which, recast and brought up to date for the purpose of this exhibition, forms an excellent little

handbook to the colony, will serve to make this point clear, and give us a good general idea of the relative importance of the principal Jamaica exports. I have taken the figures for 1902-3 rather than the following year, as owing to the hurricane at the end of 1903 the returns for 1903-4 are abnormal.

Fruit	...	...	...	...	59.3	per cent. of total exports.
Sugar	...	...	8.2	}	14.7	" "
Rum	...	...	6.5		" "	
Coffee	...	...	...	...	7.6	" "
Dye Woods	...	...	...	...	7.9	" "
Pimento	...	...	...	...	6.0	" "
Minor Products	...	...	...	...	18.5	" "

THE FRUIT INDUSTRY.—Jamaica stands alone amongst the West Indian Colonies in respect of the magnitude of its fruit industry, the success of which has been due mainly to the suitability of local conditions to banana cultivation, and the comparative nearness of the island to the great market for fruit in the United States. Some 55,000 acres are now under banana cultivation, and a sketch map in the Court shows clearly the chief fruit-producing districts of the Colony. I have already had occasion to dwell on this industry in *The West India Committee Circular* for January 31st last, and need say no more now on the general question. Fruit is well represented in the Court by fresh bananas, grape fruit, oranges, pine-apples, limes, &c., although the season of the year is against some of these being seen at their best. Jamaica bananas are familiar to every one now. Jamaica oranges are year by year attaining a more important position in the English market, but the excellent grape fruits the Colony can produce and send to this country in first-class condition, have yet to win their way to popular favour here as they have already done in the United States. Other fruits are represented by a large number of specimens preserved in formalin, and an excellent opportunity is afforded to anyone anxious to make himself acquainted with many of the principal, but comparatively little known, tropical fruits.

Whilst on the subject of fruit attention should be directed to the extensive series of preserves exhibited in the Court. Preserves of almost all the chief fruits of the island are shown, ranging from well-known products such as Guava jelly to little known preserves such as tree tomato and cherimoyer jam. Some are put up in the rather crude and unattractive manner, too often, unfortunately, to be noticed in West Indian preserves, but there are several welcome exceptions, amongst which should be mentioned the productions of Messrs. Levien & Sherlock, of the Belle Vue Plantation, and of Mr. Hall, of Kingston. The preserved guavas, mangos, pine-apples, &c., of the latter are most appetizing in appearance, and leave little to be desired in any direction.

SUGAR AND RUM.—The second industry of the colony is represented by a series of sugars of various grades from Colonel Ward's well-known estate of Monymusk, and by a series of coloured photographs illustrating the chief stages in sugar cultivation and manufacture on Caymanas Estate. A map of the colony indicates the location of the 24,000 acres devoted to sugar production. Rum, for which Jamaica has long been famous, is adequately shown.

COFFEE.—The Blue Mountain Coffee of Jamaica is known all over the world, and needs no description. Representative samples of Jamaica coffees of various grades are exhibited, together with preserved specimens, showing in their natural conditions coffee twigs, with foliage, blossom and berries. The leaflet, "Coffee in Jamaica," placed for distribution near the exhibits, affords a concise summary of coffee production in Jamaica.

DYEWOODS.—Some large specimens of fustic and logwood represent this important industry of the Colony.

PIMENTO.—The familiar allspice, the berries of a tree of the myrtle order, form the next

important product of Jamaica, and is brought to notice by a good series of exhibits, including various preparations. Ginger—fresh, cured, powdered and preserved—brings to notice another tropical product for which Jamaica is well-known. Nutmegs are also exhibited.

KOLA.—An interesting exhibit is made by the preserved and dried pods of the kola tree, containing the seeds which are such an important article to many of the races of West Africa. More recently the stimulating properties of the kola "nut" have received wider recognition, as the exhibits of kola syrup and kola wine testify. Several of these preparations are put up in very good style.

ANNATTO, another small export of Jamaica, is shown in the Court, the exhibits comprising the seeds as gathered from the plants, the dye in liquid form and in "concrete."

FOODSTUFFS.—It is always of interest to dwellers in one country to see the staple food-stuffs of another, and the Jamaica Court contains a very fair selection of the ordinary cereals, pulses, starches, and meals of the tropics. Guinea corn, Indian corn, both in the ear and as meal, rice, red and white beans, pigeon peas, no-eye peas, arrowroot, bread-fruit starch, banana and plantain flour and meal, &c., are all represented by good specimens. A special word is necessary for the products of the cassava or manioc plant, the general appearance of which can be seen from the photographs in the Court. Fresh specimens of its large tuberous roots are shown, together with the nutritious "farine" prepared from them. This farine or cassava meal is, it should be remembered, one of the most important food-stuffs of the tropics. The dainty cassava cakes made from this farine, so appreciated by both residents in and visitors to the West Indies, are exhibited. Cassava starch (which in the near future is likely to be a much more important export of Jamaica than at present) is to be seen, and also tapioca, another product of the same plant, which looms large in the export list from the Straits Settlements. A by-product from the same plant is "cassarup," an essential ingredient in the West Indian pepper-pot, and an important factor in many sauces.

TEA.—Exceptional interest attaches to the exhibit of tea from Ramble Estate, St. Ann's, which is stated to be one of the only two tea plantations in the New World, the other being in South Carolina. The venture has been of slow growth, and may be said to have passed out of the experimental stage two years ago when tea was first prepared for the market. Packets of "Blossom Brand" tea, well packed and attractive to the eye, are on sale in the Court, and it is to be hoped that Jamaica tea will earn a welcome on its merits.

CACOA.—Unlike tea, cacao is a well established industry, and it will be sufficient to record that the Court contains a good series of the principal grades of cacao produced in Jamaica, and also some chocolate. The source of the "bean" is demonstrated by the model of a cacao pod on a tree, and the preserved specimens.



The West Indian Produce Stall.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Another potential industry is brought to notice by the series of essential oils exhibited by the Government Chemist and by Mr. Tcharschmidt.

TOBACCO.—Jamaica tobacco and cigars make an excellent display. These exhibits will be dealt with in detail in a later article.

COTTON.—The formerly important cotton industry has recently been resuscitated in the Colony as in other parts of the West Indies, and the samples of Sea Island Cotton grown by the Hon. H. T. Ronaldson, the Hon. Dr. Pringle and others, indicate the potentialities of Jamaica as a cotton-producing country. There are also photographs of wild cotton bushes.

HONEY.—Jamaica honey is another product of the Colony, which, during the last few years has established itself in the markets of the world. Good samples of logwood and other honeys are exhibited. They differ a good deal in attractiveness, owing to various methods of bottling, some of the patterns of bottles used with long narrow necks being quite unsuited to this product in normal British temperatures. This is a defect which can readily be overcome.

Jippi-jappa hats, made from the leaves of a palm-like plant (*Carludovica Jamaicensis*), very closely related to that from which the famous Panama hats are made, are exhibited in the unfinished and finished states. They form a good substitute for the more expensive "Panamas," and as the sales in the Court indicate, have been well appreciated.

It is impossible now to refer in detail to the wealth of minor products exhibited in the section. Ornamental seeds and articles made from them, carved coco-nuts, bamboo goods, walking-sticks, pretty lace-bark articles and basket work of various kinds are all represented. The timbers of Jamaica are brought to notice by the interesting set of specimens from the Institute of Jamaica. The animal products of Jamaica are comparatively few. The turtle is the one of greatest importance, and the preserved eggs, dried turtle, and other preparations are sufficiently representative.

An interesting feature of the Court is the collection of living economic plants from the Botanic Gardens, Jamaica. The English climate has not agreed with them all, but the majority are in sufficiently good condition to afford a much better idea of these useful tropical plants than many pages of description.

The Court is well supplied with literature. Mr. Cundall's "Jamaica in 1905" has already been referred to. A series of guide books and other volumes afford additional general information, whilst concise summaries of several of the chief industries are given in the series of leaflets placed about for free distribution, including "Cassava in Jamaica," "Coffee in Jamaica," "Tobacco Curing," "Cultivation of Pineapples," and "Directions for Planting Cotton." The "Journal of the Agricultural Society" and the chief newspapers are accessible to all. It will be apparent from these brief notes that the Jamaica Courts affords a comprehensive selection of the principal and also the minor products of the Colony, and great credit is due to the Commissioners, Mr. John Barclay and Mr. F. C. Cundall, for their painstaking work, and to all others who have helped to make the exhibit a success.

Exhibition Notes.

Hours Open.

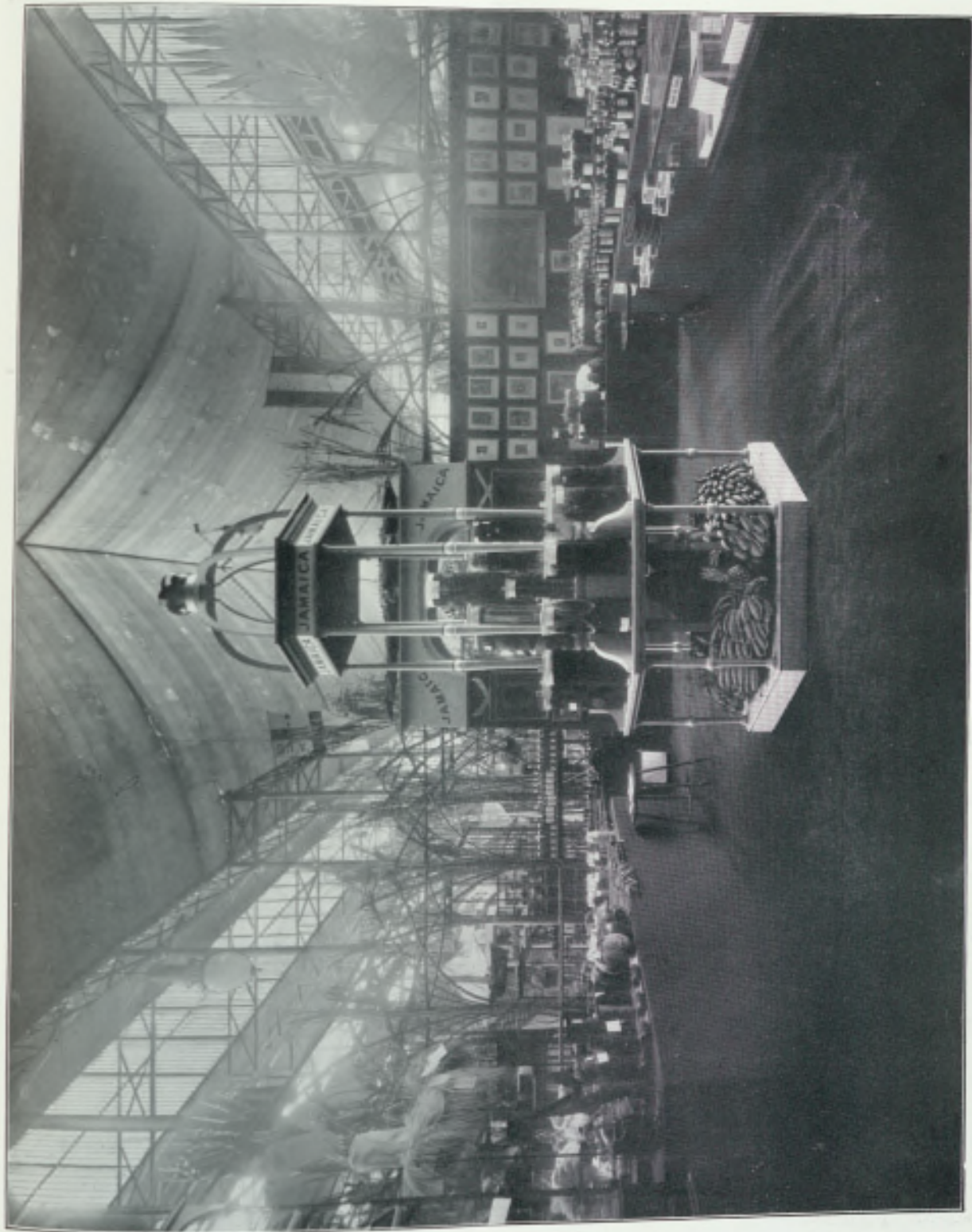
The Colonial and Indian Exhibition at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Sundays excepted). Admission 1/-.

The Crystal Palace Club.

Those of our Members desirous of availing themselves of the privileges offered by the Crystal Palace Club will require vouchers, which are obtainable free of charge from the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Railway Facilities.

There are over 300 trains to and from the Crystal Palace daily, from Victoria, Ludgate Hill.



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[The West India Committee]

A VIEW OF THE JAMAICA COURT,
COLONIAL & INDIAN EXHIBITION, 1905.

and London Bridge—time, 20 to 30 minutes. The High Level station is quite near to the West Indian Court. Return fares, including admission to the Palace:—First class, 2s. 6d.; second class, 2s.; third class, 1s. 9d.

Members' Day at the Exhibition.

Thursday, the Committee day at the Exhibition, usually finds a considerable number of our friends inspecting the exhibits at the West Indian Court. A table is reserved in the restaurant for those wishing to dine and witness the fireworks, but *it is necessary for Members intending to be present to give notice to the Secretary by Thursday morning.*

The Attendance at the Exhibition.

The attendance at the Exhibition since the opening day has been 530,614. Among those who have signed our register during the fortnight are: Miss Edith E. Aranha, Mr. James E. Aranha, Mr. Charles M. Austin, Miss Eva Badin, Mr. J. Edmeston Barnes, Mr. W. A. Barron, Mr. W. Bourke, junr., Mr. G. R. Cargill, Mr. A. F. Cargill, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Cartwright, Mr. John Cassis, Mr. Francis Dial, Mr. Fred Driver, Mr. J. H. Duff, Mr. M. S. Ferreira, Mr. W. Ferreira, Mr. C. J. Gillies, Mrs. Matilda Joliff, Mr. Harold Cort Ling, Mr. John A. Lightbourn, Mr. John E. Lyons, Mr. A. L. Mackinnon, Mr. Thomas Mair, Mr. K. F. Muirhead, Mr. Inez Munro, Mrs. Naomi, Mrs. Peet, Mr. E. E. Pratt, Mrs. and Miss L. Sutton, Mrs. Sidgwick, Mr. and Mrs. James Todd, Mr. E. A. Trimmingham, Mr. H. P. P. Trimmingham, and Mr. A. Blockwood Wingate, Mr. E. C. Skinner, Miss Delgado, Mr. F. B. Lyons, Mr. F. E. Lyons, Mr. W. E. Smith, Mr. John Barclay, Mr. John H. Hart, Mr. H. Oram, Mr. F. A. Sealy, the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby.

The Exhibition Commissioners.

Mr. J. H. Hart, the Commissioner for Trinidad, having been relieved by Mr. W. E. Smith, leaves for the West Indies by the R.M.S. "Orinoco" on Wednesday next, with the good wishes of all those with whom he has come in contact. It is certainly agreed on all sides that he has performed his duties with conspicuous ability, and the people of Trinidad should, and doubtless will, be grateful to him and to Mrs. Hart, who has also been very regular in her attendance at the West Indian Court. Mr. John Barclay—whose zeal and energy were so marked in the earlier days of the Exhibition, until he was succeeded by Mr. Frank Cundall—is also returning to the West Indies; and though his holiday can hardly have proved altogether restful, he may well feel proud of the fact that he has given his services loyally and ungrudgingly to Jamaica. The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Commissioner for Barbados, and Mr. Frank Cundall, the Commissioner for Jamaica, still remain with us, and the triumvirate completed by the arrival of Mr. W. E. Smith, will continue to have headquarters at the West India Committee Rooms.

An Opportunity for Exhibitors.

Since we last went to press the firm of Messrs. John McNeil & Company, the well-known sugar machinery engineers, of Glasgow, have availed themselves of the offer of space in the West Indian Court which we have made to our Members desirous of exhibiting articles and pictures actually relating to the West Indies. Another important addition is a sample of Booker's Demerara Molasscuit, the new cattle food, made entirely from the sugar cane. In due course it is proposed to publish in *The West India Committee Circular* illustrations of all the private exhibits, which include, in addition to the above, displays by the Molasscuit Company, Ltd., the Anglo-Continental Guano Works, Messrs. Evans, Sons, Lescher & Webb, the Montserrat Company, Ltd., Messrs. L. Rose & Co., Messrs. James Philip & Company, the Pure Cane Sugar Company, Messrs. Jones & Younger, Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co. (St. Vincent Arrowroot). *There is still a small amount of space available for exhibits relating to the West Indies, and we shall be glad to place this at the disposal of our Members desirous of exhibiting, subject to their consenting to pay a proportion towards the decoration of the Court and general expenses.*

Consumption of Sugar.

According to the figures given in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, the consumption of sugar in the principal European countries which were signatories of the Brussels Convention shows a falling off of 315,505 tons for the first nine months—September, 1904, to May, 1905—of the campaign over the corresponding period of 1903-4. The figures given are:

	1904-5.	1903-4.	
France	414,434 tons	535,641 tons	Decrease, 121,207 tons.
Germany	698,186 "	823,904 "	" 125,718 "
Austria-Hungary	325,662 "	370,229 "	" 44,567 "
Belgium	52,235 "	64,426 "	" 12,191 "
Great Britain	1,104,595 "	1,118,554 "	" 13,959 "
Holland	66,870 "	64,733 "	Increase, 2,137 "
	2,661,982 tons	2,977,487 tons	Decrease, 315,505 tons.

The Adulteration of Barbados Molasses.

We have received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies a copy of a report furnished by the Governor-General of Canada regarding the alleged adulteration of Barbados molasses in the Dominion. The Minister of Inland Revenue states in this report that a collection was made of molasses as sold, and that a careful analysis of it failed to establish the alleged adulteration. "The Minister observes that it is apparently well-established that different grades of Barbados molasses are blended, and the mixture sold as Barbados molasses, but when the product of any particular country varies in quality, it is impossible to establish a standard. The sale of the blended article as the product of that country is in accordance with the facts, and unless foreign molasses or glucose be added, no means appear to exist of preventing a continuance of this class of blending." A series of experiments were conducted by Mr. Thomas Macfarlane in order to ascertain whether samples of molasses collected by food inspectors and others were genuine West Indian molasses or had been adulterated subsequently to importation. Twelve different standard samples were obtained by the Commissioner of Customs from lots imported direct from the locality of production, and the results are detailed in tables which accompany the report, and which, though too lengthy for publication in *The West India Committee Circular*, may be seen by our Members at the West India Committee Rooms. In this table the results of analysing three samples of genuine West Indian molasses are given. For the purpose of comparison, these were compared with the figures yielded by four samples of New Orleans molasses, of which a considerable quantity is imported into the western parts of the Dominion. All the samples were subjected to the same methods of examination, regarding which the following particulars are given:—

The treatment of crysolite fibre was undertaken chiefly for the purpose of separating the sugars of the samples from non-sugars and colouring matter. The sample was at first stirred up from the bottom and mixed so as to obtain a fair average of the whole, then a 10 or 20 % solution was made of it, 20 or 25 c.c.s. of which were dried in asbestos contained in Macfarlane tubes. These tubes were then extracted with 95 % hot alcohol in Stutzer tubes, and the loss sustained was noted. The reducing sugar before and after inversion was determined in the alcoholic extract, and expressed respectively as Dextrose of Sucrose. The total of these sugars abstracted from the percentage removed by alcohol gave the percentage on non-sugars soluble in alcohol. The tubes were next treated with warm water, and the loss regarded, and non-sugars insoluble in alcohol, which consisted to a large extent of colouring matter.

The Polariscopes work consisted of a determination of the cane sugar or sucrose by the Clerget method, and the direct reading by the Schmidt and Haensch Saccharometer. The determination of total ash was made by treating the same after incineration with a solution of ammonium carbonate so as to prevent any lime from being taken up in the water soluble ash. The ratio of water soluble to acid soluble ash was calculated, and the results stated in a separate column. A large number of sulphur estimations were also made, the percentage ascertained being stated in the last column of the tables. A few samples were tested for nitrogen, but the quantity was so small that its utilisation for purposes of discrimination was not regarded as possible. The average percentage of nitrogen in five different samples of molasses was found to be 0.078-0.486 of proteids.

"The standard samples exhibit a wide diversity of composition. Not only do the molasses from the various places of production show great differences in the percentages of their constituents, but the different importations from the same Island, but probably originating from different estates, also show considerable variation."

"Molasses from Barbados and Porto Rico contain as a rule smaller percentages of reducing sugar and non-sugars, than do the samples from Demerara and Trinidad, probably because in the latter places better processes of manufacture are employed with the result of extracting larger quantities of cane sugar from the juice, and leaving larger quantities of reducing or invert sugar in the molasses. It is no doubt the case that the greater the number of operations or amount of boiling to which the juice is subjected, the greater is the quantity of cane sugar which undergoes inversion."

"Similar differences doubtless exist between the systems adopted on the various plantations in the same district causing corresponding variations in the composition of their products. This view seem to be confirmed by the results of examining the samples of New Orleans Molasses, where the differences between those produced in the 'open kettle' and those styled 'Centrifugal' are very marked."

"Among the standard West Indian Molasses the differences in the percentage of cane sugar as determined by the Clerget process and in the alcoholic extract as determined by the use of Fehlings' solution, are frequently quite considerable, the widest divergencies being found among the Trinidad and Demerara samples. Indeed in this respect, as well as regards their contents in reducing and non-sugars, some of the latter are not very far removed from sugar-house syrups."

"The Trinidad and Demerara samples also betray a resemblance to sugar syrups in containing less water and more ash than molasses from Porto Rico and Barbados. As regards the relation between the water soluble and the acid soluble constituents of the ash—or, as it may be called, the ratio of the alkaline salts to the earthy carbonates—it does not appear possible to draw any conclusions which might serve to discriminate between the various qualities of molasses. Neither does it appear possible to trace in the percentages of sulphur any increase of that element in the molasses samples collected in the open market, which might possibly be attributable to treatment after importation."

"When in New York, I had the opportunity of conferring with several sugar experts at the Laboratory of Messrs. Sherer Brothers, 122, Front Street. The prevailing impression among them certainly was that there is no possibility of distinguishing between the molasses of the different plantations. The seasons vary, and according to the nature of the soil, the accident of fire during growth, and the quantity of rain, there are differences in the resulting juice. As it comes from the cane, the juice is greyish-coloured and turbid. Owing to slime and other impurities being present in greater or less quantity, it boils with difficulty or ease. In the former case the inversion and caramelisation are greater. On at least one-half of the estates

sulphurous acid, in the form of gas, is used for brightening the colour. Caustic lime is also introduced, and afterwards a compound containing phosphoric acid, for the purpose of removing impurities."

"The use of sulphurous acid after importation was considered unlikely. Nevertheless, I applied to Messrs. Taussig & Co. for permission to inspect their molasses mixing factory in Brooklyn, which was granted to me with much cordiality. Mr. Taussig himself accompanied me, and showed me over the whole of the establishment, and allowed me to inspect the tanks in which, and the apparatus by which, the mixing is done. I did not observe in the whole plant anything to indicate the use of sulphurous acid."

"A similar favour was granted me in Halifax by Mr. Silver, of the Dominion Molasses Company, whose factory differs only from that of Messrs. Taussig in being more recently built, with improved apparatus and much better arrangements for handling the molasses puncheons economically."

"Here I followed the whole process of mixing, and saw a batch of forty puncheons molasses put through its various stages. I also inspected every part of the building and all the warehouses without being able to observe any piece of plant resembling that which is used in glucose factories for the production and use of sulphurous acid. I am strongly of opinion that nothing of the sort is in use in Canada for improving the colour of molasses."

"I have come to this conclusion, although sometimes, in taking samples from molasses puncheons and smelling at the bung, a faint acid was observable. It somewhat resembles sulphurous acid, but is just as often detected in the case of undoubtedly genuine molasses as in those suspected of being adulterated. This smell is, I believe, owing to the practice of washing out the puncheons with bisulphide solution previous to their being filled with molasses. These puncheons or casks before coming into use are filled to some extent with water in order to keep them tight. During storage this water becomes putrid, and after it is emptied out, a solution of bisulphide of soda is used in order to destroy the smell and to 'sweeten' the casks."

"It appears to me that sugar-house syrups, which are usually lighter in colour than molasses, might readily be used for the purpose of adulterating them and with less likelihood of detection than in the case of starch syrup. Mixtures of such sugar-house products with dark coloured molasses might possibly be sold as coming from Trinidad or Demerara. But there is no necessity for supposing that such a thing is practised in Canada, seeing that importations are made direct from the latter places of molasses containing abundance of reducing sugar. The importation of adulterated molasses into Canada is now rendered almost impossible by a recent Customs regulation, according to which 'Molasses admitted to entry under item 441 of the Customs Tariff, 1897, must be imported direct from the place of production or its shipping port.' This prevents importation from the United States where the mixing of pure molasses with sugar-house and starch syrup is much practised."

"A recent trade circular makes a similar statement, as shown by the following quotation from it:—

"At a recent meeting of the principal shippers and receivers of New Orleans and West Indian molasses, ways and means were discussed as to how best the general consumption of pure straight molasses could be promoted. It is quite well understood that as a general rule the essential qualifications of good molasses have been disregarded in favour of goods that have nothing but light colour and a cheap price to recommend them, and the consequent result is that the actual consumer acquires the impression, and the remark is only too frequently heard that it is no longer possible to secure good molasses as in years gone by."

"The goods here complained of are chiefly glucose mixtures, the manufacture of which is

now entirely in the hands of the glucose manufacturers. Among the collected samples referred to, there is not one which gives any indication of glucose syrup admixture."

Mr. Macfarlane concludes by saying that from the figures of Table II., it is very apparent that there cannot be any standard erected for West Indian Molasses taken altogether. "It would probably be easier to make one standard for Molasses from Porto Rico and Barbados and another separately for the article from Demerara and Trinidad." The following classification of the collected samples was made:—

Genuine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Doubtful	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Probably adulterated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

44

In a supplementary letter, Mr. Macfarlane states that at the Dominion Molasses Company's works at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, he observed the mixing of a batch of 40 puncheons of molasses, which consisted of 15 puns of Antigua, 15 St. Kitts, 5 St. Croix, and 5 Barbados. Those from St. Croix were of the best quality, and added to improve the colour of the whole, the resulting mixture being branded "British Island Molasses." The Dominion Company also sold the following brands: A. & Co., Ponce, P.R.; Extra selected Grocery Molasses; [D] Barbados; Beaver Brand, Barbados, No. 1 Molasses; Beaver Brand Porto Rico Molasses; Porto Rico Commercial Company, Lion Brand Molasses; Selected extra choice molasses, Linda, Fajardo, Porto Rico. He was informed that the names "Porto Rico" and "Barbados" were never applied to the mixed molasses unless the original molasses came from the plantations on those respective islands. The blending of the latter was to obtain uniformity in the product, so that retailers might always depend upon the same quality of molasses. Mr. Macfarlane suggests that there should be a closer inspection of the factories in Barbados, with a view to getting them all to work on the same plan and so produce a more uniform article, showing on analysis more definite chemical characteristics, upon which a definite standard for Barbados molasses might be based.

The West Indian Cotton Industry.

During the past fortnight 173 bales of cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.30d. per lb.; and West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb.

The latest advices from the West Indies regarding the nascent Cotton Industry are of a very favourable character, and in several Islands it is probable that there will be a considerably increased acreage under cotton in the near future. Ratooning of cotton, which appears to be very prejudicial to success, is now only being adopted by very few, and the Department of Agriculture is doing all that is possible to discourage the practice. After ratooning the cotton produced is of poor quality, and the result is that the standard of West Indian Sea Island cotton is lowered, and its reputation suffers. In the second place, ratoon cotton is nearly always badly attacked by disease, and forms a centre of infection in all the cotton fields in the neighbourhood; so that the man who ratoons his cotton injures not only his own interest, but also that of his neighbours and the Island generally.

His Honour Sir Robert Bromley, the Administrator of St. Kitts, has addressed a letter to the *Daily Express* of that Island, giving practical advice to cotton planters, based upon a visit which he recently paid to a mill which is using a considerable quantity of West Indian cotton. When he visited it, it was actually spinning some Nevis and St. Kitts cotton, so that he was able to note its good qualities and also its defects and their results. The necessity for the great care in the selection

of seed was impressed upon him. The owners of the mill said that this was a point to which the greatest attention should be paid, and strongly urged that each season every effort should be made to procure the best seed. For instance, this year they would recommend planters to use seed from the Concord, Calder, and Mustique Estates in St. Vincent, as the cotton grown on these estates this year was the best in the West Indies. Planters in Nevis especially should do this, instead of planting their own seed again this year, as the result of the latter might be a deterioration of the cotton.

The next point of importance was that the cotton should be picked ripe—that is, when the bolls are fully open, and have had the sun well in them. Cotton gathered in an immature state loses much of its strength, has no natural twist, and has much “nep” in it—the latter, by the way, being the most difficult thing to get out of the cotton, so that the less “nep” there is in the cotton, the better spinners like it.

It must also be remembered that cotton should be picked clean—that is, with as little grit or bits of leaf or bark in it as possible. All dirt or “nep” has to be got out of the cotton before it is spun into yarn, and a spinner therefore likes to have the cotton clean, and will pay more for it. Sir Robert Bromley noticed that the amount of waste that had to be taken out of the cotton before the fibres were sufficiently uniform in length to be used was very great, and therefore it was very necessary that above all things planters should not mix their cotton. Long and short staple cotton mixed together were practically valueless, entailing as they did so much additional labour and waste.

With regard to how soon cotton should be ginned after picking, an extract is given from a letter from a gentleman in the United States of America, pointing out the great importance of never ginning cotton right out of the sun, and the roughness in fibre of some of the Nevis cotton might be due to its being ginned too soon after picking. It would also be found to pay the planter well if he manured thoroughly the ground he proposed to plant.

If proper care were taken, there was no reason why West Indian Sea Island cotton should not have a sure footing on the Lancashire market, and even cut out the American Sea Island; and the fact that the latter had been found inferior to some St. Vincent cotton this year proved what could be done if pains were taken. Sir Robert Bromley hoped that St. Kitts and Nevis would show that they too could grow cotton of the very best quality, which would be second to none.

Petroleum in Trinidad.

Mr. J. H. Hart, the Trinidad Commissioner at the Colonial Exhibition, received by a recent Mail a consignment of petroleum and oils from the newly discovered Lizzard Spring in Trinidad. The oils are of exceptionally fine quality, the analysis showing that after extraction of the illuminating and lubricating oils, there is approximately no residue, a fact which shows that the produce from this source is of extra purity, and should become a valuable asset in the near future. We give below the analysis made at the Government laboratory in Trinidad:—

Lizzard Spring crude petroleum, sp. gr. .840.		Flash point, 86° F.	
Petroleum spirit (distilled from above)	...	785 at 28° C.	
Light illuminating	...	volatile between 150-200° C.	.810 sp. gr. at 28° C.
Illuminating oil	...	200-250° C.	.848
First grade heavy illuminating oil (distilled from above)	...	250-275° C.	.872
Second	...	275-300° C.	.887
Lubricating oil (distilled from above)	...	above 300° C.	.907

The samples were once distilled, but not purified or refined.

The West Indian Club.

The half-yearly general meeting of the West India Club was held on Wednesday, July 12th, after the usual fortnightly club dinner. Mr. A. McDowell Nathan was in the chair, and amongst

those present were: Mr. R. Archer, Dr. H. E. G. Boyle, Mr. S. R. Cargill, Lieut.-Colonel Cargill, Hon. P. C. Cork, Mr. R. B. Daly, Mr. H. A. Hood-Daniel, Mr. A. Elder, Mr. A. E. Evans, Mr. E. G. Godfrey, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. Leonard F. Hudson, Mr. R. M. Johnson, Hon. B. Howell-Jones, Mr. A. Johnson, Dr. Ferguson Lees, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. J. W. Middleton, Mr. John Munro, Mr. J. P. G. Munro, Mr. Penman, Mr. G. H. H. Pile, Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. J. A. Robison, Mr. E. Haughton Sanguinetti, Mr. Schult, Mr. W. P. B. Shepheard, Mr. H. R. Sleeman, Mr. D. E. L. Slinger, Dr. E. Sturridge, Mr. H. D. Swan, Mr. Tapley, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, and Mr. A. E. Aspinall.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, stated that the membership of the Club had now reached 600, and that there was a balance at the bank of over £280. Mr. Schult proposed the re-election of the Committee *en bloc*, and the resolution was seconded by Dr. H. E. Boyle, and agreed to unanimously. Mr. Hudson proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee, to which Mr. Goode replied, and Mr. Swan thanked Mr. Hutchinson, the Hon. Librarian, on behalf of the Members. At the dinner, the healths of Mr. B. Howell Jones and Mr. P. C. Cork were drunk with cordiality, and these gentlemen replied on behalf of the visitors present.

The Memorial to the late Field-Marshal Sir H. Norman.

Many friends of the late Field-Marshal Sir Henry Norman being desirous of perpetuating his memory, a committee has been formed to collect subscriptions for this purpose. Those who wish to subscribe are requested to pay their contributions as early as possible to the Secretary of the West India Committee. We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following subscriptions towards this fund: The West India Committee, £10 10s.; the West India Association of Liverpool, £5 5s.; the West Indian Club, £5 5s.; Hon. J. Allwood, £5 5s.; Hon. Henry Sewell, £5 5s.; Mr. Robert Craig, £5; Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., £3 3s.; Hon. J. M. Farquharson, £2 2s.; Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, £1 1s.; Hon. Thomas Capper, £1 1s.; Hon. W. Fawcett, £1 1s.; Mr. Francis B. Lyons, £1 1s.; the Archbishop of the West Indies, £1; Mrs. George Henderson, 10s.—making a total of £47 9s.

Tariff Reform.

The Annual Meeting of the Tariff Reform League was held in the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Friday, July 7th. Lord Ridley presided, and resolutions welcoming the declaration of the Prime Minister on June 17th on fiscal reform, and expressing the belief of the meeting in a system of mutual trade preference between the Mother Country and the Colonies, were carried. In the evening Mr. Chamberlain addressed a meeting of 10,000 people in the Albert Hall. He referred to the progress the League had made towards the realisation of its objects—namely, the material improvement of the people and the assurance of the organization of the Empire. He explained that the League was not a party association, but, in view of the party system, they depended on the Unionist party for their success in carrying out what was the only fighting and constructive policy in the country.

Our Appointments Register.

The announcement made in *The West India Committee Circular* of May 9th last regarding the establishment of an Overseers' Register at the West India Committee Rooms has met with such a satisfactory reception that, after weeding out the undesirables, we now have upwards of 20 names of candidates seeking the post of overseer on sugar and cocoa estates. In each case two testimonials are furnished by candidates, whose age, height, chest measurement, and present occupation is also

given. The particulars as to where the candidate was educated, his father's name, profession, which are furnished as well, should prove useful, and we hope that our Members, when seeking overseers, will in the first instance study our list. No charge whatever is made, and it may interest our readers to know that we have already succeeded in successfully placing several suitable men on estates. But our list is not only for overseers. We have also on it applicants for positions as managers of sugar estates, book-keepers, clerks and storekeepers, so that it should more properly be called an appointments register.

The West Indian Mails.

We are authorised to state that there will be almost immediately a change in the sailings of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, in view of the abandonment of the mail contract. After tomorrow—when the R.M.S. "Orinoco" sails as usual—the mails will leave for the West Indies on Friday, the first vessel to sail under the new arrangement being the R.M.S. "La Plata," which will leave Southampton on Friday, August 4th, at noon, the special train leaving Waterloo at 9.28 a.m. She will be timed to arrive at Barbados on the following Tuesday week. The homeward mail from the West Indies will in future leave Jamaica on Saturday, Trinidad on the Wednesday following, and Barbados on the Thursday, and she will be timed to reach Southampton on the Tuesday week after her departure from Jamaica, the call at Plymouth being omitted altogether. Should this arrangement be adhered to, the next number of *The West India Committee Circular* will be published on Thursday, August 3rd.

Consular Reports.

Modern Methods in Mexico.

While Mexico in no way can compare to Cuba as a sugar-producing country, nevertheless it has a considerable agricultural and manufacturing sugar industry. There are over 2,000 sugar factories in the Republic. During the past year a determined effort has been made to export sugar to the United Kingdom. Mr. Consul Jerome has not been able to ascertain what the financial results have been, or whether it will be considered worth while to continue to do so. The sugar industry in 1904 passed through a serious crisis owing to the breakdown of an artificially created corner, which involved nearly all the principal producers. The tendency is to increase the acreage under cultivation and to continue to introduce modern methods and machinery in the sugar-houses; a great deal of the machinery comes from the United States owing to the managers of the factories being principally Americans from the State of Louisiana.

The Roumanian Sugar Industry.

At present there are five sugar refineries in Roumania, viz., Roman, Marasesti, Chitila, Repiceno (Botosani), Săscut, and their annual output is said to be from 18,000 to 20,000 tons. About 75 per cent. of the sugar is in cubes and the remainder crushed and in loaves. The labour employed on the beet-fields is mostly foreign, a large percentage being Hungarian. The men receive 1 fr. 50 c. to 1 fr. 60 c. per day, and the girls employed in cutting up beet receive 70 to 80 c. In order to protect the present refineries the Government have decided to grant no further licenses for new enterprises. The beet crop for 1904 equalled only about two-thirds of that for 1903. A comparative table shows the figures to be:—

Year.	Quantity.
1900	236,580 Tons.
1901	254,780 „
1902	130,830 „
1903	208,480 „
1904	145,090 „

Asphalt from Salonica.

The asphalt mine at Selenitza belonging to the Société des Mines de Selenitza, has lately been brought up-to-date by the introduction of entirely new plant, and is now able to produce more than can be exported. The difficulties of transport are considerable, there being as yet no railway. The company intend to build a line to Valona as soon as the business is flourishing enough. In 1903 4,600 tons were exported, and in 1904 4,700 tons, at £5 to £20 per ton, chiefly to Germany, France, Italy and Austria-Hungary.

Notes of Interest.

CABLE. The Trinidad-Demerara cable, which was interrupted on the 1st inst., was restored on July 16th.

BANK RATE. The Bank Rate remains at $2\frac{1}{2}$ % (changed from 3 % on March 9th, 1905), and Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}$ %) are quoted 90 $\frac{7}{8}$ xd.

MR. C. E. DAVIES. Mr. Charles Edward Davies has been appointed by the Board of Directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company Acting-Secretary during the absence of Mr. R. L. Forbes in South America.

A RECONSTRUCTION. We are informed by Mr. H. A. Malvern, the Secretary, that the reconstruction of the old-established firm of Messrs. Fawcett, Preston & Co., Ltd., sugar machinery engineers, has now been completed.

THE W. I. ASSN OF LIVERPOOL. At the annual meeting of the West India Association of Liverpool, which was held on Wednesday, July 12th, Mr. S. Sandbach Parker was elected Chairman, and Mr. J. E. Tinne, Deputy-Chairman for the ensuing three years.

"MILLIONS" AT THE ZOO. The little fishes known locally as "millions" in Barbados are now a source of interest in the reptile house in the Zoological Gardens. It was this fish that Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbons suggested might be the cause of the immunity of Barbados from malarial fever and the *anopheles* mosquito.

A GENEROUS DONATION. Sir Alfred L. Jones has promised to give £1,000 annually for four years to the Liverpool School of Tropical Research, for the purposes of a movement which is being inaugurated in conjunction with the Liverpool University, with the object of inquiring into the natural resources of our tropical possessions.

SUGAR BEET IN PERSIA. A Reuter's message states that Persia has asked Russia to send sugar experts to examine the possibility of the cultivation of beetroot in Persia, and of the establishment of refineries there, and that a Russian Commission will accordingly leave for Persia at the end of August. It is also announced that the Russo-Persian Commercial Treaty may be partially revived next winter.

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES. Mr. Fielding, the Canadian Minister of Finance, presented his Budget Statement at Ottawa on July 6th, and in the course of his remarks stated that the free admission of beet sugar machinery would be extended until July 1st, 1906. As an evidence of friendly feeling towards Newfoundland, it had been decided that vessels from the sister colonies could bring molasses from the British West Indies duty free into Canadian ports, even although the importations were not direct.

APPOINTMENTS REGISTER. The register of applicants for appointment as overseers and other positions connected with West Indian estates, can be seen by Members at the West India Committee Rooms. Full particulars regarding the applicants are now given, together with two testimonials from each. Members receiving applications from those desiring appointments may refer the applicants to the West India Committee, who will supply a form of enquiries for the candidates to fill up.

JAMAICA LOGWOOD. For many years there has been established in Jamaica a factory for the extraction of dye from logwood. The capital employed has been foreign. A second factory is, we understand, now about to be established by a Glasgow firm, "The British Dyewood and Chemical Company, Ltd.", the site chosen being Enfield, on the Blake River, in the heart of a fine logwood country. Plans

have been approved, and a start is to be made on the buildings immediately after the October rains, if not earlier.

MAIL OPPORTUNITIES. The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and Royal Mail steamers after the departure of the West Indian Mail on Wednesday next are advertised: S.S. "Floridian," from Liverpool, for Kingston, Jamaica, July 19th; S.S. "Frednes," from Liverpool, for Demerara, July 25th; S.S. "Salybia," from London, for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Demerara, and Berbice, July 27th; S.S. "Yucatan," from Liverpool, for Barbados and Trinidad, July 28th; and the R.M.S. "Port Kingston," from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, July 29th.

A LESSON TO THE WEST INDIES. It appears that the French Island of Guadaloupe is experiencing a very serious economic crisis, and that the suggestion has been made that in order to set sugar, its staple industry, on its legs again, encouragement bounties should be given to small proprietors. Commenting on this, M. George Dureau points out that for a series of years the French Colonial sugar industry reaped the advantage of considerable direct bounties, by means of which it could easily have transformed its methods of cultivation and processes of manufacture. Except in rare cases, however, nothing was done, and the position of the industry has become such that bounties of encouragement to small planters would only be an absolutely insufficient palliative.

The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "La Plata"—the last homeward steamer under the mail contract, which expired on June 30th last—reached Plymouth at 7:15 a.m. on Wednesday, July 12th, after a very quick passage from Barbados of 10 days 11 hours. Among her passengers were:—Mr. W. E. Smith, the General Manager of the Trinidad Government Railways, who relieves Mr. Hart as Commissioner for Trinidad at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition; Mrs. A. Pawsey, Mr. Justice Swan, Mrs. Swan, and Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Dean from Grenada; Sir H. A. Bovell, Chief Justice of British Guiana; Mr. John M. Fleming, Manager of the Diamond Factory, Mr. C. G. Braddon, and Mrs. and Miss Darnell Davis from Demerara; the Hon. G. Ponsonby from St. Lucia; the Hon. T., Mrs. and Miss Yearwood, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Haynes, Mr. W. E., Mrs. and Miss Thorne, and Mr. Guy Ponsonby from Barbados. The R.M.S. "Port Kingston," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth yesterday morning. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received by the R.M.S. "La Plata":—

Antigua—Activity of Mont Pelé.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) June 27th—It was reported that Mont Pelé had again become slightly active. Volcanic smoke had been seen from Antigua, in the direction of Martinique, and a few detonations were reported to have been heard.

Cable advices from Halifax to the effect that the refiners there were disinclined to continue purchases of muscovado sugar on the basis of New York parity, plus half the Canadian preference, had been received. Until it was known on what terms the Canadian refiners would continue to purchase this class of sugar, further shipments would probably be deferred.

The weather was causing a good deal of anxiety; and although certain estates had been favoured with a few light showers, the Island as a whole was suffering sadly from drought. The canes were getting backward for the time of year, the ratoons especially being hard hit. Unfortunately, there was no appearance of a break-up of this weather.

Barbados—Most Favourable Weather.

(T. W. WILKINSON, ESQ.) July 1st—The elections to the vacant seats in the House of Assembly were to be decided by poll on the 3rd inst. Mr. F. N. Martinez had presented the House of Assembly with a portrait of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, which had been accepted by the Governor.

On the previous day the sugar market was extremely dull, and only \$1.75 was being offered. It was believed that small sales were made at this price. The molasses market was closed, although there might be a very small quantity on hand, for which only 18 cents was being offered.

The past fortnight had been most favourable, for they had had showers almost every day, and the average rainfall was over two inches. The planting of minor crops was in full swing, and manure was now being generally applied to the

young canes, which had responded readily to the rains. Owing to the favourable results obtained last season, the acreage to be put under cotton this year would be greatly increased. Bananas were also being given a trial on a larger scale than before. Several small planters, who were discouraged by the number of bunches that were spoiled during the latter part of last year, had been induced to try again, now that transportation facilities were on a better footing.

British Guiana—Rain on the Corentyne.

(J. McCOWAN, Esq.) June 28th—Estates had nearly all closed down. About 1,400 tons of Crystals had been sold during the fortnight at \$2 42½ to \$2 45.

Decision had been given in the recent libel case, *Thorn v. The Argosy Company*, in favour of the plaintiff, who got \$500 damages and costs of the action. Particulars are given in the papers.

The weather had been favourable everywhere during the fortnight, except on the Corentyne Coast, where good soaking rains were wanted. It was heard that morning that they had a fall of over 5 inches on the previous night, and this would be of immense benefit.

Dominica—Resignation of the Rector.

(E. A. AGAR, Esq.) June 29th—The Rev. Thomas Dent, who had been rector of the Island for the past 14 years, had resigned, and was leaving that day, to the regret of his congregation. The new Bishop of Antigua was thought well of by all who had as yet come into contact with him.

Grenada—The Mail Contract.

(HON. D. S. DE FREITAS) June 29th—There was undoubtedly a strong feeling that, in the absence of a contract mail service, Grenada, in common with the other smaller Islands, would suffer greatly. Few steamers called at the smaller Islands, and consequently it was a matter of course that they should suffer a relatively greater degree of inconvenience than the larger Colonies, who benefited from the keen competition in their ports of many lines of steamers. In Trinidad, for instance, there were three or four opportunities every week for mailing letters. In Grenada they might have to resort to sending letters to the Mother Country *via* New York!

The writer regretted to record that an outbreak of anthrax had occurred in the parish of St. John's. The disease was introduced into the Island from St. Vincent, through the remissness of certain officials in one or other of the two Islands. The disease had been confined practically to a very small area, whence, in all probability, it would soon be stamped out. Legislation dealing with anthrax was contemplated.

The rainfall during the month had been well distributed and ample, without being heavy. Recent cocoa pickings had been yielding more than was looked for, and consequently the shortage of this crop, as compared with last year's total, was not likely to be more than 3,500 bags.

Jamaica—The Education Question.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq.) June 28th—The Committee which was appointed at the Educational Conference at the Collegiate Hall on May 24th had held a public meeting at the Town Hall, Kingston. The Mayor of Kingston presided, and a resolution was passed urging the Government to assume more fully the responsibility of educating the people, if the educational retrogression, of which ominous signs were already visible, was not to continue and increase, and urging the Secretary of State to give instructions to the Governor of the Island not to fix a permanent limit of expenditure on education.

The reports of the working of the railway had been published. For the year the receipts amounted to £114,851 10s. 0½d., as compared with £126,838 19s. 11d. for 1903-4, a decrease of 9.4 per cent. There was a decrease of 14.8 per cent. in general merchandise, 35.4 per cent. in oranges, and 29.9 per cent. in coffee, the balance coming under the heads of sugar and rum, bananas, live stock, &c. The receipts, compared with the year before the hurricane, showed a decrease of £27,449 16s. 7½d., or 19.2 per cent. The ordinary working expenses amounted to £73,785 8s. 10d., as compared with £89,976 5s. 7d., and the gross expenditure to £69,914 14s. 3s., as compared with £92,048 16s. 11d. in 1903-4. The net revenue amounted to £24,936 15s. 9½d., equivalent to 1.1 per cent. on the capital expenditure, as compared with 1.4 for 1903-4, and 2.49 per cent. in 1902. After meeting interest, annuity and sinking fund charges, which amounted approximately to £122,000, the loss on the railway to be charged to general revenue now amounted to £97,063. In 1903-4 the deficit was £87,021, in 1902 £56,807.

The weather had been very favourable for growing crops during the past two weeks.

Montserrat—Favourable Weather.

(CONRAD WATSON, Esq.)—Bishop Farrar of Antigua has left for England. The weather for the past fortnight had been favourable for planting cotton.

Nevis—Largely increased Cotton Planting.

(HON. C. A. SHAND) June 28th—Cotton planting was going on rapidly, and a largely increased area would be sown for 1906. The present crop had almost all been ginned, and over 700 bales would be shipped from Nevis. The highest price realised had been 15 3d. per lb., but uniformity of quality had not been maintained throughout. There was much still to learn about this industry, which had not yet emerged from the infancy stage. Cotton growers of Nevis were addressing a circular note to Sir Robert Bromley, their Administrator, by the mail, expressing their gratitude to him for the interest he is taking in the promotion of the industry. Every one in Nevis was very much in earnest about cotton, and with the uncertainty attached to the future of sugar, a supplementary crop of such a character became an absolute necessity.

The night the last mail steamer left they had a very heavy thunderstorm, accompanied by torrents of rain (four inches), and the Island was looking beautifully green.

St. Kitts—Suspension of Sugar Shipments to Canada.

(CHARLES A. SMITH) June 27th—Crops, except in a few isolated cases, were now complete; and while good rains had fallen since last mail, and good growth was observed on the young canes, they were now approaching the critical time of the year as regards weather, and it was to be hoped they would pass safely through it.

The fall in prices and accumulation of sugar in Halifax had caused an inclination to postpone shipments, for the present at least, or until more cheering advices of the market reached them.

The success of the Exhibition was very gratifying to all West Indians.

St. Lucia—Welcome Showers.

(SYDNEY D. MELVILLE, Esq.) June 30th—The weather had broken lately, with some welcome showers, after a considerable period of dryness.

St. Vincent—Boisterous Weather.

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & CO.) June 30th—The weather of late had been very boisterous, and there had been no opportunity for the droghers to approach the Windward coast.

Trinidad—Heavy Arrivals of Cocoa.

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C.M.G.) June 30th—The Chief Justice left for Canada on June 28th. Many other public officers had either gone or were soon going on leave.

On June 30th Mr. Cipriani moved a resolution expressing opinion that the Floating Dock should be constructed by a private company, with a guarantee, if necessary, not exceeding £3,000. Mr. Goodwille seconded the resolution, and, with one dissentient (the writer), it was carried.

At the next meeting of the Legislative Council, Mr. Rust was to ask: "Whether, in view of the recent decision in Council, it is the intention of the Government to amend the Customs Ordinance, so as to allow produce of the Colony that has been exported to be re-imported free of duty."

They had had abundance of rain during the fortnight, and cultivation of all kinds had been benefitting much.

Heavy arrivals of cocoa, combined with the dull season in manufacturing countries, had further depressed prices. Large shipments had been made to Europe in fulfilment of old contracts, but new business was difficult, except at low rates. Estates grades were quoted at 52s. c. and l. Havre, and ordinary at 51s. 3d., and business at these prices had been done.

Venezuelan descriptions were lower, last arrivals only fetching \$12.30.

		Cocoa Shipments.				
Total at last return	...	113,877	Bags	Trinidad	19,038	Venezuela
June 16 S S "Orinoco"	...	1017	"	...		
" 17 S S "Maracs"	...	2346	"	...	869	" Europe
" 19 S S "Washington"	...	100	"	...		" New York
" 27 S S "Prins Willem III"	...	1995	"	...		" Europe
" 28 S S "P der Nederland"	...	1823	"	...	500	" New York
" 28 S S "Maraval"	...	1383	"	...	368	" Europe
" 30 S S "Canada"	...	4700	"	...	423	" New York
		131,985			21,198	" Europe

Letter to the Editor.

A Proposed West Indian Conference.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR,—With regard to my suggestion for a conference in London of West Indians, and your editorial note upon it, I should not trouble you with a further letter but for my desire to make it clear that it was not proposed to limit the scope of the proceedings of the Conference to political objects. My suggestion was it should be held for the purpose of discussing "questions of mutual co-operation in West Indian affairs." Whether such should include any of the objects I specially detailed is a matter for those taking part in the conference to determine, guided as it would doubtless be by the advice of the West India Committee.

I feel that the strength of the Committee as an organisation would have more effect than it can now have if brought to bear upon a Council composed of men intimately acquainted with the Colonies specially appointed for the purpose of advising the Secretary of State.

The system which, by tradition, obtains at the Colonial Office, however good the intentions of the officials may be, is, and must continue to be, in the nature of things, a bar to the progress of the West Indies.

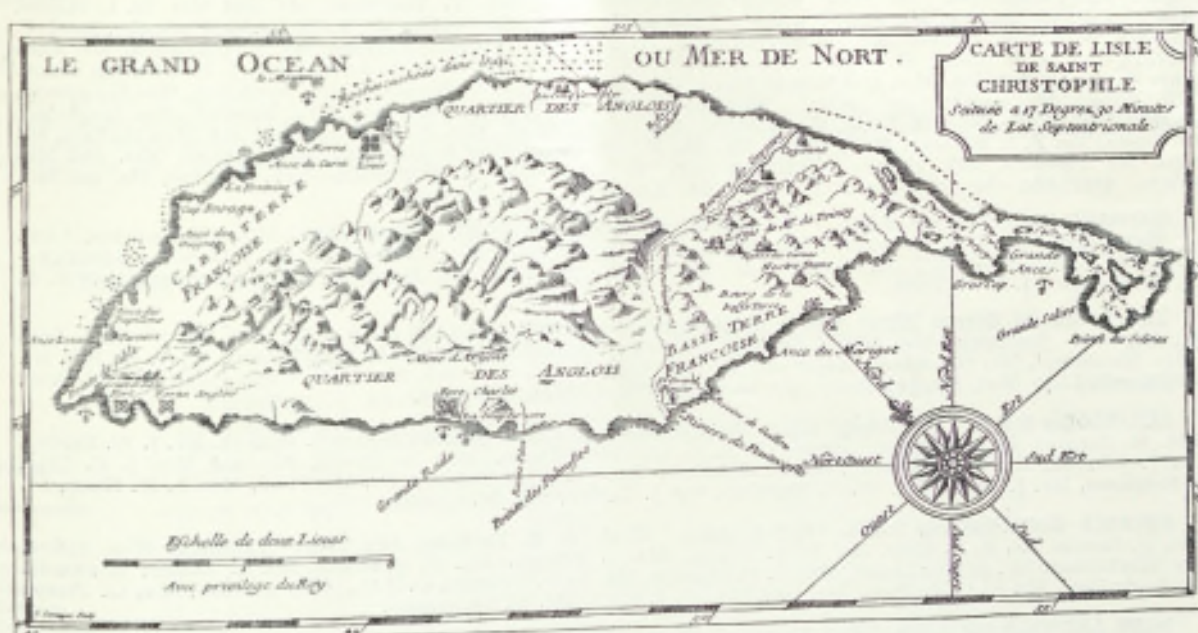
West Indians have in the West India Committee a powerful organisation for bringing about reforms, and other levers are not wanting, for have not the great London journals shown themselves sympathetic in a very marked manner? But the desire for these reforms must be expressed and ventilated. The public fortunately is awakening to the fact that "Empire," whether in England or in Trinidad, for instance, must be run on business lines. The first necessity, therefore, for West Indians is a conference to discuss the reforms needed, and the next is combination to give effect to them.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly.

A. WAKE.

Our Library.

We are indebted to Mr. Cyril Gurney, of Messrs. Thomson, Hankey & Co. for an impression of a very fine engraving by Daniel Lerpiniere, of a view in Jamaica drawn on the spot and painted by George Robertson. The view is of a bridge crossing the Cabaritta river on the estate of William Beckford, who was himself a Member of the West India Committee, and was published by John Boydell in 1778. With the object of reminding readers that we are always glad to accept pictures of West Indian scenery, books relating to the West Indies, curiosities, etc., for the West India Committee Rooms, we reproduce below a map of the Island of St. Kitts, which appears in Pere Labat's "Voyage aux Isles de l'Amerique," which was presented to us by the late Sir Walter Sendall.



A Quaint Map of St. Kitts.

This curious map of St. Christopher, or St. Kitts, as it is best known, is reproduced from "Voyage aux Isles de l'Amerique," published in Paris in 1722, twenty-two years after the author, Pere Labat, visited the Island. He arrived on November 28th, and was received by Pere Girard, the head of the Jesuits. While in the Island he indulged in a monkey hunt. The Island was at this time partly French and partly English, but the English once took the French part of the Island, and the monkeys which escaped from the French houses during the war, multiplied to such an extent that when

the French again regained possession they abounded in great troops, stealing from the houses and making it necessary to keep a close watch night and day on the canes, potatoes, and other things. St Kitts was discovered in 1493 by Columbus on his second voyage. A range of lofty volcanic mountains runs down the centre, and these culminate in the rugged Mount Misery, 4100 feet high. The hills slope gently away to the sea-board, and are densely cultivated to a height of about 1000 feet with sugar cane.

The Agricultural News, Vol. IV, No. 84, obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 1d., post free 1½d. Fumigation of imported plants is the principal article dealt with in this publication, which has been received by the mail. An interesting note by Mr. F. R. Shepherd, of St. Kitts, on seedling canes, tends to show the merits of D 116, which was planted in a field of 8½ acres on Estridge's estate at the end of February, 1904. The canes were reaped at the end of May, 1905, and gave 48,500 gallons of juice, which yielded 26½ tons of muscovado sugar. The canes were tall, straight and free from trash. On Cunningham's estate, Mr. J. S. Somerville planted four acres with B 208, which gave a return of fifteen tons of muscovado sugar. A report of a conference of cotton growers held at St. Philip, Barbados, is of importance. Sir Daniel Morris, in his remarks, laid stress upon the fact that no old cotton plants should be left in the land or carried over after the end of May. Mr. Freeman's article on the Barbados exhibit at the Colonial Exhibition is quoted.

Ethiopia in Exile. By B. Pullen-Burry. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 6s. Miss Pullen-Burry whose account of an earlier visit to Jamaica was given in her book "Jamaica as it is, 1903," a review of which was given in our issue of August 31st, 1903, was attracted to the Colony again while making a prolonged tour through Canada, the United States, and Cuba, and her impressions are recorded in the 288 pages of this volume. The earlier chapters are devoted to some of the latest phases of the Island's history, and much anecdote of a very amusing nature is incorporated, while the later pages present an abridged study of the American negro. The object of the writer appears to be to compare the condition of the black folk under British rule with their more recently emancipated kinsfolk in the United States, and it is needless to say that the former are shown to be the better off in every respect. This is emphasised where the writer discusses the suggested probability of the West Indian islands being in the near future annexed to the United States. She says that "Not a word of it is to be believed, when we see for ourselves how the native element loathes the idea of such an union. The Porto Rican's experience is not lost upon them; the yoke of the American is worse than that of the Spaniard." As in the earlier book there are a few slips which might have been avoided. Thus, if we are not mistaken the waters of Bath should be aquæ solis, and not "solis," but the writer has got now a good grip of Jamaican affairs which enables her to speak with greater authority than before. We were at once largely in sympathy with the book on opening it on a page on which *The West India Committee Circular* is quoted as an authority on the price of sugar, and in the interest of the writer and of the Island to which it should increase the number of tourists, we wish it a very ready sale.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "La Plata" (Capt. W. J. Dagnall) July 12th:—Barbados—Mr. J. W. Potts, Miss Yearwood, Hon. and Mrs. T. Yearwood, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Haynes, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Thorne, Mrs. and Miss Griffin, Mr. Kahl, Mr. G. Ponsonby, Mr. J. F. Gibson, Mr. W. Abbott, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McLaren, Mr. F. Owen, Mr. G. Attridge, Mr. S. Johansson, Mr. Cole **Demerara**—Sir H. A. Bovell, Mrs. Barnes, Rev. and Mrs. Elstob, Mr. and Miss Ho-a-Shoo, Mr. J. M. Fleming, Mrs. A. Mackey, Mr. C. G. Braddon, Mrs. and Miss D. Davis, Miss Millar, Mr. R. R. Rickford, Mrs. MacAdam, Miss E. Gillespie, Mr. B. Clifford, Mr. and Mrs. A. James **Jamaica**—Mrs. A. Pawsey, Rev. and Mrs. Randall, Miss Henderson **Trinidad**—Mr. Justice and Mrs. Swan, Mrs. Hewlitt, Mr. R. B. Athill, Mrs. A. E. Athill, Mr. and Miss Maillard, Mr. W. E. Smith, Mr. E. S. Parmuy, Mr. G. Solis, Mr. M. M. Martinez, Miss Roxborough, Miss Brown, Mrs. and Miss Granger, Mr. Flanders, Mrs. Mason. **Antigua**—Mr. W. J. Douglas. **Dominica**—Rev. T. Dent, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton. **Grenada**—Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Dean. **St. Lucia**—Hon. G. Ponsonby.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt. Trigge), July 19th:—Barbados—Miss Polehampton, Lieut. Guy **Demerara**—Mr. C. J. Crawshaw, Miss Robb, Mr. J. C. de Freitas, Mr. A. Harris, Mr. W. J. Duncan, **Jamaica**—Mr. J. Lyon. **Trinidad**—Mr. J. H. Hart, F.L.S., Mr. W. W. Reid, Mr. R. Menzies, Mr. C. Derwent, Mr. W. L. Nicol, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. L. Todd.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. Owen Jones), July 5th:—Jamaica—Mr. John Cameron, Mr. Wm. Conran, Miss Fawcett, Mrs. Gossett, Mr. J. W. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, Mr. Hutchison, Major and Mrs. Hodgen, Dr. C. F. Lumb, Mr. Mair, Capt. Porter, Dr. W. Peter, Mrs. Sidgwick, Lieut. Tod, Mr. J. Tilbury, Mr. and Mrs. Wigan, Mrs. Westphal.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. Owen Jones), July 15th:—Jamaica—Lieut. Bullock, Mr. J. W. Barclay, Miss M. M. Barrows, Mr. Carlos del Castillo, Mr. E. G. and Mrs. Dunn, Miss McDowell, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Gray, Mr. A. J. Johnson, Mr. R. M. Murray, Mr. A. Mitchell, Rev. T. J. O'Mahony, Dr. MacPhaul, Miss A. M. Nixon, Dr. A. A. Robinson, Mr. J. Sharp, Mr. W. A. Thwaites, Mr. J. Tapley, Mr. W. Chaplin.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), July 29th:—Jamaica—Miss Allford, Rev. A. D. Brown, Mr. R. B. Daly, Mr. R. J. Fraser, Mr. C. Franck, Mr. D. Johnston, Mr. A. Leader, Mr. G. H. Leader, His Honour Mr. Justice Lumb, Miss S. P. Musson, Mr. A. A. Pearson, C.M.G., Miss Pearson, Miss G. Pearce, Mr. F. L. de Pass, Mr. R. C. de Pass, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Sims, Mr. R. Thompson.

HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons) July 17th:—Jamaica—Miss L. Aarons, Mrs. Aitken, Mrs. W. H. Buckley, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Child, Mr. A. T. Cleal, Lieut. Douglas, Mr. C. M. DaCosta, Mr. A. Edwards, Mrs. Eves, Rev. F. Edmunds, Mr. W. H. Farquharson, Mrs. W. N. C. Farquharson, Mr. J. C. Ford, Mr. R. Gillard, Mrs. A. W. Gardner, Mrs. Grant, Mr. R. H. Goffe, Mr. H. Heath, Mr. J. L. Hill, Mrs. Jamieson, Mr. D. Jerrard, Mr. J. E. Kerr, Mr. Kendall, Mr. Lynch, Mr. L. F. Mackinnon, Mrs. C. L. Mais, Colonel and Mrs. Norris, Mr. W. P. Purdon, Mrs. and Miss Reed, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Roberts, Mrs. Ripley, Miss Smith, Mr. E. Sockett, Miss Trench, Mr. J. V. Thomson, Mr. J. Thomas, Mrs. A. Vickers, Mr. P. Vandyke, Dr. D. J. Williams, Mrs. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. C. Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. J. Simons.

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.

The Hon. TIMOTHY YEARWOOD, M.L.C., Jamaica, has been granted six months leave of absence from June 10th

Dr. H. D. B. CASTLE, District Medical Officer of Santa Cruz, Jamaica, is retiring from the public service.—*Morning Post*.

Mr. GEORGE F. BRANCH, at present Agricultural Instructor at Dominica, has been appointed to the same post in Grenada.

During the absence on leave of Mr. A. W. FARQUHARSON, Mr. J. F. Milholland has been acting as Crown Solicitor and Referee of Titles, Jamaica.

Dr. C. F. KNOX has been appointed to act as Surgeon-General, Trinidad, during the absence on leave of the Hon. Dr. J. A. de Wolf.

Hon. THOMAS H. SHARP has been elected to serve as a member of the Legislative Council, Jamaica, in the room of Mr. E. G. O. Smith, resigned.

Mr. JAMES H. CONYERS, M.B., C.M., Government Medical Officer, British Guiana, has returned to the Colony and resumed his duties on June 21st.

Mr. Justice R. M. ROUTLEDGE has been appointed to act as Chief Justice, Trinidad, during the absence on leave of His Honour Chief Justice E. A. Northcote.

During the absence on leave of Mr. C. J. ROOKS, Mr. H. J. Knaggs has been appointed to act as Assistant Colonial Secretary and Clerk of the Executive Council, Trinidad.

The Hon. Lieut. Colonel C. J. WARD, C.M.G., has been appointed a member of the Vere Irrigation Commission, Jamaica, in the room of the Hon. V. G. Bell, C.M.G., resigned.

The Hon. VALENTINE G. BELL, Director of Public Works, Jamaica, having left the Colony on leave, Mr. J. D'Aeth and Mr. C. Kenwick act as Director and Assistant Director of Public Works respectively.—*Morning Post*.

During the absence on leave of His Honour Mr. Justice SWAN, Mr. H. A. Harrison, J.L.B., has been appointed to act as Puisne Judge, and Mr. R. S. Rowbottom as Stipendiary Magistrate of Couva, Trinidad, as from June 26th.

Mr. CHARLES S. DAYSON, B.A., J.L.B., K.C., Solicitor General, British Guiana, has been granted three months' leave of absence, with an extension of leave for six months, during which time Mr. N. R. McKinnon will act as Solicitor General.

Mr. E. M. DEFREITAS, Mr. L. R. MITCHELL, and Mr. I. FERGUSON have been appointed acting members of the Legislative Council, Grenada, in the place of Mr. F. Gurney, Mr. G. Seton-Browne, and Mr. J. de la Mothe, who are absent on leave.

The Hon. J. SPENCER CHURCHILL, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of the Bahamas, has after eleven years' service there left the Colony for New York on three months' leave prior to retiring on pension. The office of Colonial Secretary has been offered to and accepted by Mr. W. Hart Bennett, Colonial Secretary of the Falkland Islands, who will arrive in England from that Colony next month, prior to proceeding to the Bahamas.—*Morning Post*.

Weather Telegram.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) July 17th. "Seasonable weather.

Export of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to June 29 1905	1904	Jan. 1 to June 28 1905	1904	April 1 to June 11 1905	1904	Jan. 1 to June 30 1905	1904	Oct. 1 to June 30 1905	1904
Sugar	33,584	23,303 Tons.	25,718	33,036 Tons.	---	3188 Tons.	272,174	368,962 Bgs. & Hrls.	---	---
Molasses	32,928	37,648 Hhls.	1652	611 Hhls.	---	---	2887	1396 Hhls.	---	---
Rum	---	---	6767	9092 "	506,040	518,029 Galls.	178	27 Hhls.	---	---
Molascult	---	---	2927	1916 TONS	---	---	165	58 Hhls.	---	---
Cocoa	---	---	11850	39,367 lbs.	9124	6485 Cwts.	346	175 Hhls.	60,209	64,438 Bags
Coffee	---	---	---	---	5475	7171 "	---	---	23	126 "
Coconuts	---	---	237,271	161,640	937,880	648,680	4,838,440	3,995,625	---	---
Copra	---	---	---	---	---	1796 Hhls.	5150	10,157 Bags	704	1050 Hales
Cotton	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4745	6495 Bags
Cotton Seed	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Asphalt	---	---	---	---	1,920,850	505,450	---	---	---	---
Oranges	---	---	---	---	3,402,940	287,312 Hhls.	---	---	---	---
Bananas	---	---	---	---	13,853	3530 Cwts.	---	---	---	---
Pimento	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Spice	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Gold	---	---	44,204	36,271 OZS.	---	---	---	---	4104	2888 Hhls.
Diamonds	---	---	3337	4890 carats.	---	---	---	---	509	470 1/2 Hhls.
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	499	349 Cases
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	162	83 Bags.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—Another disastrous fall has taken place in beet during the last fortnight, dragging down the prices of all other sugar and causing serious inconvenience and loss to Refiners and the trade, prolonging also the want of confidence which so signally hampers the market. The cause of the fall is always the same—realisation of the August speculation, and it will be welcome news when one can rely on its being all over. This, however, can scarcely be yet, as in all these out-side operations there is always a section of the public that hangs on to the last moment, hoping for a miracle to lessen the loss. However, the 1st of August will soon be here, and after then we may hope for a more settled state of things, although the damage done to prices will take a lot of repairing in the presence of a supply sufficient for all requirements from now till the next beet crop becomes available. The recent high prices reducing consumption are also responsible for giving us 88% at 10s. and under. In the meantime, Continental advices continue to speak favourably of the crop. So they did last year at this period, and it was much later on that damage through drought was found to have taken place. To attempt to gauge a crop so early in the season is a work of folly, but this we can say, that if the weather is favourable it will probably reach the largest on record, and if unfavourable a reduction of more or less importance must inevitably take place. We must watch the weather with special interest this season.

Since these remarks were printed, a sudden "bear" scare has set in for August, raising the price from 9s. 6d. to 11s. 1½d. It remains to be seen how long this will last. At the close of such a speculation as we have had, these movements in "paper" sugar are always possible.

The moment's quotations of 88% are:—July, 11s. 0d.; August, 11s. 1d.; September, 10s. 11½d.; October, 9s. 7½d.; November/December, 9s. 5½d.; and January/March, 1906, 9s. 7½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Europe	1,590,000	2,190,000	2,150,000	2,280,000	1,390,000	Tons
United States	220,000	200,000	320,000	140,000	290,000	"
Cuba	310,000	120,000	300,000	380,000	120,000	"
Cargoes afloat	90,000	70,000	60,000	50,000	90,000	"
Total	2,210,000	2,580,000	2,830,000	2,850,000	1,890,000	"

Quotations of 88% Beet:—

11s. 0d.	9s. 8d.	7s. 11½d.	6s. 0½d.	9s. 2½d.
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Vacuum Pan Sugar.—Following the downward course of the beet market, prices of yellow crystallised have again weakened and the value of average qualities cannot be placed over 17s. 0d. For 96 centrifugals, if off coast, about 11s. 6d. might be obtained, some Java's having recently been sold on this basis. Forward shipments receive no attention.

Molasses Sugar is in steady demand from about 12s. 0d. to 15s. 0d.

Muscovado.—Very little business has doing in grocery kinds, and prices are more or less nominal. For 89 test to Refiners 9s. 9d. has been accepted on floating conditions for sugar arrived, but for distant delivery there is no demand at present, every one waiting to see the future development of beet.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Imports	28,000	31,000	18,000	46,000	Tons
Deliveries	21,000	26,000	23,000	23,000	"
Stocks	17,000	17,000	23,000	35,000	"
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	17s. 0d.	16s. 3d.	15s. 0d.	14s. 0d.	"

RUM.—Board of Trade Returns for 6 months:

	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Home Consumption	1,853,000	1,971,000	1,862,000	2,089,000	Galls
Stocks 31st May	8,239,000	9,927,000	9,802,000	8,687,000	"
Stocks in London:					
Jamaica	8900	9900	10,400	9800	Puns.
Demerara	5100	9800	7500	8400	"
Total of all kinds	22,569	27,610	7500	8400	"

The market remains dull, and prices are more or less nominal, at rs. 3d. for fair Demerara, and 2s. 1d. for approved Standard Marks of Home Trade Rum. Leewards are quoted 1s. to 1s. 4d. There is very little business passing, the hot weather, amongst other things, being against Consumption.

COCON.—Board of Trade Returns for 6 months:

	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Imports	12,824	16,865	14,275	14,309	Tons
Home Consumption	10,296	11,319	19,205	12,422	"
Stocks 30th June	5684	6409	5716	4104	"
Stocks in London:	80,000	96,000	79,000	67,000	Hags

A dull tone continues to prevail in this market, and prices are tending in buyers' favour. The consumption of Cocoa in this country shows a steady decrease, the sale of cheap chocolate in the streets being largely curtailed by the pily, but it must be faced, and with reduced imports the parity of prices is maintained. Figures illustrating this are subjoined. It is a

First six months' Board of Trade consumption in the United Kingdom:

1905	1902/4 (average)	Decrease.
10,296	11,315	1019 Tons

The closing quotations are: Trinidad, fair collected, 55s.; Estate Marks, 55s. to 58s., and up to 62s. Grenada fair, 50s.; fermented, 52s. to 53s. 6d. From other Islands the value of Native Cocoa is 48s. to 49s., and fermented 51s. to 53s.

Coffee.—Unchanged. Good ordinary Jamaica, 39s., 40s.

Nutmegs.—Irregular. West India 64's sold at 1s. 5d., 75's at 11d., 85's at 9d., 100's at 7d., 110's at 6½d., 125's at 5d., 166's at 4½d., and in shell from 3½d. to 5d. **Pepper.**—Easier. Fine bold pale sold at 1s. 7d., fair to good 1s. 2d., 1s. 4d.; red, 1s., 1s. 1d. **Pimento.**—Quiet at 2½d. to 2½d. **Ginger.**—Easier. Jamaica sold, ordinary to good ordinary, 42s. to 45s.; lean and dark, 37s.

Arrowroot.—London figures since 1 Jan.

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Imports	9480	9573	6640	9798	12,001	Hrds
Deliveries	8891	12,292	7141	8364	9989	"
Stocks, 30th June	10,059	9917	11,923	9153	10,112	"

Still dull. About 250 barrels good manufacturing at 1½d., but not to our regular buyers. **Lime Juice.**—Steady, at 11d. to 1s. 2d. Concentrated firm value, £15 10s. 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil without alteration, value 1s. 7d. Hand Pressed, unchanged at

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XX.

ENTERED AT
STATIONERS' HALL.

THURSDAY, AUG. 3rd, 1905.

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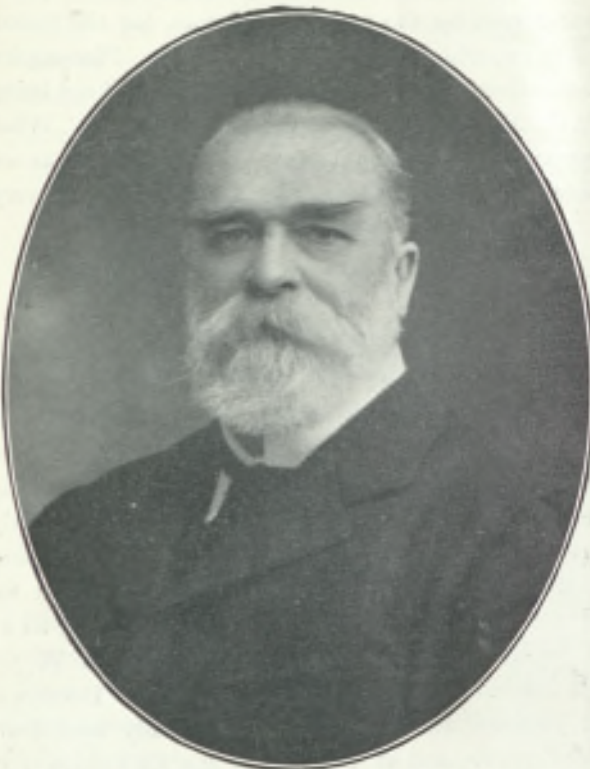
No. 158.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XLVIII.



The Hon. B. Howell Jones.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SERTHING LANE, LONDON,

Aug 2nd, 1905

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.

THE chief feature in the Governor's speech on opening the Barbados Legislature on July 4th—when the usual military staff were present, unhappily for the last time unless the Government listens to the advice of soldiers and civilians alike—was the depressing view he took of the future of cane sugar in the West Indies. He is of opinion that, notwithstanding the abolition of the bounties, cane sugar cannot compete against beet, and that "it can hardly be doubted that the European market is practically closed to the West Indies." Fortunately there are those who take a different view, and we believe that imports of cane sugar into the United Kingdom this year will show a satisfactory increase. In an able article which appeared in a Sunday paper on July 30th from the pen of Mr. George Martineau, the writer explained very clearly the cause of the high prices of sugar reached early in the year. They were not due to the Brussels Convention, but, as we have already pointed out, to a short beet crop

on the Continent, coupled with excessive speculation, and, though it is true that they have fallen

considerably, there is reason to hope that the price of sugar will remain at a remunerative figure for those who adopt modern methods and keep abreast of the times. As to the market in the United Kingdom, there is a growing preference among consumers for cane sugar over beet, and it may be hoped that this will be stimulated by the re-opening of refineries, of which the "Old Market Refinery" at Bristol is an example. But even if all that Sir Gilbert Carter said about sugar were true, what does he offer to the planters as an exchange? He says, "Other products are still waiting which would give more lucrative results than can be obtained from sugar." Foremost among these he places "sisal." This industry has by no means escaped the attention of the indefatigable Imperial Department of Agriculture, who have been for months in correspondence on the subject, and we believe by this very mail a machine for treating the fibre will be shipped, as an experiment, to Sir Daniel Morris. But the Governor of Barbados is not only concerned in fostering a pet industry, which may or may not be successful, but he is responsible for the welfare of 200,000 inhabitants. Planters have shown themselves quite ready to take advantage of new opportunities, as is evident by the cultivation of cotton and bananas; but they know well that the main staple of the Island must be the sugar cane. If the agave which produces fibre were to be substituted for cane—which the whole tendency of Sir Gilbert's arguments seems to advocate—how is he going to deal with the labour question? How is he going to feed 180,000 people, more or less, dependent on the land? Where is the employment to come from from which they get their daily wage? Cotton requires a certain amount of labour; bananas less; sisal, we imagine, hardly as much as either. The conditions of Barbados are totally different from the Bahamas, and it is no use trying to run Barbados on Bahama lines. We remember reading a speech of the Governor's at a Peasant Agricultural Show early this year, when he advocated the growing of pine-apples by the small proprietors, for the reason that the Bahamas exported a considerable number of them, which added to its revenue. Pine-apples can be grown in Barbados, of course, but only at considerable cost, the conditions of soil not being nearly so favourable for them as those of Antigua, Dominica, and, no doubt, the Bahamas. What Barbados has to look for is an industry which can support her vast population, and that, as far as we can see, can only be found in the sugar cane as a staple, though by all means let her make use of every possible auxiliary product.

THE Band of the 1st Battalion of the West India Regiment arrived at Southampton on Thursday, July 27th, and has already given pleasure to larger crowds than have hitherto visited the Colonial Exhibition at the Crystal Palace. The Band is in charge of Lieut. J. R. Heard, and, if the necessary arrangements can be completed, may possibly make an extended tour in the provinces before returning to Jamaica. In the present *Circular* we give the first part of an interesting historical sketch regarding the 1st West India Regiment, by Lieut.-Col. Loscombe, which will shortly be published by the West India Committee in pamphlet form, with the object of further popularising the visit of the Band of this distinguished corps. With regard to the Exhibition, it is a matter for regret to those connected with it that it has now only six weeks to run, so fully satisfied are they all as to its practical utility. On another page will be found our usual contribution from Mr. W. G. Freeman, who is now dealing with the exhibits of private firms, describing those of Dominica. The representative exhibits of Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad have already been dealt with in preceding issues of *The West India Committee Circular*, and at the close of the Exhibition it is proposed to collate the articles in pamphlet form—a course which will, we feel sure, commend itself to the energetic Committees in those Colonies who are responsible for the local arrangements and to our friends in the West Indies generally.

The Hon. B. Howell Jones.

The Hon. B. Howell Jones, whose portrait we give on the preceding page, is the President of the Institution of Mines and Forests of British Guiana, which has recently been appointed a corresponding body of the West India Committee. He comes of an old Demerara family, the proprietors of the sugar plantations Houston, Hope and La Bonne Mere, of which, with many other estates, he is the attorney. Our celebrity was brought up in a good sugar school, having begun his career on Farm Estate under Mr. McCalman. He was for many years in the Court of Policy, and he is now a prominent member of the Executive Council. As Executive Commissioner for British Guiana at the Colonial Exhibition of 1886, he took a lion's share of the work of the arrangement of the Colony's exhibits, which his considerable knowledge of minor industries well qualified him to do.

The future of the Cane Sugar Industry.

In marked contrast to the pessimistic utterances of the Governor of Barbados in his speech at the opening of the Legislative Council of the Island, are the remarks of Mr. George Martineau, in a very interesting article regarding the sugar industry which appeared in the *Sunday Times* on July 30th. After dealing with the circumstances which led to the recent inflation and the subsequent collapse of the price of sugar, he deals with the future of the cane sugar industry in the following terms:—

"Now that bounties are abolished, the future of sugar is perfectly clear. The average cost of production in Europe is between 9s. and 10s. per cwt. The average cost of producing cane sugar of similar quality is between 8s. and 9s. per cwt. There is great room for improvement in the economical production of cane sugar, and therefore every probability that its cost of production will be reduced. The struggle between beet and cane will therefore be keen. But there is great room for increased consumption on the Continent, and therefore the time may come before very long when Europe will consume the sugar she produces. The cost of production will in future govern the price of sugar, and we shall be free from the violent fluctuations caused by artificially stimulated over-production followed by great discouragement to the natural producer, a falling off in supplies, and a strong reaction. We shall also no longer remain dependent on the European beetroot crop for our supply, and no longer at the mercy of climatic conditions in one restricted area.

"Whatever may be the wants of the world, they will be supplied at a price lower than the average price of the last twenty years—that is, since the great fall in 1884—and probably that price will gradually be reduced, as improvements in manufacture bring with them a lower cost of production. The area of cane sugar production will be largely increased, and perhaps the same may be said of beetroot production in suitable localities for local consumption. There is no reason, for instance, why this country should not produce some of the sugar it consumes. A new agricultural industry might do much to benefit the British farmer and to give employment to the British workman.

"The rise and fall of the sugar bounties constitute a valuable object lesson at the present time. They have been a source of great injury both to producers and consumers. The Cartel bounties, which surpassed all others in magnitude and mischief, would, if they had been allowed to continue, have ruined not only the natural industry of sugar production but even their bounty-fed competitors. The consumer would have found himself dependent on Germany and Austria for his supply of sugar."

The West Indian Mail Service.

As indicated in the last *West India Committee Circular*, the itinerary of The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company is about to undergo considerable modification. The mail which leaves to-morrow

will follow its usual course, the transfer of passengers and cargo being effected at Barbados, and this will apply also to the homeward mail due at Plymouth on September 6th, but beginning with the mail of August 18th, the transfer will be effected at Trinidad, and only two inter-Colonial boats will be used, one going to Demerara and the other to Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and the Leeward Islands. The call at St. Thomas, Guadeloupe and Martinique will be omitted, and the steamer will stop at St. Kitts for an hour only before returning to Trinidad. For the convenience of our readers, we give the following tables showing the dates of departure from Southampton, with the estimated dates of call at other ports, from August 18th to the close of the year:—

Leave Southampton ...	Friday ...	Aug 18	Sept 1	Sept 15	Sept 29	Oct 13	Oct 27	Nov 10	Nov 24	Dec 8	Dec 22
Arrive Barbados ...	Tuesday ...	29	12	26	10	24	7	21	5	19	Jan '06 2
.. Trinidad ...	Wednesday ...	30	13	27	11	25	8	22	6	20	3
.. Jamaica ...	Saturday ...	Sept 2	16	30	14	28	11	25	9	23	6
Leave Jamaica ...	Saturday ...	16	30	Oct 14	28	Nov 11	Nov 25	Dec 9	Dec 23	Jan. '06 6	Jan. '06 20
.. Trinidad ...	Wednesday ...	20	4	18	1	15	29	13	27	10	24
.. Barbados ...	Thursday ...	21	5	19	2	16	30	14	28	11	25
Arrive Southampton ...	Tuesday ...	Oct 3	17	31	14	28	Dec 12	26	Jan. '06 9	23	Feb 6

Demerara Branch Line.

Leave Southampton ...	Friday ...	Aug 18	Sept 1	Sept 15	Sept 29	Oct 13	Oct 27	Nov 10	Nov 24	Dec 8	Dec 22
.. Trinidad ...	Wednesday ...	30	13	27	11	25	Nov 8	22	Dec 6	20	3 Jan '06
Arrive Demerara ...	Friday ...	Sept 1	15	29	13	27	10	24	8	22	5
Leave Demerara ...	Monday ...	4	18	2	16	30	13	27	11	25	8
Arrive Trinidad ...	Wednesday ...	6*	20*	4*	18*	Nov 1*	15*	29*	13*	27*	10*
.. Southampton ...	Tuesday ...	19	3	17	31	14	28	Dec 12	26	9 Jan. '06	23

* On Wednesday evening, September 6th, and fortnightly thereafter, a steamer will leave Trinidad for Venezuelan ports and Margarita Island, returning to Trinidad by the following Wednesday morning.

Island Branch Line.

Leave Southampton ...	Friday ...	Aug 18	Sept 1	Sept 15	Sept 29	Oct 13	Oct 27	Nov 10	Nov 24	Dec 8	Dec 22
.. Trinidad ...	Wednesday ...	30	13	27	Oct 11	25	Nov 8	22	Dec 6	20	3 Jan '06
Arrive Grenada ...	Thursday ...	31	14	28	12	26	9	23	7	21	4
.. St. Vincent ...	Thursday ...	31	14	28	12	26	9	23	7	21	4
.. St. Lucia ...	Friday ...	Sept 1	15	29	13	27	10	24	8	22	5
.. Dominica ...	Friday ...	1	15	29	13	27	10	24	8	22	5
.. Antigua ...	Saturday ...	2	16	30	14	28	11	25	9	23	6
.. St. Kitts ...	Saturday ...	2	16	30	14	28	11	25	9	23	6
.. Nevis ...	Saturday ...	2	16	30	14	28	11	25	9	23	6
.. Montserrat ...	Sunday ...	3	17	1	15	29	12	26	10	24	7
.. Dominica ...	Sunday ...	3	17	1	15	29	12	26	10	24	7
.. St. Lucia ...	Monday ...	4	18	2	16	30	13	27	11	25	8
.. St. Vincent ...	Monday ...	4	18	2	16	30	13	27	11	25	8
.. Grenada ...	Tuesday ...	5	19	3	17	31	14	28	12	26	9
.. Trinidad ...	Wednesday ...	6	20	4	18	Nov 1	15	29	13	27	10
.. Southampton ...	Tuesday ...	19	Oct 3	17	31	14	28	Dec 12	26	9 Jan. '06	23

Tobago will be served by a branch service from Trinidad, and the Company give notice that the above services are subject to variations without notice. We are not advised of any alteration in the sailings of the steamers of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.

On June 24th the Chamber of Commerce of Georgetown, British Guiana, addressed a letter to the Governor, urging him to approach the Secretary of State with a view to a mail contract being entered into. It was pointed out that unless the Colony had a regular mail service the greatest

inconvenience would be experienced in banking, commercial and other circles, and this was emphasized by the fact that interruptions in cable communication were of more or less frequent occurrence. They further pointed out that in 1889 the Colonies were consulted in the matter of a contract, when, although another line offered to perform the service for £5000 less, the then Colonial Secretary, Lord Knutsford, referred the matter to the Colonies, and in deference to their wishes gave the contract to the Royal Mail Company. The Governor replied that the views now held by the Chamber were those which he hoped would have been expressed and emphasized when the question of accepting the tender of Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. or of having no contract at all was under consideration and discussion, and in the circumstances the proper course would be for the Chamber to approach the Secretary of State by petition. The Chamber of Commerce, in reply, reminded the Governor that throughout the whole of the recent correspondence, the Council had consistently emphasized the need for the Colony being served by a contract mail service. Acting on the Governor's suggestion, it has been decided to petition the Secretary of State, urging the continuance of a regular service.

The Area under Beet.

Otto Licht gives the following comparative table showing the area under beet sugar in Europe from 1880-1 to 1905-6 :

Campaigns.	Hectares.	Campaigns.	Hectares.
1905-06	1.878.978	1892-93	1.300.454
1904-05	1.610.800	1891-92	1.289.659
1903-04	1.755.692	1890-91	1.254.095
1902-03	1.786.964	1889-90	1.131.251
1901-02	1.962.685	1888-89	999.534
1900-01	1.842.142	1887-88	883.876
1899-00	1.677.043	1886-87	996.429
1898-99	1.566.078	1885-86	867.307
1897-98	1.511.308	1884-85	1.093.247
1896-97	1.533.725	1883-84	1.088.617
1895-96	1.340.191	1882-83	949.560
1894-95	1.527.719	1881-82	844.226
1893-94	1.410.239	1880-81	799.817

A New Central Factory for Jamaica.

In a recent issue we indicated that there was a probability of a new Central Sugar Factory being erected in the parish of Vere, Jamaica, and we are now in a position to give some particulars regarding the company which has been formed, and is about to be registered in Jamaica with this object in view. The title is "The Vere Estates Company, Ltd.," and the authorised share capital £100,000 in ordinary shares of £1 each, of which 70,000 are to be issued, and 6% convertible debentures to the value of £30,000. The purpose of the company is to acquire a number of estates, and to plant and cultivate sugar, cotton and coconuts upon them, and to erect a central factory at Moreland for the manufacture of sugar and rum under the most approved and economical methods. The estates taken over will be Raymonds, Hillside, and Moreland (sugar), Braziletto, Bogue, and Olive Park, and a portion of Chesterfield, making a total acreage of 9,556 acres, of which 1,063 are now irrigated and under cane, 2,276 available for cane and cotton, 2,180 is guinea grass and pasture, and 4,037 is wood, rinate, and salinas.

The London agents of the company are Messrs. E. A. de Pass & Co., and arrangements have been made for Mr. C. E. de Mercado, the resident partner of Messrs. Lascelles de Mercado & Co., of Kingston, and Mr. Arthur W. Farquharson, to act as local directors, and to manage the company's business in Jamaica. It is proposed to erect the Moreland Factory in time for the 1907 crop, and the

daily output of sugar is estimated at twenty-two tons per day. We understand that careful consideration will be given to the claims of the Naudet diffusion process.

The properties are contiguous with one another, and are situated on a perfectly level plain, thus facilitating cultivation on the cheapest possible scale, and economical transportation of the canes to the mill, and of the finished products to the place of shipment, which is only three miles from the factory. The danger of injury to crops by drought has now been practically eliminated by the completion of a Government system of irrigation, which is available for the whole of the 1,063 acres at present in canes. The necessary canals and trenches upon the estates have also been constructed and are in operation. Much larger crops than have hitherto been obtainable should therefore be assured



Cutting Canes on Moreland Estate.

The introduction of a system of steam-ploughing is contemplated, the soil of Vere being of extraordinary depth and friability, and very favourably reported upon by Dr. Cousins, the Island Chemist, in this connection. The native labour supply is fairly large, and is supplemented by a number of East Indian coolies.

As to the yield of cane with full irrigation, Dr. Cousins, and other experts, believe 30 tons per acre on an average to be a reasonable estimate. The Company bases its calculations however upon an average, year in and year out, of 25 tons per acre from the irrigated, and of 17 tons per acre from the unirrigated fields. The latter figure is approximately the actual average of the past 10 years on Hillside, during which period there were four droughts, one of which caused an almost total loss of crop. It will be seen, therefore, that from the 1,000 acres of irrigated land at present in cultivation on the Company's properties 25,000 tons of canes would be produced. Dr. Cousins, reporting upon



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[The West India Committee.

THE BAND OF THE 1ST BATTALION OF THE WEST INDIA REGIMENT,
NOW FULFILLING AN ENGAGEMENT AT
THE COLONIAL & INDIAN EXHIBITION, 1905.

the average quality of Vere juice, states that it would require 9.74 tons of cane to produce one ton of sugar, and 35 gallons of rum at 140 o.p. In order, however, to provide a margin of safety, the estimated production is based upon "Watts' Table C.," which, allowing for 75 per cent. crushing, and 88 per cent. extraction shows one ton sugar from 10.10 tons of cane. Only 33½ gallons of rum, or, say, one puncheon (100 gallons) to every three tons of sugar are calculated to be produced from the bye-products.

On the above basis, 25,000 tons of cane for the first year's working should produce about 2,475 tons of sugar, and 825 puns of rum. In succeeding years the additional cultivation of 200 acres of canes from unirrigated lands would increase the production by about 336 tons sugar and 112 puns of rum, in which case the factory output would be:—

For the season commencing January, 1907	...	...	2,475 Sugar	...	825 Rum.
"	"	"	1908	...	2,811 " 937 "
"	"	"	1909	...	3,147 " 1,049 "

Which it is hoped to further augment by judicious planting, so as to extend the crop period.

An important source of revenue is also looked for from the extended cultivation of Sea-island cotton. The experimental planting of 45 acres on Moreland, has shown most satisfactory results, both as regards the quantity produced and the quality of the cotton, a sample of which may be seen at our offices.

The development of the Vere district of Jamaica, is receiving a further impulse from the erection of another Central Factory on Amity Hall Estate, the property of Major H. W. Mitchell. This factory, which is to be in operation by the end of the current year, is the property of another small local company, and will manufacture the canes grown on Amity Hall estate, and also upon Perrins estate, which has been acquired by Mr. A. W. Farquharson, under whose management the company in question will be.

Exhibition Notes.

Admission—3d. Tickets.

By special arrangement with the Crystal Palace authorities, admission tickets for Members of the West India Committee and friends can be had from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, for 3d. each.

The Crystal Palace Club.

Those of our Members desirous of availing themselves of the privileges offered by the Crystal Palace Club will require vouchers, which are obtainable *free of charge* from the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Railway Facilities.

There are over 300 trains to and from the Crystal Palace daily, from Victoria, Ludgate Hill and London Bridge—time, 20 to 30 minutes. The High Level station is quite near to the West Indian Court. Return fares, including admission to the Palace:—First class, 2s. 6d.; second class, 2s.; third class, 1s. 9d.

Members' Day at the Exhibition.

Thursday, the Committee day at the Exhibition, usually finds a considerable number of our friends inspecting the exhibits at the West Indian Court. A table is reserved in the restaurant for those wishing to dine and witness the fireworks, but *it is necessary for Members intending to be present to give notice to the Secretary by Thursday morning.*

The Commissioners for the Exhibition.

While in this country the West India Committee Rooms will be the head-quarters of the Exhibition Commissioners, and it is requested that all communications may be addressed to them

there or direct to the Crystal Palace, as they will of necessity be in attendance at the Exhibition very often. The names of the Commissioners are:—

BARBADOS: Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee.

JAMAICA: Mr. Frank Cundall, Secretary, The Institute of Jamaica.

TRINIDAD: Mr. W. E. Smith, General Manager of Trinidad Government Railways.

Letters regarding general Exhibition matters should be addressed to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

The West India Committee Dinner.

West Indian folk were to be seen in force at the Crystal Palace on the evening of Thursday, July 27th, when a very pleasant dinner party was organised by the West India Committee, in order to give Members and their friends an opportunity of seeing the exhibits. The dinner took place in one of the rooms belonging to the Crystal Palace Club, having a charming outlook over the grounds, where the fireworks took place. Some 50 or 60 people sat down at small tables, and everybody was delighted that after dinner the Blue Mountain coffee of Jamaica was served. Mr. Alston, Mr. Percy Cornwall, Col. Crosse, Mr. N. Dawson, Mr. P. J. Dean, Mr. J. H. Huett, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. Martin Sells and the Hon. T. Yearwood were all entertaining parties, and among those present were Miss Anderson, Mr. W. A. Cole, Mr. Sydney Cooper, Mr. Clifton Flanagan, Miss Hartshorne, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Jennings, Mr. Elliot G. Louis, Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave, Mr. J. Peet, Mr. E. G. Perris, Mrs. Senhouse, Mr. W. E. Smith (Commissioner for Trinidad) and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The Attendance at the Exhibition.

The attendance at the Exhibition, up to Saturday last, since the opening day has been 627,597. Among those who have signed our register since we last went to press are:—Mr. G. R. Alston, Miss S. B. Alleyne, Miss A. Alleyne, Lieut.-Col. C. R. Crosse, Mr. G. H. Dawson, Mr. N. Dawson, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. Ivan B. Davson, Mr. P. J. Dean, Mr. James Driver, R.N., Mr. J. Emle Esti Drax, Mr. C. G. Eden, Mr. Francis S. Estwich, Mr. C. Flanagan, Mr. and Mrs. Gilchrist, Mr. R. Horace Goff, Mr. R. P. Goff, Mr. Jno. V. Hill, Mr. H. V. Hobson, Miss F. A. Jones, Miss M. M. Jones, Mr. Martin Jones, Mr. R. M. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Kay, Mr. H. Keen, Mr. Herbert W. Litt, Mr. Elliot G. Louis, Mr. M. W. Mendes, Mr. Q. Minvielle, Mr. W. H. Mitchell, Mr. F. L. Mitchell, Mr. George Osmond, Mr. Joseph Osmond, Major Palmer, Mr. W. J. Pearson, Mr. James Peet, Mr. C. A. Philip, Mr. P. Pierre, Mr. Thos. Roy, Mr. Hugh Rose-Innes, Mr. H. M. Sells, Mrs. M. G. Senhouse, Mr. K. E. J. Simons, Mr. J. Simons, Miss Elizabeth Shaw, Major T. Shattock, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Simpson, Mr. R. Soanes, Mr. W. H. Thomson, Miss M. Noel Walker, Mr. C. H. Ward, Mr. J. H. Warner, Mr. John W. Wenajinley, Mr. J. B. White, Mr. L. Williams, Mr. A. Xiother, Hon. T. and Mrs. Yearwood, Miss Yearwood.

Coolie Immigration into Trinidad.

From the report of Commander W. H. Coombs, the Protector of Immigrants in Trinidad, it appears that during the season 1904-5, 1,265 East Indian immigrants, equal to 1,219 statute adults arrived in the Colony in the S.S. "Indus" and the ship "Avon," and a third ship containing 615 immigrants was expected to arrive shortly. The "Indus" contained 21 return immigrants who left the Colony in 1903, and the "Avon" 12 return immigrants from British Guiana, 2 from Surinam, 2 from St. Lucia, 7 from Jamaica, 8 from Fiji, 9 from Natal, and 6 from Trinidad. 728 immigrants returned to India and deposited £9,078 19s. 2d. with the Colonial Treasury, and £204 5s. with the Surgeon Superintendent for transmission to India. The need for care in the selection of coolies is shown by the fact that by the return ship "Firth" 28 immigrants were repatriated who had been certified to be absolutely unfit for service under indenture, though 23 of these had only arrived during the past 12 months. During the year, the average remittance to India by the coolies was £2 18s. 7½d. per head, and the balance to credit of coolies on December 31st in the savings bank amounted to £103,612 10s.

Dominica at the Colonial Exhibition.

BY W. G. FREEMAN, B.Sc., F.L.S.

Dominica has not the advantage of a comprehensive official exhibit, gathered together by a representative local committee determined to display the products and resources of this beautiful island in an attractive manner to the British public. Regarded purely from the point of view of a representative West Indian Exhibition, this is to be regretted, for Dominica can hold its own with any island in the West Indies in interest and beauty, and moreover is one of those which offers special attractions to the would-be settler who, possessed of sufficient means, is anxious to find a land to make his home.

Messrs. F. Everington's Exhibit.

Some idea of the resources of the island is given, however, by the exhibit of Messrs. Francis Everington & Co., of Melville Hall. A small sample of cocoa and several of lime juice, both raw and concentrated, represent the staple industries. A series of starches and meals, including arrow root, tous-les-mois, cassava starch and farine, banana meal, tania starch (*Colocasia esculenta*), sweet potato starch, bread fruit flour, corn (maize) starch, &c., are also shown. The spice-producing capabilities of this fertile island are indicated by samples of nutmegs and mace, ginger, cinnamon, cloves, turmeric, &c., mainly in the form of powders. As already stated, the exhibit does not claim to be representative, and several more products might have been shown; but there is sufficient even here to allow anyone, acquainted with the conditions of soil and climate necessary to produce these various crops, to obtain some idea of the great natural resources of the island.

Messrs. L. Rose & Co.'s Exhibit.

Dominica is famous for its lime juice, and it is very fitting that owing to the enterprise of Messrs. L. Rose & Co., of the Bath and Emsall Estates, in the Roseau Valley, this product is worthily represented. Their attractive and interesting exhibit, arranged near the centre of the West Indian Court, comprises photographs of lime trees in bearing, scenes of gathering the fruit, etc., samples of the raw and concentrated juice, and bottles of the finished product in the form in which it is so familiar at home. The excellent samples of otto and oil of limes will, perhaps, come to many as an agreeable surprise, and indicate other products from this most useful tropical plant. Dominica lime juice has a world wide reputation, but curiously enough the fresh fruits themselves, although highly appreciated in the United States, are but little known in Great Britain, and there should be a good market for them. Most people who have lived in the tropics prefer limes to lemons, and doubtless others would soon learn to do so if the fruit could be imported so as to allow them to be put on the market at sufficiently low rates.



A Dominica Exhibit.

The Mace of the Colony of Grenada.

By FRANK CUNDALL, F.S.A.

Like all other West Indian colonies Grenada has its relics, as well as its memories, of departed glory, and one of its principal treasures is its seventeenth century mace. Time was when the Colony boasted of a House of Assembly, and larger legislative power than it now enjoys as part of the Windward Islands government. In 1791 the Council consisted of twelve and the Assembly of twenty-six members, with power equal to that enjoyed by the Legislature of Jamaica at that time.

When they lost their original use as weapons of offence, maces were placed in the House of Commons and elsewhere as symbols of royal authority; but later the Colonial Houses of Assembly seem to have regarded them as emblems of their own power, and ordered them to be made in England for their own greater glorification—or, to use the words applied to the first Jamaica mace, "To make the Government appear more great and formal."

The following is the information (taken from the *St. George's Chronicle and New Grenada Gazette*, the earliest paper published in the colony) given in the official catalogue of the Exhibition, about the mace now being exhibited in the Grenada Court at the Exhibition:—

"St. George's, December 2nd, 1791.

" On Monday, November 28th, 1791, the *Baillies*, Capt. Sim, from London, after a passage of 29 days. The mace for the Assembly, that has long been expected, is brought out in the *Baillies*"

In July 1779, after seventeen years of British rule, Grenada, with a hopelessly insufficient force, had to capitulate to the French; but in 1783 it again became British at the peace of Versailles, and in January of the following year, Lieut.-General Matthew arrived with a commission as Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief "in and over the Island of Grenada, and such of the Islands commonly called the Grenadines, to the southward of the Island of Carriacou, including that island, and lying between the same and Grenada."

Matthew took early steps to place the government of the island on its former footing, and the mace, which had probably been ordered before the island capitulated to the French (the date MDCCLXXXI appears on it), was brought out. But one cannot help wondering why it did not come before 1791, and the expression in the *Gazette* "that has long been expected," is easily understood.

On examining the mace one may see, stamped in several places beside the hall-mark of the year 1791-2, the maker's initials, "H. G.," of Henry Green, of London. Green was also the maker

of the mace of the year 1787 which, at one time used in the House of Assembly, now rests in the Institute of Jamaica, alongside an older mace of the year 1753; the mace which Lord Windsor took out to Jamaica in 1662 (which some supposed to have been Cromwell's "fool's bauble") having mysteriously disappeared after the Port Royal earthquake of 1692. The Barbados mace dates from 1812.



The Grenada Mace.

The Grenada mace is about 8 inches shorter than Green's Jamaica mace, being 4 ft. 10 in. high—the same height as the present House of Commons mace, which was made at the Restoration. It is silver-gilt, and weighs 276 ozs., and is similar in design to the Jamaica mace, having the same Renaissance decoration of the acanthus on the shaft, the same design for the head, the same royal arms in the top of the head (visible only when seen from above), and the same four shields with the emblems of (1) England and Scotland (a rose and thistle in saltire); (2) Ireland (a harp); (3) France (fleurs-de-lys); and (4) the colony.

On this fourth shield is a representation of negroes feeding a cane-mill. Above this representation is the following legend on a label, "HÆ TIBI ERUNT ARTES," and beneath the date MDCCCLXXI., in which year, curiously enough, the Colony was French, not British. Round the border is the inscription, "SIGILLUM INSULARUM GRENADÆ ET GRENADILLORUM."

Though probably ordered and commenced before 1781, the mace was evidently, from the plate-mark, not completed till 1791, and the late Mr. Cripps, in his "Old English Plate" (8th edition, 1903), was evidently misled by insufficient information into saying that it was made in 1781.

As an indication of its value, it may be mentioned that the Jamaica House of Assembly voted in December 1786, £300 for "the purchase of robes for the speaker, and a mace."

The 1st West India Regiment.

A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH BY COLONEL A. R. LOSCOMBE.

In these days, when volunteering, and especially the recent employment of volunteers in South Africa, has made the army popular, and has caused the general public to take an interest to an extent they never used in the ins and outs of military life and regimental lore, there is still a corps of whose composition and history little is generally known, and this in spite of the fact that the West India Regiment has formed an integral part of the British Army for over a hundred years. Indeed the first battalion of the regiment dates still farther back, and came into existence under a different name so long ago as 1779. The present visit of the band of the 1st West India Regiment to England for the purpose of playing at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition at the Crystal Palace renders it likely that the public may wish to know something about its past.

Before tracing the history of the 1st West India Regiment it may be well to state that there were originally twelve West India regiments raised for the British service in 1795 and the three following years during the great war with France, but of these only the 1st and 2nd have had an unbroken career to the present time. Those numbered from six to twelve had but a short existence, having been disbanded shortly after the battle of Waterloo and the commencement of the long peace, while the 3rd, 4th and 5th lasted with some intervals up to 1870, when the last of them ceased to exist. In 1887 the 1st and 2nd West India Regiments were amalgamated under the title of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the West India Regiment, while ten years later a third battalion was added, but only lasted for six years, being disbanded in 1903.

When first raised in 1795 each of the twelve regiments consisted of nine companies of infantry and one troop of cavalry (probably dragoons), and, though the system of having a troop of cavalry was discontinued in 1797, it is interesting to compare this organisation with that existing in British infantry regiments at the present day, when a certain proportion of the men are trained as mounted infantry.

Originally recruits for the regiments were largely obtained from the negroes imported from West Africa into the West Indies for the purpose of slavery, the men thus enlisted becoming "King's men," as distinguished from the slaves, and even after the abolition of slavery in 1841, a large number of recruits were still obtained from Africa, recruiting companies being stationed at Sierra Leone and

the Gambia for this purpose; but it was found that these men, being obtained from uncivilized tribes, were not up to the requirements expected from the modern soldier, and for the last twenty-five years the regiments have been entirely recruited in the West Indies, the great bulk of the men coming from the islands of Jamaica and Barbados. The whole of the officers and a proportion of the non-commissioned officers are English, the former having passed through Sandhurst or the militia, while the latter are selected from line regiments to fill the higher non-commissioned ranks in the West India Regiment. The remainder of the non-commissioned officers and all the men are West Indians of negro or mixed descent. The organization, equipment, and training are precisely the same as in a white regiment, the chief difference being that the private soldier receives only ninepence a day pay in lieu of a shilling, the other native ranks being paid in proportion.

The uniform of the officers is similar to that of other infantry officers of the line, but since 1858—up to which date they also were clad as were their white comrades—the non-commissioned officers and men have worn the Zouave uniform. This consists of a white jacket, somewhat like in shape to the undress jacket worn by the Guards, over which is worn a short red Zouave jacket laced with yellow braid, open in front and without sleeves. Very wide and loose blue knickerbockers with two narrow yellow stripes down each leg, are finished off with white stockings and white spat gaiters, while a red fez, ornamented with a white tassel (yellow for the band) and round which a white turban is wound, completes a uniform which is generally allowed to be the most picturesque in the British service. The story goes that it was introduced at the wish of Queen Victoria, who was greatly struck

with the dress of the French Zouaves, and asked, "Why have I not some Zouaves too?" It seems a pity that the officers do not wear the same uniform as their men, and its adoption for ceremonial purposes would be generally welcomed by them.

Now to come to the history of the 1st West India Regiment. I have already mentioned that it dates its existence, though not its present name, from 1779. In the year previous to that, during the American War of Independence, an expedition was despatched by the British from New York for the purpose of capturing Savannah, the capital of Georgia. This was so rapidly successful that by January 1779, not only Savannah, but the whole of Georgia, was in our hands. One result of this success was that numbers of royalists flocked into the British camps, where they were formed into corps, of which the South Carolina Regiment was one. It is first mentioned as taking part in the action of Briar Creek on 3rd March, 1779, when the British under General Prevost surprised and badly routed the American General Lincoln. A couple of months later, having been considerably augmented by loyalists and freed negroes, it took part in an abortive attempt to capture the City of Charleston, and in the subsequent obstinate engagement at Stono Ferry, where the Americans unsuccessfully endeavoured to intercept the British retreat.



A Soldier of the 1st W.I. Regiment.

The blue Zouave trousers have yellow piping. A white shell jacket is worn with a scarlet over-jacket, both relieved with yellow braid. A red fez with a white tassel is surrounded by a white turban.

Stono Ferry, where the Americans unsuccessfully endeavoured to intercept the British retreat.

The following September it formed part of the garrison of Savannah when it was besieged by the American army and a French fleet of 22 sail of the line under Count d'Estaing. On the 9th of October the French and Americans, led by the Count in person, advanced to the assault, the principal attack being directed on the Ebenezer Redoubt, which was held by the South Carolina Regiment and the 60th Rifles. This attack met with the most determined resistance, and was eventually repulsed, and shortly after, the siege was raised.

Next year we find the South Carolina Regiment taking part in the capture of Charleston by Sir Henry Clinton, and later on in a bloody engagement between Lord Rawdon and the American General Greene, in which a certain Lieut.-Colonel Washington commanded the enemy's cavalry.

About this time, the loyalists of Charleston having subscribed 3,000 guineas for a corps of dragoons, the South Carolina Regiment was selected for conversion into cavalry, and in this capacity took part in the relief of Ninety-six Post, and in the bloody and indecisive battle of Eutaw Springs, which was the last engagement of any importance in the South, as shortly afterwards Lord Cornwallis' surrender at York Town in the north put an end to hostilities.

At the close of the war the South Carolina Regiment was moved to Jamaica, and in the Jamaica almanack for 1782 they are shown as stationed at Fort Augusta in Kingston Harbour, being there commanded by Lord Charles Montague, a captain in the 88th Regiment. It must be understood that the regiment at this time consisted partly of white and partly of black soldiers, and while on the general disbandment of provincial corps in the following year, it was easy to compensate the whites with grants of land, it was a problem what to do with the black troopers. In a slave-holding colony, such as Jamaica then was, we can readily understand the planters objecting to the presence of a number of free negroes in their midst, and we accordingly find them, after some agitation, removed to the Leeward Islands, where they were combined with some black artificers (as engineers were then called), also from America. War again broke out with France in 1793, and the black Carolina Corps, as it appears to have been now designated, took part in various military operations during that year in the Islands of Martinique, St. Lucia, and Guadeloupe.

(To be continued).

A Useful Organisation.

A leading article regarding the West India Committee appeared in the *Jamaica Gleaner* of July 10th, and while expressing to the Editor of that paper our gratitude for this appreciation of our organisation, we give the article in full, in the hope that the people of Jamaica and the West Indies will take to heart the advice contained in the last paragraph:—

In the last issue of its *Circular* the West India Committee claims that since its reorganisation in 1898 the West Indies have through its exertions been more prominently brought into public notice, and it urges that these Colonies should do their utmost to increase the membership of the Committee, and thus add to its importance and influence. The claim is a just one. Without in the least subtracting from the credit which rightly belongs to Sir Alfred Jones for his work in bringing the West Indies, and especially Jamaica, before the British public, we think that every fair-minded man must admit that the efforts of the West India Committee in this direction have been unremitting, and have been marked with the most signal success. Being an organised body of men, all of whom are closely connected with the commerce and industry of these Colonies, and most of whom have some local knowledge of our resources and conditions, the West India Committee is in a position to speak for us as no other organisation can, and with far more authority than any single individual would ever be able to do.

It is, indeed, an institution whose strength is our strength, and the growth of whose influence must inevitably mean a corresponding growth in the influence and importance of the British dependencies in this part of the world. Widely separated from one another as are the West Indian Islands and British Guiana, and having a population the majority of whom take no active interest in those large questions which so closely affect us, it is evident that the voice of each Colony must be at least comparatively feeble, and its ability to attract adequate attention at least comparatively weak. It would be different did we all constitute one people, with one Government, but as it is we are divided into little groups, and our affairs are administered by Crown Colony officials, no two of whom are quite agreed in their views as to what is best for these Colonies, or as to what would make most for their progress. As for our Legislatures, however useful they may be locally, their views can carry but little weight abroad, and in any case the members of them cannot be on the spot in any crisis to defend our interests and advocate our rights,

Here, then, is where the usefulness of such an organisation as the West India Committee comes in. Its headquarters are in London, many of its members are men of considerable personal influence, and when they move or speak in our name they can do so as representing not merely a section, but the whole of the British dominions in tropical America. The advantages of this are obvious to the most casual observer, for to every one it must be plain that so long as the West India Committee remains strong we need not fear forgetfulness or neglect.

But it rests with us to see that it not only remains strong, but continues to grow in strength. We are all looking forward to the time when the Caribbean Sea will again be one of the great waterways of the world, and when these Islands will again supply the United Kingdom with large quantities of sugar and cotton. In other words, we are looking forward to a new and brighter era than any we have known—to a condition of prosperity in which all will share, and which will be laid upon firm foundations. We also see that our general interests do not conflict, but are in reality one, and the desire now felt throughout these Colonies is for closer unity—community of sentiment there is already. Now, the West India Committee constitutes the nucleus of such unity. Through its agency the West Indies speak and act as one, and an appeal from it to the Colonial Office must be listened to with attention and even regard. Should we not try to make this organisation stronger, then? Will it not be to our benefit to do so? We have no doubt in this connection ourselves, and we do not think that many persons will have. The aim of all West Indians should be to increase the scope and usefulness of this valuable institution.

The Cotton Industry in the West Indies.

In order to give Members of the West India Committee and their friends an opportunity of inspecting the Exhibition illustrating British cotton cultivation, and the commercial uses of cotton, and of quickening public interest in the movement for growing cotton in British possessions, which was



Messrs. J. Rose & Co.'s Exhibit at the Colonial Exhibition.

recently inaugurated by the British Cotton Growing Association, an informal reception was held at the Imperial Institute on July 26th, between 4 and 6.30 p.m., when there was a considerable attendance, among those present being: Sir E. Noel Walker, Sir Frederick Young, Lieut.-Col. C. R. Crosse, Hon. E. St. John Branch, Hon. F. Gurney, Hon. T. Yearwood, Rev. T. Barry Wall, Mr. Geo. R. Alston, Mr. N. Dawson, Mr. Martin Elliot, Mr. A. F. Elmslie, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. Geo. Hughes, Mr. J. N. Lighthourne, Mr. Elliot G. Louis, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. F. B. Lyons, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. Frank Pink, Mr. H. F. Previt , Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. D. M. Simpson, Mr. H. O. Smith, Mr. B. H. Stephens, Mr. H. E. Thorne, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. T. B. Younger, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall.

It must not be overlooked that nearly all those who have embarked upon cotton growing in the West Indies are Members of the West India Committee, and it is in this form that this organisation has given, and can best give, its assistance to the movement, for the success of which they have cause to be grateful to the

Imperial Department of Agriculture under Sir Daniel Morris, and the British Cotton Growing Association. We have already given in the *Circular* a description of the Exhibition, which is so arranged that the visitor is able to trace the stages of the cotton industry from the growing plant to cotton goods, which are shown in process of manufacture, and completed. Ginning machines and baling presses are shown in operation, and also looms of the most up-to-date design.

The experimental work in the West Indies, facilitated by the circumstance that cotton

cultivation is not new to these islands, already gives promise that they will be able to supply the English market with the finest and most valuable of all cotton, the so-called "Sea Island," originally introduced from the West Indies to the islands of the southern coasts of the United States, and there cultivated with great success, whilst the original industry in the West Indies died out, not to be revived. Cotton growing is extending rapidly, the area under cultivation during the season 1904-5 being estimated at 14,000 acres, as compared with 4,000 acres in 1903, and 400 acres in 1902. Soil, climate and labour conditions are favourable, and the industry is now established on a commercial basis. "Sea Island," "American Upland" and Peruvian cottons are cultivated, but there is no doubt that in most localities the "Sea Island" variety is best suited to the existing conditions. In Carriacou about 4,000 acres are planted with a variety known as "Marie Galante." The crop for 1904-5 is estimated at about 5,000 bales of 360 lb. weight, of a probable total value of £100,000.

The homeward mail brought particulars regarding an important meeting, which was held at Bridgetown on July 7th for the purpose of forming a limited liability company to take over the work of the central cotton factory on co-operative lines, and the cordial character of the meeting shows

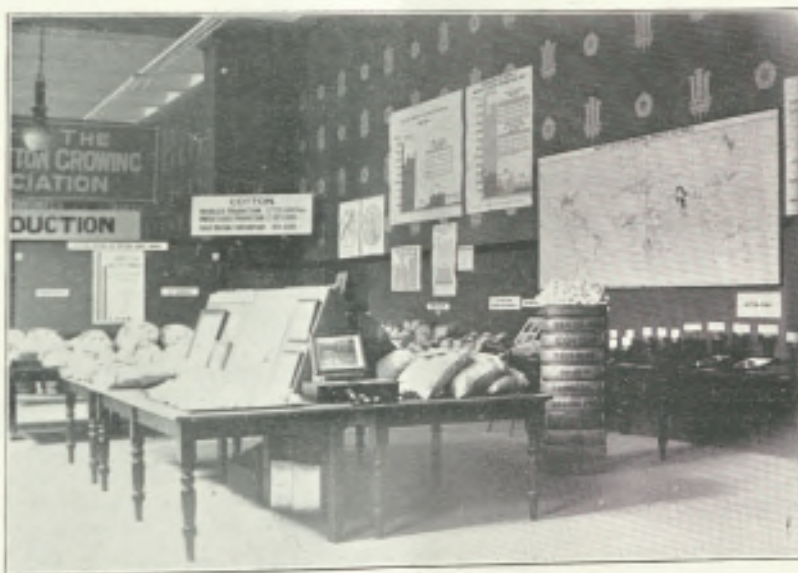


Photo by

H. E. Fairbrother, Esq.

West Indian Cotton at the Imperial Institute

that the cotton industry is being taken up by the right kind of people, who may be depended upon to make a thorough success of it.

The Commissioner of Agriculture writes to say that an interesting point which prominently came to notice during the recent drought, was that cotton seed, when ground into meal, is an excellent food for stock on sugar estates, being, as it is, available at a time when there is little else obtainable. Throughout the islands where cotton growing has been taken up in earnest, there is likely to be a considerable extension in the area under cultivation during the coming season, in fact, cotton is likely to be of permanent value as an adjunct to existing industries in the West Indies. It should not displace a single acre either in canes or cacao, but, on the other hand, should enable land unsuited to canes or cacao, to yield returns which will at least equal those from sugar and cacao.

During the past fortnight 229 bales of cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine was quoted in Liverpool 6.55d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb. on Friday last.

Our Appointments Register.

The West India Committee Register of persons seeking appointments as Managers, Overseers, etc., etc., in the West Indies, is open to the inspection of Members daily. We shall be glad to put those of our Members resident in the Colonies in communication with persons seeking such appointments; but it must be understood that though in every case two testimonials are given, the West India Committee cannot undertake any responsibility after bringing the parties into touch. We have the following already on our list and shall be glad to furnish names and addresses on receipt of stamps to cover postage.

IDENTIFYING INITIALS	AGE	HEIGHT	CHEST MEASUREMENT	PRESENT OCCUPATION	APPOINTMENT SOUGHT
1. R. C.	23	5' 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	32"	Builder and Contractor's Clerk.	With Builder, Contractor or Architect.
2. S. E. R. S.	22	5 7	36	Printers' Cutter	Overseer (Sugar).
3. G. H. D.	25	5 7	37	Schoolmaster.	Overseer or Storekeeper.
4. J. H. L.	28	5 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	37	Book-keeper	Overseer
5. H. E. D.	22	5 7	34	Jewel Case Maker.	Overseer.
6. C. S.	22	5 5	36	Organist and Engine Cleaner	Overseer in Demerara.
7. J. W. G.	23	5 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	Part Manager, Tailoring Estab.	Overseer or other Post
8. W. R. B.	22	5 6	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Shop Assistant.	Overseer
9. G. B. K.	26	6 2	38	Cost Clerk	Overseer
10. T. P.	38	5 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Book keeper in St. Lucia	Book-keeper or Clerk <i>Has a little capital.</i>
11. E. V.	22	5 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	38	Carpet Salesman	Overseer (Sugar)
12. H. S.	21	5 8	36	Junior Clerk (Civil Service).	Clerk.
13. B. I.	23	5 9	37	Clerk	Overseer (Sugar).
14. G. A. L. B.	29	5 10	40	Under Manager (Barbados).	Manager (Sugar)
15. A. F. W.	21	5 11	37	Clerk	Overseer (Sugar)

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

The West Indian Mail Contract "at Present."

In the House of Commons, on July 18th, Mr. Norman Lamont asked the Postmaster General, whether he proposed to make any arrangements for the conveyance of the West Indian mails; and, if so, whether such mails would be carried as hitherto under contract, or without a subsidy and under postal union rates.

The Postmaster General in reply said, "I propose to forward mails to the West Indies by the most favourable opportunities that offer. I am not at present negotiating for their conveyance under any fresh contract. Payment for correspondence sent by private steamers will be made at the ordinary ship letter rates, and the payment for parcels will vary according to their weights."

Notes of Interest.

BANK RATE. The Bank Rate remains at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % (changed from 3% on March 9th, 1905), and Consols (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ %) are quoted 90 $\frac{1}{8}$.

LETTERS. We have letters waiting at the West India Committee Rooms for Mr. J. L. Stoute, Mr. Charles Grell and the Hon. Thomas Capper, B.A.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB. The Hon. B. Howell Jones presided at the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club, held at the Club Rooms, Howard Hotel, Norfolk Street, on Wednesday, July 26th, and among those present were:—Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. H. O. Carter, Mr. P. J. Dean, Dr. E. R. C. Earle, Mr. Maxwell Earle, Mr. G. E. S. Fryer, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. E. H. Grant, Mr. R. T. Hadow, Mr. Herbert Lee, Mr. J. Miller, the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby and Dr. E. Sturridge.

APPOINTMENTS REGISTER. The register of applicants for appointment as overseers and other positions connected with West Indian estates can be seen by Members at the West India Committee Rooms. Full particulars regarding the applicants are now given, together with two testimonials from each. Members receiving applications from those desiring appointments may refer the applicants to the West India Committee, who will supply a form of enquiries for the candidates to fill up.

MAIL OPPORTUNITIES. The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and Royal Mail advertised; R.M.S. "Port Maria," from London, for Bermuda, Turk's Island and Kingston, Jamaica, August 5th; S.S. "Albanian," from Liverpool, for Barbados and Trinidad, August 9th; S.S. "Saba,"

from London, for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Demerara, and Berbice, August 10th; S.S. "Torgorm," from Glasgow, for Barbados, Trinidad, and Demerara, August 10th; and the R.M.S. "Port Antonio," from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, August 12th.

CABLE COMMUNICATION. Since we last went to press, two meetings of the Cable Sub-Committee have been held. At one, Mr. W. B. Kingsford, Mr. von Chauvin and Mr. R. T. Brown, of the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., and at the other, Mr. J. Rippon, General Manager, and Mr. O. Rochs, Secretary, Direct West India Cable Co., were present. In view of the holidays, the work of the Committee must necessarily be somewhat protracted and delayed, but it will be of interest to our friends, more especially in British Guiana, where they are again compelled to submit to the discomfort of a complete absence of cable communication, to know that progress is being made. The Trinidad-Demerara cable, which was interrupted on July 1st, was restored on July 16th, but again collapsed on July 28th.

OUR EMPIRE. With the idea of telling one part of the Empire how the other part lives, a series of volumes, descriptive of Colonial life, is being published by George Newnes, Ltd., under the title "Our Empire." The compilation of the volume dealing with the West Indies, has been entrusted to Mr. Frank Cundall, Secretary and Librarian of the Institute of Jamaica, who, by the way, we have to congratulate upon his approaching marriage. In order to gather the necessary information, he will visit the various islands on his way back to Jamaica. He starts on August 18th, in the "La Plata," and will first visit the islands, and then make a stay of four or five days in Trinidad. George Newnes, Ltd., have made a wise choice, and we may be sure that our friends in the different Colonies, will do their best to make Mr. Cundall's visit a pleasant one, and give him every facility towards portraying adequately the social life of the Colonies. The volume, which will be profusely illustrated, will be entitled "West Indian Life in Town and Country."

The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Tagus" anchored at Plymouth at 1 p.m. on July 26th, and reached Southampton on the following day at 1 p.m., having been delayed somewhat in the Channel, owing to a fog. In addition to the band of the 1st Battalion, West India Regiment, under command of Mr. J. F. Heard, there were among the passengers the Archbishop of the West Indies, Sir George and Lady Melville, His Honour Chief Justice Walker, Hon. D. T. and Mrs. Tudor, Mr. F. Agostini, Mr. C. M. Blandy, Mr. R. G. de Gale, Mr. H. S. Hutson, and Mr. L. Bert de Lamarre. When the mail left, climatic conditions in the West Indies were favourable, and but for the disappointment caused by the closing of the Canadian market to the sugar planters, the feeling in the West Indies generally was cheerful. No announcement had been received regarding the future of the mail service, but already a demand was arising in British Guiana for a contract service. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received by the R.M.S. "Tagus";—

Antigua—Report on Steam Ploughing.

(HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER) July 12th.—Once more they were in a difficult position as to a market for sugar. The Canadian refiners had terminated the arrangement under which they allowed the shippers the benefit of half the preferential duty, and at present they seemed so well supplied with the raw material that they were indifferent to the question of further supplies. During the fortnight a firm of exporters in the Colony had secured most of the sugar in first hands at \$1 75 per 100 lbs. Molasses was all sold, the last sales being at 25 cents.

Planters were turning their attention to the sowing of cotton, and it was probable that the steady increase in area of this crop would be maintained, especially as it would seem that sugar prices were to be low next crop, owing to the increase in the area planted in beet. Nearly all the Antigua cotton had fetched good prices this year, and planters were realising that the greatest care in getting the best seed, growing the crop well, and picking the crop were essential to success.

Mr. James Blackie, who had been lately in charge of the steam ploughs at Caroni and Brechin Castle estates in Trinidad, had paid the Island a visit, and inspected several estates. Mr. Blackie was quite satisfied that the heavy lands of Antigua were very suitable for steam cultivation, and was of opinion that the crops would be considerably increased owing to the greater drought-resisting capability of a more deeply tilled soil.

During the fortnight some very nice showers had fallen, amounting to about 2½ inches on most estates. This welcome fall had greatly improved their prospects, and it was surprising how the cane had responded already, in spite of the serious check caused by the long period of drought. They still wanted a good heavy fall to fill up the ponds, which were empty as a rule.

Barbados—Resuscitation of the R.S.P.C.A.

(T. W. WILKINSON, Esq.) July 15th.—The Legislative Session was opened by Sir Gilbert Carter on the 4th inst., and a full account of the proceedings would be found in the *Agricultural Reporter* of the 15th, including the Governor's speech.

Very little of importance had occurred during the fortnight. One incident deserved mention, and that was the effort of Mrs. Dixon, wife of the General commanding the troops, to revive the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

On the 5th she invited several ladies and gentlemen to a meeting to discuss the question. Recently there had been frequent prosecutions in the police courts for cruelty, caused by carters working their animals in an unfit condition, and it was recognised that greater vigilance than at present was required to put an end to these wanton acts.

The amount of produce shipped to date was 38,084 tons sugar, and 38,841 puns molasses, and it was estimated that about 20,000 tons more sugar remained to be shipped. On the 14th the market declined to \$1.45, and some sugar was sold at this low figure.

Speaking agriculturally, the general condition of the Island was very promising. Although they had not had any heavy rains, they had been regular and fairly general. The result was, that everywhere the canes presented a healthy and vigorous appearance. Cotton also was springing prettily, and preparations were being made for planting more. Planters were beginning to recognise the value of this industry, and a company had been formed from among those interested to take over the Central Cotton Factory from the Imperial Department.

British Guiana—Business interfered with through Cable Break.

(J. McCOWAN, Esq.) July 12th.—Some correspondence which had taken place between the Chamber of Commerce and the Government on the subject of the mail contract would be found in the mail editions. The Chamber of Commerce had sent in a petition to the Secretary of State, and it went forward by the mail, through the Government.

There had been no transactions during the fortnight in the sugar market. There was still some sugar in first hands, unsold, but the interruption to the cable had interfered with any business that might have been done. The weather had been favourable during the fortnight, bright sunshine with occasional showers.

Dominica—The Lime Crop.

(E. A. AGAR, Esq.) July 7th.—The prospects of the lime crop were reported to be very favourable.

Grenada—The Legislative Council.

(HON. D. S. DE FREITAS) July 13th.—There had been three meetings of the Legislative Council in the course of the past month, during which some important Bills had passed into law. A Bill establishing new District Boards had met with general approval, but another by means of which the Government would withdraw the care of the main roads from the present Road Delegates was very unpopular. That the present Road Delegates had given splendid and gratuitous service for fourteen years to the Island was not contested even by the Government. The marked improvement they had wrought on the main roads was there to testify to their good work.

The weather had been seasonable, and with soaking showers occurring at least every other day or night, the cocoa fields were looking and doing well.

Jamaica—The Annual Show.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq.) July 10th.—A cricket team were expected to arrive from Trinidad at the beginning of August. The Annual Show took place at Hope (St. Andrew's) on the 5th July, and proved very successful, the attendance being large.

The weather was very hot, and people were leaving Kingston for the north or highlands in the Island, and business was quiet, though revenue collections and railway earnings showed an improvement on the corresponding period of last year.

Montserrat—Favourable Weather for Cotton.

(CONRAD WATSON, Esq.) July 12th.—The weather had been most favourable for establishing a good growth of cotton. One inch of rain had fallen for the twelve days past, and five inches for the month of June. This weather had enabled planters to cultivate better, and to plant the fields earlier than they had hitherto been able to do. The cotton seed from last crop had been disintegrated and applied as a manure.

Nevis—Extension of Cotton Cultivation.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) July 12th.—It was satisfactory to report that the output of cotton for 1905, would go over 700 bales, and prices had been fairly well maintained, particularly in the case of later shipments, which had realised 18. 2d. and 19. 3d. per lb. The result of the campaign had been so generally satisfactory that a largely extended area would be planted for 1906, and with the hundreds of acres of suitable land lying now uncultivated throughout Nevis, there was no reason why this newly established and profitable industry should not gradually absorb the whole of the Island.

The hot baths would soon be placed in a condition of repair, and would then be open to the public at a fixed tariff. It was hoped that the enterprise of the owners, Messrs. Gillespie, would meet with the support it deserved, and that the baths might prove a success from every point of view.

Since last mail the weather had continued most favourable, and planters were taking advantage of this to push on the early planting of cotton for 1906 crop.

St. Kitts—Favourable Climatic Conditions.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, Esq.) July 11th.—The reports received from Halifax, had compelled shippers to hold their sugars on their side, and the near future of the sugar market was, as could be imagined, of vital importance to all classes, seeing that there was probably 2,500 tons of sugar still to ship from the Island for this crop.

Good showers had fallen since last advices, and the canes were growing vigorously.

St. Vincent—The Carib Canal.

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & Co.) July 14th.—The Administrator had stated that the Government had received the report of the Officers who inspected the Carib Country canal track in April last, and that they had definitely decided that they could not agree to spend any money in re-establishing the water service in the district until they were satisfied that such service was necessary for the benefit of the public.

Trinidad—Cable Communication and Fruit Cultivation.

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C.M.G.) July 14th.—It was satisfactory to learn that the West India Committee continued to press the Home Government on the subject of cable communication. Trinidad had paid the West India and

Panama Telegraph Company annually sums varying from £1250 to £4500 from 1873 to 1876, then £2500 for the three years 1877-9, then again varying sums up to 1883, when £6000 was paid. In 1892 in consequence of the serious dissatisfaction expressed on all sides of the working of the line, the writer brought forward and carried a resolution in Council by which the subsidy was reduced to £3000. The dissatisfaction increasing, the writer gave notice in 1899 of a resolution to reduce the £3000 to £1500, but having been informed that the matter was then under the consideration of influential men at home, withdrew it.

The Trinidad Government was most anxious to do something to assist those responding to the invitation to embark in fruit cultivation. Returns of the quantity of fruit expected to be seeking a market for the remaining months of this year had been called for by the Governor from the Wardens of the different districts. The Governor was to have made a statement on the subject at the meeting of the Agricultural Society held on the 11th inst., but he was unfortunately unable to attend, owing to indisposition. The Wardens' reports would be of much interest, for they would furnish the means of judging how far this industry had been taken up seriously. It was known that several well-to-do people had laid out banana plantations to something more than an experimental extent, but it is doubtful whether the small holders of land had done so in any number. Orange plantations were not likely to be attempted, except by men in a position to wait several years for any return on the capital expended, and the existing supply of this fruit of a good marketable quality hardly exceeded the local demand. There was a large quantity of bananas grown as shade for young cocoa cultivation, but the banana was required for this purpose for a limited time only, and the varieties mostly used in the past had little market value. The Fruit Syndicate had at first asked for the "Gros Michel" variety, and this had been substituted to a considerable extent, but unfortunately it had fallen out of favour in the home markets, and the principal demand was for the "Governor" and other small and delicate varieties. It was to be hoped that something would come of the efforts now being made to revive and strengthen the interest in this industry, and of the expressed determination of the Royal Mail Company to do everything in their power to develop it, but their agriculturists found in cocoa a cultivation they thoroughly understood and well suited to their habits of life. A paying return was obtained from the land by vegetable growing until the cocoa approached maturity and became a valuable property. Even the cane farmers were putting all they could save of the money obtained for canes into cocoa, and hoped soon to be able to abandon canes.

The weather continued as last reported, and was all that could be desired, though it somewhat hindered present pickings of cocoa.

Deliveries of cocoa continued on a very large scale, and in consequence prices for all grades had weakened. Little interest had been shown from consuming centres, and new business had been difficult even at the decline. The whole of the buying had been against old contracts, and shipments had been greatly in excess of those at this period last year. Large arrivals of Venezuelan descriptions had, in absence of any demand, been sold at reduced prices.

Cocoa Shipments.

Total at last return ...	131,985 Bags Trinidad	21,196 Venezuela
July 1 S S "La Plata" ...	2148	
" 10 S S "Prins Fred. Hendk" ...	2406	708
" 11 S S "Hispania" ...	1250	
" 12 S S "Prins Willem IV" ...	5494	300
" 12 S S "Grenada" ...	897	342
	144,180	22,548

Cocoa Shipments from Trinidad, January 1st to June 30th, 1905.

We have received from the Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick the following statement showing the quantity of cocoa shipped from Trinidad by the different lines of steamers from January 1st to June 30th, 1905.

Date.	Royal Mail Europe.	French Mail Europe.	German Line Europe.	Scrutton's Line Europe.	utch Mail Europe.	La V. Looe Line New York.	Dutch Mail New York.	Trinidad Line New York.	Italian Line New York.	Balboa Line New York.	Canadian Line Canada.	Hundry Steamers Savanilla.	Total.
January ...	4,499	2,526	1,750	304	3,116	...	557	10,584	...	1,981	...	700	23,316
February ...	1,630	...	4,465	1,870	1,954	...	1,531	6,917	1,746	...	...	200	22,777
March ...	2,081	4,787	1,450	582	1,401	50	1,890	10,339	318	...	...	...	22,623
April ...	1,314	...	700	1,883	6,022	50	3,678	5,720	830	...	27	...	20,896
May ...	3,694	5,676	2,650	1,043	2,685	100	6,820	5,672	...	575	302	...	20,647
June ...	5,793	5,459	4,150	2,004	7,552	...	5,132	8,921	...	...	...	...	36,263
	19,031	18,048	12,165	8,586	22,888	250	18,888	48,125	3,104	2,556	514	1,367	155,542

Totals: Europe, 80,968; New York, 72,673; Canada, 534; Savanilla, 1367=155,542.

Our Library.

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 are indebted to the Hon. George Seton-Browne for several old West Indian newspapers of the years 1791 and 1792, which were found by him among some family documents. It was through the medium of one of these papers, the *St. George's Chronicle and New Grenada Gazette*, that Mr. Browne was able to trace the date of the arrival in Grenada of the Colony's Mace, which is now being exhibited at the Crystal Palace Exhibition. The copies of these papers which we now have are Vol. IV., Nos. 189, 194, 204 and 211 of the *St. George's Chronicle, and New Grenada Gazette*, and Nos. 13, 15 and 16 of Vol. IX. of the *Barbados Gazette, or General Intelligencer*. The advertisements in these papers make particularly interesting reading, most of them being for negro slaves and runaways. Here is an example:—

"A young wench of the Mandingo nation, named Margaret, about four feet four inches high, (speaks both English and French; she is supposed to be lurking about Clarke's Court, or Mr. Philibert Fauchier's estate. Whoever will secure the said wench, and bring her to the subscriber, her owner, at Point Saline, will receive

the customary reward, and those found harbouring or concealing her may depend on being prosecuted according to Law.

"La Bevue,

"March 9th, 1792

"Wanted to hire by the month, Two good Cotton Ginners, for which, if approved of upon trial, a generous price will be given, apply as above."

CHAS. ROBT. HERRIES.

The Grenada paper is printed in both English and French. In Barbados there appeared to be plenty to amuse the planters. On the 1st March, 1792, under the heading, "This is the night that either makes or marrs me quite," the announcement was made in the *Barbados Gazette, or General Intelligence* that, "by the desire of several respectable personages," the tragedy of "Romeo and Juliet" would be played by Mr. Ward, lately from London, and that at the end of Act I. would be introduced the celebrated dance of the woodcutters, at the end of Act III. the tambourine dance by Mr. Ward, and at the end of the play Mr. Ward would dance the much-esteemed Egg Hornpipe blindfolded. This was to be followed by a pantomime entertainment, called "Harlequin's Invasion," with new habits, scenery, machinery and decorations," it being added that "Harlequin will leap through a fiery hoghead, with changes and other deceptions." The celebrated tragedy of "Medea" was to be played on March 6th at the Festino Rooms Theatre, and the entertainment of "Three Weeks after Marriage," choice pieces of music being performed by gentlemen between the acts and behind the scenes. A cock-fighting match was arranged by Mr. John Holloway Kidney for Friday, February 23rd and 24th, 31 cocks being engaged in the match, Windward against Leeward.

Tropical Life. Vol. I., No. 1. London: Messrs. John Bale, Sons & Danielson, Ltd., 83-91, Great Titchfield Street, W. 1s., post free.—We welcome the advent of a contemporary which is devoted to the interests of those living, trading, holding property, or otherwise interested in tropical or sub-tropical countries. The editor is Mr. Harold Hamel Smith, who is already well-known to West Indians as author of a work and of many articles regarding the cocoa industry. That there is room for such a journal we are quite satisfied. Too much attention cannot be paid by planters to scientific methods of cultivation, which are as equally important as up-to-date methods of manufacture; and if the standard reached by *Tropical Life* in its first issue is maintained, many useful hints will be obtainable from its columns, which should result in replacing the modest 10s. annual subscription in the pockets of the subscribers many times over. We wish *Tropical Life* every success.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Tagus" (Capt. H. E. Rudge) July 26th:—
Barbados—Mr. D. C. DaCosta, Mr. and Mrs. C. Greaves, Mr. F. H. S. Smith, Mr. H. S. Hutson, Mrs. S. Bushe, Mr. E. Hargreave. **Demerara**—Mr. and Mrs. Wieting, Mr. J. Bastians, Mr. W. S. Jones, Mr. L. Dornford, His Lordship, Bishop Galton, Mr. C. P. Widdup. **Jamaica**—Capt. and Mrs. Benson, Lieut. Heard, Regt. Sgt.-Major J. McLeod and forty bandsmen, W. I. R. **Trinidad**—His Grace Archbishop Flood, Mr. L. Bert de Lamarre, Mr. R. G. Glendinning, Mr. J. H. Glendinning, Mr. and Mrs. Ortiz, Mrs. J. Haynes, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hoadley, Mr. E. Coryat, Miss Bonasse, Mrs. R. H. McCarthy, Mrs. Greig, Miss de Verteuil, Mr. F. Milizan, Mr. and Mrs. Kay, Mr. and Mrs. Laverack, Mr. G. Siebert, Mrs. J. R. Kiddell, Dr. S. A. Hossain, Mrs. Casalta, Mr. F. Agostini. **Dominica**—Mr. C. M. Blandy. **Grenada**—Mrs. McEwen, Mr. R. G. de Gale, Mr. F. Kent, Hon. D. T. and Mrs. Tudor. **St. Kitts**—Mr. J. D. Adamson. **St. Lucia**—Sir George and Lady Melville, His Hon. Chief Justice J. B. Walker, Mr. A. B. Hunter.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Tagus" (Capt. Doughty) August 4th:—
Barbados—Mr. H. E. Collen, Mr. F. A. Stockdale
Demerara—Mr. E. Macquarrie, Mr. Ho A. Shoo, Mr. J. Parandean, Mr. Jameson. **Jamaica**—Mr. Wm. Wulff, Mr. Relf, Miss V. M. Reece. **Trinidad**—Mrs. and Miss Vincent, Mr. J. Peet, Mr. A. S. Bowen, Mr. B. Stephens, Mr. N. Grell, Mr. L. A. Robertson, Mr. A. Meston, Mrs. and Miss Philipps, Mr. J. Grant. **Antigua**—Mr. T. Jackson

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "La Plata" (Capt. W. J. Dagnall), August 18th:—
Barbados—Mr. R. Fullerton
Demerara—Mr. O. Low, Mr. A. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. R. Kerr. **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. F. Pearce, Mr. J. Cassis, Mr. C. E. Dunn. **Trinidad**—Mr. D. Miller. **St. Kitts**—Mr. and Mrs. Bankhead. **St. Vincent**—Mr. J. G. W. Hazell.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons) July 29th:—
Jamaica—Miss Abrahams, Miss Alford, Rev. C. M. Bennett, Mrs. and Miss Buckley, Rev. A. D. Brown, Miss R. Donovan, Mr. R. B. Daly, Mr. B. Edwards, Mr. R. J. Fraser, Mr. R. G. Foster, Mr. C. E. Franck, Mr. T. H. Graham, Mr. F. W. Hampton, Miss Heaver, Mr. J. L. Hill, Miss Hire, Mr. D. Johnston, Col. and Miss Kitchener, Mr. and Mrs. M. Lopez, his Hon. Mr. Justice Lumb, Mr. A. Leader, Mr. G. H. Leader, Mrs. McMahon, Mr. A. A. Melhado, Miss S. P. Musson, Mr. A. McD. Nathan, Mr. G. G. Odell, Miss G. Pearce, Miss J. Pearce, Mr. A. A. Pearson, C.M.G., Miss Pearson, Mr. F. L. de Pass, Mr. R. C. de Pass, Mr. J. Stevenson, Mr. J. H. Seymour, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Sims, Mr. W. V. Townend, Mr. E. Thompson, Mr. J. Matthews, Mr. Diack.

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. J. BAYLON WALKER, Chief Justice of St. Lucia, has arrived in England on leave of absence.

The Hon. A. H. ALEXANDER, Immigration Agent-General, British Guiana, comes to England next month on leave.

Major R. B. TODD, Inspector of Police, Barbados, has been granted an extension of three months' leave from the 7th inst.

His Honour A. V. LUCIE SMITH acts as Chief Justice of British Guiana, during the absence on leave of Sir Henry A. Bovell, till October 10th.

SIR GEORGE MELVILLE, K.C.M.G., Administrator of St. Lucia, has arrived in England on leave previous to retiring from the service on pension.

During the absence on leave of Mr. W. E. Smith, Mr. H. R. MARWOOD has been appointed to act as General Manager, Trinidad Government Railways.

Mr. A. A. PEARSON, C.M.G., Principal Clerk in the Colonial Office and Clerk in Charge of the West India Department, left England on July 29th for Jamaica.

Mr. FREDERICK J. CLARKE has been appointed a Member of the Executive Council of Barbados from July 1st, subject to confirmation by his Majesty the King.

During the absence from Grenada of Mr. P. J. Dean, who is at present in this country, Mr. T. J. C. CRUMP acts as Consular Agent for the United States of America in that Colony.

During the absence on leave of the Hon. E. du Boulay and the Hon. G. Graf, Mr. S. D. MELVILLE and Mr. LIONEL DEVAUX have been appointed to act as Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council, St. Lucia.

A special Bill is to be introduced into the Court of Policy, British Guiana, making provision for the payment of a pension to Mr. LLOYD DOWNFORD, Inspector of Roads, calculated on an annual salary of not less than £500.

The following gentlemen have been appointed to be Members of the Executive Committee, Barbados:—His Honour W. P. LEACOCK, Mr. J. C. LYNCH, Mr. J. W. C. CATFORD, Mr. G. A. GOODMAN, K.C., and Mr. C. P. CLARKE.

Mr. N. N. CUNNINGHAM, Assistant Superintendent of the Hope Gardens, Jamaica, has been appointed Curator of the Botanical and Experiment Station at Nassau, Bahamas, under the new Board of Agriculture established in that Colony.

Major GEORGE LINGWOOD has resigned his commission as Major Commanding the Barbados Volunteer Force from July 5th. Lieut.-Col. A. B. R. KAYE, Inspector-General of Police, has been provisionally appointed Officer Commanding.

Dr. D. J. WILLIAMS, Medical Superintendent and Director of the Lunatic Asylum, Jamaica; Mr. F. M. MAXWELL, Attorney-General of British Honduras; and Mr. J. C. FORD, Superintendent of Government Printing, Jamaica, have arrived in England on leave of absence.

Mr. C. R. LAUDER and Mr. ALEXANDER ROBINSON, Government Officers of the Roseau and Laplaine Districts, Dominica, respectively, have retired from the Government service on pension, and the vacant offices will be filled by the promotion of Mr. J. R. DEVIN and Mr. B. P. MARIE.

The office of Chief Justice of Grenada, West Indies, is about to become vacant owing to the retirement of his Honour C. J. TARRING, who has held the appointment since the year 1897. Previous to that he was in the service of the Foreign Office, and occupied the position of Judge of his Majesty's Supreme Court of Constantinople.

The Hon. H. R. PIPON SCHOOLDS, Attorney-General of Jamaica, has been selected for the office of Chief Justice of Gibraltar in place of Sir Stephen Gatty, who has retired from the service. The Hon. H. R. PIPON SCHOOLDS was called to the Bar of the Middle Temple in 1873, and in the same year was admitted to the Bar of the Leeward Islands. He entered the Colonial Service in 1880, as Attorney-General of British Honduras, and subsequently occupied the office of Attorney-General of Grenada for 13 years, and of Jamaica for the past nine years. He has acted as Chief Justice of the latter Colony on several occasions. It is expected that the Hon. T. B. OUGHTON, Solicitor-General of Jamaica, will succeed Mr. PIPON SCHOOLDS as Attorney-General, and that the office of Solicitor-General will then be abolished.—*Morning Post.*

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) July 31st. "Weather all that can be desired."
 British Guiana (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), July 19th. "Weather showery."
 (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) July 20th. "Nice rains since last message."
 (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), July 24th. "Weather favourable for cultivation."
 (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.) July 27th. "Weather continues favourable."
 Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended July 20th. PORT ANTONIO: "13th, heavy rains, 14th to 19th, fine."
 KINGSTON: "Fine." July 26th. "Fairly heavy rain accompanied by lightning. Some damage, St. Thomas. St. Mary and Portland, nothing much. United Fruit Company principal sufferers."

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.	British Guiana.	Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to July 13 1905 1904	Jan. 1 to July 11 1905 1904	April 1 to June 25 1905 1904		Jan. 1 to July 12 1905 1904		Oct. 1 to July 14 1905 1904	
Sugar ...	26,384 38,084 Tons.	26,066 36,852 Tons.	4621 3574 Tons.		272,174 369,023 Bks. & Hrs.		---	---
Molasses ...	33,678 38,841 Pns.	1674 913 Pns.	---	---	{ 2887 1546 Pns. } { 178 27 Tcs. } { 165 58 Brls }		---	---
Rum ...	---	7883 11,284 "	533,791 581,170 Galls.		346 100 Pns.		---	---
Molascult ...	---	3297 2558 Tons	---	---	23,174,825 29,166,730 lbs		60,524 65,251 Bags	
Cocoa ...	---	16,050 52,106 lbs	10,774 8772 Cwts		11,930 54,235 "		23 126 "	
Coffee ...	---	---	5848 7237 "		5,376,809 4,058,425		---	---
Coconuts ...	---	238,371 161,640	1,056,680 699,630		5323 10,552 Bags.		704 1025 Bales	
Copra ...	---	---	28,620 1706 lbs		---		4745 6533 Bags.	
Cotton ...	---	---	---		64,028 73,574 Tons.		---	---
Cotton Seed ...	---	---	---		---		---	---
Asphalt ...	---	---	2,278,914 510,700		---		---	---
Oranges ...	---	---	4,036,994 4,35,046 Bnchs		---		---	---
Bananas ...	---	---	13,925 4047 Cwts.		---		---	---
Pimento ...	---	---	---		---		---	---
Spice ...	---	---	---		---		---	---
Gold ...	---	46,480 39,248 ozs.	---		---		---	---
Diamonds ...	---	3337 5011 carats.	---		---		---	---

SPICE

The Produce Markets' Summary.

SUGAR.—Licht's Consumption, September/June, 10 Months.

	1904/5.	1903/4.	1902/3.	
Convention Europe	3,100,000	3,560,000	2,830,000	Tons
United States	1,460,000	1,450,000	1,430,000	
Total	4,560,000	5,010,000	4,260,000	

Licht's Visible, 1st July, even dates.

	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Convention Europe	1,380,000	1,950,000	2,200,000	
Total Visible	1,980,000	2,020,000	2,670,000	

During almost the whole of the past fortnight a steady tone had prevailed in the beet market on the basis of about 11s. for 88%, now available, and the general requirements of consumers had been sufficient to maintain this parity. The holders of old-bought speculative paper Sugar for August delivery have generally abstained from pressing sales, whilst the "bears" who had sold without having the Sugar have from time to time shown some anxiety to cover, which has assisted the market in the maintenance of its firm attitude. In the meantime the crops on the Continent are reported as being in an excellent position, and if this continues a large output seems assured. With the arrival of the dreaded month of August, great irregularity of prices has set in, and confidence, which was partially returning, has again received another shock. Fluctuations of more or less importance are of hourly occurrence, and the following quotations may be all upset the moment these remarks leave the printer's press. The cable will advise our Colonies of this, weeks before this "Summary" reaches them:—

The moment's quotations of 88% are:—August, 9s. 11½d.; Sept., 9s. 9½d.; Oct., 9s. 2d.; Nov./Dec., 9s. 0½d.; Jan./March, 9s. 2d.; and May, 1906, 9s. 3½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Europe	1,390,000	1,900,000	1,990,000	2,110,000	1,190,000	Tons
United States	220,000	160,000	300,000	120,000	250,000	
Cuba	300,000	100,000	270,000	330,000	100,000	
Cargoes afloat	90,000	70,000	60,000	50,000	80,000	
Total	2,000,000	2,230,000	2,620,000	2,610,000	1,620,000	
Quotations of 88% Beet:—	9s. 11½d.	9s. 10d.	8s. 0d.	6s. 0d.	9s. 2½d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—A good business has been done in yellow crystallised during the fortnight, and prices have improved 6d. to 9d. from the recent lowest point, bringing the value of average qualities up to 17s. 6d., with small quantities of fine sugar 18s. 6d. to 19s. Deliveries continue satisfactory. Refiners have been offering 11s. 6d. on floating terms for 96 test and for Sugar to be shipped promptly, but Importers have not accepted these offers. It is now an open question what price could be obtained.

Molasses Sugar.—Unchanged, values ranging from 12s. 0d. to 15s. 6d.

Muscovado.—Small sales of grocery on the spot from 14s. to 15s. To Refiners 89 test arrived has been sold freely at 10s. 3d. on floating terms, but with the uncertain state of the Beet Market, this quotation is for the moment more or less a nominal one.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905	1904.	1903	1902	
Imports	30,000	34,000	18,000	49,000	Tons
Deliveries	23,000	28,000	25,000	24,000	
Stocks	17,000	18,000	22,000	37,000	
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	17s. 6d.	16s. 6d.	15s. 0d.	13s. 0d.	

Rum.—Stocks in London:

	1905.	1904	1903.	1902	
Jamaica	10,000	10,800	10,700	11,000	Puns
Demerara	5500	9800	7100	8700	
Total of all kinds	15,500	20,600	17,800	19,700	
		24,115	21,669	Deficiency 4554	

There is no change in the general tone of the market. Moderate sales of useful Jamaica Marks have been made at 2s. 1d., with weak strengths at 2s., but the buying is far from general. In Demerara business remains suspended, but it looks as though buyers would shortly come in, from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d. being last prices. The nominal range of Leewards is 1s. to 1s. 4d.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:

The market continues quiet, but for the small business doing prices are about unchanged—viz., Trinidad (fair collected, 55s.; Estate Marks, 55s., 58s., and up to 62s.; Grenada common 48s., fair 50s., and fermented 51s. to 52s. 6d. From other Islands, Native Cocoa is worth 47s., 49s., and fermented 51s., 52s. When the hot season passes, manufacturers may become more busy.

Coffee.—Unchanged. Good ordinary Jamaica, 39s. to 40s.

Nutmegs.—Small sales of West India 64's at 18. 4d., 85's at 11d., 101's at 7d., 120's at 5½d., and 74's in shell, 5d. to 2½d.

Black Pepper.—Jamaica, neglected and very little passing.

Arrowroot.—About 1000 Barrels St. Vincent sold at 1½d. to a fraction under.

Lime Juice.—Steady, at 11d. to 1s. 2d. Concentrated firmer, £16 10s. Hand Pressed, unchanged; value 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil quoted at 1s. 7d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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STATIONERS HALL.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XLIX.



Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

Aug. 16th, 1905

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6842 CENTRAL.

THE question of the Mail Contract being for the present in abeyance, we are brought face to face with a state of things in regard to the despatch of letters to the West Indies which is far from satisfactory. It seems as if the Postmaster General, when it was decided that nobody was to have the contract, came to the conclusion that so far as the West Indies were concerned, "further proceedings interested him no more." This, at least, is the charitable conclusion, for we should be the last to suggest that the various pin-pricks from which we are at present suffering are the result of any deliberate intention to annoy. It would, of course, be too much to expect that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, which still carries the bulk of the correspondence, but without any contract, should adjust the whole of its business so as to suit the exigencies of the letter bags, and consequently the days of departure and arrival have been altered to suit the Company's other requirements. To merchants at home this is an advantage, as there is now a

clear week between arrival and departure of the mail, but apparently it does not please the G.P.O.

Hinc illa lacrima. The steamer now sails at noon, the train leaving Waterloo at 9.28 a.m. Formerly the train left at 1.35, and a convenient box was available at the station, in which, with a late fee, letters could be posted up to 1.5. But now there is no such box. Why not? It would still be a convenience to many people who write "after thoughts" when they get home, and could post them on the way up to town. The peculiar aggravation of this is that in the case of the Brazil mail, which starts at exactly the same time on alternate Fridays, letters can be posted up to 7.30 in the London district on the morning of sailing, but this privilege is withheld from the West Indian mail, which by the latest official notice is allowed to be posted up to midnight only. It goes without saying that the greatest inconvenience will be caused from now onwards by the cessation of the stop for mail delivery at Plymouth, homewards, especially to the Midlands and the North; this however seems to be inevitable under present arrangements. Certainly the greatest sufferers of all were the unfortunate merchants of Glasgow, who in order to meet a mail leaving Southampton at noon Friday had positively to post their letters on Wednesday evening. The experiment had been made of posting them on Thursday evening to an agent at Southampton, and it was found that in this way they reached Southampton about 10 o'clock, in plenty of time for the steamer's departure, and it was therefore for this reason that the West India Committee applied to the Postmaster-General for a mail bag to be made up at Glasgow at 6.15 p.m. on Thursday. We are pleased to learn that the Postmaster-General has granted this concession. It is impossible at present to see where all these postal difficulties are going to lead us, for the Government evidently contemplates the possibility of having to send the mails *via* New York, whence, as a despatch of the Postmaster-General to the Colonial Office, which has been forwarded to the West Indian Governments, remarks, "there are frequent but *irregular* sailings to most of the islands." A Georgetown correspondent of the *Standard* contemplates a possible 21 to 28 days for the mail between this country and British Guiana, which would indeed be a backward step.

THE recent collapse in the Paris sugar market brings to an end a very determined attempt to artificially inflate the price of sugar throughout the world. About this time last year it became evident that the crop of beet sugar would be small, and the then ruling price of 10s. per cwt. for 88 % beet was judged to be too low. As the season advanced it was calculated that the world's supplies were some 10 % short, and had the speculative traders contented themselves with a 10 % or 15 % rise in price they could doubtless have maintained their position, but as prices were forced up from 10/- to 16/6, or something like 65 %, the consumption was soon seriously affected, and when the speculators tried to realize their holdings, they found nobody willing to buy except from hand to mouth, with the result that prices have fallen back to where they started, and even less than 10s. has been accepted for ready sugar. There has been no financial trouble in the trade except in Paris, as the speculative dealings in London, Hamburg, and other centres, are made subject to clearing-house rules, which enforce immediate payment of an original deposit against possible loss, and also a daily payment of any loss shown by the current quotations. Unfortunately for themselves, Paris allowed dealings purely on credit, the so called monthly settlement only applying to contracts which were about to mature. As dealings were started about August 1904, and were mostly for May 1905, or August 1905, a huge amount of differences accumulated, those for May were paid or arranged for, but when August became due the principal speculator in Paris defaulted, owing some £650,000, and his default has caused the suspension of five of the leading Paris brokers, and caused heavy loss to other houses in almost every sugar market. It is hoped that no farther failures will take place, although there are heavy differences on new crop sugars which have dropped from about 12/- to 9/6 per cwt.

Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall.

As Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary of the West India Committee, is at this time enjoying a well-earned holiday in Switzerland, we have taken the opportunity of giving his portrait on our front page. Educated at Eton and at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he took an Honour Degree in Law in 1894, he was called to the Bar of the Inner Temple in 1897, and in 1898 was appointed Secretary to the West India Committee, an office which, as all West Indians know, he continues to hold. Shortly after his appointment, in the winter of 1899, he made a long cruise in the West Indies, acquiring information and making friends in every island, and the fruitful results of his camera are still seen from time to time in the *Circular*. The great development of the usefulness of the Committee during the last few years is in a great measure due to his untiring energy and geniality; his services have done much towards ensuring the success of the West Indian Section of the Colonial Exhibition at the Crystal Palace, and the *West India Committee Circular* has been brought up to its present position mainly by his able editing. We wish him still further success in promoting the interests of the West Indies.

Cane versus Beet.

Recent alarmist utterances with regard to the future prospects for cane-sugar, in its competition with the European product, are so authoritative and yet so unfounded that it may be well to review conclusions long since established on this vital point, and now fully confirmed by more recent data.

The comparative cost of production of beet and cane-sugar was very carefully gone into some six years ago, and further figures with regard to beetroot were given in 1903. It is quite clear from those indisputable facts that cane sugar can be produced, even on the average, at least 1s. per hundred-weight below the average cost of beetroot sugar. In many tropical countries the margin is much greater, and all who are acquainted with the soil, climate and agriculture of the island of Barbados must feel that it only requires up-to-date manufacture on a large scale to enable that island to rise to the level of even the most favoured districts in the tropics in its economical production of sugar.

Briefly, what are the facts? In Europe the production of sugar per acre ranges from $1\frac{3}{4}$ tons in Germany down to $\frac{2}{3}$ ton in Russia. In the tropics we have Java producing 4 tons to the acre, Cuba and the Sandwich Islands nearly as much, the West India Islands and British Guiana not far from 2 tons. It is true that more sugar is extracted from a ton of beetroot than from a ton of cane, and this reduces the cost of manufacture; but improved machinery and more careful methods of work will not fail to remedy this one point of inferiority, and will thus bring the cost of production in the tropics still further below that in Europe. At present the cost of beetroot sugar, as has been shown by carefully collected data, comes out for Germany, even with the exceptionally high yield of 14 per cent. of sugar, at more than 9s. per cwt of sugar, in the factory. That was in an unusually good season, and with a very low price for roots. Taking a five year's average, the cost came out, with a yield of 14 per cent., at nearly 9s. 9d. per cwt., and with a yield of 13 per cent., at nearly 10s. 6d. To these figures have to be added railway or river freight from factory to Hamburg, warehousing charges, and expenses of putting free on board. All other European countries have a higher cost of production than Germany.

The cost of producing cane sugar ranged a few years ago from 8s. to 9s. per cwt., and this for a class of sugar called 96 polarization, which is purer, and, therefore, more valuable than beetroot of 88 per cent. yield. But now we hear of much lower figures, even in countries where modern improvements have not yet had time to tell. The most recent come from Jamaica, where it is maintained that the cost in factory will not exceed 6s. per cwt.

In Barbados and the Leeward Islands they are not quite so sanguine, but figures have been

given which show that even the old muscovado process gave a net cost of under 9s. per cwt., and that this would be reduced to 6s. 6d. with an up-to-date central factory turning out high class sugar.

Looking at these figures, and knowing that they are an accomplished fact in many parts of Cuba, Java, and other favoured districts, why should we despair of the future of the sugar industry in such an essentially sugar-producing colony as that of Barbados? Far from despairing, we ought to feel sure that, whatever may happen elsewhere, that peculiarly favoured spot will not only survive but greatly flourish now that it has got rid of the bounties.

The very fact that Barbados, throughout the terrible bounty period of the last twenty years, has gone on steadily producing its full crop of sugar, is sufficient proof that its sugar industry is bound to flourish now that European competitors are no longer protected in British markets. There is, no doubt, great room for improvement, but care must be taken that schemes with that intent are well conceived and skilfully executed. In the rush to develop the beetroot industry in the United States we hear of factories being erected in wrong places, and even of their being closed and the machinery removed to other districts. It is to be hoped that, in the haste to improve, we may not make similar mistakes. Expert knowledge and experience is the first essential in starting fresh schemes and new departures. With these reservations it would appear that Barbados is a country peculiarly adapted to the centralized system which has done so much, both with beet and cane, to reduce cost of production to a minimum.

GEORGE MARTINEAU.

Picturesque Jamaica.

By FRANK CUNDALL, F.S.A.

It has been well said by an eminent medical man that Jamaica possesses three valuable assets—its climate, its scenery, and its soil. Had the remark been made by an agriculturist or a commercial man, the soil would have been put first, while an artist would have given the premier position to its scenery.

The cultivations of the soil are well represented in the economic products shown in the Jamaica Court at the Exhibition. Beyond the display of rainfall maps, diagrams and statistical tables, it is difficult to illustrate a country's climate; but some idea of its scenery—however panoramic and unpaintable it may be, as parts of Jamaica undoubtedly are—can be conveyed by means of the camera and the artist's brush.

On one side of the Jamaica Court has been hung a small collection (seventeen in number) of paintings—all but two of them in oils—illustrating Jamaica scenery and character.

The two largest are by Mr. Joseph Kirkpatrick, of Liverpool. The one, in water-colour, represents the Blue Mountain Peak, upwards of 7,000 feet high, a favourite object with tourists; while the other depicts a tract of bush land which exists where the Plain of Liguanea, on which Kingston stands, runs up to meet the forward spurs of the high Blue Mountain range. A third picture by this artist (like the Peak, in water-colour) represents a tobacco-field, also in the Plain of Liguanea; while a fourth depicts a view in the picturesque parish of St. Ann, with one of those giant cotton trees which form a prominent feature in many a Jamaica scene.

These four pictures form part of a collection, some sixty in number, executed by Mr. Kirkpatrick a year or two ago, which, after being exhibited in Liverpool and London, were shown and dispersed in Jamaica last year. Owing to the public-spirited action of a few individuals, the two largest pictures in the collection were purchased and presented to the Institute of Jamaica, where they form the nucleus of what may, it is hoped, become in time a Jamaica Art Gallery—Art up to the present having been there treated more as the handmaid of history.

The remaining fourteen pictures* are by Mrs. Lionel Lee, whose inherited artistic temperament received training at Bath. Mrs. Lee lived for many years in Jamaica, and learned well the character of both scenery and natives.

The largest of her works is a representation of characteristic Jamaica fruits—bananas, oranges, pine-apples, mangoes, shaddocks, &c. Then come six studies of Jamaica female character. "Morning Coffee" and "The Floor-Cleaner" are typical of almost every house in Jamaica, or, indeed, of the West Indies; and a "Market Woman" may be seen taking her head-load to market along every highway and many bye-ways.

The picture entitled "Resting," though true, would have been even truer had the subject been a man or boy. The male creation in the West Indies becomes tired more readily than the female—so far, at least, as the peasantry is concerned. The other two figure subjects are studies of types of coloured faces, and those who know Jamaica will admit that Mrs. Lee has caught well the characteristic features of the race. "A Negro Hut" show the kind of dwelling built by the peasantry, which has for some time occupied the attention of philanthropists and others, as it is felt that better dwellings could not but tend to improve the moral condition of the negroes. "Brown's Town" affords a view of a typical street in the smaller towns in the island. "A Coast Scene" in the parish of St. Ann, well recalls the beautiful sea-washed borderland of a beautiful island. "A View in the Santa Cruz Mountains" gives a glimpse of what is undoubtedly the healthiest spot in the island, and a haven of rest for those troubled by weak lungs, and incidentally shows the palm from which many baskets (including those shown in the Court) are made; while the views on the Rio Bueno and the Rio Minho suitably conclude a collection of pictures illustrative of the isle of woods and streams.

The Royal Mail Fleet in Carlisle Bay, Barbados.

Our full-page illustration represents a part of the fleet of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., lying at anchor in Carlisle Bay, Barbados, where until recently passengers and cargo were transferred from the Transatlantic vessel to the inter-Colonial steamers. For the present, at any rate, this scene will be no longer witnessed, as the Company has decided to make Trinidad its headquarters instead of Barbados, as heretofore, and the transshipment will be effected in the Gulf of Paria instead of Carlisle Bay. The steamers in our illustration are the "Tagus," with two funnels in the distance, and the yacht-like inter-Colonial vessels, the "Eden" and the "Esk." As a rule passengers go ashore in rowing-boats at Bridgetown, and do not land at this jetty, which is known as the Engineers' Pier, near the barracks, and which is only used for special occasions, such as when the Agricultural Conference meets.

Rubber Notes.

BY THE EDITOR OF "TROPICAL LIFE."

I heard some time ago that not a rubber seed could be obtained in Ceylon for love or money, so great is the demand there for seed to extend the cultivations. Official reports confirm this, for the Peradeniya Gardens report that the whole of the Para seed crop for 1905 and 1906 has been booked, and that probably 1907 would have gone as well, only it is not considered advisable to promise seeds so far ahead. The Ceylon Agricultural Society published an extract from the *West India Bulletin* (Vol. V., No. 3) giving Mr. J. H. Hart's experiments with *Castellia* and other rubber plants in Trinidad.

Those going in for rubber would do well to follow the example of the eastern producing centres, as the Straits Settlements and Ceylon, and prepare their latex in the shape of biscuits. To do this the green rubber must be kept scrupulously clean and free from dirt, and thoroughly dried, so as to

* Some of these paintings are on sale at prices varying from £3 3s. to £7 7s.

exclude all moisture. Some of the biscuits are stamped with the estate name or mark in the centre, which is a good idea, because when a high class rubber is shipped, and the mark has become well known and is looked for, buyers can depend on getting the right thing, and that too without having to depend on the mark on the case, or in the last catalogue. I mention this because it is well-known that the cultivation of rubber has made great strides throughout some of the Spanish-American States, and I should like to see more of the Members of the West India Committee and their friends who have spare land at present running to bush, to go in for rubber as well as their usual products, sugar, cocoa, &c. I do not recommend rubber so much to small land-owners, or to those who cannot afford to sink their money and sit up for eight or ten years waiting for the returns, but for those who can do this I strongly recommend them to study the latest methods of cultivation, and after choosing the method of culture and the kind of rubber most suitable for their district, to systematically plant a few acres every year, even if only one or two, investing the money therein as if in an assurance policy repayable in so many years. To those who can plant in this way there is money in the venture, for the more one studies the conditions under which the supplies of uncultivated rubber are obtained, the more convincing is it that before long the consuming centres must look to cultivated rubbers produced in civilised, not to say scientific, ways for their main supplies. Meanwhile, the demand steadily increases, not only on account of the increased use of motor cars and bicycles, as well as vehicles drawn by horses using rubber tyres, but also for such uses as laying down rubber sheeting in front of hotels and buildings where the constant movements of vehicles before the doors annoy those inside, which use is growing in popularity. According to the last business done, the present value of fine plantation rubber is about 6s. 4d. to 6s. 5d. per lb., but cannot be fixed, as owing to the holidays no sales have taken place since July 21st, when fine Para was worth 5s. 6d. per lb., and coarse entrefine Para and Peruvian realised 4s. 6d. to 4s. 11½d. per lb. The last business done in plantation-grown Ceylon and Straits' biscuits was at 6s. 1½d. to 6s. 3d. per lb., but at the next sales on August 18th it seems as if they hope to do rather better.

Many of the large tea brokers have added rubber to their departments, in anticipation of the shipments from Ceylon and India, believing that they will assume important proportions later on. West Indian planters should note this, as cocoa brokers can do the same, one of them in fact has done so, and generally obtains the best price for Ceylon biscuits.

Exhibition Notes.

Judging the Exhibits.

The judging of most of the exhibits has taken place during the past fortnight, and it is expected that the various awards will be made very shortly.

Admission—3d. Tickets.

By special arrangement with the Crystal Palace authorities, admission tickets for Members of the West India Committee and friends can be had from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, for 3d. each.

The Crystal Palace Club.

Those of our Members desirous of availing themselves of the privileges offered by the Crystal Palace Club will require vouchers, which are obtainable *free of charge* from the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Railway Facilities.

There are over 300 trains to and from the Crystal Palace daily, from Victoria, Ludgate Hill and London Bridge—time, 20 to 30 minutes. The High Level station is quite near to the West Indian Court. Return fares, including admission to the Palace:—First class, 2s. 6d.; second class, 2s.; third class, 1s. 9d.



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Photo by Alferato E. Agostini

THE ROYAL MAIL FLEET IN CARLISLE BAY,
BARBADOS.

Press Notices, &c.

Notwithstanding the many counter attractions in London at the present time, the West Indian Exhibition is receiving a fair share of notice by the public Press and trade journals, resulting in many enquiries by letter and otherwise regarding the various products. The different kinds of literature supplied by the local committees are also being freely distributed.

Members' Day at the Exhibition.

Thursday, the Committee day at the Exhibition, usually finds a considerable number of our friends inspecting the exhibits at the West Indian Court. A table is reserved in the restaurant for those wishing to dine and witness the fireworks, but *it is necessary for Members intending to be present to give notice to the Secretary by Thursday morning.*

Mr. Frank Cundall, F.S.A.

Mr. Cundall relinquished charge of the Jamaica Court this day (August 17th), and returns to the Colony, accompanied by Mrs. Cundall, by the outgoing mail. Mr. Cundall leaves us with the good wishes of every one with whom he has come in contact during his Commissionership for Jamaica. In taking up and carrying on the good work inaugurated by his predecessor, Mr. Barclay, he has displayed marked administrative ability, which has won for the Jamaica section the highest approval on all sides.

West Indian Fruit in London.

Jamaica has been showing some exceptionally fine oranges and grape fruit, and the oranges on view in the Trinidad Court (especially the seedless variety), likewise several fine bunches of bananas, have attracted considerable attention. Some bunches of the Barbados "Dagger" bananas have also made a creditable show. Spare parcels of all sorts of fruit have been eagerly bought up. It is gratifying to mention that six cases of Jamaica and Trinidad oranges were accepted for the farewell luncheon given at Westminster Hall on Saturday last to Admiral Caillard and the officers of the French navy, in response to an offer made to the Committee, which was composed of such distinguished and well-known personages as Viscount Churchill, Major Evans Gordon, Sir Arthur Hayter and Sir Benjamin Stone.

General Progress of the Exhibition.

The Exhibition continues to flourish and is well attended, and there can be no doubt that the West Indian section attracts the most interest, for it is indeed the nucleus of the whole show. All Exhibitions of this class grow by a process of experiments, and it is only as the time allotted for it advances that it gradually arrives at its best; of this the Jamaica Court is a striking example, as in point of effective arrangement as a whole, and also in the assortment of details it has improved immensely since the opening day and now leaves little to be desired. Blue Mountain coffee is being roasted all the time before the eyes of the visitors, in a new patent roasting machine, and the excellence of the Jamaica coffee vindicated. There is no doubt that a good deal of education about the West Indies generally is being imparted to visitors in a quiet way, especially on quiet days when there is less crowd. It is to be hoped that a good proportion of these are in the grocery trade, but, of course, this no one can tell. The Secretary of the West India Committee recently wrote a judicious letter to the *Grocer* calling the attention of the retail grocery trade to the valuable knowledge they can acquire from a visit to the show, especially in regard to the comparative merits of cane and beet, but there are a host of other products well deserving of study. Just now, of course, the band of the 1st West India Regiment is a great attraction, and not only draws visitors to the Palace to the band-stand, but also draws the public to the Palace. The charm of their music, the picturesqueness of their uniform, and the good manners and behaviour of the bandsmen please everybody. A striking testimony to the sugar exhibits was given the other day (what we may call an "unsolicited testimonial") by a member of a Louisiana firm who won the gold medal at St. Louis, to the effect that the exhibits were better than their own at St. Louis.

The Attendance at the Exhibition.

The attendance at the Exhibition since the opening day and up to Saturday last, August 12th, has been 733,671. On Bank Holiday, August 7th, 41,078 passed the gates, and amongst the very large number of those signing our Visitors' Book since we last went to press are:—
JAMAICA.—Dr. Harry and party, Mr. R. W. Smith, Mr. Harry Mortlock, Mr. F. A. Clarke, Mr. Ewart E. Cox, Mr. E. A. Butler, Mr. W. H. Parquharson, Mr. G. P. Dewar, Mr. M. Ryan,

Rev. A. E. Jocelyne (Bishop elect), Mr. W. V. R. Garland and party, Mr. and Mrs. J. Sutton-Brown, Mrs. E. Astley Smith, Mr. Philip F. Butler, Mr. W. T. Reed, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lewis, Mr. H. B. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Dunn, Miss Small, Mr. C. W. Curry, Miss Butler, Dr. R. C. Verley, and Mr. F. D. Butler.

TRINIDAD.—Ven. Archdeacon Smith, Mr. W. Robertson, Mr. M. C. Johnstone, his Honour Justice Swan, Dr. Young, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Berkeley and party, Dr. L. Fabien, Hon. Walsh and Mrs. Wrightson, and Mr. John Gibbons.

DEMERARA.—Mr. and Mrs. D. Gibson and party, Mr. C. Pound, Mr. W. S. Jones, Mr. E. M. Gray, Mr. Thos. W. Innis, and Mr. Herbert W. Litt.

BARBADOS.—Mr., Mrs. and Miss Collins, Miss Lily E. Jones, and Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay-Haynes and party.

His Grace the Archbishop of the West Indies and Miss Nuttall, his Lordship the Bishop of Antigua, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Robison (St. Vincent), Mr. H. F. Previt , and Mr. J. Duncan Tate.

The interest evinced in the West Indian Courts has in no way abated, and the Crystal Palace has become a common meeting ground for prominent West Indians and others directly and indirectly concerned in the Exhibition. The splendid band of the 1st West India Regiment has drawn thousands of people to the Palace, and nothing but the highest praise is accorded to its musical performances, and to the picturesque and soldierly appearance of the men.

Bitters and Sugar Machinery at the Exhibition.

BY W. G. FREEMAN, B.Sc., F.L.S.

Angostura Bitters.

The centre of the Trinidad Court is occupied by the exhibit shown in the accompanying illustration, of the famous Angostura Bitters, which are made from pure Trinidad rum, with the addition of other ingredients, the nature of which is a trade secret. Bitters are an important subsidiary product of the sugar industry in Trinidad, the average annual export for the last three years being some 34,000 gallons. As Professor Carmody clearly shows in his "Statistics of Trinidad Trade," which is available for distribution in the Court, Great Britain and the United States run one another close, and between them consume by far the greater part of the bitters exported, the other serious consumer being Germany, which in 1901-2 took about 4,500 gallons to Great Britain's 10,700 gallons.

Dr. Siegert's Angostura Bitters were originally made as far back as 1824, in Venezuela, at the town of Angostura (now Ciudad Bolivar). In 1875 the business was removed to Trinidad, on account of the restrictions and impositions of the Venezuelan Government.

Angostura Bitters have a world-wide reputation, and have universally earned the unstinted praise of the medical profession for their remarkable medicinal properties. Over and over again they have been eulogised by eminent writers who have had practical experience of their merits in tropical climates, where for long they have been considered invaluable in cases of malarial fever, &c.

In America, the home of the cocktail, they have attained an unparalled position, being the basis of, and indeed, indispensable to the preparation of these most fascinating drinks. Coming to this country, it is really wonderful to note how rapidly Angostura Bitters have found their way into almost every hotel, restaurant and bar, in the kingdom. As an appetiser, taken with any wine or spirit, they are second to none, whilst one of the most popular of modern summer beverages is lemonade and Angostura, a drink indulged in very widely, and a particular favourite of cyclists and athletes of all kinds.



Messrs. McNeil's Sugar Machinery.

The photographs exhibited by Messrs. John McNeil & Co., illustrate mills, triple effets and vacuum pans of their most recent designs.

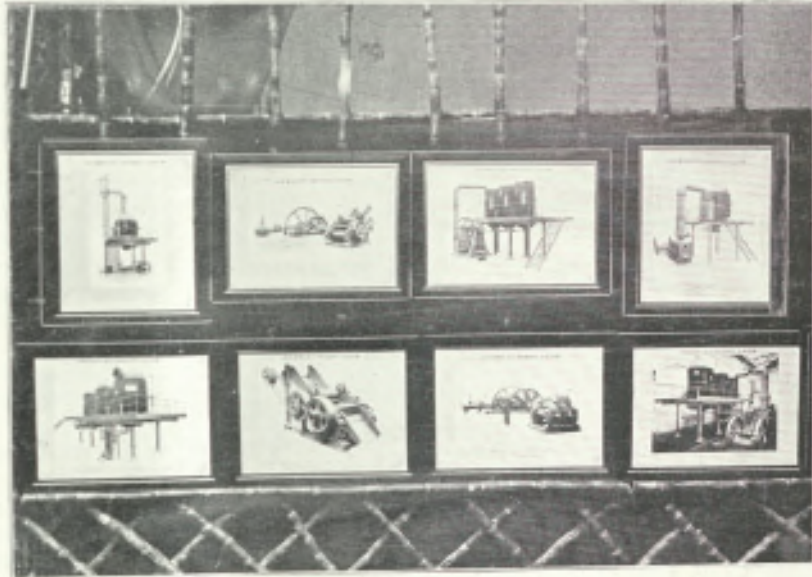
The five-roller mill photographs represent those supplied to "Bendals" Estate, Antigua, "Brighton" Estate, Barbados, and to five estates in Jamaica.

The three-roller mill photograph was taken from a very heavy mill made for a Queensland estate, where it is to be applied to the fourth crushing of sugar-canes. All its parts had, therefore, to be of the most massive proportions. The rollers are 34 ins. diameter by 66 ins. long, and have steel shafts 17 ins. diameter in the journals. The gearing-wheels and pinions are of cast-steel. The steam-engine cylinder is 26 in. diameter by 48 in. stroke. It should be mentioned that the construction and shipment of this mill and its accessories occupied just over nine weeks from the date of order, although the New Year holidays intervening, reduced the actual working time to just eight weeks.

Three photographs of this firm's patent Triple Effet Evaporator appear in our pictures. It will be seen that all have the hemispherical dome on top, in which is fitted the anti-entrainment device, which prevents syrup being carried over to the condenser and lost. Although scarcely perceptible in the picture, the calandrias are set at an angle which ensures rapid circulation of syrup, effective drainage of water, and free escape of air and gases.

The vacuum pan shown is the standard design of this firm for over ten years. The condenser in this case is of the barometric counter-current type, and is served by an engine with air-pump of the dry slide valve type. The provision for compensation of the clearance spaces in these air-pumps ensures a *continuous* exhaustion of air and gas from the condenser, which it is claimed is unobtainable by any other class of pump, and consequently the highest possible vacuum.

It is interesting to note that all the machinery here referred to has been constructed since the signing of the Brussels Convention on March 5th, 1902.

**The 1st West India Regiment.**

A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH BY COLONEL A. R. LOSCOMBE.

(Continued from page 315).

About 1793 a new corps made its appearance in the West Indies, called indifferently the Royal Rangers, Malcolm's Rangers, and Malcolm's Corps, from the name of its commander. This corps took part under Sir Ralph Abercromby in the desperate fighting in St. Lucia in 1795, and also in the fierce struggles in St. Vincent between the British on the one side and the Caribs, assisted by the French, on the other.

We thus see that there were two corps of blacks engaged in the fighting in the West Indies in 1795; the Carolina Corps, consisting of loyal blacks from the revolted states of America, and Malcolm's, or the Royal, Rangers raised on the spot. Besides these there were others, the St. Vincent Rangers, the Dominica Rangers, the Island Rangers (of Martinique), the Black Rangers (of Grenada), the Tobago Blacks, and Angus's Black Corps, which were raised on the spot as *need* required, just as the recently local corps were raised in South Africa to meet emergencies. Some of these, notably the Carolina Corps, Malcolm's Rangers, and the St. Vincent Rangers were in imperial pay; and in 1795 it was decided to consolidate these various black corps, and to raise others to make a total of eight

regiments. Accordingly the Carolina Corps and the Royal (or Malcolm's) Rangers were amalgamated and formed into a regiment of foot, which, after the custom of those days was called after the name of its colonel, Whyte's Regiment of Foot. The St. Vincent Rangers became Myer's Regiment of Foot, and the other six regiments were known as Keppell's, Nicoll's, Howe's, Whitelocke's, Lewe's and Skerrett's Regiments respectively, and appear under these names, and under the general heading "Regiments raised to serve in the West Indies" in the 1796 Army List. In the West Indies, however, they at once became styled the West India Regiments—Whyte's being the 1st, Myer's the 2nd, Keppell's the 3rd, and so on; and in 1798 the Army List also adopted these names. It is curious to note, however, that down to so late as 1888 the 2nd West India Regiment bore on its buttons the legend "West Indies—2nd Regiment"—instead of "2nd West India Regiment," this being evidently a survival of the old general title "Regiments raised to serve in the West Indies."

The descent of the old 1st West India Regiment from the South Carolina Regiment is commemorated by the crossed wreaths of laurel and Carolina laurel borne on its appointments, and this descent is also kept in mind by the air to which they march past, which is "South Carolina's a sultry clime."

I have now traced the evolution of the 1st West India Regiment from irregular corps raised in America and the West Indies, as stress of circumstances demanded, to a regular battalion of the British Army, constituted under practically the same title it now bears. It was not long before the new title received its baptism of fire, the Royal Rangers, who, though under orders for drafting into the regiment, appear for a time to have acted as a separate corps, being engaged in desperate fighting while carrying relief to the Island of Grenada, which had been for some time past ravaged by the French.

The rupture of the peace of Amiens in 1803 again brought war to the West Indies, and two years later we find the 1st West India and 46th Regiments forming the garrison of Dominica, when that island was attacked by a large French fleet assisted by 4,000 troops. The landing was resisted by the grenadier company of the 46th and the light company of the 1st West India, subsequently re-inforced by the remainder of the 46th, all under command of Major Nunn, of the 1st West India, and subsequently, on Major Nunn being mortally wounded, by Captain O'Connell of the same corps, and it was not until the enemy had landed all his 4,000 men that he succeeded, after four assaults, in taking the town of Roseau. Our force now fell back towards Prince Rupert, where the rest of the 1st West India were, and succeeded, after four days, in effecting a junction with them. The enemy now appeared off Prince Rupert, and summoned it to surrender, but on this being refused did not assault, having no doubt, after their rough handling at Roseau, a wholesome respect for the British force; and, after hovering about for a day or two, they drew off and returned to Martinique. The House of Assembly of Dominica erected a monument to Major Nunn, purchased for a hundred guineas a sword of honour for Capt. O'Connell, and thanked the regiment for its gallant conduct; while the Home Government authorized the name "Dominica" being inscribed on the colours.

The regiment took part in the reduction of the Danish West Indian Islands in 1807, and in the following year three companies, aided by a small naval detachment, caused the surrender, after four engagements, of a French force of over 200 men who had thrown themselves into Marie Galante, a small island off Guadeloupe. On the return of these three companies General Beckwith, who then commanded in the West Indies, presented his own sword to their commander, Lieut.-Colonel Blackwell, on a parade of all the garrison, at the same time thanking and complimenting the other officers and the men. On this occasion was captured the Drum-Major's staff of the 26th Battalion of the French line, which is still a cherished possession of the regiment. Application has been made more than once that, in order to commemorate this gallant exploit, the regiment might be permitted to add the name "Marie Galante" to those already on its colours, but this request has hitherto been refused on the somewhat technical ground that the headquarters of the regiment were not present on the occasion.

In 1809 the 1st West India formed part of two divisions engaged in the conquest of Martinique. This was a most brilliant campaign, which after much hard fighting, in which the grenadier company especially distinguished itself, resulted in the surrender of 2,700 French soldiers, and the capture of three eagles. The regiment was specially thanked in general orders for its services, and in token of approbation was permitted to retain two brass kettle-drums and five battle-axes, or halberts, which it had captured. The drums are still preserved in the battalion.

The following year saw a force of two divisions assembled at Dominica for the conquest of Guadeloupe, and in it were included the flank companies of the 1st West India Regiment, the grenadier company being joined to the grenadiers of the 46th, 60th, and 96th regiments to form one battalion, while the light company with those of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, and 8th West India Regiments

formed another, as was then customary. Within nine days of landing the island was conquered, and the French, having lost 600 men killed, had capitulated, 2,000 of them becoming prisoners of war. "As a mark of royal favour and approbation, and in commemoration of the distinguished gallantry displayed by the regiment" it was permitted to bear on its colours the words "Martinique" and "Guadeloupe."

The next service in which we find the 1st West India Regiment engaged is in the mismanaged and ill-fated expedition to New Orleans in 1814-15, in which it took part, together with the 5th West India. The details of this disastrous campaign are too well-known to need recapitulation, suffice it to say that both West India Regiments behaved with such desperate valour as to win not only approbation from their own generals, but also encomiums from the American General Jackson. Both regiments, too, suffered very severe losses, not only at the hands of the enemy, but also from exposure to the rigours of the American winter, which, owing to not having been provided with warm clothing, they were but ill-adapted to withstand.

On the escape of the Emperor Napoleon from Elba in 1815, the governor and island of Guadeloupe threw off their allegiance to King Louis XVIII., and for a third time a British force, in which were included 400 picked men of the 1st West India Regiment, invaded that place. This expedition, like the one preceding it, was entirely successful, the 1st West India contributing its share of the hard work and hard fighting, especially in the guerilla warfare, which succeeded the regular operations. Two officers of the regiment—Major Cassidy and Captain Winkler—were each presented with a sword of honour by the general commanding, and moreover, received from King Louis the Order of the Fleur-de-Lys for their services in this campaign.

This was the last occasion on which the regiment was engaged in warfare against a European foe, but since that time it has been constantly engaged with savage enemies on the frontiers of the Empire, in Central and South America, in West Africa, on the Gold Coast, and at Lagos; and in suppressing rebellions in Barbados, in Demerara, and in Jamaica. To enumerate all these occasions, and far more to attempt to describe them, however interesting it might be to the military student, would be apt to prove wearisome to the general reader, and I must content myself in next issue with picking out incidents here and there which appear to be worthy of record.

(To be continued).

The Future of Porto Rico.

Some interesting articles have recently appeared in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, from the pen of M. L. Naudet, on the outlook of sugar in Cuba, Porto Rico, and Trinidad. He deals principally with these islands because he made a long stay in them, and only touched at some of the others as a tourist. He is immensely impressed by the possibilities of Porto Rico, which he would choose of all others as the place to build a factory in. Cuba, of course, possesses unrivalled natural advantages, both as to soil and the means of export. The canes are planted for 10, 15 or 20 years (one field is said to have been planted for 58), and they require no manures, no labour—they simply grow by the grace of God! Cuba can produce sugar at a price that defies all competition. Indeed, the cost is about one-halfpenny per American lb. of 453 gr., and added to this they enjoy a bounty of



A Bandsman of the W.I. Regiment in Mexico Decr.

The uniform is the same as that of the private (see p. 314) except for the fact that the turban surrounding the red fez is relieved with red, and that the tassel is yellow.

4 francs (about) per 100 kilos. Manufacturers have also the advantage of paying for the canes in sugar, at little more than 5 per cent. of the weight of the canes—in rare cases, where competition is high, perhaps 6 per cent.—so that the rate of labour increases or decreases in the same ratio as the price of sugar. The usual percentage of sugar in the cane is 15 to 16, so that everything, on the face of it, seems in favour of Cuba, but M. Naudet sees another side to the question. The Americans, liking to do everything on a grand scale, prefer Cuba to Porto Rico, because the potential capacity of outturn in Cuba is something like 2,000,000 tons, whereas Porto Rico (which to-day hardly produces 150,000) could in no case be made good for more than 500,000. Cuba, therefore, is the place for prodigious factories, working 5,000 tons a day, and there the writer foresees danger. Labour in Cuba is scarce; moreover, it is black labour, which, under American influences, is dangerous. The big factories attract to themselves too large a proportion of the labour available, and there is considerable danger of strikes, and a deadlock between labour and capital, with no intermediary body to break the force of the struggle. Another point of danger is that to get the best results from the canes they should be brought to the factory every day, and worked within a few hours of their being cut. How is a factory working 5000 tons a day to obtain enough canes in the immediate neighbourhood? and how can the Cuban railways or Cuban roads be expected to bring in supplies of canes with sufficient promptitude to ensure their not losing much of their richness and purity? In Porto Rico, on the other hand, things are on a more modest scale, and this is considered a source of strength rather than weakness. Factories with a working power of 1500 to 2000 tons are found here, instead of the 5,000 tons capacity in Cuba. The labour danger is hardly worth considering, for, in the first place, the island is much more populous, and also the labourers on the high lands are always glad to come down to the plains and earn higher pay. A strike did recently happen, and that was the result, and it proved a salutary lesson. No doubt sugar cannot be produced so cheaply as in Cuba. Manures and continual irrigation are necessary, the canes have to be more frequently planted, and even then the percentage of sugar in the canes is not so high. But against this must be reckoned a 20 per cent. bonus, which fairly equalises the position as compared with Cuba. There have also been great improvements effected of late in the cultivation of the canes, especially in planting them further apart, and in some cases the percentage of sugar has been 17 per cent., and during March and April 18 per cent., with a purity of 94 to 95 per cent. The roads, too, in Porto Rico are admirable, and the payment for the canes is on the same system as in Cuba—viz., 5½ kilos. of sugar for 100 kilos. of canes. All these considerations incline M. Naudet to believe that there is no part of the Antilles where cane sugar will be grown so profitably in the future as in Porto Rico.

Consular Reports.

Germany and the Fiscal Question.

It will be remembered that when Germany declined to treat Canada on "most favoured nation" footing, owing to the preferential tariff, Canada retaliated by a special surtax on German goods. Germany now shows signs of climbing down; the Chamber of Commerce at Chemnitz has petitioned the Government to arrive at an amicable settlement, and this feeling is shared by commercial circles generally, even at the cost of admitting the Imperial preference.

Port Said and Suez.

The exports of cotton from Port Said have made considerable increase in the last four years, as the following figures show:—

1901	...	£5,246.	1903	...	£200,000.
1902	...	63,110.	1904	...	244,790.

The importation of sugar at Suez for the year 1904 was 6,265,177 kilos., valued at £75,194. Of this amount 6,227,201 kilos. of raw sugar valued at £74,726 were imported, mostly from Batavia and the Far East, and 37,072 kilos., valued at £454, of refined sugar were imported from Austria-Hungary. The raw sugar is refined in Egypt for re-exportation.

Dutch Guiana.

Imports have increased since 1901 from £580,000 to £616,000, but as the latter figure includes £71,000 imported by the Government for railway construction, apart from this special import, there would be a decline, and exports have declined from £447,000 to £307,000. The unfortunate state of the cocoa industry has led to experiments in bananas—which promise well—and sisal hemp. Of the latter, 150 acres were planted up to the end of the year, but it is too early to say anything definite. The rice industry shows considerable extension, and is at present entirely in the hands of British Indian settlers.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

On the 7th inst. in the House of Commons, in reply to a question from Mr. Platt-Higgins, the Secretary of the Board of Trade said: The fall in the market price of 88 per cent. in beet sugar f.o.b. Hamburg since the beginning of May has amounted to 2s. 5½d. per cwt. The present quotation (August 3rd) for prompt delivery is 10s. 1½d. per cwt., and the latest quotations for future delivery are 9s. 3d. per cwt. for delivery in October and 9s. 1¼d. for delivery in November-December. The average price for prompt delivery for the ten years, 1892-1901, before the signature of the Brussels Convention was about 10s. per cwt.

(This appears to settle finally the outcry of the jam makers, confectioners, and others, including the various malcontents of the Liberal party in the House, against the good work of the Convention, and we trust the subject is closed).

On the 11th inst. Mr. Bonar Law informed Mr. Bright that the mean of the market quotations for 88 per cent. beet sugar in July, 1902, was 6s. 0¼d. per cwt. The present quotation (August 3rd) was 10s. 1½d. per cwt. The amounts of the bounties on raw sugar given by Germany, France, and Austria-Hungary respectively in 1902, as estimated by the United States Government for the purpose of assessing countervailing duties, were 1s. 2¾d., 4s. 4¾d., and 11¾d. per cwt. These amounts did not include any indirect bounties arising from the action of cartels, the precise amount of which it was not possible to calculate.

Notes of Interest.

JAMAICA COTTON. In consequence of the Hon. T. H. Sharp's visit to England, it is thought there will be a considerable increase in the business of his company during the coming season.

TOURIST SEASON. The United Fruit Company are now about to run cars between Port Antonio and the Rio Grande Valley and Blue Hole, which will be of great service to tourists wishing to see the internal beauties of Jamaica.

THE GUIANA GOLD CO., LTD. Mr. E. R. Davson has joined the Board of Directors of the Guiana Gold Co., Ltd. A notice of this company, of which Mr. E. G. Braddon is the Manager in British Guiana, appeared in our issue No. 149.

CABLES. The Martinique-Paramaribo cable was interrupted on the 7th inst. The Paramaribo-Cayenne cable has been down since May 25th, 1905, and the Cayenne-Pinheiros as far back as August 13th, 1902. As we go to press we learn that the Trinidad-Demerara cable which was interrupted on the 1st inst. is still down.

WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS. General Sir John Stephens, who went to Jamaica to inspect the Ordnance Department, is believed to have reported on the desirability of retaining the white troops in the Colony, and to have advised the Home Government, if any changes were made, that Bermuda should remain a naval station, and all the white troops from thence should be quartered in Jamaica.

WIRELESS EXPERIMENTS. A report has been issued of the experiments in wireless telegraphy between Tobago and Trinidad, with the result that the practicability of the scheme has been ascertained, although the experiments were not very successful, owing apparently to the machinery which was supplied being defective. It is proposed that no permanent arrangement shall be established for the present till the plant has been worked by local operators for another six months.

APPOINTMENTS REGISTER. The register of applicants for appointment as overseers and other positions connected with West Indian estates can be seen by Members at the West India Committee Rooms. Full particulars regarding the applicants are now given, together with two testimonials from each. Members receiving applications from those desiring appointments may refer the applicants to the West India Committee, who will supply a form of enquiries for the candidates to fill up.

MAIL OPPORTUNITIES. The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and Royal Mail steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail on Friday next are advertised: S.S. "Roma," from Liverpool, for Demerara, up to 10 a.m. in London, August 18th; S.S. "Explorer," from Liverpool, for Barbados (for Demerara and West Indian islands) August 18th; S.S. "Spheroid," from London, for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Demerara, and Berbice, August 24th; the R.M.S. "Port Royal," from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, August 26th; and the S.S. "Almerian," from Liverpool, for Barbados and Trinidad, August 29th.

AN UNEXPECTED FINE. A Scotch firm shipped some goods to Jamaica subject to discounts of 10% and 2½%, but forgot to deduct the 10%, so the importer had to pay duty on the invoice as it stood. But he subsequently received a letter from Scotland adjusting the mistake, and the importer asked for 6s. 11d. to be refunded. This the Collector-General declined on the principle of "let bygones be bygones." Then there was an appeal to the Governor, who confirmed the decision, and then a request that the matter should be referred to Downing Street. This seems to have been done, and after an interval of six months the Governor announced that he would allow the 6s. 11d., but imposed a fine of 6s. 11d. for carelessness. The right of a paternal Government to impose fines on peaceful citizens is severely questioned.

The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Atrato" anchored off Plymouth at 4.15 p.m. on Wednesday, August 9th. Among her passengers were the following Members of the West India Committee:—Mr. A. St. G. Spooner (our Hon. Correspondent in Antigua), Mr. T. W. O'Neil and Mr. E. F. O. Swan. The mails were delivered in London by first post on the following morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Services R.M.S. "Port Antonio," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, August 2nd. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received by the R.M.S. "Atrato":—

Antigua—Development of Cotton and the Mail Question.

(Hon. J. FREELAND FOOT) July 25th—In consequence of the recent sales of cotton, the cultivation had been somewhat extended on the lighter soils of the Island, where it had done well. The weather had been more favourable lately, and the Island looked better than this time last year, but they had not yet had the usual pond rains.

As regards the mail contract, the object of Antigua was to have efficient service. All things being equal preference would be given to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, but the Island was not so much indebted to the R.M.S.P. Company as some other Islands, like Barbados (where the headquarters were) and Jamaica, where, owing to the competition, the fares had been reduced to about half, while return tickets to Antigua were still £40.

Any good company that would reduce fares to Antigua would be welcome, even for the slack months, and the Island had rather hoped that one Company—say the R.M.S.P. for preference—would have obtained the contract between the Island and Canada and England.

Barbados—The Mail Question and the Weather.

(T. W. WILKINSON, Esq.) July 29th—At the meeting of the House of Assembly on the 25th ult., a despatch from the Secretary of State was read, informing the Legislative Council that the decision arrived at with regard to the mail contract must be upheld. He also expressed a hope that the results would not so seriously affect the trade of the Island with the United Kingdom as the address from the House appeared to anticipate. The Governor also sent down a message to the effect that he had been instructed to inform the House that their petition relative to the removal of the troops had been presented to the Government, but that His Majesty had not been able to comply with their request that the garrison should be continued.

Nice showers had fallen during the fortnight nearly every day, and the total rainfall was over three inches, but land still wanted soaking. The crops were looking splendid, as, indeed, was the vegetation of the whole Island, and estates were now making preparations for planting in November and December.

The sugar market had looked up somewhat since last mail, the price offered being 81.75, but it was thought that there was not much left on hand.

British Guiana—The Feeling about the Mail Contract.

(J. C. McCOWAN, Esq.) July 26th—A strong representation had been made by the Chamber of Commerce and forwarded to the Secretary of State that it was the wish of the Colony that the mail contract should be entered into with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. The cable communication with Trinidad had been restored on July 10th. In the sugar market about 2,400 tons of crystals had been sold during the fortnight at 2 20 to 2 23½, and there still remained some 2,000 tons in hand.

The weather had been very favourable, rains having fallen generally, though in Essequibo they were a bit too heavy.

British Honduras—Illness of the Governor.

(Hon. A. R. USHER) July 28th—The Governor, Sir Bickham Sweet-Escott had been compelled to leave for England on the 22nd inst., owing to the state of his health. The Hon. P. C. Cork (who was on leave in England) was expected on the 31st inst. to administer the Government during the Governor's absence. In the meantime, the Hon. H. E. W. Grant was administering the Government, and the Hon. H. B. Walcott, Treasurer, was acting as Colonial Secretary.

The weather had been exceedingly broken lately, which had impeded mahogany and logwood operations, but crops were looking well.

There were no cases of fever there, but news had been received that yellow fever had broken out in New Orleans.

Dominica—The Mail Contract.

(E. A. AGAR, Esq.) July 27th—The majority in Dominica were in favour of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company getting the new contract, although some, and a respectable number, were of opinion that a new line obtaining it would lead to competition with the present lines, but all were agreed that a contract on similar lines to those hitherto employed was absolutely necessary for the prosperity of the place.

The fruit trade of Dominica is in its infancy, and attempts have been made for the past few years to start it on a sound basis, but owing to the uncertainty of what will be done this season with regard to steamship communication with England, no arrangements can be made; and it looks as if any good results hitherto obtained would be neutralised by failing to ship this season. In view of the fact that the Mediterranean citrus crop is reported to be short, this was a great disappointment.

GRENADA—Disappearance of Anthrax.

(HON. D. S. DE FREITAS) July 27th—Since June 25th, when a heifer died from anthrax, no further deaths were reported, although the cause of death in that instance had been traced beyond any doubt by the result of microscopic examination of the blood. The interval that had elapsed since was sufficiently wide to afford grounds for reasonable hope that the end of the outbreak had been reached. This was, of course, possible, but there still remained certain parts of the pasture infected with anthrax spores; but when the pasture has been broken up and cultivated with canes (as it is soon to be) these sources of danger would be completely destroyed.

Soaking showers had fallen nearly every day since last mail, and consequently in the low land the cocoa trees were covered with flowers and with buds of varying sizes, especially on the bole of the trees.

Messrs Thomson, Hankey & Co had very generously given a handsome silver cup to be competed for at the race meeting at St. Andrew's on August 7th and 8th.

Jamaica—The Fruit Trade.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq.) July 26th—A few days ago some high winds prevailed, principally in St. Mary, St. Thomas, and Portland, which are said to have injured the bananas to some extent. No authoritative statement of the extent of the loss was yet to hand, although report said the damage had been somewhat considerable.

In regard to the banana trade, serious complaints were being made that the United Fruit Company (who are practically the sole buyers at the moment) were taking advantage of the growers by paying them for their fruit considerably less than fair value. The growers state that they are quite defenceless, as the United Fruit Company are the sole purchasers, and that the producers of fruit have to submit to this treatment, as they have no other means of disposing of their bananas. The sellers of bananas also assert that they are subject to "wholesale and incorrect rejections."

Mr. Montgomerie, an American, had established headquarters at Port Maria for the manufacture of rope, twine and silk from the banana fibre.

Statements of the general revenue of the Colony for the year 1904-5 show a deficit of £73,094 8s.

The reply received from Canada in regard to the position taken up by the Canadian refiners *re* preferential duty on British-grown sugar was most unsatisfactory, and it seemed as if the tariff concession was passed for the benefit of Canada, and not for the outside world. The Government of Canada, however, had given notice that a tariff enquiry would be held this fall, and this matter would be placed before them for their consideration.

The weather in some parts of the Island had been unseasonable, but on the whole the Island had had a fair amount of rain.

Montserrat—Climatic Condition.

(CONRAD WATSON, Esq.) July 26th—The past fortnight had been dry, any light showers being quickly dried up by the high wind and scorching sun. The leaves of the young cotton plant presented a shrivelled appearance, but it is thought that no permanent damage had been done by this unfavourable weather.

Nevis—The Mail Contract in Reference to Cotton.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) July 26th—The general wish as to the mail contract seemed to be that it should be renewed upon its present basis, and that on no account should there be an exclusion of the smaller Islands.

Now that Nevis had developed a new industry like cotton, which was all being shipped to the United Kingdom, there ought soon to be a greater inducement in the way of freight than heretofore. The crop this year will amount to about 1000 lbs. lint; and now that the Government is opening up and repairing the old public road, which taps the cream of the cotton belt, the area of cultivation was being largely extended.

The weather since last mail had been dry, only occasional showers having fallen, and rain was required.

Dr. Watts visited the Island during the previous week, and attended a special meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, which was convened at the request of cotton growers to deal with important questions affecting the industry. The meeting was in every way a success.

The small bath-house was almost completed, and would soon be available for use, the temperature of the water being 107°.

St. Kitts—The Sugar Market.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, Esq.) July 25th—The community felt the pinch of the loss of a regular mail service. Showers had been general throughout the Island, and the young crop was growing with vigour. Sugars on hand were being to some extent diverted to the United Kingdom, but, as is only natural, there was, owing to the suddenness of the shutting of the Canadian market to the Island) a difficulty in finding sufficient steamer accommodation at the moment for British ports.

St. Lucia—Visit of the Governor.

(SYDNEY D. MELVILLE, Esq.) July 28th—The Governor, Sir R. Llewellyn had come, and was, it was believed, to remain until Mr. Cork, the new Administrator, arrived. Nothing definite had yet been settled about the Acquisition Ordinance. It would probably be brought forward at the approaching meeting of Council, though in what shape is not yet known.

There had been some welcome rain, which would greatly benefit the crop.

St. Vincent—Views about the Mail Contract.

(Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co) July 28th—This Colony would vote solid for a contract to be entered into with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for a continuation of the present service. In fact, should the regular calls of the Company's steamers be withdrawn, they did not know how the Island would get on at all. Kingstown had been somewhat brightened up by the presence in the harbour of the German warship, "Bremen," which was making a stay of a fortnight; and as the Colony is so very seldom visited by a warship, the visit had been a very welcome one.

The weather had been rainy and very squally at intervals during the fortnight, but it was seasonable for the crop.

Trinidad—High-banded Action in Venezuela.

(Hon. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C M G.) July 28th—The offer of the Royal Mail Company to Trinidad to give a direct service to and from the Colony in one day less than the old time, and to make Trinidad its head West Indian quarters, for the annual subsidy of £15,000, would be submitted the following week to the Chamber of Commerce for an expression of opinion. It appeared to be favourably received by the general public, though it was considered by many that the subsidy asked for was too large, and that it should be £12,000. It will be considered by the Legislative Council when the report of the Chamber is received.

The quiet which had lately existed in Trinidad in regard to Venezuela had just been disturbed by a somewhat arbitrary act of the Venezuelan Government. Mr. Delano, Director of the Val de Travers Asphalt Company, accompanied by Professor Carmody and Mr. Cunningham Craig, the Government Geologist, paid a visit in a private steam launch to Amacuro Bay, all necessary papers and authority having been first obtained from the Venezuelan Consul, with the assurance that it would be all right. The authority at Amacuro disregarded all these, and detained the launch and Mr. Delano, allowing the two other gentlemen to return on a vessel leaving for Trinidad that day. After strong protest to the Governor at Caracas and the English Minister there, Mr. Delano was given a passage back on a Venezuelan Government boat, but the launch was still detained.

The Cane Farming Agreement of the leading planters of San Fernando district was under consideration. There had been some days of fine dry weather in the fortnight, followed by days of heavy showers. It was at the time of writing fine again, but rain was not far off. The heavy rains had retarded crop operations. In consequence, deliveries had not been as heavy as anticipated. Lower prices had remained firm, owing to the support of shippers with open contracts, but little or no fresh business could be reported.

Estate grades were quoted at 57s. c and f Havre, and Ordinary Freight at 50s. 6d. Venezuelan descriptions being in good supply, and consequently upon the dulness of foreign markets, had considerably weakened in price. Sales at the parity of 52s. had been made.

Cocoa Shipments.		
Total at last return	144,180	Hags Trinidad
July 14 S S "Tagus"	2341	22,548 Venezuela
" 18 S S "Centro America"	100	Europe
" 18 S S "Orange Nassau"	555	"
" 22 S S "Oruro"	10	126 New York
" 24 S S "Caracas"	248	10 Canada
" 24 S S "Prins Willem V"	1822	188 New York
" 25 S S "Cheniston"	1636	359 "
" 26 S S "P. Willem II."	1780	38 Europe
	152,672	677 "
		24,146

Some alarm and uneasiness had been caused to the coconut planters at the report of serious ravages in the plantations by a fungi disease known as Bud Rot. This disease attacks the centre shoots, and soon destroys the trees. It is said to have wiped out the coconut cultivation in Cuba. However, one or two of the older coconut planters assured our correspondent that they had known the disease for 30 or 40 years, but it had resulted from ill-drained lands and neglect of the trees, and was easily kept in check. The Governor and the Agricultural Society had taken up the matter, and called for reports from all the known planters of the nut.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Atrato" (Capt. R. H. Stranger), Aug. 9th—Barbados—Mr. T. W. B. O'Neal, Mrs. E. O'Neal, Mrs. and Miss Archer, Mr. H. L. Johnson, Mr. M. L. Horne, Mr. and Mrs. E. O. F. Swan, Mr. D. L. Johnson, Mr. F. W. Harris, Mrs. Hill. **Demerara**—Mr. V. Durrant, Mr. P. J. Willems, Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Jorge, Mr. J. D. A. Greenidge, Mr. Jewels, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Ridley, Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Falk, Mr. Conley, Mr. Hanson, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Chambers, Mr. Walker. **Jamaica**—Hon. G. Sanftleben, Mrs. H. Sanftleben, Mr. K. G. Craig, Mr. E. S. Mayor, Lieut. Price, Hon. and Mrs. Pipon-Schoolies, Mr. R. St. John Dickson, Mr. J. M. Hall, Mr. A. Sené. **Trinidad**—Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Nivet, Mr. O. Harley, the Very Rev. Father de Martini, Mrs. Marwood. **Antigua**—Mr. and Mrs. J. Goodwin, Mr. A. St. G. Spooner, Miss Knollys, his Honour Judge and Mrs. Danavall. **Grenada**—Mr. C. V. Horne, Mr. A. Hayward.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "La Plata" (Capt. W. J. Dagnall), August 18th:—Barbados—Mr. K. Fullerton, **Demerara**—Mr. O. Low, Mr. A. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. K. Kerr, Mr. and Mrs. F. White, Mr. and Mrs. Cannon, Mr. F. Dias, Mr. J. L. Stoute, Dr. Carl Bovallius, Mr. A. H. Baker. **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. F. Pearce, Mr. J. Cassis, Mr. and Mrs. Dunn, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cundall, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel, Miss C. Wolfe. **Trinidad**—Mr. D. Miller, Mr. D. O'Connor, Commander the Hon. W. H. Coombs, R.N. **St. Kitts**—Mr. and Mrs. Bankhead. **St. Vincent**—Mr. J. C. W. Hazell.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Trent" (Capt. A. C. Farmer) Sept. 1st:—Barbados—Captain Laing, Mr. O. H. T. Dudley. **Demerara**—Dr. and Mrs. Irving, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. R. Dennis, Miss Simpson, Mrs. McEwan, Miss Marshall, Mr. T. Roy. **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. S. Straas. **Trinidad**—Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson, Miss I. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Bowen, Mr. R. A. Low, Mr. G. White, Mr. D. Slyne. **St. Kitts**—Mr. W. Mitchell, the Right Rev. Bishop of Antigua, Mr. A. Perkin.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. W. R. Rowe) August 2nd:—Jamaica—Mr. G. P. Dewar, Mrs. F. D. Heron, Rev. J. C. and Mrs. Harding, Miss Hay, Mr. Holmes, Mr. S. Jacquet, Mr. W. Laing, Hon. A. Levy, Mr. J. L. MacKenzie, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Smith, Mr. Tait, Mrs. James Turner, Miss Walker, Mr. W. L. Brown, Mr. S. E. Gibson, Mr. R. A. Llewellyn, Mr. J. B. Stewart.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. W. R. Rowe) August 12th:—Jamaica—Col. and Mrs. A. I. Bayley, Hon. T. Capper, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Copeland, Mr. A. G. Copeland, Mr. A. S. Forrest, Lieut. Ferguson, Mr. C. J. Gillies, Mr. H. Heath, Dr. and Miss Harris, Mr. F. Kinveton, Mr. R. B. Lynch, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Priest, Mr. J. W. Middleton, Mr. D. Middleton, Mr. W. Raeburn, Mr. A. C. Thompson, Mr. J. Ward, Mr. A. M. White, Mr. G. P. St. Aubyn, Mr. J. Gregory, Mr. H. C. Jonas, Mr. J. Shaw.

Weather Telegrams.

Antigua (Messrs. Boddington & Co.) August 15th. "During the month rainfall general, and will do much good." Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) August 13th. "Light partial showers." British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) August 8th (dated 4th). "Weather showery and favourable for cultivation." Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended August 3rd. PORT ANTONIO: "July 27th to August 1st, fine. August 2nd: "Rain." KINGSTON: "Fine."

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.		
	Jan 1 to July 29 1905	1904	Jan 1 to July 26 1905	1904	April 1 to July 9 1905	1904	Jan. 1 to July 28 1905	1904	Oct 1 to July 28 1905	1904	
Sugar	28,803	41,775 Tons.	27,728	36,911 Tons.	5046	4341 Tons	272,726	372,314 Bgs.&Brls	...	...
Molasses	38,826	42,401 Pns.	1674	913 Puns.	...	...	2887	1827 Puns.	...	...
Rum	8544	11,427	400,924	649,663 Galls	...	178	27 Trecs.
Molascuit	3349	2558 Tons	...	...	165	58 Brls.	...	...
Cocoa	22,940	69,852 lbs.	12,680	9801 Cwts	25,917,435	31,318,420 lbs.	63,178	65,263 Bags	
Coffee	6689	7614 "	11,930	56,315 "	23	126 "	
Coconuts	240,471	165,840	1,288,280	753,350	5,735,899	4,569,571	...	...
Copra	5756	11,035 Bags.	...	...
Cotton	28,620	1796 lbs	...	...	794	1021 Bales	
Cotton Seed	4745	6533 Bags	
Asphalt	68,938	75,197 Tons.	...	...
Oranges	2,693,364	544,550	...	...	...	...
Bananas	4,800,253	720,897 Bnchs	...	...	...	...
Pimento	18,205	5264 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Spice	4588	3501 Brls	
Gold	49,823	43,195 ozs.	...	...	...	...	571	565 1/2-Drls	
Diamonds	3337	5089 carats.	...	...	...	...	558	488 Cases	
Ballata	105,204	125,271 lbs.	...	...	...	...	170	96 Bags	

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 1/2
375,000.	"	Barbados - - 3 1/2 " " " 1925-42...	100	3 1/2 %	99-101
194,500	"	British Guiana 4 " " " 1935...	100	4 %	104-106
123,670	"	Grenada - - 4 " " " 1917-42...	100	4 %	101-103
1,098,907 1/2	"	Jamaica - - 4 " " " 1934...	100	4 %	108-110
85,479 1/2	"	St Lucia - - 4 " " " 1919-44...	100	4 %	101-103
422,593 1/2	"	Trinidad - - 4 " " " 1917-42...	100	4 %	103-106
600,000	"	Trinidad - - 3 " " Inscribed Stock 1922-44...	100	3 %	88-90
100,000	20	Colonial Bank ...	£6	6 %	8 1/2-6 1/2
15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ...	75	—	34 1/2-35 1/2
203,400	Stock.	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4% 1st Mtge Deb	100	4 1/2 %	86-88
26,763	5	New Colonial Co., Ltd. ...	5	Nil.	—
46,874	5	" " " " 5 % Non-Cum. Pref. ...	5	5 %	27-3 1/2
347,500	Stock.	" " " " 4 % 1st Mtge Deb. Stock red	100	4 %	72-74
352,700	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb.	100	6 %	100-103
165,000.	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock ...	100	Nil	17-20
115,000.	Stock.	" " " " 7 % Preference ...	100	6 %	87-89
31,250	10	" " " " 4 % Extension Preference...	10	45	8-9
70,000.	Stock.	" " " " Perpetual Deb Stock	100	4 %	96-98
78,500	100	Direct West India Cable Co., 4 1/2 % Reg. Debts. (within Nos 1 to 1200) red.	100	4 1/2 %	99-101
12,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ...	£2 10 0	6 %	—
50,500.	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4 1/2 % 1st Mtge Deb. (within 1 to 1200) red.	100	4 1/2 %	99-101
10,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. ...	5	5 %	—
88,321	10	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. Ordinary ...	10	—	1 1/2-8
34,563	10	W. I. & Panama Tel Company, Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	10	5s.	8-8 1/2
4,669	10	" " " " 2nd "	10	—	5 1/2-6 1/2
90,000	100	" " " " 5% Deb ...	100	5 %	100-103

Bank rate 2 1/2 (changed from 3 % on March 9th, 1905), Consols 90 1/8

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—The prices of 88% Beet and other kinds of sugar have now reached a natural level, and if there were no disturbing elements, which unfortunately there are, the quotation of about 10s. could easily be maintained for the next month or two, whilst values for next crop deliverable from October onwards, are entirely a matter of crop and nothing else. Unfortunately the collapse of the sugar speculation in Paris for August delivery has had a most disastrous effect on the market, not at present lowering prices to any appreciable extent, but completely upsetting that return of confidence which was so earnestly to be desired, and without which the trade in sugar is open to all sorts of vicissitudes. Whether in the course of disposing of the large stocks of old sugar before the new becomes available, prices will suffer a further reduction, is an open question. All that can be said is that the position for the next few weeks presents few, if any, features indicating enhanced prices, and save for the unpleasant realising of failed accounts, the speculation in crop 1904/5 may be said to be finished. It is a disappointing ending but not an unusual one, where the "bears" of sugar have once again shown themselves stronger than the "bulls". Interest now centres in the new crop, which so far appears to be progressing in the most favourable way. If this were not so, prices certainly would not be where they are, being well below the cost of production, even in the most favoured districts. The future course of values depends entirely on how the crop pans out, which can only be determined at the end of October, when we have had a month's work at it, all predictions in the meantime being pure conjecture.

The moment's quotations of 88% Beet are as follows:—August, 9s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; September, 9s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; October, 9s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; November/December, 9s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; January/March, 1906, 9s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and May, 9s. 5d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Europe	1,290,000	1,780,000	1,920,000	2,030,000	1,080,000	Tons
United States	200,000	140,000	260,000	140,000	200,000	"
Cuba	260,000	80,000	240,000	270,000	90,000	"
Cargoes afloat	250,000	180,000	110,000	160,000	160,000	"

Total	2,000,000	2,180,000	2,530,000	2,600,000	1,530,000	
Quotations of 88% Beet:—	9s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	10s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	8s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	6s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	8s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	"

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—There has been a steady business doing in yellow crystallised during the fortnight, and prices are unchanged, viz. 17s. to 18s. for low to good yellow, and 18s. 6d. to 19s. for small lots of fine sugar. The value of average qualities remains 17s. 6d. Deliveries continue satisfactory, and by the time the new Demeraras arrive in November our stocks bid fair to be in a very small compass. For 96 test to Refiners, if arrived or near at hand, 11s. 6d. is obtainable on floating terms, and Javas are selling on this parity.

Molasses Sugar.—Is in fair demand from 12s. to 13s. Peruvian syrups are selling down to 8s. 6d. in bond, on floating conditions.

Muscovado.—Scarcely any business is passing in grocery kinds, values ranging from about 14s. to 15s. For 89 test to Refiners, the value is now reduced to 10s. on floating conditions, and a fair business has recently been done in sugars already arrived at this price, a figure which compares favourably with Beet.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	
Imports	31,000	34,000	19,000	52,000	Tons.
Deliveries	25,000	31,000	27,000	27,000	"
Stocks	15,000	16,000	21,000	38,000	"

Quotations of average qualities, crystallised ... 17s. 6d.	17s. 0d.	15s. 9d.	13s. 0d.
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Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 7 months:

	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Home Consumption... ..	2,035,000	2,160,000	2,082,000	2,315,000	Galls.
Stocks 31st July	8,519,000	10,100,000	10,095,000	9,290,000	"
Stocks in London:					
Jamaica	10,100	11,300	11,300	11,400	Puns.
Demerara	5500	10,000	7700	9400	"
Total of all kinds	23,046	29,291	7700	9400	"

The market continues very dull, and our buyers show little or no disposition to make purchases. Jamaica remains nominally 2s. 1d. for Standard Home Trade Marks. Demerara is easier, with moderate sales at 1s. 1d. to 1s. 3d., the former being now the value of Fair Marks. The nominal range of Leewards is 11d. to 1s. 3d.

Cocoa.—Board of Trade Returns for 7 months:

	1905	1904	1903.	1902.	
Imports	14,886	19,005	15,814	16,897	Tons
Home Consumption... ..	11,757	12,779	11,549	13,652	"
Stocks 31st July	6007	6725	5488	5082	"
Stocks in London:	82,000	100,000	77,000	78,000	Bags.

A very quiet tone continues to prevail, and prices generally are shading downwards. Consumption in this country seems to have received a check, and the Board of Trade returns printed above are the reverse of satisfactory. The present quotations are as follows:—Trinidad fair collected, 55s.; Estate Marks, 55s. 58s., and up to 63s. Grenada common, 47s. 1/2.

Coffee.—Firm. Good ordinary Jamaica quoted 40s. 41s.

Nutmegs, Mace and Ginger.—Owing to the holidays, public sales have been suspended, and there is little or no business to report. **Pimento** steady at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Arrowroot.—London figures since 1 Jan.

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	
Imports... ..	11,067	11,485	8192	14,727	12,208	Bris.
Deliveries	9522	12,905	7764	8866	11,617	"
Stocks, 31st July	11,013	11,216	12,679	13,580	8691	"

Importers having accepted a reduction, sales of good manufacturing St. Vincent, to the extent of fully 1000 barrels have been made at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., with a few at a fraction over.

Lime Juice.—Easier, at 10d. to 1s. 2d. Concentrated dearer, value £18. Hand Pressed quiet, at 2s. 6d. Distilled Oil unchanged at 9s. 7d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XX.

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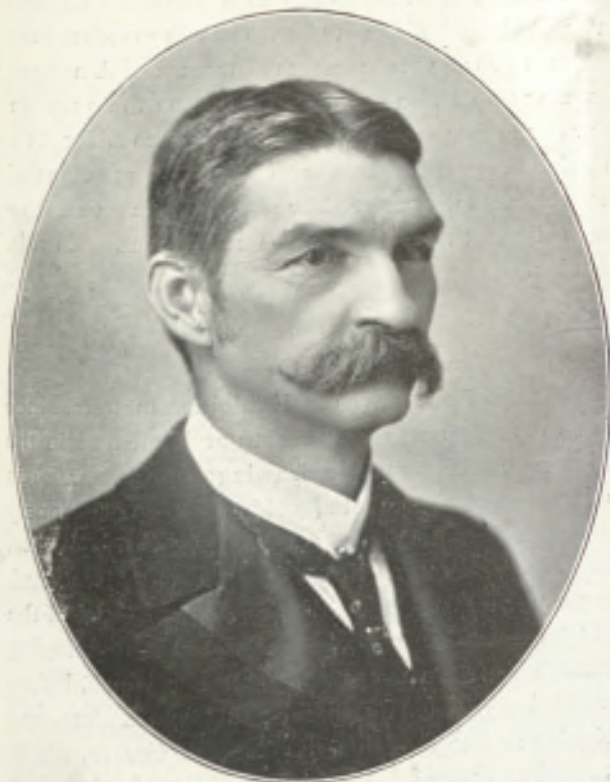
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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XLX.



His Honour Philip Clarke Cork, C.M.G.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

Aug. 30th, 1905.

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.

WE have frequently dealt in our columns with the question of trade with Canada, and it will be remembered that on July 4th last we stated that the feeling in favour of closer trade relations between the Dominion and the West Indies was greater than it had been for some years, and that if no such regrettable set-back as was likely to be caused by the decision of the Canadian refiners to retain the whole of the 33½ % preference given to West Indian sugars were experienced, we might anticipate a marked increase in reciprocal trade in the future. The highly significant resolution passed by the Maritime Board of Trade at Halifax on August 20th, therefore caused us no surprise. This important body, representing the Boards of Trade of the three maritime provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, unanimously resolved to memorialize the Dominion Government to take steps to secure the federation of the British West India Islands with Canada, and the delegates at the meeting made

strong speeches in support of such a scheme, arguing that it was for the best mutual interest of Canada

and the West Indies that such a union should be effected. It was pointed out that it was desirable for Canada that this confederation should be effected, as it would give the Dominion tropical territory as well as a region in a temperate zone. Some speakers stated that the feeling in the West Indies was favourable to such a proposal, but as to how far this is actually the case we should hesitate to express a definite opinion before receiving the actual views of the representative planting and mercantile bodies in each of the West Indian Colonies. In some, the resolutions of the Maritime Board of Trade will, doubtless, be hailed with satisfaction, while in others it will be felt that the West Indies are too closely tied to the United States' markets, which have been their salvation in the past, to render it advisable to run the risk of being shut out of them through making overtures to Canada, whose requirements in respect to cocoa and sugar, the two principal economic products of the West Indies, are not sufficient to enable them to take the whole of the production of these articles. Two points, it seems to us, stand out with remarkable clearness; one is, that the administration of the West Indian Colonies by the Home Government has not, of late years in particular, been marked with conspicuous ability—we have in our minds the unnecessarily protracted war against the sugar bounties, and such items as the administration of the St. Vincent Relief Fund, of which over £25,000 still remains unexpended, the withdrawal of the troops, and the recent muddle over the mail contract. The other point is the prosperity which is enjoyed by those Islands which the United States has taken under its wing, whose resources are being developed to the full extent. We have for some time past never ceased to draw attention to this state of affairs as an object lesson to the Home Government, and we hope that the recent resolution of the Maritime Board of Trade will serve still further to emphasize the matter. Probably, in the near future, Canada may be in a position to do for the West Indies what the United States is doing for Cuba and Puerto Rico. The West Indies as a whole are strongly opposed to passing under the flag of the United States, and we believe, and earnestly hope, that they will continue to be so, though we cannot help looking somewhat askance at the increase of American influence in the Caribbean. But we are diverging from our point, and touching again on the question of confederation with Canada, we can only say that we would counsel the Colonies to consider this matter very carefully, not only from a purely commercial aspect, but also with regard to questions of administration, and to decide whether the time has yet actually arrived when, assuming that the suggested confederation should be approved, it is expedient that it should be carried out. To this end we invite the views of our readers in the West Indies.

WE need make no apology for again devoting so many of our pages to Exhibition matters, since we feel that the keen interest which is being taken by our readers both at home and in the West Indies in the very successful Colonial Exhibition now, alas! rapidly drawing to a close, affords us ample justification for doing so. The award to Jamaica of the coveted gold medal so generously presented by the Direct West India Cable Company for the best collective exhibit, irrespective of size, is a matter for the heartiest congratulation to the Colony, to Mr. John Barclay and Mr. Frank Cundall, the two Commissioners, to the Local Committee, and indeed to the enlightened Press of the island, who in the face of what always appeared to be mistaken opposition, succeeded in bringing matters to a successful issue, and secured the representation of Jamaica at an Exhibition which, before it closes, bids fair to be visited by considerably over a million people. Trinidad ran Jamaica close, and Barbados was only six points behind, and to these Colonies and to the other recipients of awards, whose names we publish to-day, we must also convey our congratulations. We would go even further than this, and convey our congratulation to Grenada and to all who have participated in the present display, believing, as we do, that the beneficial results, though they may not in every instance be immediate,

will at any rate be lasting. Already the Exhibition is awakening in this country a greater interest in West Indian produce than has been witnessed for many years past, and this is evinced to a marked degree by the enquiries which we are continually receiving at the West India Committee Rooms regarding the various islands and the produce which comes from their fertile soil. In another column we give the typical experiences of a purveyor of Jamaica cigars, who states that he is already receiving many enquiries from people who would otherwise not have had an opportunity of smoking the fragrant weed of the erstwhile land of sugar and rum, and then again we have placed on record our own experience in connection with limes. A consignment of limes was exhibited, and in view of the shortage of lemons, a letter was addressed by the Secretary of the West India Committee to a leading trade paper, inviting grocers to share in a trial shipment with a view to bringing before the notice of their customers, the merits of this most excellent citrous fruit, and almost by return of post nearly 100 orders were received from different parts of the country, and indeed, we might add, other countries, for one actually came from Denmark. The moral from this is easy to draw. What can be done for limes can also be done for other West Indian produce, and if West Indians will avail themselves of such opportunities as are afforded by this Exhibition, the results will be incalculable. In conclusion, we may add that it has been decided, in view, more especially, of this interest being taken by grocers, who should be among the West Indies' best customers, to keep the West Indian Court open for an extra week, that is to say, until September 23rd, in order to give country visitors to the forthcoming Grocers' Exhibition an opportunity of inspecting West Indian produce, and we can only hope that their doing so will lead to beneficial results, not only to themselves, but also to their numerous clients.

THE recent speculative movements in the sugar market took a sensational turn on August 27th, when it was announced that M. Adolf G. Cronier, the Managing Director of the Say Sugar Refinery, had destroyed himself. The alleged reasons for this act have already appeared in the public Press, but it is not precisely known what sum of money is involved, though it is said to be two millions. The effect that this *débauché* will have on the sugar market is not easy to determine, though it must be admitted that it augurs ill for the future of sugar for the next few months. This, however, should not affect the island crops, which will not be coming forward for over this period, but it cannot, we fear, fail to prejudice the prices obtainable for the British Guiana portion. M. Cronier was, we believe, largely instrumental in securing the adhesion of France to the Brussels Sugar Bounty Convention.

His Honour Philip Clarke Cork, C.M.G.

Mr. P. C. Cork, whose portrait appears in the place of honour in the present *Circular*, entered the Colonial Service in 1875 as a clerk in the Immigration Department of Jamaica. In the following year he became interpreter of Hindustani, and in 1877 Inspector of Immigrants. He was appointed Inspector of Immigrants in Grenada in 1881, and two years later he was transferred in the same capacity to Jamaica, where he was nominated a Member of the Legislative Council in 1896. Next year he became Assistant Colonial Secretary, and carried out his duties with such ability that he was promoted to be Colonial Secretary of British Honduras in 1901, from which position he retired in the present year to take upon himself further responsibilities as Administrator of St. Lucia. He has not yet taken up his new appointment, having been hastily summoned to British Honduras to administer the Government of that Colony temporarily during the absence of the Governor through indisposition.

The Colonial Exhibition Prize Award.

Since we last went to press the result of the judging of the exhibits at the Colonial Exhibition at the Crystal Palace has been made known, and we are now able to give a list of the awards made in the West Indian Court. Except in the case of the special gold medal presented by the Direct West India Cable Company, the now usual practice of exhibitions has been followed, and diplomas for the various awards will be given, the recipients having the option of buying the medal. Mr. W. G. Freeman, Superintendent of Colonial Economic Collections at the Imperial Institute, was entrusted with the task of awarding the special gold medal for the best collective exhibits, and the jury for the remaining awards were composed as follows:—

Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.Sc., F.L.S.	
Mr. Edward Kynaston	Sugar.
Mr. E. Anderson	
Mr. Henry Bond (of Wilson, Smithett & Co.)	Coffee and Cocoa.
Mr. Everitt, of Russell & Sons	Photographs and Pictures.
The British Cotton Growing Association	Cotton.
The Army and Navy Stores	Rum, Tobaccos, &c.

In order to facilitate judging for the gold medal, the following scale of marks was drawn up:—

	Maximum Obtainable.
Completeness of exhibit	40
Condition of Specimens	10
Labelling	10
Descriptive Literature, Handbooks, Leaflets, &c.	20
General Appearance of Court	10
Special Features	10
	100

The Gold Medal awarded to Jamaica.

The Courts were visited many times, and after obtaining a thorough knowledge of their contents and arrangement, and after awarding the marks, section by section for each feature, Mr. Freeman arrived at the following result:—

1. Jamaica	Marks, 97
2. Trinidad	84
3. Barbados	78
4. Grenada	37

The Jamaica Awards.

Taking the Colonies in what now becomes the exhibition order of merit, we append the list of the general awards made, with the exception of those for rum, tobacco and one or two minor products and articles, which have not yet been received.

EXHIBITOR.	EXHIBIT.	AWARD.
The Local Committee	General Exhibit	Grand Prize.
The Local Committee	Jamaica Bananas	Gold Medal.
The Botanical Department	Fruits and Living Economic Plants	Gold Medal.

EXHIBITOR.	EXHIBIT.	AWARD.
Colonel the Hon. C. J. Ward C.M.G.	Sugar (Monymusk Estate)	Gold Medal.
Mr. G. Muirhead	Sugar (Denbigh Estate)	Silver Medal.
Mr. J. W. Grinan	Sugar (Albion Estate)	Bronze Medal.
Mr. A. Hamilton	Coffee (Blue Mountain)	Gold Medal.
The Local Committee	Coffee (Collective Exhibit)	Hon. Mention.
Mr. W. W. Wynne	Coffee (No. 1 Manchester)	Hon. Mention.
The Hanover Agricultural Society	Cocoa (Settlers' "Criollo")	Gold Medal.
Mr. J. O. Rennals	Cocoa (Settlers' Glengoffe Estate)	Silver Medal.
Mr. J. McPhail	Cocoa (Plantation. Bog Walk)	Silver Medal.
Mr. Fernando Cohen	Cocoa (Plantation. Linstead)	Silver Medal.
Mr. O. A. M. Feurtado	Cocoa (Plantation. Half Way Tree)	Silver Medal.
Hon. J. Pringle, C.M.G., M.D.	Cocoa (Plantation. Annotto Bay)	Silver Medal.
Messrs. Taylor & Bayliss	Cocoa (Plantation. Linstead)	Bronze Medal.
Hon. R. P. Simmonds	Cocoa (Plantation. Port Maria)	Hon. Mention.
Mr. S. F. Noyes	Cocoa (Plantation. Port Morant)	Hon. Mention.
The Local Committee	Prepared Chocolate as used locally	Hon. Mention.
The Local Committee	Cassava Products	Silver Medal.
Mr. F. G. Sharp	Cassava Products. Trout Hall, Chapelton	Silver Medal.
The Botanical Gardens	Sea Island Ginned Cotton	Gold Medal
Hon. H. T. Ronaldson	Sea Island Unginned Cotton. Milk River	Silver Medal.
The Government Laboratory	Essential Oils	Gold Medal.
Mr. W. P. Hall	Preserves	Gold Medal.
Mr. O. A. M. Feurtado	Preserves. Bellevue, Half Way Tree	Silver Medal
Hon. H. E. Cox	Jamaica Tea. Claremont	Gold Medal.
Messrs. Forrest Brothers	Pure Logwood Honey. Black River	Gold Medal.
Messrs. Hooper Brothers	Light Amber Honey	Silver Medal
The Institute of Jamaica	Set of 195 Samples of Timber	Gold Medal.
Mr. T. Mair	Sample of Native Woods	Silver Medal.
Mr. T. Otto	Dye Woods	Silver Medal.
Mr. A. T. Scott	Inlaid Table	Gold Medal.
Mr. Rudolph T. Thompson	Inlaid Table	Silver Medal.
The Local Committee	Lace Bark Work	Gold Medal.
Mr. J. Kirkpatrick	Water Colour Painting "Blue Mountain Peak"	Gold Medal.
Mrs. Lionel Lee	Oil Painting "Jamaica Fruits"	Gold Medal.
Mr. Brennan	Photographs	Gold Medal.
Mr. J. W. Cleary	Photographs	Silver Medal.
Messrs. A. Duperly & Son	Photographs	Bronze Medal.
The Institute of Jamaica	Photographs	Hon. Mention.
The Local Committee	Photographs	Hon. Mention.
The Local Committee	Descriptive Literature	Gold Medal.
The Trinidad Awards.		
The Local Committee	General Exhibit	Grand Prize.
The Botanical Department	Bananas	Gold Medal.

EXHIBITOR.	EXHIBIT.	AWARD.
Mr. R. Warren	Sugar, Centrifugal Muscovado (St. Charles Es.)	Gold Medal.
Mr. N. Lamont, M.P.	Sugar, White Crystals (Palmiste Estate)	Gold Medal.
Mr. W. Sanderson	Yellow Crystals and Molasses (Reform Estate)	Gold Medal.
The New Colonial Co., Ltd.	Grey Crystals (U.S.M. Estate)	Gold Medal.
Mr. W. Sanderson	White Crystals (Reform Estate)	Silver Medal.
Hon. W. S. Robertson	Yellow Crystals and Molasses (Hindustani Es.)	Silver Medal.
The Trinidad Cacao & Coffee Co.	Coffee—Arabica	Silver Medal.
The Botanical Department	Coffee—Liberica	Silver Medal.
The Botanical Department	Coffee—Stenophylla	Bronze Medal.
The Botanical Department	Coffee	Hon. Mention.
Mr. Scheult	Cacao—"Santa Rosa"	Gold Medal.
Messrs. Wilson, Son & Co.	Cacao—Dark Red "Soconusco"	Gold Medal.
Messrs. Wilson, Son & Co.	Cacao—Light Red "Soconusco"	Silver Medal.
Mr. Scheult	Cacao—"San Verguena"	Silver Medal.
Mr. A. P. Maingot	Cacao—"St. Marie" & "Concord"	Silver Medal.
Messrs. Paul Sheerer & Co.	Cacao—Venezuelan Clayed	Silver Medal.
Mr. L. Centeno	Cacao—Clayed Nos. 1 and 2	Silver Medal.
Hon. W. S. Robertson	Cacao—Dark Red	Bronze Medal.
Mr. A. M. Low	Cacao—Dark Red	Bronze Medal.
Mr. L. P. Rudolpho	Cacao—"Upper Caroni"	Bronze Medal.
The Trinidad Cacao & Coffee Co.	Cacao—"Cabeceras Arima"	Bronze Medal.
The Botanical Department	Cacao—River Estate Ordinary & Clayed	Hon. Mention.
Mr. J. Hoadley	Cacao—Artificially Dried	Hon. Mention.
Mr. L. P. Rudolpho	Cacao—Clayed	Hon. Mention.
Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.	Cacao—"Dulcimona" "Monte Cielo" and "Fontabelle"	Hon. Mention.
Mr. J. G. de Gannes	Cacao—"La Chance"	Hon. Mention.
Mr. P. C. Maingot	Cacao—"Guanapo"	Hon. Mention.
Mr. J. de Verteuil	Cacao—"Upper Caroni"	Hon. Mention.
Hon. W. S. Robertson	Cacao—Dark Red	Hon. Mention.
Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.	Cacao—Dark Red	Hon. Mention.
Messrs. Grant & Dyett.	Cacao—Dark Red	Hon. Mention.
Mr. H. Caracciolo	Cacao—"San Carlos"	Hon. Mention.
Mr. J. W. Crosbie	Cacao—Light Red	Hon. Mention.
Mr. L. Votor	Cacao—Light Red	Hon. Mention.
Mr. P. Lange	Cacao—Light Red	Hon. Mention.
Mr. Q. Brown	Cacao—Light Red	Hon. Mention.
The Trinidad Cacao & Coffee Co.	Cacao—Light Red	Hon. Mention.
Mr. J. H. Wade	Cacao—Light Red	Hon. Mention.
The Botanical Department	Cassava and other Starches	Silver Medal.
Mr. Jagmohungsing	Rice	Silver Medal.
The Botanical Department	Sea Island Cotton	Gold Medal.
The Botanical Department	Sunflower Cotton	Hon. Mention.
The Botanical Department	Kidney Seed Cotton	Grand Prize.
The Botanical Department	Essential Oils	Gold Medal.
The Oil Exploration Co. of Canada	Petroleum Oils	Gold Medal.
Messrs. Schoener & Co.	Timbers—Cedar	Gold Medal.
The Botanical Department	Bamboos	Gold Medal.
Miss Hart	Picture Postcards	Gold Medal.
New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd.	Asphalt and Illustrative Photos.	Gold Medal.
The Local Committee	Descriptive Literature	Gold Medal.

The Barbados Awards.

EXHIBITOR.	EXHIBIT.	AWARD.
The Local Committee .	General Exhibit	Grand Prize.
Messrs. W. Pink & Sons .	Bananas	Gold Medal.
Mr. F. Browne	Yellow Crystal Sugar	Gold Medal.
Mr. A. Cameron	Dark Crystal Sugar	Gold Medal.
Mr. J. C. Lynch	Syrup Sugar	Gold Medal.
Messrs. Collymore Brothers.	Centrifugal (Oscillated)	Gold Medal.
Hon. F. J. Clarke	Centrifugal, Muscovado and Massecuite	Gold Medal.
Mr. G. C. Edghill	Clayed Muscovado and Sugar Cane Syrup	Gold Medal.
Mr. J. Forte	Oscillated Muscovado	Gold Medal.
Mr. Joseph Briggs	Muscovado	Gold Medal.
Mr. G. S. Evelyn	Muscovado Sugar Molasses (1st Grade)	Gold Medal.
Mr. G. L. Pile	White Crystal Sugar and Crystal Sugar Molasses (1st and 2nd Grade)	Gold Medal.
Mr. G. L. Pile	Centrifugal Muscovado Sugar	Silver Medal.
Mr. G. S. Evelyn	Muscovado Sugar Molasses (2nd Grade)	Silver Medal.
Mr. G. Bagot	Sugar Cane Syrup	Silver Medal.
Mr. Joseph Briggs	Oscillated Muscovado	Silver Medal.
Mr. G. C. Edghill	Clayed Muscovado	Silver Medal.
Hon. F. J. Clarke	Centrifugal (Oscillated) Muscovado	Silver Medal.
Mr. A. Cameron	Syrup Sugar, Muscovado and Crystal Sugar Molasses (1st Grade)	Silver Medal.
Hon. F. M. Alleyne	White, Yellow and Dark Crystal Sugar	Silver Medal.
Mr. G. L. Pile	Sea Island Cotton Lint	Gold Medal.
Mr. G. P. Skeete	Sea Island Cotton Lint	Silver Medal.
Dr. C. E. Gooding	Sea Island Seed Cotton	Silver Medal.
Miss W. Bryden	Collection of Seeds	Bronze Medal.
Mr. G. W. Hunt	Pickled Flying Fish	Silver Medal.
The Local Committee	Descriptive Literature	Silver Medal.

The Grenada Awards.

The Local Committee .	General Exhibit	Gold Medal.
Hon. D. S. De Freitas .	Cocoa, Dougaldston	Silver Medal.
The Local Committee .	Cocoa, Sundried	Hon. Mention.

Miscellaneous Awards.

Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall .	West Indian Picture Postcards	Grand Prize.
Messrs. James Philip & Co. .	Collective Exhibit of West Indian Produce	Gold Medal.
The Pure Cane Sugar Co. .	"Phil Cane" Sugars	Gold Medal.
Messrs. L. Rose & Co. .	Lime Juice	Gold Medal.
Olveston Estate, Montserrat	Lime Juice	Gold Medal.
Messrs. Francis Everington & Co.	General Exhibit of Dominica Produce	Gold Medal.
Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.	St. Vincent Arrowroot	Silver Medal.

Exhibition Notes.

Cheap Admission Tickets (3D).

A large number of our Members and their friends have availed themselves of the cheap admission tickets to the Exhibition, which are still obtainable from the Secretary of the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C., at 3d. each.

The Crystal Palace Club.

Those of our Members who wish to avail themselves of the privileges offered by this Club and have not yet obtained vouchers, are informed that they can obtain them *free of charge* from the Secretary of the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

How to get to the Palace.

There are over 300 trains to and from the Crystal Palace daily, from Victoria, Ludgate Hill and London Bridge—time, 20 to 30 minutes. The High Level station is quite near to the West Indian Court. Return fares, including admission to the Palace:—First class, 2s. 6d.; second class, 2s.; third class, 1s. 9d.

The Staff at the West Indian Court.

Much of the success achieved has been due to Mr. T. Hankinson, the energetic Manager of our small staff at the West Indian Court, whose portraits are given on this page. They have worked loyally and devotedly through the summer months, a not altogether enviable task in a building built entirely of glass.

Members' Day at the Exhibition.

Thursday, the Committee day at the Exhibition, usually finds a considerable number of our friends inspecting the exhibits at the West Indian Court. A table is reserved in the restaurant for those wishing to dine and witness the fireworks, but *it is necessary for Members intending to be present to give notice to the Secretary by Thursday morning.*

Some Early Results of the Exhibition.

It is gratifying to learn from Mr. R. Knight, the courteous Manager of the Golofina Tobacco Company, that the results of the Exhibition have been very satisfactory, and that he has had a good number of enquiries from persons whom he would probably have failed to get into touch with by any other means. Already too, we ourselves, are getting numerous enquiries respecting West Indian commodities which fully confirms our frequently expressed opinion of the utility of these Exhibitions.

A Compliment to Mr. J. H. Hart.

Mr. J. H. Hart was the recipient of a vote of thanks on his return to Trinidad. The following resolution, proposed by the Rev. Dr. Morton and seconded by the Hon. E. Cipriani, being carried unanimously at a meeting of the Local Exhibition Committee:—

"That the Committee beg to thank Mr. Hart for his faithfulness and untiring efforts as Commissioner to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition at the Crystal Palace, London, and this Committee congratulates him upon his success in London and safe return to Trinidad, and hereby put on record their satisfaction with the manner in which he has discharged his duties as Trinidad Commissioner at the above-named Exhibition."

The Attendance at the Exhibition.

The number of visitors to the Exhibition from the opening day to Saturday, August 26th last,



The Staff at the West Indian Court.

The names reading from left to right are: Top row—Mr. T. H. Hankinson, Miss Hicks, Mr. Crossland, Miss Baxton and Mr. Glass.
Second row sitting: Mrs. Hart, the Secretary, Mr. J. H. Hart (since returned to Trinidad) and Mrs. Hankinson.



Photo by Algernon E. Aspinall

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THE GROUNDS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
TRINIDAD.

amounted to the very handsome total of 862,429. Among those who have signed our Visitors' Book since we last went to press are:—

JAMAICA.—Mrs. W. G. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Bird, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Jowett, Mr. R. F. M. Pearson, Dr. E. R. C. Earle and party, Miss Solomon, Mrs. McFarlane, Miss F. Solomon, Mr. and Mrs. Winter, Mr. H. Custance, Mr. E. Shaw, Mr. A. F. Fielding, Mr. R. Norman, Mr. G. A. Sanftleben and party.

TRINIDAD.—Commander the Hon. W. H. Coombs, R.N., Mrs. Coombs, Hon. W. Sloane Robertson, Mr. M. L. Horne, Mr. and Mrs. James R. Greig, Miss Turnbull, Mr. H. G. Hart, Mr. and Mrs. James Wilson, Mr. Stephen Ewen, Miss Cleaver, Mr. Norman Cleaver, Mr. J. W. L. Littlepage, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Stollmeyer, Miss Meecham.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Rev. and Mrs. R. Gibson Fisher, Mr. W. Bull, Mr. C. A. Punnett and family.

BARBADOS.—Mr., Mrs. and Miss Greaves, Mr. and Mrs. M. Elliott, Mr. G. Catford, Miss L. Roach, Miss M. M. Pison, Miss Peterkin, Mr. F. W. Greaves, Mr. J. L. Archer, Mr. C. E. S. Sealy.

GRENADA.—Mr. C. V. C. Horne. **St. Kitts.**—Mr. C. A. Philip, Rev. G. E. K. Branch.

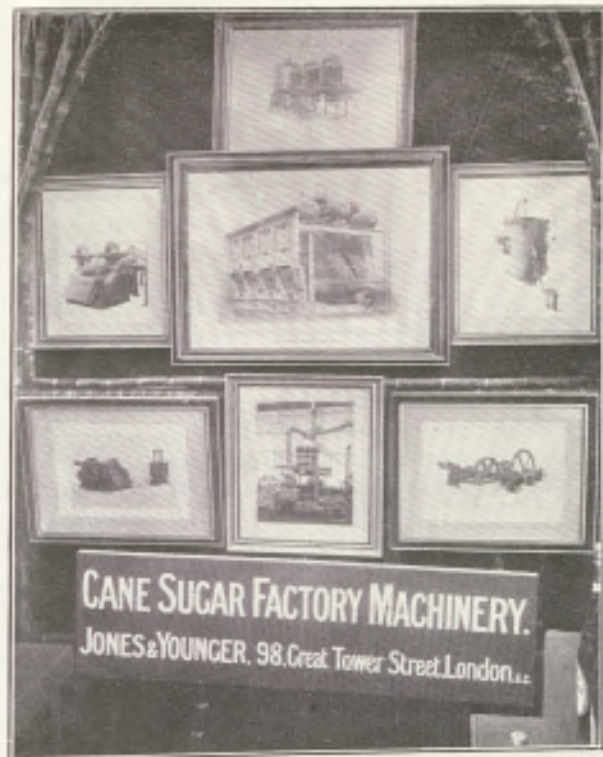
St. Lucia.—Col. Isacke.
Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. W. J. Maule, 1st W.I. Regt., and Mr. V. E. Price, 2nd W.I. Regt.

Machinery at the Colonial Exhibition.

Messrs. Jones & Younger, of 98, Great Tower Street, E.C., exhibit photographs of Cane Sugar Machinery. The centre picture is a 4-drum Stirling Boiler as introduced on the most recent and up-to-date sugar factories. These boilers are made large enough to take the place of 2, 3, 4 or more of the old type of multitubular boilers. The smaller sizes are also proving most successful when working in conjunction with waste gases from the copper wall on "Common Process Estates." It is a good result, even on a Vacuum Pan Estate, to be perfectly certain of doing without coal, but on a "Common Process Estate" it is a remarkable and unusually favourable feature. There are three pictures of mills; one well-proportioned plant with engine and gearing complete, and another showing hydraulic gear attached. On the top right-hand side is a large juice heater, and the top and bottom centre pictures are photographs of an improved Triple Effect Evaporator, and a cast-iron Vacuum Pan of the most modern construction.

Of interest to Lime Growers.

An experiment of no small interest to lime-growers has been tried during last week. A letter from the Secretary of the West India Committee was printed in the *Grocer* of the 19th inst., calling attention to the superiority of limes over lemons, and the Editor of that important trade publication gave a leading article on the subject, and a further column descriptive of the West Indian Court generally. In the same issue an advertisement was inserted inviting grocers to address sample orders for limes to the Commissioners for the West Indies at the Crystal Palace. In response, upwards of 100 orders from all quarters of the United Kingdom, and even from Denmark, have already been received, which should mean at least 50 new regular customers for limes, if the lot which has been cabled for turns out satisfactorily. The moral to be drawn from the result of this single attempt is obvious, and there can be little doubt that all West Indian produce might be dealt with on similar lines, and that a well-organised effort will secure permanent benefit to the West Indies as the



result of this Exhibition. In the following number a letter from "A Reader, Sheffield," appeared, asking that the Exhibition may not be closed on September 16th, but that the time may be extended until the 23rd to give grocers from the country, who will be in London attending the Grocers' Exhibition at the Agricultural Hall from September 16th to 23rd, an opportunity of visiting the West Indian Court. This request has been acceded to, and as a result we may confidently expect a large number of members of the trade, many of whom will doubtless be persuaded to become distributors of West Indian produce.

Important Alterations in the R.M.S.P. Co's Services.

As we are going to press, we are officially informed that further important alterations in the service of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company will be made at the close of next month, with the object of connecting England and the United States with the West Indies and the Spanish Main. Instead of sailing on Friday, the R.M.S. "Tagus" will leave Southampton at noon on Saturday, September 30th, and after touching at Cherbourg she will proceed to Barbados, Trinidad (where she will connect with the branch lines to Demerara and the northern islands), La Guayra, Pto. Colombia, Colon, Jamaica and New York. On the homeward voyage the ports of call will be the same, with the addition of St. Michael's, in the Azores, if coal is required. We append the itinerary of the "Tagus," which will be followed in rotation fortnightly by the "Atrato," "La Plata," "Trent" and "Orinoco," the round trip of each steamer taking 57 days, and the distance traversed being 14,204 knots:—

Main Line Steamers.

Outward.				Homeward.				
Southampton	...	dep. Sat.	noon	Sept. 30	New York	...	dep. Sat. 5 p.m.	Oct. 28
Cherbourg	...	dep. Sat.	8 p.m.	" 30	Jamaica	...	arr. Thurs. 7 a.m.	Nov. 2
Barbados	...	arr. Thu.	7 a.m.	Oct. 12	"	...	dep. Thurs. 4 p.m.	" 2
"	...	dep. Thu.	2 p.m.	" 12	Colon	...	arr. Sat. 9 a.m.	" 4
Trinidad	...	arr. Fri.	7 a.m.	" 13	"	...	dep. Mon. 6 a.m.	" 6
"	...	dep. Fri.	5 p.m.	" 13	Pto. Colombia	...	arr. Tues. 6 a.m.	" 7
La Guayra	...	arr. Sat.	3 p.m.	" 14	"	...	dep. Tues. 6 p.m.	" 7
"	...	dep. Sat.	11 p.m.	" 14	La Guayra	...	arr. Thurs. noon	" 9
Pto. Colombia	...	arr. Mon.	noon	" 16	"	...	dep. Thurs. 2 p.m.	" 9
"	...	dep. Tues.	noon	" 17	Trinidad	...	arr. Fri. 1 p.m.	" 10
Colon	...	arr. Wed.	11 a.m.	" 18	"	...	dep. Sat. 3 p.m.	" 11
"	...	dep. Thurs.	2 p.m.	" 19	Barbados	...	arr. Sun. 8 a.m.	" 12
Jamaica	...	arr. Sat.	7 a.m.	" 21	"	...	dep. Sun. 1 p.m.	" 12
"	...	dep. Sat.	4 p.m.	" 21	St. Michael's	...	arr. Mon. 6 a.m.	" 20
New York	...	arr. Thurs.	7 a.m.	" 26	"	...	dep. Mon. noon	" 20
					Cherbourg	...	arr. Fri. 11 p.m.	" 24
					Southampton	...	arr. Sat. 6 a.m.	" 25

This rearrangement of the main line service will necessitate a modification of the Demerara and the Islands branch services, which are to be as follows:—

Demerara Branch Line.

Leave Southampton	...	Sat., Sept. 30th,	Oct. 14th.	Leave Demerara	...	Sun., Oct. 22nd,	Wed., Nov. 8th.
" Trinidad	...	Sat., Oct. 14th,	Oct. 28th.	Arrive Trinidad	...	Tues., Oct. 24th,	Fri., Nov. 10th.
Arrive Demerara	...	Mon., Oct. 16th,	Oct. 30th.	" Southampton	...	Mon., Nov. 6th,	Sat., Nov. 25th.

* And fortnightly thereafter.

The Islands Branch Service.

Outward.				Homeward.			
Leave Southampton and Cherbourg	...	Sat., Sept. 30,	Oct. 14.	Leave St. Thomas	...	Thurs., Oct. 19,	Sun., Nov. 5
" Trinidad	...	Sat., Oct. 14,	Oct. 28	" St. Kitts	...	Fri., Oct. 20,	Mon., Nov. 6
Arrive Grenada	...	Sun., Oct. 15,	Oct. 29.	" Nevis	...	Fri., Oct. 20,	Mon., Nov. 6
" St. Vincent	...	Sun., Oct. 15,	Oct. 29.	" Antigua	...	Sat., Oct. 21,	Tues., Nov. 7
" St. Lucia	...	Mon., Oct. 16,	Oct. 30.	" Montserrat	...	Sat., Oct. 21,	Tues., Nov. 7
" Martinique	...	Mon., Oct. 16,	Oct. 30.	" Guadeloupe	...	Sat., Oct. 21,	Tues., Nov. 7
" Dominica	...	Tues., Oct. 17,	Oct. 31.	" Dominica	...	Sun., Oct. 22,	Wed., Nov. 8
" Guadeloupe	...	Tues., Oct. 17,	Oct. 31.	" Martinique	...	Sun., Oct. 22,	Wed., Nov. 8
" Montserrat	...	Tues., Oct. 17,	Oct. 31.	" St. Lucia	...	Sun., Oct. 22,	Wed., Nov. 8
" Antigua	...	Wed., Oct. 18,	Nov. 1.	" St. Vincent	...	Mon., Oct. 23,	Thurs., Nov. 9
" Nevis	...	Wed., Oct. 18,	Nov. 1.	" Grenada	...	Mon., Oct. 23,	Thurs., Nov. 9
" St. Kitts	...	Wed., Oct. 18,	Nov. 1.	Arrive Trinidad	...	Tues., Oct. 24,	Fri., Nov. 10
" St. Thomas	...	Thurs., Oct. 19,	Nov. 2.	" Southampton	...	Mon., Nov. 6,	Fri., Nov. 24

* And fortnightly thereafter.

It will be noted that beginning with the sailing on November 8th from Demerara, and November 5th from St. Thomas, there will be an alteration in the *days* of departure and call at the various ports and as at present arranged the itinerary in the columns marked X will be followed fortnightly thereafter.

The Postmaster-General has announced that, in addition to the fortnightly mails made up for transmission by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's vessels, the fortnightly steamers of the Direct Line will be at present availed of for the intervening weeks for the conveyance of mails to Antigua, Barbados, Demerara, Dominica, Grenada, Martinique, Montserrat, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Trinidad. Meanwhile, the feeling of discontent at the present state of affairs appears, as is shown by the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, to be increasing. We understand that the Governor of Trinidad has forwarded a resolution from the Chamber of Commerce of the Colony to the Colonial Secretary, recommending the grant of a subsidy for a renewal of the mail contract, and asking the Colonial Secretary to open negotiations with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for a regular mail service. At a meeting of the Combined Court in Demerara, held on August 26th, a resolution was carried by a large majority, pointing out the necessity, in the interest of all concerned, of a regular subsidised mail service between Demerara and the Mother Country, and recommending that negotiations should be opened with the above-named Company for the continuance of a regular mail service.

M. Naudet on Trinidad.

In our last issue we gave the substance of M. Naudet's comments in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* on the comparative prospects of Cuba and Porto Rico. As a sequel to this, we now add his remarks regarding the British Islands, which he recently visited, the only one in which he made a long stay being Trinidad. He found that this Island presented one great disadvantage, and that was that it was much too hot, being nine degrees south of Porto Rico. Besides this, although it possessed a vast stretch of country suitable for cane cultivation, the want of water was a hindrance to irrigation, and under these conditions the plant suffers and never becomes very rich, the average percentage for sugar never reaching more than 13.5, and often only 13. Again, the cultivation of cocoa, which is very remunerative, tends more and more to the abandonment of cane, which has been far from profitable during the past few years. "It is necessary to note, however, that private enterprise has done much to assist a drooping industry, and that, if the price can be maintained at £10 a ton, these efforts will be crowned with success. The Trinidad Estates Company, who own the two factories of Caroni and Brechin Castle, are at the head of the movement. Besides adopting the system of infusion at Caroni, which enables the factory to contend profitably with low prices, Mr. Christall, the General Manager, has adopted steam ploughs on the two properties, so that the ground can be prepared much more economically, to say nothing of the fact that the ploughshare penetrates further, and brings to the surface fresh and less exhausted layers of soil. I believe also that serious experiments are going to be made with chemical manures, doubtless with excellent results. Trinidad enjoys no bounty. A part of the crop has till now found its way to Canada, where some slight preference has been accorded to it. This small advantage having been now lost, there will be good reason for abandoning the dark crystals, polarising 96, and for substituting Demerara crystals, which has easily been done this year without any special processes, thanks to the purer juice resulting from diffusion. Trinidad is in an excellent position as regards labour, owing to the importation of great numbers of Indian coolies, who receive 1s. to 1s. 3d. per day. For these men on all plantations well-equipped hospitals have been erected, where all their wants are attended to gratuitously in case of illness."

M. Naudet goes on to say that: "On the whole, however, this island is less privileged than labour, can struggle successfully against the lowest possible prices, this island is less privileged than Porto Rico, and less than Cuba. The factories there are all of some importance, competition for some time past having put an end to the open fires which still (as a result of the bounty) continue to exist in Porto Rico. These factories, equipped with two mills and maceration triple effect vacuum pans, are not very backward. Though by no means up to the latest inventions, they will compete effectually and with certainty of profit, when they have got quadruple effects à *rechauffage*, and a system of complete extraction, the day for which is, I fancy, not very far ahead. Next to Trinidad we come to British Guiana and Barbados. In the former the factories are fairly up to date, and compete advantageously. In Barbados, on the contrary, they still, strange to relate, make muscovado. It is hard to understand how the numerous little factories on this island have kept alive during the crisis, and it can only be accounted for by the exceptional richness of the canes. When the day comes for central factories in Barbados in place of the open fires, when diffusion admits of returns of 13 per cent. and more, which could easily be obtained, this island will be one of the most privileged in the Antilles. Unhappily, all the land is taken up. There are not, as in Porto Rico, enormous uncultivated districts suitable for sugar. Nothing is cultivated in Barbados but sugar—no cacao, no coffee; and the only thing left to do is to erect central factories in place of the open fires."

Of the French Colonies M. Naudet says little, but points out that they have in their home markets a preference of 6 francs over foreign sugar, which, with somewhat improved processes, would enable them to undersell French beet. Of the smaller British islands also he says very little, treating them, apparently, rather as pleasant spots for the tourist than industrial centres. Of Jamaica, however, he says: "All I know of Jamaica is that there is a plan for erecting a central factory, but there is some apprehension that new methods may lower the quality of the rum, which is so important a feature in the Jamaica sugar industry. This is an error which will be disproved when the experiment is made, and we must hope that Jamaica will not any longer delay in following her neighbours along the path of progress."

The Cotton Industry.

We have received from the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture the following statement, showing the amount and estimated value of Sea Island Cotton exported from the five principal Colonies exporting cotton in the West Indies during the half-year ended June 30th, 1905:—

Colony.	Bales.	Weight in lbs.	Estimated Value.
Barbados	589	208,363	£10,418
Nevis	658	131,658	6,582
St. Vincent	290	95,815	4,790
St. Kitts	246	75,345	3,767
Antigua	223	40,140	2,007

The following table shows the amount and estimated value of West Indian cotton exported during the half-year ended June 30th last:—

Quarter. 1905.	Bales.	Weight in lbs.	Estimated Value.
March 31st	1,369	418,166	£ 19,608 2 0
June 30th	1,687	450,430	16,013 7 10
Total	3,056	868,596	£35,621 9 10

The returns from Jamaica and St. Lucia for the quarter ended June 30th last have not yet been received at this office.

During the fortnight ended August 24th 68 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.35d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb.

Hurricane Insurance.

Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, the Administrator of Dominica—who, during the absence of Sir C. Courtenay Knollys, is now administering the Government of the Leeward Islands—has favoured us with a Memorandum, which he has drawn up primarily for the consideration of the members of Lloyds, regarding the possibilities of insuring against the effect of hurricanes in the West Indies, with special reference to the conditions prevailing in Dominica and other islands of the Lesser Antilles. The object of this Memorandum is to show that (1) hurricanes do not occur in the West Indies as frequently as is generally believed; (2) reports of damages and disasters caused by them have often been much exaggerated; (3) insurance against losses could be effected to the advantage of landowners and with profit to the underwriters. Under the first heading, Mr. Bell deals with the relative frequency of hurricanes, and the characteristics of those which occur in the West Indies, and gives a table showing the hurricanes which appear to have visited the British islands in the Leeward group from 1800 to 1875. These are only seven in number, and it is pointed out that "though the formation of hurricanes in the Western Atlantic is an almost annual occurrence, the effects of these storms on islands in the Caribbean Sea are only to be feared when the track of a hurricane happens to pass directly over or very near to them." Such an event is far more rare than it is usually believed to be.

Thanks to the kind assistance of the Hon. Francis Watts, C.M.G., Mr. Bell has been able to furnish a chart showing very clearly all the hurricanes that have passed through the eastern portion of the Caribbean Sea since 1878 to the present year, and this record is sufficiently long to give a reasonably correct idea of the risks to be feared from hurricanes. In the second part Mr. Bell points out that Press reports and accounts of hurricanes, written just after they have taken place, are nearly always greatly exaggerated, and the first estimates of the damage done by such storms are very incorrect. The fragile construction of the huts and cottages of the lower classes render them easily damaged, but these may be repaired without great loss. Much harm has been done to the West Indies by highly-coloured reports of these catastrophes, and stress is laid on the point that while the damage and distress caused by a great hurricane, such as the Montserrat one in 1899, can hardly be

exaggerated, every hurricane is not necessarily a great disaster. Under the third heading, Mr. Bell outlines a scheme of insurance, and gives certain details regarding the suggested assessment of damage, which we shall hope to publish in our next issue.

There can be no doubt that any scheme of insurance at reasonable rates of premiums would be enthusiastically welcomed, and that by thus materially reducing the probability of loss from hurricanes, agricultural enterprise in the West Indies would be relieved of its greatest handicap. If Mr. Bell succeeds in inducing members of Lloyds to accept this class of risk, he will have earned the gratitude of all planters and intending settlers in the West Indies.

The 1st West India Regiment.

A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH BY COLONEL A. R. LOSCOMBE.

(Continued from page 335).

At the end of the year 1815 the regiment was ordered to transfer all its private soldiers to the other West India regiments, and the officers, non-commissioned officers, band, and drummers proceeded to Bermuda, with the object of there receiving 700 loyal American blacks who had thrown themselves on British protection and had been embodied as Colonial marines. These men were, however, found to be of a very inferior description, and, moreover, unwilling to enlist. The regiment, therefore, or what remained of it, returned to the West Indies, where it was made up to strength by drafts from the lately disbanded Bourbon Regiment. This latter corps I believe to have been composed of French emigrés, who remaining loyal to their king, had on the outbreak of the French Revolution left the neighbouring French islands, and entering the British service had accepted British pay.

For the services of the regiment, "which the Court cannot too highly estimate," in suppressing a very formidable insurrection of slaves in 1823, the Court of Policy of Demerara voted a sum of two hundred guineas to be expended in plate for the officers' mess; some of which is still in possession of the mess. A similar grant was voted to the 21st Regiment.

In 1855 the regiment, on this occasion in conjunction with their quondam foes—the French—stormed and captured, after fierce fighting, the strongly stockaded Marabout town of Sattagee on the Gambia in West Africa which was defended by a large force of Mohammedan fanatics. Two large kettle-drums—one a war-drum and the other a death-drum, that is to say, a drum beaten while an execution is taking place—which were then captured, are now still retained by the regiment.

During the Badibu war of 1860 against a fierce and warlike Mohammedan tribe on the Gambia, four companies of the regiment, while engaged in skirmishing with the enemies' infantry, were suddenly attacked by a force of about 300 Mandingo cavalry. Though taken by surprise the men at once formed rallying squares, and opened so steady and well sustained a fire that the enemy were beaten off. A group of five men, who being somewhat in advance had not time to reach any of the squares, was ridden down, but not until it had shot or bayoneted thirteen Mandingoes, who were afterwards found lying dead around it.

During the Jamaica rebellion of 1866 the loyalty of the regiment was exposed to a severe test from which it emerged triumphantly. Nine-tenths of the men were Jamaicans by birth, and the rebels, against whom they were acting, and upon whom they were exercising repressive measures of the most severe nature, were their own countrymen, and indeed in some instances their own relations. Yet not merely was there no instance of lack of fidelity, but the loyalty of the regiment was never even a matter of question. The Government of Jamaica presented to the officers a silver centre-piece of the value of one hundred guineas in recognition of the "valuable and efficient services rendered by the regiment during the rebellion."

On the 1st September, 1872, a sudden and unexpected attack was made by a large body of Indians upon the post of Orange Walk, on the northern frontier of British Honduras, at that time held by a small party of thirty-eight men of the 1st West India under Lieutenant Graham Smith. So sudden was the attack, no state of hostilities existing at the time, that Lieutenant Smith was in his bath, and was only able to rejoin his men in a state of partial nudity. He was almost immediately severely wounded, but he retained the command so long as his strength lasted, when it devolved on Sergeant Belizario, who was aided by Assistant-Surgeon Edge, the only other officer present. The defence was so successfully maintained that the Indians were beaten off, though not until one officer and sixteen men of the small garrison had fallen—killed or wounded. The Duke of Cambridge, then Commander-in-Chief, highly complimented the detachment on "their gallant and exemplary conduct," and directed that it should be at once recognised by the promotion of Lieutenant Smith and Assistant-Surgeon Edge, and by the grant to Sergeant Belizario and two other non-commissioned officers of medals for distinguished conduct in the field. The Duke's commendation was notified to the whole army in general orders.

(To be continued).

Our Appointments Register.

The West India Committee Register of persons seeking appointments as Managers, Overseers, etc., etc., in the West Indies, is open to the inspection of Members daily. We shall be glad to put those of our Members resident in the Colonies in communication with persons seeking such appointments; but it must be understood that though in every case two testimonials are given, the West India Committee cannot undertake any responsibility after bringing the parties into touch. We have the following already on our list and shall be glad to furnish names and addresses on receipt of stamps to cover postage.

IDENTIFYING INITIALS	AGE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT MEASUREMENT	PRESENT OCCUPATION	APPOINTMENT SOUGHT
1. R. C.	23	5' 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	32"	Builder and Contractor's Clerk.	With Builder, Contractor or Architect.
2. S. E. R. S.	22	5' 7"	36	Printers' Cutter.	Overseer (Sugar)
3. G. H. D.	25	5' 7"	37	Schoolmaster.	Overseer or Storekeeper
4. J. H. L.	28	5' 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	37	Book-keeper.	Overseer.
5. H. E. D.	22	5' 7"	34	Jewel Case Maker.	Overseer.
6. C. S.	22	5' 5"	36	Organist and Engine Cleaner.	Overseer in Demerara
7. J. W. G.	23	5' 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	Part Manager, Tailoring Estab.	Overseer or other Post.
8. W. R. B.	22	5' 6"	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Shop Assistant.	Overseer.
9. G. B. K.	26	6' 2"	38	Cost Clerk.	Overseer.
10. T. P.	38	5' 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	—	Book-keeper in St. Lucia.	Book-keeper or Clerk.
11. E. V.	22	5' 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	38	Carpet Salesman.	<i>Has a little capital.</i> Overseer (Sugar).
12. H. S.	21	5' 8"	36	Junior Clerk (Civil Service).	Clerk.
13. B. I.	23	5' 9"	37	Clerk.	Overseer (Sugar).
14. G. A. L. B.	29	5' 10"	40	Under Manager (Barbados).	Manager (Sugar).
15. A. F. W.	21	5' 11"	37	Clerk.	Overseer (Sugar).
16. A. C.	26	6' 0"	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	Overseer in Demerara.	Overseer in Trinidad.
17. G. I. F.	30	5' 9"	36	Book-keeper to Electrical Engineer.	Accountant or Book-keeper
18. H. E. N.	22	6' 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chartered Accountant.	Accountant, Secretary or other post.
19. W. T.	28	6' 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	38	Schoolmaster for Scientific Subjects.	Assistant on a Fruit Farm in Jamaica.
20. A. N.	25	5' 11"	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	Manager to a Draper.	Overseer.
21. J. R. N.	22	5' 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	36	Studying.	Overseer.
22. A. R. M.	42	5' 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	38	Stationery Assistant.	Overseer.
23. G. F.	23	5' 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	35	Shorthand Clerk and Typist.	Typist, Shorthand Clerk.
24. R. S. McC.	33	5' 8"	36	Clerk.	Overseer or Storekeeper.
25. A. M.	19	5' 8"	33	Clerk.	Clerk or Storekeeper.
26. J. T.	22	5' 7"	35	Invoice Clerk.	Bookkeeper or Clerk.
27. E. H. C.	21	5' 8"	34	Clerk.	Clerk or Overseer.

Notes of Interest.

BANK RATE. The Bank Rate remains at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % (changed from 3% on March 9th, 1905), and Consols (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ %) are quoted 91 $\frac{1}{8}$.

CABLES. The Trinidad-Demerara Cable which was interrupted on July 28th was restored on August 20th. After being interrupted since May 25th last, the Paramaribo-Cayenne cable was restored on August 19th.

THE PORT KINGSTON. We are informed by Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Company that, owing to the neap tides in the Bristol Channel, the "Port Kingston" will leave Avonmouth Dock and proceed to King Road on the mid-day tide of Wednesday, September 6th, and it will, therefore, be necessary to close the steamer for cargo at 6 p.m. on Thursday, September 5th. Shippers are particularly requested to order their shipments forward in good time.

APPOINTMENTS REGISTER. The register of applicants for appointment as overseers and other positions connected with West Indian estates can be seen by Members at the West India Committee Rooms. Full particulars regarding the applicants are now given, together with two testimonials from each. Members receiving applications from those desiring appointments may refer to the applicants to the West India Committee, who will supply a form of enquiries for the candidates to fill up.

OBITUARY. We have to record with deep regret the death of Mr. James Davis Taylor, partner of the firm of Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co., which took place at his residence, "The Oaks," Ditton Hill, Surbiton, Surrey, on the morning of August 16th. Mr. Taylor was for many years a

Member of the Executive of the West India Committee, and the regret at his decease which is felt by his colleagues in London will be shared in Trinidad, in which colony he was mainly interested. With his relatives, the deepest sympathy will be felt.

THE WEST INDIAN BAND. At the conclusion of their engagement at the Crystal Palace, the Band of the 1st West India Regiment will make an extended tour in the provinces, the itinerary being:—September 4th—Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone; September 5th—Ashford; September 6th—St. Leonards; September 7th—Folkestone; September 8th—Dover and Deal; September 9th—Ramsgate; September 10th—Southend; September 11th—Chatham; September 12th—Sittingbourne; September 13th—Herne Bay; September 14th—Canterbury and Gravesend.

MAIL OPPORTUNITIES. The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and Royal Mail steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail on Friday next are advertised: S.S. "Sarstoon," from London, for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Martinique, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Demerara, and Berbice, September 7th; S.S. "Naparima," from Glasgow, for Barbados, Trinidad and Demerara, September 7th; S.S. Jamaican, from Liverpool, for Barbados and Trinidad, September 8th, and the R.M.S. "Port Kingston," from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, September 9th.

The Homeward Mail.

The homeward mail has brought with it, as we expected it would do, many bitter complaints, especially from the smaller islands, regarding the abandonment of the mail contract, which is looked upon as a retrograde movement not without significance. Turning to more pleasant matters, mention must be made of the many congratulatory messages which we have received regarding the Colonial Exhibition, which is generally admitted to be a very great success. Sir Daniel Morris, who was in Jamaica when the mail left, wrote to us that it was very much appreciated, and this finds endorsement in many private letters received. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Trent" anchored off Plymouth at 2.20 p.m. on Wednesday, August 23rd, and the mails were delivered in London by first post on the following morning. Among her passengers were the following Members of the West India Committee:—Professor J. P. D'Albuquerque, Hon. W. S. Robertson and Mr. J. de la Mothe. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Services R.M.S. "Port Royal," arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, August 16th. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Kingston," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Monday, August 28th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Antigua—The Mail Difficulty.

(J. FREELAND FOOTE, ESQ.) August 8th—Considerable consternation had been caused by the report that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's steamers would only pass the island on their way to St. Kitts, but not on their return journey to Barbados. This would mean that they would not be able to reply to their letters for two weeks, and the day after they posted their letters they would be in receipt of those from England. This seemed the more extraordinary as Antigua was the seat of government of the Leeward Islands.

They had not yet had heavy rains, but there had been good showers.

Barbados—Removal of the R.M.S.P. Co.'s Headquarters.

(T. W. WILKINSON, ESQ.) August 12th—Since last mail they had learnt of the decision of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to transfer their headquarters to Trinidad, and that they had also made a change in the service, there being now two intercolonial steamers only—one to serve Demerara and Surinam, while the other took the Windward and Leeward Island route, leaving out the French islands and St. Thomas. Barbados would suffer an appreciable loss by the change, for the transference of cargo provided a considerable amount of labour for lightermen and others, all of which would now go to Trinidad. The latter island was stated to be willing to pay the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company a subsidy of £15,000 per annum (renewable yearly) if they made their headquarters there. This action was, of course, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, so nothing definite could be stated yet.

Bananas were flourishing, and cotton was coming on well, although the writer had heard of one field at least being attacked by worm, and in another case a root-pest was complained of. The price of sugar on August 11th was \$1.80. The month opened dry, although on the 7th they had some fair showers; but at this period of their growth the canes wanted heavy rains, and at frequent intervals, for drought now would be a serious check. The average rainfall for the fortnight was something under two inches, and planters said that a fall of two, or even three, inches was required.

British Guiana—The Planters' Association.

(J. McCOWAN, ESQ.) August 9th—There was a meeting of the Planters' Association on July 28th, when the Hon. R. G. Duncan was re-elected Chairman for the current year. Messrs. A. P. Mackey and J. Monkhouse were re-elected, and Mr. S. A. H. Culpeper elected to the Council in place of Mr. C. Wieting, who was absent from the Colony. The business was simply of a routine nature.

Nearly all sugar from last crop had been sold out. Last sales were at \$2 25. The weather had been favourable during the fortnight. They had a thunderstorm on the evening of the 6th, when heavy rains fell, flooding the low-lying lands of the town. There was some trifling damage done by lightning to the electric lighting station and telephone service.

Dominica—Hurricane Insurance.

(E. A. AGAR, Esq.) August 8th—The new passenger jetty in Roseau was formally opened on July 31st last by His Excellency H. Hesketh Bell. The jetty itself was a modest and serviceable structure, and it was proposed to improve gradually its landward approach to form an ornamental square and promenade. This would necessarily take time, as there was much to be done in the way of adding to the commercial facilities of the town before merely ornamental work could be taken up, important as this class of work might be.

A meeting of the Agricultural Society was held on July 27th to consider the President's scheme for insurance against hurricanes; this was the most important matter that had been brought before the Society, and there was a very large attendance of members. His Excellency H. Hesketh Bell had for a long time past been working at this, and had now succeeded in getting some members of Lloyds to take the matter up. Roughly speaking, it was proposed to insure under three classes—buildings, capital value of fruit trees and crops, with varying rates of premiums, and that no claim under a certain minimum should be entertained by the insurers. This last clause was most important. The intention was to insure against a hurricane, not against every small accident of weather; fairly heavy gales on the outside of a hurricane disturbance, and doing trifling damage to crops, were of almost annual occurrence, and were, of course, reckoned with in estimating the actual returns from an estate, and the assessing of these small claims for damage would be a very expensive matter. Mr. Bell had collected his data and considered the details of his scheme so carefully that there could be practically no discussion on the subject, and a unanimous resolution was passed, cordially thanking the President for his efforts, and promising all possible support. It now remained to be seen what terms the underwriters would offer.

Although Mr. Bell's scheme had been drawn up primarily with regard to Dominica, it would be applicable to the whole of the West Indies. It was difficult to estimate the effect such a measure would have, if carried through, on the prosperity of these islands; once the fear of the effects of hurricanes was removed, planting would be placed on the same footing as any other sound commercial undertaking. That the risk of hurricanes was greatly exaggerated, anyone intimately connected with the West Indies was aware; taking the records of Dominica for the last century—and these records were largely compiled with a view to getting assistance from home—the damage done to capital amounted to one-sixteenth per cent per annum, far less than the depreciation of stock in a mercantile house.

Jamaica—Some Rain after the Drought.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq.) August 9th—Sir Daniel Morris had arrived on a short visit to the island. During the past fortnight the island had been suffering somewhat from dry weather, but within the last forty-eight hours they had been having rains in some portions of the island, and it was hoped that these would continue and be general.

Montserrat—Dry Weather.

(CONRAD WATSON, Esq.) August 9th—The weather for the past four weeks had been exceedingly hot and dry. This had checked the growth of the early cotton, and prevented the seed sown during that period from germinating.

Nevis—Grave Inconvenience of Mail Arrangements.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) August 9th—The new arrangements for the mail service were likely to lead to very grave inconvenience, as unless chance opportunities were afforded them *via* America, they would have to wait a whole fortnight before replying to their English letters.

The cotton planters were all very busy, and a much extended area had already been prepared for planting as compared with that for 1905. Very little cotton had, however, been actually planted as yet, as the growers were chary of risking their unported seed. The ginnery was still busy running off the balance of cotton-seed for this crop with the disintegrator. It seemed a pity that some cheaper process for extracting the oil could not be devised, as the refuse after such extraction was of greater value as a cattle food than just the crushed seed.

Since last mail the weather, though showery, had not been productive of the heavy rain that the planters were anxious for, and although a very heavy thunderstorm burst over the island late on the previous afternoon, it was not accompanied by the downpour which was usually characteristic of such disturbances. The weather still looked threatening, but the writer trusted that they might be spared anything in the way of a hurricane this year.

St. Kitts—Sugar Shipments to Halifax.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, Esq.) August 8th—The following figures show the cotton output at the respective ginneries up to date:—

Spooners (crop completed)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50,971 lbs lint.
Stonefort .. .. .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,189 "
Sandy Point (cotton still on hand to be ginned)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,167 "

The spring of their young cotton crop was all that could be wished. A resumption of sugar shipments to Halifax on a small scale had taken place, and it was to be hoped that in this way they would be able to dispose of the produce still on hand.

The past fortnight had been dry, and good heavy rains were now much wanted to keep up the growth of their canes hitherto reported.

St. Lucia—The Lands Acquisition Ordinance.

(SYDNEY D. MELVILLE, Esq.) August 10th—The Governor-in-Chief was at the island for some weeks stay. The Lands Acquisition Ordinance had not yet come on again. They had requested a reference back to the Colonial Office, and suggested that the proposed arbitration should be done away with, and a common action-at-law brought by the person expropriated, should he be unable to come to terms with the Government.

The new itinerary of the Royal Mail Company had reached the Colony; everyone felt that a retrograde step had been taken.

During the past fortnight they had had some welcome rains.

St. Vincent—Promising Young Crops.

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & Co.) August 11th—They were experiencing typical August weather just now, the heat

being intense at times, and they were not having much thunder or rain to cool the atmosphere. The crops for next season were all looking very promising.

Trinidad—The New Fruit Syndicate.

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C.M.G.) August 11th. The formation of the new fruit syndicate or company was announced by the Governor at the meeting of the Agricultural Society held on the 8th inst. By resolution of the Legislative Council the subsidy granted to the Symington West India Fruit Company was transferred to the new company. Returns were laid before the Agricultural Society showing that 6,500 bunches of bananas per month up to the end of this year were expected to be ready for shipment. It would be interesting to know what proportion of this quantity was the product of special fruit cultivation, and what proportion was collected from the temporary shade trees of young cocoa plantations.

With reference to the bud rot disease in coconuts, a few replies were received by the Society to the circular letter addressed to all those known to own coconut estates, principally to the effect that the disease had long been known in the colony, and was due to the defective cultivation and want of care in the selection of seed nuts.

The report of the Committee on Crown Lands, referred to in the writer's letter of June 2nd last, was considered at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 7th inst. The debate, which was a most interesting one, was not completed, and was to be resumed on the 14th inst. The very able speech of the Collector of Customs on the subject was reported in the *Port of Spain Gazette* of August 8th.

They had had good showers, occasionally heavy, every day of the fortnight, accompanied by a high temperature, and vegetation of all kinds was growing luxuriantly, encouraging great expectations for the coming crop. Some districts with low-lying lands would be glad of a few days dry weather, but most agriculturists were well satisfied with the weather they were getting.

With a diminution in deliveries of cocoa, shippers had shown more anxiety to buy, and in consequence prices were now firmer than at last report.

Little or no new business was reported, and whilst there was no anxiety on the part of exporters to make contracts for future delivery, both European and American manufacturers were looking for lower prices.

Estates were quoted at 51s. 6d., and Ordinary at 50s. 6d., and at these prices a small business had been done for October shipment.

Fine Estate qualities had been in good demand, and sales equal to *Esperanza* had been made at 53s. 6d.

The fair arrivals of Venezuelan qualities had been absorbed for shipment against open contracts at slightly advanced prices. The market for these qualities might be considered 2s. firmer than when last writing.

Cocoa Shipments.

Total at last return	...	...	...	152,672	Bags	Trinidad	24,146	Venezuela
July 29 S.S. "Atrato"	...	...	...	1336	"	"		Europe.
" 31 S.S. "St. Germain"	...	...	...	3650	"	"	390	"
Aug 3 S.S. "Maraval"	...	...	...	2365	"	"	539	New York
" 3 S.S. "Caribbee"	...	...	...	—	"	"	10	Canada
" 3 S.S. "Naparima"	...	...	...	369	"	"	—	Europe.
" 7 S.S. "Prins Willem I."	...	...	...	643	"	"	339	New York.
" 9 S.S. "P. Willem III."	...	...	...	3703	"	"	206	"
				164,743			25,630	

Letter to the Editor.

Imperial Portraiture.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

DEAR SIR,—When the Institute of Jamaica was rearranged some fourteen years ago, it was decided that, for the moment, the small amount of grant which was available for art should in the main be devoted to utilising painting and engraving as aids to history.

The Jamaica Portrait Gallery was opened in 1892 with 25 portraits of Governors and other persons celebrated in the Colony's history. To-day it includes 141, the last to be added being that of the late Sir Henry Norman. Of these, 30 portraits of Governors were selected to be sent over to the Jamaica Section of the Exhibition, and they have been hung on one side of the Court, as well as the facilities offered by a cloth-covered sugar-cane screen permitted. Of the 72 Governors, Lieutenant-Governors, and Presidents of Council who have presided over Jamaica's destinies since Doyley first assumed civil command in 1664, the representations of but 32 have been secured. Of the remainder some are still with us. Of the others it is to be feared no portraits exist. At all events, research and correspondence have up to the present failed to reveal them. These 32 portraits are, in their Jamaica home, supplemented by portraits of naval and military heroes, men of science, politicians, philanthropists, pianists, divines, and others who have played their part in the Colony's development; and, arranged as they are in chronological order, the series of portraits offers subject for study to all those who take an interest in Jamaica history.

England has her National Portrait Gallery. Is it not time that the Empire should have its Imperial Portrait Gallery? A collection of portraits of those who have extended Britannia's realm throughout the globe would prove a useful complement to the collection of purely national portraits in Trafalgar Square, where the representations of colonial worthies could be counted on the fingers of one hand, and ought to prove a factor in the building up of that Imperial sentiment which many ardently desire. The cost need not be excessive. In many cases original paintings would not be available, and in such collections the interest of biography and history, and of faithful portraiture, comes first and artistic merit second. A good copy of an oil painting is almost as good for this purpose as the original, the main point being to secure a faithful and life-like portrait, and there must be scattered throughout the Empire, in public libraries, council chambers, law courts and other institutions, many portraits of Colonial Governors and other dignitaries ready to hand for copying.

A study of the biographies of Colonial Governors and others who have spent the best years of their lives across the seas accentuates the fact that there has been from time to time a strange influence of Colony on Colony, widely separated

the one from the other. The peopling of Colonies by alien races, such as the African negroes and, in a lesser degree, the coolies in the West Indies, has offered problems difficult of solution, and many men of Eastern training and experience have crossed the seas to rule over the destinies of Western isles. On the other hand, many a Colonial Governor or other official has passed in his career from West to East, while in some cases Colonial Governors have, in the execution of their duties, sojourned in almost every part of the British Empire. When ideas gained in one part of the Empire have not been too strongly insisted on in another, this transportation and application of Eastern thought to Western problems, of Northern experience to Southern conditions, has played a useful part in the fusion of that sentiment of patriotism which is Britannia's Imperial boast.

A gallery of the men who have been the chief actors in this drama should prove of value and of interest.

The words which Mr. Lecky wrote a few years since on the National Portrait Gallery would be equally applicable in this case:—

“ When the voice of pleasure palls,
When a voice within thee calls
To a larger, fuller life,
Nobler aims, more worthy strife,
Here, in such a pensive mood,
Half-aspiring, half-subdued,
Come with me and learn to trace,
All the glories of thy race—
All that Art and Fame can give—
Making by-gone greatness live ”

FRANK CONDALL.

Our Library.

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.

The Annals of Jamaica. By the Rev. George Wilson Bridges, A.M. London: John Murray, 1827. Two volumes. We are indebted to Mr. Carvalho for the gift of a handsomely bound and well preserved copy of this book to our Library.

Proceedings of the Royal Colonial Institute. Vol XXXVI. This volume, edited by Mr. J. S. O'Halloran, the Secretary, contains a complete record of the useful work done by the Royal Colonial Institute during the year 1904-5.

Barbados Cricketers' Annual, 1904-5. Edited by J. Wynfred Gibbons. Globe Office, Barbados. 1/- This work is produced on identical lines with those of its predecessors, which have always met with so favourable a reception. A full record of the tour of Lord Brackley's team is included, also a few inter-colonial games played in British Guiana and St. Lucia by private teams.

We have also received for review:—

Sugar and the Sugar Cane. By Noël Deer. Altrincham: Norman Rodger. 7/6 net.

Methods of Chemical Control in Cane Sugar Factories. By H. C. Prinsen Geerligs. Altrincham: Norman Rodger. 3/6 net.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Trent" (Capt. A. C. Farmer), Aug. 23rd:—
Barbados—Mr. H. Tietz, Mr. F. B. Gall, Mr. J. Blackie, Mr. H. E. Pittam, Miss B. Lysons, Mr. D. A. Wiles, Prof. J. P. d'Albuquerque, Dr. H. S. Greaves, Capt. H. L. Fox, Miss Carter, Mr. W. H. Lofy. **Demerara**—Mr. C. Buckle, D. Smith, Hon. A. H. Alexander. **Jamaica**—Mr. H. L. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Bourke, Capt. G. G. Gilligan, Mr. and Mrs. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Marshall. **Trinidad**—Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Robertson, Mrs. and Miss Kirton, Mrs. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Cambridge, Mr. A. Hamlyn, Miss Brodie, Rev. and Mrs. Hall, Mr. W. H. Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Pietrantonio.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Trent" (Capt. A. C. Farmer) Sept. 1st:—
Barbados—Captain Laing, Mr. O. H. T. Dudley, Mr. A. Denne. **Demerara**—Dr. and Mrs. H. C. Irving, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Gibson, Mr. T. Roy, Mr. and Mrs. R. Dennis, Mrs. McEwan, Miss Marshall, Mr. A. Murison, Mr. L. Delvaux, Mr. C. Potron, Miss Simpson, Mr. J. and Mrs. G. F. Bowen, Mr. R. A. Low, Mr. G. White, Mr. D. Slyne, Dr. I. Welsh, Mr. H. Coumbe, Mr. M. P. Maillard. **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. S. Strass. **Trinidad**—Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson, Miss L. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Siegert. **Antigua**—Mr. E. Rosa, Mr. D. Macfarlane. **Dominica**—Mrs. Bellot, Mr. and Mrs. Skinner, Hon. J. Cox Fillan. **St. Kitts**—Mr. W. Mitchell, the Right Rev. Bishop of Antigua, Mr. A. Perkin.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt. Down), Sept. 15th:—
Barbados—Miss D. Darling. **Demerara**—Mackey, Mr. J. R. Parnell, Mr. J. Macdonald, Mr. J. W. Steven, Miss E. Powell, Mr. N. Devereux, Mr. L. Dornford, Mr. H. Phillip, Miss Cornish, Miss D. Francis. **Trinidad**—Hon. Hugh Clifford, Mr. W. Dupuis, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Athill. **St. Lucia**—Mr. and Mrs. G. LaFitte.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Tagar" (Capt. Doughty), Sept. 29th:—
Barbados—Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Thorne, Von Archdeacon Bindley, Rev. F. H. Barnett. **Demerara**—Mr. A. B. Ferguson, Mr. J. Bastians, Mr. and Mrs. H. Sudorff, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Parratt, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson, Miss M. J. Morton. **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. Cocking, Rev. and Mrs. J. McIntosh, Mr. and Mrs. Brown. **Trinidad**—Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Swan, Mr. and Mrs. Ortiz, Mr. W. Speyer, Mr. and Mrs. Haynes, Mr. R. B. Archibald. **Antigua**—Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Eldridge. **Grenada**—Mr. and Mrs. Tudd, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Dean, Mr. D. Gillespie, Dr. and Mrs. Paterson. **St. Kitts**—Mr. F. S. Hicks, Mr. E. S. Delisle.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. Owen Jones) August 2nd:—**Jamaica**—Lieut. Adair, Mrs. Benning, Mrs. T. M. Burke, Rev. J. F. Gartshore, Mr. H. Gould, Miss Howson, Rev. G. J. O'Mahoney, Mr. and Miss Robertson, Mr. J. E. Sherlock, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Solomon, Mr. H. S. Whittingham.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. Owen Jones) August 26th:—**Jamaica**—Mrs. Allwood, Miss M. Alcazer, Mr. E. Boyle, Mr. and Mrs. Bannerman, Mr. W. P. Branson, Mr. G. A. H. Branson, Mr. H. W. Christmas, Mr. S. L. Davies, Rev. and Mrs. J. D. Ellis, Miss Furneaux, Rev. T. Fish, Mr. A. Forbes, Mr. N. C. Henriques, two Misses Howson, Mr. N. Jureidini, Miss E. M. C. Lockyer, Mr. J. L. Mackenzie, Rev. and Mrs. C. P. Muirhead, Miss V. Pearson, Mr. E. E. Pottberg, Mr. B. A. Raves, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Roberts, Miss Royden, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Smith, Mr. H. Smith, Mr. A. A. Tobin, K.C., Mr. S. H. Whittingham, Mr. and Miss Elias, Miss Heathcock, Mr. T. Hayes, Mr. W. F. Headley, Miss F. M. Small, Mr. A. Thompson, Mr. C. Thompson.

HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), August 28th:—**Jamaica**—Rev. A. D. Brown, Mrs. Huckleby, Mr. H. E. Borough, Mr. R. Bierbruyck, Rev. and Mrs. J. Craig, Mrs. E. S. D. Delapenha, Miss R. de Pass, Mr. A. Delisser, Mr. P. Fox, Mr. C. E. Frank, Miss Gideon, Mr. T. H. Graham, Mrs. Griffiths, Mrs. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Hislop, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Henriques, Mr. D. D. C. Henriques, Mr. C. Heselton, Mr. D. Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. R. Jacobsen, Mr. J. E. Lyons, Mr. C. C. Munton, Mr. E. C. Motta, Mr. A. M. Nathan, Major and Mrs. C. M. Ogilvie, Mr. A. A. Pearson, C.M.G., Miss Pearson, Mr. J. Rauch, Mrs. Rowles, Mr. J. Stephenson, Mrs. Turner, Mr. D. C. Turner, Mr. W. V. Tozer.

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.

His Honour J. B. WALKER, Chief Justice of St. Lucia, is now in this country on leave of absence.

Mr. D. H. SEMPER has been appointed to be Registrar and Provost Marshal of the Supreme Court, and Registrar of Titles, St. Kitts-Nevis.

Mr. VYVYAN GREY-WILSON, of the District Commissioner's Office, Belize, British Honduras, has been promoted to a Second Grade Customs and Excise Officer of that Colony.

Sir BICKHAM SWEET ESCOTT, K.C.M.G., Governor of British Honduras, has come to England on leave owing to his health having broken down. He has been granted three months' leave.

Hon. EDWARD B. JARVIS, Acting Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands, has been appointed to act as Federal Treasurer for the General Government of the Leeward Islands until further notice.

His Honour Sir GEORGE MELVILLE, Administrator of St. Lucia, having left the Colony on leave of absence, the Hon. EDWARD D. LABOIRDE, I.S.O., has assumed the administration of the Government.

Hon. A. ST. G. SPOONER, Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of Antigua, and Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee in that Colony, has been granted six months' leave of absence from July 26th.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) August 29th. "Fine rains generally throughout the Island." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) August 21st. "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain wanted" (dated 18th). (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) August 23rd. "Too dry." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), "Week ended August 17th. PORT ANTONIO: "10th to 12th, fine, 13th rainy, 14th to 16th fine. KINGSTON: "11th to 13th, fine, 14th, few showers, 15th to 17th, fine."

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan 1 to Aug. 10 1905	1904	Jan. 1 to Aug. 8 1905	1904	April 1 to July 22 1905	1904	Jan 1 to Aug. 11 1905	1904	Oct. 1 to Aug. 1 1905	1904
Sugar ...	31,545	49,019 Tons.	30,547	41,288 Tons.	5385	4524 Tons.	275,804	376,979 Bgs. & Hrls.	...	...
Molasses ...	37,894	42,794 Pns.	1674	914 Pns.	...	...	2867 178 165	1977 Pns. 27 Tros. 58 Brls.	...	...
Rum	8708	11,683 "	625,141	725,617 Galls.	349	175 Pns.	...	...
Molascult	3507	2715 Tons.	13,802	11,139 Cwts.	27,358,145	32,726,700 lbs.	63,381	66,265 Bags
Cocoa	27,140	80,492 lbs.	7589	8415 "	11,951	60,715 "	23	126 "
Coffee	1,428,830	784,100	5,890,399	4,691,171	...	...
Coconuts	240,471	165,840	...	...	6282	11,357 BGS.	...	...
Copra	28,620	1796 lbs	...	...	704	1052 Bales.
Cotton	4745	6594 Bags
Cotton Seed	73,472	81,935 Tons.	...	...
Asphalt	3,034,764	582,200	...	...	...	...
Oranges	5,535,574	1,103,419 Bchs.	...	...	...	...
Bananas	19,260	8414 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Pimento
Spice
Gold	53,251	47,154 OZS.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diamonds	3803	6677 carats.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ballata	133,256	159,326 lbs	...	...	...	...	...	...

B.C.M. { 4746 3928 Brls.
378 623 J-Brls.
573 531 Cases
171 124 Bags

The Produce Markets' Summary.

SUGAR.—Licht's Consumption, September/July, 11 Months.

	1904/5	1903/4	1902/3	
Convention Europe	3,450,000	3,930,000	3,120,000	Tons
United States	1,610,000	1,610,000	1,590,000	..
Total	5,060,000	5,540,000	4,710,000	..

Licht's Visible, 1st August, even dates.

	1905	1904	1903	
Convention Europe	1,080,000	1,590,000	1,801,000	..
Total Visible	1,660,000	1,890,000	2,360,000	..

The above figures, compiled by the unbiased Herr Licht, show pretty plainly what the effect of high prices has been on Consumption, and the Visible Supply which was to be reduced to a shadow looms large for the future Statistical position, with a beet crop in front of us, if all goes well during the next two months, possibly not largely inferior to that of 1901/2, when some 6,800,000 tons were produced. The Cane crops of that season were 4,000,000 tons, now considerably increased. There is no famine of sugar in front of us for 1905/6, and natural prices should therefore rule. It is much to be regretted that tempted by the high prices realised early in the year for November/December delivery of 88%, viz. 12s and over Continental people took in hand a sowing of beet far in excess of all possible requirements, and this fact, coupled with the reduction in this season's Consumption set forth above and the disastrous collapse of the speculation, have brought about a return of prices below the natural cost of production and have created a feeling of mistrust that will take a lot of putting straight. It is quite impossible for any one to say if the bottom has been reached. All that can be stated is that prices are undoubtedly low and that sooner or later Consumption should be stimulated thereby.

The present quotations of 88% Beet are as follows—August, 8s. 6½d.; September, 8s. 5½d.; October, 8s. 6½d.; November/December, 8s. 7d.; January/March, 1906, 8s. 9d.; and May, 8s. 11d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Europe	1,070,000	1,500,000	1,730,000	1,780,000	900,000	Tons
United States	190,000	120,000	250,000	140,000	190,000	..
Cuba	230,000	50,000	210,000	200,000	50,000	..
Cargoes afloat	230,000	170,000	100,000	150,000	120,000	..
Total	1,720,000	1,840,000	2,290,000	2,370,000	1,290,000	..
Quotations of 88% Beet:—	8s. 6½d.	10s. 9½d.	8s. 5½d.	6s. 0d.	8s. 1½d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—No quotable decline has taken place in yellow crystallised, notwithstanding the general fall in prices of other sugars, but the business doing is of only a retail character, and 17s. 0d. is an outside quotation for average qualities by the light of 15s. 6d. for *imitatus*. A quotation for 96 centrifugal on floating terms is not easy to give. Possibly 10s. 6d. might be found near the mark. Peruvian centrifugals have been selling at 10s. 3d. for 96.

Molasses Sugar.—Dull, and prices range from 11s. 6d. to 14s. 6d. Peruvian syrups have been sold at 8s. in bond, for 89 test.

Muscovado.—Small sales of grocery on the spot from 14s. 3d. to 14s. 7½d. A good business has been done to Refiners from 9s. 10½d. down to 9s. 6d., on basis of 89, and on floating terms. The nearest quotation at the moment is 9s. 3d., if it can be got.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902	
Imports	32,000	34,000	20,000	54,000	Tons
Deliveries	27,000	33,000	29,000	28,000	..
Stocks	15,000	15,000	19,000	38,000	..
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	17s. 0d.	17s. 0d.	15s. 9d.	13s. 0d.	

Rum.—Stocks in London:

	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Jamaica	10,100	11,300	11,300	11,600	Puns.
Demerara	5600	9000	7700	9500	..
Total of all kinds	23,984	28,301	19,000	21,100	..

Still dull, and buyers seem to be quite indifferent. Further small lots of Demerara have been sold on the basis of 1s. 1d. for fair Rum. Jamaica remains neglected, and 2s. 1d. for Standard Home Trade Marks is only a nominal quotation. Leewards range from about 11d. to 1s. 3d.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:—

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	
	88,000	99,000	77,000	80,000	Bags.

No improvement can be noted in this market, and prices generally are weak, with a further decline of fully 1s. in Trinidad, sales having been made of fair to good red at 54s. to 55s. Grenada is about maintained, but the demand is far from brisk. Other West India kinds share the same inactivity. The closing values are:—Trinidad fair collected, 54s. Estate Marks, 54s. 57s., and up to 62s.; Grenada common, 47s.; fair, 49s.; and fermented, 50s. to 52s. From other Islands, Native Cocoa is selling from 44s. to 47s., and fermented, 49s. to 52s.

Coffee.—Unchanged. Good ordinary Jamaica quoted 40s. to 41s.

Almonds.—Firm, with a good business in West India. 60's sold at 1s. 7d., 70's at 1s. 2d., 80's at 11d., 100's at 7½d., 120's at 6d., 142's at 5½d., 164's at 4½d., and in shell at 4½d. **Macé.**—Rather dearer. Good pale sold at 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d., fair ditto, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d., red, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d., and broken, 1s. **Ginger.**—Quiet, unchanged. **Pimento.**—Firm, from 2 7/8d. to 2½d.

Arrowroot.—Sales of about 1000 barrels St. Vincent have been made, chiefly at 1½d., for manufacturing quality, with a few inferior at 1¼d., and a few fine at 2½d. to 2¼d.

Lime Juice.—Easier, value 9d. to 1s. 1d. Concentrated, steady at £18. Hand Pressed, unchanged at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, value 1s. 7d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XX.

ENTERED AT
STATIONERS HALL.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 14th, 1905.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LI.



The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

Sept. 13th, 1905

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6842 CENTRAL.

DEFINITE news reached us by last mail that the white troops are to be removed from the West Indies in the middle of November, and the West India regiments at the close of the year. Is there any hope of this retrograde order being rescinded, even at the last moment? There is not an officer in the army who has served in the West Indies, not even if he is now employed in the War Office itself, not a single visitor to those islands, unless he be the veriest globe-trotter, who does not condemn this policy as dangerous, and it may be, suicidal. We are able to speak more frankly at the present juncture, because, as far as we are aware, the relations between the coloured and white population were never more satisfactory. Both parties seem contented, for they know that their interests are inter-dependent. But it is impossible to ignore the lessons of the past, and to build upon a foundation which an agitation might in one moment destroy. Take the case of Barbados, which for nearly thirty years has been without a local disturbance of any kind. The population there consists of, roughly, 185,000 coloured people and 15,000

whites. The negro race are acknowledged to be excitable, and when their passions are roused neither reason nor interest will keep them in check. Suppose disturbances should arise from any unlooked for cause, what will the planters, the merchants, the shop-keepers, and the property owning part of the population with their wives and families have to look to in the future? They are told that their safety will be secured by a cruiser which will be found somewhere in these waters. How are they to find it? The cable is often broken down, and, therefore, unreliable; and on any of the islands it could be cut where it reaches the shore by any malefactor. Before help were reached from this source, a whole island might be in flames and its population decimated. They are told that for immediate help they must rely on their own volunteers or police force. Did either volunteer or police avail when disturbances arose in Trinidad, at as late a date as March, 1904, when the Red House was burnt down? White troops had to be sent from Barbados, and remained there for many months before the situation was deemed secure. What use would a cruiser have been, unless it had chanced to have been close by? If a large force of volunteers and police are to be raised, they can only come from the ordinary population, and their proportion must be in the same ratio. The position, therefore, of interests in the case of an exceptional disturbance remains exactly the same. The West Indies do not ask for an overwhelming military force, but they think that they have a right to demand, as long as they remain British subjects for sufficient detachments of troops to exercise moral as well as efficient control over their more excitable neighbours. What is the reason underlying this sudden reversal of all previous policy, contradicting the advice of all experience? Why are the vast sums spent on the housing of the troops and the fortifications of the West Indies to be thrown away? On April 4th, Lord Donoughmore stated, in answer to Lord Tweedmouth, that since 1888 the expenditure by the War Office in St. Lucia was £480,000. We have every reason to believe that the expenditure on guns, fortifications, railways, barracks and officers' quarters has been over £2,000,000, and we want to know why this is to be thrown away. In Barbados, the military lands, barracks, generals' quarters, and other valuable Government properties are already up for sale, and unless the War Office give moderate terms to the Island they will be sold to speculators for a song. Is it not within the conception of the Government that with the increasing preponderance of American influence in the West Indies that troops may again be required? and that then valuable properties when once they have been wantonly sacrificed can never be regained.

BEFORE we next go to press, the doors will have closed upon the Colonial Exhibition, 1905, which up to Saturday last has been visited by as many as 966,325 people. No one, we think, will deny that as far as the West Indies are concerned, it has been a pronounced success, and it is particularly gratifying to us to find that even the small minority, which in May last was inclined to doubt the expediency of the West Indies taking part in the Exhibition, is now, at its close, among its most ardent supporters. We ourselves are convinced that the good done has been incalculable. It is not easy to gauge precisely the amount of advantage derived from these Exhibitions, as it is not always immediately apparent, but comes with the aftermath. In the present instance, however, we have actually before us immediate results, such as the increased demand for Jamaica cigars, and the success of our efforts to introduce the lime fruit to the grocers of the United Kingdom, to which we referred in our last *Circular*, and to which Mr. W. E. Smith, the Commissioner for Trinidad, refers again in an interesting article in the current issue. During next week we propose to carry this movement for placing West Indian produce more prominently before the consumers in this country a step further by inviting many grocers who will be in London for the Grocers' Exhibition to take samples of the various sugars, fruits, spices and other produce of our West Indian Colonies which will be prepared for them. As another result of the Colonial Exhibition, we shall be greatly surprised if there is not a

marked increase in the number of visitors from the United Kingdom to the West Indies during the coming tourist season, a matter to which we propose to advert in a future *Circular*. When the curtain is rung down and the audience has left, much arduous work will remain to be done behind the scenes before the Exhibition is finally closed up, and when this is satisfactorily accomplished, the West India Committee propose to issue a souvenir embodying articles descriptive of the exhibits, a comprehensive report on the Exhibition, and what is perhaps most important of all, articles emphasising the lessons to be learnt from it. All the exhibits from the Barbados Section and many from Jamaica and Trinidad, will find a permanent home at the Imperial Institute, while others, notably those from the Grenada Section, will find their way to the West India Committee Rooms, where they will form the nucleus of a permanent exhibit which can be sent to various parts of the country when occasion arises. This latter work will be facilitated when the permanent Exhibition Committees, the formation of which was suggested by us, and so warmly advocated by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, are formed, and it will doubtless be of interest to our readers to know that we are already receiving invitations to send exhibits to different parts of the country, including Workington for October, Guildford for November, Westminster in connection with the newly formed Chrysanthemum League, and Liverpool for January next. Grenada has now formed her permanent Exhibition Committee, and will, therefore, be well represented, and Barbados promises almost immediately to follow suit.

The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.

The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, the Commissioner for Barbados for the Colonial Exhibition, comes of a family connected with Barbados from its earliest settlement, many of whose names will be found in the history of the island during the exciting times of the struggle between the Cavaliers and Roundheads. They have continued to hold property in Barbados up to the present time, and long before the subject of our illustration on the preceding page took up his residence at Porters, an old estate which his grandfather inherited, he was accustomed to pay it frequent visits. Mr. Alleyne was educated at Eton and Merton College, Oxford, where he graduated in honours, and took his M.A. degree in 1872, in which year he was also called to the bar at the Inner Temple. He took chambers at Lincoln's Inn, and practised at the Chancery Bar for nearly ten years. On moving with his family to Barbados in 1897, he was made Chancellor of the Diocese by Bishop Bree after the death of Sir John Sealy, and he still holds that position under Bishop Swaby. He was made a Member of the Legislative Council, in the deliberations of which body he takes an active part, in 1902. He acted as one of the Commissioners for Barbados at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition at South Kensington in 1886, and he is, therefore, well qualified to represent Barbados, as he is doing so ably, at the present time. He was senior delegate for Barbados at the Inter-Colonial Agricultural Conference at Trinidad in January last. For some years Mr. Alleyne was on the staff of the *Saturday Review*, and he has also been a contributor to the *Times*, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, the *Guardian*, and other papers, among which must be included the *West India Committee Circular*, to which he is a regular correspondent. Mr. Alleyne, besides being a large sugar planter, is a warm supporter of the so-called minor industries, cotton, bananas, onions, and other products; but he remains convinced that the maintenance of the sugar industry is essential to the employment of the population and the ultimate prosperity of Barbados, and his activity during the anti-Bounty campaign is well known to all.

A Planter's Residence in Dominica.

The subject of our full-page illustration this week is La Haut, the residence of our esteemed Hon. Correspondent, Mr. E. A. Agar, near Roseau, Dominica. The house is beautifully situated on a hill, and it was from near by that the photograph of the "Fertile Valley," which has already appeared in the *Circular* was taken. A suitable planter's residence can be built in the interior for £150.

New Members of the West India Committee.

The fortnightly meetings of the Executive Committee were resumed after the vacation, on Thursday, Sept. 7th, and the following new Members were elected to the West India Committee:—

Name	Proposer.	Secunder.
BEVIS GERALD WHITE, Esq. (Trinidad)	C. Kenrick Gibbons, Esq.	W. A. Tennant, Esq.
CYRIL WERE DAVSON, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson.	Arthur N. Lubbock, Esq.
A. A. EVELYN, Esq. (Barbados).	Gay C. Edghill, Esq.	T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.
J. W. LUSTY, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Mewburn Garnett, Esq.
CHARLES G. YOUNG, Esq.	His Hon. Ch. Jus. R. A. Swan.	Arthur N. Lubbock, Esq.
MICHAEL P. MAILLARD, Esq. (Trinidad).	A. M. Nathan, Esq.	Harold Hamel Smith, Esq.
A. E. F. FRANCIS, Esq.	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.	W. P. B. Shephard, Esq.
LOUIS SCHEULT, Esq. (Trinidad).	Joseph Gioannetti, Esq.	Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G.
MESSRS. A. G. DE SILVA & Co. (Trinidad).	F. N. Martinez, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
JOHN HOADLEY, Esq. (Trinidad).	Harold Hamel Smith, Esq.	George Christall, Esq.
THE LADY DUNSANY.	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
W. H. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Esq.	William Gillespie, Esq.	Howard K. F. Smith, Esq.
Miss K. St. Clair Ford.	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.	W. P. B. Shephard, Esq.

Our readers are reminded that subscriptions from new Members elected during the last three months of the year are held as on account of the year commencing on the following 1st of January. That is to say that Members elected during October, November, and December next will on paying their subscription not have to renew it until January 1st, 1907.

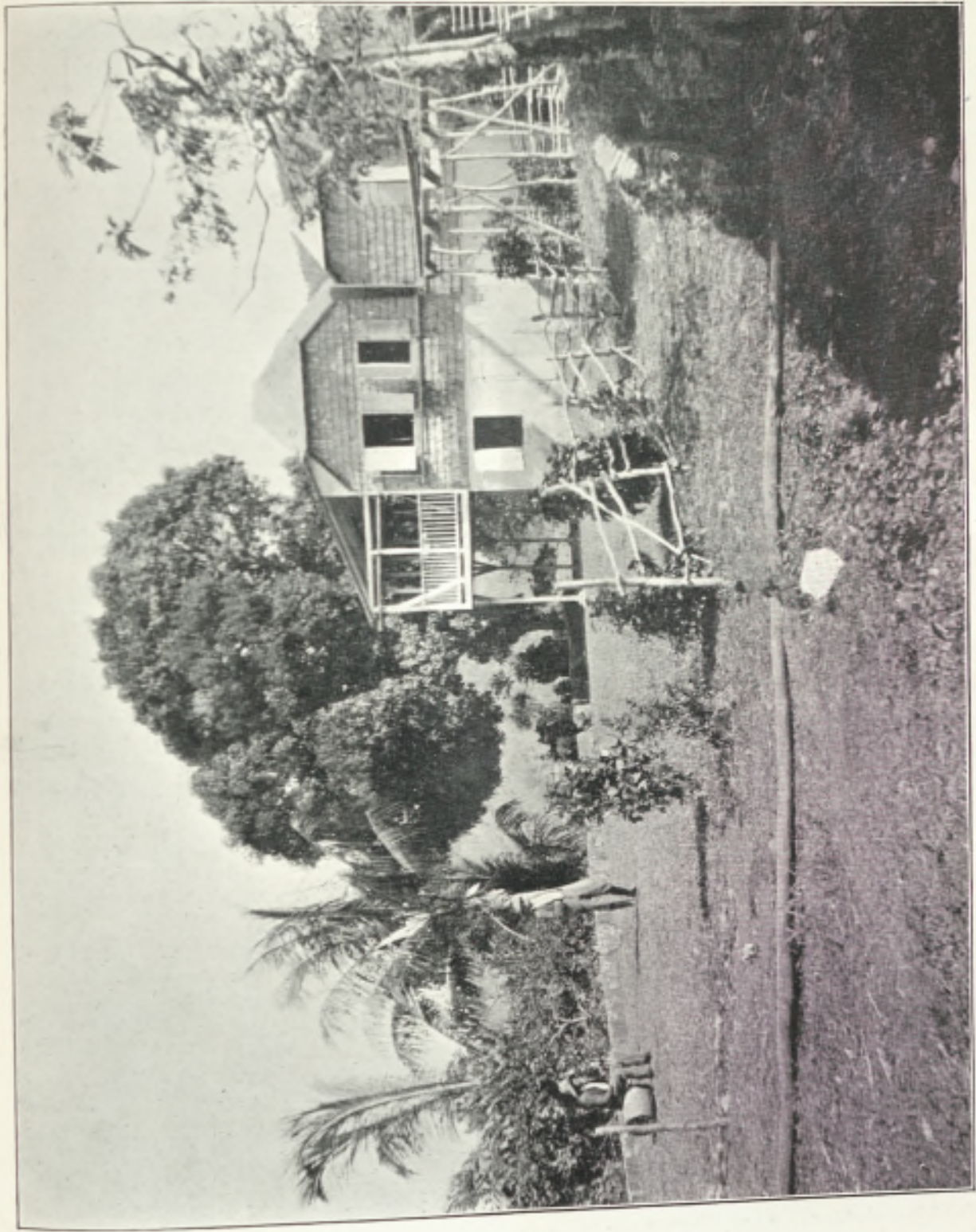
The Marketing of West Indian Fruits in London.

BY MR. W. E. SMITH.

So much has been written and spoken during the past year or two regarding the marketing of West Indian fruits in London, &c., that outside the ordinary individual not directly interested in the question, there would seem to be but comparatively little more to learn. The valuable papers that have been published from time to time by the Imperial Department of Agriculture and in the proceedings of the Agricultural Boards of the various islands, have dealt so exhaustively with the practical side of such matters as variety, handling and transporting, that hardly any room is left for further discussion upon those particular heads. The gratifying results of these efforts are, however, to day in striking evidence in all directions on this side the water. Pioneered by the Jamaica growers and shippers, and in a lesser degree by Trinidad, Barbados, Antigua, and Dominica, West Indian fruits of all descriptions have unmistakably taken a firm hold of the home market.

Nor does the demand appear to be confined to bananas and oranges alone. Citrus fruits and limes are frequently enquired for, and speaking from recent experience at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, it has been most significant to note the large amount of intelligent trade interest that has been aroused by the various samples of ripe and preserved fruits occupying the West Indian Court.

Many will be surprised to learn that the small Canary banana is by no means in full possession of popular favour, especially amongst that large section of dealers composed of the smaller shopkeepers and street vendors. The medium sized "Gros Michel" and Barbados "Dagger" kind, when marketed in good condition, find ready purchasers amongst those classes which represent an enormous distributing agency. Enquiries addressed to a considerable number of these individuals both in town and country, elicit the invariable reply that Jamaica bananas and oranges go off without any difficulty, and are often specially called for, but they cannot always get them in sufficient quantity; and in the instance of several large provision merchants controlling a great number of scattered branch shops,



[Copyright]

Photo by Algernon E. Aspinall.

A PLANTER'S RESIDENCE IN DOMINICA.

it is said that the handling of Jamaica bananas is at times almost prohibitive by reason of a disinclination on the part of large brokers to treat for lesser deliveries than full waggon-loads at one time and place, consequently they are compelled to take "Canary's," notwithstanding that many of their customers prefer the West Indian fruit. The principal of one of these firms, after seeing some oranges, bananas, and limes in the Trinidad Court was prepared forthwith to place a standing order for direct supply to the whole of his branches. He accepted delivery at once of twenty-five cases of limes which happened to be available at the moment. That number, he stated, would barely be a week's supply, provided the quality was all right. Another similar firm in the North of England, after trying a few cases of limes which they purchased experimentally from a recent Trinidad shipment, desires to make arrangements for regular supplies, summer and winter, and purposes sending one of its representatives specially to the Exhibition before it closes, in order to discuss details.

The demand for limes, as with lemons, is by no means confined to the summer months, and good prices may be realized for sound fruit at any season of the year.

Most of the West Indian islands can and do produce the very best quality of oranges and bananas in the world, and given proper business organization on the part of the growers and shippers, there is absolutely no reason why West Indian fruit of all descriptions should not be landed in this country in perfect condition. That it can be has already been amply demonstrated, notably where the shipments have been made by such steamers as the "Trent" and "Tagus."

That the supply of West Indian produce on the English market falls unquestionably short of the steadily increasing demand, amounts almost to a reproach against those (Jamaica excepted), who for several years past have been occupied in the business of growing and shipping. The deterrent causes have admittedly been many, and chief amongst them has been the want of a more extended agency system for marketing the consignments as they come forward, and capable of more closely representing the general interest of the growers.

Everything points to the necessity and importance of establishing more direct dealings with the consumer, and of reaching what is practically an open and unexploited market amongst the large grocery and small shop-keeping classes. Hopes are entertained that some movement to this end may very shortly take active shape, and seeing that the West Indian Exhibition will in a few days be withdrawn from the Crystal Palace, and while the widespread interest it has been the means of awakening in West Indian possibilities, is fresh in the public mind, no more fitting opportunity than the present could scarcely be conceived for carrying into effect any such project.



MEASRS. G. & J. B. WACHINDO'S TOBACCO EXHIBIT AT THE COLONIAL EXHIBITION

Exhibition Notes.

The Crystal Palace Club.

Those of our Members who wish to avail themselves of the privileges offered by this Club and have not yet obtained vouchers, are informed that they can obtain them free of charge from the Secretary of the West India Committee, 15, Scething Lane, London, E.C.

Members' Day at the Exhibition.

Thursday, the Committee day at the Exhibition, usually finds a considerable number of our friends inspecting the exhibits at the West Indian Court. A table is reserved in the restaurant for those wishing to dine and witness the fireworks, but it is necessary for Members intending to be present to give notice to the Secretary by Thursday morning.

Railway Facilities.

There are over 300 trains to and from the Crystal Palace daily, from Victoria, Ludgate Hill and London Bridge—time, 20 to 30 minutes. The High Level station is quite near to the West Indian Court. Return fares:—First class, 2s.; second class, 1s. 6d.; third class, 1s. Admission tickets are obtainable from the West India Committee, 3d. each, as announced below.

Cheap (3d.) Admission Tickets.

There is still time for those who have not already done so, to visit the Colonial and Indian Exhibition at the Crystal Palace, the date of closing, as already announced in the *Circular*, having been extended to September 23rd. Special cheap tickets (3d. each) may be obtained by Members of the West India Committee and their friends, from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

A Distinguished Visitor.

Mr. C. P. Lucas, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, was entertained at dinner at the Crystal Palace on Wednesday, September 6th, to meet Mr. W. E. Smith and the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, the Commissioners of Trinidad and Barbados. He subsequently inspected the exhibits of Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados and Grenada, and expressed his entire satisfaction at the arrangements made.

The Attendance at the Exhibition.

The number of visitors to the Exhibition from the opening day, May 12th, to Saturday, September 9th, amounted to 966,325. Among those who signed our Visitors' Book since we last went to press are:

JAMAICA.—Mr. H. D. Carroll, Mrs. C. E. Isaacs, Mr. D. Brown, Mr. C. D. Sugden, Mr. J. C. Nolan, Mr. A. Farwill, Miss E. S. Butler, Mr. W. J. Jamieson, Miss E. Robertson, Mr. C. P. Nolan, Mr. C. V. Nolan, Mrs. Nolan, Mr. W. Loten, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Henriques, Miss Muriel Henriques,

Mr. R. S. de Pass, Mr. H. E. Borough, Mr. P. P. C. Henriques, Mr. L. J. Buery.

TRINIDAD.—Mr. F. Glendinning, Mr. P. G. Glendinning, Mr. S. Haynes, Mr. C. Greig, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hoadley, Mr. and Mrs. T. Boyd, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Herrera, Mrs. and Miss Gransaul, Messrs. Pruden and Permuze.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Mr. E. T. Nelson, Mr. G. N. F. Powell, Mr. C. M. Cox, Mr. G. Gibson.

Mr. S. Musson (Barbados), Mr. J. C. Dew (Antigua), Mr. C. P. Lucas, C.B., Mr. G. Martineau, C.B., Mrs. Martineau, Mr. Thomas Dowd, Mr. D. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Teague, Mr. A. H. Lamont, Mr. A. Goodwin, Mr. M. Jewell, Mr. J. T. Carter.



The Stall of the Montpelier Cigar Factory, Jamaica, at the Colonial Exhibition.

Tobacco at the Colonial Exhibition.

Among the private exhibits in the West Indian Court at the Colonial Exhibition, tobacco is well represented. The Golofina Tobacco Company and Messrs. B. and J. B. Machado have two handsome show cases and stalls, at which a brisk sale of Jamaica cigars and cigarettes is being conducted, and we have already received the assurance of Mr. Knight, the Manager of the former company, that the results have been so far very satisfactory, and that he has received a number of enquiries from persons with whom he would have failed to get into touch by other means. Mr. J. Eustace Burke and Mr. Edmund Finzi also show Jamaica tobacco and cigars, and in the Trinidad section a good display is made by the West Indian Cigar and Cigarette Company of that island.

Until recently but little was done in the way of tobacco cultivation in Trinidad, but now there is a considerable demand for leaf from local dealers, and tobacco of good quality has been grown and sold for fair prices in the London market. The exhibit of the Golofina Tobacco Company, of Jamaica, of which we give an illustration, stands to the right of the entrance to the Jamaica Court. Golofina cigars of different sizes and shapes to suit the requirements of smokers are shown in profusion, and sold in neat sample packets. During the first revolution in Cuba, a large number of people who had been engaged in the tobacco trade in Cuba were forced to leave the island, and many of those came to Jamaica. They found the soil and climate very similar to those of Cuba, and soon commenced to grow tobacco and manufacture cigars. The Hon. Evelyn H. Ellis, who has extensive properties in the island, began to take an interest in the tobacco industry, and determined to do what he could to develop it, and the result was the foundation of the Montpelier Cigar Factory. The factory is situated in Kingston, Jamaica, and the Golofina cigars manufactured there have earned for themselves a high position among cigars manufactured in the British Empire. So much success has attended the efforts of the Hon. Evelyn Ellis, and so rapid has been the increase in the demand for these cigars, that a West-End office has been opened at 35, Sackville Street, Piccadilly, where the trade inaugurated at the Exhibition will, doubtless, be successfully continued after its close.

We give also an illustration of the stand of Messrs. B. and J. B. Machado, the manufacturers of the "La Tropical" brand of Jamaica cigar. This firm was established as far back as 1875, and may be considered therefore the pioneers of the tobacco industry in the British West Indies. They then held, and still hold, the reputation of being manufacturers of high grade Jamaica cigars. Samples of these cigars have been submitted to us, and it does not appear to us surprising that by many connoisseurs they are preferred to even the best known brands of Havanas. It will interest our readers to know that a small and well-matured stock of these cigars is kept by Messrs. Nathan & Godfrey, Ltd., the London agents, at 25, Moor Lane, E.C., who will be in a position to maintain the supply of these cigars after the close of the present Exhibition.



The Anglo-Continental (late Ohlendorff's) Guano Works' Exhibit at the Colonial Exhibition.

The Anglo-Continental Guano Works' Exhibit at the Exhibition.

With the enterprise which characterises their undertakings, the Anglo-Continental (late Ohlendorff's) Guano Works, make a display of their various manures near the produce stall in the West Indian Court. The bottles containing the various manures are clearly labelled, and have naturally attracted much attention from the many planters who have visited the Exhibition. The firm are the largest importers of Peruvian guano, and manufacture very extensively other fertilisers at the works in London. They have for many years shipped their guanos and special manures to the West Indian Colonies, and their specialities include:—

Ohlendorff's Dissolved Peruvian Guano for Sugar Cultivation
 .. Pure Peruvian Guano.

Ohlendorff's Special Cotton Fertilizer.
 " Special Cocoa Fertilizer
 " Special Tobacco Fertilizer.

The offices of the Company in London are at 15, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

The Gold Industry of British Guiana.

The Council of the Institute of Mines and Forests of British Guiana, in its annual report speaks hopefully of the outlook for the gold industry, which it considers distinctly encouraging, and more hopeful than it has ever been since 1893, though there has not been any marked improvement in the forest and mining industries. The colony and its mineral resources are becoming better known, and there can be no doubt that the annual reports of the Institute and the circulation of the handbook on the mining and forest industries of the Colony in 1903, on the suggestion of Mr. Chamberlain,



An Indian from the interior of British Guiana.

This very typical photograph was also taken by Mr. F. McConnell, to whom we are indebted for its loan.

have contributed to this desirable result. During the twelve months ended June 30th, 1905, the output of gold has shown an increase of 10,469 ozs. over that of the previous year. The Colony has thus almost, if not quite, recovered the ground lost since 1902-3, and there is reason for the belief that the next twelve months will show a further improvement. Since 1891-2 the total production of gold in the colony has been 1,496,812 ozs., valued at about \$26,942,616, or an average of \$18 per ounce. Some idea of the possibilities held out by the systematic working of the gold industry is shown by the fact that the hydraulic working and dredging of the Omai Company, Ltd., in Essequibo led to an increase of 10,494 ozs. The following comparative statement of gold from the various districts for the year is given:—

Districts.	From 1st July, 1903, to 30th June, 1904.		From 1st July, 1904, to 30th June, 1905	
	Ozs.		Ozs.	
Barima	21,306	...	19,748	
Barama	7,076	...	6,296	
Cuyuni	16,538	...	16,008	
Groete Creek	1,116	...	886	
Puruni	8,662	...	6,102	
Mazaruni	2,106	...	2,018	
Essequibo	13,079	...	23,573	
Potaro	17,241	...	22,440	
Demerara River	313	...	837	

Of late years there has been an almost total cessation of prospecting, but signs are not wanting that operations on a large scale are likely to be carried through at no distant time. Steady development work has been carried out on the Barima mine, and an American syndicate has purchased Peter's claims in the Puruni district, and for the first time in the history of the colony an organised attempt is being made to exploit the Corentyne, and a considerable concession has been applied for by Mr. Menzies on behalf of capitalists in London. Mr. Braddon, a mining engineer of well-known ability, has secured a dredging concession on the Conawarook. Mr. L. E. Henery has succeeded in interesting capitalists in London in his reef concession in the Potaro district, and is now conducting preliminary work with a well-equipped expedition.

There is reason to believe that now the colony is showing to the world its possibilities as a field for the investment of capital, and that the necessary capital will be found to develop its resources.

As regards diamonds, there has been a falling off in the export, the production for 1904-5 having been 9373 carats, as against 11,200 for 1903-4, the falling off being probably largely due to the shutting down of the British Guiana Diamond Syndicate, which it is hoped is only temporary.

Coming now to forest products, balata to the extent of 493,067 lbs. was exported, as against 547,601 lbs. for the preceding year. Lately some attention has been shown to Colonial rubber, and a small shipment has already been made. Dr. Bovallius, the well-known rubber expert, has been investigating the north-west district and the Upper Potaro for the various rubber-yielding plants, but his report has not yet been published.

Possibly the shipments of locust gum have been regulated by the demand and the prices offered; but only 7,671 lbs. were shipped for 1904-5 as against 11,549 lbs. for 1903-4.

A shipment was made of 2,000 railway sleepers. There have been several enquiries made lately from the Institute as to the possibility of shipping Mora sleepers in large quantities. Mora seems to have recommended itself as a suitable wood for this purpose, and the only question is whether the cost of cutting, haulage and shipping would allow of its being exported at a fair profit. It seems as though it would be necessary to have the necessary machinery for cutting or squaring the ties or sleepers on the spot where the trees are cut down, and this would necessitate the possession of a considerable area abounding in this tree "Mora excelsa." Of greenheart and heavy wood there were exported 246,502 cubic feet of the value of \$108,506, a falling-off from the previous years of about 58,000 cubic feet. Mora lumber was exported to the extent of 39,489 feet, valued at \$5,103.

Wallaba, shingles and charcoal were exported to the value of \$2,807, \$7,360 and \$36,256 respectively, while \$13,391 worth of cordwood and firewood left the colony.

The report contains much interesting reading, and has evidently been prepared with great care by Mr. T. S. Hargreaves, the Secretary of the Institute of Mines and Forests, which is doing a good work in protecting and developing the mining and forest industries of the Colony, and in connection with the statements which have recently been made regarding the proposals for opening up the magnificent province, it will be read with additional interest.

The Naudet Patent Process of Sugar Manufacture.

The interesting process of making sugar, called the "Naudet Process," has been at work in the West Indies, in the Islands of Trinidad, Porto Rico, and Cuba, with very satisfactory results. The process consists of crushing the cane only once through a 3-roller mill with a crusher in front of the mill, by which means about 60 per cent. of the juice contained in the cane is extracted; the remaining 40 per cent. of the juice is extracted by the new Naudet process.

The machinery for this consists of a series of not less than eight diffusers or macerators. These vessels are much the same in construction as the ordinary diffusion vessels used for the diffusion of beetroots, with the addition of the Naudet patent forced circulation. The megass coming from the first mill after one crushing, is elevated by a carrier to another carrier above the diffusion vessels, which carrier has shoots to supply megass to each diffuser in turn; another carrier underneath the diffusers receives the exhausted megass which falls from the large door on the bottom of each diffuser. This carrier conveys the exhausted wet megass to a second mill through which this megass passes, and thereby the water is extracted, the re-crushed megass passing direct into the furnaces of the boilers as a fuel, which burns exceedingly well. The first 60 per cent., or normal juice, is pumped up to a tank sufficiently high to supply the battery by gravitation; when one cell has been filled with megass from the first mill, this normal juice is admitted into the same cell: the bottom of this cell is connected to the suction side of the pump, but between the bottom of the cell and the pump there are placed straining boxes to recover any small pieces of megass which may be in the juice. On the discharge side of the same pump there are a series of juice heaters between the pump and the top of the diffusion vessel. Also in connection with this discharge side of the pump on the same level as the normal juice tank is placed a liming tank. This tank, after the pump has been set in motion, receives the juice which has been brought to the necessary temperature by previously having passed through the juice heaters, the temperature being brought up to about 220 degrees Fahrenheit.

The continuous circulation now maintained by the pump from the bottom of the diffuser to the top by this hot juice which has been limed in the liming tank, gives a perfect clarification by the



An Aracuna Indian of British Guiana.

We are indebted for this photograph to Mr. F. McConnell, who took it in the interior of British Guiana, of which he has an intimate knowledge.

megass absorbing all the impurities of the juice. This purified juice is immediately passed on to the triple effect or evaporator, thereby dispensing with the use of all clarifiers, subsidiers, eliminators and filter presses, and thus reducing the sugar making to a very simple and direct process.

The after extraction of the remaining juice in the megass is much the same as the operation of extracting by diffusion the sweet from the beetroot, and by the use of compressed air forcing the juice from one diffuser to another, the dilution by water is very low.

The following advantages are claimed for the process:—

1. *Large extraction.* Nearly the total amount of juice in the cane is extracted—that is, of the total juice in the cane 95 % is extracted, and that with the low dilution of about 9 % of water. When the megass is good and well opened up, and a dilution of 12 % of water used, an extraction of 97 % of the total juice in the cane is the result.

2. *Economy of fuel.* With good steam boilers and well arranged megass furnaces, combined with proper arrangements in the use of the steam in the factory, little or no fuel is required beyond the exhausted megass from the diffusers.

3. *Complete purification.* The complete purification of the juice without the use of clarifiers, subsidiers, eliminators or filter presses. The juice goes direct to the evaporator or triple effect from the battery for dark sugars, and once through mechanical filters for Demerara or yellow crystals.

4. *Economical production of white sugars.* By the use of continuous sulphuration and proper liming of the juice, also passing the juice and the syrup through Phillippe or similar filters, a very fair white sugar can be produced at very little extra cost beyond dark sugar.

5. *Small loss and complete recovery.* As the juice is completely sterilised within about ten minutes after it is expressed from the cane by a high temperature and liming, also thereafter completely enclosed from the atmosphere, there is no loss from inversion, and thereby an increased recovery of sugar is obtained.

6. *Small pressure.* The risk of breakdown to the mills is reduced, as no such excessive pressure is required as is necessary in double or triple crushing, as only about 60 % of the juice is extracted by the mill when single crushing, which does not require much pressure, and gives almost a pure juice. The remaining 40 % of the juice is extracted by the battery—also as pure juice, and thus the impurities resulting from double, triple, and quadruple crushing are avoided, and so less impurities require to be eliminated by this process.

7. *Simplicity.* The whole process of sugar manufacture is much simplified; the expense and labour of washing out the clarifiers and eliminators, and the danger of this being neglected or improperly done, are avoided. Also, the expense and labour caused by the use of filter presses, and the wear and tear entailed by the cleaning of cloths, are done away with; indeed, the whole operation in the sugar factory is cleaner and more regular.

8. *High purity.* Another important point is that the juice from the diffuser has as high a purity as the juice from the mill.



M. Naudet.

M. Naudet is the inventor of the new process of sugar manufacture described in these columns.

It is claimed for this process that it has a great advantage where the canes are hard and dry, as is the Yuba or white transparent cane, and in a season which is unusually dry the advantage in the sugar recovered is very great as compared with double or triple crushing mills.

The extra sugar obtained from the same weight of canes above that obtained by single crushing, as at present, is about 30 %, and the extra sugar obtained above the present double crushing is about 20 %.

The well-known sugar firm, the Harvey Engineering Company, Ltd., of Glasgow, are the sole makers of this machinery for Great Britain and the British Colonies. The process has been at work in Madeira for the last three years in a small factory. It is now at work on Caroni, Trinidad, and Fortuna Sugar Estate near Ponce, Porto Rico, two very large sugar estates, and there is now being erected another large plant at San Jose, Cuba, which will be able to treat about 1800 tons of cane per day.

The 1st West India Regiment.

A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH BY COLONEL A. R. LOSCOMBE.

(Continued from page 355).

The regiment took part in the Ashantee wars of 1864 and 1873. In the latter campaign at a most critical moment when, owing to the carriers engaged for transport purposes having deserted by whole tribes, the advance was for the time being paralysed for lack of supplies, the 1st West India and the 42nd Highlanders, on the approval of Sir Garnet Wolseley, volunteered to carry supplies to the front, and continued to do so for several days, until the pressure was relaxed. A company of the regiment also distinguished itself in the defence of the post of Fomena on the line of communications in rear of the army, which was heavily attacked by the Ashantees on the 2nd February, 1874. The general order, which I quote, issued by Sir Garnet (now Lord) Wolseley on his departure shows in what estimation this distinguished soldier held the West India Regiments.

"Before leaving for England the Major-General Commanding wishes to convey to the soldiers of the 1st and 2nd West India Regiments his appreciation of their soldier-like qualities, and of the manner in which they have performed their duties during the present campaign. Portions of the 2nd West India Regiment have been in every affair of the war, and the regiment generally has undergone fatigue and exposure in a most creditable manner.

"When, owing to the desertion of carriers, the transport difficulties became serious, the men of both these regiments responded most cheerfully to the call made upon them, and by daily carrying loads helped to relieve the force from its most pressing difficulties.

"In saying good-bye the Major-General assures them that he will always remember with pride and pleasure that he has had the honour of commanding men whose loyalty to the Queen, and whose soldier-like qualities have been so well proved in the war now happily at an end."

Her Majesty the Queen also conveyed to the regiment her thanks and highest approbation, and directed that the name "Ashantee" should be added to those inscribed on the colours. During the war no less than eight officers died from the effects of the pestilential climate.

The narrative now brings us down to comparatively recent times. In 1892 a body of frontier police having been repulsed from the stockaded town of Tambi, about 60 miles north-west of Kambia on the Great Scarcies River, Sierra Leone, an expeditionary force of about 500 men of the 1st West India under the command of Colonel Ellis was despatched thither, and on the 7th April the town was taken by storm, and burnt, the enemy, some 2000 in number, being totally defeated with heavy loss.

Shortly before this a small party of about sixty men of the regiment, having endeavoured, unaided by artillery, to take the Mohammedan mud-built fort of Toniataba on the River Gambia, had been forced to retreat from before it with some loss. During this unsuccessful attack Drummer William Gordon gained the Victoria Cross for conspicuous gallantry in having, when several muskets had suddenly been protruded through some loopholes commanding a gate which his party were endeavouring to batter down with a heavy beam, thrown himself between his officer and the fire, thus undoubtedly saving his officer's life, though he himself fell shot through the lungs. This was not the first Victoria Cross awarded to a West Indian soldier, Private Samuel Hodge, of the 3rd West India Regiment having previously won this coveted distinction at the storming of a Mohammedan stockade at Tubar-colong—the white man's well—on the River Gambia, for having, under a heavy fire, together with another pioneer named Boswell, who was killed, chopped and torn away the logs forming the stockade, thus effecting a breach.*

Immediately on the return of the expedition from Tambi, Colonel Ellis, with 300 men of the 1st West India, proceeded to the Gambia for the purpose of retrieving this repulse, and there, aided by a small naval brigade, took by storm the Toniataba fort, which was subsequently blown up.

At the same time that these operations were going on at the Gambia, a company of the regiment had been despatched to the colony of Lagos, where in conjunction with a force of Houssa constabulary, it was engaged in an expedition against the powerful Jebu tribe. This company distinguished itself at the passage of the river Oshun, the only approach to which was by a narrow path, which had been worn by the rains into the semblance of a ravine. On this path so heavy a fire was brought to bear by the enemy that the Houssas, who were in the advance, could not be induced to leave cover and cross. For a full hour the advance was delayed till the company of the West India Regiment was brought up, who at once rushed across the river, when the Houssas, emboldened by their example, followed, and crossed with them. This expedition also was entirely successful. The Jebu capital, Jebu Odi, was occupied, and the king made submission.

At the latter end of 1893 an expeditionary force under Colonel Ellis, consisting of the 1st West

* A picture by the Chevalier Dessauges representing this incident used to hang in the Victoria Cross Gallery at the Crystal Palace.

India Regiment and about fifty Frontier Police, with a few details, left Freetown for the purpose of punishing the Sofas, who had for some time past been devastating a large tract of country on the eastern frontier of the colony of Sierra Leone. These Sofas were soldiers (the term Sofa means a soldier) who had detached themselves from the army of the powerful Mohammedan Chieftain Samory, or Samadu, as he is sometimes called, and entering British territory had become nothing more or less than slave-hunters. The depredations they had committed were incredible. Their operations extended over a tract of country measuring 75 miles by 55 miles, and every part of this traversed by the expedition was a complete desert with scarcely a single human inhabitant, the entire population having been killed or sold into slavery, and all the towns and villages burnt. The expedition was absent



A Kandoman and a Soldier of the 1st W.I. Regiment.

51 days, during which it marched 541 miles through an exceedingly difficult country, as may be gathered when it is stated that on one day the troops waded through no less than 96 swampy streams and across 25 large swamps with mud from ankle to knee-deep. During part of the time, too, they were on half rations. It is small wonder that the expedition returned to Freetown in a terribly ragged condition, the great majority of the men being without boots, while in many instances great-coats were the only serviceable garment left to them. It was, however, entirely successful, the enemy's war camp having been taken after some sharp fighting, and the Sofas practically exterminated. A large number of slaves were released, and peace once more established throughout the district.

It was during this expedition that an unfortunate collision occurred with lamentable results with a French force which was also operating against the Sofas. The British force was encamped at a place called Waima, without a suspicion that any French troops were in the neighbourhood, when before daybreak on a dark night, a heavy fire was suddenly opened on them from the surrounding bush. Under the impression that they were attacked by the Sofas our men at once lined the defences and returned the fire, which was kept up on both sides until daylight, when an advance was made from the defences for the purpose of clearing the bush.

It was then found that the attack had been made by a party of French Senegalese troops with a large body of native allies, who had been led by a treacherous native chief to believe that the village was occupied by the Sofas. This lamentable occurrence cost the 1st West India Regiment the lives of 2 officers and 5 men, and 15 men severely wounded; while the gallant French commander, Lieut. Maritz, was mortally wounded, and at least 10 of his Senegalese soldiers killed.

(To be continued).

Consumption of Sugar.

According to the figures given in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, the consumption of sugar in the principal European countries which were signatories of the Brussels Convention for the first eleven months of the 1904-5 campaign, show a decrease of 856,598 tons. The figures given are:—

France ...	495,771 tons	699,030 tons	Decrease, 203,259 tons.
Germany ...	775,056 "	1,126,432 "	" 351,376 "
Austria-Hungary ...	404,516 "	503,962 "	" 99,446 "
Belgium ...	63,068 "	85,431 "	" 22,363 "
Great Britain ...	1,392,824 "	1,566,869 "	" 174,045 "
Holland ...	82,246 "	88,355 "	" 6,109 "
	3,213,481 tons	4,070,079 tons	Decrease, 856,598 tons.

Immigration Prospects.

Our Hon. Correspondent in Calcutta informs us that emigration prospects which promised fairly towards the end of May and during June, threaten now to be on all fours with last season, one of the worst ever known. A fifth year of exceptional rain-fall is almost without precedent, but up to the present appears to be likely, except in Madras where there is severe drought and cholera is raging. Two vessels sailed for British Guiana in July, conveying 1265 statute adult emigrants, of whom 165 were for Surinam. A third vessel was despatched for British Guiana, conveying some 550 odd emigrants, during August.

The extent of land under cotton cultivation in India this year exceeds 11,500,000 acres. The land under sugar cane comprises about 2,500,000 acres. The yield however is poor, averaging about twelve hundredweight per acre of "jaggery," a coarse, dark, badly granulated sugar, usually prepared in the fields where the canes are ground on the spot by small mills turned by one or two cattle, and as often as not by hand. Formerly a huge pestle and mortar were used, turned by two men, with a third seated on the arm of the machine to add weight to the crushing power, the cane being cut into small pieces and slipped into the mortar. For some years past these primitive "trapiches" have been superseded by light roller mills, very neatly constructed, which admit two or three canes at a time and extract some forty-five per cent. of the juice, and are turned by hand or a single bullock.

Colonial Report.

Turks and Caicos Islands, 1904.

The report of Mr. Commissioner Douglas Young upon the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for 1904 (Colonial Reports Annual, No. 454), contains the following comparative table of the revenue and expenditure of the Dependency for 1899 to 1904 inclusive:—

	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue	8,032	9,190	9,030	8,693	8,673	6,466
Expenditure	7,644	8,052	7,989	8,006	8,910	8,001

The assets of the Dependency on December 31st, 1904, amounted to £11,149 9s. 7d., and the liabilities to £2,559 8s. 3d., leaving a balance of £8,590 1s. 4d. to the credit of the surplus funds. The exports of the Dependency, the bulk of which went to the United States, were as follows:—

	£	£
Conchs	267	433
Turtle Shell	43	151
Salt	23,677	15,079
Sisal fibre	6,563	6,886
Sponge	1,252	1,414
Miscellaneous	76	56
Total	31,878	24,019

The year was an exceptionally wet one, and consequently disastrous for the salt industry. The fibre industry is in a sound condition, and continues to turn out a quality of fibre commanding a good price in the American market. The Fibre Company commenced work about thirteen years ago. Their shipment of fibre in 1895 was 92,071 lbs., valued at £1,342. In 1902 their output increased to 189,936 lbs., valued at £2,769; in 1903 to 296,733 lbs., valued at £4,327; and last year to 462,423 lbs., valued at £6,743. The islands are served by a fortnightly mail and passenger service from England direct, the steamers of the Imperial Direct West India Mail calling at Grand Turk on their way to Jamaica. By the "Port Kingston" of this line, the distance of 3,660 miles, between Bristol and Grand Turk, is covered in a little over nine days, and by the other steamers of the line in eleven days.

Consular Reports.

A good example to follow.

The sugar industry of Bohemia in 1904 profited by the great rise in price both for raw and refined sugars consequent on the limited result of the beetroot crops and therefore shortage of production, and the mills were able to place considerable orders for the renewal and repairs of plant and machinery, whereby the engineering works also benefited and gave renewed employment to a large number of hands. There were 7,780,000 tons of beetroot worked in the sugar mills of Austria-Hungary during

the campaign of 1903-4 as against 7,130,000 tons in 1902-3. The number of mills working in 1903-4 was 215, producing 1,159,221 tons of raw sugar, as against 216 mills producing 1,051,264 tons in 1902-3. The number of mills working in Bohemia in 1903-4 was 127, which produced 562,528 tons of raw sugar from 3,620,000 tons of beetroot, as against the same number of mills producing 440,225 tons from 2,860,000 tons of beetroot for the preceding campaign of 1902-3. There were 236,652 tons of molasses produced in Austria-Hungary in 1903-4, of which 109,274 tons were produced in Bohemia; 172,553 tons were used in the distilleries, and the export was nil.

Notes of Interest.

BANK RATE. The Bank Rate remains at $2\frac{1}{2}$ % (changed from 3 % on March 9th, 1905), and Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}$ %) are quoted $89\frac{1}{16}$.

OBITUARY. We have learnt with deep regret of the death of Mr. John Hinkson, one of our Members, which took place in Barbados on August 4th.

HURRICANE INSURANCE. Owing to pressure on our space, we are compelled to hold over to our next issue the details of Mr. H. Hesketh Bell's important scheme of insurance against hurricanes, and our West Indian Securities Table.

A FALSE ALARM. A report was circulated in the City on the 6th inst. that a "blow" had occurred at Jamaica. The Direct West India Cable Company, with their usual promptitude, made inquiries, and were able to publish a denial the same afternoon.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended September 7th 56 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.10d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, $15\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN AND ST. KITTS. Mr. Chamberlain has appended his signature to a photogravure of his portrait from the painting by Professor Hubert von Herkomer, which has been presented to the Island of St. Kitts by a Member of the West India Committee. It will form part of a gallery of celebrities which is being collected by Mrs. Wigley, the wife of the Acting Administrator.

A RESULT OF BOUNTY ABOLITION. Further evidence of the renewal of confidence in the sugar industry of the West Indies, following upon the abolition of bounties, is afforded by the fact that Mr. A. M. Lee, the enterprising proprietor of Belvedere Estate, Antigua, is inaugurating a system of steam ploughing and cultivating machinery on that Estate. The machinery will be provided by Messrs. John Fowler & Co., of Leeds.

APPOINTMENTS REGISTER. The register of applicants for appointment as overseers and other positions connected with West Indian estates can be seen by Members at the West India Committee Rooms. Full particulars regarding the applicants are now given, together with testimonials from each. Members receiving applications from those desiring appointments may refer the applicants to the West India Committee, who will supply a form of enquiries for the candidates to fill up.

TRADE WITH CANADA. Commenting on our leading article in last issue on the subject of trade with Canada, the *Financial News* of August 31st, after stating that the statements of the West India Committee on all matters connected with the welfare of the West Indies are entitled to the highest respect, adds that the subject is of great importance to the Empire, and that the Committee are acting wisely in inviting the views of West Indians generally regarding it. The leading article in question was quoted very generally by the Press.

UNITED STATES AND NEWFOUNDLAND. A Reuter's telegram in the *Standard* of the 8th inst. states that the United States Fish Commission's vessel "Grampus" is cruising along the west coast inquiring into the herring fishery question, to enable the authorities at Washington exactly to determine what their treaty rights represent, should Newfoundland attempt to interfere with their prosecution of the herring industry during the next few months. This is interesting to the West Indies in so far that the United States seek advantages in British Colonies which are non-existent in Puerto Rico, Havana, or any territory they appropriate.

THE FRENCH CABLE COMPANY. A Caracas telegram to the *New York Herald* states that, in consequence of the judgment of the Federal Courts confirming the dissolution of the contract with the French Cable Company, the Government has ordered the Company to close all its stations on the coast. The cable can now be worked only between La Guayra and New York. It will be remembered that the Cable Company's contract was voided by the Venezuelan Government because

of the non-fulfilment of its clauses, and the power of a Government to enforce its rights, and how it can be applied, is shown by a further despatch in the *Standard* of September 8th announcing the closing of the cable offices along the Venezuelan coast.

BARBADOS SUGAR. The *Barbados Agricultural Reporter*, in its issue of August 26th, speaks in hopeful tones of the sugar industry of Barbados, and says that:—

"The planting community of this island are showing that they are convinced that sugar must remain the staple product of Barbados. The cultivation of the cane is receiving, if possible, more attention at this time than it ever before received. The greatest care is bestowed on the selection of cane plants and the testing of results. The advice of the Imperial Department of Agriculture is appreciated and is followed out as far as is practicable, especially in the choice and the application of manures. The advantages of the several Acts of the Legislature for the pecuniary assistance of plantations, are utilised to keep up the cultivation regularly, to preserve the buildings in good order, and to keep the estates well supplied with live stock for working purposes. Young oxen for plantation uses have been at a demand during the past few months, and many poor labourers have got the reward of their industry during the past two or three years, in the good price they have realized for the calves which they have raised. Carpenters and masons are now getting employment on the repairs of plantation buildings."

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS. The Homeward Mails by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company are due on Tuesday, September 19th; Tuesday, October 3rd; Tuesday, October 17th; Monday, November 6th; Saturday, November 25th, and fortnightly thereafter. Sailings of R.M.S.P. Company's steamers from Southampton are advertised for Friday, September 15th; Saturday, September 30th, and fortnightly thereafter. The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and I.D.W.I.M.S. steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail on Friday next are advertised: S.S. "Capella" from Liverpool, for Barbados (for Demerara and West Indian Islands), September 19th; S.S. "Brussel" from Liverpool, for Demerara, September 22nd; S.S. "Eleanora," from London, for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Martinique, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Demerara, and Berbice, September 21st; and the R.M.S. "Port Antonio," from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, September 23rd. In view of the abandonment of the London, Bermuda and north side of Jamaica service by the Imperial Direct West India Line—which has, we understand, involved considerable loss to the Company—the "Port Kingston," for the convenience of passengers who had already booked their passages by the line, which sailed on September 7th, will call at Bermuda, and will do the same on her next voyage, when she sails from Bristol on October 21st.

The Homeward Mail.

Weather conditions were very favourable for cane cultivation when the mail left the West Indies, frequent showers having fallen in most localities, though in British Guiana the weather had been hot and dry, and good heavy showers were wanted. In the Islands the prospects for the cane crop were remarkably favourable, but complaints were heard from cocoa planters of too much moisture. The abandonment of the mail contract, and the consequent inconvenience to planters and merchants, was the principal topic dealt with by the local Press, and there can be no doubt that the feeling of discontent at the present state of affairs is rapidly increasing, and it will not be surprising if, when the amended arrangements become known in the Colonies, this culminates in a similar outburst of popular feeling as was experienced in the early months of this year. The colonists, however, are not without hope that some satisfactory settlement may yet be arrived at, and it is hard to believe that the Colonial Office will refuse to listen to the unanimous request of the West Indies. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Orinoco" anchored off Plymouth at 2.45 p.m. on Wednesday, September 6th, and the mails were delivered in London by first post the following morning. Among the passengers were the Lord Bishop of Barbados, Canon Doorly, Lady Jackson, Mr. H. Deighton and Mr. H. Tapping. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Antonio" arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, September 13th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received per R.M.S. "Orinoco":—

Antigua—Cotton Cultivation Extended.

(J. FREELAND FOJTE, Esq.) August 22nd—The change in the mail service would chiefly affect Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat, and it was hoped that some better service would soon be obtained. Account sales of cotton at 1s. 4d. had been received. Cotton cultivation was being extended, and the return next year should be the largest yet reaped.

It was pleasing to report considerable improvement in the weather; frequent showers had fallen, and the canes were very much improved.

Barbados—The Removal of the Mail Headquarters.

(T. W. WILKINSON, Esq.) August 26th—This was the last occasion on which the Royal Mail intercolonial steamers would meet at Barbados, for after transferring cargo to the "Orinoco" they would proceed to Trinidad to meet the outward mail on Wednesday. How long this arrangement would last remained to be seen. There seemed to be a general

feeling that the headquarters would not long remain at Trinidad, in fact until Christmas was given for the new arrangement to last.

The writer had to record with deep regret the death of Lady Pile, on August 19th, after a lingering illness.

Mr Horace Deighton, head-master of Harrison College for the past thirty-three years, had just resigned and was proceeding to England by the mail.

Only \$1.50 was offered for sugar on the previous day, but the writer did not know if any was sold at that figure.

The weather for the past two weeks had been most favourable, for they had had rain almost every day, and the average rainfall was four inches.

British Guiana—Proposals for a Mail Service.

(J. McCOWAN, ESQ.) August 23rd—The Mail Edition would give details of the petition regarding the mail contract sent home by the Chamber of Commerce. It would be noted that the Mail Company asked £7500 for performing their service, but this had since been reduced, and it was understood that they were willing to accept £5000. The Combined Court was to meet on the 25th, when Mr. Mackey would bring forward a motion to provide that amount.

Regarding the sugar market, there had been no transactions to report during the fortnight, and the quotation of \$2.20 was a nominal one.

Cable communication with Trinidad was restored on August 20th.

The weather had been hot and dry since last mail, and cultivation generally would be benefited by some good heavy showers.

Dominica—To Advertise Green Limes.

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.) August 24th—The new mail arrangements were rather inconvenient; the interval (Friday to Sunday) between the arrival and departure of the boat made it impossible for those who resided outside the vicinity of Roseau to answer their letters by return.

A small lot of green limes was being forwarded by the Dominica Fruit Growers Association to be sold at the Crystal Palace Exhibition, which it was hoped would help to bring this fruit to the notice of the public.

Very heavy rains had fallen lately.

Greenada—Cocoa Prospects.

(Hon. D. S. DE FREITAS) August 24th—The races held at St. Andrew's on August 7th and 8th were enjoyable in every respect; they were attended by a large number of persons on each day, whose presence placed the financial success of the meeting beyond any doubt.

The Hon. Edward Drayton, C.M.G., was administering the Government with characteristic energy and devotion to the minutest details, during the absence of Sir Robert Llewelyn in St. Lucia. On the recommendation of Sir Robert Llewelyn, Mr. T. M. Commission, the eldest son of the Hon. W. S. Commission, K.C., had been appointed Police Magistrate of the Western District by the Secretary of State. The appointment had been received with a wide and hearty approval by reason of Mr. Commission's popularity and proved qualifications.

With the exception of a few days, the temperature during August had so far been relatively cool. The prospects of the coastal cocoa estates were increasing in promise, whereas the high-lying estates were suffering from too frequent showers.

Jamaica—Favourable Prospects for Sugar.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, ESQ.) August 22nd—The Trinidad Cricket team sailed on August 20th by the "Orinoco," after winning with ease all the matches (four). Apart from the Trinidad team being a superior combination to any eleven that Barbados could put in the field, there was no doubt that the Barbados men did not shape as well as they could.

The writer placed the pimento crop, now coming in, at 75,000 bags at least.

They had been having good rains generally during the fortnight, and it was said that they just came in time for Vere and Clarendon. These rains had also saved the coming coffee crop in several districts. There was plenty of rain in Westmoreland, with promise of a large sugar crop.

Nevis—The Mail and Cable Grievance.

(Hon. C. ARTHUR SHANN) August 22nd—The writer pointed out that this would be the last opportunity, up to the end of the year at all events, which he would have of replying to the English letters by return steamer. Any important communications would have to be forwarded by alternative routes, and the inconvenience that they would be subjected to all respects. To say the least of it, it was unfortunate that they should have been placed in such a predicament just at the time when the islands were waking up to the necessity of keeping step with the times, and adopting a more advanced system of agriculture.

With reference to cable communication, which the West India Committee were endeavouring to place on a better footing, it was really deplorable how things were conducted in this department. The so-called daily bulletins of news were a heterogeneous collection of incidents distinctly lacking in interest from an Imperial or national point of view. For instance, the previous night's cablegram was chiefly devoted to information touching the family history of a certain ex-M.P., which might have made reading matter in the Yellow Press, whilst not a single incident was recorded in the way of information from the seat of war!

Their cotton bales weighed a full 200 lbs., and the shipments for 1905 came up to 150,000 lbs. of cotton, which certainly netted an average of 1s. per lb. The area of cotton cultivation was being largely increased (probably 50%) for 1906 crop, so that Nevis would be well to the front in this new industry.

Since last mail the weather had been inclined to be dry, but on Sunday grateful though not heavy rains fell, which had brightened up vegetation a bit. The barometer showed indications of approaching bad weather on Sunday morning, dropping about two-tenths from its highest point, and violent wind squalls accompanied with driving showers continued for an hour or two. At 3 p.m. the wind began to veer round southerly, and at 4 p.m. there was a perceptible rise in the glass, which allayed apprehension as to the imminence of a gale. There must, however, have been bad weather about somewhere.

St. Kitts—"Dieppe Bay" Sold.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, ESQ.) August 22nd—There was no apparent increase in cotton cultivation this year, but where planted, the bushes were healthy and bolling freely.

The purchase of "Dieppe Bay" estate by Mr D S Blake, one of our Members, who was already owner of the contiguous estate, "Willets," put that gentlemen in possession, when amalgamation took place, of one of the finest properties in St. Kitts. It seemed, however, a matter of regret, in the removal of an old and honoured name, that the sale of this estate should have severed the connection which had existed for generations between St. Kitts and Messrs James Ewing & Co., of Glasgow. Mr. Blake, however, was to be congratulated on his purchase, which in view of its position might be considered a bargain.

Good and welcome rains had fallen during the past fortnight, and the entire Island had an excellent prospect for a crop. A low barometer, accompanied with suspicious-looking weather, caused a little anxiety on the Sunday, but fortunately it passed off in good rains.

St. Vincent—The Outlook for Cotton.

(Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co.) August 25th—St. Vincent being in the proud position of having obtained the highest price in the English market for Sea Island cotton, the planters were going in extensively for cotton cultivation, and as they had an experience of two years, resulting in the conclusion that the growing of cotton successfully required as much tillage and manuring as any of the other products of these islands, a much bigger return was expected next season.

Heavy rains had fallen during the fortnight, and on one occasion the barometer fell so low as to alarm most people. At present they were having very strong trade winds, reminding one more of December weather than sultry August.

Trinidad—Cocoa Prices Harder.

(Hon. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C.M.G.) August 25th—At the adjourned meeting of the Legislative Council held on August 15th, the debate on the report of the Committee on Crown Lands was closed, and the Council by 13 to 4 approved of the report. Mr. Alcazar made the most of the arguments against raising the price of the lands, and his was the only reasoned opposition offered to the report.

Nothing more had been learned as to the exact position of the mail contract. The Governor was that day going as far as Barbados with Lady Jackson, who with her son was going to England. The Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. W. M. Gordon, would act for the Governor during his absence.

The weather continued as last reported—an ideal season for the growing cane crop. This was the slackest time of the year for cocoa, and deliveries during the last fortnight had been on an exceedingly small scale, with the result that prices had hardened considerably. A strong demand existed for fine red cocoa for Europe, and fancy prices had been paid for even small lots. Estate qualities had been somewhat neglected, but fine grades were still much sought after at advancing prices. A strong demand had been shown for Venezuelan kinds, of which one or two good lots had arrived. These had been eagerly competed for, and prices might again be called as firmer.

		Cocoa Shipments.			
Total at last return	...	164,743	Bags Trinidad	25,630	Venezuela.
Aug 11 S.S. "Trent"	...	1484	"	366	Europe.
" 14 S.S. "Hungaria"	...	1150	"	500	New York
" 17 S.S. "Grenada"	...	1637	"	—	Europe
" 18 S.S. "Washington"	...	175	"	—	Canada
" 21 S.S. "Ocamo"	...	10	"	350	New York.
" 22 S.S. "Prins Maurits"	...	200	"		
" 23 S.S. "Prins Fred. Hendrik"	...	1015	"		
		170,414		268,846	

Letter to the Editor.

The Withdrawal of the Troops.

Anguilla, via St. Kitts,
July 24th, 1905.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR.—The West India Committee is to be heartily congratulated on the successful banquet to celebrate its possession of a Royal Charter. The speeches reached a high level, and especially the Chairman's. May I venture to say that the quotation from Lord Nelson's letter about the efficiency of the old West Indian Militia leads me to hope, now that the regular troops are to be removed on Imperial grounds, that the various governments will pay due attention to the present regular troops and Militia. The men are as good as ever, they only want proper training. With a good Defence Force there need be no fear of internal trouble, and nearly all the men who join would volunteer for Imperial service if needed. At the same time, it has occurred to me, that a very useful Naval Volunteer force might be enrolled in these island colonies, given the funds and the necessary encouragement from the Admiralty and the West Indian Governments. If they did nothing else the men might serve as stokers, and they would probably stand the heat better than many others. The islands could be more easily defended from the sea than by forts on the land.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
G. B. MASON.

Our Library.

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.

Sugar and the Sugar Cane. By Noel Deer. Altrincham: Norman Rodger. 7/6 net. The object of the writer, who is well known in British Guiana, and has already given to us a useful little work, entitled, "Sugar House Notes and Tables," is to present in one consecutive whole a general view of the cane sugar industry. The author has collected together a mass of information from the highest authorities on the subject, and the book is consequently bound to be of the greatest use to all interested in this subject. The plates are excellent, especially the coloured illustrations of the different varieties of cane. In the preface the author alludes to life on a sugar estate, remote from many social influences, as apt to be monotonous, and states that the writing of this book has been for eight years the companion of his leisure.

moments. We congratulate him on the result, and we can only hope that the many who are similarly placed may make as good use of their leisure hours.

Methods of Chemical Control in Cane Sugar Factories. By H. C. Prinsen Geerligs. Altrincham: Norman Rodger. 3/6 net. The author is widely known as director of the West Java Sugar Experiment Station, and is well qualified to speak on the subject with which he deals in the eighty-six pages of this book. Everything written by him is thorough, and should prove of no little value to cane planters in every part of the world. The matter in the first forty-seven pages originally appeared in the *International Sugar Journal*, and to this is now added tables and plans not hitherto published, which should enhance the interest and value of the whole, and justify the publisher in his production of an English edition of a valuable Dutch handbook. A feature which should prove of special interest to planters in the West Indies is Part V, which gives book models and contains a page of a field book, a form of analysis of results of field work which we do not believe is very generally adopted in the British West Indies at the present time, though it might with advantage. We all know how closely the weight and sugar content of beet are studied during the months of July and August, and it is possible that much might be learnt as to the best time to cut, &c., from a similar scrutiny of canes. It would be interesting, for instance, to see a curve showing the rise in sucrose in the canes from eight months old to maturity and after. We cannot help wondering how many estates in the West Indies have such chemical control as is suggested in this book. Each chemist is to have five native assistants; two shifts of two assistants for regular factory analyses and one working at field samples of cane in the day time only. To conclude, we can heartily endorse the description given of this book in its advertisement. "An Invaluable Handbook for Sugar Chemists and Manufacturers."

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt. C. E. Down), Sept. 7th:— Barbados—Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Barbados, Mrs. Swaby, Rev. F. and Miss Fitzpatrick, Mr. and Mrs. Deighton, Mr. C. Bancroft, Mr. A. Clark, Mr. A. C. Thomas, Mr. H. L. Collen, Mrs. Collen, Mr. C. G. Deane, Mr. G. W. Kayne, Mr. A. Lawson, Mr. R. B. Gregg, Mr. C. A. Brebner. Demerara—Mr. and Mrs. Biddick, Mr. G. Edkins. Jamaica—Rev. G. H. and Mrs. Lea, Mr. W. J. and Mrs. Thompson. Trinidad—Lady Jackson, Rev. Canon Doorly, Mr. Doorly, Mr. C. Child, Mr. J. Haynes, Mr. J. Cadman, Mr. H. S. and Mrs. Tappin, Miss Moeran, Mr. and Miss Cazaly, Mr. and Mrs. Hobson. Antigua—Miss E. McDonald, Miss Watts. St. Lucia—Mr. and Mrs. Wrightson.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt. C. E. Down), Sept. 15th:— Barbados—Miss D. Darling, Capt. H. Lang, Mrs. and Miss Pipon. Demerara—Mr. and Mrs. Curtis, Mr. R. Miles, Mr. J. T. Moir, Mr. and Mrs. A. Summerson, Mr. and Mrs. Humphreys, Mrs. and Miss Mackey, Mr. J. R. Parnell, Mr. J. Macdonald, Mr. J. W. Steven, Miss E. Powell, Mr. N. Devereux, Mr. G. Dornford, Mr. H. Phillip, Miss Cornish, Miss D. Francis, Mr. C. Shepherd, Dr. and Mrs. Irving, Mr. J. and Mrs. Chisholm, Mr. A. Bratt, Mrs. Jones. Jamaica—Mr. R. Kisingbury, Mrs. Eddowes, Mr. and Mrs. Cocking, Mrs. Randall. Trinidad—Hon. Hugh Clifford, C.M.G., Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Atthill, Mr. A. Burrows, Rev. Fr. Hoegy, Mr. Kochen, Mr. and Mrs. Grant, Mr. C. Siebert, Mr. J. Rettig, Mr. H. Eyles, Hon. C. E. Agostini, Mr. Thos. Findlay. Antigua—Mrs. and Miss Robertson, Mr. A. B. Woolcock. Dominica—Mr. C. S. Kitching. Grenada—Dr. and Mrs. Latour. St. Lucia—Mr. and Mrs. G. Laffitte, Chief Justice J. B. Walker.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Tagus" (Capt. Doughty), Sept. 30th:— Barbados—Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Thorne, Ven. Archdeacon T. H. Bindley, Rev. F. H. Barnett, Capt. and Mrs. Watson. Demerara—Sir Henry and Lady Bovell, Mrs. Van Lanschot, Capt. and Mrs. Caddy, Mr. and Mrs. J. Fleming, Miss Spillman, Mr. Comacho. Jamaica—Rev. J. and Mrs. McIntosh, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Mr. and Miss Andre, Miss Thomas. Trinidad—Mrs. Siegert, Dr. Pampellone, Mr. T. Thompson, Mr. A. Moller, Dr. Perez, Mr. L. B. Pierre, Hon. P. David, Mr. A. Markham Mrs. and Miss M. Gransaul, Miss F. Solis, Mrs. Haynes, Miss Bonnasse, Mr. Justice and Mrs. Swan, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Ortiz, Mr. Wm. Speyer, Mr. Haynes. Antigua—Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Eldridge, Mrs. Bell. Grenada—Mr. and Mrs. Tudd, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Dean. Grenada—Mr. F. Kent, Mr. D. A. Kent. St. Kitts—Mr. F. S. Hicks, Mr. E. S. Delisle.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), September 9th:— Jamaica—Mr. T. N. Aguilar, Mrs. and Miss Aitken, Mr. A. Anderson, Mr. E. C. D'Azevedo, Mr. J. R. Baillie, Mr. R. W. Bradley, Mr. J. Btsh, Mr. A. B. Catto, Miss Cockrane, Mr. G. S. Croshaw, Mr. R. Donner, Mr. R. St. J. Davidson, Mr. G. C. Dewar, Mr. G. P. Dewar, Mr. Edsall, Dr. E. R. Earle, Mr. M. Earle, Miss Farquharson, Mr. Wm. Foulstone, Mr. Gay, Rev. J. F. and Mrs. Gartshore, Mr. C. F. Guest, Mr. E. Greg, Mr. R. F. Hurren, Miss I. Holwell, Mr. J. M. Hall, Mr. G. A. Hurcombe, Mr. Holland, Mr. T. Harper, Mr. F. H. Harper, Miss W. H. Jones, Mrs. Jamieson, Mr. J. H. Jenks, Mr. and Mrs. F. X. Knecht, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. E. Lopez, Mr. Meadows, Mr. T. Morgan, Mr. A. Munro, Mrs. E. A. Muirhead, Mr. W. R. Morison, Lieut. Maule, Mr. E. C. Price, Mr. S. Rostron, Capt. H. J. Russell, Miss Robertson, Mr. K. V. Samuel, Mr. E. S. Samuel, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Sanguinetti, Major C. T. Sarnan, Mrs. K. Sumsion, Mr. E. V. Sterling, Mrs. A. M. Sidgewick, Miss A. M. Sewell, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Sadler, Mr. and Miss Tozer, Mr. J. V. Thomson, Lieut. A. M. Turber, Col. F. S. Talbot, Mr. F. G. Thomas, Mr. P. L. Wingate, Rev. S. J. Washington. Bermuda—Miss Barker, Miss Blackburn, Lieut. B. T. Disney, Lieut. C. Farmer, Mrs. F. W. Major, Mrs. G. M. Mansfield, Mr. R. C. Robertson, Mr. A. C. Rowan, Mr. T. C. de Trafford, Miss Turner, Mrs. Wanhill, Mr. A. G. Williamson, Mr. S. Williams.

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. We are indebted to the *Morning Post* for several of the items of information given below.

The Right Rev. W. P. SWABY, Bishop of Barbados, has been granted two months leave of absence from Aug. 26th.

Dr. THOMAS BOWEN, Medical Assessor, Barbados, has been granted three months leave of absence from Aug. 15th.

Mr. M. A. MURPHY, Colonial Engineer, has been provisionally appointed an Official Member of the Legislative Council of St. Lucia.

Mr. A. F. C. WERER, Stipendiary Magistrate of British Guiana, has been granted an extension of leave from the 25th inst. until Dec. 6th.

The Rev. Canon W. S. DOORLY, Chaplain Local Forces, Trinidad, has been granted leave of absence from the Aug. 28th, 1905, to February 28th, 1906.

During the absence of the Hon W S ROBERTSON, Mr ADAM SMITH has been appointed to act as Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council, Trinidad.

The Hon DUNCAN A J FERGUSON has been re-appointed an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of St Lucia for a further period of six years, from June 8th last.

Mr A A PEARSON, C.M.G., Principal Clerk of the West Indian Department of the Colonial Office, has returned to England from Jamaica, which colony he paid a brief visit to last month.

His Majesty the King has graciously approved of the appointment of the Hon FREDERICK J CLARKE, and the Hon GEORGE L PILE, to be Members of the Legislative Council of Barbados.

Mr S G T BURKE, Stipendiary Magistrate of British Guiana, has left the colony on three months' leave, and Mr LIONEL E HAWTAYNE has taken over the duties of Stipendiary Magistrate of the North Essequibo Judicial District.

The Hon A H ALEXANDER, Immigration Agent-General, British Guiana, has been granted leave of absence for three months from Aug. 10th, with extension of leave for two months, during which time Mr ROBERT DUFF will act in his place.

It is stated that Mr D S MACGREGOR, Auditor of British Honduras, is to succeed Mr G ROYER DICK, M.A., as Auditor-General of Mauritius. Mr MacGregor entered the Colonial Service in 1895 as Chief Audit Clerk of the Leeward Islands, and was transferred to British Honduras as Auditor in 1900.

The resignation of the Hon WILLIAM HENRY PORTER as an Official Member of the Legislative Council, Member and Chairman of the Quarantine Board, and Commissioner of Piers and Wharves of the Presidency of Dominica, has been accepted; and Mr THOMAS L H JARVIS has been appointed to act in his place, and provisionally as a Member of the Executive Council of Dominica.

Weather Telegrams:

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) September 11th. "Seasonable weather." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) August 30th. "Weather continues too dry." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) September 2nd. "Weather dry, some showers would be acceptable." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) week ended August 30th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "24th and 25th, heavy rain and lightning. 26th, cloudy. 27th, rain. 28th, 29th, 30th, fine." **KINGSTON**: "24th and 25th, rain, 26th to 30th, fine."

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan 1 to Aug 10 1905	Aug 10 1904	Jan 1 to Aug 21 1905	Aug 21 1904	April 1 to Aug 17 1905	Aug 17 1904	Jan 1 to Aug 24 1905	Aug 24 1904	Oct. 1 to Aug 25 1905	Aug 25 1904
Sugar	31,545	49,019 Tons.	36,622	43,512 Tons.	3631	4371 Tons.	275,804	381,251 Bgs. & Hrls.	---	---
Molasses	17,804	42,794 Pns.	1674	1011 Pns.	---	---	2887	1,977 Pns.	---	---
Rum	---	---	8704	11,779 "	689,568	871,482 Galls.	178	27 Tons.	---	---
Molascuit	---	---	3510	2715 Tons.	---	---	165	38 Brls.	---	---
Cocoa	---	---	32,926	91,568 lbs.	15,459	11,806 Cwts.	349	125 Pns.	63,637	66,312 Hags.
Coffee	---	---	---	---	9163	9204 "	---	---	23	426 "
Coconuts	---	---	240,471	165,840	1,661,081	913,150	6,277	209 4,870 371	---	---
Copra	---	---	---	---	---	---	6620	11,685 Bags.	---	---
Cotton	---	---	---	---	28,935	1796 lbs.	---	---	704	1032 Hales.
Cotton Seed	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4745	6594 Bags.
Asphalt	---	---	---	---	---	---	73,790	83,603 Tons.	---	---
Oranges	---	---	---	---	3,457,719	1,190,250	---	---	---	---
Bananas	---	---	---	---	6,765,757	1,718,117 Bchs.	---	---	---	---
Pimento	---	---	---	---	25,370	16,542 Cwts.	---	---	---	---
Spice	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Gold	---	---	57,500	50,100 ozs.	---	---	---	---	4913	3899 Brls.
Diamonds	---	---	3823	7116 carats	---	---	---	---	024	651 1/2 Hrls.
Balata	---	---	---	---	165,583	195,242 lbs.	---	---	601	556 Cases.
									184	120 Bags.

A West India Security.

Floating Dock Company of St. Thomas, Ltd.

The twenty-eighth ordinary general meeting was held on September 5th at Suffolk House, Laurence Pountney Hill. Mr Edward Barnett, who presided, said, in moving the adoption of the report, that the dock had been employed 44 days, as compared with 36 days last year. Owing to the greater tonnage the results showed a considerable improvement. The rate of dividend which the Board were able to recommend last year had been nearly trebled. The dock had been constantly under repair and renewal. The rumours which might have reached the shareholders with regard to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company having an "enemy in the camp" and losing their postal arrangements with the English Government could, fortunately, be dismissed for the present. That company would have the opportunity of tendering for the contract on fair terms with any other company. He had noticed a paragraph in the newspapers stating that the Royal Mail Company intended running to Jamaica, and thence to New York. Such a policy would involve interference with some of their friends outside, and would very likely lead to further complications in the way of getting the old system renewed. The Royal Mail Company intended continuing their workshop at St. Thomas and sending the whole of their ships there for repair. The construction of the Panama Canal must, sooner or later, result in an immense amount of shipping having to call at St. Thomas. The Board recommended a dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum. Mr T Barnett seconded the motion, which was adopted.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar. Blow after blow is being struck at poor sugar, and what with gigantic failures on the Continent and the suicide of the leading French operator, coupled with the over production of beet for the next season, it is difficult to foresee what is going to happen, and to attempt to fix a definite price below which 88% beet will not go is a task that the boldest amongst us will not readily undertake. It is an undoubted fact that prices of beet sugar, taken collectively, are below the cost of production, but that is a matter of no concern to consumers and distributors, who in the end always fix initial values, and in the present disastrous absence of confidence in the immediate future, and with the large supplies of beet and cane now at our very doors, it seems difficult for long to hold any sanguine views as to an early improvement in values. For those who have got sugar to sell this autumn and winter no doubt this will be disappointing, but in the long run it may prove a blessing in disguise, for prices of 88% beet ranging anywhere from 8s. 6d. to 8s. 9d. for delivery up to next March can scarcely fail to bring about a reduction in sowings of beet for crop 1906/7, and when this is assured we may fairly hope to return to a more satisfactory range of prices than are at present in existence. The growing beet crops are reported to be progressing in a satisfactory manner, and although the richness of the roots hitherto tested seems to be below last year, which is only natural comparing the weather of the two seasons, the weight is shown to be largely in excess, and it is within the knowledge of every one that it is the large roots that produce the large crops and not the small ones, however rich they may be.

The closing prices of 88% Beet are:—September, 8s. 5½d.; October, 8s. 7½d.; November/December, 8s. 9½d.; January/March, 1906, 8s. 10½d.; and May, 9s. 0½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Europe	980,000	1,400,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	820,000 Tons
United States	200,000	120,000	220,000	160,000	180,000 "
Cuba	200,000	30,000	190,000	170,000	80,000 "
Cargoes afloat	290,000	290,000	130,000	220,000	170,000 "
Total	1,670,000	1,840,000	2,240,000	2,250,000	1,250,000 "
Quotations of 88% Beet:—	8s. 5½d.	10s. 8½d.	8s. 5½d.	6s. 0d.	7s. 10d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—Importers holding firmly. The moderate sales made of yellow crystallised have been at fairly steady prices, notwithstanding the fall in imitations to 15s. 3d. The general range is 16s. to 18s., with average qualities still nominally worth 17s. For 96 centrifugals about 10s. 3d. is present value to Cane Refiners.

Molasses Sugar.—Moderate sales are taking place from 12s. to 14s. 6d., according to quality, duty paid Peruvian syrups are selling from 7s. 6d. to 7s. 9d. in bond.

Muscovado.—Small lots of grocery sugar continue to realise from 14s. to 15s., but the trade is a straggling one. To Refiners, 89 test has been sold at 8s. 9d., on floating terms, which is the closing nominal value.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905	1904	1903	1902
Imports	32,000	35,000	20,000	55,000 Tons
Deliveries	28,000	35,000	31,000	30,000 "
Stocks	13,000	13,000	18,000	37,000 "
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	17s. 0d.	17s. 9d.	16s. 0d.	13s. 0d.

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 8 months:

	1905	1904	1903	1902
Home Consumption	2,247,000	2,372,000	2,299,000	2,538,000 Galls
Stocks 31st Aug.	8,577,000	10,020,000	10,405,000	9,613,000 "
Stocks in London:				
Jamaica	10,200	11,600	11,800	12,000 Puns
Demerara	5700	8900	7500	9300 "
Total of all kinds	24,169	28,426	27,500	Deficiency 4257 "

A fair business has been done in Demerara from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 3d., being steady prices. Jamaica is selling slowly on the basis of 2s. 1d. for approved Standard Home Trade Marks. Leewards are dull, values ranging from 11d. to 1s. 3d.

Cocoa.—Board of Trade Returns for 8 months:

	1905	1904	1903	1902
Imports	16,736	20,685	17,429	19,085 Tons
Home Consumption	12,917	14,041	12,620	14,626 "
Stocks 31st Aug.	6332	6965	5584	5863 "
Stocks in London:	91,000	99,000	74,000	82,000 Bags

Although prices are not quotably lower, the tendency is in buyers' favour, with a very languid demand. Trinidad has sold perhaps a shade more freely on the basis of 54s. for fair collected, and 54s. to 57s. for fair to fine Estate Marks. Grenada is dull, and prices are barely supported: fair, 48s.; fermented, 50s. to 52s. From other Islands values are: common to fair Native, 44s. to 47s., and fermented, 49s. to 52s.

Coffee.—Steady. Good ordinary Jamaica, 40s. to 42s.

Nutmegs.—Steady. Recent sales of West India comprise: 75's at 11d., 80's at 10½d., 90's at 9d., 101's to 110's at 7½d., 127's at 6d., and in shell from 4½d. to 5d. **Almonds.**—Unchanged. Fair to good bold pale sold from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 10d., and red, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. **Ginger.**—Steady. Low middling to middling Jamaica sold at 46s. to 47s., and good ordinary small at 42s. **Pimento.**—Firm, at 2½d. to 2¾d.

Arrowroot.—

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Imports	11,463	13,198	10,301	15,563	15,777 Brls.
Deliveries	12,074	13,394	8517	9532	13,181 "
Stocks, 31st Aug.	8859	12,440	14,035	13,759	10,796 "

Steady, with sales of about 1000 barrels good manufacturing St. Vincent at 1½d., and part at 1¼d. Stocks are getting moderate.

Lime Juice.—Unchanged at 9d. to 1s. 1d. Concentrated, £18, nominal. Hand Pressed, value 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, quiet at 1s. 8d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LII.



The Ven. Archdeacon Bindley, D.D.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEBTING LANE, LONDON.

Sept. 28th, 1905

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.

THE entertainment given last night by the West Indian Club to the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne and Mr. W. E. Smith, the Commissioners for Barbados and Trinidad respectively; to Mr. P. J. Dean, Chairman of the Grenada Exhibition Committee—now happily a permanent body—and to others associated with the West Indian Court at the Colonial Exhibition, brought to a fitting conclusion the auspicious events of the past summer which will live long in the memories of those connected with this very successful enterprise, and of those who were privileged to visit the Court. It was a matter for regret that Mr. John Barclay and Mr. Frank Cundall, the Commissioners for Jamaica, and Mr. John H. Hart, the Commissioner for Trinidad, who preceded Mr. Smith, were unable to be present; but nothing could exceed the enthusiasm with which their names were received, a fact which testifies to the esteem in which their services to the Colonies is held. An immense crowd of over 97,000

persons were present at the closing of the Exhibition on the 23rd inst., the usual Saturday throng

being swelled through the enterprise of a newspaper which invited its readers to visit the Crystal Palace free of charge during the last three days of the Exhibition. From May 12th to Sept. 23rd the total number of visitors amounted to 1,219,096. Throughout the summer the Exhibition rapidly gained popularity, and this was shown not only by the attendance, but also by the sales, which continued to be on the up-grade, and ended with a bumper week. The crowd on Saturday was an orderly one, and thanks to the special arrangements which were made for its reception, there was at no time any undue crush, and an object lesson was afforded of the deep interest which the public take in our Colonies and their produce when it is attractively put before them. It was interesting to note how many of the visitors had themselves been to the West Indies, and how eager those who had already been privileged to taste it, were to buy West Indian produce. This leads us to hope that the efforts which have been made by the West Indies to push their produce in the home market during the past summer, will not be relaxed. We have shown what can be done with limes, and in this connection it is worth recording that since we last dealt with the matter we have received an inquiry from Denmark for no less than 1,000 boxes of this fruit. Then again there is sugar. No exhibits attracted more attention than our bottles of raw cane and raw beet, which we invited the public to smell and draw their own conclusions from. As is pointed out in the current *Circular* in an article dealing with the exhibit of the Pure Cane Sugar Co., most people believe that the ordinary lump of sugar which they put in their tea is cane, and that only those flat oblong lumps seen abroad are beet, which, unfortunately, is by no means the case. Others, again, are of opinion that when they get "British Refined Sugar" they are getting British cane-sugar, though we fear in many cases that so-called "British Refined Sugar" is only foreign beet refined in this country. These are matters which such Exhibitions as that which closed on Saturday last bring to the front. But it is not only sugar, but every industry in the West Indies, which should reap the benefit. Settlers will be attracted to the Colonies, tourists will visit them in increasing numbers, and last, but not the least, the spirit of emulation and enterprise will be stimulated in Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, and Grenada, which during the past summer have shown that they can more than hold their own with many of the larger Colonies of the Empire, who for years past have availed themselves of such opportunities as are afforded by these Exhibitions.

IN the introductory remarks to the column entitled "The Homeward Mail" in our present issue, we give some extracts from a Treasury Minute published in the *West India Committee Circular* (No. 55 Old Series), of July 7th, 1890, which at the present time are exceptionally interesting. The occasion was the expiration of the contract for the conveyance of the mails between the Mother Country and the West Indies, when two companies tendered for the new Contract—the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and the Atlas Company. According to this Minute of the Lords of the Treasury, the Government submitted "full particulars of the tenders . . . to the Governors of Jamaica, Trinidad, British Guiana, the Leeward Islands, Barbados and Grenada, with an invitation to ascertain the views of the Colonial Legislatures thereupon." The replies of the Colonies were unanimously in favour of the acceptance of the tender of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and although its acceptance involved an annual charge of £5,000 over the more costly of the two tenders submitted by the Atlas Steamship Company, "the Colonies showed that they attached a substantial importance to the merits of the Royal Mail Company's service as compared with the offer by the Atlas Company," and, still quoting the Minute, "their Lordships felt that the different tenders having been placed before the Colonies for their opinion, a large preponderance must necessarily be allowed to that opinion, whatever direction it might take, in determining which tender should be accepted. As has been pointed out, the Colonies are concerned to the extent of one-third of the loss

upon their service, but that proportion conveys no real measure of the relative importance to them and to the Mother Country of the establishment of their mail service upon the basis most convenient for their interests." Then the Lords of the Treasury went on to say that "the service has since its inception been performed by the Royal Mail Company to the entire satisfaction of the numerous parties interested, and as the difference in cost was comparatively slight, my Lords are not surprised that this consideration appears to have great weight with the Colonies, whose convenience and business depend in so large a manner upon the punctuality and absolute regularity of their communications with Europe and with each other." In these circumstances they authorised the Postmaster-General to accept the tender of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. We cannot help thinking that if the Government had adopted the same course recently as they did in 1890, much unnecessary irritation and inconvenience would have been avoided and the present uncomfortable position with regard to the mail service obviated. The need for a punctual and absolutely regular means of communication with Europe and between the islands is even more essential in 1905 than it was in 1890, especially having regard to the rapid increase of American influence in the Carribean, which has been a constant subject for comment on in our columns, and it is therefore hardly surprising to find that the Colonies are again giving the matter their attention. In British Guiana the Combined Court has recommended placing on the estimates of a sum to give a subsidy not exceeding £5,000 for the purpose of a regular subsidised service as heretofore, and has urged that negotiations to that end may be entered into, with the least possible delay, with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. In Trinidad the Chamber of Commerce has passed a resolution asking that a contract be entered into with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company on the best terms and conditions obtainable, and in the little island of Nevis the Agricultural Society at its last meeting passed a resolution protesting against the retrograde movement which has been adopted with regard to the mail contract. So far, the Colonial Office does not appear to be disposed to sanction the Colonies making separate arrangements. Possibly this may be an indication that the whole question of the mail service is to be reconsidered, and that the wishes of the colonists, who after all must be the best judges on a matter which so vitally affects their interests, will be considered. Time will show.

The Ven. Archdeacon Bindley, D.D.

Principal of Codrington College, Barbados.

Archdeacon Bindley, whose portrait appears on the preceding page, matriculated at Merton College, Oxford, in 1880, and graduated in honours in the final School of Theology, having won the Tutor's Prize in his first year in Divinity, Logic and Classics. At the early age of 27 he had edited Tertullian's *Apologeticum* for the Delegates of the Clarendon Press, which became at once the Standard Edition in English, and he has since written many religious works of importance. He was Gospeller at his ordination as Deacon by the Bishop of Ely, and was licensed to St. Mary's, Ixworth, in Suffolk. From thence he was appointed Principal of Codrington College in 1890, and Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Barbados. In 1893 he was collated to a Canonry. Meantime, his pen had not been idle, for since 1887 he had been writing for "Macmillan's Magazine," "The Guardian," "The Church Quarterly Review," "The Expositor," "The Universal Review," "The Times," "The Pilot," and other secular and ecclesiastical journals. In recognition of his services to the University and his literary work, the University of Durham in 1901, conferred on him the Degree of Doctor of Divinity, by vote of Convocation. In Barbados, Dr. Bindley is one of the Trustees of the Public Library, a Governor of the Lodge School, and, since 1904, Archdeacon of the Diocese. The noble Foundation of which he is Principal, occupies the position of a small but efficient University and more than maintains its place in the class lists of Durham University to which it is affiliated. It will be remembered that at the instance of the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby a fund was raised by the West India

Committee and a financial crisis which threatened the College was tided over, and it is satisfactory to learn from Archdeacon Bindley that the original intentions of its Founder are now being faithfully carried out. During the past five years 23 men have been added to the list of graduates, 11 of whom are either seeking or have been admitted to Holy Orders. At the present time there are in College 9 students from Barbados, 1 from Antigua, 3 from St. Vincent, 2 from British Guiana, 1 from Trinidad, and 1 from St. Kitts; and during the past 6 months the College has contributed 3 Deacons and 4 Priests to the ranks of the clergy in the West Indies. With a full staff of professors, it may be confidently anticipated that the College will continue to attract and send forth men who will be centres of light and leading in every walk of life in all parts of the West Indian Colonies.

Spanish Town Cathedral.

When Spanish Town was the seat of Government in Jamaica it was a town of considerable importance, and the well constructed group of buildings round its central square, now painfully quiet and deserted, testifies to the former grandeur of the city. Near them is the Cathedral, constructed in a homely style of red brick which is in pleasing contrast to the surrounding foliage. It has many interesting monuments, including one to Lady Elgin, and another to a distinguished barrister and former Advocate-General of the island who "enjoyed the uncommon felicity to be unenvied by any, the delight and admiration of all." Spanish Town once had a monastery, an abbey and two churches, of which no traces now remain.—*Sun Pictures of the Antilles.*"

New Members of the West India Committee.

Since the beginning of the year 102 new Members have been elected to the West India Committee. Our readers are reminded that subscriptions from new Members elected during the last three months of the year are held as on account of the year beginning on the following January 1st. Members elected during October, November and December next, will on paying their subscription not have to renew it until January 1st, 1907. Forms of application for membership may be obtained from the Secretary, who will be glad also to forward them direct to persons interested on receipt of their address. The following were elected on Thursday, September 21st.

Name	Proposer.	Second.
LEO. J. HENZELL, Esq. (Antigua).	Hon. A. St. G. Spooner.	C. Griffin, Esq.
ODAMS MANURE & CHEMICAL CO., LTD.	Percy O. Cornwell, Esq.	E. Packard, Esq.
CHAS. R. RELPH, Esq. (Jamaica).	Hon. C. E. de Mercado.	E. A. de Pass, Esq.
GEORGE C. BELL, Esq. (B. Honduras).	Hon. A. R. Usher.	Frank Cundall, Esq.
JAMES D. HARPER, Esq. (Antigua).	E. L. Marshall, Esq.	Hon. A. St. G. Spooner.
J. ALDRIE PEREZ, Esq. (Trinidad).	W. E. Smith, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
MURRAY T. GOW, Esq.	H. Crum Ewing, Esq.	Thomas Prentice, Esq.
MRS. A. PLAXTON.	Frank Cundall, Esq.	E. A. de Pass, Esq.
G. SINCLAIR BROWN, Esq.	T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
E. LOMAS OLIVER, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson.	R. Rutherford, Esq.

The Colonial Exhibition Closed.

The Colonial Exhibition at the Crystal Palace was closed on Saturday, September 23rd. The closing was attended with no ceremony beyond the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," which was rendered with usual honours in the West Indian Court at 11.30 p.m. The number of visitors to the Exhibition from the opening day, May 12th, to the close amounted to the grand total of 1,219,096. Among those who have signed our Visitors Book since we last went to Press are:—

JAMAICA.—Mr. Arthur Levy, Mr. M. Levy, Sister Madeleine, Miss M. E. Gamble, Mr. A. B. Walters, Mrs. B. J. Benning, Mrs. T. M. Burke, Mr. L. S. Gruchy, Mr. S. M. Jacobsen, Mrs. and Miss Orgill, Mr. A. M. Farquharson, Mr. D. H. Broughton Haggatt.

TRINIDAD.—Mr. T. P. Siegert, Mrs. J. Siegert, Mr. Alfred Siegert, Mr. L. Bert de Lamarre, Mr. A. V. Stollmeyer, Mr. H. Strong, Mr. Cyril A. Littlepage, Mrs. and Misses Marwood.

BARBADOS.—Mr. H. J. Fox, Mr. J. J. Law, Mrs. and Miss Law, Mr. H. W. Lofty, Mr. D. A. Wiles.

Mr. A. A. Eldridge, Mr. L. E. Eldridge (Antigua), Mr. Wastel Bull (Demerara), Mr. R. French (Bahamas), Mr. W. S. Stedman, Mr. J. A. Evered (Dominica), Dr. Paterson and party (Grenada), Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Dasent (St. Vincent), Hon. H. E. Thornton (Tobago), Princess Langrana Cavalier and party (India), Lord Dalmeny, Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G., Mr. and Mrs. J. S. O'Halloran, Mr. R. E. Bune (The "Times"), Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. C. A. Philip, Mr. E. Lomas Oliver, Miss Kate St. Clair Ford, Mr. R. Bouverie Cox, Mr. and Mrs. W. Tremayne, Mr. H. Rust and Mr. James Z. Mayhew (The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company).

West Indian Club Dinner to the Exhibition Commissioners.

The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Commissioner for Barbados, Mr. W. E. Smith, Commissioner for Trinidad, Mr. P. J. Dean, Chairman of the Grenada Exhibition Committee and Mr. A. E. Aspinall, were entertained at dinner on September 27th by the Members of the West Indian Club, at the Club Rooms, Howard Hotel, Norfolk Street. There was a full attendance, among those present being: Mr. R. Rutherford, Col. Collings, Mr. T. W. O'Neal, Dr. R. M. Johnson, Dr. Stanley Greaves, Mr. J. Miller, Mr. Macgillivray, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Sydney Shorter, Mr. W. C. Dyett, Mr. A. McD. Nathan, Mr. A. A. Nathan, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. J. J. Sabey, Mr. David Slinger, Mr. F. Berger, Mr. H. Berger, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. W. B. Kingsford, Mr. H. D. Swan, Mr. T. B. Younger, Mr. H. F. Previté, Col. F. C. Trollope, Mr. C. Alleyne, A.S.C., Rev. C. Image and Mr. J. W. D. Thorp.

Mr. A. N. Lumock, who occupied the Chair, in welcoming the guests of the evening said he wished first of all to read a letter from Mr. Sheppard regretting his absence and stating how cordially he welcomed the efforts of all the willing workers. There was at the recent Exhibition one feature of regret, and that was the absence of a British Guiana Court. This was more to be regretted owing to the fact that Exhibitions on this side appeared to be fated to have some Colony absent. In the Exhibition of 1851 British Guiana took a forward place and they read that two very curious interesting models of aboriginal cottages were exhibited, one from British Guiana and one from Trinidad. There were also exhibited from British Guiana 150 productions in a raw or manufactured state and curiosities of aboriginal Indians. From Trinidad Lord Harris sent "a collection including everything of importance in the animal and vegetable and mineral kingdom found in our South American Colonies." On that occasion it is to be regretted that Jamaica was unrepresented. It were well if the Colonies would take to heart the motto of the West Indian Club, "Vis Unita Fortior." There was no doubt whatever as to the usefulness of the Exhibition and that it had led to increased trade between the West Indies and the Mother Country. It had undoubtedly entailed much work which had fallen on the shoulders of some who were unable to be present, among whom he would specially mention, Mr. J. H. Hart, the Commissioner for Trinidad, Mr. John Barclay and Mr. Frank Cundall, the Commissioners for Jamaica. (Cheers). He coupled the toast with the names of the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, who was ever to the fore in all matters connected with Barbados, Mr. W. E. Smith of Trinidad, so well known in connection with the success of all the West Indian Railways with which he had anything to do, the Secretary of the West India Committee, and also Mr. P. J. Dean, a representative of Grenada.

The toast was drunk with enthusiasm, and the Hon. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE, in replying, criticised the title of "Colonial," which had been given to the Exhibition, the lion's share having belonged to the West Indies, and it would be as "West Indian" that the Exhibition would be generally regarded. What was chiefly required at the present time was strong officials at the head of affairs in the West Indies. The West Indies were passing through a critical stage, and it was of the utmost importance that the direction of affairs should be in the hands of thoroughly capable officers. He was sure that the present apathy of the British public with regard to the withdrawal of the troops from the West Indies would not continue; it was a step, the disastrous results of which could not be anticipated. The coloured population of the islands at present was on excellent terms with the white population, but who could tell what would happen if some agitator should arise, as has happened within the memory of those present. He sincerely hoped that the Government would yet see the folly of its policy. He strongly praised the wonderful work which the West India Committee were doing to keep the British public in close touch with the tread of affairs in the West Indies. He considered that the good results attained were very considerably due to the great energy and enthusiasm of the Secretary. The Exhibition, he considered, had been a tremendous success, and he thoroughly approved of the award of the gold medal to Jamaica, whose Court had gone through the "building up" process triumphantly, though he questioned if the medal would have gone to that Colony if the judging had taken place on the day the Exhibition was declared open. Incidentally, Mr. Alleyne mentioned that in the opinion of Sir Augustus Hemming, the constitution of Barbados was the ideal constitution for the Transvaal, as appeared by his letter to the *Spectator* in January last. (Cheers).

Mr. W. E. SMITH (Commissioner for Trinidad) in a forcible speech said that in being called upon to follow so gifted a speaker as his friend and colleague, Mr. Forster M. Alleyne, and knowing as he did that honour was being paid to the Colony of Trinidad he was made doubly conscious of his own

shortcomings as a speaker to do full justice to the occasion and dreaded the wiggling that might be in store for him upon his return to the West Indies. The subject of the toast was, however, one that could under any extreme be lightly disposed of. He regarded the Exhibition as an undertaking of special and serious importance to the future prosperity of the West Indies, including planter, merchant, official and all classes alike, and expressed the belief that a large amount of new interest had been aroused and a distinct success scored, substantial evidence of which was to be seen and heard on all sides. He warmly advocated the early repetition of the Exhibition, in perhaps, a less elaborate form, to be held in the City of London as an annual event, and saw no reason why an occasional demonstration in one or other of our large industrial centres in the provinces should not be included in the programme. As the strongest possible argument in support of any such measure he would draw attention to the all round financial success of the present undertaking and believed he was right in stating that it was the first West Indian Exhibition that had closed its doors with a creditable balance sheet. He attributed this largely to the efforts bestowed upon the Exhibition from its earliest inception by the West India Committee and the local executive of the various islands and was excessively proud to be there that night as the representative of those that had responded so readily and substantially to the invitation sent out to the Colonies in the first instance. In conclusion, he expressed regret that his predecessor, Mr. John H. Hart, was not present to receive his share of the credit, paid a warm tribute to the valuable services given by Professor Carmody and felt that the Exhibition generally, and the Trinidad section in particular, had lost a great deal in the higher industrial, scientific and statistical senses by reason of his regrettable absence at the Crystal Palace during the past two-and-a-half months. (Cheers).

Mr. ASPINALL said that he felt that the only possible pretext of his speaking would be that he did not wish Jamaica to be entirely unrepresented as the successive Commissioners had unfortunately left. They had with them, however, Mr. Nathan, a member of the Exhibition Committee, who could more adequately reply. He thanked the West Indian Club for their hospitality.

Mr. A. McDOWELL NATHAN expressed satisfaction at Mr. Alleyne's statement that Jamaica deserved the gold medal and said he hoped that the lessons of the Exhibition would not be lost sight of, and that every effort would be made to popularise West Indian produce, more especially by inducing the public to discriminate between Colonial cane and foreign beet sugar.

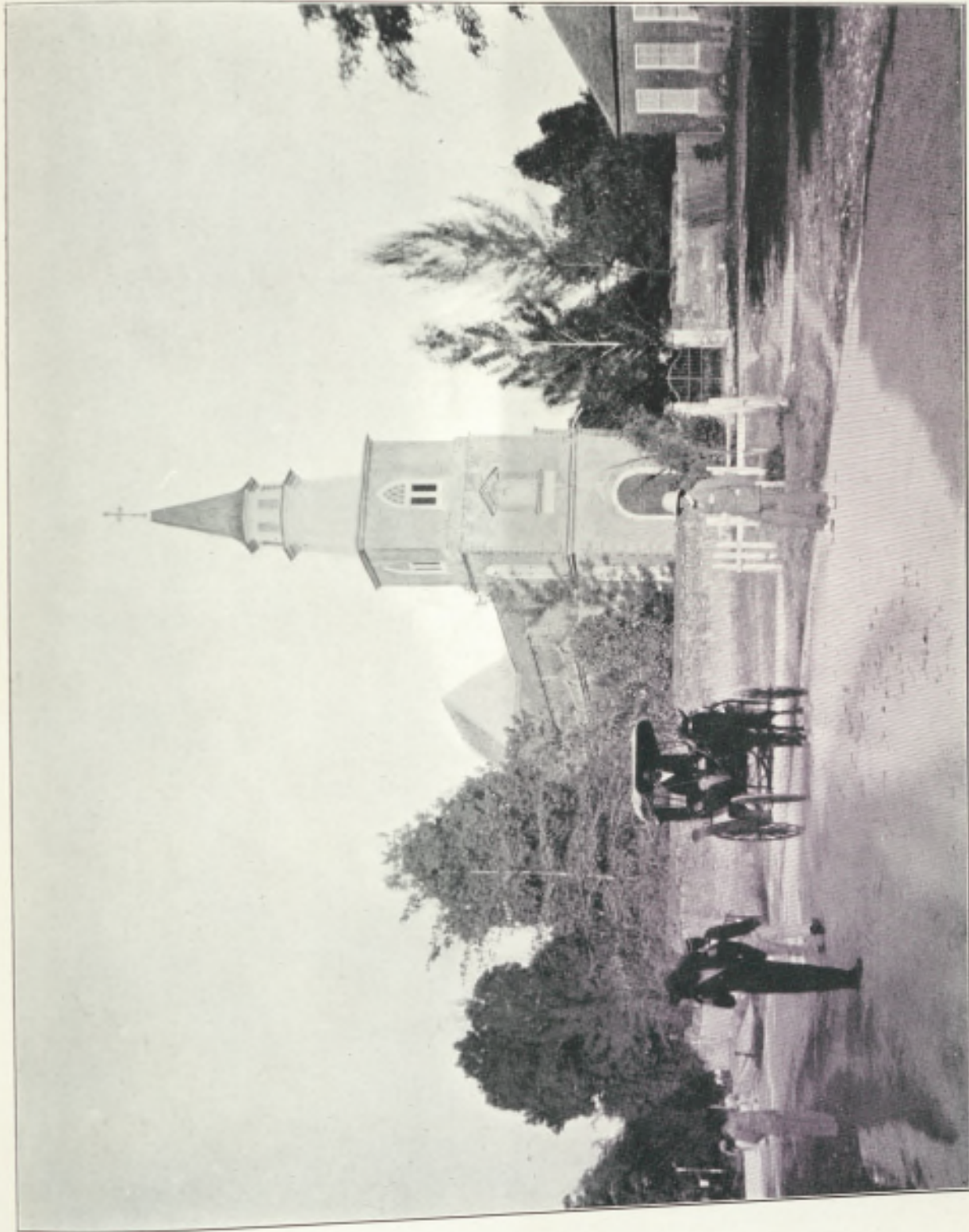
Mr. P. J. DEAN replied on behalf of Grenada and said that they were fully satisfied with the arrangements made, and in order to continue the good work of the past summer a permanent Exhibition Committee had been formed in the Island which would secure the representation of the Colony on every possible occasion.

Mr. R. RUTHERFORD proposed the toast of the Chairman, which was cordially honoured, and Mr. Lubbock having replied, those present proceeded to the Club room, where the remainder of a pleasant evening was spent.

Further Exhibition Awards.

The awards for rum and spirits at the Colonial Exhibition have now been made. The judges were the Army and Navy Co-Operative Society, Ltd., of 105, Victoria Street. The grand prize in this class was awarded to the Government Laboratory of Jamaica, who showed the best collection of well-made high-flavoured rums. The awards were as follows:—

The Jamaica Awards.		
EXHIBITOR.	EXHIBIT.	AWARD.
The Government Laboratory.	The best collection of well-made high-flavoured rums	Grand Prize
Messrs. James Philip & Co.	Rum and Pure Lime Juice	Gold Medal.
Messrs. McNish, Ltd.	Kola	Silver Medal.
Mr. G. Eustace Burke	Old Jamaica Rum and Aromatic Cocktail Bitters	Silver Medal.
Mr. T. M. de Pass	Old Rum and Kola "Pick-me-Up"	Silver Medal.
Messrs. J. Wray & Nephew	Kola Bitters, Kola Wine, Elixir de Kola d'Afrique	Silver Medal.



From "Sun Pictures of the Antilles and British Guiana."

Photo by Algernon E. Aspinall. Copyright.

SPANISH TOWN CATHEDRAL, JAMAICA.

EXHIBITOR.	EXHIBIT.	AWARD.
Messrs. Daniel Finzi & Co.	Pimento Dram, "Special Reserve" Rum, and Black Label Rum	Bronze Medal.
Messrs. McNish, Ltd.	Kola Wine and Vin Kola Bitters	Bronze Medal.
Messrs. J. Wray & Nephew	Prune Dram, Pimento Dram, and old Rums	Bronze Medal.
Messrs. Daniel Finzi & Co.	3-Star and 1-Star Rum	Bronze Medal.
Mr. T. M. de Pass	Vin Kola	Bronze Medal.
Mr. G. Eustace Burke	Peppermint, Pimento Dram and Aniseed	Bronze Medal.
Messrs. James Philip & Co.	Philernum, Green Ginger Wine and Lime Juice Cordial	Bronze Medal.
Mr. Conrad Simon	Liqueurs	Bronze Medal.
The Trinidad Awards.		
Mr. John Ferreira	White Rum	Gold Medal.
Messrs. J. B. Seigert & Sons	Angostura Bitters	Gold Medal.
Mr. John Ferreira	Compound Bitters and extra special Old Rum	Silver Medal.
Mr. J. Ribeiro	Old Rum	Silver Medal.
Messrs. Smith, Robertson & Co.	Old White Rum	Silver Medal.
The New Colonial Co., Ltd.	Rum	Bronze Medal.
Mr. J. M. Marquez	"The Renown" Falernum	Bronze Medal.
Messrs. James Philip & Co.	Falernum and Rum Shrub	Bronze Medal.
Mr. John Ferreira	Falernum, Orange Cordial, Crème de Menthe, and Wormwood Bitters	Bronze Medal.
The Barbados Awards.		
The West India Rum Refinery Mr. F. Browne, Carrington Pln. (Mr. George Carrington's estate)	White Spirit	Gold Medal.
Mr. H. S. Batson, Batson's Distillery	White Spirit	Gold Medal.
The Committee	High strength White Spirit Orange Bitters	Gold Medal. Gold Medal.
The Committee	Shaddock Bitters	Silver Medal.
Mr. G. C. Edghill, Mount Gay Plantation (Sir A. C. Thornhill's estate)	White and Coloured Rums Old Barbados Rum and Bay Rum	Silver Medal. Silver Medal.
Messrs. James Philip & Co.	Coloured Rums	Bronze Medal.
The West India Rum Refinery Mr. H. S. Batson, Batson's Distillery	Coloured Rums	Bronze Medal.
Messrs. J. R. Bancroft & Co.	White Falernum	Bronze Medal.
Messrs. G. Whitfield & Co., Ltd.	White Falernum	Bronze Medal.

The awards for tobacco, cigars and cattle foods have still to be published.

"Molascuit" at the Colonial Exhibition.

When in 1902 the first experiment in the making of Molascuit, the cattle food composed of the interior cellulose fibre of the sugar cane,—screened from the megass (crushed cane) and molasses,—patented by Mr. George Hughes, was conducted on Carrington Plantation, Barbados, it was hardly expected that the manufacture of this commodity would be taken up so widely as it has been in different parts of the world including Argentina, Java, Mauritius, Queensland and Natal, and become

an industry of such importance. We have repeatedly drawn attention to the value of this commodity



The Molascuit Company's Display at the Colonial Exhibition.

firm was awarded a gold medal. The latter exhibit was surmounted by a poster representing a winter scene on a farm, with Molascuit well to the fore, and the features of the poster can be distinctly seen in the illustration which we reproduce in the present issue (p. 391).

The Gold Medal awarded to Jamaica.



The above is a photograph of the obverse and reverse of the gold medal given by the Halifax and Bermuda Cable Company, and the Direct West India Cable Company, and awarded to Jamaica for the best collective exhibit at the Colonial Exhibition, irrespective of size, from a West Indian Colony.

The Pure Cane Sugar Company's Exhibit.

Considering the important position occupied by sugar in our food supply, it is surprising how indifferent the public is regarding the quality of the product with which it is supplied. Though chemically the saccharine contents of cane-sugar and beet-sugar may be identical, it is an admitted fact that owing to its action in the salivary glands, cane-sugar imparts a greater sense of sweetness to the palate, and to instil this into the minds of the British public is one of the objects of the "Pure Cane Sugar Company," and Messrs. James Philip & Co., of 4, Fenchurch Buildings, who were awarded two gold medals, besides several minor awards for their exhibit at the recent Colonial Exhibition. There are many people who still think that all sugar in cubes is cane, and only those flat oblong lumps of sugar one sees on the Continent are beet, and a still larger class believe that when they are getting "British Refined Sugar," they are getting British Colonial sugar instead of as is generally the case *foreign beet sugar* refined in this country. Such people would do well to communicate with the Pure Cane Sugar Company, who are doing a good work in calling attention to the superiority of Colonial cane over foreign beet, and deserve a large measure of support from our readers. But these two firms do not confine their



Messrs. James Philip & Company and the Pure Cane Sugar Company's Exhibit at the Colonial Exhibition.



Messrs. Booker Brothers, McConnell & Company's Molascuit Exhibit at the Colonial Exhibition.

attention to sugar, and their handsome show case, which was appropriately placed near our West Indian Produce Stall, contained samples of every kind of commodity yielded by the most fertile islands in the world. Jamaica cigars, cocoa, Blue Mountain coffee, preserves of every sort, honey, rums, liqueurs including "Philer-num," a speciality of the firm, which was so much appreciated at the luncheon to our Canadian visitors, were among the exhibits which were well put up and arranged.

The Colonial Bank.

For the half-year ended December last the rate of dividend of the Colonial Bank was raised from 6 per cent., at which it had stood for many years, to 7 per cent. per annum, and the higher level is now maintained for the half year ended June. The report shows a credit balance of £41,000. The directors recommend a dividend of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the half-year, leaving £20,000 to be carried forward. The season has been disappointing as regards crops, and the

price of sugar has continuously declined, the quotation now ruling for beet of standard quality being below cost of production. The planting of Sea Island cotton in those places suited to its production is making fair progress. The weather up to the present time has been generally favourable for the growing crops.



The above is a reproduction of the medal of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, 1905, which is struck in gold, silver and bronze. The engraving is deep, and the design, as will be seen, a very handsome one. It represents Peace opening the doors of the Crystal Palace to Chemistry, Science and Art, and is the design which has been used for successive exhibitions from 1884.

Cane-Farming in Trinidad.

We are glad to be able to state that the prospects of an agreement being arrived at among the planters of Trinidad, with regard to the question of the purchase of farmers' canes, are more favourable. Following our usual custom, we give below the figures for the cane farmers' crop of 1905, which have been collected by our Hon. Correspondent, Mr. Edgar Tripp, and were to be laid before the Agricultural Society of the Colony on September 12th. It is to be regretted that the quality of farmers' canes gave rise to complaint. Mr. P. Abel, of the Usine St. Madeleine, stated that the canes received could not have been worse, while the prices paid were ruinous, and it was impossible that the purchase of canes on such conditions should last. Mr. Ernest B. Connell, the manager of "Perseverance," "Cedros" and "St. John," adds a note to the effect that the class of canes received from the farmers was absolutely worthless, the greater portion having only a fuel value. It is clear from these notes that if the industry is to be maintained on a profitable basis, greater attention must be paid by the cane farmers to cultivation, and we have no doubt that they will be wise in time and take the advice given them seriously.

ESTATE.	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.	No. of Farmers	
						East Indian.	West Indian.
Brechin Castle ...	3,230	*****	29,402	1,887	\$ 6,367	100	70
Bronté ...	1,750	*****	8,411	11,361	38,172	536	204
Caroni ...	3,960	*****	32,185	7,579	24,276	196	286
Craignish ...	450	*****	*****	3,866	12,722	187	121
Usine St. Madeleine	8,711	*****	86,540	35,677	119,933	1,571	1,244
Esperanza ...	1,730	*****	11,940	7,629	25,584	195	179
Forres Bark ...	890	*****	*****	10,511	35,317	337	166
Hindustan ...	403	*****	2,407	2,764	9,217	78	297
La Florissante ...	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
Mon Desir ...	205	†	†	1,064	3,125	43	39
Orange Grove ...	2,643	*****	16,200	9,512	31,748	181	818
Palmiste ...	1,760	*****	6,990	12,275	41,246	244	315
Perseverance ...	500	*****	4,925	1,489	3,395	37	28
Reform ...	950	†	†	11,261	37,206	530	215
Tennant's Estates ...	5,904	*****	44,737	12,802	41,845	762	735
Woodford Lodge ...	3,084	*****	15,678	11,631	38,984	325	486
Waterloo ...	2,010	*****	20,681	3,560	11,961	102	259
	38,240		280,096	144,868	\$ 481,078	5,424	5,462
Return for 1904 ...	50,744	1,669	585,015	171,947	\$ 360,046	4,646	4,685
" " 1903 ...		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	304,355	105,996	227,865	2,826	3,591
" " 1899 ...		1,571	426,306	106,741	219,011	2,826	3,870
" " 1898 ...	No Returns.			105,753	202,901	2,326	3,824

* Besides 1,688 tons from Endeavour and 4,020 tons from Mon Plaisir bought on private terms.

† Estate canes and proportion sugar made from Estate canes not weighed.

Hurricane Insurance.

In a recent issue we referred to the proposals made by Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, the Administrator of Dominica, for insurance of plantations and buildings in the West Indies against hurricanes, and we now give details of the scheme as set out in his memorandum.

"The underwriters should, at first, only undertake risks that are capable of easy assessment. The insurance of cultivation of bananas, which are liable to great damage from winds of even moderate force, should not be undertaken until the project has been thoroughly established. Later on, when the scheme has proved itself a workable and practical one, the scope of insurance could be extended in many directions, and a variety of risks might be provided for. In Dominica, for instance, the underwriters should, at the outset, limit themselves to risks on plantations of cocoa, limes, oranges, and such like trees. These are the three staple products of the island, and the market value of these trees is well known. The preliminary valuation of an estate, for the purpose of an insurance, would be an easy matter, and the assessment of subsequent damage would present but little difficulty. Dwelling-houses and estate-buildings could also be insured, and fire risks might be included in these.

"Insurances might be of three classes:—

- (1) Damage to buildings.
- (2) Damage to cultivation.
- (3) Loss of crops.

"To serve as an illustration, we might take the case of a plantation of lime trees, valued at £3000, on the following data:—

(1)	Dwelling-house and estate-buildings, worth	... ..	£500
(2)	15,000 lime trees, valued at from 1s. to 4s. each, according to age, say	... ..	2000
(3)	Crops for the year, valued at	... ..	500
	Total...	... ..	£3000

"The owner could effect insurances on any of these classes or on all of them. As the total and complete destruction of his property by a hurricane is an extremely remote probability he would doubtless only insure for a moderate proportion of the entire value, and in the case of the typical estate, referred to above, the owner would probably be satisfied with an insurance of £250 on his buildings, and of £750 on his cultivation. He would, however, act wisely in covering the entire risk on his crop. A comparatively mild hurricane might completely destroy the fruit, and yet do but little damage to trees or buildings.

"The rates on the three classes of insurance above suggested would, of course, vary according to risk, and also be tempered by local conditions. I would suggest that taking 10 as the minimum unit or basis of insurance, the rates on the three classes might bear the following ratios to each other:—

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------|--------|---------|
| (1) | On buildings | ... .. | say 10. |
| (2) | On cultivation | ... .. | " 15. |
| (3) | On crop | ... .. | " 25. |

"The rates on various cultivations would also, of course, differ. For instance, a lime-tree is more liable to lose its fruit than a cocoa-tree, though both can be entirely uprooted by a hurricane. An orange-tree, on the contrary, would probably lose its crop but would run but little risk of complete destruction.

"In assessing damage done by a hurricane, the loss sustained in class (1) 'Buildings' would be ascertained just as in a fire insurance, without any difficulty; and compensation would be given accordingly.

"The assessment of loss in class (2) 'Cultivation' would be a more troublesome matter, but need present no insurmountable difficulties. By taking the value of a full-grown lime tree at 4s., that of a cocoa tree in full bearing at 5s., and that of a seven-year-old orange tree at £1, it would be quite easy to arrive at almost the exact loss suffered. The full compensation would be allowed for trees that had been rooted out of the ground, while correspondingly reduced amounts would be given for each tree only temporarily or partially injured.

"The compensation for insurance in class (3) 'loss of crop' could easily be computed. Apart from the fact that planters keep books and a record of their crops, the 'export entries' filed at the Custom House would, in most cases, disclose the crop shipped from an estate in any preceding year. The loss of an estate's produce through a hurricane could, therefore, be calculated without difficulty, and compensation would be made to that extent only.

"In any proposal for insurance, the underwriters could elect to cover risks to the full extent of the valuation of an estate, or only to a proportion thereof. Although, in the latter case, the premiums might, presumably, be rather lower than in the former, it would appear to be to the advantage of the underwriters to effect insurances on as large a limit as possible. Premium on the full sum would be received, but only actual damage would be paid for. The destruction of buildings by fire may be attended by fraud, but the agency of a hurricane is beyond the control of a dishonest person.

"In order to protect the underwriters against trifling or trumpery claims, it might be understood (at all events, at the outset) that no compensation would be paid unless the damage amounted to a value of £20. This would practically guarantee the insurance company from any claims save where a severe and unmistakable hurricane had occurred. We know, by the records of the past, and especially by those of the last twenty-seven years, what the average risks of those occurrences amount to, and the rates of insurances can be calculated accordingly.

"Save in exceptional circumstances the final assessment of damage to a plantation should not be made until at least one month after the occurrence of a hurricane. By that time the first effects of shock or suffering would have passed off, and more correct and temperate estimates could be made. In cases of acute distress and urgent need, preliminary payments on account, could, however, be allowed.

"There would be no difficulty in securing competent and honest local agents for the underwriters, and assessors whose judgment and local knowledge could be relied on. I shall be happy to recommend suitable persons. I calculate that there are in Dominica some fifty plantations, varying in extent from 200 to 2000 acres.

"These are all owned by responsible persons, who would be likely to take advantage of an insurance against hurricanes. Most of them grow both limes and cocoa, in varying proportions, while others have oranges, nutmegs and coffee. A few have some cane cultivation, while others are beginning to grow rubber. Besides the large estates above referred to, there are many smaller ones which would doubtless be insured. There are also some thousands of small holdings, mostly owned by peasants, but these need not, for the present, be taken into consideration. The fifty important properties, which I have in my mind's eye, may fairly be valued at a total of £240,000. This sum, however, represents their probable price if they came into the market, and includes a number of considerations which would be outside the scope of an insurance policy. We may, I think, prudently take £200,000 as an estimate of the value of buildings and cultivations which might be affected by a hurricane, and the annual insurable crop could be put down at £50,000. I believe my figures would be considered, locally, as very conservative.

"It will at once be seen that the scope of an insurance business in this island may attain a considerable scale. But not in Dominica alone would such a scheme be cordially welcomed, for there

is good reason to believe that in nearly every isle of the Caribbean Sea, north of latitude 12° N., the project would receive eager support. Even the bare rumour that I am trying to organise such a scheme has brought me correspondence from several persons in the neighbouring islands indicating a keen desire to participate in it. Once started on a sound and practical basis, the scheme would rapidly assume important dimensions, and might, in time, represent an immense capital.

"By materially reducing the probability of loss from hurricanes, agricultural enterprise in the West Indies would be relieved of its greatest handicap. The value of investments in property would be appreciably improved; money could be borrowed on far easier terms than at present; and capital would be attracted to these beautiful islands.

"The limits of this memorandum have perforce restricted me to the bald outlines of the scheme indicated, but I trust that what I have written may suffice to show, to those interested, that a scheme for insurance against the effects of hurricanes is within the bounds of practical business, and that it may be worked not only to the comfort of the colonists but also to the profit of the underwriters."

The 1st West India Regiment.

A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH BY COLONEL A. R. LOSCOMBE.

(Concluded from page 374).

The year 1894 again saw the 1st West India on service at the Gambia, where a naval brigade, which had been landed to coerce a recalcitrant chief, had met with a serious repulse. Three companies of the regiment were at once despatched from Sierra Leone to the Gambia, and were landed in the Combo country, where, in conjunction with the Royal Navy, they, in a short campaign, lasting only eleven days, completely overran the enemy's country, destroying ten of his towns, of which eight were fortified with stockades.

In these various expeditions the battalion lost seven officers (including Colonel Ellis, who died from the effects of hardships undergone on the Sofa expedition, before he had heard that he had been made a K.C.B. for his services), three English sergeant-majors, two native sergeants, and forty-seven men, besides many wounded.

In the spring of 1898 a serious rebellion broke out in Sierra Leone owing to the imposition of a hut-tax, or more probably owing to the manner in which it was collected, which was only suppressed after many months hard fighting, in which the 1st West India lost heavily, no less than five officers and twenty-two men giving their lives in the course of a tedious and difficult campaign, in which, owing to the densely-wooded nature of the country, the native warrior had every advantage as compared with the regular soldier.



Lieut. J. R. Heard.

Lieut. J. R. Heard has been in command of the band of the 1st West India Regiment during their visit to this country. He is at present touring the provinces with the band, who are receiving an enthusiastic reception wherever they go.

The following honours were placed on the colours in recognition of the services of the regiment during these recent campaigns: "West Africa, 1887, 1892-3-4," and "Sierra Leone."

This was the last active service on which the 1st West India has been engaged, the regiment taking no part in the South African war, it being considered inexpedient for political reasons to employ native troops. It, however, formed part of the garrison of Bermuda during the time that nearly 5000 Boer prisoners of war were interned there.



A Handsman of the 1st W.I. Regiment.

for two. The employment of West Indian troops in Europe presents difficulties other than those of climate, which are sufficiently obvious, and which it would be difficult to overcome; but these difficulties disappear, I suggest, in the case of such places as Ceylon, Egypt, Mauritius, South Africa, and Bermuda, where their employment would release a corresponding number of British soldiers, whose services might be utilized nearer home.

That the regiment exercises a powerful civilizing and educational influence in the West Indies is a fact which is scarcely sufficiently recognised even in the islands themselves, but it is none the less the case that few men leave its ranks without being better men and better citizens for the twelve years they have spent in them.

I might here mention that the West India Regiment, as now constituted, has a certain claim, at present unrecognised, to be regarded as a "Royal regiment," representing as it does the old 3rd West India and the 5th or Duke of York's West India, both of them Royal regiments. This claim moreover receives some heraldic support from the fact that the Garter forms a component part of the regimental badge, a distinction granted as a rule only to Royal regiments.

I do not think I can better conclude this sketch than by quoting from a speech made in the House of Commons by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the then Secretary of State for War, when

I have now traced the history of the 1st West India Regiment from its origin in a corps of settlers who remained loyal in the revolted North American Colonies in the year 1779, and have given an outline, necessarily bald and incomplete, of the services it has rendered to its Sovereign and to the British Empire down to the present day. How those services were esteemed at the time they were rendered may be gathered from the fact that it has served under, and has gained the commendation of such famous commanders as Sir Ralph Abercromby, Sir John Moore, Sir George Prevost, Sir Edward Pakenham, and Lord Wolseley. This being the case it will strike many, after reading the above, as a strange thing that at a time like the present, when the supply of soldiers is barely sufficient for our needs, there should be only two West India battalions in our service. The West Indies afford a magnificent recruiting field, of which the fringe is scarcely touched upon, to obtain the supply now demanded, and it could yield the number required for six battalions as easily as it now does those needed

introducing the Army Estimates for 1895-96. The occasion was shortly after the return of the Sofa expedition, and he said:—

“I wish to say a word of sincere and well-earned praise to a particular corps. The West India Regiment . . . has never failed in its duty, and its gallantry and endurance have stood every test. The whole army in my opinion may well be proud of their comrades in the West India Regiment.” (Cheers.)

Liverpool and Tropical Research.

We have received from Lord Mountmorres, the Director, a prospectus of the newly-formed Liverpool Institute of Tropical Research, of which Sir Alfred L. Jones is Chairman. The objects of the Institute are (i.) to collect and tabulate all kinds of information regarding Tropical Countries, their products, natural resources, industries, and economic conditions, which can be of service either to commerce or to science; (ii.) to study the Botany, Zoology, Geology, Ethnology, Meteorology and Physiography of Tropical Countries, more particularly in their relation to the commercial and political development of British Tropical Colonies; (iii.) to investigate all kinds of scientific problems which arise in connection with the Tropics and the industries dependent on them; (iv.) to train experts in the various branches of applied science concerned; and (v.) to supply information and advice to all interested in the Tropics.

The means adopted to effect these objects will be Scientific and Exploratory Expeditions to Tropical Countries; the establishment of a bureau in Liverpool where the latest scientific and commercial information may be obtained; Research work in the Laboratories of the University by a staff of experts under the guidance of the University Professors; the publication of reports, returns, pamphlets and monographs, and the delivery of lectures and addresses; correspondence and exchange with Government departments and learned societies, both at home and abroad.

Arrangements are being made to despatch an expedition to the West Coast of Africa to investigate several botanical problems of the utmost importance from a utilitarian point of view. Special attention will be devoted to Rubber, Timber, and Pulp. It is hoped that immediate benefit may result from the researches of this Expedition, which will probably start about October next, and will be accompanied by an Economic Botanist and Chemist of the highest possible standing.

Meanwhile, scientific expeditions, either private or under the auspices of similar bodies, have already commenced working in, or are about to start for: (1) the Amazon; (2) Ceylon; (3) Uganda; (4) Bolivia and Western Brazil; (5) Spanish North-West Africa; (6) The Red Sea; (7) The Congo; and it is intended forthwith to arrange with the members of these expeditions to act simultaneously on behalf of the Institute. The controlling authorities of these expeditions at home, having already been consulted, have given their consent to these arrangements. Much valuable information should thus be obtained at a very small cost to the Institute.

Consular Reports.

The Sugar Industry in Chinde.

In his report, dated September 1905, on the trade of Chinde for the year 1904, Mr. Vice-Consul Stanley Hewitt-Fletcher states that the two companies engaged in growing sugar in the Zambesi Valley have had excellent crops last year (1904). The Companhia do Assucar de Mocambique has its plantations on the left bank of the river. It employs some 20 Europeans, 10 Genoese, and a number of natives, varying between 2,000 and 3,000 according to the season. In 1904 the output of sugar was 3,700 tons, nearly double that in 1903. The Companhia de Exploracao da Fabrica de Marromeu was formed in 1903 to take over the properties of a company somewhat similarly named. It is established

on the right bank of the Zambesi. The river is encroaching on the shore, and it will shortly be necessary to remove the buildings further inland. Their output of sugar in 1904 was 3,750 tons. It is not anticipated that it will be so much in 1905. The Portuguese Government encourages the sugar industry in its African colonies (Mocambique and Angola) by allowing a rebate of 50 per cent. off the import duty (120 reis per kilo.) levied on sugar entering Portugal. At the present rate of exchange, therefore, this sugar benefits to the extent of about £11 per ton. The quantity of sugar allowed to enter Portugal at half duty in this way is, however, limited to 6,000 tons from either colony. Sugar above that quantity pays the full duty. The experience of years has proved that sugar thrives in the Zambesi lowlands near the river, and it is thought that cotton would do equally well there and in the lower Shiré district, where similar conditions of soil and climate obtain. Two cotton experts (one of whom came out for the Government of British Central Africa) have investigated the question of cotton growing in the latter locality, and their opinions are distinctly favourable.

The "Naudet Process" in Madeira.

Mr. Consul Vicars, in his report on the trade of Madeira for 1904, again makes reference to the Naudet process of sugar manufacture. "There seems little doubt that sooner or later all planters will be compelled to instal the new system, which not only reduces the cost of sugar manufacture and facilitates the whole process, but—a point of even greater importance—extracts the whole of the juice, except about 0.36 per cent., instead of allowing a large proportion of the sugar to go to waste, as has hitherto been the case. In these days of keen competition such advantages are of the utmost importance." The sugar-cane crop of Madeira for 1904 was approximately the same as that of the previous year, and there have been no complaints of disease in the cane, the season having in this respect been a very good one. The most remarkable feature of the crop has been the largely increased quantity of Yuba cane now grown in the island. This would seem to point to the fact that the grower obtains a larger quantity of cane per acre with the Yuba than with other kinds, which it will probably supersede altogether in course of time. From the refiner's point of view this is of no particular advantage, as the cane gives little, if any, additional purity of juice, and is, moreover, more difficult to crush, owing to the extreme toughness of the rind.

Tropical Produce in the Society Islands.

From 1895 to 1901 inclusive the export of copra from Tahiti averaged 5,000 tons per annum. In 1902 and 1903, however, the output increased to 7,100 and 8,500 tons respectively, but fell in 1904 to 5,600 tons in consequence of the presence in certain of the copra-producing districts of a species of acarus (*Aspidiotus devastatrix*) which attacks the cocoa-nut tree and affects the production of nuts. This pest soon disappears under the influence of continued heavy rains, however, and the trees, with the exception of a small percentage which succumb, usually recover within a period of two years and yield as prolifically as before. Copra is in good demand at profitable rates, and it is therefore satisfactory to learn that cocoa-nut trees are being planted freely in these possessions. Sugar-cane, which is indigenous to Tahiti, grows in these islands under naturally favourable conditions, and yields over three tons of dry sugar per acre. Nevertheless, its cultivation is restricted to the requirements of the colony, notwithstanding that it is generally admitted that the unutilised lands at Tahiti are alone capable of producing cane sufficient for the manufacture of sugar in considerable quantities. Sea-island cotton, another article peculiarly adapted to cultivation in this district, was at one time a valuable export hence. Introduced into Tahiti in the late sixties, the annual output of clean, baled material up to the year 1885 averaged 1,070,631 lbs. From 1886-1900 this average fell to 385,384 lbs., since which its export has practically ceased. Coffee also does well in these islands, but its cultivation has never been seriously taken in hand, although a growing local demand is met by supplies from the Cook Islands.

Notes of Interest.

THE NEW BISHOP. The consecration of the Rev. A. E. Joscelyne, the new Assistant-Bishop of Jamaica, is to take place on October 18th in Westminster Abbey.

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.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended September 21st 33 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.20d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb.

**FEDERATION
WITH CANADA.**

Mr. Edward R. Davson had an interesting and well-thought out letter in the *Times* of September 16th, on the subject of federation with Canada. After discussing the pros and cons of the question he urged that while the matter might be seriously considered, no undue haste should be shown.

BINDING CASES.

For Members desirous of having their Circulars bound, handsome lettered cases 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.

TRINIDAD'S MOTTO.

A correspondent writes to ask us for the meaning of the motto of the colony of Trinidad, "*Miscerique probat populos et fœdera jungi.*" Roughly translated it is "He approves the mingling of the nations and linking by treaty bonds." The line in Virgil of which the motto is a corruption runs "*Miscerere probet populos aut fœdera jungi.*" The speaker is Venus, who is uncertain whether Jove would approve of the union of the Trojans and Didos people.

**THE TRINIDAD
RAILWAYS.**

The earnings of railways form a sure and certain index of the rising or falling prosperity of a country and in this connection it is satisfactory to note from the report of Mr. W. E. Smith, the general manager of the Trinidad Government Railways, that the total revenue of the lines for 1904 amounted to £93,574 as compared with £84,615 in the previous year, an increase of £8,959. The gross profit earned was £34,797, a sum equal to 5.6 per cent. upon the total debt outstanding on March 31st, 1905, a figure which does infinite credit to Mr. Smith, whose management is applauded by the local press to hand by the mail.

THE W. I. BAND**TOUR.**

At the last meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Colonel Loscombe and the officers of the 1st Battalion, West India Regiment, for permitting their band to visit this country, the West India Committee feeling that their visit has done much to enhance the success of the Colonial Exhibition. Judging by the Press cuttings we receive, the provincial tour is proving extremely satisfactory, and the result from an educational and Imperial standpoint should be far-reaching. The band plays to-day at Truro in the morning, and Penzance in the evening, and the following are the fixtures for the tour up to Oct. 7th: Sept. 30th, Newquay and Liskeard; Oct. 1, Plymouth; Oct. 2, Torquay; Oct. 3, Gloucester; Oct. 4, Hereford and Abergavenny; October 5, Great Malvern and Stourbridge; Oct. 6, Leamington Spa, and on Oct. 7, Buxton and Southport.

MAIL

The Homeward Mails by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company are due on **ARRANGEMENTS.** Tuesday, October 3rd; Tuesday, October 17th; Monday, November 6th; Saturday, November 25th, and fortnightly thereafter. Future sailings of the R.M.S.P. Company's steamers from Southampton are advertised for Saturday, September 30th, and fortnightly thereafter. The following opportunities for posting letters by private ships and I.D.W.I.M.S. steamer after the departure of the West Indian Mail on Saturday next are advertised: S.S. "*Serrana*" from London, for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Martinique, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, Demerara, and Berbice, October 5th; S.S. "*Crown of Granada*" from Glasgow, for Barbados, Trinidad, and Demerara, Oct. 5th; the R.M.S. "*Port Royal*," from Bristol, for Kingston, Jamaica, October 6th; and the S.S. "*Yucatan*" from Liverpool, for Barbados and Trinidad, October 10th.

The Homeward Mail.

In 1890, when the contract for the conveyance of the West Indian mails expired, the Lords of the Treasury communicated full particulars of the tenders to the Governors of the West Indian Colonies, with an invitation that they should ascertain the feelings of the Colonial Legislatures regarding them. In recommending the adoption of the views of the Colonies, the Treasury issued a minute dated June 4th, 1890, in which they stated that though the Colonies were concerned to the extent of one-third of the loss upon the mail service, that proportion conveyed no real measure of the relative importance to them and to the Mother Country of the establishment of their mail service upon the basis most convenient for their interests; and further, in the same dispatch, they emphasised the fact that the Colonies' "convenience and business depend in so large a manner upon the punctuality and absolute regularity of their communications with Europe and with each other." Since this important minute was written conditions have not changed to any great extent, except in so far as concerns the increase of American influence in the Caribbean which makes it more important than ever that regular and effective communication with the Mother Country should be maintained. The Government listened to the Colonies in 1890, they listened to them in May last, and we can hardly doubt that they will listen to them again when the representations of the leading commercial bodies are received. The

present arrangements are causing considerable bewilderment, and already we receive complaints of delays in delivery of the mails and of letters going astray. It is becoming increasingly evident that the matter is one which must again be seriously taken in hand by the Government.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Tagus" arrived at Southampton at 4 a.m. on Tuesday, September 19th, and the mails were delivered in London on the same afternoon. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Royal" arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, September 27th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received by various opportunities:—

Barbados—Very Favourable Weather.

(T. W. WILKINSON, ESQ.) September 6th—A polo team from Trinidad was to arrive in the island on the following day, and a cricket team from St. Vincent and St. Lucia on September 12th.

Mr Alleyne, son of the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Private Secretary and A.D.C. to Sir Frederic Hodgson, was to pass through the island on the following day for England, where he is to be married to Miss Cox.

Mr Horace Deighton was entertained at a farewell dinner at the Bridgetown Club, on August 25th, on his retirement from the head-mastership of Harrison College.

Good showers were keeping the canes in a green and healthy condition, and ground provisions were plentiful.

British Guiana—The Mail Question.

(J. McCOWAN, ESQ.) September 4th—There had been no sales of crystals during the fortnight. The nominal value was \$2 10 to \$2 12½.

Meetings of the Court of Policy were held on August 25th and 30th, and at a meeting of the Combined Court on August 26th, the following resolution regarding the mail question was adopted by 7 votes to 3, the officials abstaining from voting:

"That as it is absolutely necessary in the general interests of the Colony that there should be a regular subsidized service as heretofore, this Court strongly recommends the placing on the estimates of a sum to give a subsidy not exceeding £5000, or \$24,000 per annum for this purpose, and that negotiations to that end be entered into with the least possible delay with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company."

The weather had been too dry during the fortnight, and good rains were wanted generally.

Dominica—The Mail Arrangements.

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.) September 2nd—The homeward mail calling on Sundays was causing inconvenience, but this had been largely mitigated by the agent making arrangements for homeward cargo to be taken on board as far as possible as the steamer went north.

There had been some further difficulty with regard to the electric light for Roseau, and the Town Board had now decided not to use it for lighting the streets.

A new bi-weekly paper, *The Leeward Islands Free Press*, had made its appearance. (We are indebted to the Editor for specimen copies of this well got-up newspaper.—E.D.).

Grenada—Precautions against Anthrax.

(Hon. D. S. DE FREITAS) September 5th—Anthrax had made its appearance in St. George's, and its introduction into that town had been traced to some sheep bought from one of the Grenadine Islets. A Bill to make provision respecting contagious diseases of cattle and other animals would be submitted at a special meeting of the Legislative Council convened for the following day, September 6th.

The rainfall for August was 13.35 inches. Hardly a day passed without a heavy downpour. The nights were cool, and the temperature fell as low as 66° three nights ago.

Jamaica—The Canadian Preference.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, ESQ.) September 6th—The Hon. W. S. Fielding, Canadian Minister of Finance, had agreed to the suggestion made by the writer that a delegate should attend the meetings of the Tariff Conference in Canada to point out that the rebate in duty granted to British grown sugar under the present Canadian tariff, was failing to benefit the West Indian producer. A special meeting of the Merchants' Exchange was shortly to be called to discuss the question, and appoint a delegate to proceed to Canada.

As usual, the weather was very warm at this time of the year.

Montserrat—Too dry for Cotton.

(CONRAD WATSON, ESQ.) September 2nd—The weather for the month of August had been very dry and hot, and had destroyed all hope of a good cotton crop this season; the lime crop also would probably be a very small one.

Nevis—The Yield of Cotton.

(Hon. C. A. SHAND), September 7th—1,000 acres under cotton in Nevis had yielded over 150,000 lbs. of lint. About 1,500 acres of land would be sown in Nevis for 1906 cotton crop, an advance of 50% in this season.

The writer was glad to see that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company had decided to revert to a service upon the same lines, as far as the islands were concerned, as formerly. The Agricultural and Commercial Society at its last meeting, passed a protest against the retrograde policy which had been adopted with regard to the mail contract, and it was hoped that action might be taken generally.

The weather since last mail had been very dry, but on the previous night nice showers had fallen. Heavy rain was much needed.

St. Kitts—The Local Defence Force.

(CHARLES A. SMITH, ESQ.) September 2nd—Since last advices they had had good growing weather, hot suns and frequent showers. The frequent thunderstorms they were experiencing would, it was hoped, ward off any gales which might be in the vicinity, and so enable them to pass in safety through this anxious season.

The Defence Force of the island was inspected by Major-General Dickson, the officer in command of the troops in Barbados, at "Springfield," on August 22nd.

St. Lucia—The Harbour Scheme to be Dropped.

(SYDNEY D. MELVILLE, ESQ.) September 4th—The Governor-in-Chief had convened a meeting representing the principal interests of the Colony, to decide whether a loan should be made for further harbour improvements, roads, and buildings. It was proposed to impose a land tax to meet the interest and sinking fund. There was a general feeling, however, that as the military were leaving the island and the revenue was likely to suffer, all new projects involving fresh liabilities had better be hung up. The opposition to imposing a land tax was also general. Nothing would, therefore, be done for the present. £5,000 was to be taken from the Colony's Reserve Fund for roads and bridges.

They had had a good deal of rain, but the southern part of the island did not seem to have had its share.

Trinidad—Splendid growing weather.

(Hon G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C M G.) September 6th—The past fortnight had been rather a dull one all-round, the only item of news likely to prove of interest being the amendment of Cl. 57 of the Immigration Ordinance (Ordinance 19 of 1889), and the withdrawal of the proposed new ordinance to regulate the Asphalt Industry in La Brea. Under Cl. 67 of the Immigration Ordinance, the Protector must not allot immigrants to estates where 30% of the adult males under indenture have failed to earn an average 12 cents per diem throughout the preceding year; but the Governor had power to suspend the action of the clause if the owner of the estate gave satisfactory explanation of the low earnings. Up to now the Governor had been practically compelled to suspend the clause, because the requisitions were accepted in January of each year, before the wages for the twelve months to December 31st preceding could be computed; and the immigrants were recruited and on their way to the Colony before the returns were completed, and there was no other way of disposing of them. As now amended, the returns of wages earned would be made up to September 30th of each year, and the Protector was not permitted to accept requisitions for the ensuing season from the estates below the average.

The beginning of the past fortnight had been fine with light showers, but heavy showers followed and wet days had been the rule since. It was splendid growing weather. In most districts the cocoa estates had experienced a change of leaf with the usual accompanying loss of small pods, but this had always to be reckoned with.

Complete stagnation had characterised the market during the past fortnight, consequent arrivals dwindling almost to vanishing point. Fine red cocoa still remained in strong demand, but barely 100 bags had come to market during the entire fortnight. Estate qualities had realised higher prices owing to their scarcity, and of the fine grades none had been obtainable. Quotations for future deliveries remained unaltered, with no business doing. One or two choice lots of Venezuelan descriptions had come to hand, and after strong competition had realised high prices. The first pickings were anticipated in October.

		Cocoa Shipments.			
Total at last return	...	170,414	Bags Trinidad.	26,846	Venezuela
Aug. 26 S S "Orinoco"	...	667	"		Europe
" 26 S S "Maracas"	...	520	"	277	New York
" 31 S S "Martinique"	...	2,446	"		Europe
Sept. 4 S S "Prins der Nederland"	...	400	"	756	New York
		174,447		27,879	

Letter to the Editor.

Luscious Limes in London.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR, I notice with satisfaction the efforts which the West India Committee is making to popularise the lime fruit in this country, and it may interest you to know that some practical good is coming of it, for during the past few days I noticed a fine display of this juicy fruit in a grocer's shop at Kingston, where the limes were being readily sold retail at 12 for 6d. I was also glad to find the fruit very much in evidence at Hatchett's Restaurant in Piccadilly, though many of the waiters, when asked, were quite unable to say what it was, many expressing the opinion that it was a kind of small lemon. Wishing your educational work all possible success,

I am, yours obediently,

A LOVER OF LIMES.

Our Library.

Our Members have been more than usually generous during the past fortnight, and we have to record several important additions to the collection of maps and pictures, and library, at the West India Committee Rooms. We are indebted to the New Colonial Company, Ltd., for a set of maps of large dimensions, on spring rollers, of the British Isles, the World, Europe, North America, and the Atlantic Ocean, and various maps of British Guiana, as well as a most amusing pen-and-ink sketch of the El Socorro Estate, Trinidad, in full work, drawn by a coolie in about the year 1874. Mr. P. N. Bernard, the then attorney of the Colonial Company, is distinguishable in the foreground in a buggy, and the manager of the estate, Mr. Waith, also figures on horseback, and of both the likenesses are said to be excellent. Mr. George Hughes has given us a framed sketch of a Barbados woman, which shows that he possesses the rare gift of caricature in no small degree. To the Institute of Jamaica we are indebted for the complete set of their publications which was exhibited at the Colonial Exhibition, and which includes Vols. I. and II. of the highly interesting journal of the Institute, edited by Mr. Frank Cundall.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Tagus" (Capt. H. D. Doughty), Sept. 19th:—
Barbados—Miss C. L. Laurie, Capt. and Mrs. A. P. Dix, Rev. T. Gardner, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. B. Shields, Mr. G. E. Pilgrim, Mr. E. G. Bowen, Mr. H. W. Barnes. **Demerara**—Mr. H. W. McCowan, Mr. L. Romney, Mr. C. Romney, Miss A. A. Trenzo, Mr. R. Lambert, Mr. C. F. Rainer, Mr. H. K. Wilton, Mr. T. G. Richards, Mr. W. N. Christie, Mr. Alleyne. **Jamaica**—Mr. P. A. Craven, Mrs. Salmon, Mr. A. C. Grant, Mr. N. Leach, Mr. Papworth, Mr. H. Wilson. **Trinidad**—Mr. J. R. Cory, Mr. A. H. Manlove, Mr. C. K. Wilson, Mr. J. Lilywhite, Mr. F. Garcia, Mr. N. Grell, Rev. W. G. Thompson, Rev. and Mrs. W. J. Hamilton, Miss A. K. Hamilton, Mr. A. Gomez. **Antigua**—Mr. and Mrs. F. Holborow. **St. Kitts**—Rev. C. Burns. **St. Lucia**—Miss B. Peter, Miss F. Murray, Mr. F. S. F. N. Echlin.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Tagus" (Capt. H. D. Doughty), Sept. 30th:—
Barbados—Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Thorne, Ven. Archdeacon T. H. Bindley, Rev. F. H. Barnett, Capt. and Mrs. Watson. **Demerara**—Mr. E. Wyatt, Mr. A. B. Ferguson, Mr. J. Bastians, Mr. and Mrs. Parratt, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson, Miss M. J. K. Morton, Sir Henry and Lady Bovell, Mrs. Van R. Lanschoot, Capt. and Mrs. Caddy, Miss Spilman, Mr. and Mrs. Comache, Mr. C. J. B. Monypenny, Mr. W. McFarlane, Mr. G. Sanford, Mr. J. Ross, M. M. S. Ferreira, Mr. and Mrs. Jorge. **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Rev. and Mrs. McIntosh, Mr. and Mrs. Andre, Mr. W. Isaacs, Mrs. Andre. **Trinidad**—Mr. Justice and Mrs. Swan, Mr. and Mrs. Ortiz, Mr. and Mrs. Hoadley, Mr. Wm. Speyer, Mr. and Mrs. J. Haynes, Mrs. Siegert, Mr. C. Greig, Mr. A. Holler, Mr. L. B. Pierre, Hon. P. David, Mr. A. Markham, Mrs. and Miss Gransaul, Miss T. Solis, Mr. David McGillivray, Mr. R. B. Archibald, Mr. P., Mr. J. and Mrs. A. Glendinning. **Antigua**—Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge. **Grenada**—Mrs. Paterson, Dr. G. Paterson, Mr. and Mrs. Tudor, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Dean, Mr. D. Gillespie, Mr. F. Kent, Mr. G. A. Kent, Mr. J. McGilchrist. **St. Kitts**—Mr. F. S. Hicks, Mr. E. S. Delisle.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Atrato" (Capt. Stranger), Oct. 14th:—
Barbados—Mr. and Mrs. Thorne. **Demerara**—Mrs. Kerr, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. T. Fairbairn, Mr. C. A. Maclean, Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Pereira, Mr. J. Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. C. Ross. **Jamaica**—Mr. E. R. Jones, Hon. O. Marescaux, Major Marescaux. **Trinidad**—Mr. and Mrs. Walter Messervy, Very Rev. Father de Martini, Mr. R. Mitchell, Capt. E. Wheeler, Mr. and Mrs. Oliveira, Mrs. Carry, Mr. M. Alonzo, Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Mathieu. **Dominica**—His Honour Judge Danavall.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), Sept. 13th:—
Jamaica—Mr. C. Allen, Mr. R. B. Braham, Mrs. C. Reid Campbell, Mr. K. Reid Campbell, Mr. Theodore Clemens, Miss Ellis, Dr. and Mrs. Grossett, Mrs. E. J. Hewitt, Mr. F. W. Hampton, Dr. Harris, Mr. T. J. K. Phillips, Dr. A. P. Sturridge, Mr. M. White, Mr. J. Ward.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), Sept. 23rd:—
Jamaica—Mrs. L. Anderson, Miss L. Aarons, Dr. A. A. Ayton, Mr. P. Breedy, Mr. R. B. Braham, Mr. B. F. Browne, Mr. W. Bourke, Capt. J. Barlow, Major G. Close, Mrs. Colls, Mr. L. R. Clare, Miss M. Delgado, Mr. Dawson, Mr. and Mrs. W. Freear, Lieut. E. L. T. Grant, Mrs. and Miss Gibb, Mrs. and Miss Grant, Capt. S. H. Hingley, Mr. J. W. Hill, Major and Mrs. R. S. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. F. Hazell, Mr. W. Jureidini, Mr. and Mrs. S. Leighton, Mr. C. Lyons, Mr. A. Lyons, Mr. R. H. Langley, Mr. De Lasser, Mr. Motta, Miss V. Moxey, Mr. H. Nicholls, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Ogilvie, Mr. C. E. Pratt, Miss M'O. H. Pearman, Miss Roxburgh, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Sant, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Smith, Mrs. and Miss Selfe, Mr. and Mrs. A. Trinder, Mrs. R. K. Tapley, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Wigan, Dr. and Mrs. R. White, Mr. and Mrs. Bulmer, Mrs. E. Bulmer, Mr. G. Cooper, Mr. D. Frame, Mr. J. N. Findlay.

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. We are indebted to the *Morning Post* for several of the items of information given below.

Mr. E. T. GRANNUM is acting as Colonial Secretary of Barbados, and Mr. S. S. PHILLIPS as Auditor-General.

The Hon. W. A. S. VICKERS has been appointed to be keeper of the Rolls and Records of the Peace for the parish of Westmoreland, Jamaica.

The leave of absence granted to Sir C. C. KNOLLYS, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Leeward Islands, has been extended till Jan. 31st next.

The Hon. E. D. LABORDE, I.S.O., Chief of Police and Inspector of Prisons, has been appointed a Member of the Executive Council of St. Lucia.

The Hon. T. B. OUGHTON has been appointed to act as a Member and as President of the Marine Board during the absence on leave of the Hon. H. R. PUXON SCHOLES.

Mr. P. A. STOCKDALE has assumed the duties of Mycologist and Lecturer in Agricultural Science on the staff of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies in Barbados in succession to Mr. L. LEWTON-BRAIN.

The Hon. THOMAS CAPPER has been appointed a Member of the Jamaica Schools Commission and a Trustee of Wolmer's School, Jamaica, as from Aug. 25th, in the place of Mr. J. R. Williams, who has relinquished those appointments.

(NOTE.—In our last issue it was stated that the appointment of the Hon. FREDK. J. CLARKE to be a Member of the Legislative Council of Barbados had been confirmed. This should have read *Executive Council*.—Ed.)

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) September 23rd. "Good showers, but partial."
British Guiana (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) September 21st. "Too dry." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) September 26th. "Too dry."
Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) week ended September 13th. PORT ANTONIO: "7th, heavy rain; 8th fine; 9th rain; 10th to 13th, fine." KINGSTON: "fine."

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan 1 to Aug 24 1905	1904	Jan 1 to Sept 1 1905	1904	April 1 to Aug 26 1905	1904	Jan 1 to Sept 6 1905	1904	Oct 1 to Sept 5 1905	1904
Sugar	33,116	42,778 Tons	38,557	44,662 Tons.	5779	5490 Tons	275,840	381,159 lbs. & Brls.		
Molasses	18,109	43,291 Pns	1717	1111 Puns.			2887	1082 Puns.		
Rum			8826	11,827 "	715,267	838,921 Galls.	178	28 Tons.		
Molascuit			3513	2717 Tons			165	58 Brls.		
Cocoa			37,126	100,676 lbs.	15,029	12,022 Cwts	29,551,185	30,583,050 lbs.	63,736	66,701 Bags
Coffee			126		11,168	12,378 "	11,930	61,355 "	23	126 "
Coconuts			240,471	166,340	1,800,981	1,006,655	6,323,249	5,701,160		
Copra							7406	11,884 Bags		
Cotton							94,716	90,505 Tons.		
Cotton Seed									4745	6594 Bags
Asphalt										
Oranges					41944,445	41435,500				
Bananas					7,571,879	2,244,207 bunchs				
Pimento					30,655	22,788 Cwts.				
Spice										
Gold			60,088	52,813 ozs.					5006	3899 Brls.
Diamonds			3916	7703 carats.					638	664 1/2 Brls.
Balata									617	556 Cases.
									184	120 Bags.

Some West Indian Securities.

Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Dividend.	Price.
100,000	Stock.	Antigua - - 4 per cent. Redeemable 1919-44 ...	100	4 %	102-104
375,000.	"	Barbados - - 3 1/2 " 1925-42 ...	100	3 1/2 %	98-100
194,500.	"	British Guiana 4 " 1935 ...	100	4 %	106-108
123,670	"	Grenada - - 4 " 1917-42 ...	100	4 %	101-103
1,098,907	"	Jamaica - - 4 " 1934 ...	100	4 %	108-110
85,479	"	St Lucia - - 4 " 1919-44 ...	100	4 %	101-103
422,593	"	Trinidad - - 4 " 1917-42 ...	100	4 %	101-103
600,000	"	Trinidad - - 3 " Inscribed Stock 1922-44 ...	100	3 %	88-90
100,000	20	Colonial Bank ...	£6	7 %	6 1/2-7 1/2
15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ...	75	—	35-36
203,400	Stock.	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4% 1st Mtge Deb	100	4 1/2 %	85-87
26,763	5	New Colonial Co., Ltd.	5	Nil	3-5
46,874	5	" " 5 % Non-Cum. Pref. ...	5	5 %	2 1/2-3 1/2
347,500	Stock.	" " 4 % 1st Mtge Deb. Stock red.	100	4 %	80-82
352,700.	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb.	100	6 %	102-105
165,000.	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock	100	Nil.	17-20
115,000.	Stock	" " 7 % Preference ...	100	6 %	87-89
31,250	10	" " 4 % Extension Preference ...	10	4 1/2 %	8-9
70,000.	Stock.	" " Perpetual Deb Stock	100	4 %	96-98
78,500.	100	Direct West India Cable Co., 4 1/2 % Reg Debs. (within Nos 1 to 1200) red.	100	4 1/2 %	100-102
12,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ...	£2 10 0	6 %	—
50,500.	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4 1/2 % 1st Mtge. Deb. (within 1 to 1200) red.	100	4 1/2 %	100-102
10,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd.	5	5 %	—
88,321	10	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. Ordinary ...	10	—	1 1/2-1 3/4
34,563	10	" " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	10	5 1/2 %	8 1/2-9
4,669	10	" " " " 2nd "	10	—	7-7 1/2
90,000.	100	" " " " 5% Deb ...	100	5 %	101-104

Bank rate 4 % (changed from 3 % on Sept 28th, 1905), Consols 89 1/2 (By an unfortunate error of a compositor the Bank rate was wrongly given in our last issue —ED.)

The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.

The directors of the Direct West India Cable Company, Limited, in their report for the year ended June 30th, state that the net result of the working is a profit of £4,182, as compared with £3,617 for the previous year. An interim dividend of 3 per cent. free of income tax, has already been paid, and it is now proposed to make a further equal payment, free of income tax, which will leave £2,382 to be carried forward. This will increase the amount to the credit of revenue account to £34,811. The company's cables continue to work efficiently. Offers for the sale of debentures to the trustees were invited in December and June last, and £7,300 was paid for £7,300 of debentures, which amount has been written off capital expenditure. The meeting of shareholders was held on Sept. 21st, and press representatives were not admitted. We understand that the report was adopted unanimously, and that Lieut.-Col. T. G. H. Glyn and Mr. Geo. G. Ward, directors, retired, and were re-elected.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

SUGAR.—Licht's Consumption, September/August, 12 Months.

	1904/5.	1903/4.	1902/3.	
Germany	972,000	1,159,000	757,000	Tons
Austria	449,000	511,000	384,000	..
France	612,000	786,000	417,000	..
Belgium and Holland	172,000	200,000	146,000	..
England	1,598,000	1,706,000	1,693,000	..
Convention Europe	3,803,000	4,362,000	3,391,000	..
United States	1,827,000	1,819,000	1,804,000	..
Total	5,630,000	6,181,000	5,195,000	..

Licht's Visible, 1st September, even dates.

	1905	1904.	1903.	
Convention Europe	772,000	1,121,000	1,556,000	..
United States, Cuba, and afloat	545,000	354,000	447,000	..
Total Visible	1,317,000	1,475,000	2,003,000	..

The above figures, given by Licht for twelve months, show a falling off in the Consumption of Convention Europe of **559,000** tons as compared with last year, and a minus of stocks of **349,000** tons. The visible of the known world is **1,317,000** tons, or **158,000** less than on the 1st September, 1904. After the continuous fall in prices which has been so persistent for months past, a welcome slight reaction has set in which it is hoped will be maintained. It is not much at present, but every improvement is welcome, however small. The new Beet producing season has now commenced, and in the course of a few weeks we shall be able to form some idea as to the amount of Sugar that will appear. It is sure to be large, for the weather reports, although not ideal, have on the whole been favourable for the crop. One might venture on a conservative estimate for all Europe of **6,000,000** tons, against **4,600,000** tons this season, and possibly **500,000** tons over this figure, but neither the writer nor any one else can fix a definite amount.

The moment's quotations of 88% Beet are:—September, 8s. 8½d.; October, 8s. 9½d.; November/December, 8s. 10d.; January/March, 1906, 9s.; and May, 9s. 1½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Europe	740,000	1,100,000	1,470,000	1,460,000	620,000	Tons.
United States	180,000	140,000	170,000	160,000	170,000	..
Cuba	170,000	10,000	170,000	140,000	70,000	..
Cargoes afloat	250,000	250,000	100,000	180,000	140,000	..
Total	1,340,000	1,500,000	1,910,000	1,940,000	1,000,000	..
Quotations of 88% Beet:—	8s. 8½d.	11s. 0d.	8s. 4½d.	6s. 3d.	7s. 5½d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—Considerable demand has been experienced for yellow crystallised, and the sales are of some importance at prices ranging chiefly from 16s. 9d. to 18s., leaving the value of average qualities, 17s. Imitations are selling from 15s. 3d. to 15s. 9d. For a cargo of 96 centrifugal West India, 10s. 3d. remains the selling value.

Molasses Sugar is scarce and wanted. Values ranging from 12s. to 15s., duty paid.

Muscovado.—There is no grocery Barbados here, and prices are uncertain, being somewhere about 15s. to 15s. 6d. for good sugar. For 89 test to Refiners, small lots have been sold up to 9s., on floating conditions.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	
Imports	32,000	36,000	20,000	55,000	Tons.
Deliveries	30,000	37,000	32,000	32,000	..
Stocks	11,000	11,000	16,000	36,000	..

Quotations of average qualities, crystallised ... 17s. 0d. ... 18s. 3d. ... 16s. 0d. ... 13s. 6d.

Rum.—Stocks in London:

	1905.	1904	1903	1902	
Jamaica	9900	11,300	11,600	12,000	Puns.
Demerara	5500	8100	7400	8900	..
Total of all kinds	23,632	27,259	27,259	3627	..

The Market is unchanged, and Importers now hold very small stocks. The value of Demerara ranges from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 3d., and fair Standard Home Trade Marks of Jamaica are worth 2s. 1d. Leewards are quoted from 1½d. to 1s. 3d.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:

	1905.	1904	1903.	1902.	
	90,000	97,000	69,000	78,000	Bags.

A very dull tone continues to prevail in this article, and prices are again favouring buyers. The latest sales of Trinidad have been on the basis of 53s. for fair collected, and 53s. to 56s. for good to fine Estate Marks, with choice up to about 60s. Grenada is nominally unchanged, fair being quoted 48s., and fermented, 50s. to 52s. From other Islands fermented cocoa has been selling from 49s. to 51s., and common to fair Native, 44s. to 46s.

Coffee.—Steady, unchanged. Good ordinary Jamaica, 40s. to 42s.

Nutmegs.—Recent sales of West India include: 69's to 73's at 1s., 89's at 8d., 102's at 7d., 117's to 127's at 6d., and in shell, 4½d. **Almonds.**—Good pale sold at 1s. 7d., pale and reddish, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d., fair red, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d., and to 2½d. **Ginger.**—Dull. Jamaica low middling sold at 42s. 6d. to 44s. **Pimento.**—Firm. Value, 2½d.

Arrowroot.—Small sales of manufacturing St. Vincent at 1½d., to 1¾d. Importers stocks are chiefly sold out, and further supplies are needed.

Lime Juice.—Unaltered. Value, 9d. to 1s. 1d. Concentrated, quiet at £18. Hand Pressed, unchanged at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, lower at 1s. 7d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XX.

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STATIONERS HALL

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The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

Oct 12th, 1905

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 8642 CENTRAL.



Lord Nelson.

THREE hundred years have passed since the "Olive Blossom," more by accident than anything else, touched at Barbados, and her crew took possession of the country, erecting a cross upon the spot where Jamestown was afterwards built, and cut upon the bark of a tree near by, "James, K. of E. and of this Island," and though the tercentenary of Barbados is not, we believe, being generally celebrated, the inhabitants of that loyal Colony have been, as we learnt by last mail, among the first to make arrangements to celebrate in adequate manner the centenary of the glorious battle of Trafalgar, and the great naval hero who fell mortally wounded on October 21st, 1805. The pedestal of the Nelson statue opposite the Public Buildings will be decorated in a manner worthy of the occasion; the famous signal, "England expects every man to do his duty," will be prominently displayed, and Bridgetown will be beflagged by day and illuminated

at night. In Nevis, too, there is to be a local celebration, and the homeward mail will in due course bring details of what is done by Jamaica, Trinidad, British Guiana, and the other Colonies. As regards the celebrations in this country both the West India Committee and the West Indian Club propose to send floral tributes to Trafalgar Square on October 21st, and both these organisations will

be represented at the ceremony which is to take place at the Nelson monument on the afternoon of that day in order to show that the West Indies are not unmindful of their benefactors in the past, among whom LORD NELSON occupied so prominent a position. In another column we give a reproduction of a page from the minute book of 1805, giving the text of LORD NELSON'S reply to a resolution of thanks passed by the West India Committee on August 23rd of that year, after the memorable pursuit of Villeneuve to the West Indies and back, and special articles by SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK and the HON. THOMAS LIBURD will further serve to do honour to the present occasion.

A SPECIALLY convened meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee was held at 15, Seething Lane, on Tuesday last, SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK presiding, to consider the question of the withdrawal of troops from the West Indies. The Hon. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE, Member of the Legislative Council of Barbados, attended by invitation, and after being warmly welcomed by the Chairman, expressed the views held by the people in Barbados on the subject. These we have already indicated very clearly in *The West India Committee Circular*, on various occasions, and it is not surprising to learn that they were fully endorsed by the representatives of the other Colonies who were present. The feeling of the meeting was unanimous, and it was decided, having regard to the importance of the matter, immediately to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies to receive a large deputation, and a letter has accordingly been written to MR. LYTTELTON, asking if he will do so, and to fix an early date for it. Since the decision of the Government to withdraw the troops from the West Indies was first announced last year, momentous events have taken place, the effect of which has been to alter materially the relative strength of the Powers in the Far East. Assuming then that the statement, which went the rounds, that the object in withdrawing the white troops from the West Indies and other outlying parts of the Empire was to strengthen our forces in India, was correct, may there not be reason to hope that in view of the altered circumstances brought about by the Peace and the subsequent Anglo-Japanese treaty, the Government may yet see their way to leave a small garrison of white troops in our West Indian Colonies? It is earnestly to be hoped that they will do so, and it is unnecessary to add that MR. LYTTELTON'S reply will be most anxiously awaited.

IN the Produce Markets' Summary in our present issue, we give a table showing the average prices of 88 % beet sugar for each of the last ten years. The average for the whole of this period was 9s. 5½d. per cwt., and considering that the present quotation is as low as 8s. 8½d., it will be seen that the opponents of the Sugar Convention have no genuine cause for complaint. The editor of a journal recently started with the object of securing the re-establishment of the bounty system, continues, however, to spend much of his time in writing to newspapers all over the country, and endeavouring, as he so ingeniously puts it, "to focus in our column the efforts of agitators" in this direction. He twits the West Indies, and says that they are gaining no advantage from the Convention: but on this point we may perhaps be excused for considering ourselves to be in a better position to speak than he is, and there is no getting over the fact that as a result of the abolition of bounties, two new central sugar factories have already been erected in the British West Indies, schemes for the establishment of two more immediately are assuming definite shape, while only yesterday we heard that the erection of a factory in Barbados was contemplated. Machinery is going out in greater quantities than for many years past, and there is in every direction abundant evidence that the West Indies are taking heart. Confidence is slowly returning to the sugar market, and when we get a more liberal supply of sugar there must certainly be an improved demand. The continuous fall in prices ever since last January has caused distributors to exercise extreme caution, and there is no doubt that stocks held in consumers' hands are about as low as they have ever been. This augurs favourably for the maintenance of existing prices, and well it may be so with the present crop of 88 % beet sugar selling below first cost of production. As is not unusual at this time of year variable weather is being experienced on the

Continent, but impartial observers speak well of the crop, and the roots being heavy and large no doubt a considerable out-put will result, the extent of which no one can gauge within half a million tons. Be the crop what it may, one thing seems certain, and that is that consumption will return to its normal proportions. Sugar now being cheap to the masses and fears of any further decline, beyond perhaps an occasional fluctuation of 3d. per cwt. caused by speculators, being set at rest, all now seems plain sailing, and prices should in future be regulated once more by supply and demand. One fact at any rate is certain, and that is that we are likely to have during the coming twelve months the largest supply of sugar ever known and this result is entirely due to the Brussels Convention.

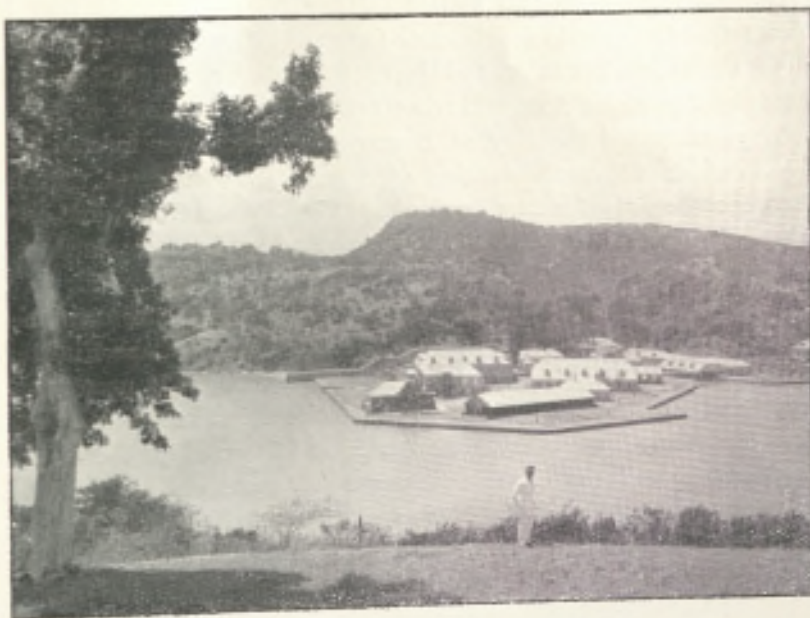
Nelson—1805—Trafalgar.

BY SIR NEVILLE LURBOCK, K.C.M.G.

On March 1st, 1805, the combined French and Spanish fleets, under Admiral Villeneuve, left Toulon, and evading Nelson and the British Mediterranean Fleet, made all sail for the West Indies. It was not until May 5th that Nelson was able to get through the Straits of Gibraltar and follow in pursuit, the combined French and Spanish fleets having passed through on April 8th. At Cadiz Admiral Gravina, with six Spanish ships of the line and two French, joined Villeneuve, whose force then consisted of eighteen sail of the line, six 44 gun frigates, one of 26 guns, three corvettes and a brig. They had 3,000 French troops on board and 1,500 Spanish. They were subsequently joined by two French line-of-battle ships and one 44. Nelson pursued them with ten sail of the line and three frigates. "Take you a Frenchman apiece," said he to his captains, "and leave me the Spaniards: when I haul down my colours I expect you to do the same,—and not till then."

On May 15th he made Madeira, and on June 4th reached Barbados, where he found Admiral Cochrane with two ships, part of our squadron in those seas being at Jamaica. There he found accounts that the combined fleets had been seen from St. Lucia on May 28th standing to the southward, and that their destination was Tobago and Trinidad. This Nelson doubted, but he was alone in his opinion, and yielded it with these foreboding words, "If your intelligence proves false you lose me the French fleet." Two thousand troops were taken on board, and the next morning he sailed for Tobago.

On June 7th Nelson entered the Bay of Paria with the ships cleared for action, but no enemy was there. Nelson at once proceeded north, arriving at Grenada on the 9th, learning that the enemy



The Deserted Dockyard, English Harbour, Antigua.

Here Nelson refitted his ships during his pursuit of Villeneuve. The yellow dockyard buildings are now deserted, though always trim and tidy, thanks to the care bestowed upon them by the Hon. A. W. Holmes & Co., who occupies the position of Harbour-Master. This picture is reproduced from "Sun Pictures of the Antilles and British Guiana," published at the West India Committee Rooms.

had passed to leeward of Antigua the preceding day, and taken a homeward-bound convoy. That they were flying back to Europe he believed; and for Europe he steered in pursuit on the 13th, having disembarked the troops at Antigua, and taking with him the "Spartiate," 74—the only addition to the squadron with which he was pursuing so superior a force.

"The joy and exultation which prevailed in the British Islands at this period," says the "Annual Register" of 1805, may be easily conceived. Abandoned of all hope, they had seen their successive and entire destruction, in the arrival of one of the most formidable fleets that had ever been witnessed in that quarter of the globe, without any force adequate to even the chance of resistance. From this gloom of despair they were roused by the arrival of the British fleet; and that fleet commanded by Nelson. Not a doubt remained of relief; the inferiority of the force was never once taken into consideration; for Nelson and victory were inseparable.

Five days afterwards he learnt that the combined fleet had been seen steering to the north, and by computation eighty-seven leagues off. On June 21st Nelson made the following entry in his diary: "Midnight; nearly calm; saw three planks, which I think came from the French fleet. Very miserable; which is very foolish." On July 19th he anchored at Gibraltar, and on the 20th he says: "I went on shore for the first time since June 16th, 1803, and from having my foot out of the 'Victory,' two years, wanting ten days."

There he communicated with his old friend Collingwood; who having been detached with a squadron, when the disappearance of the combined fleets, and of Nelson in their pursuit, was known in England, had taken his station off Cadiz. He thought that Ireland was the enemy's ultimate object; that they would now liberate the Ferrol squadron, which was blocked up by Sir Robert Calder; call for the Rochefort ships, and then appear off Ushant with three or four-and-thirty sail, there to be joined by the Brest fleet. Having returned near enough to Cadiz to ascertain that they were not there, he traversed the Bay of Biscay, and stood over for the north-west coast of Ireland against adverse winds till, on the evening of August 12th, he learnt that they had not been heard of there. Thereupon he judged it best to reinforce the Channel Fleet, and on the 15th he joined Admiral Cornwallis off Ushant. No news of the enemy had yet been obtained, and on the same evening he received orders to proceed to Portsmouth.

At Portsmouth Nelson, at last, found news of the combined fleet. Sir Robert Calder had fallen in with them on July 22nd, sixty leagues west of Cape Finisterre. After an action of four hours he had captured an 84 and a 74, and then thought it necessary to bring to the squadron, for the purpose of securing their prizes. The hostile ships remained in sight of one another until the 26th, when the enemy bore away. The capture of two ships from so superior a force would have been considered as no inconsiderable victory a few years earlier; but Nelson had introduced a new era in our naval history; and the Nation regretted that Nelson with his eleven ships had not been in Sir Robert Calder's place, and their disappointment was generally and loudly expressed.

Frustrated as his hopes had been, Nelson had the high satisfaction of knowing that his judgment had never been more conspicuously approved. The West India Committee, whose interests were more immediately benefited, appointed a deputation to thank him for his great and judicious exertions. It was now his intention to rest awhile from his labours and recruit himself after all his fatigues and cares, in the society of those he loved. But it was not to be. Many days had not elapsed before Captain Blackwood on his way to London with despatches called on him at Merton at five in the morning. Nelson, who was already dressed, exclaimed the moment he saw him "I am sure you bring me news of the French and Spanish fleets; I think I shall yet have to beat them." "Depend upon it, Blackwood," he repeatedly said, "I shall yet give M. Villeneuve a drubbing." Lady Hamilton urged him to offer his services. "Nelson," she said, "however we may lament your absence, offer your services; you will have a glorious victory, and then you may return here and be happy." He

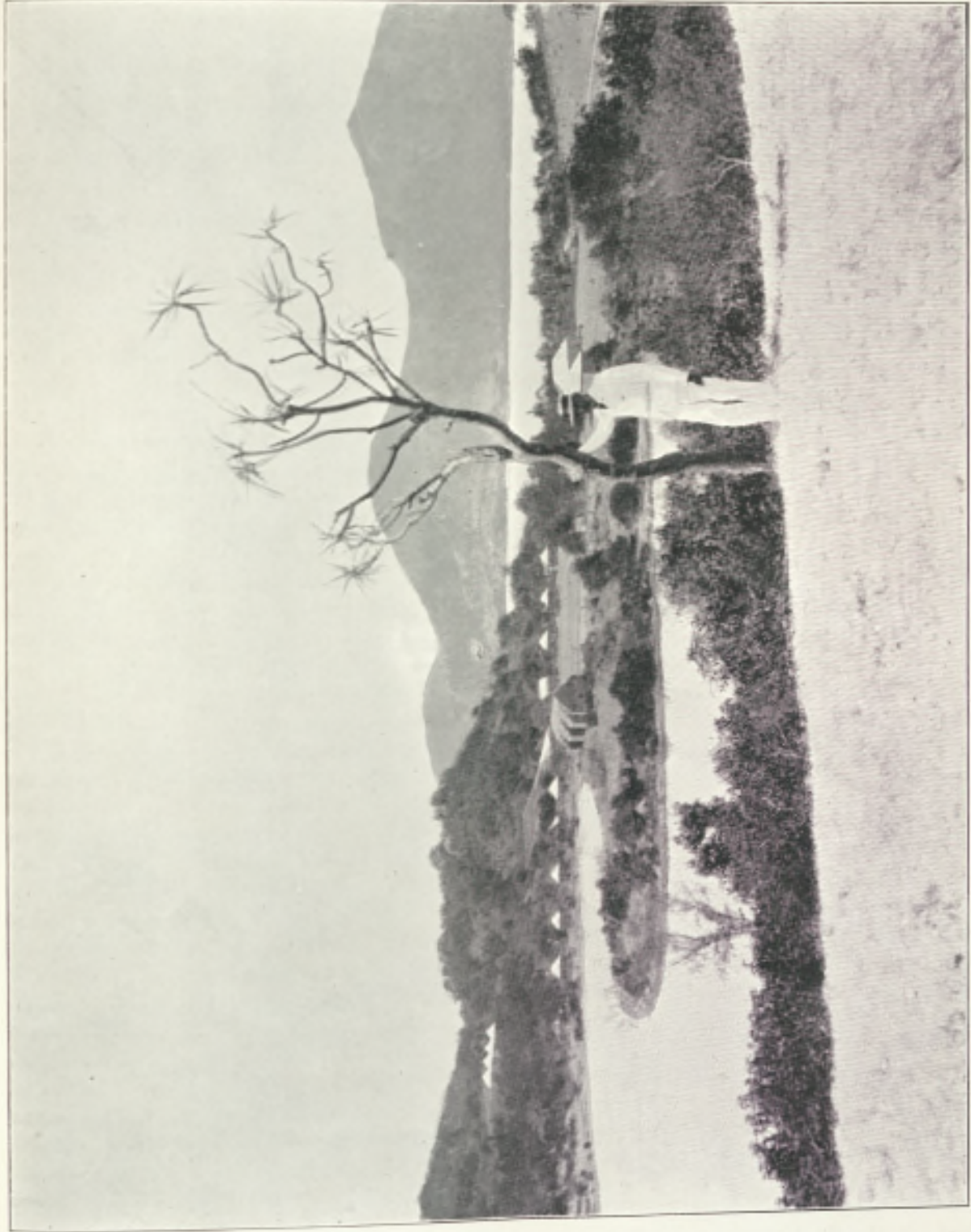


Photo by Algernon W. Asghall.

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ENGLISH HARBOUR, ANTIGUA.

Where Nelson refitted his ships during his memorable pursuit of Villeneuve.

looked at her with tears in his eyes. "Brave Emma! Good Emma! If there were more Emmas, there would be more Nelsons."

His services were willingly accepted. The "Victory" was again refitted, and on September 14th he reached Portsmouth, and having despatched his business on shore, he endeavoured to elude the populace by taking a bye-way to the beach; but a crowd collected in his train, pressing forward to obtain a sight of his face, many were in tears, and many knelt down before him, and blessed him as he passed. They pressed upon the parapet to gaze after him when his barge pushed off; for the people would not be debarred from gazing till the last moment upon the hero, the darling hero of England.

He arrived off Cadiz on September 29th, his birthday. Fearing that the enemy, if they knew his force, might be deterred from venturing to sea, he kept out of sight of land, desired Collingwood to fire no salute and hoist no colours; and wrote to Gibraltar to request that the force of the fleet might not be inserted in the *Gazette*. On October 9th Nelson sent Collingwood what he called, in his diary, the Nelson-touch. "I send you," he said, my plan of attack, as far as a man dare venture to guess at the very uncertain position the enemy may be found in; but it is to place you perfectly at ease respecting my intentions, and to give full scope for your judgment for carrying them into effect." The order of sailing was to be the order of battle; the fleet in two lines, with an advanced squadron of eight of the fastest sailing two deckers. The second in command having the entire direction of his line, was to break through the enemy about the twelfth ship from their rear; he would lead through the centre, and the advanced squadron was to cut off three or four ahead of the centre. Nelson said, "that his Admirals and Captains, knowing his precise object to be that of a close and decisive action, would supply any deficiency of signals, and act accordingly. In case signals cannot be seen or clearly understood, no Captain can do wrong if he places his ship alongside of an enemy."

About half-past nine in the morning of October 19th, the "Mars," being the nearest of the ships forming the communication with the frigates in shore, repeated the signal that the enemy was coming out of port. About two the repeating ships announced that the enemy were at sea. A little before sunset Blackwood signalled from the "Euryalus" that they seemed determined to go westward. Nelson had signified Blackwood to keep sight of the enemy, and so well were they observed that all their motions were made known to him. Fearing they would retreat to Cadiz as soon as they saw the British fleet, Nelson was very careful not to approach near enough to be seen by them during the night. At daybreak the combined fleets were distinctly seen from the "Victory's" deck formed in a close line ahead on the starboard tack about twelve miles to leeward, and standing to the south. Our fleet consisted of twenty-seven sail of the line and four frigates; theirs of thirty-three and seven large frigates.

Soon after daylight Nelson came on deck. The wind was from the west, light breezes, with a long heavy swell. Signal was made to bear down upon the enemy in two lines. Collingwood in the "Royal Sovereign" led the lee line of thirteen ships; the "Victory" led the weather line of fourteen. Having seen that all was as it should be, Nelson descended to his cabin where he wrote the prayer beseeching God for victory, praying that there might be no misconduct, but humanity after victory. He also wrote a memorandum commending Lady Hamilton as a legacy to his King and Country, and leaving his adopted daughter Horatia Nelson Thompson to the beneficence of his Country. Blackwood went on board the "Victory" about six and found him in good spirits but very calm. Soon afterwards the famous signal was made: "England expects every man to do his duty." "Now," said Lord Nelson, "I can do no more. We must trust to the great Disposer of all events, and the justice of our cause." He wore that day, as usual, his Admiral's frock coat, wearing on the left breast four stars of different orders, rendering himself a conspicuous mark for the enemy.

Ten minutes before twelve the enemy opened fire. To the bow of the "Santissima Trinidad," his old acquaintance, as he called it, he ordered the "Victory" to be steered. At four minutes after twelve she opened fire from both sides of her deck, and soon the "Victory," the "Redoubtable," the

"Temeraire," and another of the enemy were locked together in a compact tier. An incessant fire was kept up from the "Victory"; her larboard guns playing upon the "Bucentaure" and the huge "Santissima Trinidad." At about a quarter past one a bullet fired from the "Redoubtable" struck Nelson on the left shoulder. He fell on his face. "They have done for me at last," he said to Hardy, "my back bone is shot through." As he was being carried down the ladder he took out his handkerchief and covered his face and stars that he might not be seen by the crew. The cockpit was crowded with wounded and dying men, over whose bodies he was with some difficulty conveyed. It was soon perceived upon examination that the wound was mortal, of which he never had a doubt, and begged the surgeon to leave him and attend to others to whom he could be more useful. He was in great pain, and expressed much anxiety for the event of the action, which now began to declare itself. As often as a ship struck the crew of the "Victory" hurrahed, and a visible expression of satisfaction gleamed in his eyes. He repeatedly asked for Hardy, whose duties kept him on deck. An hour and ten minutes elapsed from the time of the wound before he came. "Well, Hardy, how goes the day with us," asked Nelson. "Very well," replied Hardy, "ten ships have struck." "I hope," said Nelson, "none of our ships have struck?" Hardy answered, "There was no fear of that." Soon after Hardy left him, and with a heart almost bursting hastened upon deck. About fifty minutes afterwards he returned, and taking the hand of his dying friend congratulated him on having gained a complete victory. After a while Nelson said, "Now I am satisfied, thank God I have done my duty." These were the last words he uttered, and he expired at thirty minutes past four, three hours and a quarter after he had received his wound. The total British loss in the battle was 1,587. Twenty of the enemy struck.

Thus was fought the battle of Trafalgar, and thus died Nelson. "He cannot," says Southey, from whose "Life of Nelson" I have condensed this narrative, "be said to have fallen prematurely, whose work was done; nor ought he to be lamented who died so full of honours and at the height of human fame. The most triumphant death is that of the martyr; the most awful that of the martyred patriot; the most splendid that of the hero in the hour of victory; and if the chariot and horses of fire had been vouchsafed for Nelson's translation he could scarcely have departed in a brighter blaze of glory. He has left us, not indeed his mantle of inspiration, but a name and example, which are at this hour inspiring hundreds of the youth of England; a name which is our pride, and an example which will continue to be our shield and strength."

English Harbour, Antigua.

The subject of our full-page illustration in the present issue is a corner of English Harbour, where Nelson refitted his ships during his memorable pursuit of Villeneuve to the West Indies and back. Beyond is a portion of Falmouth Harbour, which, as will be seen, is only separated from English Harbour by a narrow neck of land, on which the old powder magazine still stands. The conical hill is called the Sugar Loaf, and it is on its slopes that the pine-apples are grown, while at its base is the only lime estate in the Island. The tree in the foreground is the Frangipanni. The spacious dockyard, which does not figure in this picture being away to the left, but is shown in the smaller illustration, was erected at the suggestion of Captain Delgarno of H.M.S. "South Sea Castle," and Captain Cooper of H.M.S. "Lyon," in 1725. Now, though the yellow buildings are trim and tidy, the dockyard is deserted, and for many years even the mail steamers have deserted English Harbour for St. John's, on the other side of the Island. English Harbour is very tortuous, and has a narrow entrance, which in the old days used to be closed with a chain boom. Our illustration is taken from a spot near Clarence House, a residence erected by English masons for the Duke of Clarence—afterwards William IV.—when he was Admiral in command of the West Indies Station.

Lord Nelson's Letter to the West India Committee.

Below is a reproduction of the page in the West India Committee Minute Book of 1805, on which is given the text of Lord Nelson's reply to a resolution passed at a meeting of the West India Committee held at the Marine Society's office on August 23rd, 1805, Sir Richard Neave, Bart., in the chair.

Lord Nelson The Chairman reported that the Deputation appointed at the Meeting of the 23^d of August last had waited upon Lord Nelson with the Resolutions of that Meeting, & that the following letter had since been received from Lord Nelson, by Sir Richard Neave.

London August 28th 1805

Sir,

I beg leave to express to you & the Committee of West India Merchants the great satisfaction which I feel in their approbation of my conduct — It was, I conceived, perfectly clear that the Combined Squadrons were gone to the West Indies, & 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, & zealous Militia, I was confident not any Troops which their Combined Squadron could carry, would make any impression upon any of our large Islands, before a very superior force would arrive for their relief.

I have the honour to remain,

Sir, & Gentlemen,

With the highest respect,

Your most obliged

and obedient Servant

Nelson & Boscawen.

Sir Richard Neave Bart.

And the Committee of West India Merchants

The resolution adopted at the meeting of the West India Committee above referred to, was as follows:

Resolved: "That the prompt determination of Lord Nelson to quit the Mediterranean in search of the French fleet; his sagacity in judging of and ascertaining their course; his bold and unwearied pursuit of the combined French and Spanish squadrons to the West Indies and back again to Europe, have been very instrumental to the safety of the West India Islands in general, and well deserve the grateful acknowledgments of every individual connected with those Colonies."

Resolved: "That a deputation from the Committee of Merchants of London, trading to the West Indies, be appointed to wait upon Vice-Admiral Lord Viscount Nelson, to express these their sentiments, and to offer him their unfeigned thanks."

And the following gentlemen were named as a deputation accordingly: The Chairman, Mr. Beeston Long, Mr. Saml. Long, Mr. Manning, Mr. Blackman and Mr. Saml. Turner.

Lord Nelson and the Island of Nevis.

BY THE HON. THOMAS LIBURD, M.L.C.

There can be no doubt whatever that the memory of Lord Nelson should ever be gratefully remembered by the people of the British West Indies for the heroic actions which preserved these Colonies as parts of the British Empire. That Nevisians, whether in their native land or scattered throughout the world, must ever revere the name of this great man must go without saying, as it was in Nevis that memorable events occurred when Nelson was captain of the "Boreas." I allude to his conduct when he seized in the roadstead of Nevis, for a breach of the navigation laws, four American vessels deeply laden and flying the colours of the island—white with a red cross. Southey, in his "Life of Nelson," relates that he had ordered these vessels to hoist their own colours, and to depart within forty-eight hours, but they refused to obey, denying that they were Americans. They were seized, and this raised a storm, as the planters, the custom-house, and the Governor, were all against Nelson; his Admiral, Sir Richard Hughes, stood neutral. Actions were brought against Nelson in Nevis for £40,000 damages. He was obliged to keep close on board his own ship lest he should be arrested. The Marshal of Nevis frequently went aboard to arrest him, but was always prevented by the address of his first Lieutenant, Mr. Wallis. This state of duress lasted for eight weeks. In the meantime the trial respecting these detained ships came on in the Admiralty Court in Charlestown, and Nelson obtained an order for protection from arrest from the judge of the court while attending at the trial, and it was then that the President of Nevis, Mr. Herbert, offered in court to be bail for Nelson in £10,000 if he would suffer the arrest. Nelson had, in the meantime, petitioned the King, and his conduct was upheld. These circumstances if they stood alone were important and of historic interest, as in Nevis, our little island home, one of England's greatest heroes was harrassed for doing his duty, and had at first to fight against great odds, but he found a true friend in one of our sons. Nevis has, however, a greater interest in Lord Nelson, as he married one of her daughters on March 11th, 1787, at which marriage Prince William Henry (afterwards King William IV.) was present, and at his own request gave away the bride. Appended is a copy of an address by the Council of Nevis to Prince William Henry and his reply thereto, dated February 16th, 1787, taken from the Council Minutes of this Island. It will also be interesting to know that during the period now under review, viz. 1787, in the absence of the Governor of the Leeward Islands, the Lieutenant-Governor of Nevis, and failing him its President, was deputed to administer the Government; the period during which Nevis was either the seat of Government of the Leeward Islands, or its President, in the absence of the Governor authorised to administer the Government of the Leeward Islands, was from 1672 to 1816.

Times have changed. To-day Nevis, instead of holding the former proud position of chief among the islands, is governed by St. Kitts, and her inhabitants are not now in a position to show by deeds the high appreciation which all Nevisians must ever feel to the heroic actions of Lord Nelson, and I sincerely hope that the Government will render its help to enable the centenary of the death of this great hero, whose life was so interwoven with historic facts in connection with Nevis to be celebrated in Nevis itself in a suitable and becoming manner.

The extract above referred to reads as follows:—

At a meeting this 16th day of February, 1787, present: The Hon. John Browne, George Wibbe Daniell, John Butler, John L. Jeffreys. The Hon. John Browne presented the following address to His Royal Highness Prince William Henry.

May it please your Royal Highness,—

Animated by every sentiment that can inspire loyalty to the best of kings, and viewing with pleasure and admiration your Royal Highnesses' zeal for the public service,

We, the Council of His Majesty's Island of Nevis, approach your person with every

assurance of our perfect respect and the most sincere and inviolable attachment. As our enemies must look with dread at your early and increasing knowledge of naval tactics, so do we look forward to that happy period when your Highness may command the British fleets in person, certain, where valour and judgment dictate, conquest and glory must ensue.

We feel ourselves elated by the presence of your Royal Highness, and we shall now experience the utmost extent of our ambition by showing our duty and regard to one of the offspring of your Royal parent, the true and affectionate parent of all his people and a fair example to every monarch who is anxious to reign beloved by his subjects for virtue, moderation, and justice.

(Signed) JOHN R. HERBERT, *President of Council.*

By Command. (Signed) ROBERT MCGILL, *Dy. Secretary.*

To this, His Royal Highness was pleased to return an answer as follows:

Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council,—

The sentiments of loyalty for the King contained in this address afford me great satisfaction as coming from the Members of His Majesty's Council for the Island of Nevis.

I shall take care to transmit by the earliest opportunity to His Majesty an account of the sincere and dutiful attachment felt by all his loyal subjects in this valuable part of his dominions for his most sacred person.

I feel, gentlemen, most fully the expressions of regard with which you have thought proper to honour me; such unmerited distinction calls forth my utmost exertions to enable me by my future conduct, when placed in a responsible situation, to serve my king and country with zeal, and to prove my gratitude for the favours I have received from all the West Indian islands, possessions so useful and important to the Mother Country and so firmly attached to their Sovereign.

(Signed) WILLIAM.

New Members of the West India Committee.

The Membership of the West India Committee continues to increase in a very satisfactory manner. Already, since the beginning of the year, 110 new Members have been elected, and in view of the fact that the subscription of new Members elected between now and the end of the year will not when paid, be renewable until 1907, we may hope for a considerable further increase before next year. In this connection we must not fail to recognise the support received from the Press of the West Indies, which has not been slow to call the attention of its readers to the work done and being done by the West India Committee. Full particulars regarding **Membership and candidates'** application forms can be obtained from the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. At a meeting of the Executive held on the 10th inst., the following new Members were elected:—

Name	Proposer.	Seconded.
THOMAS NASH, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
CLEMENT B. HARRIS, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.
WILLIAM MCK. A. STEELE, Esq.	Messrs. Jonas, Browne & Son	R. George De Gale, Esq.
J. DE F. MARTINS, Esq.	Guy C. Wyatt, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
HON. WILLIAM HENRY FRETZ, L.R.C.P.	Chas. A. Smith, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
DR. STANLEY GREAVES.	Prof. J. P. d'Albuquerque,	R. Rutherford, Esq.
	F.I.C., F.C.S.	
R. H. S. SMITH, Esq.	F. Henry Norton, Esq.	J. Herbert Scrutton, Esq.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on Thursday, September 21st, it was resolved that the *West India Committee Circular* be no longer sent to Members over six months in arrears of their subscriptions, until the amount owing has been paid. This resolution has been communicated to the few Members who have not yet paid their dues for 1905, and after a reasonable time for reply, the despatch of the *Circular* to these gentlemen will be discontinued.

Mr. Bonar Law, M.P., on the Sugar Convention.

At the opening meeting of the new rooms of the Blackfriars and Huchestontown Conservative Association in Glasgow on September 29th, Mr. Bonar Law, M.P., in a spirited speech in defence of the Government referred to the Brussels Sugar Convention. They remembered, he said, what a row there was about sugar a short time ago. The last public meeting which he addressed in that constituency was, he thought, at the beginning of this year. At that time every Radical platform and every Radical newspaper was ringing with the crime of the Conservative party in passing the Convention and raising the price of the poor man's sugar. Well, he had the courage at that time—and it required a little courage to face that question. He spoke about nothing else at that meeting, and he gave arguments to show that the Convention had not raised the price of sugar and was not going to keep it permanently high. Let them look at what had happened. Every one of the arguments he had used then had been justified by the event. Sugar was now at a low price, a price which he believed was below the cost of production, and it was at a price far lower than the average price even of the few years when it was cheap before the Convention was signed. Well, now, if the Convention caused the high price last autumn, what was causing the low price now, for the Convention was still there? There, again, time had shown that they were right and that their opponents were wrong. It had shown another thing. The price of sugar was low in spite of the Convention, and something more had happened. They had to a very considerable extent benefited the sugar refiners in this country without injuring the confectionery makers, and they had to a very great extent improved the condition of every part of the Empire which was suitable for growing cane sugar. (Cheers.)

The Sugar Industry.

A considerable space in the Financial and Commercial Supplement to the *Times* of Monday last was devoted to sugar. In a retrospect of the sugar season 1904-5, the writer deals with the speculation which characterised the campaign. A year ago there was little to suggest the later developments. It is true that the general feeling was "bullish," owing to the poor accounts which were received of the beet crops, but this feeling did not actively develop until estimates were put forward by the leading authorities pointing to a shortage of production of from 1,200,000 to 1,500,000 tons due chiefly to drought in Europe. The temper of the market was such that the most extreme estimates found the greatest favour, and ordinary trading gave place to speculation of an extensive character. Beet sugar 88 per cent. quoted at the beginning of October last year at 11s. 3½d. a cwt. was carried up to 16s. 6½d. in January, with West Indian crystallised rising in the same time from 18s. 9d. to 25s. 3d. These were the highest points reached in the twelve months. From January to the close of September the course of prices, checked by intermediate rallies, has been downwards, beet sugar at the close of the year, on September 30th, being at the lowest point of the twelve months and West Indian crystallised but slightly above the lowest. Beet sugar was then quoted at 9s. 1d. a cwt. for May delivery, against 11s. 3½d. in October, 1904, and 16s. 6½d. in January 1905, and West Indian crystallised at 17s. (lowest 16s. 9d.), against 18s. 9d. in October 1904, and 25s. 3d. in January 1905. The range of movement has thus been in beet sugar 7s. 5½d. a cwt., and in crystallised 8s. 6d. a cwt. Other years which showed violent fluctuations in addition to 1888-9, were 1884, when the range was 7s. in beet, and there were ranges of 7s. 6d. in 1876 and 10s. in 1877.

It is not necessary to inquire into the disturbing influences of previous years, but it must be noticed that the primary cause of the great advance in prices during the early months of the past year—namely, estimates of a short beet crop—has really been to a great extent justified by the ultimate yield, and had other factors been of a normal character, the speculative element responsible for the rise might have won the battle. But while the estimates were not so very far out in gauging the production, they altogether miscalculated the consumption. With a beet crop of about 4,800,000 tons, and even with some slight increase in supplies of cane sugar, a shortage before the close of the year was almost inevitable provided that the demand for consumption kept up to the average of immediately preceding years. But as the average price of unrefined sugar imported into the United Kingdom, which in 1902-3 was 8s. 5d. and in 1903-4 9s. 1½d., rose as high as 15s. for the four months including January, and has averaged 13s. 2d. over the whole season, consumption, following a well-recognised law, shrank accordingly. As early as December last the conservatism of consumers was noticeable, and during January it became quite pronounced. Speculators who had bought heavily found their opportunities to realise more restricted, while the pressure of carrying heavy liabilities grew more burdensome, and their endeavours to unload broke the market precipitately in January, and as recent events have proved, have since been a source of weakness.

Whether the market could, had it been necessary, have drawn to it more liberal supplies of cane sugar may be questioned, but there is no doubt that in the British West Indies and in Cuba the cane industry has expanded in area under cultivation, and, particularly in Cuba, in the erection of new factories, while the cost of production has materially decreased. The effect of this may not be marked during the new season beginning on the 1st inst., as all indications point to a beet crop of from 1,200,000 to 1,400,000 tons greater than last year's. It may, however, be pointed out that the present prices ruling for beet sugar are, according to good authorities, really below the cost of placing the article on the market. Should this not be corrected by the course of prices during the year, it will probably bring about a reduced acreage in Europe, and the expansion in the production of cane sugar will then become a factor of first importance. It may further be noted that the decline in beet sugar since October 1st, 1904, amounts to 2s. 2½d. (9s. 1d. against 11s. 3½d.), while cane sugar, taking West India crystallised, has fallen in price only 1s. 9d. (17s. against 18s. 9d.). At this time there is nothing in crop prospects foreshadowing disturbed market conditions, such as followed October last year, and the impression is general that the last of the Paris elements of weakness have been eliminated.

The writer says nothing about the Brussels Convention for two reasons. First, because the market movements have been mainly influenced by causes which must have operated, Convention or no Convention. Secondly, because the 1903-4 season followed too closely upon the date when the Convention became effective, and the 1904-5 season has been of too exceptional a character to admit of a fair, unbiassed judgment. Neither season has contributed knowledge enough to fulfil the hopes of the friends of the Convention nor to justify the denunciations of its enemies.

The Refiners and Cane Sugar.

Another article deals with the Scotch sugar refining industry, which is now in a more promising condition than it has been for a long time. The writer expresses opinion that none of the British refining districts will benefit more from the Brussels Convention than Greenock, which has always preferred to refine British Colonial cane sugar, though it has been compelled to resort to the refining of European beet sugar also. There is now less beet being refined than before the Convention, and next year there will be less still. To show the change which is being brought about by the Brussels Convention, the writer appends the following statement of the imports of raw sugar into the Clyde in the eight months ended August 31st, in comparison with the corresponding portion of 1904:—

Cane Sugar—				1905.				1904.
				8,890 Tons.			3,800 Tons.	
West Indies	...	...	...	27,707	"	...	25,572	"
Java	...	...	...	24,175	"	..	26,416	"
Other cane	...	...	...		
Total cane	...	...	...	60,772	"	...	55,788	"
Beet sugar	...	...	...	21,238	"	...	42,231	"
Total	...	...	...	82,010	"	...	98,019	"

These figures show a reduction by one-half of the beet sugar refined, and an increase in cane sugar, though not enough to make up for the fall in beet. It is to be remembered that, while a crop of beet sugar can be sown and reaped within six months, it takes eighteen months for a new plantation of sugar cane to begin to yield. And a large increase is expected this year in the crop of West Indian

cane sugar, more of which will go to Greenock refineries. For while the reciprocity treaty between Cuba and the United States formed a check to the flow of British West India sugar to the United States, the preferential tariff attracted it to Canada. But Canada is not able to refine all she requires, and West Indian raw sugar now comes to Greenock to be refined and then shipped to Canada, still under the preferential tariff.

All the six refineries in Greenock are now in full work, and with an abundant prospective supply of cane sugar kept at a moderate range of prices by a recovery of beet sugar from the low level of supply of last season, they have entered upon what promises to be a period of sound and satisfactory trade.

The Canadian Tariff.

The third article deals with sugar and the Canadian preferential tariff, and the writer, who hails from Montreal, points out that with regard to the accusation of the planters that the Canadian refiners are absorbing the entire amount of the preference allowed by the Canadian Government upon raw sugars imported from the West Indies, this, of course, is a matter which cannot be interfered with by the Government, but which must be left to the control of the law of supply and demand. Figures supplied by an importer of foreign refined sugars are given in support of the claim that the Canadian refiners do absorb the entire amount of the preference, though they deny it. In this connection it is of interest to note that at a meeting of the Council of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange on September 19th, a resolution was passed expressing opinion that a delegate should be appointed to attend the Canadian Tariff Conference to present the view of Jamaica on the $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ preference. It will be remembered that at the request of Mr. J. L. Ashenheim, the Minister of Finance of the Dominion approved of Jamaica being represented.

Referring to this same question, Messrs. G. P. Mitchell & Sons of Halifax, in their trade circular, say:—"Some criticism of our refiners has been indulged in by a few parties in Jamaica and elsewhere, who have aired themselves in print in London and on this side, accusing the refiners of having dealt unjustly with sugar planters, &c., but we must in justice to refiners say that they have done everything in their power to furnish a satisfactory market for raw sugar, but were compelled after June 30th, owing to the exceedingly heavy stocks of muscovado on hand, and the unprecedented depression in the refined market, to cease buying that description for a time, although always open to buy crystals, the production of which all the islands should endeavour to increase, as muscovados are not now desired by refiners, the demand for their production, yellow refined, having almost ceased."

Further Exhibition Awards.

The judges at the Colonial Exhibition have now completed their awards, and we are therefore able to give a list of those made for tobacco, cigars and molascuit, which are as follows:—

Jamaica Awards for Tobacco and Cigars.

EXHIBITOR.	EXHIBIT.	AWARD.
The Montpelier Cigar Co.	"Golofina" Cigars	Grand Prize.
Messrs. B. & J. B. Machado	"La Tropical" Cigars	Gold Medal.
Messrs. James Philip & Co.	"El Philcano" Cigars	Silver Medal.
Mr. J. Eustace Burke	"La Paloma" Cigars	Bronze Medal.

Trinidad Award.

The West Indian Cigar and Cigarette Co.	Manufactured Tobaccos and Cigarettes	Gold Medal.
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The Awards for Molascuit.

Messrs. Curtis Campbell & Co.	Molascuit	Gold Medal.
Messrs. Sandbach Tinne & Co.	Molascuit	Gold Medal.
Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.	Molascuit	Gold Medal.

General.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.	Model of R.M.S. "Tagus" and General Exhibit	Gold Medal.
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In our last issue Messrs. Daniel Finzi & Co., were only credited with having obtained a Bronze Medal for their Pimento Dram, "Special Reserve" Rum, and Black Label Rum, instead of the Silver Medal, which was actually awarded to them.

Descriptive Literature at the Exhibition.

No account of the Colonial Exhibition would be complete without a few words regarding the descriptive literature distributed at it. In future Exhibitions it may be found possible to adopt the method of labelling the principal exhibits with short descriptive labels printed in bold type as is done at the Imperial Institute. On the present occasion the nearest approach to this system was found in the Jamaica Court, where single page leaflets, surmounted by the arms of the colony, describing in popular style cocoa, coffee, cassava, grape-fruit, &c., were laid about in profusion. Admirable "copy" for such labels was to be found in a little book entitled "Souvenirs of Jamaica: Notes on the Manufacture of Curiosities and other Souvenirs," by E. J. Wortley, of the Government Laboratory. Short and chatty notes are given in it regarding every curiosity and every kind of tourist ware in Jamaica, jippi-jappa hats, baskets, the wonderful lace bark work, stamps, scorpions, crocodile eggs, and what not. A book dealing with the chief industries of the island on similar lines would be very useful. But the chief publication in the Jamaica Court was "Jamaica in 1905: the Handbook of Information for Intending Settlers and Visitors." This is

a new and entirely remodelled edition of a work which first appeared in 1895, then, as now, edited by Mr. Frank Cundall, F.S.A., the Secretary and Librarian of the Institute of Jamaica, under whose auspices it is published. It gives in a handy form such particulars concerning the island as should prove useful chiefly to intending settlers. In furtherance of this object, short notices have been included on the various articles of cultivation in the island which have been supplied by the leading planters and pen keepers. Many exquisite half-tone illustrations brighten the text, those of the "White River Falls," by J. W. Cleary, "A Bamboo Glade on a Pen in St. Catherine," by the Hon. Dr. James Johnston, and "Port Antonio," by Messrs. A. Duperly & Son, being particularly beautiful. The book is bound in a white art cover, on which a typical Jamaica scene is admirably reproduced by the three-colour process, the effect of some cocoa-nut palms in the foreground being especially striking.

Trinidad, too, had a wealth of descriptive literature in the Court. From a commercial point of view the most important was an eight page paper, "Statistics of Trinidad Trade," which was specially compiled for the Exhibition from official returns by Professor P. Carmody, F.I.C., F.C.S. A special feature of the paper is a set of charts showing the countries to which the principal exports of the colony have gone for the past three financial years ending 1904. Reprints of various Government papers including Mr. E. H. Cunningham-Craig's report on "Trinidad Manjak" and the "Mayaro Guayaguayare Oilfield"; the Government Analyst and Government Geologist on "Portland Cement as a Local Industry"; Professor Wyndham R. Dunstan on "Trinidad Petroleum," and some brief analytical notes entitled "Asphalt, Manjak, Petroleum, Glance Pitch, and Iron Pitch," by Professor Carmody, were distributed in considerable quantities. It would not be possible in a brief summary to deal at any length with these publications. The names of the authors are in themselves a guarantee of their accuracy, and it will be a satisfaction to our readers to know that these important papers may still be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms. The Marabella Manjak Co., Ltd., also issued a leaflet regarding manjak. The company holds the exclusive right to win coal, manjak, asphalt, mineral oils



The R.M.S.P. Co.'s Exhibit at the Colonial Exhibition.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company were awarded a gold medal for their exhibit, which occupied a space of 300 square feet in the West Indian Court at the Colonial Exhibition at the Crystal Palace. Besides a large model of the R.M.S. "Tagus," the Company showed many specimens of tropical fruits, and distributed a quantity of literature descriptive of the islands.

and mineral substances from a property of some 800 acres of land close to San Fernando, the second town of importance in Trinidad. The familiar "Mirror Almanack and General Commercial Directory" for 1905, containing a vast amount of general information regarding Trinidad, now in its twelfth year of publication, was in evidence, and also the "Trinidad and Tobago Year Book," compiled by Lt.-Colonel J. H. Collens, V.D., which is now in its fortieth issue, a fact which abundantly testifies to its usefulness. "The Book of Trinidad," edited by T. B. Jackson and published by Messrs. Muir Marshall & Co., of Port of Spain, is a fine example of printing. Many photographs of local scenery are excellently reproduced by the half tone process on art paper, and some of the illustrations of tropical fruit are remarkably fine and certainly better than anything of the kind which has ever been produced before in the West Indies. The letterpress is varied and attractive, comprising as it does a series of articles regarding the resources of the island and local life and customs which should succeed in attracting many visitors to the island during the coming tourist season. Mention also must be made of the "Souvenir of Trinidad," a book of views, including one of the famous clump of bamboos near Government House, from which the four monsters over eighty feet high, now permanently housed in the Crystal Palace, were taken; and last, but not least, "Industrial Trinidad," a neatly compiled series of papers issued under the auspices of the Victoria Institute, and Dr. de Verteuil's and Mr. Lionel M. Fraser's Histories of Trinidad.

Dealing now with Barbados, there was the "Handbook of Barbados," comprising historical, agricultural and general information concerning the Colony, issued on the authority of the Committee appointed by the Government of Barbados. The pamphlet, which was printed locally, is bound in a handsome cover specially designed by Lady Carter, the wife of the Governor of the Colony, on which there is a design including sugar-canes entwined with the Union Jack, bananas, and the hibiscus, with a row of cabbage palms and a windmill in the distance. The handbook has evidently been carefully prepared, and though, of course, Barbados is so densely populated and developed that there is no need to attract settlers to its shores, the book will doubtless serve its purpose in calling attention to the produce of the island, and, by making its climatic and general conditions more widely known, attract to it a larger number of tourists than ever. The total revenue and expenditure, and the value of imports and exports for five years, are given in the appendices, one of which contains a list of standard works relating to Barbados. The handbook also includes a complete catalogue of the exhibits of the Colony. The publications of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, which are too well-known to require description, were also to be found conveniently placed in the Court for those interested to take away with them.

Grenada was content to rely upon the general catalogue of the Exhibition, which was issued officially by the Crystal Palace Company. The cover of this publication, which represents the King in green trousers, surrounded by representatives of the British Empire, was chiefly remarkable for the incongruity of its colours, which were singularly ill-chosen, and the catalogue itself contained many inaccuracies, though on the whole we think that it will help to interest many people in the West Indies, for out of 255 pages no less than 139 were devoted to the West Indies. The catalogue of exhibits of each Colony was preceded by a descriptive note dealing with its history, climate, population, imports and exports, and principal industries, the information being derived in a large measure from the handbook for settlers published by the Emigrants' Information Office and the Colonial Secretaries' reports. Exhibition catalogues are not looked upon as infallible authorities, but if they induce people to inquire further about the subjects dealt with in their pages, they amply serve their purpose.

Notes of Interest.

OBITUARY. We have learned, by cable, with deep regret of the death of Mr. W. R. Boon, of Wingfield Manor, St. Kitts, and also of Mr. Edward J. Sadler, of Sav-la-Mar, Jamaica.

CIRCULAR No. 91. One of our Members is anxious to obtain a copy of the *West India Committee Circular*, No. 91, New Series, to complete a set, and will be glad to pay 1s. for it if sent to the West India Committee Rooms.

TRINIDAD LAKE ASPHALT. Contracts for paving in compressed Trinidad Lake Asphalt are being carried out in the city of Liverpool and in the boroughs of Booth and Bethnal Green. A sample stretch of the pavement has, we are glad to learn, also been laid in Islington.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended October 5th, 24 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.00d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb.

A PROPOSED CARTEL. According to the *Journal des Fabricantes de Sucre*, some representatives of sugar refineries in Bohemia met at Prague recently with a view to endeavour to form a cartel, but without result. It is stated that the *fourparlers* will soon be re-opened.

A WEDDING. The marriage of Mr. T. Woolcombe O'Neal and Miss Emily Constance Belfield, niece of the late Mr. Allan Belfield, was solemnised at St. Luke's Parish Church, Chelsea, on October 11th. Our congratulations are due to Mr. and Mrs. O'Neal, whose names will be familiar in connection with Barbados.

BINDING CASES. For Members desirous of having their *Circulars* bound, handsome lettered cases 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. We also have a few patent spring back cases for filing the *West India Committee Circular*, which can be obtained from the Secretary for 2s. 6d. each, or post free 3s.

THE WEST INDIAN CONFERENCE. It is announced that the West Indian Agricultural Conference will be held in Jamaica in January next under the presidency of Sir Daniel Morris, Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies. A Committee consisting of the Hon. Clarence Bourne, Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, and the Hon. W. Fawcett, Director of Public Gardens and Plantations, representing the Board of Agriculture, Mr. Robert Craig, and Mr. J. R. Williams with Mr. John Barclay as Secretary, has been appointed to complete the local arrangements.

The Homeward Mail.

The fortnight in the West Indies, reviewed by the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, was uneventful. On the whole, the weather conditions were not so favourable as when we last went to press, there being a scarcity of rain in British Guiana, Antigua, Jamaica and Nevis. Preparations were being made in Barbados for the celebration of the Nelson Centenary under the auspices of the Navy League, who were arranging to decorate the statue in Trafalgar Square.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "La Plata" arrived at Southampton at 5 a.m. on Tuesday, October 3rd, and the mails were delivered in London on the same afternoon. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Kingston" arrived at Avonmouth on Monday, October 9th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received by various opportunities:

Antigua—Rain Wanted.

(J. FREELAND FOOTE, ESQ.) September 15th—The cotton crop had come up regularly, but the caterpillars had already commenced to give trouble.

The weather for September had not been satisfactory: while some places had had between 3 and 4 inches of rain, others had only had parts. The cane crop was green and growing, but very backward, and everything depended on the rainfall for the next three or four months.

Barbados—The Withdrawal of the Troops.

(T. W. WILKINSON, ESQ.) September 20th—It had been definitely announced that the white troops would be removed about the middle of November, and that the West India Regiment would leave in January next year. In the meantime, the military authorities were offering for sale all those lands in their possession that the local Government were not going to take over.

He was glad to be able to state that the railway was once more in operation. Under the title of the "Barbados Light Railway" the management were running passenger trains to St. Andrew regularly five days in the week, leaving out Wednesdays and Thursdays. At present the engines of the old company were being used, but it was understood that later on light oil engines would be put on.

They had had some heavy rains during the fortnight, and almost everywhere the canes were looking fine, and if the weather continued favourable a large crop was anticipated. The cultivation of cotton was still on the increase in the seaboard parishes, and bananas also continued to be planted in suitable districts. The parish of St. Philip did not come in for a full share of the fortnight's rain, in fact it received less than any, at the same time the crops in that part of the island were not suffering, although they would soon want some rain.

On September 6th they experienced a slight weather disturbance. The barometer fell a little, and there was a strong wind blowing from the south which caused some anxiety at first, later on, however, it subsided, and little or no damage was done on shore, although an intercolonial schooner, which had put to sea in the morning but was compelled to return to port at night, was wrecked against the pier head, and the captain and one of the crew were drowned.

British Guiana—The Fall in Sugar.

(J. McCOWAN, ESQ.) September 18th—A meeting of the Planters' Association had been held to discuss the regulations for estates' hospitals, and they had sent in a letter to the Government, asking that consideration might be given to the different points to which attention had been called. The principal objection to the regulations that had been raised was where it was proposed to take away the authority of the manager to give the sick nurse leave of absence, as had been the practice in the past, when there were no serious cases in the hospital. No reply had been received from the Government yet.

With the drop in the price of beet, crystals had also receded, and a sale was made that morning of a small quantity of new sugar at 2 cents.

The weather had been too dry during the fortnight. The arrow was backward for the time of the year, and good showers were wanted to bring them out.

Dominica—The Lime Industry.

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.) September 17th—The new arrangement of the mail service would suit Dominica much better than the present one, the interval between the arrival and departure of the mail boat giving ample time for the transaction of business. It was possibly, too, that even if they could not use the R M S P Co for shipping fruit to New York, the fact that there was an alternative route would induce the Quebec Line to offer greater facilities in this respect than were at present enjoyed.

The efforts now being made in England to introduce limes seemed to be making headway. If this trade were taken up the possibilities would be enormous. Dominica was better suited to the cultivation of limes than any other product, and should be able to keep pace with any development in demand. The trade with New York had increased largely this year. Canada would not touch limes at present.

His Excellency H. Hesketh Bell, C M G., on September 13th laid the foundation stone of the Carnegie Library. The building was being erected in the gardens where the Victoria Memorial Library stood.

The writer believed he was right in saying, in connection with the question of federation with Canada, that there was, and had been for some time, a strong feeling that closer commercial relations with Canada would be of great advantage to Dominica, but that actual federation had not been seriously considered.

Jamaica—Rain Wanted.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, ESQ.) September 20th—Their autumn seasons seemed to be approaching, and the island generally had experienced seasonable weather. The writer regretted, however, that up to the last reports received from Brown's Town (3 or 4 days previously), the want of rain was still a matter of grave anxiety.

Nevis—Cotton Prospects.

(HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND) September 16th—It had proved an agreeable surprise to everyone in Nevis to learn that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's new itinerary, to be commenced in October, would restore the islands almost entirely to the *status quo ante*. The present arrangement was most inconvenient, a protest against it having been unanimously passed at a recent meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society.

On September 12th some parts of the island had a copious rainfall, and also on the 13th in some districts four inches of rain was measured. Unfortunately, however, the cotton belt (i.e. the lands prepared for 1906 crop in cotton) on the south side of the island, got no rain at all, and as the first planting had been almost a complete failure, great anxiety prevailed, seeing that the time for planting successfully was rapidly passing away. Unless rain of a soaking description fell at an early date, the cotton crop for 1906 would have little chance of touching this year's output.

St. Kitts—Beneficial Rains.

(CHAS. A. SMITH, ESQ.) September 16th—The island generally, but more especially the windward side, had benefited much by the good rains which had fallen since last advices. The young cotton plants looked promising and healthy.

St. Vincent—Federation in the Air.

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & Co) September 18th—It seemed strange that just as the larger question of federation with Canada was in the air, the authorities of the Windward Islands were trying to bring about the federation of St. Vincent and Grenada, which had aroused intense indignation in the former island, and which the people there would never freely submit to. To begin with, they had no intercourse with Grenada commercially, and socially they were totally dissimilar, and in the next place their products were entirely different, the general complaint being that already too much of their money found its way to Grenada for the upkeep of offices there. It was understood that mass meetings were being convened to protest against this step, and posters were seen throughout Kingstown of a monster demonstration to take place shortly, protesting against any scheme of confederation with Grenada.

If it were the desire of the Colonial Office to federate these smaller islands, they should prefer to see St. Vincent attached to Barbados, which was their natural confederate, both commercially and socially.

Trinidad—Quiet Times.

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C.M.G.) September 20th—Both trade and things generally were for the time extremely dull.

The weather continued perfect for growing crops, frequent showers alternating with scorching sun, but this created a heavy, damp heat which was most trying to man and beast.

During the past fortnight they had been without supplies of cocoa of any kind, and little or no business had been done. Fine red cocoas were still much sought after, and continued to bring fancy prices, in some cases as much as \$12 having been paid. Estate qualities and the finer grades were unobtainable, and could only nominally quote at 52s. and 53s. 6d. respectively, C & F. n.s.w. Havre. Offers were in the market for ordinary at 49s., but without takers. Venezuelans continued in poor supply, and the only two small lots of good quality offered during the fortnight had met with a weakening market. The first picking of new crop should be on the market early in November.

Cocoa Shipments.

		174,447 Bags Trinidad			
Total at last return	27,879	Venezuela.
Sept 6 S S "Maraval"	506	492	New York
" 6 S S "Tagus"	210	—	Europe
" 8 S S "Prins Willem V"	835	117	Europe
" 9 S S "Venetia"	300	150	Europe
" 16 S S "Oruro"	10	16	Canada
" 18 S S "Centro America"	100	—	Europe
" 18 S S "Prins Willem IV"	371	430	New York.
			176,839	29,064	

Letter to the Editor.

The Forthcoming Exhibition of Colonial Fruits.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

MY DEAR SIR,—I would remind you that the date of the next show of Colonial grown fruits and vegetable products (December 5th and 6th) is now rapidly approaching, and I trust that the West India Committee will be able to send and arrange a representative series of exhibits of fruits and other produce grown in our oldest Colonies.

The primary intention of these shows is to educate the British public as to what our Colonies can produce for the home markets, and what fruits are there grown which are not yet obtainable in any quantity in England. By their means also it is possible to show the high quality of our Colonial produce as compared with that grown in other foreign places. The recent rapid improvement in the banana and sugar industries give reason to hope that the imports of other horticultural products will increase when their superiority is more generally recognised. The forthcoming show is the third of the present series held by the Society, and these will be continued if the Colonies give sufficient support by sending exhibits. If, however, the tables are but badly filled, and many classes are not represented, it would obviously be of greater advantage to the Colonies to discontinue them rather than to allow it to be said that any poor or thin show is the best that can be produced by the British Empire.

No charge or fee is made to exhibitors for space or tabling, the Shows are always well noticed in the Press, and representatives from our larger markets and stores are present who are willing to give an opinion as to the probable marketable qualities or comparative merits of fruits sent to serve as a guide to planters and others. Thus everything possible is done by the Society to make the shows a success, and it rests entirely with the Colonies to decide whether they will accept this assistance and meet our Council by making the Exhibition representative of the Imperial resources.

Yours faithfully, B WILKS, Secretary.

(We are pleased to be able to state that Grenada—thanks to the recent formation in that Colony of a permanent Exhibition Committee—will be represented, and that Mr John Barclay, the enthusiastic Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society is approaching fruit growers with the same object in view. The West India Committee gladly offer their services in this connection, and will receive and arrange such exhibits as may be sent to them, addressed to the Secretary, the West India Committee, Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster. The R M S P Co. have generously consented to carry exhibits freight free.—ED.)

Our Library.

Our Library has been enriched by the addition of "A Historical and Descriptive Account of Antigua," illustrated by numerous engravings, coloured in imitation of drawings taken on the spot, dealing with the character of the country, the customs of the negroes, &c., accompanied by a map of the island exhibiting the names and positions of the different estates and dwellings, with a list of proprietors, numbers of slaves, &c., and a chronological table of events connected with the Colony, which has been presented to us by the firm of Messrs. A. M. Lee & Co. The book was published in London in 1830, and the copy which has now come into our possession is in a very fine state of preservation. The engravings are reproduced by the old aquatint process by Mr. C. Bentley, from drawings by the author, Mr. J. A. Johnson, and one cannot help being struck by the superiority of these pictures over those produced now-a-days by such processes as the three-colour. The distances are particularly beautiful and soft, though in some cases nearer objects may be rather crude. The view of "Old North Sound" Estate is perhaps the most charming, with its old windmill in the foreground overlooked by the church on a neighbouring elevation.

We hope that other of our readers will follow Messrs. A. M. Lee & Co.'s generous example, and look over their bookshelves and present to the Committee such volumes, &c., connected with the West Indies as they are able to spare.

The International Sugar Journal. Vol. VII., No. 82. Altrincham, Manchester. A feature of the October number of this valuable monthly journal is a timely article on the "Ethics of Journalism." The Editor very properly finds fault with the piracy of articles, translated by experts at a considerable expense, by Indian, Colonial and American papers, without due credit being given. In this respect we sympathise with our colleague. Mr. T. H. P. Heriot's article on Simple Methods of Chemical Control is continued over five pages, and a further instalment of "Personal Impressions of Cuba" by Dr. Herzfeld, abridged from a German paper, makes very interesting reading.

"**Tropical Life.**" Vol. I., No. 3. We are always glad to welcome a new contemporary, and must congratulate the editor of "Tropical Life" upon the progress which is being made by his monthly journal, devoted to the interests of those living, trading, holding property, or otherwise interested in tropical or sub-tropical countries. Mr. Hamel Smith does his work well, and merits the support of the Colonists, who will find much to interest them in "Tropical Life," whatever may be the kind of tropical produce in which they are interested.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "La Plata" (Capt. W. J. Dagnall), Oct. 3rd:—
Barbados—Mr. G. R. Warwick, Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Martinez, Mrs. Rosenberg, Major G. H. Barefoot, R.A.M.C., Mr. R. Pashley, Mr. E. Sutton, Mr. and Mrs. S. Parris, Mr. F. Irby, Miss H. Chandler, Mr. W. K. Chandler, Mr. A. A. Denne, Capt. H. B. G. Walton, R.A.M.C., C. S. M. Callaghan. **Demerara**—Mr. F. J. Morris, Miss Morris, Mr. and Mrs. de Salis, Mr. and Mrs. Downer. **Jamaica**—Sergt. and Mrs. Milner. **Trinidad**—Mr. P. L. Vignole, Mr. I. N. Robertson, Mr. C. O. Robertson, Mr. T. K. Mitchell, Mr. F. E. Martinez, Miss I. Mathison, Mrs. A. F. Mathison, Mr. R. H. S. Smith, Mrs. J. B. Todd, Mr. S. J. Kirton, Mr. L. Santelli, Mr. Geo. White, Mr. J. M. Thomas, Mr. G. E. Darwent, Mr. C. Darwent, Mr. A. Francheschi, Mr. I. Taylor, Mr. R. G. Thomas, two Misses Rapsey, Mr. H. C. Divino, Mr. Eyers. **Grenada**—His Honour C. J. Tarring. **St. Vincent**—Mr. Alex. Smith.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Atrato" (Capt. Stranger), Oct. 14th:—
Barbados—Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Thorne, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Easty, the Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Barbados, Mr. E. S. Comber, Mr. C. H. Matchett, Mr. H. Johnson, Mr. J., Mrs. and Miss Bancroft. **Demerara**—Mr. O. Hill, Miss Bartlett, Mr. E. G. Chamberlaine, Mr. and

Mrs. Schewillen, Mr. Massiah, Mr. J. Burke, Mr. H. J. Knottenbelt, Mr. T. Fairbairn, Mr. C. A. Maclean, Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Pereira, Mr. J. Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. G. Ross, Mrs. Macadam **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hartley, Mr. O. Nielsen, Mr. Greg, Dr. Robertson, Mr. McNicoll, Mr. A. Macfarlane, Mr. E. R. Jones, Hon. O. Marescaux, Major Marescaux, Mr. R. G. Craig, Mr. E. S. Major, Mrs. Hudson **Trinidad**—Mr. H. A. B. McCulloch, Mrs. Noble, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Messervy, Mr. M. Alonzo, Mrs. Wheeler, Mr. J. Cadman, Mr. C. J. Waine, Mrs. L. Mathieu, Mr. H. Matthes **Dominica**—His Honour Judge J. Danavall **St. Lucia**—Hon. and Mrs. G. Graf, Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. G. Hudson **St. Vincent**—Mr. E. Matthes, Mr. A. Zeffers

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "La Plata" (Capt. W. J. Dagnall), Oct. 28th:—**Barbados**—Mr. and Mrs. W. Hunter, Miss Bagott, Mr. and Mrs. Manning, Mr. D. A. Wiles, Mr. and Mrs. Greaves, Miss H. Bryden, Mr. W. H. Walton, Mr. H., Mrs. and Miss Thorn, Mr. C. Blattman **Demerara**—Mr. B. Howell and Misses Jones, Mr. Thomas Hiscocks **Jamaica**—Mrs. Isaacs, Mr. F. E. Hopkins, Mrs. E. K. and Miss Isaacs, Mrs. Bacher **Trinidad**—Mrs. Skinner, Dr. C. A. Vincent, Lt.-Col. Brake, Mr. and Mrs. M. Berkeley, Miss N. Maillard, Mr. Miller, Dr. Bennett, Miss Bennett, Miss Cumming, Lady Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. C. Stollmeyer, Miss Mecham, Mr. and Mrs. T. Warner, Miss Harrigan, Mrs. Hart, Miss K. Pogson, Mr. S., Mrs. and Miss Henderson, Miss G. Dyett, Miss L. Gauteaume, Mrs. Guiseppé, Mrs. Stephen, Mr. and Mrs. E. Nivet, Mr. W. H. Richardson, Mrs. and Miss de Gaumes, Miss E. de Verteuil **Antigua**—Mr. and Mrs. J. Godwin **Grenada**—Mr. B. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Hayward, Mr. R. G. de Gale, Mr. and Mrs. Macfaren, Hon. J. T. de la Mothe, Miss G. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. D. Slinger **St. Lucia**—Hon. E. du Boulay **St. Kitts**—Sir Robert and Lady Bromley

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—**HOME ARRIVALS** per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. Owen Jones), Sept. 27th:—**Jamaica**—Mr. W. P. Branson, Mr. G. A. H. Branson, Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Bannermann, Mr. S. A. G. Cox, Mr. and Mrs. Copeland, Mr. R. C. De Pass, Mr. F. L. De Pass, Mr. P. H. Greg, Mr. A. F. Hort, Miss Edith Kirkham, Mr. E. Lyen, Mr. J. S. Moseley, Mrs. C. A. Moseley, Miss Nixon, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Owden, Miss V. Pearson, Mr. J. B. Roncallo, Mr. J. Lucie Smith, Mr. E. Lucie Smith, Mr. Chas. E. Soares, Mr. J. E. Sharp, Mr. S. de la Torre, Mr. H. R. Rowe

HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons) Oct. 10th:—**Jamaica**—Mr. Anderson, Mr. Boyle, Mr. J. R. Baillie, Miss Boettcher, Miss Cochrane, Mr. J. S. Croshaw, Mr. H. A. Davidson, Mr. G. Forbes, Mr. Wm. Foulstone, Major E. Gillespie, Mr. C. F. Guest, Mr. E. A. H. Haggart, Mr. R. F. Hurray, Mr. T. Harper, Mr. F. W. Harper, Miss A. M. Hall, Mr. A. C. Houchen, Mr. F. E. Heath, Miss Jones, Mr. J. H. Jenks, Hon. Dr. Johnston, Mrs. H. J. Kerr, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. H. E. Meadows, Miss Morgan, Miss S. P. Musson, Mr. R. M. Murray, Mr. W. R. Morrison, Miss J. E. Marsh, Mrs. Pilliner, Mr. V. St. Leger Pinnock, Miss C. C. Pearman, Miss Royden, Mr. Harold Smith, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Sadler, Mr. W. V. Townend, Mr. Tobin, K. C., Mr. T. F. Teversham, Miss Vickers, Dr. and Mrs. Wilde, Mrs. H. and Miss Westmoreland

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. Owen Jones) Oct. 7th—**Jamaica**—Mr. C. W. Brockley, Mr. and Mrs. Barnett Brown, Mrs. C. R. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Cargill, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hartley, Mr. J. W. Hill, Lieut. L. J. Jones, Miss A. D. Johnson, Mrs. Leo F. Lopez, Mr. W. McMahon, Mr. A. S. Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Robinson, Mr. W. E. Richards, Dr. A. P. Sturridge, Mr. C. D. Sandemann, Miss Thomas, Lieut. C. D. Tod, Mr. F. C. Tomlinson, Lieut. O. W. White, Mr. John Mills

Mail Arrangements.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Oct. 14	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P. Co.	"Atrato"	Oct. 13 midn't
" 18	Demerara	Liverpool	Liverpool Line	"Frednes"	" 17 8 p.m.
" 20	Barbados, Trinidad and Demerara	Glasgow	Direct Line	"Crown of Navarre"	" 19 6 p.m.
" 20	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Statia"	" 19 midn't
" 21	Bermuda, Turks Island and Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Kingston"	" 20 midn't
" 21	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted), and Demerara	Liverpool	Harrison Line	"Barrister"	" 21 6 15 a.m.
" 25	Jamaica	Queenstown	via U.S.A.		
" 28	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P. Co.	"La Plata"	" 27 midn't

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
" 17	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P. Co.	"Trent"
" 25	Jamaica and Turks Island	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Antonio"

Mails are despatched to the West India Islands and Demerara per R.M.S.P. Co. from Southampton, and the Direct Line from Dartmouth, and to Turks Island and Jamaica per I.D.W.I.M.S., and via the United States unless special instructions per "name of ship," are given on the envelopes.

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. We are indebted to the *Morning Post* for several of the items of information given below.

Mr. THOMAS JACKSON has been appointed Curator of the Botanic Station, Antigua.

Mr. JUSTICE R. A. SWAN, Puisne Judge of Trinidad, has returned to the Colony from leave of absence.

Sir HENRY BOVELL left England on September 29th, to resume his duties as Chief Justice of British Guiana.

Mr. WILLIAM MORISON, Financial Representative, British Guiana, has reported to His Excellency the Governor his return to the Colony.

Mr E. ST. J. BRANCH, Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands, left England on Friday last, to resume his duties after leave of absence.

The Hon. H. R. PIPON SCHOONES, late Attorney-General of Jamaica, has proceeded to Gibraltar to assume the duties of Chief Justice.

Mr FRANCISCO FERNANDES, Government Medical Officer, British Guiana, has been appointed to be a Justice of the Peace in and for that Colony.

Mr C. P. WIDDUP, Sub-Inspector of Police, British Guiana, has been granted an extension of leave of absence for three months from October 13th, 1905.

His Excellency the Governor of British Guiana has been pleased to accept the resignation of Lieut. C. FORSTER ALLEYNE, Army Service Corps, of his appointment of A.D.C. and Private Secretary as from the 4th ult. Mr G. BALL GREENE, Government Secretariat, has been appointed to act as Private Secretary until further orders.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) October 9th. "Light partial showers," **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) October 4th. "Weather very dry, rain much wanted." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) week ended Sept. 20th. **PORT ANTONIO**: 14th to 18th, "Fine;" 19th to 20th, "Heavy rain." **KINGSTON**: "Fine."

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Sept. 19 1905	1904	Jan. 1 to Sept. 19 1905	1904	April 1 to Sept. 9 1905	1904	Jan. 1 to Sept. 27 1905	1904	Oct. 1 to Sept. 19 1905	1904
Sugar	36,760	36,689	38,363	48,690	6571	5660	279,223	363,528	...	...
Molasses	38,117	44,411	2071	1328	...	...	2887	1493	...	...
Rum	8846	12,045	726,326	870,513	176	28	...	...
Molascult	3586	3059	...	...	165	59	...	...
Cocoa	37,126	100,676	16,198	12,054	29,945,755	34,879,920	63,246	66,969
Coffee	12,230	12,616	11,930	63,115	...	...
Coconuts	240,471	161,710	2,000,581	1,205,155	6,536,149	5,989,960	...	...
Copra	7,702	12,297	...	...
Cotton	704	1032
Cotton Seed	4745	6594
Asphalt	86,466	98,142	...	...
Oranges	11,304,795	10,032,205	...	...	...	...
Bananas	8,366,339	2,801,402	...	...	...	...
Pimento
Spice
Gold	62,405	57,546	...	...	...	...	5210	4245
Diamonds	3916	7791	...	...	...	...	673	753
Balata	636	637
									201	145

West Indian Securities.

The Colonial Bank.

Mr. Harry Hankey Dobree presided at the half-yearly general meeting of the Colonial Bank on October 4th, and in moving the adoption of the report of accounts, said the notes in circulation were £72,000 less, deposits at interest and on current account £93,000 more, and bills payable £114,000 more than for the corresponding period of last year, while on the credit side of the account specie showed £17,000 more, cash at London bankers and at call £169,000 more, investments £10,000 more, bills receivable £34,000 more, due in the colonies on current accounts £29,000 more, and bills discounted and in transitu £126,000 less. They had, in round figures, immediately available assets amounting to £2,800,000, to meet liabilities of £3,200,000, or approximately, 80 per cent. The expenses were £500 more and the gross profits, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, £5,000 less. The board were able to recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. and carry forward £20,000, against £21,000. With regard to the reduction in the carry-over, proprietors would remember that the action of the Governor of Jamaica and the Jamaica Railway Company v. the Colonial Bank resulted in a verdict against them for £22,000, with interest. The suit had been in progress for some years, and although the directors had every confidence in the justice of their cause, they from year to year made provision in view of the possibility of an adverse decision, and the amount was met with that fund and a small sum from the carry-forward. Law and justice did not, unfortunately, always go hand-in-hand, and the board could not but feel that in this case the bank has suffered a grievous injustice, and the Jamaica Railway Company had received the money in question twice over. With regard to the immediate prospects of the bank, he thought that, on the whole, they were favourable. Although there had been a very heavy fall in the price of sugar, there were prospects of some revival. The main cause of the fall was the high price to which sugar was at one time driven up by the most rash and enormous speculation, and that had culminated in failures in Paris houses in the sugar trade, of which they were no doubt cognisant. Although a large beetroot crop was expected this year, there was no cause to think it would be inordinately large, and there was fair reason to suppose that the next crops would realise remunerative prices. He moved the adoption of the report and accounts. Mr. E. Brodie (Deputy-Chairman) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Mr. Drysdale then proposed a vote of thanks to the Directors and staff, which was seconded by Mr. Sams, and carried unanimously.

The Bank Rate remains at 4 % (changed from 3 % on Sept. 28th, 1905), and Consols (2½ %) are quoted 88½.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

SUGAR.—Average Prices of 88% Beet, f.o.b. Hamburg, for 10 years.

Seasons ...	1904/5	1903/4	1902/3	1901/2	1900/1	1899/1900	1898/99	1897/98	1896/97	1895/96
	12s. 7½d.	8s. 11¾d.	8s. 1d.	6s. 6½d.	9s. 2d.	10s. 3d.	10s. 2½d.	9s. 2¾d.	8s. 11d.	10s. 8¾d.

Average price of 10 years, 9s. 5¾d.

European Beet Crop for 10 years.

1904/5	1903/4	1902/3	1901/2	1900/1	1899/1900	1898/9	1897/8	1896/7	1895/6
4,650,000	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

Opening quotations of 88% Beet, 1st October.

1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896
8s. 8½d.	11s. 4½d.	8s. 9¾d.	6s. 8½d.	7s. 6½d.	10s. 0½d.	9s. 5¾d.	9s. 8½d.	8s. 7d.	9s. 0¾d.

Average opening price, 8s. 11½d.

General comments on the position of the sugar market will be found in a leading article in this issue.

The closing prices of 88% Beet, f.o.b. Hamburg, are:—October, 8s. 8½d.; November, 8s. 9¾d.; December, 8s. 9¾d.; January/March, 8s. 11¾d.; May, 9s. 1½d.; and October/December, 1906, 9s. 4¾d.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Europe ...	710,000	1,090,000	1,450,000	1,430,000	610,000
United States ...	210,000	150,000	150,000	160,000	160,000
Cuba ...	160,000	—	140,000	110,000	70,000
Cargoes afloat ...	190,000	290,000	140,000	200,000	110,000
Total ...	1,270,000	1,530,000	1,880,000	1,900,000	950,000

Quotations of 88% Beet:—

1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
8s. 8½d.	10s. 11¾d.	8s. 10½d.	7s. 1d.	7s. 6¾d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—Notwithstanding the decline in imitations to 15s and 15s 6d a steady demand prevails for West India yellow crystallised, which is now getting into a small compass, and good sales are being effected, chiefly from 17s to 17s 3d., with a general range of 16s 6d to 18s. The value of average qualities remains 17s. The nominal value of a 96 test cargo to Refiners is 10s. on floating terms, but Javas are selling at 9s 9d., which makes West India centrifugals at 10s. look dear.

Molasses Sugar is in good demand, values ranging from 12s to 15s 6d., duty paid. A sale of 2000 bags Trinidad, on basis of 86, has been made at 8s 3d. on floating terms, in bond.

Muscovado.—Grocery kinds are scarce and wanted, about 15s to 16s being the spot values. To Refiners no sugar is offering, and the nominal value of 89 test is 8s 9d. on floating terms.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905	1904	1903	1902
Imports ...	32,000	36,000	20,000	56,000
Deliveries ...	33,000	39,000	34,000	34,000
Stocks ...	9,000	10,000	15,000	34,000

Quotations of average qualities, crystallised

1905	1904	1903	1902
17s. 0d.	18s. 6d.	16s. 0d.	14s. 0d.

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 9 months:

	1905	1904	1903	1902
Home Consumption ...	2,504,000	2,622,000	2,567,000	2,798,000
Stocks 30th Sept ...	8,262,000	9,663,000	10,152,000	9,633,000
Stocks in London:				
Jamaica ...	9400	11,000	11,400	11,900
Demerara ...	5200	7600	7000	8500
Total of all kinds ...	22,776	26,204	26,204	3428

There is scarcely any business passing in this Market and prices remain unchanged, viz., Jamaica, 2s. 1d. for fair Standard Home Trade Marks, Demerara, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 3d., and Leewards, 11d. to 1s. 3d. Consumption is poor, as will be seen by the Board of Trade Returns printed above, but stocks are fortunately moderate.

Cocoa.—Board of Trade Returns for 9 months:

	1905	1904	1903	1902
Imports ...	18,168	21,956	18,666	20,474
Home Consumption ...	14,557	15,340	13,851	16,101
Stocks 30th Sept ...	5962	6755	5124	5212
Stocks in London:	83,000	95,000	66,000	73,000

The Market is very dull, and a further decline of 1s to 2s. in prices, notably in Trinidad, has taken place. Our manufacturers seem shy of buying and are waiting for some cold weather to improve the demand for their goods. The latest sales have been on the following basis: Trinidad fair collected, 51s., Estate Marks, 51s. to 54s.; Grenada fair, 47s., and fermented, 49s. to 51s. From other Islands, Native cocoa is worth 44s. to 45s., and fermented, 48s. to 51s. The first nine months' Consumption for this year is 14,557 tons, which compare with 15,097 tons, being the average of the three previous years. This is disappointing, but was generally foreseen.

Coffee.—Without alteration. Good ordinary Jamaica, 40s. to 42s.

Nutmegs.—Recent sales of West India comprise: 57's at 2s. 2d., 70's at 1s. 3d., 82's at 10d., 92's at 8½d., 100's at 6d., 144's at 5d., and in shell, 4½d. **Mace.**—Fair pale sold at 18. 4d. to 1s. 5d., dark to fair red, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 3d., and broken, 1s. **Ginger.**—Jamaica, dull. A few good bright sold at 56s., low middling to middling, 43s. to 48s., and Khaton at 34s. 6d. **Pimento.**—Slightly easier. Fair, 2½d.

Arrowroot.—London figures since 1st Jan.

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Imports ...	12,224	13,261	11,322	15,966	16,074
Deliveries ...	13,021	14,238	9728	10,052	14,401
Stocks, 30th Sept. ...	8673	11,659	13,845	13,633	9873

Small sales of good manufacturing at 1¾d. Supplies wanted for later on.

Lime Juice.—Slow at 9d. to 1s. Concentrated, lower, with sales at £16 10s. Hand Pressed, quiet, value 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, unchanged at 1s. 7d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XX.

ENTERED AT
STATIONERS HALL.

FRIDAY, OCT. 27th, 1905.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LIII.



Mr. Frederic Lubbock.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEPTHING LANE, LONDON.

Oct. 26th, 1905

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6842 CENTRAL.

MR. LYTTLETON'S reply to the request that he should receive a large deputation on the subject of the withdrawal of the white troops from the West Indies has now been received, and to say that it has caused grave disappointment is to use altogether too mild a phrase. Mr. Lyttelton's refusal is based upon the fact that His Majesty's Government, after fully considering all the arguments placed before them by the West India Committee, both by deputation and in their letters, have definitely decided to withdraw the British infantry at present stationed in the West Indian Colonies. But the deputation in question waited upon him as far back as March 16th last, and at that time it was not seriously thought that the Government would persist in their determination to take this step, and the arguments put forward, were, therefore, not as pronounced and earnest as they would have been had this been realised. Moreover the expressions of views received from the Colonies since that date are weighty and convincing. It is quite obvious that the matter

cannot be left where it is, as it is clear from the tone of Mr. Lyttelton's letter that neither the Colonial

Office nor His Majesty's Government realise the very serious importance of this question to our West Indian Colonies. A further meeting of the West India Committee will be summoned immediately, and it is probable that Mr. Arthur J. Balfour will be asked to receive a deputation. The reasons for the reconsideration of the matter are so numerous and pressing, that it is hardly to be conceived that he could refuse to do so without incurring a grave responsibility, and it must be remembered that for obvious reasons it is not always possible to express in a letter what can be said in deputation. We have constantly called attention in the *Circular* to the increased influence of the United States in the Caribbean, and it is difficult to resist the impression which has evidently taken a firm hold in the West Indies that this action of the Government indicates the abandonment of our West Indian Colonies. The conclusion is only a natural one, after the recent action of His Majesty's Ministers with regard to the postal service, which the Colonies have enjoyed for over 60 years, and the attitude of indifference with regard to the telegraph service, and many minor matters. After the extreme loyalty exhibited by these Colonies for so many years, in spite of the unjust treatment meted out to them by the Mother Country, it seems inexplicable that the British Government should for a moment consider their abandonment, and further it is extraordinary that no notice of this policy on the part of the Home Government should have been indicated to them, and no opportunity given to them of expressing their views with regard to other arrangements which will become necessary.

SEVERAL instances of the awakening interest which is being shown by people at home in our West Indian Colonies are given in our present issue. There is to begin with the suggestion made in a north country paper that a line of steamers should run between Hull and the West Indies; there is an article dealing with the steadily growing demand for West Indian limes and other produce, of which we have now direct and tangible evidence; and there is also a list of some of the applications for appointments in the West Indies, which we are constantly receiving. These latter, it will be seen, come from men in many diverse walks of life, and we hope that our readers will avail themselves of this list when they have any appointments on their estates or elsewhere to fill up. Though the West India Committee accept no responsibility in the matter they will gladly send copies of the two testimonials which are in every instance furnished by the applicants to those desiring to avail themselves of them. Then, again, we are continually receiving callers wishful of making enquiries regarding the West Indies as a tourist resort, and we endeavour always to furnish these desirables with the fullest and most reliable information as to the best time to start, the best itinerary to follow, and so on. This we do gladly and readily for the West Indies, and as no charge whatever is made, we venture to suggest that the West Indies as a whole can best show their appreciation, if they feel that we are doing a useful work, by helping us to add to our membership and thus strengthen our position. As we have already reminded our readers, the subscriptions of those elected between now and the close of the year, will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1907, and we trust, therefore, that a large number of candidates will come forward between now and the close of the year. Our new list of Members will be published early in 1906, and it will be found that our membership now considerably exceeds 1,000, but we are by no means satisfied that it should stand at that figure. It should be nearer 2,000, and if every Member of the West India Committee who reads this article will make an endeavour to introduce at least one new candidate, our wishes will be more than fulfilled. The West Indian revival is beginning, and with the help of the Government and the cordial co-operation of merchants, planters and all interested in the welfare of the Colonies—in which category we may class the enlightened Press of the West Indies—prosperity will return to what are now, and what we hope will always remain, the British West Indies.

THE absence of a regular contract mail service such as the West Indies have enjoyed for over sixty years is beginning to make itself felt in a number of ways. The next general homeward mail will not arrive at Southampton until November 6th, a period of three weeks since the last, though there will be a mail delivered on or about the 2nd or 3rd by the "Direct" Line, which is certainly doing its best to minimise the inconvenience. We are not surprised to learn from various merchants that the arrangements, or perhaps we should say the lack of arrangements, are beginning to give rise to complaint. Till a few days ago it looked as if the plan for holding the Agricultural Conference in Jamaica in 1906 would have to be altered, through there being no regular contract mail service. This has, however, been obviated by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, to whom also credit is due for so loyally standing by the Colonies, deciding to place their touring steamer "Solent" at the disposal of the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture. Formerly it used to take four days from Barbados and three from Trinidad to reach Jamaica, but under the existing conditions a passenger cannot get between the two Colonies in less than nine and eight days respectively, and it must be admitted that this does not augur well for the success of any scheme for the unification of the West Indies. However, we must continue to bear in mind that in 1890 the Lords of the Treasury definitely expressed the opinion that the convenience and business of the Colonies depend in a large manner upon the punctuality and absolute regularity of their communications with Europe and with each other, and we must hope that this will continue to represent the views of the Government when the matter is reconsidered, as it must be at no distant date.

Mr. Frederic Lubbock.

At the present moment there are no less than nine old Etonians on the Executive of the West India Committee, and prominent amongst them is Mr. Frederic Lubbock, the brother of the respected Chairman. Mr. Frederic Lubbock was born in 1842, and was at Eton from 1855 to 1860. After a voyage round the world, he entered the old-established house of Cavan, Lubbock & Co., and remained with them until 1865, when he joined the board of the newly-formed Colonial Company, which was merged into the New Colonial Company, Ltd., and is interested in large sugar estates in British Guiana, Trinidad, and Puerto Rico. Mr. Lubbock is the Deputy-Governor of the London Assurance Corporation, and Director of the Bank of British North America and the Bank of British South America. In the City, as elsewhere, he is universally respected.

Trafalgar Square, Barbados.

Trafalgar Square, Barbados, is the subject of our full-page illustration in the present issue. The official news of Lord Nelson's victory and death reached Barbados on December 20th, 1805. On December 23rd there was a brilliant illumination to celebrate the great victory, and subscriptions were raised for the erection of a statue to his memory, with the result that upwards of £2,300 were raised for the erection of a statue in the course of a few weeks. The committee appointed for the execution of this plan was subscribed in the course of a few weeks. The committee appointed for the execution of this plan purchased "the Green" for £1,050, towards which the Legislature contributed £500. This spot was renamed Trafalgar Square. In 1808 the means available for the erection of the statue amounted to £1,413 4s. 6d., which was transmitted to the agent of Barbados in London, with a request that a bronze statue in full uniform should be ordered. It was completed in 1813, and the first stone of the pedestal was laid by Sir George Beckwith on February 24th of that year. The statue was unveiled by two lieutenants of the Navy who fought at Trafalgar, and a general salute of ordinance from St. Anne's and the men-of-war in the Bay followed. Some unsightly houses obstructed the Square, and partly for their purchase and removal, and partly for the improvement of its appearance, the Legislature voted £2,000 in 1826. This same square was the scene of celebrations on the occasion of the Trafalgar

Centenary on Saturday last. The statue was decorated by the local branch of the Navy League, and Bridgetown was beflagged by day and illuminated by night. The statue of Lord Nelson can be seen to the left of our illustration, while behind are the Public Buildings, solidly constructed of coral rock. The West Indies were well represented in Trafalgar Square, London, on the same day. A large chaplet nearly 10ft. high, of laurel and crotons, bearing the inscription: "To Nelson. A grateful recognition on behalf of the West Indies, from the West India Committee," and a laurel wreath inscribed: "A tribute to the memory of Nelson, from the Members of the West Indian Club," were deposited at the base of the statue and several Members, including the Hon. B. Howell Jones and Mr. R. Rutherford, were present at the commemoration service.

The Recent Exhibition.

A meeting of the General Exhibition Committee of the West India Committee was held on October 19th. Those present were Sir Augustus Hemming, Sir E. Noël Walker, Mr. J. A. Chambers, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. H. F. Previté, Mr. R. Rutherford, and the Secretary. The business before the meeting consisted of the consideration of the Report and Statement of Receipts and Expenditure. It is probable that both will be published in a special souvenir, which is now in course of compilation. A feature of this pamphlet will be a series of critical articles by the Collector of Economic Products at the Imperial Institute, and various suggestions and hints will be given which should prove useful for guidance on future occasions. Meanwhile the good work of the Exhibition is being carried on in several directions, and we continue to receive quite a number of inquiries from would-be settlers and visitors to the West Indies. During the past fortnight our efforts to bring West Indian limes before the attention of the British Public have continued, and for the first time within our recollection the fruit is quoted in the *Produce Markets' Review*. A letter addressed to the Press by the Secretary of the West India Committee on the subject has been published in many papers throughout the United Kingdom, with the result that enquiries are being received from all parts, and some of the best hotels and restaurants in the country are trying the fruit. A firm of high-class grocers in Ireland who saw the letter wrote, "We shall be glad if you will let us have any information you can supply as to the articles shipped by the producers suitable for grocers' handling. We should be glad to help to give our Colonies a chance." A reply sent to this firm brought an immediate order for limes. As a result of the appearance of this letter in the *Manchester Guardian*, a correspondent wrote that he had "an opportunity of pushing lime fruit through hawkers," and enquired as to price, &c. These examples of the replies received are only a fraction of the whole, but they leave little room for doubt that organised and sustained work will bring about a satisfactory and permanent demand for all kinds of West Indian produce.

The West India Association of Glasgow.

The annual meeting of the members of the West India Association of Glasgow was held at 111, Bath Street, Glasgow, on September 20th, when Mr. James R. Greig, in the absence of the Chairman and vice-Chairman, presided. The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report of the Board of Directors, remarked generally on the various subjects which had occupied the attention of the Board during the year, at the same time complimenting the Association on the satisfactory state of the funds. Mr. Norman Lamont, M.P., after commenting upon the subject of contracts for carrying of the mails to the West Indies and British Guiana, questioned the wisdom of withdrawing all white troops from those colonies. He suggested that if economy were the motive which had prompted the decision of the Imperial Government to withdraw its troops, it might be induced to reconsider a step so fraught with danger to the security of the West Indies against negro risings, if the cost of the maintenance of a small garrison of Imperial troops in a central position, such as St. Lucia, were

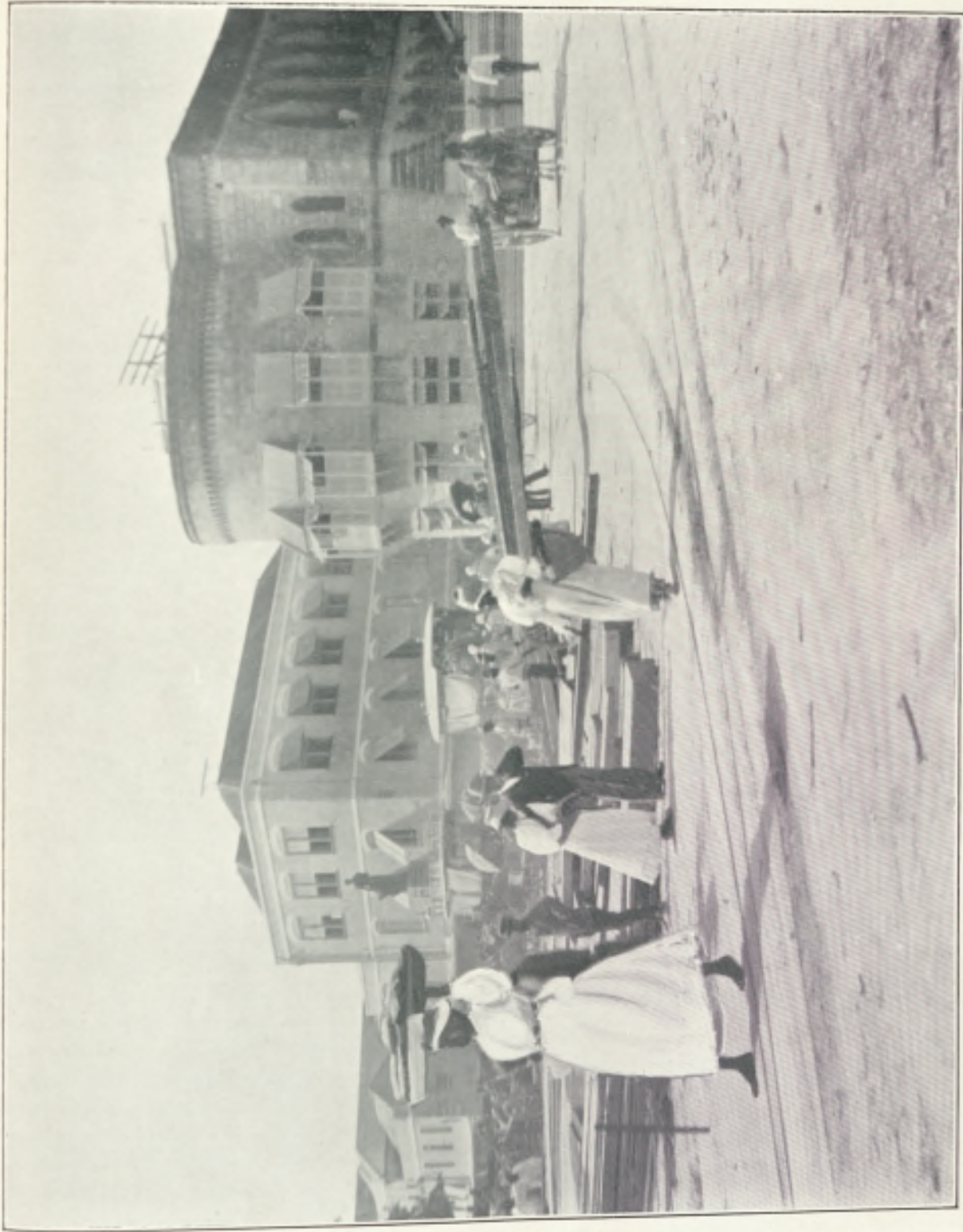


Photo by Algernon E. Apdinall.

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TRAFALGAR SQUARE, BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS.

The Statue of Lord Nelson appears in front of the block of buildings to the left.

undertaken by the Governments of the principal West Indian colonies. Riots, such as occurred in Port of Spain in March, 1903, might occur elsewhere, and the arrival of a few companies of white troops, the symbol of Imperial power, had considerable moral effect in preventing the spread of disaffection on that occasion. Mr. Thomas Prentice and Mr. W. N. Armour also spoke in support. The retiring directors were unanimously re-elected, Mr. Alex. Crum Ewing, of Strathleven, being again appointed Chairman, with Mr. Humphry Crum Ewing as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Archibald H. Donald, of Messrs. M'Grigor, Donald & Co., continues to act as Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. John Ewing as Hon. Secretary.

The Forthcoming Tourist Season.

Following our usual custom, we give a few particulars regarding the arrangements which are being made for the forthcoming tourist season in the West Indies, hoping that they will serve the double purpose of inducing a number of those who habitually avoid the rigours of an English winter, to test the genial climate of the Caribbean, and of reminding our friends that the season is likely to be an exceptionally busy one, and that they should make their arrangements accordingly. The R.M.S.P. Co. issue a revised and improved edition of their tourist handbook, ably compiled by Mr. C. E. Vezey, and from this we learn that in addition to the usual tours at £1 per diem, it has been arranged that the "Solent," one of the Company's beautiful yacht-like steamers, shall be specially employed for the service of tourists for cruises round the islands, of which full particulars are given. By all the various tours of eight weeks the voyage to and from England will be made in the same steamer. A band will be carried, and as there is also a library of modern books and a dark room for the use of passengers, it will be seen that tourists are to be well catered for. Besides the series of yachting cruises of eight weeks for 70 guineas, beginning on January 6th, there are fifty-six days' trips beginning on November 11th for £56, and six weeks' trips beginning on the same day for £50. Full particulars and the itinerary of each of these cruises are given in the handbook, which is extremely well got up, with numerous half-tone illustrations. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service always carry a number of tourists during the winter months, and do much towards popularising Jamaica, to which island they run, by the distribution of pamphlets and leaflets. The Company offers return tickets to Jamaica by their steamers, "Port Kingston," "Port Royal," and "Port Antonio," at rates varying from £32 to £40, and it is hoped that the line will be strengthened about December next by the addition of a fine new steamer, the "Port Henderson." The Leyland Line provide a series of circular tours from Liverpool to Liverpool by two alternative routes, one via Colon, Kingston, Jamaica, and Mexican ports, fortnightly, and the other via Barbados, Trinidad, La Guayra, Puerto Cabello, Curacao, Savanilla and Carthagena, twice monthly, at the low rate of £40, passengers having the option of breaking the journey at any of the ports of call and continuing it by a later steamer, and for an extra payment of £10 passengers are able to combine the two routes by sailing as far as Carthagena, and then proceeding at their own expense to Colon to join the steamer for Jamaica and Mexican ports. The "Direct" Line of steamers has lately been increased by two large vessels fitted specially for carrying passengers in the West Indies, with large, airy state-rooms and good speed, and during the past year several parties have availed themselves of these vessels to make the round tour from Glasgow to the West Indies and back. To those acquainted with both, it often seems remarkable that so many people go year after year to the Riviera, which is invariably dusty and in many seasons cold, when they have such opportunities of obtaining warmth and sunshine without the inconvenience of a long and uncomfortable railway journey. During the tourist months the Atlantic is at its best, and the description given by Mr. Frank Bullen in "Back to Sunny Seas," of which a review appears in another column, accurately describes the state of the usual elements when the Azores are reached during this season of the year. As regards the West Indies, it must be admitted that much remains

to be done in many of the islands in the way of improving accommodation for tourists, but there are the Marine Hotel in Barbados, the Queen's Park Hotel in Trinidad, certainly equal to better class hotels on the Continent, and the Titchfield, the Constant Spring and Myrtle Bank Hotels in Jamaica, which would be hard to beat. Moreover, lodgings are readily obtainable in the smaller islands, and those who are not satisfied with such accommodation can remain on board their ship.

Hull and the West Indies.

In a leading article in the *Eastern Morning News* of October 20th, dealing with the letter of the Secretary of the West India Committee on the subject of West Indian limes, the writer goes on to say: "Much West Indian produce is sold in Hull, but for some reason or other there is no direct line of steamers to the third port. There are occasional steamers sailing from Hull to the West Indies taking out coal, &c., but there are no direct shipments in return. There are enormous quantities of bananas consumed in Hull, and considerable quantities are also sent from Hull to inland markets, yet all this fruit comes through a second party, or through some other port. The banana trade has now assumed such dimensions that surely it would pay to put a direct line of steamers on the berth to cater for it. Why should other ports monopolise the West Indian trade? The Hull fruit merchants are surely capable of dealing with the produce which the West Indies can send? If so, one is inclined to think that they would not be long before they made themselves acquainted with the requirements of the different markets." This is a refreshing indication of the revival of public interest in our West Indian Colonies. If our memory serves us the head of a large firm connected with Hull complained bitterly when bounties were abolished, because the shipping of that port would, as he said, be affected. But we must have our sugar, so why should not the vessels carry Colonial cane sugar and other West Indian produce instead of foreign beet?

West Indian Cable Communications.

The Cable Communication Sub-Committee of the West India Committee met on October 20th, and agreed to the basis of their report, which will be laid before the Executive shortly. The chief causes of complaint hitherto have been the high message rate, the quality of press news supplied, and the constant breakdowns between Trinidad and Demerara. It is certainly an anomalous state of affairs that while messages can be sent to Havana, in Cuba, for 1s. 6d. a word, the rate to Trinidad is 5s. 1d. and to Demerara as much as 7s., and it is hardly surprising that these heavy rates prove a serious handicap to business, and that they are felt onerous by the commercial communities of the Colonies. Jamaica is more happily situated in having a reliable service and a rate of 3s. per word only, and it is the aim of the Committee to endeavour to secure efficiency coupled with a low message rate for the other Colonies.

Cane Farming in Trinidad.

A further meeting of Trinidad proprietors was held at the West India Committee Rooms on Wednesday, October 18th, to consider the agreement for regulating the purchase of sugar-canes from cane farmers. The agreement, now engrossed, was approved by all those present, who included Mr. L. G. Arbuthnot, the Hon. S. Henderson, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, and Mr. W. A. Tennant, and it was decided to send it to the Hon. A. P. Marryat in the Colony for signature locally. It will accordingly be posted to the Colony per the R.M.S. "La Plata" to-morrow. A copy has also been sent to the Governor, with a covering letter expressing on behalf of the firms interested their gratitude for the interest which he is taking in the matter, which they feel cannot fail materially to enhance the prospects of the complete success of an arrangement for regulating the purchase of farmers' canes. The agreement will, it is hoped, prove satisfactory to estates' proprietors and cane farmers alike.

The Indian Coolie Emigrant.

Under the heading "Indian Affairs," an interesting article devoted to the coolie emigrant, appeared in a recent issue of the *Times*. After referring to the infinitesimal effect which emigration has on the vast population of India, where it never equals and rarely approaches the percentage of the excess of the birth rate over the death rate, the writer criticised the attitude towards the Indian emigrant which is adopted by the self-governing Colonies, whose prejudice against a hard-working, law-abiding and unpretentious race is so strong that it must be doubtful whether it will be overcome even by the urgency of the demand for cheap and good labour. Dealing, on the other hand, with the British West Indies he has nothing but praise for the system. Emigrant ships are well managed now-a-days, and after the first few days of sea-sickness the coolie finds himself in luxury, according to his ideas. He has ample food, and nothing to do but bask in the sun and sleep, unless an energetic medical officer in charge of the ship makes him take some physical exercise for the sake of his health. He has probably given up nothing at home, for it is only when life there is impossible that the villager thinks of emigrating, in the desperate hope that something may turn up. He generally finds his hopes more than realised. Between registration and embarkation he is usually well treated, since the recruiter cannot afford to risk losing him by desertion. On the voyage he is well cared for under the direction of an European medical officer, whose fees are based on the number of emigrants reaching their destination in sound health. Arriving at, say, Demerara or Trinidad, he finds himself in a climate and surroundings not very different from those he is accustomed to. His own countrymen form one-third of the population. He is set down, perhaps, to sugar cultivation, which is nothing new to him; he is, by his own standard, comfortably housed, and if he has brought a family with him he is not separated from them. His wages enable him to save sums undreamed of in the old days of hand-to-mouth existence in India. The adult emigrants who returned to India in 1900 had £14 apiece in savings. The Natal men brought £19; even those from Réunion and Guadeloupe had £9. These, of course, are averages, and a certain proportion of the emigrants return home as poor as they left it. In the far west the coolie's troubles are few. Clothing is almost less of a difficulty than at home, his food is cheap, and his wages good. Occasionally an unpopular or tyrannical manager is found, and the coolies get into trouble for rioting and revenging themselves on him. The proportion of coolie women being small, jealousy sometimes leads to crimes of violence. With these exceptions, the coolie is recognised as the most peaceable and law-abiding of citizens, a man to whom it is worth while to offer an inducement to re-engage or to settle down as an agriculturist. He is far more useful and easily controlled than the negro, who affects to look down on the Indian coolie and is, with much better reason, despised and disliked by the eastern. That the coolies like the Colony is shown by the fact that many of them, after a free trip to India, emigrate again. In Natal, on the other hand, the colonists are only too anxious to get rid of their coolies once they become "free." As long



A St. Lucia Belle.

From the R.M.S.P. Co.'s new Tourist Handbook, to which reference is made on page 429.

as the indenture lasts the coolie is well enough off; his troubles begin when he proposes to settle down on his own account, as he is encouraged to do in Guiana and Trinidad. He must, in Natal, pay for a licence to trade, he must live in a location, and suffer other inconveniences. Yet Natal has in ten years attracted more coolies than any other Colony, a fact doubtless due to the possibility of saving larger sums out of a higher wage. British Guiana and Trinidad come next in order of popularity, whilst Mauritius shows the largest resident Indian population of all, due, no doubt, to the extensive employment of Indians in domestic service.

The total number of coolies who left India during ten years was 177,000. Of these, 33,000 were employed on building the Uganda Railway. During the same period 72,000 returned to India. These figures, when compared with the 300,000,000 who inhabit India, seem paltry indeed, though in themselves they are large enough to justify the concern which the Government manifests for the welfare of the coolie emigrant.

Colonial Report—British Honduras.

In his report on the Blue Book of British Honduras for 1904, Mr. H. E. W. Grant, the Acting Colonial Secretary, reminds us that British Honduras is a Colony of great possibilities. It is a land of forests and rivers, of wide areas of virgin soil, and, possibly, of mineral wealth. It may be safely predicted that in the course of time, when exploited by capital, the Colony will hold its own as a rich possession of His Majesty. In a country the size of Wales, with a present population of less than 40,000 souls, advancement in material welfare must necessarily be slow, but the forward movement has lately been distinctly accelerated. Surveys have been made, plans completed, and specifications drawn up, of more than one line of railway running from the coast to the interior, and there is good prospect of railway construction being undertaken in the early future.

On April 1st, 1903, the surplus on the General Revenue Account of the Colony was \$84,225.58. The following table shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the past five years:—

YEAR.	REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.		
	\$		\$	\$	
1900	289,727	...	246,201	...	43,526 Surplus.
1900-1	292,689	...	249,186	...	43,503 "
1901-2	272,142	...	256,910	...	15,232 "
1902-3	259,600	...	252,242	...	7,358 "
1903-4	301,194	...	266,039	...	35,155 "

There are now no large plantations in the Colony devoted to the cultivation of the sugar-cane. Formerly sugar was an important item in the export trade of British Honduras, but, after experiencing the many vicissitudes incidental to a depressed market, it disappeared altogether in 1901 from the list of exports. The value of home-grown sugar exported in 1877 was £30,926; the value in 1892 was £610; and in 1900 the value was £167. From May 15th, 1900, until 1903, no sugar appears to have been exported. In 1903, however, the product reappeared on the list of exports, the value of the quantity exported in that year being \$7,240. Sugar was again exported in 1904, the value being \$6,324. It is possible that, as an effect of the Sugar Convention, the sugar industry in British Honduras may be rehabilitated; but, owing to the complete abandonment of the old plantations, some years will probably elapse before the Colony will be in a position to export sugar in any considerable quantity.

Several cacao plantations are now established in the Colony, and some are producing good crops. A few years ago cacao was imported from London, but during 1904 British Honduras was able not only to satisfy home demands but to export the produce. The export of mahogany continues

to be by far the largest industry, 5,087,301 feet, valued at \$313,751, having been exported. Next to this comes the chicle industry, the result of the introduction of American capital. Of this commodity 773,323 lbs., valued at \$171,806, were exported; 508,200 bunches of bananas, valued at \$127,450, were also shipped.

Our Appointments Register.

The West India Committee Register of persons seeking appointments as Managers, Overseers, etc., etc., in the West Indies, is open to the inspection of Members daily. We shall be glad to put those of our Members resident in the Colonies in communication with persons seeking such appointments; but it must be understood that though in every case two testimonials are given, the West India Committee cannot undertake any responsibility after bringing the parties into touch. We have the following already on our list and shall be glad to furnish names and addresses on receipt of stamps to cover postage.

IDENTIFYING INITIALS	AGE	HEIGHT	CREST MEASUREMENT	PRESENT OCCUPATION	APPOINTMENT SOUGHT
1. R C.	23	5' 10½"	32"	Builder and Contractor's Clerk.	With Builder, Contractor or Architect
2. S E R S.	22	5 7	36	Printer's Cutter	Overseer (Sugar)
3. G H D.	25	5 7	37	Schoolmaster.	Overseer or Storekeeper
4. J H L.	28	5 10½	37	Book-keeper.	Overseer.
5. H E D.	22	5 7	34	Jewel Case Maker.	Overseer.
6. C S.	22	5 5	36	Organist and Engine Cleaner	Overseer in Demerara
7. J W G.	23	5 4½	35½	Part Manager, Tailoring Estab.	Overseer or other Post
8. W R B.	22	5 6	36½	Shop Assistant.	Overseer.
9. G B K.	26	6 2	38	Cost Clerk	Overseer.
10. T F.	38	5 9½	—	Book-keeper in St. Lucia.	Book-keeper or Clerk. <i>Has a little capital</i>
11. E V.	22	5 8½	38	Carpet Salesman	Overseer (Sugar)
12. H S.	21	5 8	36	Junior Clerk (Civil Service).	Clerk
13. B I.	23	5 9	37	Clerk	Overseer (Sugar).
14. G A L B.	29	5 10	40	Under Manager (Barbados).	Manager (Sugar)
15. A F W.	21	5 11	37	Clerk.	Overseer (Sugar).
16. A C.	26	6 0	39½	Overseer in Demerara.	Overseer in Trinidad
17. G I F.	30	5 9	36	Book-keeper to Electrical Engineer.	Accountant or Book-keeper.
18. H E N.	22	6 1½	36½	Chartered Accountant	Accountant, Secretary or other post
19. W T.	28	6 0½	38	Schoolmaster for Scientific Subjects.	Assistant on a Fruit Farm in Jamaica
20. A N.	25	5 11	31½	Manager to a Draper.	Overseer
21. J R N.	22	5 9½	36	Studying	Overseer.
22. A R M.	42	5 8½	38	Stationery Assistant	Overseer.
23. G F.	23	5 6½	35	Shorthand Clerk and Typist	Typist, Shorthand Clerk
24. R S McC.	33	5 8	36	Clerk	Overseer or Storekeeper
25. A M.	19	5 8	33	Clerk	Clerk or Storekeeper
26. J T.	22	5 7	35	Invoice Clerk	Bookkeeper or Clerk.
27. E H C.	21	5 8	34	Clerk	Clerk or Overseer.
28. J A E.	27	5 11	34	Ranching	Overseer.
29. H C B.	26	5 7	36	Clerk (late of 18th Hussars)	Overseer
30. D L L.	22	5 7	40	Student	Overseer (Sugar or Cocoa).
31. W L H.	28	5 8	38	Clerk	Overseer or Clerk.
32. J H.	31	5 6	38	Foreman Enginewright	Foreman Fitter or Engine Fitter.
33. W R B.	23	5 9	37	Stationer's Assistant	Stationery and Fancy Goods Assistant.
34. H. F.	23	5 10	36	Manager Cocoa Estate	Manager or Overseer on cocoa or rubber plantation in any part of the world.
35. G B S.	19	5 7	38	Bank Clerk	Overseer
36. A M.	37	5 5½	33	Electrical Engineer	Surveyor or any Civil Engineering employment
37. A E L.	29	5 9½	34	Book-keeper and Secretary	Book-keeper or Assistant in a Store.

Consular Reports.

Supply and Demand.

The wholesale dealers' association, which had been formed in Würtemberg to combat the Sugar Refiners' Trust, was dissolved in 1904, as in consequence of the Brussels Sugar Convention the German sugar market entered on a stage of natural conditions of supply and demand.

Sugar in Reunion.

36,483 tons of sugar were exported to France from Reunion during 1904 as compared with 48,926 tons in 1903, and 28,955 tons in 1902. Mr. Consul Maxse in his report, dated July 27th last, states that should the price of sugar be maintained at its present level, and should measures be taken to obtain a supply of labour for the sugar estates, a small amount of trade with the United Kingdom and its Colonies might spring up, but at present such trade does not exist.

Beetroot Sugar in Italy.

Mr. Consul-General Neville-Rolfe in his report on the trade of South Italy for 1905 states that the production of sugar in Italy has continued to increase largely, resulting in a considerable loss to the customs on the duties on imported sugar. There are now 34 factories in Italy for the production of the article, of which the most important produces 61,309 quintals annually. The total output of Italy for the year 1903-4 is 1,308,606 quintals, or 354,515 quintals more than in 1902-3. The supply is, in fact, greater than the demand, and there are considerable stocks standing over. The duty on the home-grown sugar produced 64,115,000 lire in 1902-3 in contrast to 52,558,000 lire in 1903-4, a loss to the revenue of 11,557,000 lire (£462,280).

Exports of Sugar from Belgium.

In his report dated September, 1905, on the trade of Belgium for 1904, Mr. Consul-General Hertslet states that the total exports of raw and refined sugar from Belgium to all countries amounted in 1904 to 184,965 tons, of a value of £1,981,032, thus showing a great increase over the exports of 1903, which reached only 116,655 tons during the latter year. The exports to the United Kingdom alone increased during 1904 by 100 per cent., the actual figures being as follows:—

Year	Quantity Tons.	Value. £
1903	43,387	408,800
1904	86,483	937,600

The large increase in the export of sugar from Belgium to the United Kingdom was due to the cessation of the purchase of sugar from Russia and other bounty giving countries.

Decreased Sugar Imports into Yokohama.

The report of Mr. Hall on the trade of Yokohama confirms the statement which we made last year during the pro-bounty agitation raised by certain of the confectioners, that Russian bounty-fed sugar being excluded from our markets would go to the east and displace Austrian sugar, which would thus be set free to come to England. The import of sugar, both refined and raw, into Yokohama, showed a falling-off during 1904. Of the former over 18,000 tons came in during 1904, value £220,000, as against nearly 28,000 tons, value £304,000, the previous year, the novel feature in this business being that more than half of the quantity in 1904 came from Russia, the next source of supply (Germany) furnishing less than one-fifth, whereas in 1903 it was Austria-Hungary which supplied almost one-half, Germany coming a close second. In raw sugar the decrease was not so marked, and there was no change in its origin, Dutch India not only retaining the pre-eminence which it had held during the two previous years but even increasing it, insomuch that it furnished more than half the total, leaving the remainder to China, the Philippines and Hong-Kong. The decrease in this import staple was due to increase of taxation, the consumption tax being increased on April 1st, and the import duty on July 1st, and towards the end of the year another check was given by the rise in Java raws consequent on the rumour of a shortage in the European beet crop.

"Imitation" Demerara Sugar from Mexico.

The State of Vera Cruz, says Mr. Consul Leay in his report for 1904, is the second largest producer of sugar-cane in Mexico, being surpassed only by Morelos. The total production of sugar for the season of 1904-5 may be estimated at 112,000 tons, or 5,000 tons greater than in 1903-4. The production in 1902-3 was 110,500 tons, while in the previous year it was 103,000 tons. The present crop has been considerably reduced by the excessive rains which have prevailed along the coast and in the interior. Between January 1st and the present time (July 1905) there has been exported from the Republic in round numbers 41,000 tons, the greater part, in fact almost all of which has gone to the United Kingdom. The monthly consumption of the country is about 7,500 tons, chiefly of the commonest class. The exports this year consist for the most part of "centrifugal 96," improperly called here "mascobado," and of a yellow crystallised sugar resembling the Demerara sufficiently for the purposes of fraud. It may be said that Mexico is making considerable progress in the methods adopted for producing and manufacturing sugar. In the majority of cases, however, antiquated modes are in vogue for the transport of the cane to the mill, and for the handling of the bagasse, or ground cane, after it has passed through the mill. The reduction of the duty on imported sugar, which came into effect in May last year, aimed solely at securing for Mexican exported sugar the privileges of the Brussels Convention.

Contemplated Development of the Cane Sugar Industry.

Reporting on the trade of Germany for the first half of 1905, Mr. Consul-General Schwabach states that the considerable shrinkage in the exports of German sugar as a result of the Brussels Convention makes a large increase of the home consumption imperative, especially as a further reduction of the foreign

trade is apprehended from the development of the cane sugar industry. The German home consumption increased in 1903-4 by 40 per cent. against the preceding year, viz., from 12 to 17.17 kilos. per head of the population; but the sugar industry is not satisfied with this result, and the German Sugar Industry Association (Verein der deutschen Zuckerindustrie) demands the reduction of the inland consumption tax from 14s. to 10s. per 100 kilos. As the consumption of sugar is still comparatively small in Germany (34 lbs. compared with about 80 lbs. in the United Kingdom, 60 lbs. in Denmark, 52 lbs. in Switzerland, and 40 lbs. in France), and as the reduction of the inland consumption tax from £1 to 14s. in 1903 was followed by an increase of 40 per cent., it is argued that a further considerable expansion may thus be attained. This, it is said, could be done without detriment to the fiscal interest, since the receipts from the home sugar tax increased notwithstanding the aforementioned reduction from £1 to 14s.



A Coolie Girl Picking Cocoa.

This charming picture is reproduced from Mrs. E. Steuart's book "Everyday Life on a Ceylon Cocoa Estate," a review of which appears on page 440.

Notes of Interest.

THE TROOPS. A weighty letter from Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Member of the Legislative Council of Barbados, appeared in the *Times* of Friday, October 13th.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended October 19th, 99 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.05d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb.

SUGAR PRICES. In reply to a correspondent who asks what the equivalent price of sugar in Barbados would be when the New York quotation is \$3, we may state that on the parity of \$3 in New York, muscovado 89 test is worth \$1.30 in the island, and on the parity of \$3½ in New York, centrifugal 96 test is worth \$1.85 in the island.

A NEW "DOFFER." The *Yorkshire Daily Observer* of October 2nd has an account of a new mechanical doffer for flyer frames, which has been invented by Mr. W. Howard Arnold-Forster, a new Member of the West India Committee. To the uninitiated we may explain that the doffer is a boy or girl who takes off the bobbins from the frames in the cotton mills.

THE SUGAR COMMISSION. The Permanent International Sugar Commission opened its periodical session at Brussels on October 23rd. The British Delegates present were Sir Henry Bergne and Mr. George Martineau. The chief question for consideration was that regarding the attitude of the Brazilian Government, which was represented by Senhor J. W. Wileman, of Rio de Janeiro.

CHAIRMAN OF R.M.S.P. CO. Mr. Owen Philipps, Chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, sailed for New York on October 18th to join the R.M.S. "Tagus" on her first voyage over the new route from New York to Southampton via the West Indies. It is stated that his tour is being made in order that important points regarding the new developments of the R.M.S.P. Co. may be settled.

CANADA'S 33½ % PREFERENCE. We understand that Trinidad has also decided to send a delegate to Canada to give evidence before the Tariff Conference, to endeavour to secure some arrangement whereby the West Indian sugar producers may share the advantages of the 33½ % preference, from which they are at present failing to reap financial benefit. The Jamaica delegate will be selected shortly.

FREIGHTS TO JAMAICA. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Company, Limited, announce that shipping rates to Jamaica on their steamers will be raised from November 18th, the new scale being: Manchester, 30s.; London rail, 30s.; London water, 25s.; Avonmouth Dock, 25s.; with 10 % primage. Out-ports of Jamaica served by the Company's steamers, 5s., and primage per ton extra in each case.

JAMAICA REVIVAL. Mr. G. E. Burke, the Canadian Commercial Agent at Kingston, has recently reported that a decided revival of the sugar industry is in evidence in Jamaica, not only among the large landed proprietors, but also among the peasantry, for whom hundreds of cane mills are being imported from the United States. These mills are admitted free of Customs' duty, and sell for 10 guineas each.

FURTHER EXHIBITION AWARD. Messrs. M. H. Pattinson & Sons have been awarded the Grand Prize, the highest award, for their banana specialities, and Gold Medals for banana flour for bread, banana oats for porridge, and banana cocoa, shewn at the recent Colonial Exhibition. Messrs. M. H. Pattinson & Sons are Members of the West India Committee, and their exhibit was situated near the West Indian Court.

BINDING CASES. For Members desirous of having their *Circulars* bound, handsome lettered cases 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. We

also have a few patent spring back cases for filing the *West India Committee Circular*, which can be obtained from the Secretary for 2s. 6d. each, or post free 3s.

LIVERPOOL COLONIALS. Under the presidency of Sir Alfred L. Jones, a Colonial Club has been formed in Liverpool and established at Eberle Street in that city. At the inaugural dinner on October 17th, the West Indies were represented by Mr. J. E. Tinne, who said that he firmly believed that an era of prolonged prosperity was dawning for the West Indies. The sugar industry was greatly improved, and the West Indies were now producing the finest cotton in the world, and were making, instead of rum, cattle food from the crushed sugar cane, which found a ready market in England, while Demerara was growing rice in such quantities that they were ceasing to import from Calcutta, and hoped shortly to send rice to England.

COTTON EXHIBITION. An exhibition of British grown cotton, on the lines of that recently held at the Imperial Institute, under the auspices of the British Cotton Growing Association, was opened at the Town Hall, Manchester, on the 17th inst. Sea Island cotton from the West Indies was well to the fore, and Mr. Hutton in his address stated that already cotton representing a money value of well over £100,000 had been received from our Colonies this year, and before the close they would have received £200,000 worth, every pound of which was due to the work of the Association. Other Manchester advices state that there is an increased tendency of Lancashire spinners to turn to finer counts, which should be good news for the West Indies. The Annual General Meeting of the British Cotton Growing Association is to be held in November.

THE W.I. CLUB DINNER. Mr. J. R. Heard of the 1st West India Regiment, who has been in charge of the Band of the Regiment during their visit to this country, was the guest of the evening at the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club on October 18th. Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, a Vice-President of the Club, occupied the Chair, and among those present were: Dr. H. E. G. Boyle, Mr. Brabant, Mr. E. R. Chudleigh, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. S. M. Massey, Mr. A. McD. Nathan, Mr. E. A. Reynolds-Ball, Mr. R. A. Robinson, Mr. J. J. Sabey, Mr. D. E. L. Slinger, Mr. H. E. Thorne, Mr. Chas. Wilson and Mr. A. E. Aspinall. The toast of "the King" having been duly honoured, the health of Mr. Heard was drunk, Mr. Shephard expressing the gratitude that was felt to Colonel Loscombe and the officers of the Regiment for kindly permitting the Band to visit this country. Mr. Heard, in reply, thanked the Club for the honour which they had paid to his Regiment, which had been identified with the West Indies for over 100 years.

MILLIONS AND MALARIA. Our readers will recollect that early in the year there was considerable correspondence in our columns regarding the suggestion put forward by Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbons, that the immunity enjoyed by Barbados from malaria and the anopheles mosquito, might be due to the presence in the water of the Colony of the little fish known locally as "millions." Mr. Gibbons brought a quantity of these fish home with him, and presented them to the Zoological Gardens, and it is interesting to learn from Mr. Reginald Innes Pocock, the Superintendent of the Gardens, that the fish are thriving wonderfully, and are feeding voraciously upon the larvæ of gnats, which are obtained from the tanks in the reptile house where the alligators are kept. The fish are rapidly increasing in number, and some were sent to the Natural History Museum for determination. Mr. Tate Regar pronounces them to be allied to, if not identical with, a species named *Girardinus versicolor*. The experiment yet remains to be made as to whether they are really responsible for the freedom of Barbados from malarial fever, and we hope that this will not be long delayed.

The Homeward Mail.

Letters by various opportunities from our correspondents in the West Indies give the expression of the views held in the Colonies regarding the question of federation with Canada, which appear to be very diverse. These will be more fully dealt with in a future issue of the *Circular*. Climatic conditions in the West Indies seem to have undergone very little change, and a heavy downpour was required in most places for the sugar crop. In Nevis rain was falling when the last steamer left, and this would be beneficial to the cotton crop, which was badly in need of moisture. The tide of visitors from the West Indies to the Mother Country is now ebbing, but among those who returned in the R.M.S. "Trent" were Mr. W. S. Vaughan of Dominica, who now intends to reside in this country, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Maulme, Mr. E. J. Scott and Mr. Catford. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Trent" arrived at Southampton at 2 a.m. on Tuesday, October 17th, and the mails were delivered in London on the same afternoon. The Imperial Direct West India Mail

Service's R.M.S. "Port Antonio" arrived at Avonmouth on Thursday, October 26th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received by various opportunities:—

Antigua—Federation with Canada.

(J. FREELAND FOOTE, ESQ.) September 29th—On September 25th the writer convened a meeting of the leading men in the island to discuss the question of federation with Canada. Those present included—Hon J. F. Foote in the Chair, Hon. J. J. Comacho, Hon. R. Warnford, Dr. F. Watts, Mr J. J. Thibou, Mr D. Rannie, Mr W. H. Ledault, Mr W. H. A. Court, Mr S. Galbraith, Mr H. J. Hall, Mr W. Forrest, Mr A. P. G. Austin, Mr. J. Anjo, Mr. C. Griffin, Mr. H. A. Tempany, Mr N. S. Johnston and Mr. R. Bryson. The Chairman stated that the object of the meeting was to ascertain the views of the leading men in Antigua regarding federation of the West Indies with Canada, and read a letter from the West India Committee asking that the advisability of a commercial and political federation with Canada should be discussed. The Hon. J. J. Comacho said that as far as he could see, the people of Antigua were willing to form a federation with Canada, but it would be unwise for Antiguans to bind themselves to anything at present. He advised an attempt at commercial union, not political, and was supported by Mr. Bryson and Mr. N. S. Johnston, who felt that a commercial union would prove beneficial to all concerned, as Canada could supply them with almost anything they required in the shape of food-stuffs, &c. The Hon. R. Warnford thought that the views expressed by the above gentlemen practically represented the views of the meeting in general. In conclusion, the Chairman said that he would advise the West India Committee that the meeting was in favour of a commercial union, but that the question of political union with Canada had not been sufficiently discussed to form a definite opinion.

The weather for the fortnight had been showery, keeping the canes green, but a heavy fall was required.

Barbados—The Governor's Denunciation of the Sugar Industry.

(T. W. WILKINSON, ESQ.) October 4th—When the writer passed through Trinidad a short time ago, he saw the system of wireless telegraphy installed there, and although it was not a success, he was told that with some alteration it was expected soon to be on a working footing.

The speech of the Governor of Barbados, to which reference was made in the *West India Committee Circular*, No. 158, had been the subject of comment in the *Demerara Argosy* from which it was copied into the *Advocate*. The former paper drew attention to a circular issued to the confectioners' trade by Messrs R. White & Sons, Ltd., of London, quoting the Governor's speech at the opening of the Legislature in July last, to prove that the abolition of the bounties was not benefiting the West Indies to the extent anticipated. Both branches of the Legislature replied to His Excellency in a temperate manner, at the same time most emphatically disagreeing with the views laid down in his address; for it was manifest to the meanest intelligence that sugar was the only industry that would support their vast population, and if it failed, there was no question as to the collapse of the island. But everyone in the West Indies knew that a much greater feeling of security in sugar now existed since the removal of the bounties, and while high values could not be expected, still every hope was entertained that in the future such prices would rule as would give a fair margin of interest on capital, and the writer felt that the day was very far off when Barbados, with its cheap labour, would cease to grow sugar as its staple industry. It was a vital question for Demerara, and in a lesser degree for Trinidad, to say nothing of other West Indian Islands, and the *Argosy* accused Sir Gilbert of stating what he ought to have known was not the truth. Minor industries, especially cotton and bananas, were being taken up in Barbados, but the labour employed in their cultivation was much less than in the case of cane.

The weather for the fortnight had been very trying. They had only had a few partial showers and baking suns, with hardly a breath of wind to cool the air. Although in most districts rain was wanted, still from all accounts the canes were not actually suffering yet, but the rainfall for September was much below the average, and a soaking rain was hoped for soon.

British Guiana—Federation with Canada.

(J. McCOWAN, ESQ.) October 2nd—With regard to confederation with Canada, nothing had as yet been put forward on which they could base any ideas as to the desirability of this step. The writer was afraid that their Custom's Tariff, which was raised purely for revenue purposes, and the question of local administration, would be the chief question to be considered in this matter, and which there would be some difficulty in settling. They were in a different position to the West Indies, and what might be advantageous to them would hardly apply to British Guiana. In the *Argosy* of September 23rd there was a good article on the subject, and in the same paper were given the views of some of their leading men. It was admitted that Canada was not able to offer them the same market for their sugars as the United States could, and until this position was changed it was somewhat premature to speak of confederation.

The sugar market had not yet opened. Latest advices reported a weak and inactive market, and buyers were without any orders to go upon. There had been no business done during the fortnight, and the last quotation was given at \$1.85.

The weather continued exceedingly dry and was affecting cultivation. Canes to be reaped between now and the end of the year were very backward, and those to be cut in May/June next year were practically at a standstill. Good heavy showers were wanted all over the Colony.

British Honduras—Professor Boyce's Mission.

(Hon. A. R. USHER) September 29th—Professor Boyce, of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, was there to report on the sanitary state of the Colony, and he had given several lectures on the yellow fever mosquito theory, which had been largely attended.

The weather had been unsettled, and they had had a good deal of rain recently, and consequently floods in several rivers, which had released a good deal of mahogany.

Dominica—Accident to the "Yare."

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.) September 30th—On the evening of the 27th, as the coasting steamer R.M.S. "Yare" was coming into Roseau, she collided with s.s. "Sibun" (Direct Line), which was just leaving her anchorage, with the result that the latter's anchor tore a hole in the "Yare's" side. The passengers and crew of the "Yare" were, of course, safely landed, while the vessel herself, although in a sinking condition, was towed by the "Sibun" into Portsmouth harbour. The temporary loss of their coasting steamer was a serious inconvenience, especially to planters on the windward coast, coming as it did almost in the middle of the lime crop.

With regard to Canadian federation, the writer could only confirm what he said by last mail, viz., that if it could be arranged it would meet with very general approval in Dominica.

Grenada—Exports for Three Years.

Through the courtesy of Messrs. Jonas, Browne & Son, we are able to give the exports from Grenada and the Grenadines from October 1st to September 30th, for the last three years:—

	1904—1905			1903—1904				1902—1903				
	Europe	U.S.A. &c	Total	Europe	U.S.A. &c	Total		Europe	U.S.A. &c	Total		
Cocoa ...	52,070	12,258	64,328	53,466	13,830	67,296	bags	Cocoa	53,253	9,766	63,019	bags
Spice ...	5,587	1,407	6,994	5,113	909	6,022	packages	Spice	4,553	1,642	6,195	packages
Cotton ...	705	—	705	1,041	—	1,041	bales	Cotton	1,028	—	1,028	bales
Cotton-seed	4,745	—	4,745	6,594	—	6,594	bags	Cotton-seed	7,125	—	7,125	bags
Kola-nuts	170	102	272	91	39	130	packages					
Coffee ...	23	—	23	134	—	134	bags					

Revis—Acreage under Cotton.

(HON. C. A. SHAND) September 30th—From information furnished, the writer estimated the acreage of cotton planted for 1906 between 1,500 and 1,600 acres. This year's crop was assumed to have been reaped from 1,000 acres, so that the increase for 1906 represented roughly 50 %, and as the prospects of sugar were anything but re-assuring, the tendency would be towards a very rapid development in their new industry.

As far as the writer could ascertain at such short notice, the feeling in the island was that closer relations with Canada would be beneficial to the Colony and the West Indies as a whole, but until some definite scheme was promulgated it was impossible to study the question seriously. The chief difficulty appeared to be the distance intervening and the difference of environment.

The contemplated alterations in the Royal Mail Company's itinerary were looked forward to as infinitely preferable to the present system, but the uncertainty of continuity in any programme was calculated to disturb business relations, and it would be far more satisfactory if the Government would revert to a regular contract.

Since last mail the weather had continued for the most part exceptionally dry. Here and there showers had fallen, but they been quite inadequate to the occasion. On the previous day, however, there was a steady soaking rain, which lasted for several hours, and appeared from all accounts to be general.

St. Kitts—Federation.

(CHAS. A. SMITH, ESQ.) September 30th—With reference to the question of confederation with Canada, the writer had had an interview with the majority of their local representatives in the Council, and they were unanimous in their feeling in this matter. As these included Mr. Horsford, who raised the question at the last meeting of the Federal Executive Council in Antigua, the writer thought that so far as this question was concerned, they were the pioneers in their Colony. Years ago annexation with the United States was mooted in the island, and as speaking commercially they were altogether dependent on them for their very subsistence, it was certain that had other extraneous causes not intervened, the agitation in that direction might have gone on, but as they all knew the acquisition of tropical possessions and a growing beet and cane industry closed the open door for them in America and turned their hopes in the direction of the Dominion, and no thinking man amongst them would object to a closer union with her. Cut adrift as they were from the Mother Country they were only as a finger, whereas joined to Canada they would be the same finger, but that finger connected with a hand joined to a living body; and there seemed no denying the fact that the Mother Country did not wish them, and it therefore behoved them to look for themselves. These seemed the opinions of most of them in the Colony at present, and the writer thought he might add that the feeling of "sentiment" was being considerably wiped out as numbers of their inhabitants had sons now in the Dominion, and although the time had not yet come to cut themselves adrift from "the flag," were there not evidences that Canada is preparing to follow Australia, if not go further and follow its big neighbour, and certainly with their hearts in Canada with their children, would the step not become an easy one for them to throw in their lot with them?

The cotton crop was of good promise, and flowering profusely. The attacks of worms had not been serious so far.

During the past week they had had splendid rains, and the canes were now growing magnificently. The late rain had been general, and all had accordingly derived benefit.

St. Lucia—The Mail Trouble.

(SYDNEY D. MELVILLE, ESQ.) September 30th—The frequent changes in the itinerary of the Royal Mail Company were very inconvenient and embarrassing. It was certain that everyone would feel this and would welcome some certain service.

They had had some exceedingly hot weather with frequent showers; the southern portion of the island, however, was still suffering from insufficient rain.

St. Vincent—Opposition to Federation with Grenada.

(Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co.) October 2nd—The question uppermost in everyone's mind in the Colony was the proposed confederation with Grenada. Their people would have none of it, and they trusted the authorities would not try to force it.

Trinidad—Crown Lands.

(HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C.M.G.) October 4th—The Governor had not yet given a decision on the proposal to raise the price of Crown lands as recommended by a most representative Committee. At a recent meeting of the Agricultural Society at which there was only one agriculturalist present, if Mr. Hart were excepted, who, being a Government official, abstained from voting, a resolution had been passed unanimously to the effect that any increase in the present selling price of Crown lands would be very injudicious and against the interest of the Colony. A full report appears in the *Port of Spain Gazette* of September 13th.

Heavy and frequent rains had been experienced throughout the fortnight in the northern districts, but in the southern quarters there was a sharp spell of dry weather, which had interfered with cane planting.

Some few bags of cocoa had come into the market during the past fortnight, for the reason that with the fine weather all the small merchants in the country districts took the opportunity of railing their holdings into town. Red cocoas continued to meet with a good demand, and were still fetching prices equal to estate kinds. "Estates" was quoted at from 52s 6d. to 53s., whilst "Ordinary" was worth about 51s. C. & F. n.s.w. Havre Venezuelans were very scarce, but there was little or no demand for these grades, and prices had accordingly weakened again. New crop cocoa would be on the market a little later than was at first anticipated, November 15th being about the date they calculated to begin shipments of these cocoas.

		Cocoa Shipments.			
Total at last return ...	...	176,839	Bags Trinidad	29,084	Venezuela
Sept 20 S.S. "Prins Eillem I" ...	...	1,050	"	—	Europe
" 20 S.S. "Grenada" ...	...	689	"	332	New York
" 20 S.S. "La Plata" ...	...	288	"	—	Europe
" 30 S.S. "Canada" ...	...	428	"	31	Europe
" 30 S.S. "Maracas" ...	...	150	"	30	New York
Oct 1 S.S. "Prins Willem II" ...	...	190	"	87	New York
		179,634		29,564	

Our Library.

We have received by the last R.M.S.P.Co.'s steamer, the "Trinidad and Tobago Blue Book, 1904-5," and the "British Guiana Blue Book, 1904-5, in addition to the usual Official Gazettes, Council Papers, &c., which are regularly filed at the West India Committee Rooms. 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.

The West Indian Picture Postcards. Several new series of these cards have recently been published for the tourist season 1905-6, the total number of sets being now fifteen. The new and improved series include West Indian Life and Views, Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad, and also a coloured series of West Indian Views. Over 50,000 of these cards have now been circulated, and it is hoped that they will help towards making the West Indies better known in this country. The cards and a list of the series are obtainable from Mr. G. P. Osmond, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

Trinidad to Manitoba and Back. Demerara: *Daily Chronicle* Office. We are indebted to Mr. C. W. Meaden, Manager of the Government Farm, Trinidad, for a small pamphlet compiled by himself and Mr. W. C. Jardine, son of the late editor of the *Demerara Daily Chronicle*, giving their impressions of a trip from Trinidad to Manitoba and back, which originally appeared in that journal. The account of the experiences of these two enterprising gentlemen will be read with additional interest at the present time, when the question of closer trade relations with Canada is being raised.

Every Day Life on a Ceylon Cocoa Estate. By Mary E. Steuart. London: Henry J. Drane, 6/- To the numerous body of our readers who are interested in cocoa estates in Trinidad, Grenada, and other parts of the West Indies, this book, which aims to give some few details of the daily life on a Ceylon cocoa estate, will be read with interest. Cocoa was first brought to Ceylon as an ornamental shrub some fifty years ago, and there are now considerably over 30,000 acres devoted to it in the Island. Mrs. Steuart describes the system of management of the estates, where everything possible is done to safeguard the interests of the absent proprietor and shareholder, as rather complicated. First in importance is the Visiting Agent, who may or may not be a partner in the firm of Colombo agents who ship the produce and through whose hands most of the business passes. He visits the estates once in three months, audits the accounts monthly, in some cases arranges about the shipment of crop, and is a sort of final Court of Appeal. Under him is the manager, who gives general orders, interferes where necessary and has daily reports of work and monthly accounts sent him; but does not interfere much in the details, which he leaves to under-managers. Quite a feature of the book is a set of twenty illustrations, reproduced from photographs by the half-tone process, of cocoa trees, pods and blossoms, &c., which do great credit to Messrs. F. Skeen & Co., of Colombo, by whom they were taken.

Back to Sunny Seas. By Frank T. Bullen, F.R.G.S. His style is so captivating, and he possesses to such a marked degree the power of carrying his reader with him, that one cannot help regretting that Mr. Bullen devoted so much of his time to fishing from the steamer, while he might, from our point of view, have been so much better employed in visiting the islands at which he touched during his cruise in the R.M.S.P. Co.'s "Tagus." Readers of "The Log of a Sea-Waif" will turn eagerly to the pages of this book and realise with pleasure that the writer has lost none of his descriptive power, though it is rather a change to find him conveyed in a Transatlantic steamer of over 5,500 tons instead of roughing it. In the preface Mr. Bullen frankly admits that he was the guest of the great Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, but that he has subdued his natural bias in its favour so that he has written only what he believed to be literally and exactly true, and we think he may be relied upon to write just as he felt. Here is the manner in which he deals with what he calls "the insidious approaches of England's two most bitter and unscrupulous foes, in a business sense, the Americans and Germans." On arriving at Jamaica:—

"I found that the United Fruit Company had already succeeded, with the usual conscienceless ability of the American billionaire, in reaping a great deal of the benefit paid for in hard cash by the taxpayer at home, to help the West Indies out of their difficulties. Also, I learned that the Germans were doing, for the purpose of obtaining freight for their vast fleet, what the Royal Mail Company were forbidden to do, that is, lending money to planters on the security of their crops, and the promise to ship all their produce in German vessels. I cannot trust myself to comment upon this fresh instance of the way in which Britain treats her enemies, to their huge delight and scorn at her folly."

Mr. Bullen's descriptions are delightful. What, for example, could possibly give one a more realistic mental picture of the approach to the tropics than the following passage:—

"That blissful Saturday passed like a dream, and ushered in a Sunday even more delightful. A limpid sea of deepest azure, a gentle, cool breeze, just sufficient motion to remind us that we were at sea and not in populous city pent, and the delight of congenial company, every face wearing a smile."

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Trent" (Capt. A. C. Farmer), Oct. 17th:—
Barbados—Mr. Catford, Miss M. W. Moore. **Demerara**—Capt. G. Smith, Mrs. Cruickshank, Mr. J. C. de Freitas, Mr. S. Considine, Mr. P. Mitford, Mr. and Mrs. Fogarty, Mr. E. F. Sheaf, Mr. J. Harrison, Mr. W. Duncan.
Jamaica—Mr. E. Geddes, Mr. L. G. Pearce. **Trinidad**—Miss Marsden, Mr. and Mrs. Mashme, Miss R. Wilson, Mr. E. J. Scott, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Acting Chief Justice Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Welsh. **Dominica**—Mr. W. S. Vaughan.
St. Lucia—Mes. Laurence, Mrs. and 2 Misses Galgey.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "La Plata" (Capt. W. J. Dagnall), Oct. 28th:—**Barbados**—Mr. and Mrs. W. Hutchinson, Dr. and Mrs. Hutson. **Demerara**—Hon. B. Howell Jones, Dr. R. Stephenson, Mr. T. Hiscocks, Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Hodge. **Jamaica**—Mrs. H. A. Isaacs, Mr. F. E. Hopkins, Mrs. E. R. Isaacs, Mrs. Bacher, Mrs. Henriques, Lieut. J. R. Heard, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hayward, Hon. G. Seton-Browne. **Trinidad**—Mrs. Skinner, Lieut.-Col. Bracke, Dr. G. A. Vincent, Mr. and Mrs. Berkeley, Dr. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. T. Warner, Mrs. Harr, Mr. and Mrs. S. Henderson, Mrs. Guiseppe, Mrs. Stephens, Mr. and Mrs. E. Nivet, Mr. W. H. Richardson, Mrs. de Gaumes, Mr. and Mrs. Thornton, Warner, Mrs. Read, Mrs. Warner, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Stollmeyer, Mr. A. B. Hutton, Mr. E. Wilson. **Grenada**—Mr. R. de Gale, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Slinger, Mrs. McEwan, Mr. D. Alexander, Hon. J. T. de la Mothe, Miss G. M. Williams. **St. Kitts**—Sir Robt and Lady Bromley, Mrs. A. Horsford. **St. Lucia**—Hon. E. Du Boulay.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Trent" (per Capt. A. C. Farmer), Nov. 11th:—**Barbados**—Mr. D. Drake, Mr. and Mrs. D. Simpson, Mr. C. S. Taylor, Miss I. Jones, Dr. and Mrs. Grannum, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Horne, Mr. and Miss M. Kerby, Mrs. Packer. **Demerara**—Major and Mrs. de Rinsy, Mr. E. C. Collier, Mr. W. Jones, Mrs. Hood, Mr. and Mrs. Hooten, Mr. A. J. C. Weber, Mr. G. Sheepwash, Mrs. Kerr. **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Gurney, Capt. and Mrs. C. E. Pereira, Mr. and Mrs. Balston, Mrs. S. A. Constantine, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Graham, Mr. J. Plant. **Trinidad**—Rev. A. E. Smith (Archdeacon of Trinidad), Rev. and Mrs. Image, His Grace the Archbishop of Trinidad, Mrs. Savory, Mr. and Mrs. Hobson, Mr. A. Durand, Mr. W. Gane, Mr. and Mrs. Tappin, Mrs. Hewlett, Mr. and Mrs. Bushe, Miss D. Martin, Rev. J. Kenny, Miss J. Riddell, Mr. W. E. Smith, Miss N. Maillard. **Antigua**—Mr. and Mrs. K. Lane, Mr. and Mrs. Haguiley, Mr. W. J. Douglas. **Grenada**—Mr. and Mrs. A. Lines, Mr. and Mrs. Gay, Mr. and Mrs. F. Gurney.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), Oct. 26th: **Jamaica**—Mr. B. F. Browne, Major Barlow, Major Close, Mrs. Colls, Mr. E. Edsell, Mrs. G. Edkins, Mr. Goldney, Mr. and Mrs. Hazell, Mr. R. H. Langley, Mr. H. Martinez, Mr. Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. A. Trinder, Mr. W. Warburton, Miss E. Strackler, Mr. H. Hobson.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons) Oct. 21st:—**Jamaica**—Lieut. A. C. Adair, Mr. M. C. Anderson, Mr. R. J. Alymer Maj.-Gen. and Mrs. W. Black, Mrs. T. Burke, Mr. H. E. Borough, Mr. H. Beaumont, Mr. M. P. Beverly, Mr. J. Blaiberg, Dr. and Mrs. Burn, Mr. and Mrs. Calder, Mrs. W. G. Clark, Lt. J. Douglas, Mr. D. Delgado, Mr. H. T. Elwell, Major E. Gillespie, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Gardner, Mrs. Gossett, Mr. H. Gould, Miss Grayson, Mr. R. Gillard, Miss V. Guichy, Dr. and Mrs. Grossett, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Hislop, Mrs. and Miss Heron, Mr. and Mrs. D. Henderson, Mrs. C. E. Hastings, Mr. D. D. C. Henriques, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Henriques, Mrs. J. E. Lyons, Hon. J. W. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Morton, Mr. J. McGuirk, Mr. T. Mair, Archbishop and Miss Nuttall, Capt. C. E. L. Porter, Mr. E. T. Pike, Mr. J. Rawlins, Mrs. H. C. Robinson, Lieut. H. W. Russell, Mr. K. A. Robinson, Mr. Ranch, Lieut. J. C. Sedgwick, Miss Stevens, Mrs. S. F. Talbot, Miss Travers, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Townend, Dr. and Mrs. A. Weeks, Mrs. G. Westphal, Mrs. Van Waterschordt, Mr. and Mrs. Ziffer. **Bermuda**—Mr. J. Arnold, Mr. W. H. Bruce, Mr. G. Bosanquet, Mr. D. A. Budgen, Mr. F. Cushney, Mrs. F. Clay, Mrs. Greatorex, Mrs. E. Gaisford, Mr. H. W. Geddes, Captain H. Howley, Mrs. A. Haynes, Lieut. G. E. Hawes, Mrs. W. E. Kemble, Mrs. S. Lough, Lieut. Leith, Rev. Canon H. Marriott, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. G. Marshall, Mr. C. Norton, Mrs. Parnall, Maj. and Mrs. Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Row, Mrs. Robinson, Lieut.-Col. Sir R. M. Stewart, Lady Stewart, Capt. S. Symons, Mrs. H. Spicer, Mrs. Sloman, Mr. H. D. Smith, Mr. H. D. Stokes, Mrs. and Miss M. Tothill, Lt.-Col. C. W. Valliamy, Mr. W. Wainwright, Mr. A. J. Walker.

Mail Arrangements.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Nov. 1	Barbados and Trinidad ...	Liverpool ...	Leyland Line...	"Albanian"	Oct. 31 mid'n't
" 3	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara ...	Dartmouth ...	Direct Line ...	"Salybia" ...	Nov. 2 "
" 4	Jamaica ...	Avonmouth ...	U.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Antonio"	" 3 "
" 5	Demerara ...	Liverpool ...	Liverpool Line (Booker Bros. McConnell & Co)	"Roma" ...	" 7 "

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Nov. 2 or 3	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	London ...	Direct Line ...	"Cheniston"
" 6	W. I. Islands and Demerara ...	Southampton	R.M.S.P. Co	"Orinoco"
" 8	Jamaica ...	Avonmouth ...	U.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Royal"

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. We are indebted to the *Morning Post* for several of the items of information given below.

Mr. T. OSMENT, Agricultural Instructor, St. Vincent, returned to the Colony and resumed his duties on September 15th.

During the absence of Mr. F. N. MARTINEZ, from Barbados, Mr. S. H. MCCORMICK will act as Consul for the "Republic of Panama."

Major G. C. DE RINZY, Chief County Inspector of Police, British Guiana, will leave England on November 10th on the termination of his furlough.

His Honour Sir W. H. GREAVES, Kt., has been appointed to be a Trustee of the Public Library, Barbados, vice Mr. H. DEIGHTON, from September 23rd.

The leave of absence of Mr. H. P. C. STRANGE, District Commissioner of Corosol, British Honduras, has been extended for three months from the 26th instant.

The Hon. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE, Member of the Legislative Council of Barbados, will return to the Colony with Mrs. and Miss F. Alleyne, by the last mail in November.

Mr. E. ST. J. BRANCH left England for the Leeward Islands on September 30th. (We regret that through error we gave the date of his departure in our last issue as October 6th—Ed.)

Mr. P. C. CORK was to leave British Honduras about the middle of October on the arrival of Mr. W. COLLETT, who has been appointed Colonial Secretary, and who will administer the Government until the arrival of the Governor, Sir BICKHAM SWEET-ESCOTT.

Mr. CARL A. METAGEN, Chief Clerk in the Treasury of British Honduras, and at present acting Auditor and Registrar-General, will succeed Mr. D. S. MACGREGOR (who has been transferred to Mauritius as Auditor-General) as Auditor of British Honduras. Mr. Metagen has been in the service of that Colony for the past twenty years, and was at one time Audit Examiner in the Colonial Secretary's Department.

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) October 14th. "Weather very dry, rain much wanted." Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) week ended Oct. 11th. PORT ANTONIO: 5th, "Rain;" 6th to 11th, "Fine." KINGSTON: 5th to 7th, "Rain;" 8th to 11th, "Fine."

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan 1 to Oct. 3 1905	1904	Jan 1 to Oct. 2 1905	1904	April 1 to Sept. 17 1905	1904	Jan. 1 to Oct. 4 1905	1904	Oct. 1 to Sept. 19 1905	1904
Sugar	37,909	36,626 Tons.	41,957	46,816 Tons.	6571	3607 Tons.	279,284	383,258 Bgs. & Brls.	...	...
Molasses	38,119	44,427 Pns.	2074	1535 Pns.	...	...	2887	2358 Pns.	...	...
Rum	9120	12,224 "	726,332	880,883 Calls.	178	28 Trecs.	...	...
Molascult	3737	3082 Tons.	...	...	165	59 Brls.	...	...
Cocoa	45,247	100,676 lbs.	...	...	349	175 Pns.	...	...
Coffee	10,222	12,068 Cwts.	30,468,675	35,222,300 lbs.	63,846	66,989 Bags.
Coconuts	244,171	199,140	12,564	12,728 "	11,930	63,435 "	...	...
Copra	2,116,231	1,257,755	7,433,017	6,407,210	...	...
Cotton	8725	12,650 bags.	...	...
Cotton Seed	704	1032 Bales.
Asphalt	89,466	102,194 Tons.	6745	6504 Bags.
Oranges	18,010,745	14,494,855	...	...	...	...
Bananas	8,285,800	3,117,672 Bchs.	...	...	...	...
Pimento
Spice
Gold	65,542	60,714 ozs.	...	...	...	...	5210	4245 Brls.
Diamonds	3916	8590 carats.	...	...	...	...	673	753 1/2 Brls.
Balata	636	637 Cases.
	201	145 Bags.

Some West Indian Securities.

The Demerara Railway Company, Ltd.

The report for the half-year ended June 30th states that the gross revenue amounted to £18,847, the gross expenditure to £15,249, and debenture interest to £1,400. To the net revenue of £2,197 is added the Government subsidy of £6,250 and £713 brought forward, making a balance of £9,160. Out of this sum there falls to be paid the dividend for the half-year at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on Extension Preference Shares, absorbing £6,250, and the directors recommend an interim dividend for the half-year at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the 7 per cent. Preference Stock, carrying forward £610.

The New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Ltd.

Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., presided at the Ordinary General Meeting of this Company on October 11th, and in moving the adoption of the report, said that the profit for the twelve months, after making allowance for the whole of the working expenses, depreciation of plant, and the annual sum required for the service of the debenture debt, amounted to £46,561 19s. 11d., to which had to be added the sum of £40,906 5s. 6d., being the balance carried forward at January 31st, 1904, thus giving a total of £87,468 5s. 5d. This balance it was proposed to carry forward to next year. The shipments of asphalt made by the Company from the Pitch Lake during the twelve months under review amounted to 109,457 tons. This, compared with the total of 182,819 tons shipped during the twelve months ending January 31st, 1904, and 142,513 tons shipped during the twelve months ending December 31st, 1902, showed a considerable decrease. This decrease in tonnage was due largely to the diminished requirements of the Company's principal customer in the United States, the Barber Asphalt Paving Company. On account of new and increased storage capacity the Barber Company, late in 1903, imported a quantity of asphalt considerably in excess of its requirements for that year, which

asphalt was carried over to the year 1904. The business of the Barber Company for the year 1904 was considerably less in volume than the previous year. For this and other reasons the total sales to the Barber Company were considerably less than in the previous year. He noted the satisfactory condition of the shipments to Europe during the twelve months under review, the export of asphalt to this country and to the continent reaching the total of 43,937 tons. Local sales in Trinidad showed a decrease, but the shipments to Mexico had increased, and totalled 1,368 tons of dried asphalt. The amount of royalty and duty paid to the Trinidad Government on shipments of asphalt during the fiscal year amounted to £35,737 18. 5d. The total amount paid since February 1st, 1888, the date of the concession, to January 31st, 1905, was £561,811 9s. 3d. As to the prospects of the current year, he was glad to say that the business of the Company continued satisfactory. Mr. Charles H. Moore seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Mr. J. W. Previté moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Directors, and Staff of the Company, which was unanimously accorded.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.

The interim report of the Court of Directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company was issued on the 18th inst. The Directors report that the result of the trading for the half-year ended June 30th last, shows considerable improvement. They state that the new twin-screw mail steamer "Aragon," which left Southampton on July 14th on her maiden voyage, has proved a most useful and popular addition to the Company's fleet, and has established the reputation of being the finest steamer in the South American trade. The Court feel that the "Aragon" and steamers of the same class will materially assist in augmenting the revenue of the Company, and will maintain and strengthen its position in the Brazil and River Plate trade. Satisfactory progress is being made in the building of the two twin-screw mail steamers "Amazon" and "Araguaya." In the last annual report the Court informed the proprietors that His Majesty's Government had announced that the Contract Mail Service with the West Indian Colonies would be discontinued from June 30th, 1905. The revision of the West Indian routes, occasioned by the cessation of the Mail Contract, afforded an opportunity for the resumption of the call at New York, and commencing with the departure of the "Tagus" from Southampton on Sept. 30th last, the main line steamers will continue their voyages from the West Indies to New York. This announcement has been received with satisfaction in the Colonies, and the extension of operations in this direction will strengthen the Company's position in the West Indian trade. Since July 1st all the British Colonies in the West Indies (except Jamaica) have been dependent for the receipt and delivery of their mails with regularity on the Company continuing its fortnightly service. The Court decided in this emergency to stand by the Colonies, for whom they have carried the mails for 64 years, and for a time the Company continued the mail service unaltered without subsidy, so as to give the Colonies an opportunity of making independent arrangements. The fortnightly West Indian Service is now being carried on with some modifications which affect an economy in working, but in the interests of the proprietors it may be necessary to make further alterations, pending an arrangement for the performance of this important service either on a fair poundage basis or by payment of a subsidy. The Court are strongly of opinion that the scale of payment at present being received by the Company for the carriage of His Majesty's mails by their West Indian passenger steamers, being only equal to that paid to cargo steamers, is altogether inadequate for the services rendered. The steam tender "Seine" has been acquired and stationed at Cherbourg to facilitate the landing and embarking of passengers at that port.

Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Dividend.	Price.
100,000	Stock	Antigua 4 per cent. Redeemable 1919-44...	100	4 %	12001-4
375,000	"	Barbados 3½ " " 1925-42...	100	3½ %	98-100
194,500	"	British Guiana 4 " " 1935...	100	4 %	106-108
123,670	"	Grenada 4 " " 1917-42...	100	4 %	101-103
1,098,907	"	Jamaica 4 " " 1934...	100	4 %	108-110
85,479	"	St. Lucia 4 " " 1919-44...	100	4 %	101-103
422,593	"	Trinidad 4 " " 1917-42...	100	4 %	101-103
600,000	"	Trinidad 3 " " Inscribed Stock 1922-44...	100	3 %	88-90
100,000	20	Colonial Bank ...	£6	7 %	67-7½
15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ...	75	—	35-36
203,400	Stock	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4% 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4½ %	85-87
26,763	5	New Colonial Co., Ltd., ...	5	Nil	8-11
46,874	5	" " " 5 % Non-Cum. Pref. ...	5	5 %	23-3½
347,500	Stock	" " " 4 % 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4 %	80-82
352,700	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb.	100	6 %	102-105
165,000	Stock	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock ...	100	Nil	17-20
115,000	Stock	" " " 7 % Preference ...	100	6 %	87-89
31,250	10	" " " 4 % Extension Preference...	10	4s	8-9
70,000	Stock	" " " Perpetual Deb. Stock	100	4 %	96-98
74,500	100	Direct West India Cable Co., 4½% Reg. Debs. (within Nos. 1 to 1200) red.	100	4½ %	100-102
12,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ...	£2 10 0	6 %	—
46,500	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4½% 1st Mtge. Deb. (within 1 to 1200) red.	100	4½ %	100-102
10,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. ...	5	5 %	—
88,321	10	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. Ordinary ...	10	—	1¼/1½
34,563	10	" " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref. ...	10	5s.	8½-9
4,669	10	" " " 2nd " ...	10	—	7-7½
50,000	100	" " " 5% Deb. ...	100	5 %	101-104

The Bank Rate remains at 4 % (changed from 3 % on Sept. 28th, 1905), and Consols (2½ %) are quoted 88½.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

SUGAR.—F. O. Licht's Visible Supply, 1st October, even dates.

	1905.	1904	1903.
Convention Europe	636,000	796,000	1,162,000 Tons
United States, Cuba, and afloat	481,000	335,000	342,000 ..
Total	1,117,000	1,131,000	1,504,000 ..

F. O. Licht's Comparative Estimates of the European Beet Crops.

	1905/6	1904/5.
Germany	2,175,000	1,595,000 Tons
Austria	1,420,000	889,000 ..
France	950,000	622,000 ..
Holland and Belgium	525,000	309,000 ..
Other Countries	5,070,000	3,415,000 ..
Total	1,480,000	1,290,000 ..
Total	6,550,000	4,705,000 ..

Factory estimates of the coming crop are **4,916,000** tons for Convention Europe and **1,407,000** for other Countries, making a total of **6,323,000** tons, or approaching a quarter of a million tons less than F. O. Licht's, and it is to be hoped that this estimate is the correct one, for we have too much sugar to deal with this season, and every reduction is welcome, however small. The usual crop of estimates by other prophets have appeared but are not worth referring to, F. O. Licht being the most reliable and the one generally accepted. The tone of the market is despondent, and prices are slowly receding under the weight of sugar and the disappointment caused by the result of last crop's disastrous liquidation. In course of time no doubt these unpleasant influences will be dissipated, and if the low winter prices now before us lead to a reduction of sowings for next beet crop, a reaction should later on take place and lift prices to a platform where sugar can once again be grown without loss.

The closing quotations of 88% are as follows:—October, 8s 3½d.; November, 8s 3½d.; December, 8s 4d.; January/March, 8s 6½d.; May, 8s 8d.; and October/December, 1906, 9s 0d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Europe	580,000	770,000	1,150,000	1,130,000	510,000 Tons
United States	220,000	150,000	130,000	170,000	170,000 ..
Cuba	140,000	—	130,000	100,000	60,000 ..
Cargoes afloat	110,000	220,000	100,000	140,000	50,000 ..
Total	1,050,000	1,140,000	1,510,000	1,540,000	790,000 ..
Quotations of 88% Beet:—	8s. 3½d.	11s. 0d.	8s. 9½d.	7s. 7d.	7s. 4½d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar—The decline in beet is reacting on the market in an unpleasant manner, enabling dyed beet crystals to be sold as low as 14s 6d. in competition with cane sugar. The result is a general fall of 1s in imported yellow crystallised, the value of average qualities not exceeding 15s., with a general range of 15s. 6d. up to 17s. 6d. for choice lots in retail. White Continental granulated now costs 15s., duty and carriage paid throughout England. The value of 96 test dark crystals to refiners is about 9s 6d. and Java 96 is offering at 9s. 3d. on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar is in good demand, values ranging from 11s. for low qualities up to 16s. 6d. for small lots of fine grocery. Brown sorts to refiners are worth about 7s. 9d. for 85 test on floating terms.

Muscovado.—Some grocery Barbados recently arrived have realised 14s. 6d. and 15s. 6d. For 89 test to Refiners on floating terms about 8s. 3d. is the nearest quotation.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905	1904.	1903.	1902.
Imports	33,000	38,000	20,000	55,000 Tons
Deliveries	34,000	40,000	35,000	36,000 ..
Stocks	8,700	8,600	14,000	33,000 ..
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	16s. 0d.	18s. 9d.	15s. 9d.	14s. 3d.

Rum.—Stocks in London:

	1905	1904	1903	1902
Jamaica	9100	10,700	11,001	12,100 Puns.
Demerara	5000	6300	6600	8100 ..
Total of all kinds	21,998	24,503	6600	8100 ..

The market remains quiet, and there is little business passing. Quotations are unchanged, viz., Demerara, 18. 1d. to 1s. 3d., Jamaica, 2s. 1d. for approved Standard Marks of Home Trade Rum, with Leewards, &c., at 11d. to 1s. 3d.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.
Total	76,000	91,000	61,000	68,000 Bags.

The Market is a shade steadier. The low prices recently accepted for Trinidad have created more demand, and a good business has recently been doing, chiefly from 51s. to 53s. for good cocoa. Grenada is in small supply, but moves off slowly. Other Island cocoa is unchanged. The closing quotations are: Trinidad fair collected, 51s., Estate Marks, 51s. to 54s.; Grenada fair, 47s., and fermented, 49s. to 51s. Cocoa from other Islands, realising 44s. to 46s. for Native and 48s. to 50s. for fermented.

Coffee.—Unchanged. Good ordinary Jamaica, 40s. to 42s.

Nutmegs.—Steady. Recent sales of West India comprise 54's at 18. 10d., 67's at 18. 3d., 80's at 1s., 96's at 7½d., 110's at 6½d. to 7d. **Mace**.—Sold, fair to good pale, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 5d., dark to fair red, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d.

Ginger.—Dull. Quotations unaltered. **Pimento**.—Quiet at 2½ to 2½d. **Arrowroot**.—In the absence of supplies of manufacturing quality, no sales are reported, 1½d. remaining the nominal value.

Lime Juice.—Nominal value, 9d. to 1s. Concentrated, business doing at £16. Hand Pressed, quoted 2s. 6d. Distilled Oil, lower, value 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XX.

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STATIONERS HALL.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LIV.



Mr. George Hughes, F.C.S.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

Nov. 9th, 1905

Telegram: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.

IF the present issue of *The West India Committee Circular* is less full and complete than some of its predecessors we may fairly plead as an extenuating circumstance the vagaries of the postal service consequent upon the abandonment of the Mail Contract. Many years have passed since three whole weeks elapsed without the delivery of a mail from the West Indies. Many years, too, have passed since those having correspondence with the Colonies have had to submit, as they have now been compelled, to the inconvenience of an interval of nearly a month between the arrival of consecutive homeward mails, and we have now again to wait for a further period of nineteen days from the last mail arrival before we can receive our letters and papers. But this is only the beginning of the trouble, and we must remind our readers that the next homeward mail arrives on the same day as that on which the outward mail leaves, and it will, therefore, be necessary to hold over replies to letters received on that day for the slower alternative mail opportunity of the following week. All certainty in these matters is now a thing of the past, and it is not surprising

the following week. All certainty in these matters is now a thing of the past, and it is not surprising

that complaints are beginning to reach us from all quarters. How could it be otherwise? Have not the Lords of the Treasury themselves pointed out how much the welfare of our West Indian Colonies depend upon the punctuality and absolute regularity of their communication with Europe and with each other? The present system of carrying the mails is by no means satisfactory. Letters and more particularly newspapers are going astray, and we must ask those who do not regularly receive *The West India Committee Circular* to address their complaints to those responsible for the present muddle and not to us. It is becoming more and more clear that some steps must be taken to ensure that in the matter of the mails we are put on the same footing as previously. It has been suggested that this might be achieved by the individual Colonies entering into an arrangement with one of the shipping Companies, but the reply has been that the Colonial Office would discountenance such action. How far that department could successfully veto any local arrangement has yet to be shown, and we must confess to disbelieving that the Secretary of State would so directly oppose the wishes of the Colonists, who surely must be permitted to have the final word in a matter which so very closely affects their own interests.

THE leading article which appeared in our last issue on the subject of the attitude of the Government towards our West Indian Colonies, has attracted no small amount of attention in the Press. It will be remembered that we seriously questioned whether the withdrawal of the white troops, the abandonment of the mail contract, and the refusal of the Government to assist in improving the means of cable communication, might not presage the possibility of the cession of these Colonies to some other Power. That it did do so has undoubtedly been the feeling in many quarters in the West Indies, and it will be extremely gratifying to the loyal Colonists to receive the assurances of MR. LYTTELTON that the Government at the present time has no intention of sacrificing this part of the Empire. The question of the withdrawal of the troops was again under serious consideration at the meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Thursday, November 2nd, and as a result of that meeting it was decided to write and ask MR. ARTHUR J. BALFOUR to receive a deputation on the subject. It must not be inferred from this that any friction exists between the West India Committee and the Colonial Office. We can say most emphatically that it does not, but having regard to the fact that MR. LYTTELTON practically indicated that the question was out of his hands, the Committee had no other course which they could very well adopt. As far as ourselves and the Colonial Office are concerned, it is satisfactory to be able to say that our relationship is of the most cordial character, but it is a question for consideration whether the Colonial Office might not avail itself still more than it does of the experience and knowledge of our West Indian Colonies, such as so many of our members who have made them their life-long study have attained. Information given to the Government by Members of the West India Committee has more than once enabled the Colonial Office to avoid making very serious mistakes, which, but for that information, would certainly have been committed, and we cannot help thinking that the relations between the Colonial Office and the West Indies would be very much improved if more readiness were shown to receive information and advice from those thoroughly conversant with those Colonies. Why should not occasional conferences be held between the officials at the Colonial Office and representatives of the West India Committee? Such a course has, we believe, been adopted with conspicuous success in the case of other organisations, and it could not fail to be equally successful where our West Indian Colonies are concerned. Much may be accomplished at a single interview which would otherwise take months of correspondence. We do not suggest for one moment that such interviews should be private, but we do certainly think that much would be gained if the powers that be would take the planters and merchants—upon whom, after all the prosperity of the Colonies must depend—into their confidence.

Mr. George Hughes, J.C.S.

Mr. George Hughes, whose portrait we give on the preceding page, comes of a Shropshire family. He was educated at Newport, and on the death of his father came to London and entered King's College School. He subsequently studied at King's College Laboratory and from there went to the laboratory of Dr. Augustus Voelcker, the Chemist of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, where he speedily rose to the position of senior assistant. His first visit to the West Indies was made for the purpose of examining and reporting upon some phosphate deposits, and on his return he read a paper before the Geological Society on the conversion of coral rock into phosphate, and the theory then enunciated is now accepted by all geologists. He subsequently assisted at the starting of works in Barbados for the treatment of West Indian phosphate and the manufacture of superphosphate on the spot. He was instrumental in saving the planters considerable sums of money through his discovery of the adulteration of manures which was then rampant, and he was appointed Honorary Consulting Chemist to the Agricultural Society of the Island. More recently, Mr. Hughes has been concentrating his energies on developing the industry of "molascuit," the cattle food made entirely from the sugar cane, of which he is patentee. The interior of the cane is used to absorb molasses, and a valuable cattle food is thus produced. Mr. Hughes was instrumental in securing the removal of the duty on imported cattle foods containing sugar, and for this and in many other ways he has earned gratitude. Mr. Hughes, who is a Director of Messrs. E. Packard & Co., Ltd., is devotedly loyal to the West Indies, and there is never a banquet or meeting connected with these Colonies which is not graced by his genial presence.

Trinidad, from the Gulf of Paria.

The Gulf of Paria is a practically land-locked sea between Trinidad and Venezuela, having narrow straits north and south, those at the north being called "Boca del Dragone" or the Dragon's Mouth, while the southern straits, through which Columbus entered, are known as the "Boca del Sierpe" or Serpent's Mouth. Trinidad was undoubtedly connected with the mainland at some distant period. It is noticeable that the three islands in the northern straits, Chacachacare, Huevos, and Monos are of the same formation as the mountains of the Spanish Main. Large steamers cannot get very near Port of Spain owing to the shallowness of the water, and passengers have to go ashore in a launch, as depicted in our illustration.—*Sun Pictures of the Antilles.*

The West India Committee.

As a result of the leading article which appeared in our last issue we have received a number of enquiries regarding membership of the West India Committee, in reply to which we may say that the minimum subscription is one guinea per annum. There is no entrance fee at present and the subscription for new members elected between now and the close of the year will not, when paid, be renewable until January 1st, 1907. Forms of application for membership are obtainable from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. At a meeting of the Executive on Thursday, November 2nd, Sir Nevile Lubbock presiding, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

Name	Proposer.	Seconder.
HON. ACTON DON LOCKHART.	E. Luxmore Marshall, Esq.	J. Herbert Scrutton, Esq.
GEORGE H. McEACHRANE, Esq.	William Gillespie, Esq.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.
MESSRS. FRANCIS EVERINGTON & Co.	William Gillespie, Esq.	Arthur Johnson, Esq.
DELOS JEAFFRESON MARTIN, Esq.	E. Luxmore Marshall, Esq.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.
W. LINDSEY H. HAYNES, Esq.	John T. Haynes, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.

Our readers are reminded that subscriptions from new Members elected during the last three

months of the year are held as on account of the year commencing on the following 1st of January. That is to say that Members elected during November and December will on paying their subscription not have to renew it until the 1st of January, 1907.

The late Mr. S. Sandbach Parker.

We have to record with deep regret the death of Mr. S. Sandbach Parker, which took place with painful suddenness on October 30th. On that day he joined a party of neighbours to shoot on the Ruabon Moors, in North Wales, and they had not walked far, when suddenly, without a warning word, he fell and expired. Mr. Parker was grandson of Mr. Charles Steuart Parker, of Blochairn, Glasgow, and second son of Mr. C. S. Parker of Aigburth, Liverpool. He was educated at Eton and at the University of Bonn, and early in life joined the old-established firm of Sandbach, Tinne & Co., known formerly in Glasgow as M'Inroy, Parker & Co., of which his grandfather, and afterwards his father, were leading members, he himself becoming senior partner on the death of his father in 1868. He was Chairman of the Thames and Mersey Insurance Company, and Director of the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company, and a leading member also of the Mersey Harbour Dock Board. Besides this, he was a prominent member of the Liverpool Council of Education, and took an active interest in various benevolent institutions. He leaves a large family to mourn his loss, his wife, six sons and four daughters, with whom a resolution of sympathy was passed at a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, on Thursday, November 2nd.

Monthly Prices of Beet Sugar.

At the request of a correspondent we give below a table showing the monthly average prices of 88% beetroot sugar, f.o.b. Hamburg, from September, 1903, when the Sugar Convention came into force, to October, 1905.

	s.	d.			s.	d.	
September, 1903	8	5	per cwt.	October, 1904	11	0½	per cwt.
October	8	8½	"	November	13	5½	"
November	8	6	"	December	14	2½	"
December	8	4½	"	January, 1905	15	7½	"
January, 1904	8	0½	"	February	15	3	"
February	7	10½	"	March	14	8½	"
March	8	3½	"	April	13	11	"
April	8	7	"	May	12	1	"
May	9	2½	"	June	11	10	"
June	9	2¾	"	July	10	8½	"
July	9	7½	"	August	9	6½	"
August	10	4½	"	September	8	8	"
September	10	9½	"	October	8	6	"

The Liverpool Colonial Exhibition.

Great progress is being made with the arrangements for the forthcoming Colonial Products Exhibition to be held in the St. George's Hall, Liverpool, from January 30th to February 8th next. This is the third exhibition of the series, and the great success of its forerunners has clearly demonstrated that exhibitions of this kind are highly appreciated. The great majority of visitors do not come out of idle curiosity, but take a highly intellectual interest in the numerous Colonial products displayed, and the announcement that this exhibition is now to be an annual fixture will be welcomed throughout our Colonies. At the forthcoming display the West Indies will be well represented. The



From "Six Pictures of the Antilles and Bellin's Gazetteer."

(Copyright.)

TRINIDAD, FROM THE GULF OF PARIA.

permanent exhibition committee for the Island of Grenada will send an exhibit, which will be arranged by the West India Committee, and it is hoped that other West Indian Colonies will also come forward. Mr. Thomas Dowd has, we understand, taken a space of no less than 1,000 square feet, which will be occupied by a representative exhibit of West Indian fruits.

The Jamaica Board of Agriculture.

We are indebted to Mr. W. Fawcett for copies of the annual report on the Board of Agriculture and Department of Public Gardens and Plantations in Jamaica for the year ended March 31st, 1905. It is not possible within the compass of the present *Circular* to deal at any length with this document, which is full of useful information, and records a year of useful work. Progress of the cotton industry is dealt with, and it is stated that 2,316½ pounds of lint were ginned by the gin lent by the British Cotton Growing Association, now placed in charge of Mr. Fursdon by the Board. The attention of the Board was drawn to the subject of planting the Chinese or Dwarf banana for export, it being reported to be preferred by consumers in England, but it was considered that it would be difficult at present to get suckers of this kind in any great number, and it must be remembered that the bulk of the banana trade is with the United States, where the Jamaica variety is preferred. Cassava, rice, tobacco, cocoa, are all dealt with in successive paragraphs, and the Director points out that spraying the trees with Bordeaux mixture had proved of great value in checking the prevalent cocoa-nut disease. The high trees are sprayed by means of rubber tubing fixed to a spray pump, a boy being sent up the tree with a spray, and another working the pump on the ground. A considerable area of the experiment station is now devoted to sugar-canes—being planted with canes, ratoon canes and seedlings. This work has been attended with good results, and the seedlings are making rapid progress. When fully grown and ripe a selection will be made for further trials. The highest returns came from the Jamaica seedling No. 30 with 74½ tons of canes and 20,955 pounds of sucrose in the juice per acre. Seedling No. 20 gave the highest recorded content of sucrose in the juice of any variety, viz., 2,204 pounds per gallon. The outstanding features of the years trials were the splendid qualities of B. 208, and the promising nature of the selected Jamaica seedlings. From the experimental area of canes at Hope, 35,851 tops were sent to estates for local trials. In some cases the tops arrived in bad condition owing to fermentation in the barrels; in other cases drought prevented the tops from growing. It is estimated that 28,000 of these tops actually grew, and the best of the seedling canes have now been distributed to all the sugar districts of the Island. The results indicate that B. 208 is the most promising seedling for general cultivation in Jamaica.

The Industries of Jamaica.

The Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, who recently paid an official visit to Jamaica, expresses his opinion that sugar and rum must continue to be two of the leading industries of the Island, as without them it would be impossible to maintain the prospects of the Colony in a thoroughly satisfactory condition, and he adds that now that the bounties have been abolished and the prospects of West Indian sugar in Canada are likely to improve, the industry should be largely developed, and he also states that the establishment of two new central factories in the Vere district is likely to meet with satisfactory results. The homeward mail has also brought with it the information that a forthcoming further central factory in Clarendon parish is also contemplated. With regard to the banana industry, while it is of great value to the Colony, it would be a misfortune if in the case of, comparatively speaking, so risky a cultivation too much reliance were placed upon it. Cocoa cultivation could receive further attention. The existing plantations should be more carefully cultivated, and the bananas upon them gradually removed so as to leave the land well-established, and planters are urged

to consider the advisability of planting *Castilloa* rubber trees, as has been done successfully in Tobago, where 90,000 rubber trees are already established on cocoa and other estates. The tobacco industry is capable of considerable development, and already Jamaica cigars are obtainable and regularly used at all the best hotels and clubs in the West Indies. As to orange cultivation, a mistake has been made in attempting to establish the groves in the lowlands, the Commissioner being of opinion that the best oranges undoubtedly grow at elevations of about 1,500 to 2,000 feet. The cultivation of pine-apples has been of a disappointing character owing to the selection of unsuitable soils. There are some promising cotton-fields in the Vere district, and some 2,000 acres of land at present unoccupied might be used to grow excellent cotton. The advantages possessed by Jamaica for raising cattle and horses are striking. Altogether the Commissioner thinks that distinct progress has been made by the Colony of recent years.



The Trafalgar Celebration in Barbados

The Trafalgar Centenary was celebrated with the utmost enthusiasm in Barbados. The stores and shops were effectively decorated with flags, bunting, and Chinese lanterns; and Trafalgar Square, Bridgetown, of which the above is an illustration, was thronged with people. The statue of Lord Nelson was decorated, and the letters on the globes of the gas lamps used for illuminating it spelled the words, "Thank God I have done my duty." We are indebted for the photograph, from which this illustration was taken, to Mr. Henry A. Ballou, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

The Birthday Honours.

Among the recipients of honours upon the occasion of the King's birthday on November 9th, are included Mr. RICHARD BIDDULPH MARTIN, M.P., upon whom a Baronetcy is conferred; Mr. THOMAS JOHN PITTAR, C.B., C.M.G., Chairman of the Board of Customs, who is appointed a K.C.B.; Mr. ALEXANDER MURRAY ASHMORE, C.M.G., Lieutenant Governor and Colonial Secretary of Ceylon, who becomes a K.C.M.G.; Mr. ERNEST AUGUSTUS NORTHCOTE, Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago, and Mr. HENRY RAWLING PIPON SCHOONES, Chief Justice of Gibraltar, who receive the honour of Knighthood.

The Prospects for Coffee.

Mr. William Fawcett, the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations of Jamaica, in his Bulletin for October calls the attention of coffee planters to the fact that the rate of exchange with Brazil has gone up in 9 months from July 1904, to April 1905, from 12d. to 17d. per milreis. The result must be to increase the cost, reckoned in sterling money, of growing coffee in Brazil. This would naturally make it less easy to sell at low prices and tend to reduce production, which again should enhance prices of coffee the world over. Planters in Jamaica should therefore extend the area of coffee cultivation. Coffee planted now cannot come in for four or five years, and by that time the increased consumption which has been promoted by the long prevalence of low prices, added to the possible, if not probable, diminution of supplies from South America, may combine to make the crop once more a very profitable one. At any rate it is not likely to be under any greater disadvantage than at present, and it is not subject to great loss by hurricanes. The present quotations for ordinary Jamaica coffee are 39s. to 40s. per cwt.; for good ordinary greenish coffee 41s. to 44s. per cwt.

The Cotton Industry.

The outlook for Sea Island cotton in the West Indies appears at the present time to be very promising. In the Leeward islands the crops have benefited from rains, and pests are less prevalent than usual, except perhaps in Barbados which is suffering in this respect more than the other islands. No actual estimate has as yet been made of the area under cultivation, but the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture believes that it will considerably exceed that of last year. In the current issue of the *Agricultural News* figures are quoted from a trade circular to show that the consumption of Sea Island cotton in the United States is larger than ever. During the year 1903-4 the northern and southern mills took 39,324 bales, while during the year 1904-5 they took 63,430 bales, an increase of 24,106 bales. This was equivalent to the whole of the increased production of Sea Island cotton during the crop of 1904-5.

If planters continue to exercise care in cultivation and avoid the practice of ratooning the cotton, there should be a good future for the industry. It is pointed out that to ratoon Sea Island cotton is a suicidal and also a selfish policy. Those who adopt it and allow neglected fields of cotton to remain in close proximity to those newly planted not only injure their own interests but also spoil the prospects of their neighbours and threaten the success of their industry. In order that buyers on this side should not be misled and the high character already acquired by West Indian cotton should not be lost, it is important that "ratoon" cotton should be marked and shipped as such and kept entirely distinct from "crop" cotton.

Barbados Banana Industry.

Presiding over a conference of banana growers held at Barbados on Friday, October 13th, the Commissioner of Agriculture stated that while in 1902 eighteen bunches of the fruit were shipped from the Island, in the current year they had already shipped up to October 5th 28,018 bunches, and there was a probability of this total being raised to 40,000 before the close of the year. The largest shipment made was 2,700 bunches by the last steamer. Provided that the local shippers continued to exercise care in selection and packing, and that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company did their best to assist the industry, the outlook was decidedly promising, but all, of course, depended upon the cordial co-operation of the Company, more especially as Trinidad, British Guiana and St. Vincent, were all proposing to ship fruit, and would soon become keen competitors. The Hall system of cold storage installed on the steamers "Fagus" and "Trent" had proved a great success, and a cold

storage chamber had also been fitted to the "Orinoco." If the industry developed sufficiently, however, the Company was prepared to fit cargo ships with cold storage chambers, and make them regular fruit ships, and now that the British West Indian Fruit Company, Ltd., had been established in Trinidad, such a step was likely to be hastened. By undertaking to fit up their ships with cold storage chambers, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company had nursed the industry in its early stages, but the Company could not, of course, reserve space for Barbados banana growers unless the latter were prepared to fill the space. Several people in England were anxious to be agents for the fruit from Barbados, but Messrs. W. Pink & Sons had practically brought the trade to its present proportions, and they, therefore, deserved support. The time would come when the Barbados banana growers would have to make arrangements to sell their fruit locally. Mr. J. R. Bovell stated, with



The Colonial Car in the Lord Mayor's Show.

An interesting feature of the Lord Mayor's Show yesterday was a car representing the Colonies, designed by Messrs. J. Defries & Sons, and our readers will notice from the above illustration that the West Indies were well represented upon it.

reference to the 15,326 bunches of bananas shipped last year, that those who shipped single bunches received 2s. 5'3d. per bunch on the average, while those who shipped in double crates received 2s. 3'5d. The reason was that during four months last year the losses were very heavy. He had returns from certain shippers, one of whom gave the average cost of shipping as 11d., another put down his at 1s., another at 1s. 1½d., and one at 1s. 2d. Those figures included the cost of growing, packing, bringing the bananas to town, and everything else. Eventually, after further discussion, a deputation consisting of the Hon. F. J. Clarke, the Hon. G. L. Pile, the Hon. Richard Haynes, Messrs. A. P. Haynes, E. A. Hinkson, J. R. Bovell, G. P. Skeete, E. L. Hollinsed, S. S. Robinson, G. Elliott Sealy, and E. E. H. Thorne, was appointed to wait on Mr. Philipps, the Chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, who would be passing through Barbados in the "Tagus" on November 12th. From enquiries made at the offices of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company we understand that this important question is receiving attention, and that every effort will be made to meet the wishes of the people of Barbados.

The Cultivation of Rubber.

One of the chief disadvantages to planting rubber, except in those places where it is cultivated on portions of plantations already existing for the production of other articles, is the fact that it takes some six years or more before it matures and is ready for picking. In the current issue of the *Colonizer* there is an interview with Mr. W. C. Cowie, the Managing Director of the British North Borneo Company, in which the suggestion is made that his company should guarantee the interest to shareholders in companies established to cultivate rubber in their territories for the first five or six years. As the Government of the country, they would, of course, possess full security for the loan and interest by their legal power over the estate and its produce. Commenting on this, the *Colonizer* says: "The rubber industry has already been largely responsible for developing a great area in Brazil, a very large portion of British and French West Africa, and the greater part of Central Africa, and is now revolutionizing the Straits Settlements and Ceylon. In Borneo it should, if such an arrangement be carried out, create a great, wealthy, powerful and permanent State with a dense and industrious population. But why, the thought at once suggests itself, confine the operators of such a plan to Borneo? Why could not the Imperial or the local Governments adopt it for the regalanising of some of our moribund Crown Colonies, such as British Guiana, British Honduras, Sierra Leone, &c. Supposing, for the sake of example, a company be found in any one of these with a working capital of £100,000, then it is safe to assume that a quarter or fifth of this would be paid to the Colony for the land (land might be compulsorily acquired for the purpose where necessary), and if a 4 per cent. dividend were guaranteed for the first five non-productive years, there would be sufficient money to cover this without asking the taxpayer, either local or Imperial, to contribute a penny. Furthermore, the whole amount, plus interest, would be repaid later, whilst the resulting benefit to these neglected Colonies of having a great and flourishing industry established in their midst would be beyond description. The Colonial Office—one of our few up-to-date institutions under its late and present head—may perhaps think this worth considering."

The Withdrawal of the White Troops.

The following letter regarding the above subject appeared in the *Broad Arrow* of Saturday, November 4th:—

SIR,—I have read with the greatest interest your admirable article on "Our Strategic Position in the West Indies," contained in your issue of the 14th inst. In the same number you briefly report a meeting of the West India Committee, at which it was decided to ask the Colonial Secretary to receive a deputation of representatives from each of the Colonies concerned on the question of the withdrawal of the troops. We have now received a reply, which states that "as His Majesty's Government, after fully considering all the arguments which have been so ably developed by the West India Committee, both by the deputation which waited upon Mr. Lyttelton on March 16th, and in their letters, have definitely decided to withdraw the British infantry at present stationed in the West Indian Colonies, Mr. Lyttelton does not consider that any practical purpose could be served by his receiving a further deputation on the subject."

You will observe that no reason is now, or ever has been, advanced for this withdrawal, and at the very moment when we are all striving to do honour to Nelson's memory, the Government are taking the first steps towards the abandonment of the West Indies—for that is what it practically comes to—with the retention of which his name is indissolubly connected. No strategical considerations, so ably put forward in your article, appear to have the slightest weight, and the American influence in the West Indies, which, as you say, has entirely altered the position in the last few years, is utterly ignored. I take it as certain that when once the troops are withdrawn, America will not allow a single soldier to be quartered there again.

That the present Government regard the abandonment as final is obvious. In Barbados they are selling all the military properties, and are treating the Colonial Government with little consideration in the matter. The only concession that they will make is give the island the refusal of such properties as it desires at a higher price than the highest private offer. Weakened by the strain of the unfair competition with bounty-fed sugar for the last thirty years, Barbados is now a very poor island, and has little money in the Treasury. Yet they have been compelled to pay £300 for three-quarters of

an acre of barren rocks at Hastings and to rent the Savannah for £150 a year, until a price is agreed upon. Some of the property has already passed into private hands, and the Legislature is only buying, to what extent it can afford, in the public interest, and not for the purpose of gain. It is only forced to buy because the War Office means to sell; but under the circumstances it might well have looked for better terms. Any of your readers who have been quartered in the island know well how impossible it would be to allow these lands to be covered with negro huts, which is the only alternative to a purchase by the island. Queen's House, the Retreat, the Military Hospital, Shot Hall, and other places have yet to be treated for, and it will not be possible for the island to acquire the whole of these.

It is not to be supposed that a change like this can take place without causing profound discontent, and a great strain is put upon the loyalty of white and black inhabitants alike. They read in it the intention of England to let the islands slide into the hands of America, and they begin to think that the sooner they go the better. They have long known that their products would have had better treatment if they had gone years ago, but up to now, in spite of the advantages enjoyed by foreign nations, their loyalty to the flag has never wavered. Now that the Government think them of so little value as not to quarter among them a handful of troops; prefer to abandon the millions they have spent in St. Lucia; deem a casual cruiser, which may be anywhere within a thousand miles, sufficient for their safety in case of emergency; take no steps to improve the telegraphic communication, which, as you point out, is uncertain and insufficient, and is at the mercy of any mischievous person, to say nothing of a scoundrel—then, I ask, how do you expect the West Indies to maintain their loyalty to Great Britain!

I am, &c.,

FORSTER M. ALLEVNE,

(Member of the Legislative Council of Barbados)

Junior Carlton Club, Oct 23rd.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

Tariff Reform.

Mr. Chamberlain, addressing a great meeting of his constituents on Nov. 3rd at the Birmingham Town Hall, said that the Unionist Party had a programme which would mean a great social reform. They wanted power of retaliation against those who treated us badly, and power of preference to those who treated us well. He was satisfied with the progress made thus far. They had shaken the idol of free imports to its base. Despite the figures in regard to trade, the proportion of unemployed had risen 25 per cent.; the standard of wages had fallen every week, and this added to the number of emigrants. He was proud of the alliances with France and Japan, but there was something yet to do. They had to make the Empire self-sufficing.

The Government and Fiscal Reform.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer, addressing his constituents in East Worcestershire on November 2nd, said with regard to the fiscal question that there was an inclination in certain quarters to put it in a secondary place. That was not the view of the Government or of the Prime Minister. In their view it was the greatest of the issues which they had to put before the people. Having set their hands to the plough they were not going to turn back, and they were not going to desert the task which they had undertaken, whether the immediate fortunes of the fight be in their favour or against them. The fiscal system under which we had worked for the last sixty years was out of date and no longer responded to the needs of the times in which we lived. We had to suit our weapons to the weapons and methods of those with whom we had to compete.

The Brussels Sugar Convention.

In a speech to his constituents in Glasgow on November 1st, Mr. Bonar Law, M.P., referring to the Sugar Convention said that as regarded this subject, they would admit the Unionists had the thick end of the stick in their hands. At this time last year, for about three months, every Radical platform in the country was ringing with the crime of the Unionist Government in passing the Sugar Convention. There had been a great deal of political oratory during the current recess. He had read every speech by a prominent member, or by any one who could be considered a prominent member of the Liberal party, and strange to say the word sugar had never been mentioned in any one of these

speeches. That was enough in itself. They would defend their position if it were defensible, and the fact that they had said nothing about it proved they had nothing to say. He described the improvement effected by the Convention as regarded the West Indies and the sugar-refining trade in this country. Their opponents had said that the countries which gave bounties were fools, and that we would be fools if we did not take advantage and accept their presents. They said exactly the same thing about dumping. But price was regulated only by supply and demand. This dumping of goods increased the supply in foreign countries—Germany, for instance—but it diminished the supply in our own country owing to the unfair competition against which they had to fight. If they allowed them the same method of dealing with dumping as they had dealt with the Sugar Convention they would find the result would be exactly the same. The price of goods would not rise, but the source of supply would change. The goods, instead of coming from Germany, would be made in our own country and give employment to the labour of our own country. (Loud cheers.)

Our Appointments Register.

The West India Committee Register of persons seeking appointments as Managers, Overseers, etc., etc., in the West Indies, is open to the inspection of Members daily. We shall be glad to put those of our Members resident in the Colonies in communication with persons seeking such appointments; but it must be understood that though in every case two testimonials are given, the West India Committee cannot undertake any responsibility after bringing the parties into touch. We have the following already on our list and shall be glad to furnish names and addresses on receipt of stamps to cover postage.

Identifying Initials	Age	Height	Chest Measurement	Present Occupation	Appointment Sought
1. R. C.	23	5' 10½"	32"	Builder and Contractor's Clerk.	With Builder, Contractor or Architect.
2. S. E. R. S.	22	5 7	36	Printer's Cutter.	Overseer (Sugar).
3. G. H. D.	25	5 7	37	Schoolmaster.	Overseer or Storekeeper.
4. J. H. L.	28	5 10½	37	Book-keeper.	Overseer.
5. H. E. D.	22	5 7	34	Jewel Case Maker.	Overseer.
6. C. S.	22	5 5	36	Organist and Engine Cleaner.	Overseer in Demerara.
7. J. W. G.	23	5 4½	35½	Part Manager, Tailoring Estab.	Overseer or other Post.
8. W. R. B.	22	5 6	36½	Shop Assistant.	Overseer.
9. G. B. K.	26	6 2	38	Cost Clerk.	Overseer.
10. T. P.	38	5 9½	—	Book-keeper in St. Lucia	Book-keeper or Clerk. <i>Has a little capital.</i>
11. E. V.	22	5 8½	38	Carpet Salesman.	Overseer (Sugar).
12. H. S.	21	5 8	36	Junior Clerk (Civil Service).	Clerk
13. B. I.	23	5 9	37	Clerk.	Overseer (Sugar).
14. G. A. L. B.	29	5 10	40	Under Manager (Barbados).	Manager (Sugar)
15. A. F. W.	21	5 11	37	Clerk.	Overseer (Sugar).
16. A. C.	26	6 0	39½	Overseer in Demerara.	Overseer in Trinidad.
17. G. I. F.	30	5 9	36	Book-keeper to Electrical Engineer.	Accountant or Book-keeper.
18. H. E. N.	22	6 1½	36½	Chartered Accountant.	Accountant, Secretary or other post.
19. W. T.	28	6 0½	38	Schoolmaster for Scientific Subjects.	Assistant on a Fruit Farm in Jamaica.
20. A. N.	25	5 11	31½	Manager to a Draper.	Overseer.
21. J. K. N.	22	5 9½	36	Studying.	Overseer.
22. A. K. M.	42	5 8½	38	Stationery Assistant	Overseer.
23. G. F.	23	5 6½	35	Shorthand Clerk and Typist	Typist, Shorthand Clerk
24. R. S. McC.	33	5 8	36	Clerk	Overseer or Storekeeper.

Identifying Initials	Age	Height	Chest Measurement	Present Occupation	Appointment Sought
25. A. M.	19	5 8	33	Clerk	Clerk or Storekeeper
26. J. T.	22	5 7	35	Invoice Clerk	Bookkeeper or Clerk
27. E. H. C.	21	5 8	34	Clerk	Clerk or Overseer.
28. J. A. E.	27	5 11	34	Ranching	Overseer.
29. H. C. B.	26	5 7	36	Clerk (late of 18th Hussars)	Overseer.
30. D. L. L.	22	5 7	40	Student	Overseer (Sugar or Cocoa).
31. W. L. H.	28	5 8	38	Clerk	Overseer or Clerk.
32. J. H.	31	5 6	38	Foreman Enginewright	Foreman Fitter or Engine Fitter.
33. W. R. B.	23	5 9	37	Stationer's Assistant	Stationery and Fancy Goods Assistant.
34. H. F.	23	5 10	36	Manager Cocoa Estate	Manager or Overseer on cocoa or rubber plantation in any part of the world
35. G. B. S.	19	5 7	38	Bank Clerk	Overseer.
36. A. M.	37	5 5½	33	Electrical Engineer	Surveyor or any Civil Engineering employment.
37. A. E. L.	29	5 9½	34	Book-keeper and Secretary	Book-keeper or Assistant in a Store.
38. S. S.	18	5 2	29	Nagsman	Nagsman or Brakesman
39. E. T.	26	5 8½	39	Traveller	Traveller, Clerk, Overseer.
40. W. W. McC	25	5 7	34	Overseer	Manager or Overseer.
41. W. T.	25	5 5	34	Chemistry Student	(1) Teaching Profession. (2) Chemist in sugar or other business
42. G. H. D.	40	5 6	34	— —	Overseer.

Notes of Interest.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended November 2nd, no bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.55d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb.

TRINIDAD CANE FARMING. After the figures of the Trinidad cane farmers' crop for 1905 were published, it was discovered that those of the Usine St. Madeleine were incorrect. They should read: tons of Estate canes ground, 50,862; paid for farmers' canes, \$120,908. This makes the total of Estate canes ground, 244,418 tons, and the amount paid for them, \$482,053.

ASPHALT. Mr. Henry Francis Previté was on October 27th elected a trustee for the debenture-holders of the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company in the place of the late Sir Robert Wyndham Herbert. Mr. Previté, who is a barrister and a Member of the Executive of the West India Committee, is a director of the Company and also of the British Paving Company.

CANE v. BEET. In a letter to the *Grocer's Gazette* on the subject of sugar, Mr. R. Goodchild recently wrote, "Beetroot sugar has a great deal to answer for, in the way that we, as a nation, are suffering from uric acid troubles. In my mind the Convention is the best piece of business the present Government has done, to say nothing of it being the first step to real free trade—a thing which we have never yet had the privilege to enjoy."

MARRIAGE. A marriage has been arranged between Mr. Charles Sandbach Parker, eldest son of the late Mr. Samuel Sandbach Parker, of Aston Hall, Shropshire, and Harriette Dorothy, younger daughter of Mr. Edmund Gustavus Bloomfield Meade-Waldo, of Stonewall Park, Kent. Mr. Parker is a Member of the Executive of the West India Committee, and it will be remembered that his portrait appeared in our issue of December 20th last year.

ROYAL COLONIAL INSTITUTE. The thirty-eighth session of the Royal Colonial Institute will be opened on Tuesday, November 14th, when a paper on the Anglo-Australian position will be read by Mr. W. J. Sowden at 8 o'clock. Subsequent meetings have been fixed for November 14th, December 12th, January 16th, February 13th, March 13th, April 10th, May 8th and June 12th. These meetings, which are always largely attended, are preceded by an Institute dinner at 6.30.

BINDING CASES. For Members desirous of having their *Circulars* bound, handsome lettered cases 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. We also have a few patent spring back cases for filing the *West India Committee Circular*, which can be obtained from the Secretary for 2s. 6d. each, or post free 3s.

THE COLONIAL EXHIBITION. In an article in the November issue of *Grocery* dealing with West Indian produce, the writer says: "No other country made such an imposing display with natural produce at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition just closed at the Crystal Palace, as the West Indies. Public curiosity and interest was aroused in the varied products of the Island, and oft-times grocers are now asked to supply fruits, spices, or condiments, the existence of which were previously unknown to the inquiring customer, and most likely, though we grieve to state it, to the grocer also."

OBITUARY. Sir Augustus Adderley, K.C.M.G., who died on November 2nd, in his seventy-first year, and was the son of the late Hon. Henry Adderley of Nassau, Bahamas, was a member of the House of Assembly for the capital of the Bahamas from 1855 to 1866, when he became a member of the Legislative Council. He was Executive Commissioner for the Bahamas and Jamaica to the Fisheries Exhibition in 1883 and in 1886 he was Royal Commissioner for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition and Executive Commissioner for the West India Islands and British Honduras.

JAMAICA VIA NEW YORK. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have, in conjunction with the Cunard Steamship Company, made arrangements for booking passengers *via* New York to Jamaica. The port of departure is Liverpool, and the rates of passage are very cheap, cabin fares ranging from £11 for first cabin from Jamaica to New York and second cabin from New York to Liverpool, and vice versa, and £19 for first cabin throughout. The combined services of these two British steamship companies will enable West Indians and others to travel to Jamaica in eleven to twelve days.

WEST INDIAN CLUB DINNER. Mr. Edward R. Davson occupied the chair at the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club on Wednesday, November 1st, when there was a large attendance, including:—Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Major Badham, Mr. R. Nisbet Bain, Mr. P. Berger, Mr. H. Berger, Dr. H. E. G. Boyle, Capt. W. J. Calder, Capt. A. P. Dix, Mr. Alexander Duncan, Mr. A. Elder, Mr. H. H. Etheridge, Mr. L. Gibson, Hon. F. Gurney, Mr. Haggerty, Mr. J. Hicks-Bratt, Mr. Frank Hovil, Mr. A. Johnson, Major P. A. MacMahon, Dr. McDonough, Mr. H. Meinhardt, Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. John E. Munro, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. W. J. Pearson, Mr. Simon, Mr. M. C. Solomon, Mr. Sturgeon, Mr. E. Sturridge and Dr. Williams.

The Homeward Mail.

The R.M.S.P. Company's steamer "Orinoco," which brought us the first mail from the West Indies, Jamaica of course, excepted, brought with her also many complaints about the irregularities of the postal service, a matter to which we refer elsewhere. Southampton was reached at 7 a.m. on November 7th, and the mails were delivered in the evening of the same day. The weather in the Leeward islands showed a marked improvement when the mail left, and showers had fallen, but rain was still badly needed in Barbados and British Guiana. A satisfactory feature of the Jamaica mails

received by the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's steamer "Port Royal," on November 8th, was the further evidence of improving trade and confidence which they brought. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents :

Antigua—Result of Bounty Abolition.

(HON. J. FREELAND FOOTE) October 20th—Thanks to the abolition of bounties, Messrs Henckell, Du Buisson & Co. as well as Messrs A. M. Lee & Co. are sending out steam ploughs for their estates in the Island.

The cotton crop was looking well, but at this time it required continual attention on account of the pests.

The weather for the past fortnight had been showery, and the rain had done much good to the young crop. The canes were late but healthy, and with favourable weather for the next two or three months should make a fair crop.

Barbados—The Abandonment of the Mail Contract.

(T. W. WILKINSON, ESQ.) October 24th—Three weeks had elapsed since a regular mail had been received from England. This was far from satisfactory, but what could the West Indies do? They hoped that the question of the mail contract would be reconsidered, and some definite arrangement arrived at.

On October 20th, a bust of the late Sir Conrad Reeves was unveiled in the Chamber of the House of Assembly. This bust, the cost of which was defrayed by public subscription, formed a memorial to their late Chief Justice, and an account of the proceedings of the unveiling might be seen in the *Agricultural Reporter* of the 24th.

Saturday, October 21st, being the centenary of Trafalgar, tribute was paid to the memory of Nelson by decorating the town, and at night the statue of the hero at the top of Broad Street was appropriately illuminated.

The weather had not been quite all that could be desired. With the exception of a few partial showers they had not had much rain, and the canes in some districts were showing signs of suffering. Dry weather at this time of the year caused the cane to grow quickly and stopped the growth; and, again, planting would begin soon, so they were hoping for a change. At the time of writing there were appearances of rain, but it did not seem as if it would be much.

British Guiana—Yellow Sugar for the United Kingdom.

(A. SUMNERSON, ESQ.) October 21st—Since last mail there had been several meetings of the Legislature. The regulations for Estates' Hospitals were under discussion, and it would be noted that the objections raised by the British Guiana Planters' Association were nearly all sustained when put to the vote.

Several transactions had taken place since last mail at \$1.85 to \$1.89. Only \$1.82½ could be obtained at the time of writing. More estates were making yellow sugar for the United Kingdom, than had been the case for some years past.

The weather continued too dry; some acceptable rains had fallen on the 16th, but the fall was neither heavy nor general enough for requirements.

British Honduras—Mahogany.

(HON. A. R. USHER) October 20th—Professor Boyce was still in the Colony to report on the sanitary state of British Honduras and the Quarantine Regulations.

A good deal of rain had recently been falling, and crops were looking well, and operations of getting out mahogany were progressing satisfactorily.

Dominica—Proposed Permanent Exhibition Committee.

(E. A. AGAR, ESQ.) October 20th—The Agricultural Society had applied to the Government for an annual grant for exhibition purposes, to be handled by a permanent committee; until an answer had been received it would be impossible for them to make arrangements for the Royal Horticultural or any other exhibition. It was to be hoped that the Government would see their way to meet the views of the Agricultural Society.

Grenada—Visit of the Commissioner of Agriculture.

(C. FALCONER ACTON, ESQ.) October 23rd—His Excellency, the Governor and family, returned from St. Lucia that morning. Chief Justice Walker, of St. Lucia, was at Grenada, acting as Chief Justice.

Sir Daniel Morris had notified the writer of his intention to pay Grenada a visit on or about the 24th ult., and there was to be a meeting of the Agricultural Experiments Committee to meet him on the 26th.

Jamaica—Trade Improving.

(J. I. ASHENHEIM, ESQ.) October 17th—Business conditions were brightening, and traders as a whole were more cheerful. It was stated that revenue receipts were satisfactory and that the hurricane loans, with a small percentage of exceptions, had been repaid to the Government.

Another large central sugar factory was to be established at Parnassus Estate in Lower Clarendon by Mr. John

Grinan. At present, Parnassus has about 300 acres of cane in cultivation, but the area will probably be increased, as the property consists of 2,776 acres.

With regard to the disposition of the troops; in the event of the white troops being withdrawn it was stated that half the second battalion of the West India Regiment would on its arrival be stationed at Newcastle, and that the 1st West India Regiment would probably be moved to Newcastle after the departure of the white troops, and be kept there until their departure for Sierra Leone. Half the battery of the Royal Artillery would be kept at Port Royal, and the other half at Greenwich Ridge near Newcastle.

It had been reported, on what appeared to be good authority, that the Governor had decided to withdraw his proposal to limit the "Education Vote" to £60,000. It was said that he had addressed a circular to the Elected Members, informing them that the matter would not be brought up in the Legislative Council in the Session of 1906.

Montserrat—Lime Shipments.

(CONRAD WATSON, ESQ.) October 20th—The season had been a most unfavourable one, and crops would be short. Shipments of green limes were being made per R. M. S. P. Co. steamers by the Montserrat Company, Limited.

The bringing of an English mail by the Direct Line of steamers had been a great convenience to the Island.

The weather was exceedingly hot and dry during the first fortnight in the month, the temperature frequently reaching 93° in the shade, but the past few days had been cooler, and good rains had fallen generally over the Island.

Nevis—Progress of the Cotton Industry.

(HON. C. A. SHAND) October 18th—At the last meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, which was very well attended, the question of closer relationship with Canada was considered, and after a lengthy discussion the meeting approved of such a course by a large majority, the dissentients in every case preferring to reserve a decision until they were in possession of further details of any proposal.

The Society had decided to hold an Agricultural Show under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture on January 18th.

The weather was satisfactory for the growing crops. Matters had been beginning to look serious, for although certain districts had been favoured by copious showers, others, and particularly the lands upon which the bulk of the cotton crop had been planted, were left without the needful moisture to establish the first planting, and unsatisfactory results were in consequence apprehended. A week previously, however, a soaking rain, which lasted all night, put a new aspect on affairs, and with following favourable weather a paying crop of cotton might still be realised.

St. Kitts—Mr. W. Boon's Death.

(CHAS. A. SMITH, ESQ.) October 19th—The writer had with regret, to report the sudden death from remittent fever, of Mr. Walter Boon, of Stonefort Estate. He was one of their most active members, and his loss would be keenly felt in a community like theirs, where men of character were scarce. He left a wife and young family to mourn his loss.

The weather for the past three weeks had been of the very best description for the young canes, and crops (having now got through the hurricane season) were in a most promising condition, and with the usual weather from now on they ought to have a large crop throughout the Island. The prospects of the cotton crop also were excellent, and picking was now commencing.

St. Lucia—The Lands' Acquisition Ordinance.

(SYDNEY D. MELVILLE, ESQ.) October 20th—The Lands' Acquisition Bill had been carried through the Council by the official vote. The Governor had steadily refused to make any concessions to meet the objections urged against the constitution of the Board of Arbitration; under the circumstances the unofficial members declined to attend the Council and take part in the farce of pretending to believe that their arguments would carry any weight, and the Ordinance became law in their absence. The Governor inserted a provision that when all three arbitrators differed, an appeal was to be allowed; but as this was a necessity if the law were to be workable it was a concession *pour rive*. The passing of this measure in the teeth of strong opposition of the community at large, was a very high-handed act and showed Crown Colony Government in its least favourable aspect. The provisions of the law were looked at askance by everyone, and any man whose property was taken away under its operation would feel aggrieved and that he had not had justice. Was the forcing of such a measure on the people wise? Was it politic? Did it tend to good government? Certainly not.

There had been some very beneficial and general rains.

St. Vincent—The Proposed Federation with Grenada.

(MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & Co.) October 21st—A public meeting was held at the Court House on October 9th, for the purpose of forming a committee to organise a public meeting or meetings in order to arrive at the opinions and wishes

of the inhabitants of the Colony relative to the suggested union of the two Colonies of Grenada and St. Vincent. The following resolutions were passed unanimously :—

- 1 "That having regard to the present unconstitutional formation of the Executive and Legislative Councils of this Colony and in view of the resolution which the Government propose to introduce into the Legislative Council in December next, on the subject of the union of St. Vincent and Grenada, this meeting, representing all interests in the Colony, urges that the Government should without delay fully constitute the Councils, it being possible, as there are fit gentlemen willing to accept seats."
- 2 "That this meeting desires to express its strong disapproval of the Bill entitled 'The Lands Acquisition Ordinance' and urges the Government not to introduce any legislation and in particular the Bill referred to into the Legislative Council until that Council is fully constituted."
- 3 "That in addition to forwarding the resolutions to the Secretary of State in the regular manner a Memorial should be addressed to His Majesty the King praying His Majesty to direct that the local Legislature should be constituted as contemplated by Royal Letters Patent of 1885."

Trinidad—Cocoa Shipments.

We regret that owing to the indisposition of our Hon. Correspondent, Hon. G. T. Fenwick, we are without his usual letter by this mail.

According to the quarterly report of the Collector of Customs, cocoa to the value of £237,796 was exported during the quarter, comprising 54,986 bags and 99,151 cwts. Of this 47,372 bags valued at \$208,770, was the produce of the Colony, and the bulk went to France, which took 24,205 bags, and the United States 13,433 bags. The United Kingdom took 8,200 bags and Canada only 30 bags.

Generally speaking, the weather had been dry, with occasional showers, which were benefiting the young cocoa crop, and cultivation was looking healthy. A start had been made with the new crop, although deliveries had been in smaller quantities than anticipated. Sales of good "Ordinary" had been made at \$11.25, and fine "Estates" at \$11.50 per 110 lbs. Sugar cultivation looked favourable throughout the Island, and some estates were likely to make an early start with grinding operations. The health of the Island was satisfactory. The total shipments of cocoa from January 1st to date were as follows :—

						Europe.					U.S. America	
1905	---	182,017	Bags	---	---	110,395	Bags	---	---	---	71,622	Bags
1904	---	209,472	"	---	---	139,397	"	---	---	---	70,075	"
1903	---	154,032	"	---	---	101,306	"	---	---	---	52,726	"
1902	---	154,481	"	---	---	114,583	"	---	---	---	39,878	"
1901	---	112,256	"	---	---	79,809	"	---	---	---	32,547	"

Our Library.

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, &c., for our Library. We have to acknowledge the receipt of the following :—

Tours in the West Indies. The R.M.S.P. Co. have issued a new edition of their tourist guide to the West Indies, which like its predecessors is ably compiled by Mr. C. E. Vezey. The familiar features are retained, but there is also much additional matter given which should prove useful to tourists. As stated in our last issue tours have been arranged to suit all pockets, the average price being £1 a day. The book is illustrated by numerous half-tone illustrations, and Miss Du Cane's beautiful sketch of Grenada near St. George's again figures on the cover.

An Ideal Voyage to the West Indies. Liverpool: Spottiswoode & Co. "Having been ordered to a warm climate for health, or having decided to go for a holiday, why go to foreign countries? Why not explore the Empire, and keep the money your trip is going to cost you in British hands?" Such are the opening words of this profusely illustrated pamphlet, issued by Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. Some of the illustrations are produced successfully by the three-colour process, though in several a yellow tint predominates to the disadvantage of the picture.

Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale. Paris, 10, Rue Delambre. M. Vilbouchevitch has favoured us with a copy of his Journal of October 31st, which is replete with information regarding tropical produce. The variety of subjects dealt with is best shown by the titles of the articles, among which are: "Wines from Tropical Fruits," "A Machine to Coagulate Caoutchouc," "Notes on the Report of Mr. W. Fawcett, of the Botanical Service, Jamaica, for 1903—4," "The Banana Tree in connection with Food for Pigs," "The Preparation of Pineapple Juice, &c., &c."

The Navy League Journal. Vol. X., No. 11, price 3d. This publication, which is posted to members of the Navy League free of charge, contains a full report of the recent Nelson Centenary celebrations. From it we learn that in

addition to the floral tributes in Trafalgar Square from the West India Committee and West Indian Club, a large chaplet from the members of the Navy League in Jamaica was shown. The suggestion is made that all members and associates of the Navy League should endeavour to introduce at least one new recruit in commemoration of the centenary of Trafalgar. The Navy League is certainly doing a good work, which merits support.

The Barbados Diamond Jubilee Directory, 1905-6. Barbados. T. E. King & Co. 143, Roebuck Street, Bridgetown. Price 2s. 6d. Utility is the motto of the present issue of this directory, which bears as a sub-title the inscription "General West Indian Advertiser and Guide Companion for Business or Pleasure." It has been published by Mr. S. J. Fraser biennially since 1897, and from experience we can say that it is an extremely useful volume. Owing to illness and other causes, the publication has been delayed, but the information contained in the 196 pages appears to be quite up to date. Besides portraits of King Edward VII. and the late Queen Victoria, there are maps of the West Indies, Barbados, Speightstown and Hometown, a complete list of sugar estates, and a name directory, the whole being admirably indexed, a fact which contributes so largely to the usefulness of a book of this sort.

Negro Humour. Demerara: *The Argosy Co., Ltd.* Mr. J. Graham Cruickshank has collected in 73 pages of this book humorous sketches in the market, on the road and at his back door, all in the negro dialect. A glossary of some of the words and phrases in the book, which is very necessary to those less intimately acquainted, occupies five more pages. The lingua is characteristic and true to life. The demand by an old man purchasing a pint of corn for "a level pint," accompanied by the request "will no tick you f'umh in de pint measure," is very good. When one realises the prodigious area of some of the thumbs one sees in the tropics he fully appreciates the necessity of such precaution on the part of an intending purchaser. The relating of the old crone, asking for a little crock liquer to cover the bottom of a little saucepan and then presenting an empty 5-lb. lard tin for it to be placed in, given on page 31, is very humorous.

The International Sugar Journal. Vol. VII, No. 83, 12s. per annum. The office of *The Sugar Cane*, Altrincham, Manchester. Mr. Norman Rodger, the editor of this publication, keeps an alert eye open for everything pertaining to sugar, and the result is that he is able monthly to put before his readers a resumé of all that has happened in the sugar world. In the current issue he calls attention to the fact that a British Columbia refining firm have bought an old sugar estate in Fiji, which they propose to extend, the new plant being provided by the Mirrlees Watson Company. Commenting on this, the writer says: "This new scheme of Canadian refiners of drawing on new supplies of cane sugar opens up the question of the supply of West Indian sugar to Canada. Just now when proposals of federating the West Indies to Canada are being mooted in the papers, it is a little strange to find the buyers of the West Indian staple crop evolving new sources of supply although they have not by any means exhausted the old one. We fear that when it suits Canada's pockets better, she will have no scruples about changing her sources of supply. The best policy the West Indies can adopt is one which shall endeavour to secure markets all over the British Empire, and refuse to be bound to any one Colony by preferential ties which may ultimately prove a delusion and a snare. They will then not be so seriously affected by the loss of a market or two." The series of articles by Mr. T. H. P. Herriot on "Simple Methods of Chemical Control" is continued, the subject dealt with being the "density test." Dates of the world's sugar crops should prove useful, and "Micro-organisms in Sugar Juices," and "The Polarimetric Determination of Sucrose," "The Brasmoscope and the Brixometer," and "The Audubon Sugar School," are the titles of other articles which with the usual features go to make up a valuable contribution towards the literature on the subject of the sugar industry.

A Historical Geography of the British Colonies. By C. P. Lucas, C.B. Vol. II. The West Indies. Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 7s. 6d. Since this book was first published in 1890, much has happened in and in connection with our West Indian Colonies, and the new edition of the work revised and brought up to date by Mr. C. Atchley, I.S.O., the Librarian of the Colonial Office, is very welcome. The hurricanes of 1898 and 1899, the eruptions of the Soufrière and Mount Pelé (surely this is the correct spelling and not Mont Pelée. We talk of Mont Blanc and not Mont Blanche) of 1902 and the Jamaica Cyclone of 1903, are among the natural causes which have affected the West Indies during the fifteen years which have elapsed since Mr. Lucas' book first saw light, while the visit of the Royal Commission of 1896, the abolition of sugar bounties, the establishment of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and the resuscitation of the cotton industry, are among the events of industrial and social importance which have occurred during the same period and all are faithfully dealt with by Mr. Atchley. Regarding the abolition of bounties Mr. Atchley says: "It is as yet too soon to estimate the full results of the Convention to the sugar-growing colonies of Great Britain, but it has already had the effect of, to some extent, restoring the shattered credit of the cane-sugar industry. The grants-in-aid are treated upon as follows: Between the date when the Convention was signed and that on which it came into effect there was an interval of nearly one and a half years, during which the beet-sugar producers could and did make the most of the bounties so freely given to them by continental governments. To support the British cane-sugar industry during this time and to enable estates to be kept in cultivation, a sum of a quarter of a million sterling was voted by the House of Commons, and placed at the disposal of the Secretary of State for the Colonies for distribution among the colonies concerned."

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt. C. E. Down), Nov. 7th:—**Barbados**—Brig-General and Mrs. Dickson, Capt. A. V. Hill, Mrs. H. Hill, Miss K. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Grannum, Mrs. K. C. Hinkson, Miss Pile, Mr. C. W. Greenidge, Mr. E. Clark **Demerara**—Dr. S. Oliver, Hon. G. Garnett, Mr. G. D. Bertie **Jamaica**—Miss Brentnall **Trinidad**—Mr. S. S. Adam, Mr. C. J. Beier, Mr. J. Bankhead, Mrs. A. Bankhead, Dr. C. G. Young, Mr. G. Hailey. **Grenada**—Mr. F. Crump **St. Lucia**—Mr. J. Lindsay

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Trent" (Capt. Farmer), Nov. 11th:—**Barbados**—Mr. D. Drake, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Simpson, Miss N. Herriott, Mr. C. S. Taylor, Miss L. Jones, Dr. and Mrs. Grannum, Mr. and Mrs. Horne, Mrs. Packer, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Smith, Mr. R. Kerby, Mr. A. H. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. W. McLaren **Demerara**—Mr. E. C. Collier, Mr. and Mrs. Woodgate Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Houton, Mrs. Hood, Mr. A. F. C. Weber, Mr. G. Sheepwash, Mrs. Kerr **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. C. Gurney, Capt. and Mrs. Cecil Pereira, Mr. and Mrs. Balston, Mrs. S. A. Constantine, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Graham, Mr. J. Platt, Mr. A. O. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Kaspar Lane, Dr. and Mrs. A. Mackie, Mrs. Heath, Mrs. Macdonald, Mr. and Mrs. J. Maguire, Mr. W. J. Douglas **Trinidad**—Rev. A. E. Smith (Archdeacon of Trinidad), Rev. and Mrs. Image, His Grace the Archbishop of Trinidad, Mrs. and Miss Savory, Mr. and Mrs. Hobson, Mr. A. Durand, Mr. W. Gane, Mr. H. Kuhl, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Tappin, Mrs. Hewlett, Mr. G. Bushe, Mrs. Bushe, Miss D. Martin, Rev. J. Kenny, Mr. J. Miller, Mr. W. E. Smith, Mrs. Downfield **Dominica**—Mr. E. W. Hutton **Grenada**—Mr. and Mrs. Lines, Mr. and Mrs. Gay, Mr. and Mrs. F. Gurney, Mr. J. H. Adams **St. Lucia**—Mr. A. B. Hunter

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt. C. E. Down), Nov. 25th:—**Barbados**—Prof. J. P. D'Albuquerque, Rev. F. J. Briggs, Hon. and Mrs. F. M. Alleyne **Demerara**—Mr. and Mrs. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Wieting, Mr. and Mrs. R. Pook, Mr. W. Keece, Bishop Galton. **Grenada**—Mrs. Gilchrist, Mr. A. C. Kelway, Mr. and Mrs. K. Dick

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. Owen Jones), Nov. 5th:—**Jamaica**—Mr. J. Dawson, Mr. W. E. Richards, Mr. C. D. Sandemann, Miss N. Tate, Mr. C. Ludvegson, Mr. A. Johansen.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), Nov. 4th:—**Jamaica**—Mr. S. H. Allwood, Mrs. R. B. Braham, Mr. F. M. Barker, Mr. J. Cameron, Mr. W. Dalton, Mr. G. Desnoes, Mr. P. H. Delamere, Rev. F. Edmonds, Capt. J. C. Ford, Mr. P. H. Greg, Mr. and Mrs. J. Glen, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Hamilton, Mr. J. E. Lyons, Mr. F. E. Lyons, Mr. Wm. Laing, Mrs. A. Liddell, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Musson, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. H. Moseley, Mr. J. Mercer, Mr. and Mrs. C. Oades, Mr. and Mrs. P. Preston, Mr. J. E. Sherlock, Mr. and Mrs. F. O. Simpson, Mr. C. E. Soares, Mrs. Todd, Mr. Beveridge, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Halkon, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. R. McLean, Mr. J. H. Owen.

Mail Arrangements.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Nov. 16	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	Glasgow	Direct Line	"Torgorm"	Nov. 15 6 p.m.
" 17	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Savan"	" 16 mid'n't
" 18	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Royal"	" 17 "
" 22	Barbados (for West India Islands)	Liverpool	Harrison Line	"Senator"	" 21 "

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Nov. 13	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	London	Direct Line	"Naparima"
" 20	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Kingston"
" 24	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	London	Direct Line	"Eleanor Mail"
" 25	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P. Co.	"Tagus"

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. We are indebted to the *Morning Post* for several of the items of information given below.

MR. EDGAR DE GAILLARD has resigned his appointment of Justice of the Peace of St. Lucia.

MR. GEORGE E. ANDERSON has been appointed a Justice of the Peace in and for British Guiana.

HON. D. T. TUDOR, Attorney General, Grenada, has returned to the Colony and resumed his duties.

MR. ALLAN O'NEAL SKINNER has been appointed a Justice of the Peace, Barbados, from October 6th.

Mr. P. J. DEAN, Consular Agent for the United States of America in Grenada, has returned to the Island.

MR. AUGUST HOLLER has returned to Trinidad and resumed his duties as Consul for the Austro Hungarian Empire.

MR. C. A. MATZGEN has been appointed Auditor, British Honduras, vice Mr. MCGREGOR, transferred to Mauritius.

MR. H. J. PERKINS, Surveyor General, British Honduras, has arrived at the Colony, and will shortly take over his duties.

HON. H. E. W. GRANT, Acting Colonial Secretary, British Honduras, has been appointed Colonial Secretary of the Falkland Islands.

COLONEL R. S. MARSHALL, Adjutant of the British Guiana Police and Militia, has returned to the Colony and resumed his duties.

MR. H. J. KATON, of the Customs Department, Kingston, Jamaica, has retired on a pension after thirty-six years' service in that Colony.

HON. DR. JAMES JOHNSTON, member of the Legislative Council and Board of Education, Jamaica, has been granted three months leave of absence.

MR. H. C. BURCHELL has resigned his appointment as Superintendent of Public Works, British Honduras, and will return shortly to Newfoundland.

MR. ARTHUR F. HADDAN has been selected for the combined offices of Private Secretary to the Governor of the Bahamas and Clerk of the Executive Council.

HIS EXCELLENCY P. C. CORK, Officer Administering the Government, has appointed the HON. WILFRED COLLETT, C.M.G., to be Colonial Secretary of British Honduras.

HON. M. A. MURPHY, Colonial Engineer, has been appointed Commissioner of Crown Lands, St. Lucia, vice MR. R. P. CROPPER, appointed Staff Surveyor in the Colonial Engineer's Department.

MR. JOHN BAYLTON WALKER, Chief Justice of St. Lucia, has been appointed to act until further orders as Chief Justice of Grenada, vice MR. C. J. TARRING, who retired on pension on September 30th.

DR. L. M. CLARKE, District Medical Officer at Gayle, Jamaica, has been transferred to Linstead in a similar capacity in place of DR. D. M. MACPHAIL, who has been promoted to a medical appointment in St. Lucia.

SIR E. BICKHAM SWEET ESCOTT will resume the duties of Governor of British Honduras on the 30th inst., when the HON. P. C. CORK, C.M.G., who is now acting as Governor, will proceed to St. Lucia to assume the office of Administrator and Colonial Secretary of that Colony.

MR. W. HART BENNETT leaves England on the 16th inst. for the Bahamas, to take over the duties of Colonial Secretary of that Colony. In the meantime MR. THOMAS E. C. BRACE acts as Colonial Secretary and MR. F. A. C. DUNCOMBE as Chief Clerk of the Department.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) October 27th. "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." November 8th. "Fine rains generally throughout the Island." British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) Oct. 27th. "Weather dry, rain much wanted." November 2nd. "Weather dry, no rain since last message." Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) week ended Oct. 25th. PORT ANTONIO: "Fine." KINGSTON: "Fine."

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan 1 to Oct. 3 1905	1904	Jan 1 to Oct. 8 1905	1904	April 1 to Oct. 8 1905	1904	Jan 1 to Oct. 24 1905	1904	Oct. 1 to Oct. 23 1905	1904
Sugar ...	37,209	56,626 Tons.	49,810	51,821 Tons	6674	5671 Tons	279,930	381,424 Bgs. & Brls	...	...
Molasses ...	38,119	44,427 Pns.	2024	1751 Puns	...	...	2887	2358 Puns	...	...
Rum	9463	12,819 ..	738,644	892,605 Galls.	178	28 Tons	...	...
Molasses	4687	3499 Tons.	...	...	165	39 Brls	...	...
Cocoa	45,247	103,076 lbs.	16,847	12,268 Cwts	349	150 Puns.	...	...
Coffee	14,295	15,358 ..	...	...	...	...
Coconuts	244,471	218,640	2,515,331	1,395,140	...	...	...	...
Copra	9167	13,522 bags.	...	...
Cotton
Cotton Seed	94,393	112,528 Tons.	...	...
Asphalt
Oranges	28,589,813	31,103,249	...	...	...	...
Bananas	9,588,985	3,939,043 Bunchs.	...	...	...	...
Pimento	47,081	29,203 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Spice
Gold	74,701	68,764 ozs.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diamonds	3916	9193 carats.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Balata

SIDE: 650 Brls
94 1/2 Brls
44 Cases
12 Bags

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—The greed of the Continental Sugar Growers has led to a production this season which bids fair to equal the largest on record, viz., that of 1901/2 when 6,850,000 tons were turned out or some 2,200,000 tons over last year's crop. This taken in conjunction with a further increase in Cane gives the world, say 2,500,000 tons more sugar than in the season of 1904/5 recently closed. Seeing that the visible supply on the 1st October at even dates, was the same this year as last, it becomes plain what extra consumption is needed in 1905/6, to reduce the visible to the proportions of the last two years, and so establish a natural price of sugar which the present indeed is not. For the coming sowings of next spring a reduction of at least 20% is needed to accomplish this end, if not the European growers must put up with a price that can in no way be considered pleasant to them, as it certainly fails to be to their Cane competitors. Consumption is always a matter of uncertainty, and it will have to make remarkable strides to wipe out the over-supply of this year's beet production. In the meantime Continental advices speak in too glowing terms of the progress of the crop which may now be considered independent of the weather, and bids fair to exceed any estimate that has yet appeared. The difficulties in Russia may or may not have some influence on its crop, but all information from that country is so garbled and unreliable that only a passing thought need be spared on this subject. The want of confidence in sugar, so rudely shattered by the disastrous reaction from the high prices of last January remains unrelieved, and a general policy of hand-to-mouth buying still exists, and may well do so for some time to come. Such a policy never stiffens markets.

The closing quotations of 88% are as follows:—November, 8s 0d; January/March, 8s 2½d; May, 8s 4½d; August, 8s 7d; and October/December, 1906, 8s 9½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Europe	600,000	770,000	1,170,000	1,110,000	530,000 Tons
United States	210,000	140,000	120,000	160,000	170,000 "
Cuba	120,000	—	120,000	80,000	30,000 "
Cargoes afloat	70,000	160,000	90,000	100,000	10,000 "
Total	1,000,000	1,070,000	1,500,000	1,450,000	760,000 "
Quotations of 88% Beet:—	8s. 0d.	12s. 9d.	8s. 7d.	7s. 5d.	7s. 3d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—The continuous fall in the price of raw and refined beet has enabled those who dye beet crystals in imitation of West India crystallised to accept as low as 14s 0d., and against this no market can stand. We have therefore, been subjected to an important decline in cane crystallised, and the latest sales have been on the basis of 14s. 3d. to 15s. 6d., for low to good yellow, with good to fine sugar 16s. to 17s., and a small lot of choice up to 18s. The value of average qualities is now 15s.

Business has been done in 96 test to refiners at 9s on floating terms, and this may now be considered the value of such sugar until the price of 88% beet further recedes.

Molasses Sugar is in fair demand at 11s. to 14s. for low qualities to good grocery and retail lots of choice up to about 16s.

Muscovado.—There is practically nothing doing. For 89 test to Refiners 8s is the nominal value on floating terms.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905	1904	1903	1902
Imports	34,000	37,000	20,000	36,000 Tons
Deliveries	35,000	41,000	35,000	37,000 "
Stocks	8,500	8,000	14,000	31,000 "
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	15s. 0d.	20s. 8d.	15s. 9d.	14s. 3d.

Rum.—Stocks in London:

	1905	1904	1903	1902
Jamaica	8600	10,300	10,600	12,700 Puns
Demerara	4800	5700	6400	7100 "
Total of all kinds	21,155	23,428	—	Deficiency 2273 "

A dull tone continues to prevail in this market, but prices are nominally unchanged, viz., Demerara, 15 1d to 15 3d, Jamaica, 25 1d for fair Standard Home Trade Marks, and 11d to 15 3d for Leewards and other proof kinds. There is perhaps a shade better demand for Jamaica at the close.

Board of Trade Returns for 10 months: 1905

	1905	1904	1903	1902
Home Consumption	2,928,000	2,979,000	2,922,000	3,219,000 Galls
Stocks 31st Oct	7,834,000	9,177,000	9,780,000	9,532,000 "

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:

	1905	1904	1903	1902
	72,000	87,000	56,000	64,000 Bags

At again easier prices a moderate business has been passing in West India kinds, but our chief manufacturers seem very shy of buying, exporters recently being the best customers. The closing quotations are: Trinidad fair collected, 51s. Estate Marks, 51s to 54s; Grenada fair, 46s and fermented, 43s to 51s. From other Islands, Native Cocoa is realising 44s. to 46s and fermented 48s. to 50s.

Board of Trade Returns for 10 months:

	1905	1904	1903	1902
Imports	19,811	23,231	19,256	17,709 Tons
Home Consumption	16,674	16,969	15,165	17,312 "
Stocks 31st Oct.	5012	5856	4067	4635 "

Coffee—Unchanged. Good ordinary Jamaica, 40s to 42s.

Almonds.—Recent sales of West India include 56's at 2s., 74's at 1s., 80's at 1½d., 90's at 8½d., 105's at 6½d., 120's at 5½d., and 132's to 151's at 4½d. **Mace.**—Fine heavy pale sold at 18. 0d., fair pale, 15. 4d., to 15. 3d. red, 15. 2d. to 15. 3d., and broken at 11d. **GINGER.**—Steady. Ordinary to good ordinary Jamaica sold at 38s 6d to 43s. **Pimento.**—Quiet at 2½d to 2¾d.

Arrowroot.—London figures since 1st January.

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Imports	12,224	13,909	12,422	16,801	17,733 Brls
Deliveries	14,420	15,405	12,040	10,835	17,525 "
Stocks 31st Oct.	7274	11,140	12,633	13,685	8408 "

With the exception of a few retail lots of chemists' arrowroot, no business is reported. The value of manufacturing quality remains at 1½d.

Lime Juice.—Nominal value, 9d. to 1s. Concentrated, unchanged at £16. Hand Pressed, quoted 2s. 6d. Distilled Oil, lower, value 18. 4d. to 1s. 5d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES

No. LV.



Hon. Emmanuel Du Boulay.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

Nov. 23rd, 1905.

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6092 CENTRAL.

WE shall not be a bit surprised if, before the Brussels Sugar Convention expires in 1908, those of the sugar users who have been doing their best to belittle it are found among its most ardent supporters. There can be no doubt that although the supply of sugar during the last twelve months has been much reduced, it would have been reduced to a still greater extent had it not been for this salutary enactment. The three years' experience of the cartel bounties in Austria and Germany satisfied all the other countries producing sugar that it was useless to attempt to compete in the English markets so long as these bounties continued. Assuredly, therefore, if it had not been for the Convention, the export of sugar to the United Kingdom from France, Belgium and Holland would have been put an end to, and the production of sugar in the West Indies, Brazil and Java would have been enormously reduced if not destroyed altogether. It was the knowledge that the Brussels Convention practically put a stop to the cartel bounties in Germany

and Austria which induced the producers of these other countries to continue their production; and

now what has been the result? The production of the present year, both of beet and of cane, is likely to be about the largest on record. This is the result of extending sugar production all over the world, instead of limiting it to a few bounty-giving countries. Confectioners in the United Kingdom can at the present moment not only buy their sugar cheap, but cheaper than their competitors in any other part of the world. Sporadic attempts are still being made to discredit the effects of the Brussels Convention, but we are glad to see that the leading firms of confectioners now appear to recognise that the rise in the price of sugar last year was not due to the Convention but to the drought on the Continent and consequent failure of the beet crop. From the evidence of the fruit growers and jam-makers given before the Departmental Committee of the Board of Agriculture, which has just been published, we can find not the slightest indication to show that the jam trade has suffered through the Convention, or, indeed, the sugar tax, which is another matter altogether, and for which the Convention was in no way responsible. SIR THOMAS PINK had the courage to state his opinion that the rise in price of sugar was due to the failure of the beet crop owing to the weather. MR. THOMAS H. BLACKWELL in his evidence said that it had not very materially affected the price of jam, and moreover that he did not think that the trade suffered very much from the sugar duties. In spite of the difficulties against which it has had to contend for so many years, cane sugar can still be produced quite as cheaply as beet, and with the price of sugar now down below the cost of production, owing to the probability of the coming beet crop being over two millions in excess of that of last year, and indeed the largest on record, it is not surprising that producers on the Continent are beginning to show anxiety. Efforts are being made to reconstitute cartels, but the success of a cartel depends on there being a difference between the excise and customs' duty, and this has now been reduced to such a figure by the Brussels Convention that the small margin would make the formation of a cartel very difficult. Now, it will be asked, if sugar is below the cost of production, how will the West Indians benefit? Our answer is, they are already benefiting by the renewal of confidence, which is enabling planters to raise capital and improve their machinery. This confidence is based on the knowledge that they have now got a fair field and no favour. Cane sugar can meet beet sugar on even terms, and given a price of about £10 per ton, the West Indian producers can place sugar on the market profitably.

THOUGH most of the recommendations of the Royal Commissioners who visited the West Indies in 1897 have now been adopted, there is one matter to which they devoted no less than eleven paragraphs of their report which still remains hung up at Downing Street, and that is the rum surtax. As some time has elapsed since we dealt with this subject, we may briefly recapitulate the recent history of the question. The duty (excise) on spirits manufactured in this country is 11s. per gallon, and the duty (customs') on spirits manufactured abroad *and in the Colonies* 11s. 4d. per gallon. Again, in the case of methylated spirit, spirit manufactured in this country is duty free, while the full duty and surtax amounting to 11s. 5d. per gallon would be imposed on any methylated spirit imported from abroad, and the surtax of 5d. is imposed on methylated spirit manufactured in bond from spirit imported from our Colonies. The excuse for this deliberate protection accorded to distillers in this country is that the surtax is imposed on foreign and Colonial spirits to countervail the excise disabilities under which British distillers carry on their manufacture; in other words, it is assumed that the home distiller is put to some expense owing to his excise regulations, and this 4d. protection is given to him as compensation. On April 25th, 1898, SIR MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, informed MR. W. F. LAWRENCE, M.P., that the surtax was based on the twenty-eighth report of the Board of Inland Revenue, and a search of this document discloses the fact that in calculating the disadvantages to which distillers were put through their excise disabilities, an allowance

was made of $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per gallon to compensate them for the duty on foreign grain, and it will astonish many of our readers to learn that in spite of the fact that the corn duties were abolished in 1869 and and only temporarily re-imposed for one year in 1902, this $\frac{3}{4}$ d. still stands as part of the surtax! The very proper argument on the side of the Colonial distillers has always been that inasmuch as they are also subject to excise regulations, they have as much right to the $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per gallon protection as the home distiller has against the foreigner, of whose excise regulations nothing is assumed to be known. The reply to this, however, has been that though there are excise regulations in the Colonies, they are not so stringent as those at home, and therefore do not press so heavily on the distiller; but, on the other hand, excise restrictions are supposed to be imposed for one purpose only, viz., to protect the revenue, and if the excise regulations cost less per gallon in the Colonies where the distilleries are few, than in this country where they are more numerous and staff centralisation is more possible, there must indeed be something wrong at home. It was hoped that the case of the Colonies might receive consideration in connection with the committee appointed to inquire into the possible use of alcohol duty free for manufacturing purposes last year, but it was soon made perfectly clear that even if the general recommendations of the committee were adopted, and the duty on spirits generally might be abated, the surtax would remain and the relative position of the distiller in this country and the distiller in the Colonies would be unaltered. In 1901, MR. STEELE, of the Treasury, was sent out to the West Indies to conduct an examination into the excise regulations, and he estimated the cost of them to the distillers at a low figure; his report was objected to by the Colonies affected, and was discredited even by the leading trade journals here. It was admittedly valueless so long as no corresponding scrutiny was made of the excise regulations in this country, and the logical sequence would have been to hold an inquiry into the cost of excise regulations in this country. SIR EDWARD GREY is freely spoken of as a probable Colonial Minister in the event of the Liberal party being returned to power, and the very strong statements on the subject made by the Commission, of which he was a member, in their report, should lead West Indians to hope that if he is ever at the Colonial Office, the question will receive more attention than it has recently done. The Commissioners characterised the surtax as unsound in principle, and they added: "We are unable to find any good reason for imposing an extra charge on imported spirit, and paying what appears to be a bounty on exported spirit, which would not equally apply in the case of a liability to pay compensation for accidents to workmen imposed on employers by the Legislature," and again, "We cannot but think that the imposition of this duty entails some hardship upon the West Indian Colonies. These Colonies have regulations of their own with reference to the distilling of rum, and it may fairly be urged that the distiller of rum incurs expense analogous to that incurred in the manufacture of spirits at home, though it may be either greater or less in amount." In the case of the self-governing Colonies who are well able to look after themselves, and whose excise regulations are not under the control of Downing Street, there may be some excuse for the imposition of the surtax, but inasmuch as the excise regulations of our West Indian Colonies, which have recently been made more stringent, are under the control of the Colonial Office, we do most certainly think that this grievance, from which the West Indies have so long suffered, should be redressed. In any case we are justified in strongly urging on behalf of these Colonies as an act of common justice that the question be re-opened, and the home distillers' regulations be subjected to impartial investigation, with the view to this matter being settled once and for all.

UP to the time of going to press, no official reply has been received from Mr. Balfour to the letter of the West India Committee requesting him to receive a deputation on the subject of the withdrawal of the British infantry from the West Indies, but already there are signs that the prominence given to

the matter is causing the Government to treat it more seriously than might otherwise have been the case. The announcement that a draft of the Hampshire Regiment is shortly to sail for Bermuda, following upon the statement that a British garrison is still to remain in Egypt, and Mr. Lyttelton's indefinite remarks at the Colston Banquet at Bristol leads to the hope that the adequate safeguarding of British interests in the Caribbean will not be lost sight of. How eagerly the West Indies are sought after by foreigners has been the subject of many articles in the *West India Committee Circular*, and the announcement that an American fleet, larger than any that has assembled in West Indian waters since the days of the Cuban War, is now off Hayti in anticipation of a possible revolution, goes to confirm what we have so often said. And now we learn further from the correspondent of the *Morning Post* in Washington that much space has recently been devoted in American newspapers to the question of the relations between America and Germany. The *Washington Post* says that, coupled with commercial differences, there exists a suspicion of Germany's sincerity in disclaiming territorial advantages in South America, and attention is called to the acquisition by the Hamburg-American line of wharfage facilities in the Danish West Indies, and after pointing out that in case of war the vessels of this line would be used as auxiliary cruisers, the *Post* says: "Just what the Hamburg-American line wants with either wharves or a coaling station in the Danish West Indies cannot be comprehended here, unless it be that this move is only another assertion by the Emperor William of his fixed determination to ignore point by point our Monroe Doctrine until he makes a veritable sieve of that whole fabric." At first sight our readers may feel inclined to ask what bearing this has on the question of the withdrawal of the white troops from the West Indies. It is clear that in the event of any international complications the small quantity of troops at present stationed in the West Indies would be insufficient to protect the Islands, indeed, it is doubtful if even a large body of troops could hold them against a foreign foe; but it must occur to everybody who knows the circumstances, what the effect of the constant lowering of our prestige must be. The Secretary of State recently characterised as absurd, the rumour that the West Indies were to be abandoned, but it must be admitted that there have been good grounds for the existence of the rumour, and that it did exist is undoubtedly a fact.

Hon. Emmanuel Du Boulay.

For over twenty-five years the Hon. Emmanuel Du Boulay, whose portrait appears on the first page of this *Circular*, has been a Member of the Legislative Council of St. Lucia, for which Island he is also Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee. His family have resided in the Colony for over 100 years, and though of French origin it is needless to remark that Mr. Du Boulay is a British subject. He was brought up in Paris and London, between which cities he divides his attention whenever he takes a holiday. Mr. E. Du Boulay was the original owner of the Dennery Estate, and he is the pioneer of central sugar factories as far as St. Lucia is concerned. He is now proprietor of Troumassé, Volet, and Mon Désir Estates, and has a share in Soufrière Estate. He is also Managing Director of the St. Lucia Usines and Estates Co., Ltd., in the Island, which own the Vieux Fort and Roseau Central Factories. For his services on the Legislative Council and in connection with the sugar industry Mr. Du Boulay merits the gratitude of Government and planters alike.

The Recent Colonial Exhibition.

The report of the General Exhibition Committee was adopted at a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on the 16th inst., and copies are being forwarded to the Exhibition Committees in Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados and Grenada, by the R.M.S. "Orinoco" to-morrow, together with the general balance sheet, which shows a credit balance of £8 19s. 5d. These documents will shortly be published in a special souvenir.

New Members of the West India Committee.

A new List of Members of the West India Committee will be issued early in the new year, and it is hoped, therefore, that Members will notify the Secretary of any change in their address immediately. The subscription for new Members elected between now and the close of the year will, when paid, cover the period to January 1st, 1907. Forms of application for Membership can be obtained from the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. At a meeting of the Executive on Thursday, November 16th, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., presiding, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
CHRISTOPHER R. NUGENT, Esq.	T. DuBuisson, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
GEO. A. S. SLACK, Esq. (St. Kitts)	Chas. A. Smith, Esq.	A. M. Lee, Esq.
JOHN M. ADAMS, Esq. (Grenada)	C. A. Philip, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
ROBERT S. REID, Esq.	Hon. W. C. L. Dyett.	William Gillespie, Esq.
CYRIL C. HENRIQUES, Esq. (Jamaica)	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	E. A. de Pass, Esq.
DR. GILBERT ELLIOT, M.R.C.S.	Martin Elliott, Esq.	Capt. W. Jameson Calder.
ALFRED C. GRANT, Esq. (Jamaica)	E. A. de Pass, Esq.	William Gillespie, Esq.

Hurricane Insurance.

We understand that arrangements have now been made at Lloyds, through Messrs. Henry Head & Co., Ltd., Insurance Brokers, to give effect to the scheme for insurance against hurricanes in the Island of Dominica formulated by His Honour H. Hesketh Bell, the Administrator of the Island. Two rates have been quoted, one for insurance against hurricanes, and the other against damage caused by seismic or volcanic disturbances, and the insurance will cover all kinds of produce except bananas. The rates will work out between $1\frac{1}{2}$ % and 2 %, the former figure being approximately that for insurance against hurricanes, and the latter against hurricanes or volcanic disturbances. Against volcanic disturbances alone the rate will be about $\frac{1}{2}$ %. At present the proposals are confined to Dominica, but if they are taken up warmly, as they should and doubtless will be, they may be extended to other Colonies in the hurricane zone. The same firm has been approached with regard to extending the insurance to Puerto Rico.

The British Cotton Growing Association.

The first annual report of the Council of the British Cotton Growing Association states that before the prospectus was issued 125,332 shares were allotted, and subsequently a further 73,100 shares have since been applied for and allotted, bringing the total share capital to £198,432. Disappointment is expressed that there has not been a larger response from subscribers to the capital of the Association, but during the last few months considerable progress has been made. Excellent as were the results obtained in 1904, the cotton produced in 1905 is still more successful. The Commissioner of Agriculture took especial pains to obtain a good supply of a first-class quality of Sea Island seed for the West Indies, and those who used this seed have every reason to be satisfied, for the cotton produced is even superior to that grown on most of the best Sea Island plantations in South Carolina, and has realised 2d. to 3d. a pound more than American grown cotton. The spinners who have used this cotton have found it economical in working, and there is evidently a great future before those West Indian planters who have suitable land, and who will take sufficient care in cultivation and ginning in order to produce the best results. The best testimony to the excellence of the West Indian cotton is the exhibit of handkerchiefs manufactured from yarn spun from it. These goods, though not mercerised, have every appearance of silk, owing to the natural silkiness and gloss of the

raw cotton. Although it is not desirable that the market should be overdone with cotton of this quality, there is now not the slightest doubt that should a scarcity arise, or should there be any mishap to the American crop, we can depend on the West Indies producing all that we require of the better qualities of cotton. Out of the total crop no less than 1,746 bales of a value of over £28,000 have passed through the Association's hands this last season, and the planters are most satisfied with the price obtained. The prospects for the coming season are equally good, for there will probably be an increase in the area under cultivation of from 30 per cent. to 50 per cent., and as most of the planters have now realised the importance of the use of carefully selected seed, there is every reason to look to a still further improvement in quality. St. Vincent and Barbados have been the most successful islands, the climate in the latter is the more suitable, but the soil in the former is very much superior. Good results have also been obtained in Montserrat, St. Kitts, Nevis, Antigua, and other islands, but in Jamaica very little has been done. In addition to advantages for our spinners, the reintroduction of cotton cultivation has conferred an undoubted benefit on the West Indies, as it will enable planters to be less dependent on one single article of produce, viz. sugar. A small commission is now charged by the Association on the cotton which is sent to them for sale, but it is fully recognised by the planters that it is well worth their while to pay this commission so as to ensure their cotton fetching a fair price in this market. The following figures showing the quantity in bales of 400 lbs. and value of raw cotton exported from the various West Indian Colonies is extracted from the appendices:—

West Indies	Bales.	£	Bales	£	Bales.	£
St. Lucia ...	—	—	—	—	6	90
Bahamas ...	3	22	16	121	21	179
Jamaica (a) ...	—	—	8	40	36	546
Turks and Caicos Islands	—	—	1	5	—	—
St. Vincent ...	135	475	108 (a)	794	315 (a)	4,494
Barbados ...	—	—	13	316	480	9,593
Grenada ...	619	3,330	753	4,205	786	7,348
Leeward Islands	?	79	148 (b)	2,672	208 (b)	5,518
Total	757	£3,906	1,047	£8,153	1,852	£27,768
British Guiana (a)	...	...	...	...	...	...

(a) For the twelve months ending March 31st.

(b) Approximate only.

Thanks are accorded to Sir Daniel Morris and his staff, to the governors and other officials in the West Indies, and to Mr. Lomas Oliver, whose tour of the West Indian Islands last winter, when he drew the attention of the planters to the defects in the qualities of cotton previously grown by them, was productive of much good, and the thanks of the Association are also extended to Mr. Charles Wolstenholme, who has spent much of his time in valuing hundreds of samples which are sent to the Association from all parts of the British Empire. The first annual meeting of the shareholders will be held in the Town Hall, Manchester, at 3.15 p.m. on Tuesday, November 28th, and on December 11th a banquet will be held at the Midland Hotel, at which Mr. Balfour, the Duke of Marlborough and the Earl of Derby have consented to be present.

The Colonies at Guildford.

As the result of the recent Colonial Exhibition the West India Committee were able to lend a number of West Indian curiosities and articles of interest from Jamaica, Trinidad and Grenada, for a Missionary Exhibition, held in Guildford, on November 14th and 15th. The Exhibition, the inception of which was, we understand, due to the Rev. C. E. Nuttall, son of the Archbishop of the



Photo by Albertus K. Agtsehl.

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A STORMY SUNSET AT SEA, OFF BARBADOS.

West Indies, was opened by the Right Hon. Viscount Middleton, Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, on the 14th, and the attendance of visitors at the County and Borough Hall was so large that many could not gain admittance. The great object of the Exhibition was to give information about the various countries represented, and to awaken intelligent interest in all that concerns them. There were "Courts" representing Africa, India, China, Japan, Canada and the West Indies. The exhibits lent by the West India Committee were, we are told, of much assistance to the speakers, who discoursed regarding the West Indies.

The Proposed West Indian Cricketers.

There seem to be very good prospects of a West Indian cricket team visiting this country next summer. The matter is, we understand, engaging the attention of the Sports Committee of the West



The first West Indian Cricket Team.

In connection with the proposed visit of a West Indian cricket team next summer, the above photograph of the members of the first West Indian cricket team to visit this country in 1900, will be of interest to our Members. The names reading from left to right are: Top row—Burton, Mr. C. A. Ollivierre, Hon. R. S. Warner (Captain), Mr. W. H. Mignon, Mr. G. C. Learmond, Mr. P. J. Cox, Mr. M. W. Kerr, Mr. P. A. Goodman. Sitting—Woods, Mr. F. Hinds, Mr. S. W. Sproston, Mr. G. L. Livingstone and Mr. L. Constantine. Mr. W. Bowring and Mr. L. S. D'Adé were absent.

Indian Club, but the visit must, of course, be contingent upon the necessary funds being forthcoming. Mr. F. E. Lacey, Secretary of the M.C.C., has, we believe, arranged a provisional list of fixtures, and in the event of the tour taking place there will be about nineteen games. The cricketers would probably appear twice at Lords against the M.C.C., and either Middlesex or a Gentlemen of England team, and Yorkshire have also promised a match at Harrogate early in August with a three-figure guarantee. Arriving at the end of May, the tour would probably open at the Crystal Palace on June 11th, with a contest with London County, and extend until the middle of August, the dates of the 'Varsity match being left vacant.

The Withdrawal of the Troops.

Speaking at the banquet of the Dolphin Society, at Bristol, on Monday, November 15th, Mr. Alfred Lyttelton said that, of course, all of them knew, that in the West Indies Bristol had a great past (cheers). She grew in her strength with the strength of the West Indies (hear, hear). Unhappily, she had suffered because of the abandonment of Colonial Preference (hear, hear and cheers). Let them hope, however, in connection with the topic which was particularly suggested to him by Mr. Sanders, that if it were necessary to withdraw the few white troops that were at present in the West Indies a substitute as efficient, and more efficient even, than they might be found in the presence of one or two cruisers, always ready at hand in a possible case of risk (cheers).

The Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce.

The Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange had a credit balance of £278 3s. 3d. at the close of the twelve months ended May 31st last, which are reviewed in the twenty-first annual report of the Council. The Council records with gratification the earnest efforts made by the mercantile and agricultural interests of the Island to efface the terrible effects of the cyclone of August 11th, 1903. The result of the disaster is still being seriously felt by all classes in the Colony. The Island is, however, slowly but surely emerging from the financial depression that followed in its wake. Among the matters touched upon in the report are the question of the mail contract, the proposed formation of a tourist agency for Kingston, the reduction of the postal rate to the United States of America, and, of course, the recent Colonial Exhibition. This useful organisation, of which our Hon. Correspondent, Mr. J. L. Ashenheim, is Secretary, has now a large list of subscribers, containing names representative of all the principal industries of the Colony.

The New Quarantine Convention.

The West Indian Intercolonial Sanitary Convention for providing uniformity in the quarantine regulations in the West Indies, has been adopted by the Legislatures of Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad, British Guiana, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and the Leeward Islands, and has now come into force. This Convention, which is the outcome of the recommendations of the West Indian Conference on quarantine, which met in Barbados on April 25th, 1904, 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 the 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, during which period no alteration or amendment is to be effected without the consent of all the Colonies, and provision is made for its renewal quinquennially without formal extension, unless one of the adhering or acceding Colonies within six months before the expiration of the period of five years has signified its intention of withdrawing or securing a modification. The Convention has been published as a Parliamentary Paper, C12775.

The Fall in Price of Sugar.

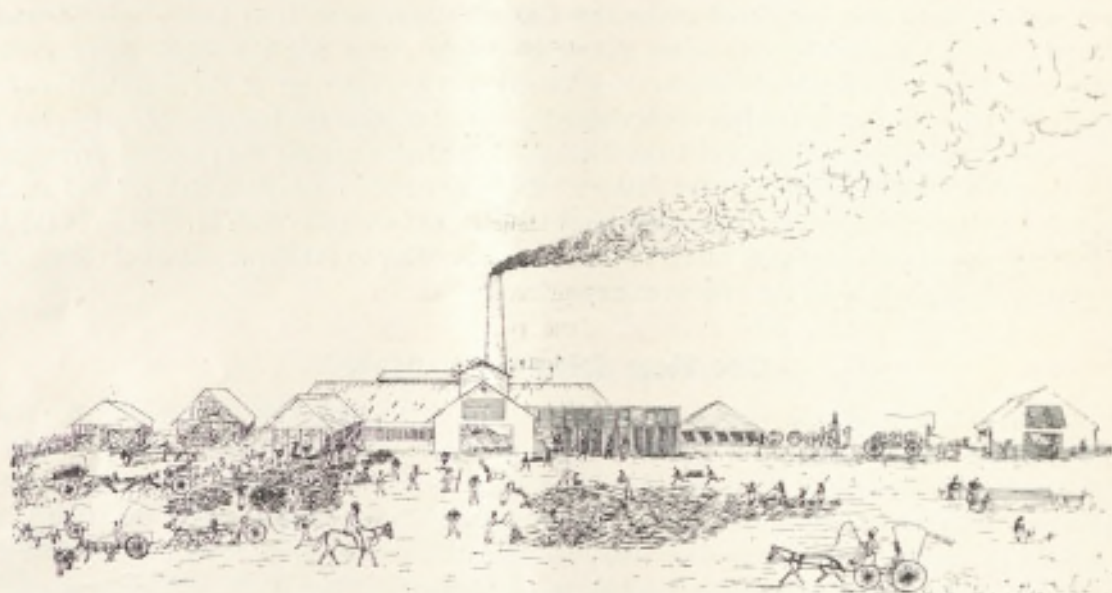
Judging by the remarks of the Continental Press we gather that no little apprehension is being felt on the Continent just now regarding the price of sugar, which has again fallen below the cost of production. The cause of the decline is the estimate of the beet crop, which is expected to exceed that of the preceding campaign by over 2,000,000 tons. A remedy would be a large increase in consumption, and we learn that the German producers have already been agitating for a reduction of the sugar duty alleging that now that the Brussels Convention has brought about competition between

cane and beet sugar the interests of sugar planters and manufacturers alike demand the rapid and wide expansion of the home market. This has for a long time past been the text round which our friend, M. Georges Dureau, Editor of the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucres*, has preached, and we find him reverting to the subject in a recent issue of his paper. So far, the German Government without appearing hostile, has shown little eagerness to adopt the view of the German producers, its difficulty being to raise the wind elsewhere, more especially at a time when it has been compelled to increase the duties on tobacco, beer, and stamps, and standing face to face as it does with the new naval programme. An influential meeting of German refiners was held on November 4th in Berlin, and a society was formed to regulate prices through a council appointed for this object, and to fix the terms of delivery and the conditions of sale. Experience alone will show if this is the thin edge of the wedge, and if the ulterior motive is the formation of a cartel, in which the producers, as before, will be asked to participate. But in view of the narrow margin, or *écart*, as it is called, between the excise and the customs duty now permitted under the Brussels Convention, it is hardly possible that a cartel could prove successful. However, the *Wochenschrift* states that the efforts being made in Germany and France to establish cartels, show clearly that the question of the organisation of the sugar industry with the avowed object of obtaining by mutual consent the best possible prices has not been suppressed owing to the decision of the Brussels Commission against the proposed arrangement between Austrian and Hungarian sugar makers. An increase of consumption and reduced sowings are the only possible remedies for the present state of affairs, and we agree with M. Dureau in thinking that producers would do better to regulate their sowings according to the requirements of consumption than to throw their produce on the market at any price.

The New Colonial Company.

At the ninth ordinary general meeting of this Company, the Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, stated that the apparent increase of about £50,000 in the item of sundry debtors as compared with the figures in last year's balance sheet was simply owing to the fact that in the previous year the company sold the whole of their Puerto Rico crop in the island, and therefore it was realised before June 30th, 1904, whereas this year, in June, there was no market in Puerto Rico for sugar, and a quantity of it had to be shipped to New York, and was not realised before June 30th. With regard to the profit and loss account, the chief feature to call attention to was the very bad crop last year in Trinidad. It was a curious fact in connection with the West Indies that whenever the price of sugar was very high there was a very small crop. In the period of ten years ended 1905 the two worst crops were in the two years in which the price of sugar was very high—an unfortunate circumstance for the shareholders, but one over which the directors, of course, had no power. The simple explanation of why they had not paid a dividend this year on the preference shares was that the company required the money as working capital. In 1899 the Austrian Government first instituted what was called the cartel bounty. So long as the cartel was confined to Austria it did not have any serious effect on the sugar markets of the world, but it was so successful in giving a large bounty to Austrian producers that it was adopted in 1900 by Germany. The year 1901 was the first in which the cartels in Austria and Germany were in operation, and so large were the bounties that they had an appreciable effect in reducing the price of sugar all over the world. These cartels continued until 1903, when they came to an end in consequence of the Brussels Convention, and he wished to draw the attention of the shareholders to the very serious effect the cartels had in reducing the price of sugar in the three years they were in operation. The gross profit of the company amounted to £308,000 in the four years ended 1901, the average working out at £77,000 per annum. During the three cartel years—which in their accounts were called 1902, 1903

and 1904—the total profits were £61,000, or an average of £20,300 per annum. A difference was thus shown in the average annual profits of these two periods of £57,000, representing a loss in the three years of no less than £170,000, which might fairly be regarded as the cost to the company of the cartel bounties in the period during which they were in force. There was another way of testing the figures. For the ten years prior to 1902 the average price they realised was £11 3s. 3d. per ton, but taking the lowest three consecutive years during that period the price realised was £9 13s. 4d. In the three cartel years, however, the average price obtained was £8 2s. 11d. In other words, comparing those three years with the three lowest consecutive years previously experienced, there was a difference against the company of £1 10s. per annum, which, on their production in the same period of 101,700 tons, meant between £150,000 and £160,000. Such a loss as this had naturally depleted their working capital, and it was very essential for them to make this good as soon as they could, and the only way, practically, to do it was to take the money out of their profits. In normal years, as



"El Socorro" in 1874.

The above is a reproduction of a pen-and-ink sketch, by a coolie immigrant, of El Socorro Estate, Trinidad, in full work in 1874. The figure in the buggy is Mr. P. N. Bernard, the then Attorney of the Colonial Company, to which the estate belonged, and the manager of the estate, Mr. Wairh, is seen on horseback.

their estates now were, their production was about 40,000 tons of sugar, and the annual expenditure required to produce this quantity was between £350,000 and £360,000. He did not mean to say that they were out of pocket that amount at any period of the year, because the crops began to come in long before the whole amount was expended, but still they had to spend a considerable sum on the growth of the crops before the latter came in. In these circumstances he hoped that the shareholders would realise that the directors had not been unreasonable in withholding the dividend this year, for it was most essential, in the interests of the preference shareholders, that the estates should be fully maintained. He could not say that, with the present low prices of sugar, they were yet in smooth water, but he thought it was the general impression that smooth water was not far off, and his own impression was that, as the present low price was below the cost of production of sugar all over the world, it could not last for many months. With reference to the prospects of the coming year, he regretted that he could not give a more favourable anticipation of them, and until there was some rise

in the price of sugar the company could not hope to do well on their estates. The weather in Demerara had been far too dry, and he feared that the crop there would be somewhat short. By the last accounts a very good crop was expected in Trinidad, and in Puerto Rico a "bumper" crop was looked for. If, therefore, there should be, as he hoped, any recovery in prices, the accounts might not turn out as bad in the end as any present anticipations would make them. The directors had done the best they could to meet the difficult circumstance against which they had had to contend, and they had been very much encouraged by the kind confidence which had always been shown to them by the shareholders. He ventured to hope that that confidence would be continued, and he was sure that he might truly say it had been well deserved by the directors. In conclusion, he moved the adoption of the report. Mr. Edward Packard, in seconding the motion, observed that they met in somewhat peculiar and unusual circumstances, for the company had made—he would not say a handsome, but a reasonable profit, taking into consideration all the difficulties of the past eighteen months; but he hoped that the shareholders would give the board credit for "stiffening their backs" and not proposing to pay the dividend on the preference shares on the present occasion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Colonial Reports.

Barbados.—An Improved Financial Position.

The financial year 1904-5 opened with a deficit of £2,361 in Barbados, but by a careful regulation of expenditure it was possible before its close to meet these liabilities and bring forward a balance of £6,595 on April 1st, 1905. According to the annual report of the Hon. S. W. Knaggs, Colonial Secretary (Colonial Reports, No. 466), the revenue and expenditure of the last five years, excluding transactions connected with grants and loans, has been:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1900	£185,475	£176,982
1901-2	179,973	175,350
1902-3	161,585	191,346
1903-4	180,831	176,309
1904-5	185,056	178,797

The value of imports during the year was £1,069,312, an increase of £247,695 over those of the previous year. The United Kingdom is the country of origin whence the bulk of the imports come, the figures being £479,819 as compared with £352,994 from the United States and £75,749 from British North America.

The value of exports was £627,678, showing an increase of £207,838 over those for 1903, the actual figures being:—

	1903-4	1904-5	Increase.
Sugar	£259,746	£440,208	£180,462
Molasses	136,548	144,195	7,647
Rum	90	148	58
Other Products	23,456	43,127	19,671
	£419,840	£627,678	£207,838

Sugar to the value of £264,610 was exported to the United States, and £133,146 to British North America, and £37,248 to the United Kingdom. Canada took the bulk of the molasses, the value being £115,738 against £17,078, the value of the quantity taken by the United States.

In his general remarks Mr. Knaggs refers to the Colonial Exhibition and to the assistance rendered in this connection by the West India Committee, to the railway, for which the Legislature

promised to provide a subsidy of £2,000 a year for ten years, and in conclusion, he adds that the prospects of the sugar crop of 1906 are most favourable, and that the revenue of the present year shows a material increase over that of the year 1904-5. Yet the recent heavy fall in the price of sugar, and the loss that will be entailed on the Colony by the withdrawal of the troops and the removal of the Royal Mail Company's headquarters to Trinidad will render it necessary to continue to exercise a careful control over the expenditure.

Grenada. An Increase of Exports.

The report of his Honour Edward Drayton, Administrator of Grenada, on the Blue Book of the Colony for 1904-5 (Colonial Reports, No. 463), states that the financial year closed with a balance of assets amounting to £22,408. The following is a comparative table of revenue and expenditure of Grenada for the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure		
1900	£70,363	£62,718	£7,645	Surplus.
1901-2	70,075	65,490	4,585	"
1902-3	72,802	68,669	4,133	"
1903-4	70,265	70,113	152	"
1904-5	68,993	69,509	516	Deficit.

The trade of the Colony showed a marked increase, due to the satisfactory output of the staple products, the cocoa crop being the largest on record, spices fairly good, and cotton nearly twice as large as during the last year. It is probable that the imports would have been much larger, but towards the end of the year there were indications of a shortage in the cocoa output, and a certain amount of caution was displayed by importers. The value of the imports from Canada showed a decrease; more Canadian foodstuffs would doubtless be introduced into the Island if means of communication were simpler and more frequent, but as there are three direct steamers per month from New York, and only one from Halifax, and as the latter takes a long time to reach Grenada, after calling first at nearly all the northern islands of the Caribbean, it is not surprising that commerce prefers the former channel.

The cocoa crop for 1904 was the largest on record, 67,225 bags, exceeding that of the previous year by 4,206, and the five years' average by 7,564 bags. The bag averages 180 pounds. The output of spices for the year under review was about 1,000 cwts. less than 1903, which was doubtless due to the irregular rainfall in 1904. An important feature of the current year was the opening up by one of the largest landowners of the Island of some valuable estates there for the cultivation of Sea Island cotton, an example which the peasant settlers will not be slow in following. The exports of cotton show a satisfactory increase. The following is a comparative table of the principal exports in the last five years:—

Produce exported.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Cocoa	£269,931	£265,979	£268,211	£230,957	£272,226
Spices	30,153	26,714	25,522	31,583	33,767
Cotton and cotton seed	4,622	4,905	4,069	5,345	8,521
Live stock	1,133	1,147	1,082	1,186	1,356

In his general remarks, Mr Edward Drayton refers to the successful formation of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, and the gift of a lighthouse for Point Salines by the Hon. C. Macaulay Browne and Mr. G. G. Browne, in memory of their father, to which reference has already been made in the *West India Committee Circular*. Mention is also made of the new waterworks for Gouyave begun on the Dougaldston Estate, the water rights and land for reservoirs having generously been presented by our Hon. Correspondent, Hon. D. S. de Freitas.

St. Vincent, 1904.—The Sea Island Cotton Industry.

Mr. Edward J. Cameron, Administrator of St. Vincent, in his report on the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1903-4, reminds us that this was the second year of the revival of the cotton industry in St. Vincent. Although the output was not so large as was anticipated, owing to failure in some portions of the Island, together with some disease, yet it showed an encouraging increase, and in quality the St. Vincent cotton had surpassed any put on the English market, an all round price of 1s. 5d. per lb. being realised. The cotton ginnery, mentioned in the last report, started work in January last, and dealt with the season's crop under the supervision of the officers of the Imperial Department of Agriculture; up to March 31st, 222,262 lbs. of seed cotton had been ginned, giving 171 bales containing 61,011 lbs. of lint. Owing to defects in the oil engine by which it was originally intended that the gins should be worked, a steam engine, which gave more effective power, was imported from Barbados to supply its place. A disintegrator for the crushing of cotton seed was also supplied. A whale fishery, which was of very material benefit to the inhabitants of the St. Vincent Grenadines, was carried on in those islands, but unfortunately in the year under review it was somewhat of a failure. The export of cacao was 742 bags, as against 443 in 1900, and in the absence of any further set-back, the figure should in a few years rise to beyond what it was (1,500 bags) before the disastrous hurricane of 1898. It should also be noted that a considerable quantity of cacao is consumed locally by the peasantry, and it is therefore a product of great importance to the community. The following is a table of the total revenue and expenditure for five years, 1900 to 1904-5:—

Year	Revenue		Total.	Expenditure		Total
		£	£		£	£
1900.	Local	28,376	30,426	Local	29,081	36,121
	Imperial Grant	2,050		Imperial Grant	7,040	
1901-2.	Local	23,705	26,612	Local	26,149	29,572
	Imperial Grant	2,907		Imperial Grant	3,423	
1902-3.	Local	25,931	29,292	Local	25,758	28,390
	Imperial Grant	3,361		Imperial Grant	2,632	
1903-4.	Local	20,944	26,516	Local	26,657	28,115
	Imperial Grant	5,572		Imperial Grant	1,458	
1904-5.	Local	22,448	28,266	Local	25,228	26,515
	Imperial Grant	5,818		Imperial Grant	1,287	

NOTE.—This Table includes receipts from the Imperial Agricultural grant, and expenditure charged against the same.

No further lands were acquired under the Land Settlement Scheme, attention being rather directed to securing a fuller and more beneficial use of those already taken up and given out in allotments. In his general observations, the Administrator says that the year might be considered on the whole uneventful, and taken up in furthering the working and progress of existent schemes for betterment of the Island, rather than in the institution of new departures. With regard to the cotton industry, if the results as far as yield is concerned did not come quite up to expectations, the quality at least was unquestionable, and with care and attention and a good use of the knowledge gained by experience, it is certain that planters will secure a fair return for the capital they are able to lay out. The rise in the price of sugar was another factor tending to an improvement of agricultural conditions. It is

rather remarkable that Mr. Cameron should have made no reference whatever to the unspent balance of the fund subsidised in 1902 for the relief of distress caused by the eruption of the Soufrière. The undistributed balance figures in the statement of liabilities and assets of the Colony at £30,956 5s. 11d.

Notes of Interest.

OUR FULL PAGE ILLUSTRATION. The subject of our full-page illustration is a stormy sunset at sea, off Barbados, and is reproduced from a snapshot taken on the fore-castle of the old "Para." It must not be taken too seriously, but should be considered as an attempt at an "impressionist" study.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended November 16th, 45 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.60d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb.

A LECTURE. Under the auspices of the League of the Empire, Mr. Henry Kirke will deliver a lecture on British Guiana at the Hall of Queen's College, Harley Street, W., on the afternoon of Saturday next, at 3.30 p.m. The price of admission is 1/- per ticket which can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Lecture Section, League of the Empire, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

MARRIAGE. On Tuesday, November 14th, at St. Barnabas Church, Kensington, a marriage was solemnized between Mr. Charles Forster Alleyne, Army Service Corps, only son of the Hon. Forster McGeachy Alleyne, of Clifton and Barbados, to Mary Dorothy, daughter of S. Herbert Cox, of 12, Oakwood Court, Kensington. The officiating clergy were the Very Rev. the Dean of Durham, D.D., uncle of the bridegroom, assisted by the Rev. G. Sampson Lowe, M.A.

W.I. CLUB DINNER. At the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club held on Wednesday, November 15th, Mr. A. E. Messer occupied the chair, and among those present were: Mr. J. Arnold, Dr. Boyle, Mr. Devitt, Mr. A. Dexter, Mr. A. Elder, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. G. A. Grindle, Mr. Hargreaves, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. C. J. Johnson, Major P. A. MacMahon, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. John E. Munro, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. J. Westwood and Mr. Charles Wilson.

MR. W. E. SMITH Mr. W. E. Smith, the Commissioner for Trinidad at the recent Colonial Exhibition, returned to that Island by the R.M.S. "Trent" on Saturday, November 11th, to resume his duties as General Manager of the Railways of that Colony. During the summer Mr. Smith's power of organisation stood Trinidad in good stead, and like his predecessor, Mr. John H. Hart, he will doubtless be the recipient of many expressions of gratitude. We on this side were sorry to lose him.

APPOINTMENTS REGISTER. The register of applicants for appointment as overseers and other positions connected with West Indian estates can be seen by Members at the West India Committee Rooms. Full particulars regarding the applicants are now given, together with two testimonials from each. Members receiving applications from those desiring appointments may refer the applicants to the West India Committee, who will supply a form of enquiries for the candidates to fill up.

HOME GROWN BEET. Now that bounties are abolished, there is no reason why a beet sugar industry should not be established in certain parts of this country, and already a site for a beet sugar factory has been secured at Owston Ferry on the banks of the Trent in Lincolnshire. But the success of this venture seems to be problematical, inasmuch as the estimates are based on a yield of twenty tons of sugar beet per acre, whereas even Germany cannot produce on the average more than fourteen tons of clean trimmed roots to the acre.

BINDING CASES. For Members desirous of having their *Circulars* bound, handsome lettered cases 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. We also have a few patent spring back cases for filing the *West India Committee Circular*, which can be obtained from the Secretary for 2s. 6d. each, or post free 3s.

THE CANADIAN TARIFF. As doubt appears to exist in the minds of some of our readers regarding the nature of the forthcoming Canadian Tariff Conference, to which reference has been made in the West Indian Press, we may explain that a Committee has been deputed by the Dominion Government to inquire into the working of the Custom's Tariff. It consists of three Members of the Government who have already held a number of meetings in the West, and are now preparing to meet at Montreal, Toronto, and other cities in Eastern Canada, where they will continue to receive repre-

representatives from various parties who desire to lay their views before them. Delegates from Jamaica and Trinidad are likely to attend to discuss the question of the 33½ % preference given for Canadian and West Indian sugar, from which the West Indian Planters are for the moment desiring no financial advantage.

The Homeward Mail.

We regret that owing to the action of the Government in abandoning the contract for the conveyance of the mails, which the West Indies have enjoyed for over sixty years, we are unable to give our usual notes, statistics, &c., under this head, as no general West Indian Mail has been delivered since we last went to press. In order, however, to obviate as far as possible any inconvenience, we propose, on Friday next to publish a supplement containing such news as may be received by the R.M.S.P. Co.'s "Tagus" which is due at Southampton to-morrow. Copies of this Supplement will be posted to Members of the West India Committee in this country early next week and to those in the Colonies with the next issue of "The West India Committee Circular."—Ed.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Kingston" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Monday, November 20th.

Jamaica—The Fruit Industry.

(J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq.) November 8th—Barbados had authorised the Jamaica delegate to speak for her at the forthcoming conference in Canada with the Tariff Committee, and Trinidad had decided to send a delegate herself. The name of the Jamaica delegate had not yet been announced.

The question of the withdrawal of the troops continued to occupy a considerable amount of space in the local press. A conference between the members of the board of management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society and growers, buyers and shippers of citrus fruits, and members of the Merchants' Exchange, was held at the Agricultural Society on Friday, November 3rd. The chief questions for discussion were the desirability of having one trade mark with the addition at will of various letters or numbers to indicate different grades of shipping centres, and the desirability of preventing the export of immature juiceless fruit and other matters arising therefrom. (A full report of the conference is given in the *Gleaner* and *Jamaica Daily Telegraph* of November 4th—Ed.). All the suggestions were put to the meeting and negated by large majorities.

Mr. John Barclay was actively engaged in arranging for the representation of Jamaica at the forthcoming Fruit Exhibition at the Royal Horticultural Hall, on December 3th and 6th, and by the courtesy of the R.M.S.P. Co., he had arranged to forward the exhibits by the "La Plata" via New York, due to arrive in England about November 30th.

The weather was exceeding hot for the time of year, although reasonable showers were falling from time to time.

Our Library.

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, &c.; for our Library. We have to acknowledge the receipt of the following:—

The World's Navies in the Boxer Rebellion (China 1900). By Lieut. C. C. Dix, R.N. London: Digby, Long & Co. We are indebted to Capt. Arthur P. Dix, the genial skipper of the R.M.S. "Solent" during the last tourist season, for a copy of this book, written by his nephew, Lieut. C. C. Dix, R.N. The book is based on notes which were compiled by the writer on the spot, and in the feverish excitement of the times; and while it does not claim to be historical, it is certainly very interesting and anecdotal, being largely interspersed with the exciting incidents which occurred between June and October, 1900. Lieut. Dix's style is natural and free from restraint. His story of the relief of the Legations is well told. There was "on the one hand a gathering of people who looked at first sight as if they were picnicking instead of having borne parts in a long and dangerous siege. On the other, a body of men ragged, dirty and unshorn, who by their appearance could not possibly have been doing anything else for the last ten days but march and fight. It was not until one looked closer that it was possible to realise that these comparatively spotless men and women were tired and worn." The book has many very good illustrations, and should soon go into several editions.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt. C. E. Down), Nov. 25th:—
Barbados—Mr. and Miss Walpole, Mr. B. Rotherham, Mr. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Parris, Mr. J. Briggs, Mr. Curson, Mr. and Mrs. R. Arnold, Mr. J. H. Parnell, Mr. C. Parnell, Hon. and Mrs. Foster M. Alleyne, Prof. J. P. D'Albuquerque, Mr. A. P. Vaughan, Mr. C. Nelson, Miss Cragie, Mr. and Miss Kerby. **Demerara**—Bishop Galton, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Pook, Mr. W. Reece, Mr. R. Elliott, Miss D. Raynes, Miss B. Harper, Miss Thomson, Miss Christie. **Jamaica**—Mr. A. C. Kelway, Mr. and Mrs. Knox Dick. **Trinidad**—Mr. W. Savory, Mr. M. Ohm. **Grenada**—Mrs. Gilchrist, Mrs. Dean.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Tagus" (Capt. Doughty), Dec. 9th:—
Barbados—Mr. Horne, Mr. W. H. R. Rivers, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Law, Miss Law, Miss M. Howell, Mrs. Miller. **Jamaica**—Mr. J. N. Carvalho, Mr. H. F. D. Bartlett, Mr. Walker, Mr. Tod, Mr. R. W. Eves. **Trinidad**—Mrs. H. A. Perez, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Booth, Mr. H. Hart

Grenada—Mrs. Tudor, Mr. C. Thompson. **St. Lucia**—Mrs. Devaux, Mr. F. O. Norton. **St. Kitts**—Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Shellford.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Atrato" (Capt. R. H. Stranger), Dec. 23rd:—**Barbados**—Hon. Mrs. and Miss Yearwood, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Haynes. **Demerara**—Mr. and Mrs. T. Teed. **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Palmer, Major and Mrs. John Norman. **Trinidad**—Mr., Mrs. and Miss Cochrane, Mr. H. A. Harrison, Mrs. and Miss Slyne, Mr. and Mrs. Mallock, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Christall.

NOTE.—Since we last went to Press no homeward mail has arrived from any West Indian Colony, Jamaica excepted.—Ed.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—**HOME ARRIVALS** per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), Nov. 20th:—**Jamaica**—Mr. C. F. Anderson, Dr. and Mr. Burns, Mr. Beverly, Mr. and Mrs. Beaumont, Mr. L. R. Clare, Mr. L. Carvalho, Col. and Mrs. L. P. Dumas, Mr. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Knollys, Mrs. and Miss Loscombe, Mrs. J. McMahon, Mr. J. McQuirk, Major Newenham, Mr. Rawlins, Mr. and Mrs. Townend, Mr. and Mrs. Ziffier.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. Owen Jones), Nov. 13th:—**Jamaica**—Mr. A. Ashworth, Mr. C. Allen, Mr. B. Bethell, Miss Buckley, Mr. and Mrs. B. Daniel, Mr. A. C. Grant, Mr. E. S. George, Mr. E. Green, Mr. R. H. Goffe, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Greig, Mr. and Mrs. F. Hannam-Clark, Mr. P. W. Horne, Mr. G. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. H. Haggart, Hon. Dr. J. Johnston, Mr. S. Joy, Miss B. Kirby, Mr. A. P. Lyon, Mr. and Mrs. J. McCalman, Mr. G. R. Noble, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Nicol, Mr. W. P. Purdon, Miss F. M. Pearman, Mr. G. E. Roberts, Mr. H. C. R. Saunders, Mrs. and Miss Sturridge, Miss J. Saunders, Mr. B. Tillett, Dr. and Mrs. D. J. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Blackman, Mr. Halkon, Mr. W. Kinmouth, Mr. L. Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Lofthouse, Mr. F. Thompson.

Mail Arrangements.

Outward Mails.					
Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Dec. 1	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted)	Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Saba"	Nov. 30 mid'n.
" 1	Demerara and Berbice	Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Cheniston"	" 30 "
" 2	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	Glasgow	Direct Line	"Crown of Aragon"	" 30 6 p.m.
" 2	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool	Leyland Line	"Almerian"	Dec. 1
" 2	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I. D. W. I. M. S.	"Port Kingston"	" 1 6 p.m.

Homeward Mails.					
Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.	
Dec. 5	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	London	Direct Line	"Serrana"	
" 6	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I. D. W. I. M. S.	"Port Antonio"	
" 9	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R. M. S. P. Co.	"Atrato"	

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. We are indebted to the *Morning Post* for several of the items of information given below.

MR. H. A. CAMERON, Inspector of Distilleries, British Guiana, has become also a Commissary of Taxation, with power to act in any fiscal district in the Colony for the purposes of the new Spirits Ordinance.

THE HON. WALSH WRIGHTSON, Director of Public Works, Trinidad, who is absent from his duties on leave, has been making a prolonged stay in Ceylon, where he formerly served in the Public Works Department for twenty years.

DR. D. M. McPHAIL, late District Medical Officer, Jamaica, has assumed the duties of Chief Medical Officer at Castries, St. Lucia, West Indies.

INSPECTOR J. C. KNOLLYS, of the Jamaica Constabulary, arrived in England on Monday last on three months' leave of absence.

MAJOR H. W. PEEBLES, lately Private Secretary to the Governor of British Honduras, has been appointed an Assistant Resident Commissioner in Northern Nigeria.

The leave of absence of SIR E. BICKHAM SWEET-ESCOTT, K.C.M.G., Governor of British Honduras, has been extended for a period of three months from the 30th inst., MR. WILFRED COLLET, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary, will continue the administration of the government.

MR. HERBERT C. BURCHELL, who was recently appointed Superintendent of Public Works in British Honduras, has resigned that office and returned to Newfoundland, where he held the appointment of Deputy Minister of Public Works and Chief Engineer before proceeding to British Honduras four months ago.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) November 14th. "Rains have continued since our last cable." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) Nov. 13th. "Dry weather still continues." Nov. 21st. "Weather very dry, rain much wanted." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) Nov. 23rd. "Some acceptable rains have fallen in Mahaica." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) week ended Nov. 8th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "Fine." **KINGSTON**: "Fine."

Exports of Produce from Jamaica.

	Sugar tons	Cocoa cwts.	Rum galls.	Coconuts	Pimento cwts.	Bananas bunches	Oranges	Cotton lbs.
April 1 to Oct 28, '05	7,049	17,376	758,594	3,032,606	55,924	10,450,540	46,150,913	38,484
" " " 29, '04	6,032	14,789	902,681	1,492,970	85,449	4,740,533	50,798,971	1,796

No mail having arrived from those Colonies since we last went to press, we are unable to give the usual statistics regarding the exports from Barbados, Trinidad, and Grenada.—Ed.

Some West Indian Securities.

The West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

The directors of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company in their Report for the half-year ended June 30th last, state that the decrease in traffic receipts referred to in their last report continued for the remainder of the half-year and amounted in the aggregate to £993, as compared with the corresponding period of 1904. The traffic receipts for the current half-year also show a decline. The British Guiana subsidy of £4500 per annum, voted for ten years from the 1st January, 1902, in consideration of the Company's laying a new cable between that Colony and Trinidad, and continued at that rate up to the 5th March last, has, from that date been reduced to £3000 per annum. The amount to credit of revenue is £32,773 13s 11d, against £34,581 11s 7d for the corresponding half-year of 1904. The expenses have been £23,230 9s 8d, against £23,437 14s 3d, leaving a balance of £9,543 4s 3d, to which is added £1,756 0s 11d interest on investments, and £494 9s 3d brought forward from last account, making a total of £11,793 14s 5d, from which it is proposed to pay 6s per share on account of arrears of dividends to 30th June, 1905, on the first preference shares, which will absorb £10,368 18s 0d, leaving £1,424 16s 5d. to be carried forward. This will leave £3,456 6s 0d, in arrear on the first preference shares, and £14,007 on the second preference shares.

The New Colonial Company, Limited.

In their eighth annual report which was adopted at the Ordinary General Meeting on Thursday, November 16th, the directors of this Company stated that after payment of interest on debenture stock there remained a profit of £31,223 12s 2d. Out of this amount, in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deed, there had been set aside £1,750 in respect of the sinking fund for the redemption of the Company's debenture stock, £22,899 14s 8d had been transferred to general reserve account, thus raising that account to £40,000, at which it stood at 30th June, 1903, and the balance of £6,573 17s 6d, was carried forward to the next account. In the course of the year the Board purchased Lonsdale estate in Berbice, British Guiana, for £1200. The estate has 544 acres which have never been in cane before, and 100 acres have already been planted up and the rest developed gradually. The estate will form a valuable addition to Friends, and the increased crop will undoubtedly tend to diminish the cost of production. On the other hand, Peter's Hall estate was sold for £15,000, which will be applied towards payment for the Lonsdale estate and the extinction of the debenture stock of the Company. Mr Henry Hales was appointed an additional director in December and Sir John Morris who retired by rotation offered himself for re-election. The following table showing the yield per acre in tons of sugar for the last eleven years on the Company's estates is appended to the Report.

	Crop 1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
Demerara ...	1.83	1.75	2.10	1.97	1.76	1.32	1.84	1.89	1.84	1.63	1.45
Trinidad ...	1.67	1.42	1.48	1.81	1.81	1.30	2.02	1.77	1.52	1.87	1.22
Average ...	1.76	1.60	1.81	1.90	1.78	1.31	1.92	1.84	1.71	1.72	1.37

The Company has 9236 acres under cane cultivation in British Guiana and 9689 in Trinidad. A report of the meeting is given on page 473.

The Bank Rate remains at 4 % (changed from 3 % on Sept. 28th, 1905), and Consols (2½ %) are quoted 89½.

The West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

Mr. Walter B. Kingsford, presiding over the half-yearly general meeting of this Company on the 22nd, said that instead of any expansion in the volume of traffic handled there was a falling off of over 29,000 words during the half-year. The traffic returns for the half-month which ended on the 15th inst. exhibited an increase sufficiently large to counterbalance the decline that had until then taken place during the current half-year. This improvement was, however, mainly attributable to the interruption of one of the cables of the French company, whose messages had been delivered to this company for transmission over their cables. He regretted to say that, during the current half-year, they had experienced some of those unlucky and unpreventable occurrences from which they so often suffered. In September last a Norwegian steamship was driven on shore at Santiago-de-Cuba, and her keel severed one of their cables there. Accordingly it was thought desirable to withdraw the repairing ship "Henry Holmes" from her work on the Colon cable in order to repair that break which, being close to the shore, could be done expeditiously. Last month their cable hut at Holland Bay, Jamaica, was destroyed by floods, and the cables connected up in that hut were all washed out. The clerk in charge at this station succeeded in disentangling the cables from the debris, and joined them up on the beach, with the result that there was little or no interruption of communication. Their ship's crew had now built a new hut and put the cables into thoroughly good working order. It was unfortunate occurrences such as these, which happened frequently, that rendered the maintenance of the company's cables in West Indian waters, twenty-six in number, an anxious task, and also costly and difficult. The report was adopted, and the payment of 6s. per share on account of arrears of dividends on the first preference shares.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

SUGAR.—F. O. Licht's Latest Estimates of Beet Crops.

	Crop 1904-5	Crop 1905 6	Increase.
Convention, Europe	3,410,000	5,285,000	1,875,000 Tons.
Other Countries	1,290,000	1,440,000	150,000 "
Total	4,700,000	6,725,000	2,025,000

This is a large increase taken in conjunction with the anticipated addition in the Cane crops of 400 000 Tons.

F. O. Licht's Visible Supply, 1st November, even dates.

	1905	1904	1903
Convention Europe	1,760,000	1,540,000	2,060,000 Tons.
United States, Cuba, and afloat	360,000	200,000	280,000 "
Total	2,120,000	1,740,000	2,340,000

Sugar is gradually accumulating which is very natural in a season of excessive production.

F. O. Licht's Consumption since 1st September, 2 months.

	1905.	1904	1903
Germany	195,000	190,000	260,000 Tons
Austria	75,000	70,000	95,000 ..
France	120,000	140,000	230,000 ..
Holland and Belgium	30,000	35,000	55,000 ..
England	290,000	275,000	160,000 ..
America	710,000	710,000	800,000 ..
	380,000	370,000	330,000 ..
Total	1,090,000	1,080,000	1,130,000 ..

It will be interesting to watch this table which will be given monthly. We shall have to do better than this if we are to absorb the over production of this season.

The market has had a hardening tendency of late, from the fact that the new Beet Crops in Germany and Austria have hitherto not arrived at the shipping ports in sufficient volume to supply the November bears with what they require to fulfil their engagements. The fear, too, of early frosts delaying navigation has created a certain amount of uneasiness as to December also. The former influence will soon disappear. The latter is, of course, a matter of uncertainty. In the meantime distributors pursue their hand to mouth policy and will, no doubt, continue to do so all through the season, confidence in the article being entirely shattered and the crops of the world far in excess of requirements.

The present quotations of 88% are as follows:—November, 8s 5d; December, 8s 5½d; January/March, 8s 7d; May, 8s 9d; August, 8s 11d; and October/December, 1906, 9s 1d, all f.o.b. Hamburg.

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

	1905.	1904	1903	1902	1901
Europe	1,700,000	1,530,000	2,050,000	1,910,000	1,580,000 Tons
United States	210,000	130,000	100,000	180,000	160,000 ..
Cuba	110,000	—	120,000	70,000	40,000 ..
Cargoes afloat	60,000	110,000	110,000	70,000	10,000 ..
Total	2,080,000	1,770,000	2,380,000	2,230,000	1,790,000
Quotations of 88% Beet:—	8s. 5d.	14s. 3½d.	8s. 5d.	7s. 9½d.	7s. 3½d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—A good demand has been experienced for yellow West India crystallised and large sales have been made at full prices leaving the value of average qualities 15s. The general range is 14s. 6d. to 16s. 6d., with small quantities of choice up to 18s. Dyed French Beetroot is offering at 14s. 6d. in the shape of "imitations." White Continental granulated costs 15s. 3d. duty and carriage paid throughout England.

In 96 test to Refiners sales have been made at 9s. 3d. on floating terms, but sellers are now asking an advance

Molasses Sugar steady from 11s. to 14s. duty paid. Large sales have been made of Cuba sugar down to 7s. 6d. in bond on "ex ship" terms—this a new departure.

Muscovado.—Grocery kinds should command from 14s. 6d. to 15s. 6d. The nominal value of 89 test to Refiners is 8s. 3d. on floating conditions.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905	1904.	1903.	1902
Imports	35,000	37,000	21,000	56,000 Tons
Deliveries	36,000	43,000	37,000	39,000 ..
Stocks	8600	6400	13,000	30,000 ..
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	15s. 0d.	22s. 0d.	15s. 9d.	14s. 3d.

Rum.—Stocks in London:

	1905	1904	1903	1902
Jamaica	8200	10,000	10,300	11,800 Puns.
Demerara	4600	5100	6100	6700 ..
Total of all kinds		20,614	22,400	Deficiency 1876 ..

The market remains quiet with sales of Demerara indicating a range of 1s. 1d. to 1s. 3d. Jamaica is fully steady at 2s. 1d. for approved Home Trade Marks. Leewards and other proof kinds are quoted 11d. to 1s. 2d.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:

	1905	1904	1903.	1902
	66,000	82,000	54,000	60,000 Bags

A rather steadier time prevails in this market with more general demand. West India quotations now are: Trinidad fair collected, 51s. Estate Marks, 52s. to 55s.; Grenada fair, 46s., and fermented, 49s. to 52s. From other Islands, Native Cocoa is worth 45s. to 46s. and fermented 49s. to 52s.

Coffee—Easier. Good ordinary Jamaica, 39s to 40s.

Alutmegs.—Recent sales of West India include 74's at 10d., 104's at 6½d., 150's at 4d., and in shell 4d. and 4½d. **Mace.**—A few packages fair pale sold at 1s. 3d. **Ginger**—Slow. Good middling Jamaica sold at 45s to 46s. Good common to low middling 38s 6d. to 43s. **Pimento.**—Quiet at 2½d. to 2¾d.

Arrowroot.—In the absence of supplies of manufacturing kinds business remains suspended, the nominal value being 1¾d.

Lime Juice.—Nominal value, 9d. to 1s. Concentrated, steady at £16. Hand Pressed, quiet at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, slow at 1s. 4d.

The . . .

West India Committee Circular

Vol. XX.

ENTERED AT
STATIONERS HALL.

FRIDAY, DEC. 1st, 1905.

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No. 167.

WE were obliged to omit from the last issue of the *West India Committee Circular* many of the usual features, no general mails having been received from the West Indies, owing to the abandonment of the Mail Contract, for considerably more than a fortnight. At present the homeward mails by the R.M.S.P. Company's steamer are due to arrive on the same day as that on which the outward mails leave. An opportunity for answering letters is, however, afforded by the vessels of the Direct Line from Dartmouth on the following Friday, the latest hour for posting letters being Thursday at midnight. In order to obviate as far as possible any inconvenience which may be felt by our many readers in this country, the present special supplementary number is published, giving the latest news received by the "Tagus," which arrived at Southampton on Saturday last, and it is proposed to continue to issue such special numbers if it is found that they are appreciated by our readers, from whom we shall be glad to receive and consider any suggestions for increasing the utility of our publication. The supplementary number will be issued to subscribers free of charge, and we may, perhaps, in the circumstances be pardonably excused for again emphasising the fact that from a two-page leaflet issued monthly in 1886, the *Circular* has now developed into a fortnightly journal averaging twenty pages, with a weekly edition, without any extra subscription being asked for from Members of the West India Committee; and we would again ask Members to show their appreciation by introducing fresh candidates for election, and so strengthening our position. We extract the following from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Antigua—Chances of a fair Sugar Crop.

The HON. J. FREELAND FOOTE, writing on November 4th, expressed regret that he could not report heavy rains, though showers were keeping the canes green, and even now with heavy rains they might make a fair crop. The cotton in most places was healthy, but they were having a hard fight with the caterpillars.

On October 21st the Nelson Centenary was celebrated in the Island. Most of the houses displayed flags during the day, and were illuminated at night, while bands of music paraded the town.

H.M.S. "Diamond" had been at the Island for a few days. A team, selected from local volunteer forces, had beaten the ship's team at a rifle match two days previously.

Barbados—Crops in Good Condition.

It was understood that on the Monday following November 11th, the date of MR. T. W. WILKINSON'S letter, a troopship would be calling at the Island to take away the Worcester Regiment. As a measure of protection an increase in the police force was contemplated, and a mounted corps had been added to the volunteers.

The R.M.S.P. Co. had just issued time-tables for their new itinerary, thus assuring a regular service until well on into January, but how much longer the Company could continue running their ships under present conditions, time would show. The West Indies had cause to be grateful to them for continuing the service without a contract, even if it were done in the hope of eventually getting back into the old position.

Thursday, November 9th, was observed as a holiday, although very quietly. There was a parade of the garrison in the morning, the last they would see of the regular troops, and the Governor gave an official dinner at night.

Since last mail there had been some fine rains, although they had not been evenly distributed, and in some parts of Christ Church they were too late. Otherwise, the crops of the Island were in very good condition, and if the rains kept up now they ought to do fairly well with them when reaping time came.

British Guiana—The Export of Rubber.

MR. A. SUMMERSON wrote on November 8th that the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce had been asked by the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce to appoint a delegate to co-operate with one from Jamaica in placing before the Tariff Conference in Canada the views of West Indian sugar producers with regard to the Canadian 33½% preference to British grown sugar. The general feeling was that it would not be possible for anyone to go at this time of the year, and it was thought that a delegate from the West India Committee in London—who had recently been considering the matter—would carry more weight and that his representations have more effect.

The sugar market was in a deplorable condition and only \$1.72½ was quoted at the time of writing.

The weather continued hot and dry and young cultivation was suffering. Good rains were wanted all over the Colony.

Mr. T. S. HARGREAVES, Secretary of the Institute of Mines and Forests, has sent us the following return of gold, diamonds and forest products exported from British Guiana during September and October, 1905:—

	September, 1905		October, 1905	
	Quantity	Value.	Quantity	Value
Gold, raw gold ...	5,454 oz.	895,141 60	8,676 oz.	\$155,651 89
Diamonds ...	—	—	120 carats	482
Timber: greenheart, mora, &c. ...	20,151 cub. ft.	9,469 86	36,268 cub. ft.	15,340 10
Lumber ...	856 ft.	72 76	210 ft.	4 40
Shingles, Wallaba ...	60,000	308 50	348,000	1,585 25
Wallaba ...	915	353 98	576	300 06
Woods, Firewood, &c ...	433 tons	742	306	524
Charcoal ...	6,418 bags	3,209	5,001 bags	2,515 50
Gums, Locust, &c ...	605 lbs.	96 80	1,133 lbs.	135 96
... Balata ...	115,440 lbs.	38,372 86	91,737 lbs.	31,039 48
... Rubber ...	128 lbs.	76 80	824 lbs.	519 40

An important feature of this statement is the increase in the exports of rubber. This is the first fruit of the work of Dr. Carl Bovallius, who has devoted much time and attention to starting the industry in British Guiana. A rapid increase in the exports of rubber may now be looked for.

Dominica—The Proposed Exhibition Grant.

The trifling annual grant for Exhibition purposes asked for by the Dominica Agricultural Society had not yet been given, and our Hon. Correspondent, Mr. E. A. AGAR, reported that in consequence only a small quantity of produce was being sent for the Horticultural Exhibition. Without a permanent fund little could be done, and with an organisation ready to undertake the work, it seemed a pity that the Government did not see their way to assist.

Grenada—The proposed Federation Scheme.

The current of life in Grenada, wrote the Hon. D. S. DEFREITAS on November 7th, had been rippled by the breath of the agitation blowing here and there strongly, from the opponents of the proposal that St. Vincent and Grenada should be united into one Colony, and that the united Colony should be governed by one Governor and have a common Executive and Legislature, and a common purse. A copy of the resolution which embodies the entire proposal and which will be introduced into the Legislative Councils of the two Colonies in December, was received by the mail. The mind of the Island was resolutely opposed to a fiscal and administrative union with St. Vincent; but any larger proposal of confederation which was likely to conduce to economy, development of trade and greater efficiency in administration, would certainly receive a sympathetic and patient consideration in Grenada, and, as Mr. DeFreitas believed, in the West Indies generally. In view of the uniform opposition to the present proposal which prevailed in both Islands, it was reasonable to assume that Sir Robert Llewellyn would not effect the union by the majority of votes at his command on the official side of the Legislative Councils. Personally, the writer did not think he would. To do so would be more than an injustice—it would be a grave indiscretion in the exercise of power. A special general meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society was to be held on November 14th to discuss the proposed union.

The establishment of a fruit industry in Grenada has again become a burning question, as a result, on this occasion, of Sir Daniel Morris's recent visit to the Colony; at a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society he had expounded his views at great length. Like the shepherd boy in Philip Sidney's "Arcadia," Sir Daniel Morris seemed never to grow old; he was as hopeful and as youthful in spirit and body as ever. The agricultural mind had been quickened, and the writer felt sure, induced to the resolve to do all that could be reasonably required to establish an industry in China bananas. But there were four conditions precedent to success:

- (1) That the Royal Mail or other steamship company should establish agencies through the Island to buy bananas.
- (2) That such company should undertake to call for bananas at least twice a month.
- (3) That such company should undertake to buy a definite number of bunches whenever a ship called for bananas. A minimum of 4000 bunches per fortnight should be fixed.
- (4) That an average price of 1s. 6d. per bunch of nine hands should be paid to growers.

It should be remembered that the price received for China or dwarf bananas easily overtops that received for any other kind of bananas. If growers were assured that the above mentioned conditions would be accepted and carried out, they, on their part, would readily undertake to grow within the next twelve or eighteen months China bananas in numbers sufficient to induce a company to establish a staple trade in fruit in the Colony. With pessimism as to the future of cocoa deepening in the minds of many planters, the present time was opportune for taking steps to establish subsidiary agricultural interests, and of all likely new products, China bananas claimed preference. They were suitable to their climate and soil, could be grown with equal success by large and small landowners, and were in ready and growing demand at fairly remunerative prices. If the West India Committee succeeded in urging the Royal Mail or any other steamship company to co-operate with those in the Colony, as suggested, in the establishment of a banana industry, it would confer a great benefit that would be generally highly appreciated.

Montserrat—The Prospects of Cotton.

Mr. C. WATSON, our Hon. Correspondent in Montserrat, reports that fine rains had fallen for the fortnight ended

November 6th, and there had been a wonderful improvement in the growing crops. Thunderstorms had accompanied the rains, and one windmill had been completely destroyed by lightning.

Most of the cotton fields had been attacked by caterpillars, which had been kept in check with Paris green. Pickings of cotton from the early fields were now being made, and the quality was excellent.

Nevis—The "Arbor" Day

Writing on November 4th, the HON. C. A. SHANN said that on the previous Tuesday H.M.S. "Diamond" had paid a flying visit to the Island, and some of the officers visited Fig Tree church to inspect Nelson's marriage certificate, but as the ship arrived at 9 a.m. and left at 11.30 a.m. it could be imagined that the shore people had no opportunity of visiting on board.

There would be no central celebration of Arbor Day in Nevis this year, but the schools throughout the Island would all mark the occasion in some fitting manner. The systematic planting of trees in the Island could not but prove beneficial in the long run, and now that the Government had taken measures for the preservation of the existing forestry, there was hope of the meagre rainfall being increased and more evenly distributed.

Since last mail the weather on the whole had been favourable, and good showers had fallen, which had been very beneficial to both cotton and sugar cane, and there was a marked improvement in the appearance of both, though in certain districts they were still very backward. It all depended on the weather that might be experienced for the balance of the year. Should plentiful rain fall there was yet hope of a good cotton and sugar output in 1906.

Caterpillars had appeared in the young cotton fields, but were being kept down by judicious use of insecticides.

St. Kitts Cotton Worms again.

According to a letter from MR. CHARLES A. SMITH, dated November 4th, the weather conditions during the fortnight had been very favourable, and planting operations for 1907 crop were now in full swing. Worms had commenced their attacks on the cotton bushes, but it was to be hoped that they would be kept in check.

H.M.S. "Diamond" had spent a few days in their roadstead, and the usual round of festivities on such occasions were indulged in during her stay.

St. Vincent Federation.

Federation was still uppermost in the air when Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co closed their letter on November 8th. It was understood that the Governor was expected on Saturday, November 11th, from Grenada, to get the views of the people regarding the scheme.

Arrowroot digging was now pretty general.

Trinidad—The Mail Question.

MR. TRIPP, writing on November 11th, said that it seemed absolutely essential to the interests of the Colony generally and to business interests in particular, that a first class and regular ocean mail service should be maintained. Trinidad, through the Chamber of Commerce, gave practical proof of the value it attached to a regular mail service when it was recommended that a subsidy of £15,000 yearly should be voted for this purpose.

Regarding the withdrawal of the troops, everybody was in accord with the West India Committee in expressing its disapproval, and he might truly say that no one regretted their departure more than the lower classes in the West Indies. The soldiers and the people had always been just as good friends in their way as the officers and upper classes.

An Association has been formed in Trinidad called the Cocoa Planters' Association of Trinidad, consisting of owners of cocoa estates, with the object of advancing the cocoa industry in the Colony. The objects of the Association are to induce planters to join together to make the best cocoa they can, to prepare it as far as possible in a uniform manner, and to bulk it in Port of Spain, and thus to meet the requirements of the market by supplying cocoa in the required quantity and at the same time to endeavour to re-establish the reputation of Trinidad cocoa which has lost ground of late years; and to seek and supply the most profitable markets for the sale of the best Trinidad marks, and to supply the best Trinidad marks in bulk to those who wish to buy, but are unable to do so under the present conditions of the trade. Mr. J. G. de Gannes is Chairman of the Association.

The weather had been dryer during the fortnight, and planters generally were well satisfied, as all kinds of cultivation looked well, and the absence of rain was enabling cocoa proprietors to cure their produce. The outlook, however, was not particularly encouraging, and a marked falling off in the crop was looked for. Values locally were still firmly maintained at \$11.25 to \$11.40 for ordinary to good red, and \$11.50 to \$11.75 was being paid for fine Estates' produce. Shipments since 23rd ultimo amounted to 6,329 bags, of which 4,635 bags went to the United States, and ten bags to Canada and from October 1st to November 10th shipments totalled 9,129 bags as compared with 9,095 bags for the corresponding period of last year. Sugar cultivation looked well throughout the Island, and the health of the Colony was good.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) November 28th. "Light partial showers."
British Guiana (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Nov. 28th. "Fine with occasional light showers."

(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) Nov. 28th. "Some acceptable rains have fallen in Demerara County."

West Indian Cotton Exports.

We have received from the Commissioner of Agriculture in the West Indies the following table showing the exports of cotton for the nine months ended September 30th last. It is pointed out that the cotton entered under Trinidad in the list is almost entirely produced at Tobago.

Colony.	Bales	Weight in pounds.	Estimated Value.
Barbados	202	66,635	£3,332
St. Vincent	8	1,337	67
St. Kitts	8	1,554	78
Nevis	66	13,063	653
Antigua	73	12,516	626
Grenada	37	12,100	185
Jamaica	67	9,864	493
Trinidad and Tobago	21	7,589	196
	482	124,658	5,630

Colony.	Bales	Weight in pounds	Estimated Value
Barbados	791	274,998	£13,750
Nevis	724	144,721	7,235
St. Vincent	298	97,152	4,857
St. Kitt's	254	76,899	3,845
Montserrat	146	70,723	3,486
Grenada (Marie Galante)	704	212,722	2,693
Antigua	296	52,656	2,633
Jamaica	217	44,608	1,929
Anguilla	158	30,977	1,550
Trinidad	42	12,981	386
Virgin Islands	18	3,600	120
British Guiana	8	1,258	36
St. Lucia	33	988	25
	3,689	1,024,283	£42,545

The British Cotton Growing Association has agreed to renew the grant of £300 in order to retain the services of Mr. Thomas Thornton as Travelling Inspector in connection with cotton investigations for another year. The Association has particularly desired that Mr. Thornton should devote special attention to the Leeward Islands, where he has already spent some time, and where his services are much appreciated. The slow progress made in Jamaica is causing some disappointment. It is pointed out that in some districts of that Island they could grow cotton as cheaply and of as good quality as in any part of the West Indies, and where they cannot grow sugar-cane, bananas, coffee, cocoa, or any other produce on a commercial scale.

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.	British Guiana.	Jamaica.	Trinidad.	Grenada.
	Jan 1 to Nov. 3 1905	Jan 1 to Nov. 6 1905	April 1 to Oct. 28. 1904	Jan 1 to Nov. 11 1905	Oct. 1 to Oct. 23 1905
Sugar	38,846 57,018 Tons	59,710 65,810 Tons.	7049 6032 Tons	280,293 385,154 Bks & Hrls	...
Molasses	38,653 44,814 Pns	2124 2012 Pns	...	(2887 2388 Pns. 178 28 Tres. 165 59 Hrls)	...
Rum	...	11,130 13,575 "	758,594 902,681 Galls	349 290 Puns.	...
Molascuit	...	5887 4206 Tons.	17,376 14,789 Cwts	34,956,515 35,881,730 lbs	1962 Bags.
Cocoa	...	49,147 103,076 lbs	14,295 15,358 "	11,930 63,435 "	...
Coffee	...	251,971 268,440	3,032,606 1,497,970	9,325,717 7,595,034	...
Copra	38,484 1,796 lbs	9895 14,184 bags.	...
Cotton
Cotton Seed	96,262 118,848 Tons.	...
Asphalt
Oranges
Bananas	46,150,913 50,798,971	...	...
Pimento	10,450,510 4,740,533 Bchs	...	...
Spice	55,924 85,440 Cwts.	...	...
Gold	...	75,637 71,746 OZr.	...	...	650 Brls.
Diamonds	...	4016 9319 carats.	...	...	94 1/2 Brls. 44 Cases 12 Bags

Homeward Passengers.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Tagus" (Capt. H. D. Doughty) Nov. 24th:—
 Barbados—Col and Mrs Bruce, Mr and Mrs. E. T. Clevee, Col and Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mr S Jurado, Miss Carmen de Viale Rigo, Mrs E. C. Cummins, Q. M. S. and Mrs. Wilkes, Col.-Sergt. and Mrs. Crowe, Corpl P. Harvey, Pte T. H. Blankin, Pte J. Smith, Mr J. Birkett. Demerara—Mr Macfarlane, Mr C. S. Pitcairn, Mr. and Mrs. P. De Cairns, Mr. and Mrs. Grant. Trinidad—Mrs. Noble, Mr. Anziani, Mrs. Abbati, Mr. C. Mocatta, Mr. H. Cockerell, Mr. W. Oatley. New York—Mr. and Mrs. Owen Philipps

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LVI.



Sir Charles Tennant, Bart.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

Dec. 7th, 1905

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.

THE discovery in the vaults of the Bank of England of a box containing documents, which date as far back as 1799, belonging to the West India Committee, serves as a reminder of the age and standing of this organisation, which is by far the oldest of any of its kind connected with our Colonies. It does more, it reminds us of the esteem and regard in which West Indian merchants were held in the City of London. Their credit was such that at a moment's notice they were able, as the records in the box show, to obtain a promise of temporary accommodation to the extent of a million and a half sterling if necessity arose. Luckily the temporary strain caused by a number of untoward circumstances which led to the request for temporary facilities was relieved, and it was only necessary for the merchants to avail themselves to a very small extent of the offer of the Bank of England. It is interesting to study the list of West Indian firms in London which was found among the records, and to notice how many survived the vicissitudes to which they have been subject, and we propose to give the

names in the course of an article dealing with particulars of the records found, the first part of which is given in the present *West India Committee Circular*. Moreover, this discovery of documents has further prompted us to give in the *Circular* extracts from the old West India Committee records of a hundred years ago, which it is thought will be interesting to our readers. The first of these appears in the current issue, and will be found on page 491.

Two paragraphs which, taken together, are of unusual significance, appear below. One is headed "Deputation to Mr. Balfour," and refers to the representations which have been made to the Government, who have been repeatedly urged to retain a certain number of white troops in the West Indies, and the second deals with the regrettable riots which have recently taken place in British Guiana, without, apparently, the least warning. We prefer at the present time to refrain from comment, but leave it to our readers to draw the moral from these two paragraphs. In every part of the world there are disorderly classes who are always ready, like the rowdy undergraduate, to create a disturbance, more especially when the numbers increase and the individual participants run less risk of being found out, and the West Indies are no exception to the rule. We are glad to learn that the Colonial Office, in co-operation with the Admiralty, are taking active measures to restore law and order. The spectacle of a Governor of one of the Colonies of the greatest Empire the world has ever known surrounded in the public buildings by a disorderly and howling mob is not one of which the Government can feel proud.

THE West Indian Club is to be congratulated upon its decision to proceed with the arrangements for the visit of the West Indian cricketers to this country next year. One of the objects of the Club is to afford facilities for organising in connection with the West Indies and British Guiana annual cricket matches and other kindred amusements recognised by our English universities and public schools, and it will be remembered that it has already been instrumental in bringing over the first team of West Indian cricketers who ever visited this country, and it made arrangements, moreover, for the visit of the first West Indian rifle team to compete at Bisley, or its predecessor, Wimbledon. The Sports' Committee of the West Indian Club has put its shoulder to the wheel, and is doing a good work, and it remains for the Colonies themselves to keep it revolving. Good will result from the visit of the West Indian cricketers, not only from the point of view of sport, but also because of the spirit of homogeneity and co-operation which it will impart to the Colonists in the West Indies. The visit will further serve to draw an increased amount of attention to our West Indian Colonies, with which many will be induced to make a closer acquaintance.

Sir Charles Tennant, Bart.

Sir Charles Tennant, who is head of the firm of Charles Tennant, Sons & Co., owns considerable estates in the Island of Trinidad, including Ben Lomond, Friendship, Bien Venue, La Fortune, Hermitage, Buen Intento, Malgré, Toute, Glenroy and Inverness, and is an influential Member of the West India Committee. The son of John Tennant, of St. Rollox, Lanark, he was born in 1823. He is President of the United Alkali Company and Chairman of the Union Bank of Scotland. He sat for Glasgow in Parliament from 1879 to 1880, and for Peebles and Selkirk from 1880 to 1886.

Deputation to Mr. A. J. Balfour, M.P.

A deputation of the West India Committee, consisting of Sir Nevile Lubbock, Sir Henry K. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. H. F. Previté, Mr. R. Rutherford and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, waited upon the then Prime Minister at No. 10, Downing

Street, on Tuesday, November 28th, to discuss the question of the withdrawal of the British Infantry from the West Indies. The proceedings were private, but it is known that the attitude of Mr. Balfour was sympathetic, and as the matter is still under consideration, there is every reason to hope that the views of the Colonies will receive favourable consideration.

An Interesting Find of Documents.

A most interesting episode took place at the fortnightly meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Thursday, November 30th last. Earlier in the day a letter had been received from Mr. J. G. Nairne, the Chief Cashier of the Bank of England, informing the Committee that on November 16th, 1805, a Mr. Beeston Long deposited with the bank a tin box marked "West India Committee." Being now under the necessity of requesting the removal of deposits of this character, and in view of the fact that the depositor must be dead, the bank expressed readiness to deliver the box to the West India Committee. The Secretary accordingly went at once to Threadneedle Street, and was shown the deposit book, the entry in which ran as follows:—

in the Chest in the Vault 13	<i>I, B. Long, Esq., desire leave to deposit in the Bank at my own hazard Risque and peril agreeable to the conditions before mentioned a tin Box wrote on topp; West India Committee</i>
	<i>Brought out of the strong Room 16 Nov. 1805.</i>

Having signed the necessary receipt, he was handed the box in question, which was of the usual deed box type, with a brass handle on the top. When opened it was found to contain, wrapped up in quaint hand-made brown paper, a minute book, a pass book and eleven cancelled cheques, a register of deposits, and a book of forms of guarantee, the whole forming a complete record of certain financial arrangements which were made between the West India Committee and the Bank of England at the close of 1799 and the beginning of 1800.

From a perusal of the documents and reference to the old minute books, it appears that towards the close of 1799 the demand for sugar was for the time being absolutely stagnant. This was due to a variety of causes, among which was temporary over-production; a falling off in demand at the ports of "Hambro, Bremen and St. Petersburg;" owing to the war and consequent dislocation of internal trade which necessarily led to reduced consumption; the cessation of exports to Dutch ports, owing to the critical situation, and the fact that the preceding crop had been kept back as the result of severe weather and did not reach Hamburg, Bremen and St. Petersburg until April, when it was placed on an overstocked market and prices fell. Moreover, the effects of the sugar duty and the reduction of the drawback on export gave rise to "most serious alarms to British merchant importers loaded with an advance of duty and charges to an immense amount upon merchandise for which, even with present prices, they have no prospects of sale." But the chief cause for complaint was that owing to the sugar duties England was ceasing to be the *entrepôt* of the sugar trade, and other nations beginning to realise "the great advantages of that influx of money which in return for the produce of the West Indies, Great Britain, at a period not far back, almost exclusively possessed," were "now enabled successfully to rival us." America, too, was beginning to handle large quantities of West Indian sugar for export to foreign ports. In the Island of Jamaica it was ascertained that sugar and coffee were being shipped to the United States and there trans-shipped and cleared for Great Britain or Hamburg. They touched at a British port, and after learning the state of the markets afterwards proceeded to Hamburg, and landed the produce there at the same charge as if it were shipped directly from Jamaica to be landed at a British port. It was felt that the progress of this trade was such "as may reasonably alarm not only the British West India merchant, but everyone

interested in the financial and commercial prosperity of the British Empire." It was felt that Great Britain had already lost the pre-eminence she formerly enjoyed over her rivals in foreign markets, and was suffering from an annual diminution in her Colonial trade, so that the least retention of the duty upon those articles which were re-exported from here was "highly impolitic and highly prejudicial to the interests of the Kingdom, as destructive of that intercourse by which Great Britain obtains large returns of money from foreigners in exchange for the produce of her labour and her soil, as detrimental to her navigation, and a gratuitous encouragement to that of her rivals in commerce, and as particularly injurious to those British Colonists who from attachment to the Mother Country seek to divert no part of their produce from her ports, and to British merchants who have advanced capital on West Indian security."

A deputation, headed by Mr. Alderman George Hibbert, the Jamaica merchant and one of the founders of the West India Docks, waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer on November 28th, 1799, and "by every argument in their power urged the restoration of the drawback;" but the Chancellor of the Exchequer declared himself not as yet convinced of the necessity of such alteration as a permanent



The Box and Documents found at the Bank of England.

measure. He finally so far yielded to the arguments of the Committee as to move the provisional restoration of the drawback, in case the average price of sugar should fall below a certain figure, and he promised to consider the relief to the sugar market by encouraging the consumption of molasses in the distilleries. The Committee intimated to the Chancellor of the Exchequer their intention of applying to the Bank of England "to endeavour to fix a plan for any further accommodation which the West India merchants might under the pressure of the present circumstances require, and not to apply to him for any further relief unless the application to the Bank of England should be unsuccessful." A deputation from the West India Committee, consisting of Messrs. Lushington, Boddington, Hibbert and Milligan, at once waited on the Governor of the Bank of England in order to confer as to the best means of obtaining for the West India merchants of London a temporary accommodation "proportionate to the property which those merchants are in possession of, and which from unforeseen circumstances cannot at present find a market." They were favoured with a conference with the governor and several of the directors, and being asked to "submit their sentiments in writing," they laid before the Bank certain proposals by which a Sub-Committee should receive



Photo by Algenon E. Sargent.]

[Copyright.]

THOMAS RIVER, CLARENDON, JAMAICA.

from the respective houses in the West Indian trade "an account of their stock of produce on hand, verified by the certificates of wharfingers, coopers and others in whose custody the said produce is deposited, and accompanied with such vouchers as may shew that the said produce is *bona fide* in possession of such Houses, and ascertaining whether all or part thereof has paid the duty on importation," and "that to such West India houses as in consequence of the present and still apprehended stagnation in the demand for West Indian produce shall require an extraordinary temporary aid from the Bank of England, the said Committee, after due investigation shall give respectively a certificate addressed to the Governor of the Bank of England." The Committee was to certify from vouchers produced that the firm in question had produce in their possession unsold which might entitle them to accommodation upon producing to the Governor, Deputy-Governor and Directors of the Bank of England, adequate securities to that amount. The rates at which the Committee in granting the certificates valued produce on hand was not to exceed £30 per ton on sugar, and £75 per ton on coffee, "nett weight at the King's Beam," such sugar and coffee having already paid the Customs on importation, or in a case where the Customs had not been paid, at proportionately less valuation.

The accommodation was to be continued for six months, but the notes or other personal securities pledged were to be renewed at the interval of two months. The individual applications, when presented at the Bank of England, were to be accompanied by "an offer of perfectly responsible security to the amounts from time to time required," and "a note of hand if accompanied by an adequate assignment of stock in the Public Funds, to a trustee named to the Bank, guaranteeing the said note" was to be accepted as a security. It was anticipated that if these proposals were accepted, the Bank of England would in consequence thereof be required to advance at the utmost not more than one million and a half sterling, but most probably not more than half that sum at any one time. The Directors of the Bank of England did not give their decision immediately, but on October 4th acceded in all respects to the proposals submitted, and further desired it to be intimated that should there be any pressing occasion, a recommendation from the Committee would have immediate attention.

In a future issue we shall deal further with these interesting documents and show how far the West India merchants availed themselves of the facilities offered by the Bank of England.

(To be continued.)

A Hundred Years Ago.

Under this heading we propose to give extracts from the old records of the West India Committee. Though the Minute Books only date back to 1769, there is evidence that the West India Committee was in existence for long before that year. For the present, however, we shall content ourselves with a scrutiny of our pages of one hundred years ago, publishing such extracts as are likely to be of general interest.—E.D.

The Pressgang.

At a meeting of the West India Committee, held at the Marine Society's Office on October 18th, 1805, Mr. Beeston Long, the Chairman, read a letter which he had received, and of which the following is a copy:—

London, 18th October, 1805.

SIR,—Having heard that a meeting of the West India merchants is to be held this day, we have to request you will be pleased to represent to them the great necessity of taking some measures for obtaining protection to foreign seamen, so as they may not be impressed from on board the West India Merchant ships: of late they have been indiscriminately taken with British seamen, which causes them to run away from the ships while loading:—knowing that their protections are not respected. This is a great injury to the Trade in general, and, if not soon remedied, will be the means of deterring

foreigners from entering at all into the West India service, and there will be the greatest difficulty in procuring a sufficient number of Seamen to work the Ships.

We beg leave to mention that last voyage, Admiral Dacres, on the Jamaica station, required every fourth man of the crews to be given up before any protection was obtained for the remainder, and if there was not a sufficiency of British Seamen on board, foreigners were taken to make up the number.

We are respectfully, Sir,

Your most obedient Servts.,

(Signed) CHAS. MARDEN.
(and others.)

Resolved: "That the Chairman be desired to transmit the same to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and to request that they will be pleased to give orders to the Admirals on the West India stations that foreign Seamen should not be impressed from on board Merchant Ships, as it has been found to be very injurious to the West India Trade, insomuch that in the present year they have been under the necessity of employing French Prisoners of War to assist in navigating their Ships home."

The Exhibition of Colonial Fruit.

For the third time, the West Indies occupied by far the most prominent position at the Colonial Fruit Exhibition at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster. The show was open on December 5th and 6th, and attended by a large number of people. The West Indian Section, organised by the West India Committee, occupied the whole of the north-east wall of the Hall, the exhibitors in it being Barbados, many of whose exhibits of sugar at the recent Colonial Exhibition were shown through the courtesy of the Director of the Imperial Institute; the Permanent Exhibition Committee of Grenada, whose preserved fruits, bottled by the Hon. F. Gurney, excited general admiration; the Atlantis Fruit Company who showed limes, oranges and shaddocks, and the Hon. J. Cox Fillan, of Dominica, who also showed limes. The Jamaica exhibit was, unfortunately, confined to a few photographs, as the promised fruit did not arrive in time. It is possible, however, that if it arrives in good condition, opportunity may be taken to exhibit it at the West India Committee Rooms. The Golofina Tobacco Company and Messrs. B. & J. B. Machado exhibited Jamaica cigars, which gained them high awards at the Crystal Palace during the past summer. The British West India Fruit Company were newcomers, and made a highly creditable display of tropical fruits, and next to their exhibit was that of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, who issued a special handbook, beautifully illustrated with half-tone pictures of tropical fruits. Messrs. James Philip & Company, and the Pure Cane Sugar Company occupied a table 40 ft. long, which was loaded with every kind of West Indian produce, for which the firms are famous. The awards were announced as follows:—

NAME.	EXHIBIT.	AWARD.
The Exhibition Committee, Grenada	Preserved Fruits	Silver Banksian Medal.
Hon. J. Cox Fillan, Dominica	Limes	Silver Banksian Medal.
British West India Fruit Co., Ltd.	Collection of Tropical Fruits	Silver Knightian Medal.
R.M.S.P. Co.	Tropical Fruits	Silver Gilt Knightian Medal.
James Philip & Co.	Tropical Fruits	Silver Gilt Knightian Medal.

A very popular feature of Messrs. James Philip & Co's exhibit was a dish of "Floating Island," prepared from that firm's recipe, which, with their Falernum and preserved mangoes, were consumed and greatly appreciated by a large number of the visitors. The attendance and interest taken in the Exhibition was most satisfactory. Lace-bark work attracted much admiration, and a considerable quantity was sold.

The Riots in British Guiana.

It was reported on December 2nd that riots of a serious nature had broken out in British Guiana. On November 28th the wharf labourers of Georgetown struck work for higher wages, and began to parade the streets, and on November 30th some acts of violence were committed. The Riot Act was read, and the people were warned. The Governor closed the retail rum-shops at night time until further notice, and called on peaceable citizens to refuse to join the crowds. On December 1st the trouble assumed a serious aspect, and the police were compelled to fire on the mob, with the result that seven were killed. Little damage appears to have been done to mercantile houses or public buildings. The windows of some private houses and shops were wrecked, and a pawnbroker's store looted. According to a telegram from Sir Frederic Hodgson, the Governor, the police force behaved well, and carried out orders with precision. The Militia were called up, and they also did good service; but he was not satisfied that all available forces responded; and special constables were enrolled during the day.

It seems that the people's representatives endeavoured to quiet them, and the Governor addressed a large gathering at the Public Buildings, where he was surrounded until evening, when he proceeded to his residence escorted by the police, who behaved well throughout. H.M.S. "Sappho" and "Diamond" arrived on December 2nd, and the men patrolled the town with beneficial results. Later telegrams report that the strike continued, and that the masters determined to hold out. The trouble was beginning to spread to the country districts, the plantations Ruinveldt, Nismes, Wales, and Versailles, being mentioned as being affected. On December 5th the British Guiana Planters' Association cabled that the position was most serious, and asking the Committee to urge the Government to order the warships to remain off Georgetown, as the strikes were spreading to the country, and more force was wanted. Throughout the week the West India Committee was kept in close touch with the Colonial Office, and has been able to communicate several reassuring messages to the Press.

British Grown Cotton.

Sir Alfred Jones presided over the first annual meeting of the British Cotton Growing Association, on November 28th, and in the course of his remarks said that they had shown without a shadow of doubt that the West India Islands could produce cotton at a moderate rate of profit to themselves, and an article which was acceptable to Lancashire. They were producing crops in the British Empire which would remain in British hands, and a great deal of what was expended was very likely to come back to England. The Association would be the means of increasing the cotton grown, and he was sure that Lancashire would be able to get her cotton irrespective of America altogether. He suggested that noblemen and others who derived great benefit from Lancashire might do something to help the Association. They wanted to show that though the whole world was against them they could look after themselves. Mr. J. A. Hutton moved the adoption of the report and accounts. He said that they estimated that the cotton grown under their auspices amounted to no less than £200,000 in value. This was not what was due to the work of the Association since its incorporation—in other words, during the last twelve months. They would not see the result of last year's work till next year, and they anticipated they would have at least 25,000 bales next year. As to the West Indian cotton, he reminded them of the quality recently shown, and said that they might fairly claim in the West Indian cotton to have "licked" the Yankees at their own game. In time, he thought, they would be quite as successful in West Africa as in the West Indies. Some of the cotton being produced in West Africa was not so good in quality as they could desire, but they were carrying out experiments which he thought would result in an improvement of the quality. He believed they would produce cotton worth from a farthing to a halfpenny over middling American, which was the kind our

spinners required. In the time to come West Africa, he believed, would render them independent of America in regard to medium staple cotton. It rested with Lancashire to decide whether the Colonies should produce it or not. It was, therefore, for Lancashire finally to decide whether this work was to proceed on large lines or be hampered or crippled on all sides. It was lamentable to see how the work was crippled in many directions. He suggested that those who were going to benefit should not leave the work of the Association to others and should leave them to find the money as well. "If," he concluded, "Lancashire wishes us to carry on the work, it is about time she showed it in a practical way." (Applause). The report and statement of accounts of the Association were adopted unanimously.

The Canadian Tariff.

In our *Circular*, No. 166, several unfortunate misprints occurred in our note regarding the Canadian tariff, on page 478, which made it appear that the West Indian planters were not "desiring" financial advantage from the Canadian Tariff. On the contrary, they desire it very much, but are not for the moment "deriving" such advantage from it. The question is being discussed by the Canadian Tariff Commissioners, a body of three members of the Government deputed by the Dominion Government to inquire into the working of the Customs' Tariff. Meetings have already been held in the West, and the Commissioners are now in Eastern Canada, where they will continue to receive representations from various parties, who desire to lay their views before them. Trinidad and Jamaica have decided to send representatives, but British Guiana felt that the matter would be best entrusted to a delegate from the West India Committee in London. On November 16th, 1905, a letter was sent to Lord Strathcona, the High Commissioner for Canada, embodying a suggestion which should afford a solution to the question of the 33 $\frac{1}{4}$ % preference, in the following terms:—

"With reference to our recent correspondence on the subject of the 33 $\frac{1}{4}$ % preference on sugar from the West Indies entering Canada, and to your Lordship's letter W. 185 of August 2nd last, written by Mr. W. H. Griffith, I am directed by my Committee to make the following suggestion, the adoption of which should secure to the West Indian producer more immediate benefit from the generous action of the Canadian Government: My Committee would suggest that a special duty colour standard should be set up for West Indian grocery sugar in lieu of the 16 Dutch colour standard at present in vogue. If a fresh colour standard were set up which would admit the finest grocery West Indian sugar, whilst excluding white or refined sugar, no change in the law would be necessary, but simply an adjustment of the Customs' method of valuation. In support of our suggestion, we would point out that the polarisation of brown refining kinds under 16 D.S. is frequently much higher than grocery kinds, which are now assessable over 16 D.S. It would be quite possible to submit a suitable colour standard which would admit all such good grocery kinds as are generally manufactured in the West Indies. Trusting that you will be pleased to communicate this suggestion to the proper quarter and favour my Committee with a reply, and thanking you for the trouble which your Lordship has taken in the matter."

The Canadian Tariff Commissioners sat in Montreal from November 7th to the 11th. At one of the sittings Mr. Russell Murray, explained that below 16 (Dutch standard) sugar duties ranged to about 47.4c. per cwt.; above 16 Dutch they rose to 80c. He asked that the standard be advanced from 16 to 19. This would admit, at a lower rate, a proportion of what were termed in the tariff "semi-refined" sugars, comprising several grades of yellows largely used in Great Britain. Mr. Fielding's objection that this would bring some light sugars into competition with refined was admitted. It was also asked that molasses, now paying 20 per cent., should be admitted free.

Sugar Production and Consumption.

The statistics which we give below regarding production and consumption of raw sugar for eight seasons, will doubtless prove useful to our Members for the purpose of reference. It will be noticed that they vary somewhat from those quoted in previous years, the reason being that we have now been able to obtain figures from all sources at dates more closely approximating to October 1st in each year.

	Season 1897=8.	Tons.	Consumption.
Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1897	...	989,216	
Beet Crop, 1897-8...	...	4,831,774	
Cane	...	2,864,528	
Beet, U.S. ...	...	40,399	
		<hr/>	
Deduct Visible Supply, October 1st, 1898	...	8,725,917	
		761,392	7,964,525
		<hr/>	
	Season 1898=9.		
Visible Supply, October 1st, 1898	...	761,392	
Beet Crop, 1898-9...	...	4,982,101	
Cane	...	2,944,545	
Beet, U.S. ...	...	32,471	
		<hr/>	
Deduct Visible Supply, October 1st, 1899	...	8,720,509	
		838,954	7,881,555
		<hr/>	
	Season 1899=1900.		
Visible Supply, October 1st, 1899	...	838,954	
Beet Crop, 1899-1900	...	5,480,000	
Cane	...	2,856,000	
Beet, U.S. ...	...	95,000	
		<hr/>	
Deduct Visible Supply, October 1st, 1900	...	9,269,954	
		479,126	8,790,828
		<hr/>	
	Season 1900=1.		
Visible Supply, October 1st, 1900	...	479,126	
Beet Crop, 1900-1...	...	5,990,080	
Cane	...	3,650,416	
Beet, U.S. ...	...	76,859	
		<hr/>	
Deduct Visible Supply, October 1st, 1901	...	10,196,481	
		851,092	9,345,389
		<hr/>	
	Season 1901=2.		
Visible Supply, October 1st, 1901	...	851,092	
Beet Crop, 1901-2...	...	6,760,361	
Cane	...	4,027,229	
Beet, U.S. ...	...	163,126	
		<hr/>	
Deduct Visible Supply, October 1st, 1902	...	11,801,808	
		1,602,932	10,198,876
		<hr/>	
	Season 1902=3.		
Visible Supply, October 1st, 1902	...	1,602,932	
Beet Crop, 1902-3...	...	5,561,257	
Cane...	...	4,144,569	
Beet, U.S. ...	...	195,463	
		<hr/>	
Deduct Visible Supply, October 1st, 1903	...	11,504,221	
		1,487,351	10,016,870
		<hr/>	

Season 1903=4.

Visible Supply, October 1st, 1903	...	...	...	...	...	1,487,351
Beet Crop, 1903-4	...	...	...	...	...	5,864,938
Cane...	...	...	...	...	...	4,423,800
Beet, U.S.	...	...	...	...	...	210,000
						<hr/> 11,986,089
Deduct Visible Supply, October 1st, 1904	...	...	...	...	...	1,111,211
						<hr/> 10,874,878

Season 1904=5.

Visible Supply, October 1st, 1904	...	...	...	...	...	1,111,211
Beet Crop, 1904-5	...	...	...	...	...	4,706,900
Cane...	...	...	...	...	...	4,565,114
Beet, U.S.	...	...	...	...	...	209,722
						<hr/> 10,592,947
Deduct Visible Supply, October 1st, 1905	...	...	...	...	...	1,216,190
						<hr/> 9,376,757

Season 1905=6.

Visible Supply, October 1st, 1905	...	...	...	...	...	1,216,190
Beet Crop, 1905-6 (estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	6,350,000
Cane (estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	4,913,000
Beet, U.S.	...	...	...	...	...	265,000
						<hr/> 12,944,190
Deduct Visible Supply, October 1st, 1906	...	...	...	...	...	—

To Safeguard Jamaica Rum.

Mr. J. C. Nolan, the Special Commissioner appointed by the Jamaica Government for the protection of Jamaica Rum has called our attention to the following circular issued by the Aberdeen Trade Defence Association, to each of its members:—

"I am directed by the Executive Committee of this Association to call your particular attention to the sale of Jamaica rum. It appears that a quantity of rum is being sold by a number of license-holders labelled Jamaica rum, which, in point of fact, is not rum of this description at all, being either Demerara rum, or a mixture of Jamaica and Demerara rum, or some other foreign spirit. A number of samples of rum sold as Jamaica rum have recently been taken by the authorities in the country. As, however, the Procurator-Fiscal has satisfied himself that the sellers have in these cases been acting more from ignorance than otherwise, the cases have been settled out of court. License-holders who profess to sell Jamaica rum must in future see to it that the genuine article is supplied, otherwise they will render themselves liable to prosecution under the Sale of Food and Drugs' Act. For your own protection I would impress upon you the necessity, when purchasing Jamaica rum, of getting from the wholesale merchant a guarantee, in writing, that you are being supplied with pure Jamaica rum. Of course, you are quite at liberty to sell rum of any other description or class, but great care must be taken to ensure that the article sold is rum, and that the class of rum is correctly described upon the bottle or vessel in which the spirit is sold, or is made known to the purchaser at the time of sale. Please give this matter your attention." The action of this Trade Defence Association in issuing this circular is in pleasing contrast to the antagonistic attitude taken up by the Wine and Spirit Association of this country after the decision in the case of brandy, which suffers far more from frauds and adulteration than even rum. It may be interesting to set down an analysis, made by Professor James Heinrich, County Analyst, of one of the rum samples on which the prosecution was based, and to set side by side with it an analysis of genuine Jamaica rum.

	"Aberdeen" rum	Jamaica rum
Volatile ethers	56.6	502.41
Volatile acids	25.1	106.54
Aldehydes	14.6	51.55
Furfural	3.83	1.69

The proportion of ethers in Jamaica rum, in which, according to the medical profession, resides the value of the article, is not always so high as in this sample. The United States Bureau of Chemistry, I believe, fix a minimum of 200 of Jamaica will rejoice at their success.

New Members of the West India Committee.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive on November 30th, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
CHRISTOPHER HEAD, ESQ.	Henry F. Previté, Esq.	D. Mackintosh, Esq.
MRS. K. C. HINKSON.	R. Rutherford, Esq.	T. J. Wilkinson, Esq.
CHARLES M. WOLSTENHOLME, ESQ.	R. Rutherford, Esq.	E. R. Davson, Esq.
H. SEEDORFF, ESQ.	Guy Wyatt, Esq.	W. H. Parratt, Esq.
J. BASTIAANS, ESQ.	Guy Wyatt, Esq.	W. H. Parratt, Esq.
JOHN WILSON, ESQ.	Guy Wyatt, Esq.	W. H. Parratt, Esq.
G. RUSSELL GARNETT, ESQ.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.	C. Algernon Campbell, Esq.

Full particulars regarding Membership and candidate's forms are obtainable from the Secretary of the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

West Indian Limes.

A feature of the Exhibition of Colonial Fruits, to which reference is made on another page, was the display of West Indian limes, and cards bearing the following inscription in bold type were placed about the West Indian section:—

"For all purposes for which lemons are now used, West Indian limes are infinitely superior. The delicacy of flavour, aroma, and juiciness of West Indian limes are such as to make them instantly preferred by those who have used limes and lemons. Moreover, West Indian limes come from our Colonies and the bulk of the lemons now sold in this country from foreign parts. Support the Colonies and give West Indian limes a fair trial!"

"The rind is so thin, and the pips so few and small, that the lime is practically a globe of juice, yielding more for its size and weight than the lemon, while the flavour is delicious." *The Grocer*, August 19th, 1905."

It will be of interest to our readers to know that we are continuing to receive many enquiries regarding this luscious fruit. As a result of the Colonial Exhibition we were successful in placing them in many of the largest hotels and restaurants in London, and repeat orders for from five to ten boxes continue to be received almost daily. Too much stress cannot be laid upon the fact that only carefully selected, evenly graded and well packed fruit should be sent, as the market requires most careful nursing, and the despatch of badly packed and poor fruit is liable to give it a set back. There is no doubt that the taste for West Indian limes is increasing, and that it is capable of immense development. The chief difficulty so far experienced is with the greengrocers who have tried to sell the fruit without explaining where it comes from, what it is, and what purpose it serves, and it is hoped that the notice above referred to will prove helpful in this connection.

The Agricultural Conference abandoned.

We regret to have to announce that owing to the abandonment of the West Indian mail contract, and to the fact that under existing conditions it takes nine and eight days respectively to get to Jamaica from Barbados and Trinidad, and a still longer period from the other Colonies, the Commissioner of Agriculture has been compelled to abandon the idea of holding the annual Agricultural Conference in Jamaica, in January, 1906.

The West Indian Cricket Team.

We are glad to be able to announce that at a meeting of the Sports' Committee of the West Indian Club held at the West India Committee Rooms on Monday, December 4th, it was decided to proceed with the arrangements for the visit of the West Indian Cricket Team to this country in 1906.

and the visit may now, therefore, be considered to be assured. With the assistance of Mr. F. E. Lacey, the Secretary of the M.C.C., who has taken much trouble in the matter, a list of fixtures was arranged at the meeting of the County Secretaries on December 5th, and these have been distributed as follows:—

June 11—v London County, at the Crystal Palace.	July 23—v Scotland, at Edinburgh.
.. 14—v Essex, at Leyton.	.. 26—v England, at Lords or v. England at Blackpool.
.. 18—v Middlesex, at Lords	.. 30—v. Northumberland and Durham, at Sunderland
.. 25—v. Surrey, at the Oval.	Aug 2—v Yorkshire, at Harrogate.
.. 28—v Wiltshire, in Wiltshire.	.. 6—v Leicestershire, at Leicester.
July 2—v Hants, in Hampshire.	.. 10—v Norfolk, at Norwich.
.. 9—v South Wales, at Cardiff.	.. 13—v Notts, at Nottingham.
.. 12—v Kent, at Catford	.. 16—v Northamptonshire, at Northampton.
.. 16—v M.C.C., at Lords	
.. 19—v Derbyshire, at Derby	

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

Resignation of the Ministry.

Mr. Balfour resigned on December 4th, and on the following day Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman was called upon to form a Ministry. This he consented to do, but up to the hour of going to press no announcement has been made as to appointments to the Cabinet.

The Sugar Convention.

In the course of his address at the Unionist Demonstration in the Festival Concert Rooms at York on December 1st, the Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton referred to the sugar question: "I am told," he said, "this subject is one that comes home to you in York, owing to the large extent of the confectionery industry in this city. You know that for many years bounties were placed by foreign countries upon sugar, with the result that the West Indian Colonies were brought well nigh to ruin in their sugar industry. The position became intolerable, but the Radical Party did not deal with it. The result was to reduce the import of cane sugar from the West Indies, from $14\frac{1}{2}$ millions of cwts. to $2\frac{1}{2}$, and the industry was in the greatest danger—and by the report of Sir Edward Grey's commission—of extinction. Not only were the Colonies outraged and in danger by the sugar bounties of the Continent, but sugar refiners and this country lost 50 per cent., and eighteen of our factories were closed. Bounties were denounced, not only by great and distinguished politicians—Mr. Gladstone, Lord Salisbury, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman himself, and Sir Edward Grey—but by great federations of employers and by trade unions representing half a million of working men, and by such respected Labour members as Mr. Burt and Mr. Abraham. Those bounties were denounced, and His Majesty's Government was asked to deal with the subject, and the Brussels Convention was arranged, and as you know it brought bounties and the bounty system to an end. By so doing the West Indies and their principal industry were saved from a great and imminent danger. (Cheers.) More than that, the producers, both in this country and the refiners in that country, were relieved from an almost intolerable oppression and invasion—(cheers)—and I do not think that anybody here will doubt it was consistent with and in harmony with the fullest and highest doctrine of Free Trade that those bounties, if possible, should be put an end to—(cheers)—a system which, in Mr. Gladstone's own words, might have caused cheaper sugar to be imported into this country, but did so by artificial means and to the danger of the stability of the industry which it invaded. If this was so what would you have expected to be the language of the party which thinks it can find the one and only source of agreement in Free Trade? You would think that they supported it; far from it. The Liberal party entered into the most acrimonious denunciation of the Sugar Convention, and the only reason—it seemed to them a good one at the time—the reason which they advanced for it was a convention which raised the price of sugar enormously. In fact Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman said the Convention cost the country eight millions a year. What are the facts? In March, 1902, the

Convention was signed. The price of sugar in 1901 was 9s. 6½d. per cwt., unrefined. In 1902, which I suppose was one of the years when the eight millions was operating, the price did not go up at all, but went down to 7s. 7½d. In 1903 it was 8s. 8½d., and in 1904 it went to 10s., and in 1905 it was 9s. and a fraction in October. Therefore you have not merely as a result of the Convention the bounty system put down, but when you look over the period of years embraced by the operation of the Convention you have, as I am informed on good authority, prices averaging no more than during the last ten years. (Applause). So if there is a confectioner here he may take comfort that they had not ruined him, and if anyone thought of going to get a great many sweets by the sale of bankrupt stocks he would be greatly disappointed." (Cheers).

Colonial Reports.

Trinidad and Tobago, 1904-5.

The Hon. W. M. Gordon, Acting Colonial Secretary, in his report on the Blue Book of Trinidad and Tobago for 1904-5 (Colonial Reports—Annual 469), states that the trade of the Colony, during the period under review, exhibited a steady increase, in spite of some adverse features, such as the abnormally small export of asphalt, which was responsible for a decrease of revenue of £21,479 in export duty and royalties, and the depression in the trade with the neighbouring Republic of Venezuela, caused by the closing of the Orinoco ports to traffic during a portion of the year, and the re-imposition of the duty of 30 per cent. on all goods imported into Venezuela from the West Indian Islands.

The following table shows the totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

YEAR.	REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.	
1900	£698,939	£696,880	£2,059 Surplus.
1901-2	712,394	731,160	18,766 Deficit.
1902-3	788,404	737,045	51,359 Surplus.
1903-4	804,440	818,860	14,420 Deficit.
1904-5	811,614	810,258	1,356 Surplus.

The sugar crop was unfortunately a short one, falling far below the average owing to a dry season, but thanks to good prices, the total value of sugar exported showed an increase of £286,000 over that of the previous year. Shipments of asphalt showed the heavy decrease in value of £55,000 owing in a measure to the recent conflict between various asphalt interests in the United States and the exploitation by them of rival sources of supply. The transshipment trade for Venezuela rose from £165,792 to £248,336, owing to the re-opening of certain Orinoco ports to traffic. The United Kingdom furnished 39.3 % of the imports to the Colony, United States 26 %, British North America 4.9 %, other British Colonies 6.8 %, Venezuela 14.6 %, other countries 8.4 %. The percentages of exports shipped from the Colony were as follows: United Kingdom 31.6 %, United States 27.7 %, British North America 11.4 %, and other countries 29.3 %.

The new draft Waterworks Ordinance was introduced, and after all classes and interests in the community had been given an opportunity of considering it, and the insertion of many amendments in the draft by the Committee, the measure was adopted by the Legislative Council on August 8th, and assented to on September 29th.

During the year 1,265 East Indian immigrants arrived in the Colony, the diminution being caused by the difficulty of recruiting in India, though 3,000 were requisitioned. Immigrants are now being recruited in the province of Madras. 728 East Indians returned to India, taking with them a sum of £9,220, and though this amount was less than that taken in the previous year, £735 more was

* Exclusive of £113,363 0s. 3d., expended in 1899 and 1900 in anticipation of loan to be raised, repaid to General Revenue in 1901-2.

remitted to India during the year than in 1903-4. In his general remarks, Mr. Gordon refers to the settlement of the waterworks question and the rebuilding of the Red House, of which the structural work was nearly completed. The Legislature sanctioned the guarantee of interest on the amount of paid-up capital up to £15,000 of the syndicate for the development of the fruit trade with the United Kingdom, but the untimely death of Mr. W. W. Symington, whose efforts had been mainly instrumental in bringing the scheme into existence, arrested the prosecution of the industry, but the matter had since been taken up by a subsidiary company under the auspices of the R.M.S.P. Company, to whom the guarantee given to the syndicate would be transferred, and there was good reason to believe that a remunerative fruit trade would be established. The conditions of contract for the provision of a new floating dock by private enterprise with Government guarantee were under consideration. The company of the Worcestershire Regiment which had been stationed in the Colony since the disturbances in 1903, left the Island in 1904.

In conclusion, Mr. Gordon states that the information obtained from a general review of the statistics for 1904-5 leads to the conviction that the continued prosperity of the Colony rests upon a sure and solid foundation. In spite of the fact that the last decade has witnessed a struggle for existence on the part of the cultivation of sugar, one of the staple products, the revenue of the Colony has advanced from £698,939 in 1900 to £811,614 in 1904-5, a steady natural increase being shown each year. The removal of bounties upon the production of beet sugar in Europe, combined with the good prices obtained last year, has given renewed hope to sugar planters, and has led to increased activity in cultivation. Moreover, it is realised by the planter that to ensure success an improvement in the methods of cultivation is necessary, and that it is truer economy to produce a larger crop to the acre than the same crop from a larger area cultivated. Much attention has in the past been paid to the manufacture of sugar, and Trinidad factories are, for the most part, equipped with modern machinery, but new principles have recently been applied, notably that of diffusion, under what is known as the Naudet system, and it is believed that this has met with some success. With improved cultivation and the employment of more perfect processes of extraction, there seems no reason to doubt that sugar will continue to hold its own in future. Cocoa, in spite of low prices, continues to be by far the most important export, so far as the aggregate value is concerned, the value shipped in 1904-5 being £1,053,886, or nearly one-quarter of the total value of exports from the Colony, sugar standing second with £723,048. It may be yet too soon to write with certainty of the prospects of the new oil industry, which, owing to the care necessary for the preparation of satisfactory conditions of agreement for the development of the area prospected by the pioneer company, has been somewhat delayed, but it is not too much to state that those best qualified to form an opinion consider that an oil field of considerable importance underlies the surface of a large portion of the Colony, the oil-bearing beds being well defined at various depths from the surface. Other industries, such as the mining of manjak, are being prosecuted with success, and the fact that Trinidad possesses so many subsidiary sources of prosperity is a potential ground for believing that her present progress will be maintained and increased in the future. The following table shows the value of the most important articles of export from the Colony during the last seven years:—

Year.	Sugar Value £	Cocoa Value. £	Asphalt Value. £
1898	602,045	812,272	113,829
1899	715,428	898,389	152,046
1900	552,158	978,632	177,460
1901-2	453,304	953,287	159,044
1902-3	414,396	1,078,498	170,563
1903-4	438,418	1,062,417	198,716
1904-5	723,048	1,053,886	149,010

British Guiana.—A Promising Outlook.

Mr. J. Hampden King, Assistant Government Secretary, in his report on the Blue Book of British Guiana for 1904, speaks of the outlook for the future as promising, though the Colony continues to suffer from want of population, which prevents its great natural resources being adequately developed. The year was memorable, inasmuch as the sugar crop of the Colony was reaped and sold for the first time free from the unfair competition of bounty fed sugar. Moreover, the work of demarcation of the boundary between British Guiana and Venezuela was brought to a close on June 18th, and on June 6th the King of Italy recorded his decision in respect of the boundary between the Colony and Brazil, which should lead to the development of the cattle raising industry, for which the great savannahs of the district affected offered great opportunities. During the year, 1205 immigrants were introduced from India, as compared with 2932 in the preceding year, and three ships with coolies for repatriation left the Colony, carrying 1625 souls, who took with them remittances and jewellery to the value of £16,271 5s. 10d.

The following table gives the totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

YEAR.	REVENUE.			EXPENDITURE.						
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
1900-1	509,950	8	0	505,492	11	3	4,457	16	9	Surplus.
1901-2	531,506	10	8½	522,631	13	1	8,874	17	7½	"
1902-3	557,351	2	5½	501,704	9	9½	55,646	12	8	"
1903-4	555,853	7	8	530,225	0	4½	25,628	7	3½	"
1904-5	512,972	14	3	511,182	17	3½	1,789	16	11½	"

The varied nature of the exports of the Colony is shown by the following table, which gives the quantities and values of the exports for the past two years:—

Articles.	Quantity.	1903-4.		1904-5.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Sugar ... (tons)	125,949	106,716	£1,121,143	106,716	£1,280,596
Rum ... (galls., proof)	3,949,886	2,671,581	101,921	2,671,581	62,713
Molasses ... (galls.)	291,507	423,154	9,110	423,154	14,987
Molascuit or cattle food (tons)	2,780	8,967	12,584	8,967	36,711
Lumber, G. H. & C. (feet)	28,042	27,087	614	27,087	570
Firewood, Wallaba, &c. (tons)	5,994	8,275	2,348	8,275	3,172
Timber ... (cubic feet)	273,542	293,315	19,574	293,315	24,435
Shingles ... (No.)	1,837,050	2,701,750	1,462	2,701,750	2,144
Ballata ... (lbs.)	531,399	501,509	45,187	501,509	38,043
Bullion (raw gold) (ozs.)	90,207	94,617	327,527	94,617	352,125
Hides ... (No.)	4,799	5,047	1,564	5,047	1,606
Cattle ... (head)	369	970	1,786	970	3,991
Charcoal ... (bags)	75,694	79,913	7,925	79,913	8,360
Cocoa ... (lbs.)	123,081	96,817	3,078	96,817	2,635
Diamonds ... (carats)	10,737	10,478	18,756	10,478	16,395
Fish Glue ... (lbs.)	15,932	16,247	1,216	16,247	1,148
Coconuts ... (No.)	46,829	581,334	131	581,334	1,728

The exports of sugar were less than in the two preceding years, though the value was greater. The falling off in the rum exported amounted to 1,278,305 proof gallons, representing a value of £39,207, and this was partly due to decreased manufacture, more molasses being now turned into cattle food, and partly owing to low prices. It is interesting to note that whereas in 1901-2 and 1902-3 the exports were greater to the United States than to the United Kingdom, for 1903-4 and 1904-5 the exports to the United Kingdom showed considerable preponderance over those to the United States. The value of imports from the United Kingdom is nearly double that of those from the United States.

With regard to the subsidiary industries, the acreage of rice showed a considerable increase from 16,669 acres to 21,920 acres, but the area under cocoa was still disappointing, amounting to only 1,460 acres, in spite of the suitability of much land at the mouths of rivers. Though 1,320 acres were under coffee, there was practically no export trade. Coconut planting had recently received an impetus, and a considerable extension of the area under this cultivation was looked for. During the year, 581,334 nuts, valued at £1,728 were exported, as compared with 46,829 nuts valued at £131 in the preceding year. About 40 acres were under cotton cultivation, but so far the results were not encouraging, and the exports amounted to 1,785 lbs., valued at £61. Mr. King adds that the cost of labour is higher in British Guiana than in the West India Islands, and though cotton was at one time

profitably grown in the Colony, it remains to be demonstrated whether it can be so grown under existing conditions, and the indications are not favourable. The advance in the balata industry was not maintained, this probably being due to a temporary decline in prices.

Dealing with the mining and forest industries, the outlook is promising. The output of gold for the year was 95,864 ozs., as against 90,336 ozs. for the previous year. The increase is due to the larger production from the property known as the "Omai Mine," on the Essequibo River, where hydraulicking has been steadily carried on during the year, and some 12,683 ozs. have been won. The value of the pay-dirt has run from 25d. to 35d. per cubic yard, and 3,000 cubic yards have been dealt with in a day of 24 hours. The industry has received renewed attention from outside capitalists during the year. Work on a promising quartz property on the Puruni River was started, and machinery is being erected for winning and crushing the quartz. Development work is also being continued at the Barima Mine. Dredging operations (as apart from hydraulicking) have been carried on at Omai with more successful results than have hitherto attended this class of work, and dredging concessions have been issued for locations on two rivers on which operations will, it is hoped, soon be commenced. The output of diamonds for the year was 175,400 stones, weighing 10,619 carats, as compared with 164,315, weighing 10,742 $\frac{1}{2}$ carats, in 1903-4.

The health of the Colony was good. There was no epidemic during the year, though malarial fever was, as usual, prevalent throughout the whole Colony, and was responsible for 17 per cent. of the deaths.

Notes of Interest.

BANK RATE. The Bank Rate remains at 4 per cent. (changed from 3 per cent. on Sept. 28th, 1905), and Consols (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) are quoted 89 $\frac{1}{2}$.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended November 30th, 24 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.75d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb.

KEW GARDENS. As we go to press it is announced that the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury have appointed Lieutenant-Colonel D. Prain, Director of the Botanical Survey of India, to be Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in succession to Sir William T. Thiselton Dyer, K.C.M.G.

CENTRAL FACTORIES. In their report of November 25th, Messrs. G. P. Mitchell & Sons, Ltd., of Halifax, N.S., say that they cannot impress upon planters too strongly the great desirability of adopting the Central Factory system, as crystals will always find a ready sale, which is not the case with muscovado, the days of which, they fear, are numbered.

THE RUM SURTAX. Dealing with the leading article on the subject of the "Rum Surtax," which appeared in our issue of November 24th, the *Chemist and Druggist* of December 2nd. said: "We think it has been proved that the small surtax is in the nature of protection, and this will probably be modified when a legislative opportunity occurs."

APPOINTMENTS REGISTER. The register of applicants for appointment as overseers and other positions connected with West Indian estates can be seen by Members at the West India Committee Rooms. Full particulars regarding the applicants are now given, together with two testimonials from each. Members receiving applications from those desiring appointments may refer the applicants to the West India Committee, who will supply a form of enquiries for the candidates to fill up.

THE QUARANTINE CONVENTION. We understand that the issue of the West Indian Inter-Colonial Sanitary Convention as a Parliamentary Paper, to which we referred in our issue of November 24th, was premature, as the Convention has not yet come into force, though it is probable that it will do so very shortly. Jamaica appears to be the only Colony where the necessary arrangements have not been completed, but it is understood that a special session of the Legislature has been convened to deal with the matter.

OBITUARY. We regret to have to record the death of the Hon. Timothy Yearwood, Member of the Legislative Council of Barbados, which took place in London on Friday, November 24th, very suddenly. Mr. Yearwood was paying his first visit to London after many years absence, and had been in his usual health up to the time of his sudden demise. He leaves a wife and daughters to mourn his loss. The funeral took place at Kensal Green on Tuesday, November 28th, when several of our Members were present.

WEST INDIAN CLUB DINNER. Mr. J. Rippon presided at the fortnightly Club dinner on November 29th. Amongst those present on this occasion were:—Mr. J. Arnold, Dr. H. E. G. Boyle, Mr. S. B. Cockell, Mr. C. E. Davies, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. A. Hirsch, Mr. H. A. Hood-Daniel, Mr. L. F.

Hudson, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. A. M. Nathan, Mr. T. W. O'Neal, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. H. O. Smith, Mr. Hayne Smith, Mr. E. Sturridge, Mr. H. D. Swan, Mr. J. S. Westwood and Mr. J. H. Wilkinson.

BINDING CASES. For Members desirous of having their *Circulars* bound, handsome lettered cases 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 on hand for 1905, is limited, Members will do well to make early application. We also have a few patent spring back cases for filing the *West India Committee Circular*, which can be obtained from the Secretary for 2s. 6d. each or post free 3s.

**THE BARBADOS
TERCENTENARY.** In our issue of October 13th, we referred in a leading article to the fact that three hundred years have passed since the crew of the "Olive Blossom" took possession of Barbados in the name of "James, K. of E. and of this Island," and we are glad to learn that the tercentenary of the Colony was celebrated on November 30th, when there was a public holiday, and a special meeting of the Legislature passed a loyal address to the King. Monoliths were erected on the site where the party from the "Olive Blossom" landed in 1605; and a large representative procession, headed by the Governor, marched from the public buildings to the Savannah, where the troops still remaining were reviewed.

**W.I. COMMITTEE
LEAFLETS.** The letters addressed by the West India Committee to the Press in November and December, 1904, and January, 1905, with regard to the rise in price of sugar which was then taking place, have been republished with an explanatory note, together with a brief memorandum showing how accurate the statements made by the West India Committee were at the time when efforts were being made to make political capital out of a temporary rise occasioned by the shortage of the beet crop on the Continent. A second leaflet is entitled "A Protected Home Industry," and shows how the home distiller is protected at the expense of the Colonial distiller. These leaflets can be obtained from the Secretary of the West India Committee free of charge on receipt of stamp to cover postage.

**THE SECRET
INTERVIEW.** The deputation which waited on Mr. Balfour on November 28th, was a source of considerable amusement to the Press. The members of it declined to say who they were or what were their objects to a newspaper man, and paragraphs appeared in the papers headed "Secret Interview," "Mysterious Deputation to Mr. Balfour," &c., &c. The patriotic *Westminster Gazette* was at first disposed to think that the deputation wanted Mr. Balfour to open some new golf club, and that he was anxious not to have the date disclosed, and the popular green paper expressed disappointment when it discovered that the secret closeting was only over the question of the withdrawal of the troops from the West Indies. The *Globe* learnt from an authoritative source that a most critical interview took place regarding the pattern of some new wall paper proposed to be used at No. 10, Downing Street, while various provincial journals asked whether the visitors were a small body of Protectionists endeavouring to persuade Mr. Balfour to accept the Chamberlain programme, or some of the Free Traders urging him to shake off the Chamberlainite tyranny.

The Homeward Mail.

A special mail supplementary number of *The West India Committee Circular* is now published a few days after the arrival of the general homeward West Indian mails by R.M.S.P. Co.'s steamers, and is posted free of charge to Members of the West India Committee. The first of these supplements was issued on Friday, December 1st, and we have to acknowledge the many congratulations which we have received upon this new departure, which now practically gives to our readers a weekly *West India Committee Circular*. This departure naturally involved some considerable expense, but we hope that this will be more than made good by the number of new Members which we hope to get, and we trust that present Members of the West India Committee will assist us in this connection. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Royal," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth, on Wednesday, December 6th, and extracts from the letters received will be published in the special supplementary number next week. We have received the following from British Honduras:—

British Honduras—The Heed of Flood.

(HON. A. R. USHER) November 17th—Mr. John K. Bothwell (the promoter of the British Honduras Deep Water Dock and Railway Company, Limited) had arrived at the Colony with his solicitor and three capitalists from the United States, and they were now on a visit to the Stann Creek District, which they proposed opening up by a railroad to the interior.

There had been very little rain in the interior recently, and consequently there was a good deal of mahogany locked up waiting floods.

Our Library.

We are glad to receive books relating to the Colonies, and the West Indies especially, for review. We also acknowledge under this heading gifts of pictures or publications for our Library, which are always acceptable. Mr. E. A. de Pass has presented to the West India Committee three framed engravings of Jamaica, from paintings by George Robertson, which complete our set of the six published by John Boydell on March 25th, 1778. The subjects are—"The River Cobre near Spanish Town," and "A Bridge Crossing the Cobre River," engraved by Daniel Lerpiniere, and "Roaring River Estate," belonging to William Beckford, Esq., near Savanna la Mar, engraved by Thomas Vivarres. These engravings will adorn the walls of the West India Committee Rooms, and our Members will, we feel sure, endorse the gratitude which we express to Mr. de Pass. The following West Indian newspapers, in addition to the usual official gazettes, reports and blue books are, through the courtesy of their Editors, filed at the West India Committee Rooms, where they can be inspected:—

The Antigua Standard
The Advocate (Barbados)
The Agricultural Reflector (Barbados).
The Barbados Bulletin.
The Barbados Globe.
The Weekly Recorder (Barbados).

The Argosy (Demerara)
The Daily Chronicle (Demerara)
The Dominican
The Dominica Guardian
The St. Christopher Advertiser.
The St. Christopher Gazette

The Voice (St. Lucia).
The Sentry (St. Vincent).
The Times (St. Vincent)
The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad)
The Trinidad Mail

We received by the R.M.S.P. Co.'s "Tagus" the following:—

The Agricultural News. Vol. IV., No 93. Obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, *id.* post free, *1d.* The editorial deals with agriculture in St. Lucia, which is making great progress under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information. Edited by J. H. Hart, F.I.S. This number of the official publication of the Botanical Department of Trinidad, which is published quarterly, contains particulars of work in the cacao experiment plot, and articles on the preparation of honey for market, cacao at the Agricultural Conference, 1905, and other matters of interest to planters. Mangoes are now imported to this country in considerable quantities from the East and the account of Mr. Hart's experiences with the fruit at the recent Colonial Exhibition merits careful perusal. It is all a question of educating the public and careful selection and packing.

The History, Civil and Commercial, of the British Colonies in the West Indies. By Bryan Edwards. London: John Stockdale, Piccadilly. Third edition, with considerable additions, 1801. At a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Nov 30th, a vote of thanks was passed to the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne for the gift of this work in three volumes for the Library. Although we already have copies of the book further sets are always welcome, and we should like to have all the editions, some of which are, however, not very easy to get. Though damaged by the hurricane, which did not spare "Porter's," Mr. Alleyne's residence, the books are in fair preservation, and the plates—who does not admire the beautiful one of the "Negro Festival in St. Vincent"?—quite good.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Tagus" (Capt. H. D. Doughty), Dec. 9th:—
Barbados—Mr. F. O. Norton, Mrs. Millar, Mr. Horne, Mr. W. H. R. Rivers, Mr., Mrs. and two Misses Law, Miss M. Howell, Mr. W. Soames, two Misses Soames, Mr. and Mrs. Jonas, Col. Egerton, Mrs. Low, Mr. and Mrs. H. Mamer, Mr. and Mrs. Haynes, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. C. Clarke, Miss Sealy. **Jamaica**—Mr. H. F. D. Bartlett, Mr. Walker, Mr. Tod, Mr. R. V. Eves. **Trinidad**—Mr. H. Hart, Miss Knubley, Mrs. Marwood, Mr. E. Scott, Mrs. J. McLeod, Mr. Neil McLeod, Mr. Norman McLeod, Mr. Eric McLeod, Mr. G. Nathan, Mr. Brindley, Mr. R. Morier, Mr. E. Carritt, Mr. F. Chapman, Mr. S. Chapman, Mr. W. B. Scott, Mr. Hoole, Miss Shields, Mrs. Kelson, Mrs. Matheson, Mr. C. Littlepage, Mrs. Irvine, Mr. J. W. Vaughan, Mrs. Welsh, Mr. R. H. S. Smith, Mr. C. la Coste, Mr. W. S. Tucker. **Antigua**—Mr. and Mrs. Delos J. Martin, Mr. G. W. Smith. **Grenada**—Mrs. Tudor, Mr. G. Thompson. **St. Kitts**—Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Shelford. **St. Lucia**—Mrs. Devaux.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Atrato" (Capt. R. H. Stranger), Dec. 23rd:—
Barbados—Mrs. and Miss A. Yearwood, Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Haynes. Mr. and Mrs. O'Neal, Mr. G. W. Sayer, Mr. J. R. Florence. **Demerara**—Mr. and Mrs. T. Teed, Mr. and Mrs. T. Wales. **Jamaica** Major and Mrs. John Norman. **Trinidad**—Mr., Mrs. and Miss Cochrane. Mr. H. A. Harrison, Mrs. and Miss Slyne, Mr. and Mrs. A. Mattock, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Christall, Mr. and Mrs. H. Roath, Mr. A. Joyan. **Antigua**—Mr. A. Spooner.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), Dec. 2nd:—
Jamaica—Mr. D. Brainard, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Balfour, Mr. W. Bryant, Mrs. Brown, Miss O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cary, Miss du Cane, Miss A. J. Cooper, Mrs. Chandler, Mr. Sam Darling, Mr. Fred Darling, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Davey, Mr. W. C. L. Dyett, two Misses Dyett, Mrs. E. D. de la Pena, Miss F. Garcia, Mrs. C. Fenwick, Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. J. Foliaco, Mr. A. C. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. G. Grant, Major Grant, Miss L. A. McCrea, Mr. W. J. Flynn, Miss Journeaux, Mr. H. R. Rowe, Mr. and Mrs. James Goode, Mr. A. Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. F. Hannam-Clark, Miss G. M. Hingley, Miss Hay, Mr. J. R. Henderson, Mr. J. Hagh, Mrs. D. F. Hall, Miss I. Hall, Mr. C. M. Hall, Miss E. J. Hudson, Mr. H. C. Heslton, Mr. A. Johnson, the Right Rev. Bishop Joscelyn, Mrs. Joscelyn, Miss V. Joscelyn, Mr. S. Jacquet, Miss Keimpell, Mr. A. Levy, Miss Longhurst, Mr. G. D. Myers, Mrs. A. Moseley, Mrs. McMahon, two Misses Marsh, Capt. J. E. Mackenzie, Mr. J. B. Morgan, Miss Marsh, Miss Munn, Mr. H. P. Mulock, Mr. and Mrs. McNeil, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Oakley, Miss M. L. Poole, Miss Palmer, Miss H. Pile, Miss

H. Polanco, Mrs. and Miss Roper, Major Russell, Mr. T. Rutson, Mrs. I. Sutton, Miss Sutton, Mrs. Sharp, Mr. Leonard E. Starmer, Miss I. Saunders, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Scharschmidt, Mr. Ben Tillet, Mrs. Watts, Rev. J. J. Whitehouse, Mrs. H. W. Whitelock, **Bermuda**—Miss Brockman, Miss Butterfield, Miss Binnie, Mr. J. Barry, Miss M. Briody, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Bagot, Mrs. Duerdon, Mrs. Stephen Frewen, Miss Ruby Frewen, Miss I. Frewen, Mr. J. Jefferson, Capt. H. J. F. Meyricke, R.F., Miss Nixon, Mrs. W. J. R. Palmer, Miss S. Palmer, Master N. Palmer, Miss Robinson, Miss Young, Miss F. J. Rose, Sergeant A. D. Mackillop.

Mail Arrangements.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Dec. 13	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool	Leyland Line	"William Cliff"	Dec. 12, 6 p.m.
" 15	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Sarstoon"	" 14, mdn't
" 15	Demerara	Liverpool	Liverpool Line	"Frednes"	" 14, 6 p.m.
" 15	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted)	Glasgow	Direct Line	"Naparima"	" 14, "
" 16	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I. D. W. I. M. S.	"Port Antonio"	" 15, "
" 23	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P. Co.	"Atrato"	" 22, mdn't

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Dec. 20	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I. D. W. I. M. S.	"Port Royal"
" 21	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	London	Direct Line	"Crown of Navarre"
" 23	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P. Co.	"La Plata"

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. We are indebted to the *Morning Post* for several of the items of information given below.

Mr. JOHN F. WALLER has been re-elected Mayor of Arima, Trinidad, for the ensuing year.

Mr. F. C. HENRIQUES has returned to Jamaica and resumed his duties as Consul for Italy.

Mr. H. SERRIER has returned to British Guiana and resumed the duties of Consul for the German Empire.

Capt. G. G. GILLIGAN, Sub-Inspector of Police, British Guiana, has been granted an extension of leave of absence for three months from November 8th.

Capt. E. L. Wheeler, Royal Field Artillery, has been appointed Staff Officer of the Local Forces and Adjutant of Constabulary to Trinidad.

The Hon. T. B. OUGHTON and the Hon. H. I. C. BROWN have been appointed to continue to act until further orders as Attorney-General and Solicitor-General respectively, from October 24th.

Mr. F. G. K. SMITH, Surveyor of Customs, British Guiana, has been granted vacation leave of absence for three months from November 1st, during which time Mr. L. A. R. DAVIS will act in his place.

The Hon. JOHN V. CALDER has returned to Jamaica and resumed his duties as a Member of the Legislative Council and of the Board of Supervision, and as Chairman of the Munro and Dickenson's Trust.

In the absence of Mr. Justice DANAVALL the Hon. SHOLTO R. PEMBERTON has been appointed to act as Puisne Judge, and Mr. F. B. B. SHAND, Barrister-at-Law, to act as Assistant to the Attorney-General in Dominica.

The Hon. H. B. WALCOTT, Treasurer and Collector of Customs, British Honduras, has been appointed Acting Colonial Secretary, vice the Hon. H. E. W. GRANT, appointed Colonial Secretary of the Falkland Islands. Mr. Walcott will continue to perform the duties of his substantive office in addition to those of Colonial Secretary.

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), December 1st. "We have had some showers since last message, but more rain is wanted" (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), December 5th. "Heavy rains have fallen generally since last message, Berbice excepted." (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.), December 7th. "There is a favourable change in the weather in Berbice."
Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ending November 22nd. PORT ANTONIO: "16th to 18th, hne; 19th, rain; 20th, hne; 21st, rain; 22nd, fine." KINGSTON, "Fine."

Exports of Produce from Jamaica.

	Sugar tons	Cocoa cwts.	Rum galls.	Coconuts	Pimento cwts.	Bananas bunches	Oranges	Cotton lbs
April 1 to Nov. 11, '05	7,194	17,680	762,505	3,290,752	58,629	10,973,500	55,035,688	38,484
" " " 12, '04	6,045	14,932	916,185	1,563,520	91,548	5,279,076	61,177,181	8,516

No mail having arrived from those Colonies since we last went to press, we are unable to give the usual statistics regarding the exports from Barbados, Trinidad, and Grenada—E.P.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—Considering the enormous over-production which is before us this season, the market so far has borne up against it in a somewhat remarkable way. On the 1st October, the price of 88% was 8s. 9d., and to-day it is 8s. 3½d. which is not much of a decline bearing in mind the amount of sugar with which we have to deal. Special circumstances have contributed to this firmness and may remain in force for a few weeks longer. After then, with the Cuba crop in full operation it may be less easy to stem the torrent of the excessive beet production our Continental friends have favoured us with this year. All accounts seem to confirm the large output of beet for this season, over 2,000,000 tons in excess of last year, and with 400,000 more Cane, if crops pan out well, it may indeed be said there is enough sugar to go round. The question of sowings on the Continent next spring is one of serious moment. If October/December, 1906, remains in the neighbourhood of 9s little reduction can be hoped for in Germany and Austria, France on the contrary not being able to compete at this parity. Unless consumption makes remarkable strides, we shall need a reduction of some 25% in the two former countries to equalise the balance of prices. How this will shape itself is at the present time not clear. If 88% can be raised to even 9s. and kept there, not much harm will be done. The job is to do this in a season of manifest over-supply. Excluding last year, when through the drought and the speculation the average price of 88% was 12s. 7½d., the average of the five preceding years was only 8s. 7d., so there is not much to make up and it will be a source of satisfaction to all concerned if this can be accomplished, and if prices do not take another downward plunge as many think they will.

The moment's quotations of 88% are as follows:—December, 8s. 3½d.; January/March, 8s. 5½d.; May, 8s. 7½d.; August, 8s. 9½d., and October/December, 1906, 8s. 11d., all free on board. Hamburg

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Europe	1,750,000	1,560,000	2,090,000	1,900,000	1,640,000	Tons
United States	210,000	120,000	100,000	180,000	130,000	"
Cuba	80,000	—	120,000	60,000	30,000	"
Cargoes afloat	30,000	70,000	80,000	40,000	10,000	"
Total	2,070,000	1,750,000	2,390,000	2,180,000	1,810,000	"
Quotations of 88% Beet:—	8s. 3½d.	14s. 4½d.	8s. 4½d.	8s. 4½d.	7s. 1½d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—West India yellow crystallised continues to meet with a good demand and considerable sales have been made on the basis of 15s. for average qualities. The general range of prices is from 14s. to 14s. 6d. for inferior grades, 14s. 9d. to 15s. 6d. for low to good yellow, with good to fine sugar 16s. to 17s. 6d. The value of dyed French beet is about 14s. 3d. The recent disturbances in Demerara have had a strengthening influence on the market. For 96° grey crystals 9s. 3d. on floating terms is about the value.

Molasses Sugar is in demand from 11s. to 14s. for low qualities to fair grocery. Large sales of Peruvian have been made at about 7s. 9d. on floating terms, basis 89.

Muscovado.—Some grocery kinds are wanted, and would command 15s. to 15s. 6d. The value of 89 test to Refiners is 8s. 3d. on floating terms.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905.	1904	1903	1902.	
Imports	37,000	39,000	22,000	58,000	Tons
Deliveries	38,000	45,000	39,000	41,000	"
Stocks	8800	7100	11,700	29,000	"
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	15s. 0d.	21s. 6d.	15s. 9d.	14s. 9d.	"

Rum.—Stocks in London:

	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Jamaica	7700	9400	9900	11,500	Puns
Demerara	4200	5000	5900	7000	"
Total of all kinds	19,675	21,530	3900	1855	"

The market remains steady with a fair business doing in Demerara from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2½d., and in Jamaica on the basis of 2s. 1d. for Standard Home Trade Marks. Leewards and other proof kinds are quoted 11d. to 1s. 3d.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902	
	62,000	82,000	50,000	61,000	Bags

The market is fully steady and an advance of 1s. has been established from the low prices recently current for Trinidad. Grenada and other West India remaining firm. The manufacturers are certainly buying more freely. At the close, quotations are as follows: Trinidad fair collected, 52s. Estate Marks, 52s. to 56s.; Grenada fair, 46s., fermented, 49s. to 52s. From other Islands, fair Native Cocoa is worth 45s. to 46s. and fermented 49s. to 52s.

Coffee.—Unchanged. Good ordinary Jamaica, 39s. to 40s.

Nutmegs.—Recent sales of West India include 102's at 6d., 105's at 5½d. to 6d., and 116's at 5½d. **Mace.**—Good pale sold at 1s. 5d., red, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. **Ginger.**—Quiet, and little passing. **Peppercorns.**—Slow. Fair, 2½d. to 3½d.

Arrowroot.—London figures since 1st January.

	1905.	1904	1903	1902	1901	
Imports	12,351	15,193	13,937	17,375	18,311	Brls
Deliveries	15,386	17,342	13,024	12,044	19,679	"
Stocks 30th Nov.	6435	10,437	13,164	13,050	6832	"

The continued absence of supplies in Importers hands of manufacturing qualities is causing buyers some alarm. It may be considered more than probable that when the first arrivals take place a price of 2d. will be obtained for this class of Arrowroot. Our stocks show a considerable deficiency as compared with the last three years.

Lime Juice.—Dull, at 9d. to 1s. Concentrated, unchanged, at £16. Hand Pressed, lower, value, 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. Distilled Oil, unchanged at 1s. 4d.

The . . .

West India Committee Circular

Vol. XX.

REGISTERED AT THE G. P. O.
AS A NEWSPAPER.

FRIDAY, DEC. 15th, 1905.

Subscription £1 1s. per annum, post free.
Single Copies 1/- Null edition, 1d.

No. 169.

OUR last special edition, giving the news received by the mail which was held over from our regular issue, appears to have been so generally appreciated that we propose to continue to publish this supplementary number. Several letters were received from the West Indies by occasional opportunities during the fortnight under review, but the bulk of our correspondence arrived by the R.M.S.P. Co.'s steamer "Atrato," which anchored at Southampton at 9 p.m. on Saturday, December 9th, the letters being delivered in London on the following Monday morning. Rain was still wanted for cultivation purposes when the mail left, though there was less cause for complaint in Jamaica and Grenada than in other islands. Complaints were numerous, especially from the smaller islands, with regard to the inconvenience caused by the abandonment of the mail contract. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Antigua—The Mail Service.

According to a letter from the HON. J. FREELAND FOOTE, dated November 18th, the smaller islands are quite alive to the present inconvenience and uncertainty of the mail service, and when the Legislative Councils met the matter would be taken up. Should the steamers at any time be diverted, the inconvenience would, indeed, be great.

Cotton was looking fairly well, but the caterpillars were more numerous than they had been since the industry was restarted in Antigua.

The King's birthday was celebrated in the Island, the most interesting event being the athletic sports of members of the defence forces. In the morning, the Acting Governor, His Excellency H. Hesketh Bell, reviewed the defence force and the police.

The weather continued showery, but Mr. Foote regretted that he could not report heavy rains, which were greatly needed.

Barbados—The Banana Conference.

Mr. T. W. WILKINSON, writing on November 25th, said it seemed as if they were going to have a regular fortnightly mail service once more, although as often as not both the outward and homeward boats reached Barbados late, and there was generally some uncertainty as to when the steamer for Southampton would leave.

The departure of the white troops which were stationed in the Colony took place on November 14th, and only a few members of the staff remained to close up the sale of the military properties. A good many of these had been disposed of, and among the purchasers must be mentioned the R.M.S.P. Co., who had acquired "Shot Hall," the residence of the C.R.F., and the buildings adjacent, as well as Engineer's Pier. This, it was understood, the Company intended extending, and they would establish a coaling station at the Island, so that their ships could coal alongside. This looked as if the Company were confident of being able to continue to serve the West Indies for some time, and they, in the Colony, still hoped that Barbados would again be made headquarters, for the transshipment at Trinidad was reported to be anything but satisfactory.

The Committee of banana growers, appointed to confer with Mr. Owen Philipps on the subject of the Banana industry, met at the Planters' Hall, on November 13th, when the Chairman of the R.M.S.P. Co. was introduced by Capt. Owen. The Hon. F. J. Clarke, Chairman of the Committee, pointed out the disadvantages under which they were sometimes compelled to ship their fruit, the result of which was that they often had some of it spoiled, on account of there being insufficient room in the cold storage department of some of the boats to take all of their shipment. Mr. Philipps thought that after he had consulted with Sir Daniel Morris, the best plan would be for his Company to make proposals which the Committee of growers could consider, and then definite arrangements could be made. Mr. Wilkinson had learnt from Captain Owen that it was proposed that three of the Company's new cargo ships should be fitted for cold storage to take 1,500 tons, and that the passenger steamers, fitted as they were now, should take away any surplus bananas between the larger shipments. If this were arranged, there seemed to be no obstacle to the industry being put on a sound basis, and it would be a great pity, now that it had been developed to such an extent, if it should be hampered by the lack of proper means of carriage. However, they relied on the R.M.S.P. Co. to give their requirements due consideration, and to supply a proper system of cold storage, which was the *sine qua non* of the banana industry.

There was some talk about passing a resolution through the House of Assembly, asking that the Imperial Depart-

ment of Agriculture might be continued for a short time after the expiration of the original term, in order that more complete data on the experiments now being conducted, might be obtained.

An extensive programme had been arranged, and was to be carried out on November 30th, to celebrate the tercentenary of British occupation. Among other things, two monuments were to be erected, one at Huletown and the other at Fontabelle, as near as possible to the spots where the English first landed and took possession of the Island. The full particulars are published in the papers.

The fortnight had not been as rainy as was the first week in November, but on the whole the month had been favourable. The canes, generally speaking, were in a good condition, and if the showers kept up they should make a good crop next year.

British Guiana—The State of the Crop.

When Mr. A. SUMMERSON closed his letter on November 21st, the sugar market was weak, and crystals were quoted at Br 73. The Bill respecting the East Coast Sea Defences would shortly be before the Court, and was likely to produce some discussion. The weather continued very dry, and cultivation had suffered considerably. They had a heavy shower in town on that day, but it was not thought to be general.

Dominica—The Market for Limes.

Mr. E. A. AGAR could only send a short and hurried letter, owing to the fact that the arrival of the mail boat had suddenly been put forward several hours, with the result that mails closed at 4.10 p.m. instead of the following morning. This was causing the greatest inconvenience.

The difficulty between the Government and the Town Board with regard to the electric light had been got over, and Roseau would shortly be lit by this means—a vast improvement on the existing oil lamps.

It was satisfactory that the efforts with regard to pushing limes were continuing to do good; small lots sent to London were realising fair prices.

Grenada—The Proposed Federation with St. Vincent.

In his letter of November 22nd, the Hon. D. S. DeFreitas stated that reports from the various parishes showed that the recent rains had had beneficial effects on the cocoa fields; the cocoa trees were blossoming freely, and pods were ripening apace. Most of the estates toward the coast had produced as many bags as they yielded at the corresponding period of last year, and the high-lying estates were much in advance of last crop, when, however, they did deplorably badly. The rainfall for October was 9.93 inches. Nutmegs had fallen in price in New York, to which market cheaper freight had attracted a large proportion of their spice, and their cocoa also.

At a recent meeting of the Legislative Council, Sir Robert Dlewelyn, in reply to their interrogatory, made reference to the proposed union of St. Vincent and Grenada in a tone from which might be confidently drawn a hopeful augury that public feeling would be yielded to. The public mind remained unshaken in its opposition to the proposed union.

Jamaica—The Montego Bay Central Factory.

As it was reported that the Canadian Government had extended the time for the consideration of their tariff, Mr. J. L. ASHENHEIM had written to ask the Hon. Mr. Fielding what further time he could allow Jamaica for sending her delegate. The weather for the time of year was unusually warm, but on the whole the rainfall had been fairly good.

A public meeting of those interested in the Montego Bay Central Sugar Factory had been held. The Canadians were stated to be willing to find the capital for the Factory, provided the necessary acreage was guaranteed, and the bonds given locally. More than half the required acreage was promised.

The Revenue returns for the first half of the financial year showed fairly satisfactory results, and it was expected that the receipts for the balance of the year would more than come up to expectations.

Keen interest had been aroused regarding the question of the utilisation of banana fibre. Exhaustive experiments had been made in the United States, and rope and paper of excellent quality had been manufactured. A company with a capital of \$250,000 had been formed in Boston, and arrangements were being made for the establishment of the first local factory in the neighbourhood of Port Maria.

The Island Chemist, Mr. Cousins, had reported most favourably on the Calder cooler and locked safe attachment to the still at Denbigh. Not only was security from depredation guaranteed, but the running of the still rendered to a great extent automatic, while the spirit was satisfactorily cooled. The gang of rum thieves which had formerly infested the estate had left for a neighbouring and more congenial location. The total expense of the installation, supposed to have been carried out at the cost of the Board of Agriculture, was £378 11s. 1d., but of this the "locked safe" only cost £27. Considerable misunderstanding, which had led to the resignation of several members of the Board, had arisen as to this expenditure, the Board of Agriculture sanctioning an expenditure of £300 for the purpose, while it subsequently appeared that Mr. Olivier—the then acting-governor—had prior to his leaving the Island only authorised the expenditure of £30 for the "locked safe." A letter from Mr. Calder had appeared in the *Gleaner*, giving the grounds for dissatisfaction on the part of the dissentient members of the Board, and Mr. Olivier's explanation of the circumstances which had led to the misunderstanding had also been published. The latter the Board considered satisfactory in so far as Mr. Olivier had intended no discourtesy to the Board, and believed he was carrying out the intentions of that body.

Montserrat—The Cotton Crop.

MR. CONRAD WATSON, in his letter of November 20th, reports that Mr. T. Thornton, the cotton expert, visited Montserrat on November 11th, and spoke very favourably of the condition of the industry of the Island. The caterpillars were abundant, and were causing some anxiety.

The weather for some time past had been most favourable, and cotton fields which at one time presented a hopeless appearance now gave promise of good returns.

Nevis—Cotton Growers willing to Learn.

Mr. Thomas Thornton, the Travelling Inspector in connection with cotton investigations attached to the Imperial Department of Agriculture, had paid a flying visit to Nevis, and the HON. C. A. SHAND, in his letter of November 18th, reports that he visited most parts of the Island where cotton was growing. On Friday, November 10th, he addressed a small but representative meeting of cotton growers at the Court House on various points of interest connected with the new industry, and the audience would have been larger if it had been possible to give longer notice.

The rules and regulations, together with prize list, for an Agricultural Show to be held in Nevis on January 18th, 1906, had just been sent to Barbados for Sir Daniel Morris's approval. By means of the prizes it was hoped that encouragement would be given to the poorer cultivators who adopted proper methods of cultivation. Every day he had peasants coming up and showing by their enquiries, &c. that they realised the advantages to be gained by a proper system. He himself had done all he could to show these people that they had their means of salvation in their own hands, and never grudged any time that could be given to raise them above their former level. He felt sure that Nevis, with judicious management, would once more become a paying part of the Presidency.

The weather since last mail had been on the whole favourable, but during the past few days no rain had fallen, and as it was essential for the late planted cotton that showers should continue up to the end of the year, without which there would be little hope of even a moderate output, everyone was beginning to feel a trifle anxious.

St. Kitts—The Crops Improve.

MR. CHAS. A. SMITH, writing on November 18th, stated that Sir Robert Bromley, the Administrator, arrived at the Colony by the last mail, and was accorded a cordial reception by all classes on landing.

The Circuit Court was now sitting, and had a fairly long charge sheet to deal with, including a brutal murder. The weather for the past two weeks had been exceptionally dry for November, but after the previous good rains it had apparently only induced further growth in the crops, which had an excellent appearance.

St. Vincent—The Mail Question

Referring to the mail question, Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co. stated in their letter of November 22nd that everyone in the Colony recognised the necessity for a regular contract mail service, and the danger they were exposed to of the steamers at present performing the service being diverted from the regular route, involving incalculable inconvenience, to say nothing of the absolute loss to merchants and others. They hoped, therefore, that the time was not far off when His Majesty's Government would give some ear to the representatives from the West Indian Colonies of their desire for a renewal of the mail contract.

The Governor had visited St. Vincent to get the views of the people on the question of union with Grenada, and the result might be seen from the newspapers.

The arrowroot crop had now begun, and digging and manufacturing were pretty general. Cotton was also being picked on some estates, and the outlook for the latter was very good. There might not be quite so much in cultivation as last year, but with more experience as to the proper time of planting, and the selecting of lands most suited for growing cotton, they looked for better results this coming season.

Trinidad—Cocoa Shipments.

MR. G. T. FENWICK, C.M.G., writing on November 25th, informed us that the Labour Committee's report was nearly completed. The Secretary of State's despatch on the subject of the sale of Crown Lands was received by the Governor a fortnight previously, and would doubtless be laid before the Council at its next meeting. With regard to Local Road Boards, attention was called to the enquiry into the working of the Diego Martin Board, the proceedings being reported verbatim in the local newspapers of November 2nd to November 21st.

Affairs in Venezuela did not appear to improve. At that moment the disagreement with France was the principal political question. President Castro seemed to be very skilful in playing one great power against another.

A great deal of rain had fallen during the fortnight in the northern and eastern districts, but towards the south the earlier part of the time was rather too dry for the season of the year. For the past three or four days heavy showers appeared to have been general throughout the Colony. Canes promised well everywhere.

A considerable amount of cocoa was now coming in, but in spite of large deliveries the local market remained very firm, possibly in view of the reports that little or no cocoa would be available for the months of January/February. The U.S.A. still continued to be a large buyer of the fine estates qualities, and the prices realised remained much above the parity of the London market.

Sales of fine estates for December/January, had been made at 55s. C. & F. Havre, and mixed estates at 51s. 6d. A stronger tone had also been imparted to the Continental market and the limits from there had been raised by about 1s. Contracts for Ordinary had been made at 50s. Venezuelan qualities had been excessively scarce and much sought after. The small lots arriving having been eagerly purchased at high prices and fine qualities might be quoted at \$12.50 per fanega. The weather had been favourable to growing crops during the past fortnight, but the rains had somewhat retarded drying operations. In order to maintain the continuity of Mr. Fenwick's reports of shipments, which were unavoidably held over for the last two months, we give them below, together with the latest obtainable.

		Cocoa Shipments.			
		Bags	Trinidad.		
Total at last report	...	179,634	..	29,564	Venezuelan
Oct. 4 S.S. "Prins Maurits."	...	600	"	188	Europe.
" 5 S.S. "Trent"	...	184	"	—	Europe.
" 11 S.S. "Croatia"	...	500	"	50	Europe.
" 11 S.S. "Maraval"	...	655	"	787	New York
" 14 S.S. "Tagus"	...	75	"	—	New York.
" 14 S.S. "Ocamo"	...	10	"	10	Canada.
" 16 S.S. "P. Willem III"	...	120	"	—	New York.
" 18 S.S. "P. der Nederlanden"	...	456	"	—	Europe
Totals to date	...	182,234	..	30,599	Venezuelan.

Total at last report ...	...	182,234	Bags	Trinidad.	30,599	Venezuelan.
Oct 23 S.S. "Venezuela" ...	...	100	"	"	—	Europe
" 25 S.S. "Orinoco" ...	...	—	"	"	377	Europe
" 26 S.S. "Grenada" ...	...	1,982	"	"	294	New York
" 28 S.S. "Orinoco" ...	...	10	"	"	10	Europe
" 31 S.S. "P. Fred Hendrik" ...	...	375	"	"	—	Europe
Nov 1 S.S. "Eleonora" ...	...	30	"	"	—	Europe
" 1 S.S. "St. Germain" ...	...	583	"	"	240	Europe
" 2 S.S. "P. Willem IV" ...	...	695	"	"	42	Europe
" 2 S.S. "Severn" ...	...	14	"	"	—	Europe
" 6 S.S. "Maracas" ...	...	2,173	"	"	195	New York
Totals to date ...	...	188,196	"	Trinidad	31,757	Venezuelan
Totals at last report ...	...	188,196	Bags	Trinidad ...	31,757	Venezuelan.
Nov 17 S.S. "Hungaria" ...	...	2,500	"	"	—	Europe
" 13 S.S. "La Plata" ...	...	89	"	"	—	Europe
" S.S. "Tagus" ...	...	683	"	"	—	Europe
" S.S. "P. Willem V" ...	...	644	"	"	100	Europe
" 14 S.S. "Serrana" ...	...	152	"	"	—	Europe
" 16 S.S. "Prins Willem II." ...	...	676	"	"	66	Europe
" 16 S.S. "Maraval" ...	...	3,017	"	"	416	New York
" 18 S.S. "Centro America" ...	...	650	"	"	—	New York.
Totals to date ...	...	196,607	"	Trinidad.	32,339	Venezuelan

Mr. EDGAR TRIPP, writing on November 25th, again pointed out that the uncertainty as to the time of arrival and departure of the steamers caused much inconvenience, and it was time that a decision was arrived at with regard to the £15,000 recommended by the Chamber of Commerce.

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) Dec. 9th. "Finer weather since last message, generally acceptable." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Dec. 9th. "Heavy rains generally."
Jamaica, week ended Nov. 29th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "23rd, rain; 24th to 25th, fine; 26th to 29th, rain." **KINGSTON**: "23rd, rain; 24th to 27th, fine; 28th, rain; 29th, fine."

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.	British Guiana.	Jamaica.	Trinidad.	Grenada.
	Jan 1 to Nov. 6 1905	Jan 1 to Nov. 20 1905	April 1 to Nov. 11 1905	Jan 1 to Nov. 25 1905	Oct. 1 to Nov. 23 1905
Sugar ...	38,951 57,018 Tons.	75,517 77,404 Tons.	7194 6045 Tons.	280,329 385,537 Bgs. & Brls	...
Molasses ...	38,651 44,844 Pns.	2471 2332 Puns.	...	2887 2408 Puns. 178 30 Tns. 165 59 Brls	...
Rum	13,424 15,483 "	762,505 916,185 Galls	...	...
Molascuit	7615 5445 Tons.	...	349 520 Puns.	...
Cocoa	49,147 103,076 lbs.	17,680 14,932 Cwts	37,469,855 36,802,450 lbs.	4326 7341
Coffee	14,295 15,358 "	11,930 63,435 "	...
Coconuts	252,977 279,540	3,290,752 1,563,520	9,833,217 8,230,732	...
Copra	9895 14,664 bags.	...
Cotton	38,484 8,516 lbs.	...	...
Cotton Seed	101,653 122,879 Tons	...
Asphalt
Oranges	55,035,688 61,177,181	...	...
Bananas	10,973,500 5,279,076 lbs.	...	...
Pimento	58,629 91,548 Cwts.	...	...
Spice	1161 1321 Brls.
Gold	79,683 75,521 ozs.	...	...	151 182 1/2 Brls.
Diamonds	4606 10,353 CARATS	...	...	90 120 Cases
					26 96 Bags

Homeward Passengers.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Atrato" (Capt. R. H. Stranger) Dec. 9th:—
Barbados—Mrs. B. Crimp, Mr. Skeete, Capt. J. W. Couch, Mr. Longfield Smith, Mrs. Pipon, Miss Porter, Mrs. Kerr, Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, Miss Tipping, Miss Shankland, Lieut. F. S. G. Tucker. **Dominica**—E. Johnson, Antonio Fernandes. **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. Hartley. **Trinidad**—Mr. O. Lewis, Mr. F. Rouberol, Mr. N. G. Hackney, Mr. A. Lyon. **St. Lucia**—Staff-Sergt. Edge, Staff-Sergt. Todd, Staff-Sergt. Dodd, Sergt. Percy, Mr. G. F. W. Sampson, Mr. R. Kislisbury.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XX.

REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O.
AS A NEWSPAPER.

FRIDAY, DEC. 22nd, 1905.

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OUR CELEBRITIES

No LVII



The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine,

K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

matters of cultivation, by adoption of improvements in manufacture and economic systems of

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SERPENTINE LANE, LONDON.

Dec. 21th, 1905

Telegram: "CARIB. LONDON." Telephone: 6622 CENTRAL.

It once more becomes our pleasurable duty to wish our Members the compliments of the season. Christmas will have passed when this issue of *The West India Committee Circular* is in the hands of our Colonial readers, and they will already have embarked upon the new year, 1906, which will, we hope, be one of prosperity and happiness. West Indians have passed through a trying time, and the fact that many have done so with flying colours shows that there is something more than life in the old dog yet, and that they possess grit and determination in no small degree which have served them in good stead. We imagine that it is unique in the history of any manufacturing industry to have succeeded in combatting unequal odds and unfair competition for such a prolonged period as the sugar industry has, and those who have emerged successfully from the conflict may well be congratulated. They must not yet hang up their armour, but continue to be watchful for the future, and by constant care in

control, by being ever on the path of progress to strengthen their position still further. Though these remarks apply more especially to the Sugar Industry they are equally applicable to those interested in subsidiary industries, though, perhaps, to a lesser degree, sugar being the only really great manufacturing industry of the West Indies. And to producers of cocoa, coffee, cotton and spices, the same advice may be extended. It is only by care in cultivation, selection, and eradication of disease, as the case may be, that the best results can be attained. But we are straying from our original intention, which was to convey to our readers, as we do now, our cordial good wishes and our hopes that they may be favoured with good luck and prosperity during the year 1906!

THE expiration of the term for which the grant for the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies was made is approaching, and in view of the important position which that institution now occupies in the economy of those Colonies, the question of urging its renewal will shortly become a prominent one. When the government scheme of relief based on the report of the Royal Commission of 1897 on the depression in the West Indies, was introduced by MR. CHAMBERLAIN, and adopted by the House of Commons on August 2nd of the following year, it was felt that the measures proposed, among which the establishment of the Department of Agriculture held a principal position, were not an adequate substitute for the abolition of the sugar bounties, either by countervailing duties or by prohibition, which was looked upon, and properly so, as being the only course calculated permanently to restore the prosperity and credit of the West Indies; and in the disappointment which was felt, the Department of Agriculture and its able head, SIR DANIEL MORRIS, undoubtedly did not receive at the time the support which the work it has since carried out has shown it to be entitled to. It was felt, and excusably so, that bread had been asked for, and if not exactly a stone, little more than a crust was given instead. Six years have, however, now elapsed, and that feeling soon became a thing of the past. The abolition of the Continental sugar bounties is restoring the industrial and commercial equanimity of the West Indian Colonies, and it has enabled not only the work of the Department to be appreciated, but general support given to its operations. Its excellence is now so well-known that it is unnecessary to review the work that has been done by the Department since its inception in 1899. It has carried on the investigation which had already been started in Barbados by Prof. J. B. HARRISON and MR. J. R. BOVELL in the direction of improvement in cane cultivation by systematic propagation and selection of seedling canes, and if the ideal cane has not yet been discovered, or the somewhat sanguine pronouncements of the early days of the Department entirely realised, great advance has undoubtedly been made, and in Barbados as well as other of the Islands, varieties of canes are now cultivated as the result, directly or indirectly, of the work of the Department, which in their yield and resistance to disease have been of the greatest advantage to the planter. Manurial experiments on an exhaustive scale have also been carried out. The so-called minor industries, fruit, vegetables and economic products, have been developed, and the small proprietors assisted and encouraged materially, while the agricultural education of the youth of the masses has been successfully taken in hand, with results which cannot but bear the best of fruit in coming years. But perhaps the work which the Department is most to be congratulated upon has been the introduction, or rather re-introduction, of cotton growing, the increasingly satisfactory results of which have been reported from time to time in *The West India Committee Circular*, and which promises to be an industry of profit and importance in the near future. In these circumstances, the question of the continuance of the Department becomes one of the greatest moment. It is not too much to say that its discontinuance would, to the smaller islands especially, be little short of a calamity. It remains then for the West Indies as a whole

seriously to consider what steps should be taken to secure the maintenance of this organisation on the lines which have proved acceptable to the great majority of the industrial communities in the West Indies.

In the present issue of *The West India Committee Circular* we give the concluding portion of the article dealing with the recent interesting discovery of documents belonging to the West India Committee at the Bank of England. It will be seen that we have been fortunate in obtaining a portrait of Mr. Beeston Long, Chairman of the West India Committee in the year 1799. This eminent West India merchant was also Chairman of the London Dock Company, and Vice-President of the Marine Society, at whose offices the West India Committee was in the habit of meeting at that time. By degrees we are piecing together the history of the West India Committee, and we would take this opportunity of asking Members to look up their family archives and assist us by communicating to the Secretary at 15, Seething Lane, copies of any papers they may find among them relating to the West India Committee. In the present issue a list of the names of the most prominent West India merchants is given, and there must be many of our readers who are in a position to help us by telling the present titles of such of these firms as are still in existence. To such as do this we shall be extremely grateful.

The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.G., G.C.S.F., G.C.F.E.

Lord Elgin, who succeeds Mr. Alfred Lyttelton as Secretary of State for the Colonies, was educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford, and the fact that he held the important position of Viceroy of India from 1894 to 1899 makes it evident that he is acquainted with the conditions of the tropical possessions of the Empire, and that he is gifted with administrative powers of no small extent. His appointment will, we think, be well received in the West Indies, where several complex questions still remain to be solved. At any rate, he should be a warm adherent of immigration from India to the West Indies, and it is interesting to record that it was at the termination of his vice-royalty that the Indian Tariff Act was amended, imposing countervailing duties on bounty fed sugar.

Roseau, Dominica.

Our full page illustration this week represents Roseau, the chief town of Dominica. It was here that Père Labat, at the close of the seventeenth century, met Madame Oüvernard, a pure blooded Carib, the Queen of the Island, who was then 100 years old, and presented to her a couple of bottles of *eau de vie*. The streets are wide and paved with cobbles. The houses are for the most part constructed of wood, and the best of them mostly face the sea. The surrounding country of hill and valley, thickly-wooded and watered, presents to the eye scenery of surpassing beauty and charm.

New Members of the West India Committee.

At a meeting of the Executive, held on Thursday, December 14th, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
CARL A. METZGEN, ESQ. (B. Honduras)	Hon. A. R. Usher.	W. B. P. Shepheard, Esq.
MESSRS. HANDS & KELLY	W. P. B. Shepheard, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
E. H. CUNNINGHAM-CRAIG, ESQ. (Trinidad)	C. S. Rogers, Esq.	W. M. Gordon, Esq.
H. CARACCILOLO, ESQ. (Trinidad)	Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
F. H. COPLAND, ESQ. (Grenada)	Hon. D. S. De Freitas.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.

Name.	Proposer.	Secunder.
E. H. G. DALTON, ESQ.	Sir Henry K. Davson.	Mewburn Garnett, Esq.
THORNTON LEVY, ESQ.	Edward Anderson, Esq.	Edward Kynaston, Esq.
J. HICKS BRATT, ESQ.	Allan E. Messer, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson.

As a new list of Members will be issued early in the new year it is hoped that Members will notify the Secretary of any change of their address immediately. Full particulars regarding Membership and Candidates' forms can be obtained of the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

The West Indian Club Dinner.

Sir Alfred L. Jones presided at the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club, on Wednesday, December 13th. After dinner the first round of the Annual Billiard Tournament was commenced, and Sir Alfred, as donor of the Billiard Trophy, which has to be won three years in succession before it becomes the property of the winner, promised that when the cup had been won outright he would be pleased to supply another cup or as many as might be required. There was a large attendance and amongst those present were:—Mr. E. Alberga, Mr. J. Arnold, Mr. A. E. Aspinall, Mr. J. Hicks Bratt, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. Harold de Pass, Mr. A. Dexter, Mr. H. H. Etheridge, Mr. A. Elder, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. P. C. Harel, Mr. A. Hirsch, Mr. L. F. Hudson, Mr. H. A. Hood-Daniel, Dr. V. E. McDonough, Mr. H. Meinhardt, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. F. J. Morris, Mr. A. M. Nathan, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. H. Powell Rees, Mr. Percival Sharpe, Mr. H. O. Smith, Mr. H. D. Swan, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. Charles Wilson, Mr. J. S. West and Mr. T. B. Younger.

An Interesting Find of Documents.

(Concluded from page 491).

In order to give effect to the proposals for the loans to the West India merchants which were agreed to by the Bank of England, as recorded in our last issue; the following Sub-Committee was appointed:—Sir Richard Neave, Bart., Beeston Long, Esq., William Manning, Esq., Charles Bosanquet, Esq., William Vaughan, Esq., Nathaniel Bogle French, Esq., Henry Davidson, Esq., Samuel Boddington, Esq., David Lyon, Esq., Grant Allan, Esq., David Wedderburn, Esq., Samuel Turner, Esq., and Thomas Plummer, Esq. These "most eminent Merchants" were authorised to receive from the respective Houses in the Trade an account of their stock of Produce on Hand, verified in the manner already described, and it was resolved that "to such West India Houses, as in consequence of the present and still apprehended stagnation in the demand for West Indian Produce, shall require an extraordinary temporary aid from the Bank of England, the said Committee after close investigation shall give respectively a certificate addressed to the Governor of the Bank of England to the following purport"—

.....
 being, in consequence of the perfect Stagnation in the Demand for West-India Produce, in want of a temporary Accommodation from the BANK OF ENGLAND, WE HEREBY CERTIFY, That from Vouchers this Day produced to us, it appears, that..... now produce in Possession, unfold; which, agreeably to the Rates of Valuation arranged with the BANK OF ENGLAND may entitle to the Accommodation at present request; amounting in the Whole to upon producing to the GOVERNOR, DEPUTY-GOVERNOR, and DIRECTORS of the BANK OF ENGLAND, adequate Securities to that Amount.

London, 1799.

With these instructions before them the Sub-Committee speedily got to work, meeting at the Marine Society's Office on October 5th, 1799. Its first act was to pass a resolution pledging each Member to "preserve the most inviolable secrecy in respect of its proceedings" in view of the delicate nature of the objects of its appointment. At first the Sub-Committee met every day from half-past one until half-past two, Saturday excepted, three Members forming a quorum, and Mr. Allen, Secretary of the West India Committee, acted as Secretary *pro tem.*; but he was succeeded on the 8th by Mr. Holden, who was recommended to the Committee as a proper person to be their Secretary. It soon became clear that the business to be transacted would be less than was anticipated, and the applications for accommodation were comparatively small in extent. For the convenience of the Sub-Committee, a list was drawn up by Mr. Allen of such persons who usually contributed to the general fund of the West India body under the denomination of trade, and this list is so interesting that we may be excused for reproducing it in full:—

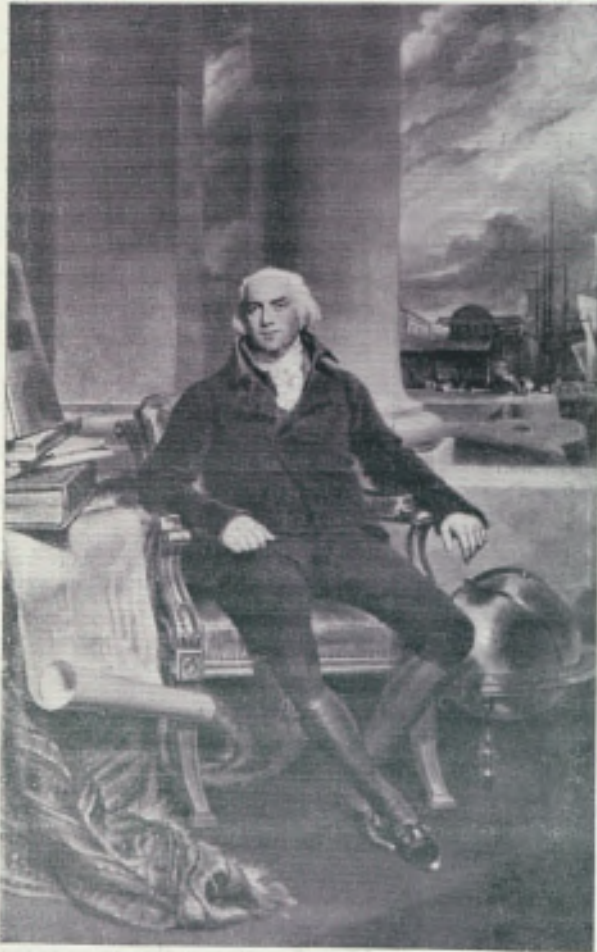
Rawson Aislable, Esq.
Messrs Andersons
Messrs George Abel & Son
Messrs Allan & Dewar
Messrs George Baillie & Co.
Saml. Boddington, Esq.
Messrs Bolt & Higgin
Messrs Beckford & Keighley
Messrs Geo Blackman & Co
John Bond, Esq.
Messrs Boyd, Benfield & Co
Messrs Bourdieu & Co.
Duncan Campbell, Esq.
Justinian Casamajor, Esq.
Messrs Coles & Co
Messrs Davidson & Graham
George Douglas, Esq.
Messrs John Deffell & Co.
Messrs Thomas Daniel & Co.
Quintin Dick, Esq.
Messrs Elliott, Walley & Adams
Messrs Edwards & Co
Messrs S & K. Fuller
Messrs French & Co
Simon Fraser, Esq.
Thomas Gowland, Esq.
Edmund Green, Esq.
S. Groombridge, Esq.

Richard Lee, Esq.
Messrs Latham & Son
Messrs Lushington & Mavor
Messrs Luard & Co
Messrs Law, Bruce & Co.
Messrs D. H. Mitchell & Co
Messrs Manning, Anderdon & Co.
Messrs Milligan & Mitchell
Messrs Maitlands
Sir Richd Neave, Bart. and
Thos Neave, Esq.
Messrs Nesbitt & Stewart
Thomas Oliver, Esq.
William Oldham, Esq.
Messrs Plummer & Barham
Samuel Proudfoot, Esq.
John Price, Esq.
Messrs Robt & Wm Pulsford
Messrs J. A. & D. H. Ruckers
Messrs Rutherford & Wagstaff
Shorland Swanston, Esq.
John Sims, Esq.
Messrs Simpson & Davidson
David Samuda, Esq.
Samuel Turner, Esq.
Marmaduke Trattle, Esq.
Messrs Thwaites & Wheelwright
Messrs Col. Turner & Co

Messrs Hibberts & Co
Peter Hankey, Esq.
John Hodgson, Esq.
Messrs Harrison & Co
Henry Jackson, Esq.
Robert Ingram, Esq.
Godschall Johnson, Esq.
Messrs Kensington & Co
Messrs Kirwan
Messrs Long, Drake & Co
David Lyon, Esq.
Messrs Lindo, Aguilar & Dias
Messrs George Tarbutt & Son
Messrs Timperon, Litt & Harrison
Messrs Todd & Co
Messrs Tyers & Co
Messrs Thellussons
Messrs Taylor & Renny
William Vaughan, Esq.
Edward Vaux, Esq.
Henry Wildman, Esq.
Messrs Wedderburns, Webster
& Co
Jacob Wilkinson, Esq.
John Wigston, Esq.
Messrs John Willis & Co
Alexander Willock, Esq.

The Sub-Committee met regularly until November 5th, when at the suggestion of Mr. Samuel Boddington the meetings on Tuesdays and Fridays were dispensed with. Later on a difficulty arose, and the merchants found that they could not obtain the effectual relief from the Bank of England unless their clear and indisputable lien on the produce could be rendered acceptable as security to persons of credit, whose notes so secured might be discounted at the Bank. A case was submitted to Counsel and an opinion was given by A. Piggott, Edward Law and Vicary Gibbs on November 15th, from which it is shown that a factor could not make a transfer of produce in his hands which would be free from all possible legal objection, by any mode short of an absolute sale, and this it was desired to avoid. It was accordingly proposed that the lien of the factor upon the produce he offered to pledge should be made to appear to the satisfaction of the Committee, who would appoint out of their own body three members as trustees to receive a transfer of, and to take possession of, the property and to grant the needful certificates for the security of the notes to be discounted. To this the Bank of England agreed, provided that the names tendered to the Court were deemed adequate for the sums applied for, and the Bank requested that Sir Richard Neave, Mr. Beeston Long and Mr. Manning might be trustees to receive possession of the goods. This arrangement appears to have worked satisfactorily. The last meeting of the Committee was held on July 30th, 1800, and a report was adopted in

which the Committee had the satisfaction of stating that the aggregate amount of the several loans required from the Bank had fallen very far short of the sum that was at first imagined would be found necessary, and it appeared that this measure had not only been beneficial to the parties who had



Beeston Long, Esq.

Mr. Beeston Long was Chairman of the West India Committee in 1799, when the transactions with the Bank of England referred to in this issue, took place. He was also Chairman of the London Dock Company, to whose successors, the London and India Docks Company, we are indebted for the loan of the engraving from which this reproduction is made. The picture was painted by William Owen, R.A., and engraved by S. W. Reynolds, and the plate was presented to Mr. Beeston Long by the Directors of the London Dock Company as a testimony of their regard and esteem, and in recognition of his indefatigable zeal and attention to the affairs of the Company as their Chairman. The plate was published on June 10th, 1817.

immediate occasion for assistance, but that it had likewise an essential effect on the general state of West Indian credit by enabling the West Indian merchants to retain their goods until a renewal of the demand afforded an opportunity for sale. Those persons who had occasion to apply through the medium of the Committee for advances of money had been accommodated at various times during that period, but it would appear that so few availed themselves of the assistance of the Bank that the total amount paid over was only £60,390 on vouchers of produce valued at £241,240.

At a meeting of the West India Committee on the 15th of August, 1800, Mr. Beeston Long reported that an Act had been passed last session allowing the bounty and drawback on sugar, provided the average price did not exceed 75s. the cwt., the average to be taken six weeks preceding November 10th, and permitting the duty on sugar to be bonded six months on or before September 10th, and for three months between September 10th and March 10th, this Act to expire on May 10th next. The report of the Sub-Committee was adopted unanimously, and a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors of the Bank of England for their ready acquiescence to the application of the meeting for a temporary loan, which had been of essential service to the West India trade at that particular juncture. Such Directors of the Bank of England as were members of the West India Committee were requested to present the same, and this resolution was accompanied by a second, thanking the Sub-Committee for their unremitting attention at all times, and the business was thus concluded.

The Queensland Sugar Industry.

The Melbourne correspondent of the *Financier* gives some interesting particulars regarding the sugar industry of the Australian Commonwealth. The Federal Government propose to raise the Excise duty on Australian grown sugar produced by black labour from £3 to £4 per ton, while

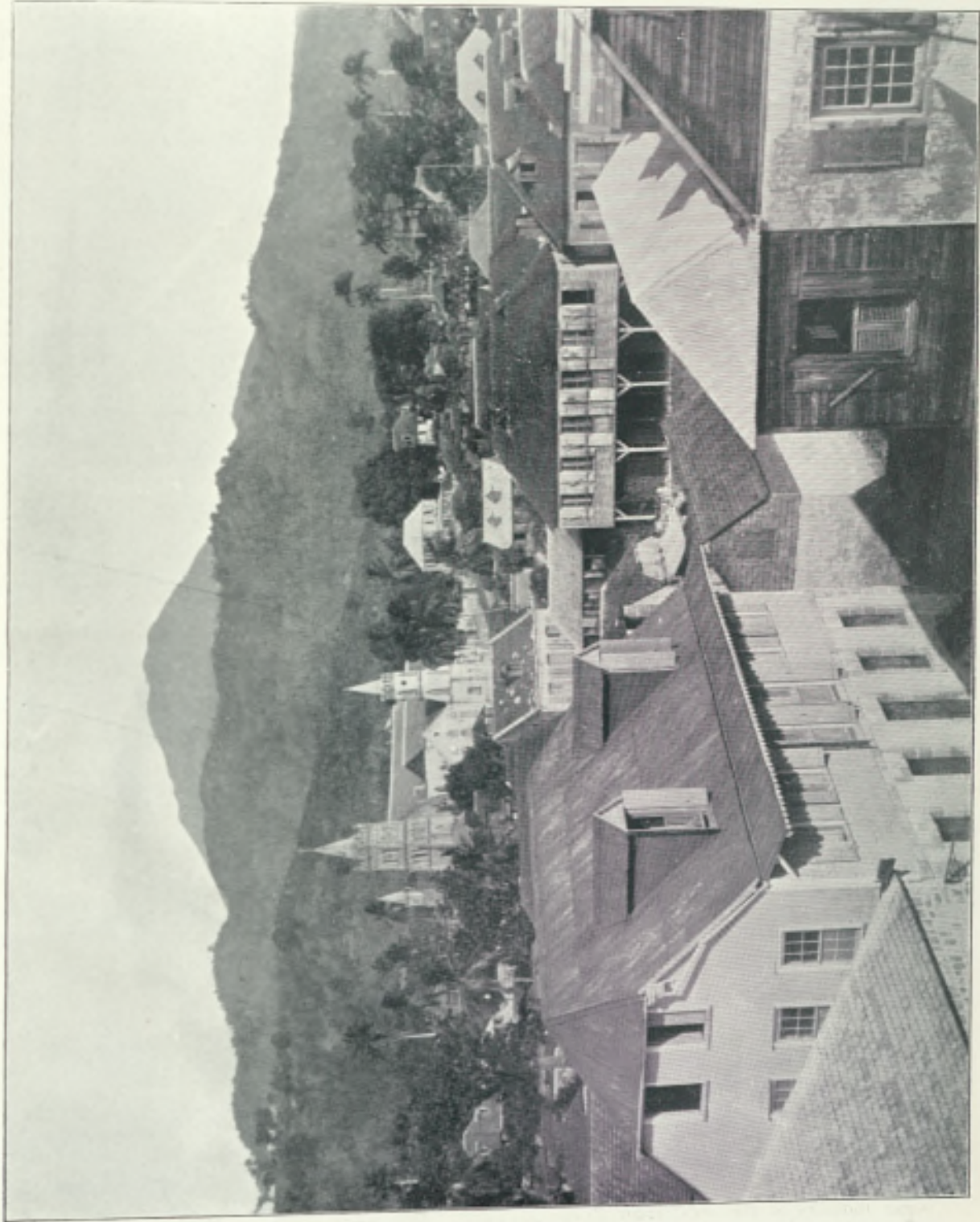


Photo by Alexander E. Inglis

[Copyrights]

ROSEAU, DOMINICA.

increasing the bounty on sugar grown by white labour from £2 to £3 per ton. According to the estimates of production and importation given in Sir John Forrest's late Budget, the revenue under the proposed change will work out thus for the financial year 1905-6:—

	Tons.	Duty.
Imported sugar	17,500	£93,000
Australian sugar	171,500	686,000
Gross revenue		£779,000
Deduct £3 per ton bounty		218,515
Net revenue		£560,485

On the old scale of Excise and bounty, the result on an equal estimate of tonnage would be:—

	Duty.
Imported sugar	£93,000
Australian sugar	514,500
	£607,500
Deduct £2 per ton bounty	146,000
Net revenue	£461,500

According to the above figures, the revenue will be increased by nearly £100,000. Should the reduction of protective duty from £3 to £2—the difference between the Excise and import duty—cause increased importation, the amount of benefit to revenue will be proportionately greater. Growers who employ black labour will, however, pay £1 per ton more Excise, while growers using white labour pay £1 per ton more in Excise, and receive £1 per ton more in bounty. Yet black labour produces more than ever without bounties. Up to the present it is not black grown, but imported sugar which has been beaten out of the market, at a very large cost to revenue.

The *Mackay Mercury* also gives the following agricultural details in connection with the above industry. The area under sugar amounted to 120,317 acres, or an increase of 10 per cent. on the previous year, the total area harvested being 82,741 acres, or an increase of 30 per cent. The latter yielded 147,688 tons of raw sugar as against 91,828 tons in 1903, being the highest but one on record. The less proportion harvested in 1903 was small on account of the drought conditions, a large amount of cane having been sold as seed for stock during that year. Last year 16.04 tons of cane per acre were yielded, as against 13.65 in the previous year, and an average of 14.38 tons. The sugar per acre was 1.78 tons, as compared with 1.52 tons in 1903, and an average of 1.57 tons. The price paid for raw sugars last year was £12 10s. 11d. per ton, as against £11 3s. 3d. in 1903. This included a bonus of apparently £2 10s. 8d. and £1 14s. 3d., the price actually paid by the refiners being £10 0s. 3d. and £9 9s. respectively.

British Grown Cotton.

The annual banquet of the British Cotton Growing Association was held on December 11th, at the Midland Hotel, when Sir Alfred L. Jones presided over a large gathering, which included the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Mr. Arthur J. Balfour, M.P., the Duke of Marlborough, Sir W. H. Houldsworth, M.P., Sir F. Forbes Adams, Sir Alfred Sharp, Sir Walter Egerton, Sir Ralph Moor, Col. C. M. Royds, M.P., Mr. E. B. Feilden, M.P., Mr. F. Cawley, M.P., Mr. H. Whiteley, M.P., Mr. J. Rutherford, M.P., Mr. C. E. Schwann, M.P., Mr. J. G. Groves, M.P., Mr. J. Arthur Hutton, Mr. J. E. Newton, Mr. H. F. Previtè, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary of the West India Committee, Mr. W. Howarth, Mr. C. M. Wolstenholme, Mr. W. Eckersley, Mr. E. Lomas Oliver, and Mr. J. C. Atkins, F.S.A., Secretary.

In the course of the evening, Mr. Balfour said that the best way to put the cotton industry of the United Kingdom on a sound foundation was to ensure a large supply of raw material. The benefits of the work of the Association were not confined to the United Kingdom but reached to the whole of the British Empire and the world at large. We owned a vast area of land of infinite fertility where the white man could not work except indeed in the position of overseer and as expert, and what we had to consider was how it might be turned to the best account for the inhabitants. The Association was one which should receive general support, not only in Lancashire. Every thing we could do for the purpose of increasing the area over which cotton is grown must be of benefit.

The Duke of Marlborough proposing the toast of the "British Cotton Growing Association," referred to the great progress which the West Indies had made, but said that it was to Africa, and more particularly West Africa to which he looked with more interest than to any other parts. Mr. J. Arthur Hutton in reply said that subscriptions were coming in every day, and that



The Medal for Excellence in Cotton Cultivation.

The above is a reproduction of the medal to be awarded by Sir Alfred Jones, K.C.M.G., to planters in the West Indies.

they now amounted to nearly £220,000, but that they would not rest until they got the £500,000 they wanted. He announced that Sir Alfred Jones had consented to present the following medals for excellence in cotton cultivation: Barbados, 2 gold and 2 silver; St. Vincent, 2 gold and 2 silver; St. Kitts-Nevis, 3 gold and 3 silver; Antigua, 2 gold and 3 silver; Montserrat, 1 gold and 1 silver; Virgin Islands, 1 silver; Jamaica, 1 gold and 2 silver; Carriacou, 2 silver, and Tobago, 1 silver, or 11 gold and 17 silver medals in all.

We are glad to be able to report that a fair business has recently been done in Sea Island cotton, and prices are firm, with a likelihood of continuance, owing to the Florida crop being of poorer quality this season, and spinners will have to purchase Carolinas or West Indian Sea Island. In Savannah and Charleston, there has been an active season for all qualities, and buyers have paid full prices, and in some cases higher figures for desirable parcels. The last Census Bureau report stated that about 64,000 bales of Sea Island cotton had been ginned up to November 14th, which was rather more than last year, but it is generally thought that ginning will finish earlier this season than last.

During the fortnight ended December 14th, 66 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.85d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb.

Coolie Immigration.

As a result of certain statements made by the Hon. Walter Rothschild in a speech at Edlesborough on November 24th, the following letter was addressed by the West India Committee to the press in Buckinghamshire on December 19th:—

SIR,—The attention of my Committee has been called to a speech made by the Hon. Walter Rothschild at Edlesborough on November 24th, in the course of which he is



A Demonstration in Kingston, St. Vincent.

As already recorded in the *West India Committee Circular*, the proposals for the union of Grenada and St. Vincent are meeting with strong opposition. Resolutions have been passed in St. Vincent urging that the Councils of the Colony may be fully constituted before legislation on the subject is introduced, and a memorial was also addressed to the King. A committee of leading inhabitants was invited to discuss the question with the Governor, Sir Robert Jlewelyn, on November 15th, and during the discussion over 3,000 inhabitants gathered outside the building, shouting "No union with Grenada. Give us separation." It is stated that the inhabitants of St. Vincent would not be opposed to a larger scheme of federation, or to federation with Barbados, though they strongly resent any suggestion of union with Grenada. (See *West India Committee Circular*, No. 165, page 459.)

reported to have said: "Their own" (the Liberals') "Ordinance allowed by Sir Henry Fowler under Mr. Gladstone's Government, which enabled Indian coolies to be sent to British Guiana and the West Indies for the sugar plantations, was just as much slavery, because those people had to settle on the sugar plantations where they were allowed to be flogged by the employers."

We regret that Mr. Walter Rothschild should have made such a statement without first consulting the Immigration Ordinances, which apparently he cannot have done. The flogging of

coolie immigrants is forbidden by law, and the British Guiana Ordinance 18 of 1891, Section 102, expressly states that "If any employer, manager, or officer of a plantation assaults, or in any way ill-uses, an immigrant indentured on such plantation, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding forty-eight dollars, or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding two months, or to both such penalty and imprisonment," and the Trinidad Immigration Ordinance contains similar provisions. (Immigration Ordinance No. 19, 1899, Section 118.)

I may also mention that the indentured coolies on their arrival on the estates are lodged in cottages constructed according to Government requirements; they have a free hospital with medical attendance, all under Government control, and they are also inspected once a month by a Government Immigration Officer, to whom they have a right to make complaints. That their term of service is a happy one is proved by the fact that on the expiry of their indenture they usually prefer to remain on the estates to which they have been indentured, rather than to settle down in the country as farmers.

It is a matter for regret that irresponsible statements such as those of Mr. Rothschild should be made regarding Imperial matters for what appear to be party purposes.

Trusting to your courtesy for the insertion of this letter,

I am, yours obediently,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

The New Cabinet.

The full list of the new Cabinet formed by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, which was issued on December 10th, is as follows:—

Prime Minister	... Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.	Foreign Secretary	... Sir Edward Grey.
First Lord of Treasury	Prime Minister.	First Lord of Admiralty	Lord Tweedmouth.
Lord Privy Seal	... Marquis of Ripon.	President Board of Trade	Mr. Lloyd George.
Lord Chancellor	... Sir Robert Reid.	Pres. Local Govt. Board	Mr. John Burns.
Lord Pres. of Council	... Earl of Crewe.	Pres. Board of Agriculture	Earl Carrington.
Chancellor of Exchequer	Mr. Asquith.	Pres. Board of Education	Mr. Augustine Birrell.
Home Secretary	... Mr. H. Gladstone.	Postmaster-General	... Mr. Sydney Buxton.
Colonial Secretary	... Earl of Elgin.	Secretary for Scotland	... Capt. John Sinclair.
War Secretary	... Mr. Haldane.	Chief Sec. for Ireland	... Mr. James Bryce.
India Secretary	... Mr. John Morley.	Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	... Sir Henry Fowler.

The new Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (not in the Cabinet) is Mr. Winston Churchill, the Member for Oldham. Mr. H. E. Kearley, who will be remembered as mover of an amendment in the House of Commons, on February 27th, affirming that the Sugar Bounty Convention should be denounced, becomes Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, and Mr. Thomas Lough is appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education.

Mr. A. J. Balfour's Policy.

Mr. Balfour, addressing a great Unionist meeting at Leeds, on December 18th, said he did not wish to augment the differences which existed in their party on the fiscal question, but to diminish the difficulties. What he wanted to point out was that the scheme of fiscal reform which he had earnestly pressed on his countrymen did not prejudge the question one way or the other. Protection might be right or might be wrong; he belonged to that section of their party which was for free trade, and not protection. But in regard to retaliation and fiscal union with the Colonies, the views he had pressed on the country were absolutely consistent with free trade, and, in his opinion, were not less consistent

with the views of those who would like to see some return to the policy now prevalent in America and other countries. Lord Rosebery seemed to think that the fiscal *status quo*, and only the *status quo*, really embodied a doctrine of free trade. He (Mr. Balfour) as well as his protectionist friends were at one in entertaining a common contempt for the form of economic pedantry which was preached by the Golden Club. The Golden Club thought that free trade was adequately carried out so long as they did not put any Customs duty on imports, which was not balanced by an equal excise duty on the article manufactured at home. That was great folly. We practised free trade when we did our best to maintain it and also to make others maintain it. If tariffs were to be settled by negotiation, they had better have something as a basis of negotiation. No general rule could be laid down; every case must be dealt with on its own merits. Our business was to persuade the other side to give us fair treatment, and the question was, what would most appeal to the other side. He did not deny that a general tariff might be a convenient starting point: but we had no general tariff, and if one was to be constructed on protective lines, that seemed to him altogether outside the scope of the fiscal reform which he was proposing. Nothing would endanger the Imperial idea more than any rash introduction into it of an insular idea. Protection was insular or it was nothing. It was, therefore, alien in its essence to the Imperial idea, which was the one that most appealed to him. A full report of Mr. Balfour's speech is given in the *Times* of December 19th.



This Excellency Mr. Hesketh Bell, C.M.G.

Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, who was lately Administrator of Dominica, and has been administering the government of the Leeward Islands, has been appointed Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief of the Uganda Protectorate.

Consular Report.

The Swiss Chocolate Industry.

According to the Report of Mr. J. C. Milligan for 1904, the Swiss chocolate industry continues to develop. The imports of cocoa husks and beans amounted to a little over 134,000 cwts., the value thereof being £399,700. According to the statistics, the average price of husks was 146 francs per quintal in 1904, against 194 francs in the previous year. The total exports of chocolate, which amounted in 1903 to £916,000, rose last year to £1,073,000, an increase of £157,000. The United Kingdom's consumption of this article amounted to £450,800 in value, or £21,000 more than in the previous year. There was also a considerable development in the exportation of chocolate to Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia, while the exports to the United States rose from £58,000 to £125,000.

Colonial Reports.

The Leeward Islands 1904-5.

In his report for 1904-5, Mr. Edward B. Jarvis states that the aggregate revenue, exclusive of grants-in-aid, amounting to £14,091, was £128,922, a nett increase of £4,774 over that for 1903-4. The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past two years :

Expenditure.				1904-5		1903-4.	
Antigua	£48,670	} £133,559	£50,209	} £138,027
St. Kitts-Nevis	...	...	...	43,063		44,782
Dominica	...	...	...	31,033		31,331
Montserrat	...	...	...	8,361		9,364
Virgin Islands	...	...	...	2,431		2,342
Revenue.							
Antigua	44,295	} £128,922	43,812	} £124,148
St. Kitts-Nevis	...	...	...	43,905		39,127
Dominica	...	...	...	30,982		31,443
Montserrat	...	...	...	7,237		7,599
Virgin Islands	...	...	...	2,503		2,167

The exports for the past two years were as follows :—

Articles of Export		1903		1904	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Sugar	...	tons	25,020	24,667	£211,026
Molasses	...	puns	9,501	8,133	17,806
Rum	...	galls.	16,435	611	764
Coffee	...	lbs.	3,659	92	28
Cocoa	...	lbs.	970,732	1,087,751	20,980
Limes and Lime Juice	...	—	—	—	35,943
Total	...	—	£249,183	—	£286,547

Reference is made to the two new central sugar factories. The result of the installation of a new mill and engine, a triple effect and new centrifugals at Bendall's was highly successful, "an economy of some 25 per cent. of cane being effected," and a decrease in cost of manufacture. These successful results have led to further improvements, about three miles of tramway for mule haulage having been laid down on the property, and still further improvements will probably follow. The new factory at Gunthorpe's had also begun work successfully. This factory, which is capable of making thirty tons of sugar a day, is worked on co-operative lines in conjunction with eight sugar estates, which are now connected with the factory by almost six miles of railway, using steam locomotives. The operation of a contract for the purchase of canes from the peasantry in Nevis proved very beneficial, and improved the situation both for the proprietors and the peasantry. The cultivation of new varieties of sugar cane besides the Bourbon was resulting in disease being kept in check.

With regard to cotton, much progress was made in this industry, as has already been reported in *The West India Committee Circular*. In Antigua there are many thousand acres of land suitable for the cultivation of cotton, which are obtainable on easy terms. In Dominica the cultivation of limes and cocoa is steadily increasing, and a growing trade in fresh fruit, particularly oranges and limes, is springing up, and the exports are increasing. The lime industry of Montserrat is once more well established, and the small pioneer cocoa plantation in Nevis is making satisfactory progress.

During the year 1,900 acres of Crown lands were sold to settlers in Dominica, and 900 acres in small lots to peasants. In Dominica the Crown lands cost 10s. per acre, and in Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good land is £4 to £8 per acre. A full list of the enactments of the Legislature is given,

and they include an Act on the lines of the Dominica law dealing with the practice of Obeah, which was reaching alarming proportions.

Notes of Interest.

CANADA'S TARIFF. It is stated that the question of the revision of the Canadian tariff will come up for discussion and settlement at the approaching session of the Dominion Parliament, which will probably be summoned in February.

"THE PRICE OF SUGAR, 1904-5." 2500 copies of the leaflet recently issued by the West India Committee under this heading have already been circulated. We shall be glad to post copies of this and the leaflet regarding the rum surtax, "A Protected Home Industry," to applicants on receipt of stamps to cover postage.

THE EXHIBITION SOUVENIR. Owing to the immense amount of work thrown upon our printers in connection with the General Election, the publication of the Souvenir of the recent Colonial Exhibition which will contain the report of the General Exhibition Committee, has been somewhat delayed. It will, however, be published immediately after Christmas.

APPOINTMENTS REGISTER. The register of applicants for appointment as overseers and other positions connected with West Indian estates can be seen by Members at the West India Committee Rooms. Full particulars regarding the applicants are now given, together with two testimonials from each. Members receiving applications from those desiring appointments may refer the applicants to the West India Committee, who will supply a form of enquiries for the candidates to fill up.

BINDING CASES. For Members desirous of having their *Circulars* bound, handsome lettered cases 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. We also have a few patent spring back cases for filing the *West India Committee Circular*, which can be obtained from the Secretary for 2s. 6d. each or post free 3s.

SUGAR AND THE ELECTION. The Manufacturing Confectioners' Alliance has been communicating with members of the present Parliament to ask if they would be prepared to denounce the Brussels Convention in the event of re-election. Surely they might have saved themselves the trouble and satisfied themselves by consulting the division lists of the debates in which this matter has been under



The late Sir C. COURTENAY KNOLLYS, Governor of the Leeward Islands, whose untimely death is recorded on page 526 of the present *West India Committee Circular*.

discussion. Enquiries have also been extended to prospective Parliamentary candidates. From the replies so far published it would seem that fair play for sugar is still being made practically a party question.

THE QUARANTINE CONFERENCE. The Jamaica correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* reported on December 13th that the people's representatives in the Legislature had defeated a Government motion to put the new system of West Indian quarantine into force on the ground that it was dangerous and too expensive. We have received no confirmation of this message as yet. The laws for giving effect to the West India Inter-Colonial Sanitary Convention, 1904, will be brought into operation in Barbados, Trinidad, British Guiana, the Leeward Islands, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, on January 1st, 1906. It will be a matter for regret if Jamaica holds aloof.

CABLES AND THE RECENT STRIKE. The San Juan (Porto Rico)-St. Thomas cable was interrupted about mid-day on December 13th, and as the Ponce (Porto Rico)-St. Croix cable was also broken, a temporary interruption was caused for three days to all stations east of Porto Rico; but owing to the arrangements which were made for conveying messages over the 70 miles between San Juan and St. Thomas, the delay to traffic was minimised. The San Juan-St. Thomas cable was reopened on the morning of December 16th. It is a matter for satisfaction that the delay did not occur during the recent strike in Georgetown, particulars of which, we may mention, should be received by next mail.

TRINIDAD CIGARS. We have received from the West Indian Tobacco Company, of Trinidad, a sample box of their cigars, "Flor de la Trinitena," which were exhibited at the recent Colonial Exhibition, and were awarded a gold medal. As a result of the Exhibition, an effort is being made to make them better known in this country, and Messrs. James Philip & Co., of 4, Fenchurch Buildings, E.C., have been appointed agents for their sale. The cigars seem to be well cured, and will, we hope, meet with a good demand in this country. They are packed in boxes bearing an attractive label, on which figure the arms of the Colony, though it is a pity that the motto is not given correctly. The West Indian Tobacco Company also make a special feature of Trinidad cheroots.

SALT AS MANURE. The *International Sugar Journal* for December contains, besides other interesting matter, a paper by Prinsen Geerligs, on the "Influence of Soda Salts on the Constituents of Sugar Cane." He concludes from his experiments that sodium chloride extracts potash, lime and magnesia from the salt, and places these elements in a position for assimilation, that sugar cane first assimilates potash, in an inferior degree lime and magnesia, and finally, if there is nothing else to be had, soda also, but that the latter cannot be considered as a substitute for potash in a sound cane, but rather as the choking of a diseased body with useless material. The author reviews apparently contradictory evidence as to the value of common salt (sodium chloride) as a manure, and concludes that in lands where the available potash has been exhausted, the use of salt might probably prove of advantage, and promises to deal fully with the subject in a future paper.

Our Library.

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, &c., for our Library. We have to acknowledge the receipt of the following:—

Agricultural News, November 25th, 1905, contains a report on the Barbados Sugar Cane Experiments carried on under the direction of the Imperial Department of Agriculture during the season 1904-5, both as regards seedlings and manures, and matter generally of the interest usually associated with this periodical.

The West Indian Bulletin. Vol. VI. No. 3 (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 6d.) This

number contains valuable reports on the results of manure experiments with (1) cotton, on the Leeward Islands, by the Hon. F. Watts, C.M.G., D.Sc.; and (2) cacao, at Dominica, by the Hon. F. Watts, C.M.G., D.Sc. and Mr. J. Jones, and the result of exhaustive analysis of the soils of Montserrat, by the Hon. F. Watts, C.M.G., D.Sc. and Mr. H. H. Tempany, B.Sc., H.I.C., together with interesting matter in connection with cacao and rubber in Ceylon, and the Naudet patent process for treatment of cane juice. The *Bulletin* also contains an important summary of the literature of the bud-rot disease of the coco-nut palms which is causing so much anxiety in the West Indies, from the year 1875 to the present day.

The Empire and the Century. John Murray, London: 21s. nett. In spite of the Imperial title of this work, the claims of the West Indies to a share in the Empire are recognised by the compilers to the extent of five and a half pages only, out of 889. The article dealing with them is, however, from the pen of Sir Alfred Jones, and although treating only with Jamaica, gives a concise summary of the past and present conditions of that Island, and of the manner in which its resources have been recently developed by his firm and Mr. Chamberlain. Its value as a health resort, both from the point of view of position and climate, is also pointed out. The rest of the work consists of articles on the Principal and Mechanism of Empire from the pens, among others, of Bernard Holland, Sir John Colomb, Sir Edward Hutton and Richard Gibb, while the writers dealing with the Constituents of the Empire comprise among other important contributors, Sir Henry Blake, the Hon. Clifford Selton, the Hon. W. P. Reeves, Sir Godfrey Lugden, Colonel Younghusband, Sir David Barr and Sir Eldon Gorst.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Atrato" (Capt. R. H. Stranger), December 23rd:— Barbados—Mr. and Mrs. T. W. O'Neal. Demerara—Mr. T. Teed. Jamaica—Dr. S. Oliver, Mr. Ferrier, Major and Mrs. Norman. Trinidad—Mrs. and Miss Fawcett, Mr. W. Jackson, Mr. Humphrys, Mr. A. Petit, Mr. J. Beesty, Mr. and Mrs. Leventhorpe, Mr. J. Hughes, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Cochrane, Mr. H. A. Harrison, Mrs. Slyne, Mr. and Mrs. A. Mallock, Mr. and Mrs. Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Christall, Mr. A. Joyan, Mr. and Mrs. H. Booth, Mr. O. Harley, Mr. C. W. Sayer, Mrs. Colver, Mr. Cameron, Miss Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Wilson, Mr. Flint, Mr. Beck, Miss Matson, Mr. Torin. Antigua—Mr. A. Spooner.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "La Plata" (Capt. W. J. Dagnall), January 6th:— Barbados—Miss M. Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. Evans, Miss B. Lyons. Demerara—Hon. A. H. Alexander, Mr. K. A. Barclay, Mr. Wm. Jones. Jamaica—Mr. F. King, Mr. H. Lange, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mr. and Mrs. J. Thompson. Trinidad—Mr. Lomas, Jun., Mr. G. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Sturrock, Mr., Mrs. and Misses Whitton, Mr. and Mrs. R. Cambridge, Major Neal, Mrs. Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Bush, Mrs. Turner, Mr. H. Lembecke, Mr. Jos. Barry, Mrs. Levaux, Miss Wright.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), Dec. 16th:— Jamaica—Mr. Anderson, Mrs. F. E. Allhusen, Mrs. C. Buckley, Capt. and Mrs. Bliss, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Carr, Mr. H. E. Crum-Ewing, Miss Crum-Ewing, Mr. and Mrs. J. Gluckstein, Mr. H. F. Garraway, Mr. T. N. Hugo, Miss R. B. Leigh, Capt. A. T. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Marks, Mr. F. J. Middleton, Mrs. J. L. Mackenzie, Miss M. Mackenzie, Mr. and Mrs. R. Price, Miss Ryan, Mr. R. B. Rattray, Cmd. Geo. S. Shuckburgh, R.N., Mrs. and two Misses Shuckburgh, Miss L. M. Townsend, Mr. White, Miss E. J. Brimble, Mrs. Grinter.

HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. Owen Jones), December 20th:— Jamaica—Mr. and Mrs. John Glen, Jun., Mr. G. Hill, Mr. Kelly, Mrs. and Miss A. Lowenfeld, Mrs. Marwick, Capt. and Mrs. Parry, Mr. E. V. Sperling, Mrs. Sander, Mr. S. Joy, Miss Dodd, Mrs. King, Miss D. Nicoll, Sergt. Robinson.

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. We are indebted to the *Morning Post* for several of the items of information given below.

Mr. HENRY HENKETH JORDON BELL, Administrator of Dominica, who has been administering the Government of the Leeward Islands during the absence from the Colony of the late Sir C. Courtenay Knollys, has been appointed, with the approval of His Majesty, Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief in the Uganda Protectorate, in succession to Lieut.-Colonel James Hayes Sadler, C.B., who has been appointed Commissioner for the East Africa Protectorate. A record of Mr. Bell's Colonial career was given in the *West India Committee Circular*, No. 135, of September 27th, 1904. He was

appointed Administrator of Dominica in 1899, and, during his administration, the Island has, thanks to his energy and initiative, made remarkably rapid progress towards prosperity. He was responsible for several young settlers going to the Island, and took an active share in opening up the interior.

THE LATE SIR C. COURTENAY KNOLLYS, K.C.M.G.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of SIR C. COURTENAY KNOLLYS, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Leeward Islands, which took place at Southsea, on Saturday, December 16th. He was the son of the Rev. W. F. Erskine Knollys, Rector of Wrotham and Hon. Canon of Canterbury, by Caroline Augusta, daughter of the Rev. the Hon. Charles Augustus North, and was born in 1849. Educated at Magdalen College, Oxford, he entered the Colonial Civil Service in 1874, being married the same year to Ellen May, daughter of Philip Henry de la Motte. From 1874 to 1879 he acted as Sub-Receiver of Trinidad, and as Auditor-General of Barbados from 1879 to 1882. In the following year he was appointed President of the Education Board, and from 1882 to 1893 he filled the office of Colonial Secretary of Barbados, and of Trinidad and Tobago from 1893 to 1904. At various periods he administered the government of St. Lucia, Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, becoming Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands in 1904. In 1888 he was created a C.M.G. and in 1897 a K.C.M.G. Sir Courtenay Knollys rowed in the Oxford crew against Cambridge in 1872 and 1873, won the Diamond Sculls at Henley in 1872, the Goblets in 1873, and was the champion amateur sculler in 1872.

Mail Arrangements.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Dec. 29	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Serrana"	Dec. 28, mdn't.
" 30	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I. D. W. I. M. S.	"Port Royal"	" 29, 6 p. m.
Jan. 6	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R. M. S. P. Co.	"La Plata"	Jan. 5, mdn't.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Jan. 1	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I. D. W. I. M. S.	"Port Kingston"
" 3	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	London	Direct Line	"Salybia"
" 6	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R. M. S. P. Co.	"Trent"

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), December 16th. "Seasonable weather." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), December 15th. "Finer weather since last message, generally acceptable." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), December 15th. "Showery and favourable for cultivation." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), December 16th. "Weather more favourable."

Exports of Produce from Jamaica.

	Sugar tons	Cocoa cwts	Rum gills	Coffee cwts	Coconuts	Pimento cwts	Bananas branches	Oranges
April 1 to Nov. 18, '05	7,216	18,000	762,972	19,709	3,565,532	63,244	10,214,992	57,450,838
" " " 19, '04	6,045	15,001	917,358	18,124	1,651,795	91,700	5,547,458	64,326,191

Some West Indian Securities.

Present Amount, 100,000	Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Dividend.	Price.
375,000	"	Antigua - - 4 per cent. Redeemable 1919-41 ...	100	4 %	102-104
194,500	"	Barbados - - 3½ " " 1925-42 ...	100	3½ %	100-102
123,670	"	British Guiana 4 " " 1935 ...	100	4 %	104-106
1,098,907	"	Grenada - - 4 " " 1917-42 ...	100	4 %	100-102
85,479	"	Jamaica - - 4 " " 1934 ...	100	4 %	109-111
422,593	"	St Lucia - - 4 " " 1919-44 ...	100	4 %	102-104
600,000	"	Trinidad - - 4 " " 1917-42 ...	100	4 %	101-103
100,000	20	Trinidad - - 3 " Inscribed Stock 1922-44 ...	100	3 %	88-90
15,000	100	Colonial Bank ...	£6	7 %	6½-6¾
203,400	Stock	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company	80	—	46-47
26,763	5	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4% 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4½ %	91-94
46,874	5	New Colonial Co., Ltd.	5	—	8-8
347,500	Stock	" " " " 5 % Non-Cum Pref.	5	—	2½-3½
352,700	100	" " " " 4 % 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4 %	85-87
165,000	Stock	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb.	100	6 %	101-106
115,000	Stock	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock	100	—	17-20
31,250	10	" " " " 7 % Preference	100	6 %	86-88
70,000	Stock	" " " " 4 % Extension Preference...	10	4s.	8-9
74,500	100	" " " " Perpetual Deb. Stock	100	4 %	95-97
12,000	5	Direct West India Cable Co., 4½% Reg. Debs. (within Nos 1 to 1200) red.	100	4½ %	101-103
46,500	100	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd.	£2 10 0	6 %	—
10,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4½% 1st Mtge. Deb (within 1 to 1200) red.	100	4½ %	101-103
88,321	10	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd.	5	5 %	—
34,563	10	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. Ordinary	10	—	½-¾
4,669	10	" " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	10	5s.	8½-8¾
80,000	100	" " " " 2nd "	10	—	6½-7½
		" " " " 5% Deb	100	5 %	101-104

The Bank Rate remains at 4 % (changed from 3 % on Sept. 28th, 1905), and Consols (2½ %) are quoted 89 7/16.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Cocoa—Board of Trade Returns for 11 months :	1905	1904.	1903.	1902
Imports	21,442	23,737	20,770	23,665 Tons.
Home Consumption	18,474	18,367	16,926	19,027 "
Stocks 30th Nov.	4327	5565	3503	4397 "
Stocks in London :	61 000	86 000	50 000	61,000 Bags

There is a decent demand for West India cocoa, and prices are well maintained. Trinidad shows signs of going off more readily than for many months past and the quotations look reasonable as compared with other kinds. Grenada and other kinds are also well competed for. The closing quotations are those of last mail, viz.: Trinidad fair collected, 52s. Estate Marks, 52s. to 56s. and 60s.; Grenada fair, 46s., fermented, 50s. to 52s. From other Islands, Native Cocoa is worth 45s. to 46s. and fermented 49s. to 52s.

Coffee.—Quiet. Good ordinary Jamaica, 38s. to 40s.

Antmegs.—Recent sales of West India include 70's at 10d., 83's at 9d., 90's at 7½d., 101's at 6d., 116's at 5½d., 125's at 4½d., and in shell 4d. to 4½d. Mace.—Fine pale realised up to 2s. 4d.; fair to good ditto, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d.; red, 1s. to 1s. 3d., and broken, 11d. to 1s. Ginger.—Dull. Average qualities of Jamaica, 42s. to 53s. Pimento.—Quiet, at 2½d. to 2¾d.

Arrowroot.—Owing to the absence of supplies, there is practically nothing doing. Good manufacturing is quoted 2d.

Lime Juice.—Unchanged, at 9d. to 1s. Concentrated, steady, at £16. Hand Pressed, unaltered at 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. Distilled Oil, firm, value, 1s. 4½d. to 1s. 5d.

The Produce Markets' Summary.—continued.

SUGAR.—F. O. Licht's Latest Estimates of Beet Crops.

	Crop 1904-5	Crop 1905-6	Increase.
Convention, Europe	3,410,000	5,430,000	2,020,000 Tons.
Other Countries	1,290,000	1,440,000	150,000 ..
Total	4,700,000	6,870,000	2,170,000 ..

As month succeeds month, estimates of the present beet crop continue to grow, and Herr Licht's figures printed above show an out-put this season in excess of any previous crop, and the world is flooded with sugar once again, and chiefly from the Continent.

F. O. Licht's Visible Supply, 1st December, even dates.

	1905.	1904	1903.
Convention Europe	3,150,000	2,690,000	3,340,000 Tons
United States, Cuba, and afloat	260,000	160,000	260,000 ..
Total	3,410,000	2,850,000	3,600,000 ..

These figures continue to grow, as is only natural, and by the time the crops have all come into sight will probably assume large proportions.

F. O. Licht's Consumption since 1st September, 3 months.

	1905.	1904.	1903.
Germany	311,870	282,805	363,499 Tons
Austria	133,361	110,833	145,011 ..
France	177,811	193,537	297,528 ..
Holland and Belgium	47,499	48,893	70,422 ..
England	452,312	429,336	270,832 ..
America	1,122,853	1,065,404	1,147,292 ..
	498,351	527,231	445,823 ..
Total	1,621,404	1,592,635	1,593,115 ..

The figures of Consumption are indeed unsatisfactory, showing only a fractional increase in the first three months of this season as compared with last, and that notwithstanding the fact that prices have been so far considerably lower in the three months of 1905 than they were in 1904. The average price of 88% beet from September to November inclusive, in 1904, was 11s. 10½d., whilst this year it has been 8s. 5½d. This condition of things will take a lot of explaining, and the academic reasons set forth by some theorists do not alter the fact that one-fourth of the season has passed without the great bound in Consumption so confidently prophesied. It is to be hoped the remaining nine months will do better, and so get rid of some of the over-production of 1905/6.

The moment's quotations of 88% are as follows:—December, 8s. 1½d.; January/March, 8s. 3d.; May, 8s. 5½d.; August, 8s. 7½d., and October/December, 1906, 8s. 9d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Europe	3,080,000	2,700,000	3,290,000	2,070,000	2,860,000 Tons
United States	180,000	110,000	100,000	150,000	130,000 ..
Cuba	60,000	—	120,000	50,000	20,000 ..
Cargoes afloat	10,000	40,000	70,000	50,000	10,000 ..
Total	3,330,000	2,850,000	3,580,000	2,320,000	3,020,000 ..
Quotations of 88% Beet:—	8s. 1½d.	14s. 1½d.	8s. 5d.	8s. 1½d.	6s. 8½d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—There has again been a good business doing in yellow crystallised, and prices have been occasionally a fraction better, the closing value of average qualities being fully 15s., with a general range of 14s. to 17s. 3d. Dyed French beet root remains about 14s. 3d. The value of 96% grey crystals is 9s. 3d. on floating terms, Javas having been sold at less.

Molasses Sugar is scarce and wanted. Values range from 11s. for low dark, up to 14s. for fair grocery, with small lots of fine, 15s. to 16s. To Refiners, 89 test is still selling at 7s. 9d. in bond, on floating terms.

Muscovado.—There is nothing here, and quotations of grocery are nominal. In 89 test business has been done to Refiners at 8s. 3d., on floating conditions.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902
Imports	40,000	42,000	24,000	59,000 Tons
Deliveries	40,000	47,000	40,000	43,000 ..
Stocks	9400	7400	12,000	29,000 ..
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	15s. 0d.	22s. 0d.	15s. 9d.	14s. 9d.

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 11 months:

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.
Home Consumption... ..	3,460,000	3,400,000	3,330,000	3,660,000 Galls.
Stocks 30th Nov.	7,440,000	8,770,000	9,580,000	9,420,000 ..
Stocks in London: Jamaica	7200	8700	9300	11,000 Puns.
Demerara	4500	4800	7000	7800 ..
Total of all kinds	19,003	20,827	7000	1824 ..

The market is unchanged and there are fair sales being made of Demerara at last mail's prices, viz., 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2½d. The supply of Jamaica in Importers' hands is in a small compass. When arrivals take place they should readily meet with 2s. 1d. for approved Home Trade Marks. The value of Leewards and other proof kinds remains 11d. to 1s. 3d.

The . . .

MAIL EDITION.

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No. 171.

THE R.M.S. "La Plata," bringing the general West Indian mails, did not leave Barbados until Tuesday, December 12th, owing to her having been delayed at Jamaica, and having also to call at St. Lucia to pick up troops. She arrived at Southampton at 8 p.m. on Christmas day, and the mails were delivered in London on Wednesday, December 27th. From letters received by this and various occasional opportunities, it appears that prominent among the events of the fortnight ended December 9th were the disturbances in British Guiana, and the tercentenary celebrations in Barbados. The general outline of the trouble, which began with a small strike on Monday, November 27th, and assumed larger proportions on November 29th, has already been recorded in *The West India Committee Circular*. The main grievances alleged by the wharf labourers, and which were the cause of the strike which led to such disastrous results, apparently lay in the fact that although by an old standing arrangement the men were paid 64 cents a day, 32 cents for the half day, and 16 cents for a quarter day, deductions for stoppages, from whatever cause they arose, were frequent, and when men were employed for one or two hours in the day, they were paid *pro rata*, whereas they claimed to be entitled to 16 cents. Beyond general disorderly conduct in the streets and attempts to molest the porters remaining at work, nothing serious occurred during the early stages, but, as is usual in such cases, the legitimate strikers were largely reinforced by the hooligans, male and female, of the town. During the second day the disturbances spread to Ruimveld Estate on the outskirts of the town, where the negro cane cutters assumed such a threatening attitude that the police had to resort to the extreme measure of firing on the rioters. The sight of the wounded, who were carried through the town to the Colonial Hospital, infuriated the mob, and the situation at once became serious. On the evening of the 30th, the city was proclaimed by the Governor and declared to be in a state of riot. Stores were broken into by the mob, officials and others molested, and further firing by the police was necessary before order could be in any way restored. The arrival of H.M.S. "Diamond" and "Sappho" from Barbados and Trinidad helped to restore order, and at the date of the departure of the mail, matters had resumed their normal aspect. Two points stand out prominently, and these are the attitude of the negro police and of those of the militia who responded to the call, who appear to have behaved splendidly; and secondly, the fact that the coolie immigrants appear to have taken no part whatever in the disturbances. Letters from correspondents in the Islands referring to the riots very properly call attention to the important bearing they have on the question of the removal of the white troops from the West Indies. In Barbados, the event of the week was the celebration of the tercentenary of the taking possession of the Island in 1605, which took place on November 30th. A memorial stone was erected at Indian River on or near the spot where the crew of the "Olive Blossom" landed, and a review took place on the Savannah; loyal addresses were passed by both houses of the Legislature, followed by a luncheon, and the Governor, Sir Gilbert Carter, laid the foundation stone of a memorial at Holetown, where the Englishmen erected the cross inscribed "James K., of E., and of this Island," 300 years ago. The weather in the Island had been favourable, both for planting operations and for the progress of the growing crop. Regarding agricultural prospects in the Leeward Islands the HON. FRANCIS WATTS informed us that rain was still badly wanted, and a heavy downpour was necessary to fill the ponds in Antigua. He placed the estimate for the sugar

crop at 8,000 tons. Cotton was coming in in all the Islands, and bade fair to be good in quality and of fair amount, though it was doubted if the crops would be heavy. The acreage under cultivation in the Leeward Islands was greater this year than last, being approximately: Antigua, 600 acres; St. Kitts-Nevis, 1,700 acres; Anguilla, 1,000 acres; Montserrat, 800 acres, and the Virgin Islands, 40 acres. Caterpillars had been giving a good deal of trouble in all the Islands; but they had been kept under by the use of Paris Green. In Nevis a small experiment with cacao was progressing well, and other small plots were developing in Nevis and St. Kitts. We extract the following from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Antigua—A "Pond Rain" Wanted.

HON. J. FREELAND FOOTE, writing on December 2nd, reported that during the fortnight they had had almost daily showers, and the canes had very much improved. A heavy rain sufficient to fill the ponds was wanted however. The cotton crop was looking well, considering that the weather had not been altogether favourable. The Leeward Islands were sending teams to Montserrat in December to compete at rifle shooting for the Governor's cup.

One of the last acts of the late Sir Courtenay Knollys was to present two handsome silver cups and a silver cigarette box as prizes for the best shots in the various shooting competitions for the local forces, and these had been exhibited at the Public Library, where Mr. A. M. Lee's trophy, a very beautiful and costly cup, was also being shown.

Barbados—Banana Shipments.

Mr. T. W. WILKINSON in his letter dated December 9th, gave an interesting account of the celebration of the tercentenary, to which reference is made above. A full description of the festivities is given in the *Barbados Agricultural Reporter* of December 9th, the *Barbados Advocate* and the *Weekly Recorder*. Proceedings were throughout most orderly and the behaviour of the immense crowds beyond reproach, a matter for congratulation to all concerned.

The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne had returned to the Island. The favourable weather had had a most beneficial effect on the canes in every parish. The Island was looking green and very fertile. The question of banana shipments was still engaging attention and it was generally felt that the simplest solution would be for the British West Indian Fruit Company to offer to take delivery of the fruit in Bridgetown and make their own arrangements for shipping and disposing of it in England.

British Guiana—The Recent Disturbances.

From Mr. SUMMERSON'S letter of December 6th, we have learnt fuller details regarding the recent disturbances in the Colony. During the past ten days business had been almost entirely suspended, owing to the strike, which began among wharf porters on November 29th and culminated on the following day in a riot, in the course of which the police were compelled to fire on the mob, six persons in all being killed and seventeen wounded. The rioters were joined by crowds of hooligans and women of the lowest class, and respectable citizens were stoned in the streets. To restore order, the police had to be armed, and the militia and special constables called out. The arrival of the two cruisers, "Diamond" and "Sappho," had a salutary effect, and matters had quieted down when the mail left, though the strike was continuing, very little work was being done on the wharves, and the disaffection had extended. The police had done good work but their numbers were too limited. A full account of the disturbances is given in a special pamphlet reprinted from the *Demerara Daily Chronicle* and the *Demerara Argosy*, which can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms.

A change in the weather took place on the 25th, and since that date three inches of rain had fallen in Berbice, seven to ten inches in Demerara, and ten to fourteen inches in Essequibo. The Berbice estates required a heavier rainfall, though those in Essequibo could have done with less. Young cultivation was expected to recover rapidly and grow vigorously. Some of the May and June cultivation had, however, been so severely scorched that it would have to be abandoned or drawn down and re-established. The spring obtained in fields recently reaped was excellent on some estates and very poor on others, according to the report of Messrs. Wieting & Richter. The majority of stools of seedling canes had rattoned well. Replanting work was well advanced. Crystals were quoted \$1 82½ to \$1 85½. Owing to the strikes, the usual monthly statement of gold and mineral exports had to be held back.

Dominica—Cocoa.

Cocoa was coming in in considerable quantities, though the rains were interfering with curing operations. A large crop was looked for, but prices were low.

Jamaica—The Quarantine Ordinance.

We have received from Mr. J. L. ASHENHEIM a copy of the correspondence with the Government on the subject of the proposal to extend the railway from Mayfield to Frankland in Clarendon, which had been laid before the Legislative Council. From this it appears that the Government could see no advantage in making the extension proposed, and could in no way support either the views or the proposals of the supporters of the scheme.

Arrangements had been made for the Kingston Choral Society to give several performances at the Colonial Exhibition to be held at Liverpool in January. The chief feature of these will be the rendering of native songs in the costumes of the native peasantry. It is intended to tour the principal cities, giving concerts and musical recitals. Mr. Henry Nathan, the well known pianist, will probably accompany the troupe to the Mother Country.

A lengthy discussion took in the Legislative Council on the vote for the establishment of the Quarantine Station under the new Quarantine Law. There was considerable opposition to the expenditure on the part of the unofficial members, and the debate was subsequently adjourned, and, as we have since learnt by cable, the vote was thrown out.

Revis—The Cotton Crop

Writing on December 2nd, the Hon. C. A. SHAND said that the serious feature of the mail contract was the uncertainty attached to the future. The situation would be more gravely realised when crop operations were in full swing. At present everything was in a state approaching the comatose.

Since last mail the weather had not been favourable to the cotton and sugar planters. Showers had fallen, but locally, and that particular part of the Island requiring a copious downpour had been less favoured than other districts. They would have what Mr. Shand always termed a piecemeal crop next year, and it was feared that some disappointment would arise among those who had essayed to plant cotton for a first venture.

St. Kitts—Acceptable Weather.

According to a letter from Mr. CHAS. A. SMITH, dated December 2nd, the month had opened with high winds and frequent showers, which were very acceptable after the dry November they had passed through, and would serve to give a fresh start to the canes, which were now showing a good length.

St. Lucia—The Departure of the Troops.

The withdrawal of the St. Lucia garrison began on November 21st, when the first contingent of the troops left in the R M S. "Solent."

St. Vincent—Boisterous Weather.

The weather, up to a week before December 6th, when Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co. closed their letter, was very rainy and boisterous, and they feared that it would tell very much on the cotton cultivation.

Trinidad—The "Crown Lands" Question.

The decision of the Government in the Colony and the Secretary of State with regard to the Committee's report on the question of Crown Lands had been published, when the Hon. G. T. FENWICK, C.M.G., wrote on December 9th, and a Council Paper, No. 125, of 1905, to hand by the Mail, contained the Governor's despatches to and from the Secretary of State with reference to it. The main points decided by the Secretary of State are summarised as follows—

- (1) The price of Crown Lands to be 50s. per acre, including fees for survey, &c. The increase of 10s. to provide for the construction and maintenance of Crown traces
- (2) The maximum area to be alienated at that price in any single grant not to exceed 100 acres, the price of larger areas to be fixed by the Governor in Council, and not to be less than £5 per acre.
- (3) The position of future roads to be fixed before lands are alienated, and grants to be issued only for lands having access to such roads

The northern half of the Island had had almost daily heavy rains, and all the low lying lands of the Caroni district had been flooded to an exceptional extent. Further south the rains had been more partial, the central Naparima district even complaining of dryness. The rains had retarded crop operations, and the deliveries in town had not been as large as were expected. Prices of cocoa remained firm under strong buying against existing contracts, but with the present low prices in the consuming markets little or no new business had been recorded. Sales of fine "Estates" for immediate shipment to the U.S.A. had been made at the equivalent of 53s. C. & F. Havre. Mixed estates at 51s. 6d. and ordinary at 50s. were quoted but at these figures no business had been done. The scarcity of Venezuelan qualities continued very marked, and under strong competition prices for the small lots arriving in the Colony had again risen.

		Cocoa Shipments.			
		Bags	Trinidad.		
Total at last report	...	196,697	...	32,339	Venezuelan
Nov. 26 S S "Atrato"	...	882	"	—	Europe
" 27 S S "P. Willem I"	...	1,500	"	420	New York.
" 27 S S "Caribbee"	...	120	"	5	Canada.
" 28 S S "Crown of Navarre"	...	348	"	—	Europe.
" 29 S S "Grenada"	...	4,882	"	254	New York
" 30 S S "Benedick"	...	268	"	30	Europe.
" S S "Canada"	...	3,119	"	372	Europe.
" S S "P. Willem III"	...	1,021	"	44	Europe.
Totals to date	...	208,837		33,464	Venezuelan.

Our Library.

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, &c., for our Library. We have to acknowledge the receipt of the following publications of the Imperial Department of Agriculture:—

Cultivation and Curing of Tobacco. (Pamphlet series, No 38, price 4d.) This pamphlet gives useful information as to the agriculture and preparation of tobacco by Mr Harris, Superintendent of the Botanical Station in Bermuda, and Mr Cunningham, Assistant Superintendent to the Hope Experiment Station, together with information as to similar work in the United States, Cuba and Sumatra.

Agricultural News. Vol. IV., No. 95, contains the usual interesting notes and extracts dealing with tropical agriculture.

Report of the Agricultural Work, Barbados 1902-1904. Part I and II, by Professor d'Albuquerque, M.A., F.I.C., F.C.S. (London and Berlin), and Mr J. R. Bovell, F.L.S., F.C.S. This gives the results of the sugar cane work carried out during the seasons in the direction of (1) experiments with manures, and (2) varieties of sugar cane. These reports, which represent an immense amount of work, will be referred to at length in our next issue.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), December 27th. "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." **British Guiana** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Dec. 27th. (dated 23rd). "Fine, with occasional light showers." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) Dec. 27th (dated 24th). "Weather showery and favourable for cultivation." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) week ended Dec. 13th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "7th, 8th, 11th, 12th, rain; others fine." **KINGSTON**: "8th to 13th, rain; others fine."

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan 1 to Dec. 1905	Jan 1 to Dec. 1904	Jan. 1 to Dec. 4 1905	Jan. 1 to Dec. 4 1904	April 1 to Nov. 18 1905	April 1 to Nov. 18 1904	Jan 1 to Dec. 9 1905	Jan 1 to Dec. 9 1904	Oct. 1 to Dec. 7 1905	Oct. 1 to Dec. 7 1904
Sugar	39,795	57,057 Tons.	87,407	10,805 Tons.	7216	6048 Tons.	280,329	392,430 Bgs. & Brls	...	...
Molasses	38,744	44,844 Pns	2558	2934 Puns.	...	..	2888	2445 Puns	...	...
Rum ... ..	...	...	14,832	19,077 ..	762,972	917,358 Galls	178	57 Tons	...	...
Molascuit ... ..	...	...	8489	6541 Tons.	...	...	165	124 Brls	...	...
Cocoa ... ..	...	...	51,797	103,076 lbs	18,100	15,001 Cwts	349	591 Puns.	...	...
Coffee ... ..	...	...	...	...	19,709	19,124 ..	...	...	...	...
Coconuts ... ..	...	...	256,071	349,640	3,365,832	1,651,795	35,533,655	37,655,370 lbs.	17,065	5610 Bags
Copra ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,930	63,435 ..	...	...
Cotton ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,504,117	8,481,132	...	...
Cotton Seed	...	...	...	...	58,484	8,516 lbs.	10,588	15,077 bags	...	...
Asphalt ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Oranges ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	103,003	126,399 Tons.	...	...
Bananas ... ..	...	...	...	...	57,450,838	64,326,191	...	...	...	...
Pimento ... ..	...	...	...	...	11,214,992	5,547,458 Bchs	...	...	...	...
Spice ... ..	...	...	...	...	60,244	93,799 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Gold ... ..	...	...	84,501	78,525 ozs.	...	...	...	...	1334	1538 Brls.
Diamonds ... ..	...	...	5287	10,612 carats.	...	...	...	...	174	207 1/2 Brls
									31	124 154 Cases
										31 106 Bags

Homeward Passengers.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "La Plata" (Capt. W. J. Dagnall) Dec. 25th:—**Barbados**—Gunner Drew, R.C.A., Mrs. Drew, Mr. Leopold Kopp. **Demerara**—Mr. Chas. Farquharson, Mr. H. Greig, Mrs. W. S. Anderson, Mr. Chas. H. Greene, Mr. N. McLean, Mr. W. R. Gouras, Mr. A. McGuekin. **Jamaica**—Mr. Davies, two Misses Manly, Mr. Greg, Mr. Robertson. **Trinidad**—Mrs. Litchford, Dr. William Broadfoot, Mr. Stevens, Mr. A. F. Clark. **St. Lucia**—Captain Fleming, C.E., Mrs. Fleming, Major and Mrs. Norris, Lieut. G. O. Dreyer, Capt. and Mrs. R. Molesworth, Second-Lieut. J. W. Hare.