

= = The = =

West India

Committee. ❀

Circular. ❀ ❀

THE  
**West India Committee Circular.**

VOL. XXXV.



Nos. 555 to 580.

JANUARY to DECEMBER, 1920.



LONDON:  
WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ROOMS.



# The West India Committee Circular.

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Membership of the West India Committee is, by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, dated August 4th, 1904, confined to British subjects. Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is at present no entrance fee. The Secretary will gladly send specimen copies of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application. The minimum subscription is £1 ls. or \$5 per annum, and the compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50 40s). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

### The West India Committee Rooms.

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LONDON, E.C. 3.  
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.  
January 8th, 1920

### The Food Controller and the Sugar Scramble.

A MILD sensation among consumers, and considerable indignation among sugar producers, was caused on December 29th last by the announcement made by the Food Controller that a temporary reduction in the domestic sugar ration would be necessary to defeat what appeared to be concerted action on the part of producers in raising prices. It was at once assumed by a certain section of the Press that the wicked West Indian Nabobs and other colonial producers were at their old games again, and that it was they who, as the *Westminster Gazette* put it, were "endeavouring to get a stranglehold upon sugar-consuming countries." That this suggestion was absolutely without foundation the West India Committee was able to show. Owing to neglect by successive British Governments in the past, the total quantity of sugar produced within the Empire available for export scarcely exceeds 600,000 tons. Of this total 250,000 tons are produced in Mauritius and 310,000 tons in the British West Indies and British Guiana. Of the 1918-19 Mauritius crop reaped between August and January,

175,000 tons were sold to the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, and, so far as our information goes, the balance has also been disposed of. The 1918-19 British West Indian crops are almost forgotten, and of those for 1919-20, which have yet to be reaped, 80,000 tons have already been sold to the Royal Commission at a figure considerably below the world's price of to-day. So much for the participation of British colonial producers in the alleged "ring." In "The Lane" the view is held (which was also voiced by MR. SANDRACH PARKER, on behalf of the British Empire Producers' Organisation) that the real reason for the reduction of the sugar ration is that the buyers for the Government missed their market by not purchasing supplies in September and October, when prices were considerably lower than they are to-day. To this the reply of the Commission is that if they had commenced to buy prices would have immediately soared upwards. Meanwhile, if there is sensation here there has apparently been panic in the United States. Thus, the CZARNIKOW-RIONDA COMPANY, in their circular of December 19th, state, "Fear bordering on panic appears to have overwhelmed the consumers of the country," and they add that "exaggerated and misleading statements as to the high prices that will come with decontrol have resulted in a deluge of requests from practically all sections of the country to Congress to pass the Sugar Control Bill," for the continuance of control after December 31st, when the Sugar Equalisation Board was to cease its activities. That measure, with certain modifications, has now passed the Senate and received the PRESIDENT'S signature, and we may hope, therefore, that the last has been heard of this ridiculous scare. It is not for us to defend the Cuban producer, who is, no doubt, well capable of looking after himself; but we must say that we can find no evidence of the existence of a "ring." On the other hand, the consumers of sugar seem to have been rushing prices up by tumbling over one another for new-crop sugar which does not exist. With money to burn, the American consumer, craving for sugar to compensate him for the loss of alcoholic stimulant, does not mind what he pays for sugared products, and the manufacturers have been buying accordingly. The extremities—real or imaginary—to which they are reduced are demonstrated by the following telegraphic message from the United States Attorney-General, dated November 7th, which was published by MESSRS.



WILLETT & GRAY on November 13th: "The urgency of sugar here transcends the necessity of keeping the price at a level below what the foreign seller will expect. Believe importation of foreign sugars should be allowed. Will only consider unreasonable margins of profit a violation of the Lever (Anti-Profiteering) Act on the resale of these sugars in United States." There is sound commercial sense in this, and Great Britain can hardly expect to secure sugar at a lower price than that which America is willing to pay. To revert for a moment to the remarks of the *Westminster Gazette*. Our sea-green contemporary holds out terrible threats of retaliation against our sugar-producing colonies, when our sugar policy is reconsidered, for their purely imaginary "ring" against the consumers, but, incidentally, it lets fall a truism which could hardly be expected of such an organ. It says: "Dependence on a few sources of supply is a grave source of danger." When will it realise that it was our overwhelming dependence on Germany and Austria for our sugar supply that was largely responsible for the existing state of affairs? The present shortage of sugar has been largely brought about by the *laissez-faire* attitude adopted in the past by successive British Governments, which denied even equality of opportunity with foreign beet to British sugar in the United Kingdom. With reasonable encouragement a British sugar industry could have been built up which would have rendered the whole Empire self-supporting in respect of its sugar supply. Consumers, however, preferred to batten on foreign beet without taking heed for the future, and the British sugar industry almost succumbed to atrophy. The position is now, however, altered, and with Imperial Preference an established fact we may reasonably hope for such a development of the British sugar industry as will render us less and less dependent on the foreigner for one of our staple foods.

**Baby Welfare in Barbados.**

It goes without saying that a healthy population is a vital economic necessity in any agricultural community. Labourers suffering from chronic attacks of fever or from that enfeebling disease due to the hookworm, are obviously not capable of doing their work so efficiently as those enjoying robust health. It is therefore of immense importance that proprietors should adopt every reasonable means of providing for the bodily welfare and comfort of their employees. Similarly, apart altogether from the moral aspect of the question, it is manifestly in their interests to endeavour to check the terrible infantile mortality—a veritable Massacre of the Innocents—which is daily taking its toll throughout the West Indies. We have frequently referred to this topic, and we are not without hope that its constant ventilation in these columns may induce the authorities, in conjunction with proprietors generally, to take steps towards securing an improvement in the existing state of affairs. We have already referred to the successful Baby Saving Movement established in British Guiana, Trinidad and St. Kitts, and we now rejoice to learn that similar action is being taken in Barbados on the initiative of LADY O'BRIEN, the wife of the Governor. At a

meeting held at Government House, Bridgetown, on November 28th, a Baby Welfare League was established. Its operations will at first be confined to Bridgetown, but will, if successful, be extended to the country parishes. A Baby Clinic is to be opened with a superintendent and two midwifery nurses as a central organisation, which can be developed as funds permit. The need for a movement of this kind in Barbados is shown by the statistics for the past five years. During that period the average annual death-rate of infants under twelve months of age was no fewer than 293 per 1,000. In 1912 it was as high as 416 per 1,000, the corresponding rate in England and Wales in that year being 95 per 1,000 only. Barbados has many advantages in its favour as compared with the Mother Country. It has an equable climate, no fog, no cold weather, and no overcrowding in large cities, and it should therefore not be beyond the powers of the Baby Saving League, if adequately supported, to bring the present appalling infantile death-rate below that of England and Wales. In the course of the speeches at the inaugural meeting, Dr. JOHN HURSON called attention to what has proved, and must continue to prove, an obstacle in the way of securing correct statistics. Remarkable though it may seem, there is no provision for the registration of deaths in Barbados, and we must admit that it seems to us somewhat of a reproach that, in a well-ordered community like that of Barbados, the collection and co-ordination of vital statistics should be hampered by such an omission. It is, perhaps, due to the fact that Barbados has such a redundant population that greater practical interest in this question of baby saving has not been shown before in the island. This is a matter which should be of interest not only to Barbados, but to other parts of the West Indies, for, as the prospectus of the new League states, "Barbadians are wanted everywhere in the world as well as for the home industries." Especially are they needed in British Guiana, and while that great mainland colony has a population of only three souls to the square mile, Barbados need never have any fear of being unable to find opportunities for colonisation for her superfluous population. The Barbados Welfare League has been started under admirable auspices, the provisional Committee comprising LADY O'BRIEN, MRS. JENKINS, MRS. HARKEL, MRS. CHARLES SEALY, MRS. WILKINSON, MRS. NORMAN BOXILL and MRS. SEIBERT EVELYN, and we wish it the success which it deserves.

During the year ended December 31st, 1919, 342 new members were elected to the West India Committee. Of those 142 reside in the West Indies, as shown below—

Jamaica	85	British Honduras	4
Barbados	29	Dominica	1
British Guiana	37	St. Kitts	1
Trinidad	23	St. Lucia	1
Grenada	5	St. Vincent	1
Antigua	4	Nevis	1

The total of new members elected in 1919 has only once been exceeded—namely, in 1904, when it reached 342. The figures for the past sixteen years are shown below—

1903	219	1909	156	1915	120
1904	342	1910	167	1916	109
1905	138	1911	128	1917	172
1906	150	1912	146	1918	223
1907	141	1913	123	1919	342
1908	180	1914	81		

**THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**

**The Endowment Fund's Progress.**

The Hon. Treasurers of the West India Committee have been much gratified by the receipt of the following letter from the Hon. Harcourt Malcolm, O B E., K.C., Speaker of the House of Assembly of the Bahamas, which, next to the House of Commons and the Parliaments of Bermuda and Barbados, is the oldest legislative body of its kind, covering a contribution voted by that body towards the Endowment Fund:—

December 9th, 1919.

GENTLEMEN.—I have the honour to forward to you herewith a London draft for £52 10s., which represents the amount appropriated by the House of Assembly of the Bahamas last evening as a contribution to your special fund as a mark of appreciation of the services of your Committee both to the colony and to the members of the various Bahamas Contingents on active war service.

I have the honour, &c.,

HARCOURT MALCOLM.

Speaker

As will be noted from the fifth list of contributions below, the Fund continues to make satisfactory progress. The total to date is £10,143 15s. 6d., leaving a minimum of £9,850 1s. 6d. still to be collected to enable the Committee to carry out the objects in view, which are to provide more convenient premises, and to develop and extend the work which is being undertaken on behalf of the West Indian colonies. It is hoped that every member, when remitting or paying into the bank his or her subscription, which became due on January 1st, will also make a contribution to the Endowment Fund, if he or she has not already done so.

**FIFTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.**

Contributions already acknowledged . . .	9,238	13	6
Messrs. Kleinwort, Sons & Co. . . . .	250	0	0
Messrs. Previté & Co. . . . .	210	0	0
Messrs. Elders & Fyffes, Ltd. . . . .	105	0	0
The Triumph Sugar Co., Ltd. (British Guiana) . . . . .	100	0	0
The House of Assembly of the Bahamas	52	10	0
Messrs. Henry White & Co. . . . .	52	10	0
Messrs. Carey & Browne . . . . .	50	0	0
W. Sanderson, Esq. . . . .	50	0	0
F. A. Windridge, Esq. . . . .	10	10	0
Claude Connell, Esq. . . . .	5	0	0
R. S. D. Goodwin, Esq. . . . .	5	0	0
J. T. de la Mothe, Esq. . . . .	3	3	0
T. W. O'Neal, Esq. . . . .	2	2	0
Hamilton Ross, Esq. . . . .	2	2	0
Commander H. G. Briggs, R.N. . . . .	1	1	0
Storks de Roux, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0
J. C. Hutson, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0
His Honour the Hon. Harcourt Malcolm, O B E., K.C. . . . .	1	1	0
C. Guy Wyatt, Esq. . . . .	1	1	0
Mrs. Wigley (St. Kitts) . . . . .	1	0	0
J. Wood-Davis, Esq. . . . .	1	0	0

Contributions towards the West India Committee Endowment Fund may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or may be forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London.

**NOTES OF INTEREST.**

"Ban family better than empty pig-stye"

\* \* \*

"The Cocktail Route to Cuba" has, it is said, been added to the list of recognised railroad and steamer services in America.

\* \* \*

THE present WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR forms the first number of Volume 35. The title-page and index to Volume 34 will be published at an early date. Copies will be obtainable free of charge by members and subscribers on application.

\* \* \*

THE REV. T. H. BINDLEY, D.D., rector of Denton, and Hon. Canon of Norwich, late Archdeacon of Barbados and Principal of Codrington College, has been appointed Commissary to the Lord Bishop of Barbados and the Windward Islands.

\* \* \*

FULL military honours were accorded to Private Fitzgerald Baker, late of the B.W.I.R., and formerly of Barbados, whose funeral took place at Greenwich on December 24th, 1919. A wreath was sent by the West India Contingent Committee.

\* \* \*

A NEW list of members of the West India Committee is under preparation, and will be published at an early date. It is requested, in order to ensure accuracy, that members who have not already done so will communicate to the Secretary any change of address as soon as possible.

\* \* \*

A WELL-KNOWN hotel in Barbados offers "free board" to its visitors "on any day on which the sun does not shine." From our knowledge of that sun-kissed isle we must warn intending tourists that they would be unwise to count on living very largely at the expense of the proprietor of the hostelry in question.

\* \* \*

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. M. DAVSON, D.S.O., R.F.A., who was on active service in France from 1914 until after the signing of the Armistice, has been awarded the C.M.G., and Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Alleyne, A.S.C., son of the late Mr. Forster M. Alleyne, our hon. Correspondent in Barbados, has received the O.B.E. (Military Division) in recognition of his war service.

\* \* \*

As a result of experiments which have been carried out in Antigua by Mr. A. E. Collins over a considerable period of time, the following five varieties of sugarcane are especially singled out in the latest official report, published by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, as the best available for cultivation in that island:—B 4,596, Sealy Seedling, B 6,305, B 1,523, and B 3,922.

\* \* \*

MISS MAUDE M. BURROWS, M.A., head mistress of Hampton School, Munro, and Dickenson's Trust, Jamaica, has arrived in London where she hopes to spend two or three months of the year 1920. During the war Hampton School, which is the largest girls' boarding school in the West Indies, has raised about £500 for different war funds. Four girls from the school have during the period of the war won the Jamaica Girls' Island Scholarship, valued £200 a year for three years, tenable at a British University, and three other girls have won the Exhibition given by the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music to the student showing the greatest musical promise in the island. Miss Burrows has been



a member of the West India Committee for several years, and is also a member of the Jamaica Imperial Association.

MR. BERNARD OPPENHEIMER, who was recently elected a life member of the West India Committee, is a well-known Brighton philanthropist, who is patriotically training and afterwards employing disabled men in the highly-skilled industry of diamond-polishing. He is thus not only finding employment for men who would otherwise be stranded, but is also developing an entirely new industry. Mr. Oppenheimer is interested in the diamond industry of South Africa, and is a large buyer of British Guiana diamonds also.

A CONCENTRATION table showing the percentage of water evaporated between given intensities by volume has been published by Messrs. George Fletcher & Company, Limited, the well-known sugar machinery engineers of Derby, in a convenient form mounted on rollers like a map. Our brain reels at the mass of figures given, which are naturally too technical for the lay-mind to comprehend. They should, however, prove extremely valuable to sugar factory managers and overseers, whom we would advise to communicate with the firm in question if they wish to have copies.

AFTER four years of devoted work as Honorary Secretary of the Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee, Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E., left England in the R.M.S. *Arzila* on December 23rd for Trinidad en route to the Bahamas, where she resides. That she will receive a cordial welcome in all the islands which she visits is a foregone conclusion, for the tireless work which she did day after day without a holiday is, we believe, as fully appreciated throughout the West Indies by the parents and friends of those who came over to our care, as by the men themselves.

"SONGS and SCENES of the West Indies" is the title of a set of short descriptive poems by "Vaquero," recently published by Bala, Son & Daniellson. The spell of the West Indies is plainly strong upon the author, who succeeds in communicating some of it to his readers in these pictures of life in the islands. We confess to liking the one on "Grenada" best, but all have a freshness and movement which haunt the memory. The book is very attractively illustrated by reproductions of some very beautiful photographs of life and scenery in the West Indies which are alone worth the modest price of 1s. 6d. asked for this booklet, copies of which can be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms.

THE Executive of the West India Committee have recently admitted to their body two new members, pursuant to Article 6 of the Royal Charter. These are Lieut. Colonel H. A. Clifton, and Mr. Frank Hazell Watson. Lieut. Colonel Clifton who is a partner in the firm of Messrs. Samuel Doherty & Sons, West India merchants, interested mainly in Jamaica and Trinidad, visited the West Indies as a midshipman in H.M.S. *Bellerophon* in December, 1890, having been educated in H.M.S. *Britannia* for the Royal Navy. He left the Navy at the end of 1894, and afterwards joined the 7th Dragoon Guards, with which regiment he served in the South African War from 1899 to 1902. He left the Army in 1911, but rejoined in August, 1914, and served in the Scottish Horse, one regiment of which he commanded in Gallipoli and Egypt. He was invalided home, and was afterwards appointed a Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General at the War Office. Mr. F. H. Watson has for many years been associated with Messrs. Kleinwort, Sons & Co., a firm having large interests in Trinidad.

## CACAO IN NIGERIA.

By Cyril Warren.

During the last two years of the war, Nigerian cacao, having already gained its bad name, was practically hung—that is to say, hardly any demand was found to exist for what quantities the natives cared to pick and put into the market. In the last ten months, however, the demand has been increasing, and the native farmer who has kept his cacao farm from going into bush has reaped a rich harvest for his energy. All the cacao farms, so far as I know, are owned by natives, as foreigners are unable to own land, but must acquire it by lease.

The quality of the Nigerian cacao leaves much to be desired. The pods are usually left on the trees till they are over-ripe, with the result that the best beans (those in the middle or bulky portion of the pods) have commenced to germinate, and these are thrown away when the process of preparing is started, thus leaving only the flat, bad-shaped beans for treatment.

The growing conditions in the Nigerian cacao plantations can be described as the "intense abandoned system." The cacao used for seed is usually that picked right at one end or the other of the crop season. No selection of plants, seeds or pods is carried out, and the seeds are just scraped out of the pods and scattered on top of a little heap of soil heaped up together by the side of a stream. The young cacao plants are pulled from the beds at the planting period (usually between April and July) without any attention to the roots being broken, and carried exposed often over long distances. When the site of the proposed farm is reached, a small, circular hole is dug, about 4 in. in diameter and half the length of the tap root in depth, and the cacao plant is rammed home like tamping a dynamite cartridge into position; other crops, as corn, coco-yams, cassava, &c., are planted between it for the first two years, then the cacao does not receive much more attention till it is necessary to clear for picking. Distances for planting are rarely considered, although some of the better-educated men round Agoee, Ibadan and Calabar are realising the value of the assistance and advice given by the Agricultural Department's officers. Numbers of the farmers are retired civil servants, schoolmasters and commercial clerks, and all of them are willing to receive advice and help so long as it is tendered in the right way; but to accomplish this a very large staff of practical planters will be required. The present staff is totally inadequate, even for dealing with the innumerable minute papers which emanate from various supposed experienced sources. The native farmer is a courteous gentleman, and wishes to be treated as such; also he requires ocular proof that the advice given is really valuable, which, so far, has not been the case, as in 1917 cacao certified as being specially prepared fetched 5s. less on the market in England than that known as Nigerian F.F. The Model Plots, where modern cultural methods are supposed to be demonstrated, and now given the term of Muddle Plots, have been a dismal failure, and the sooner the Government realise



this and cut their losses the better for everyone concerned. They could then lend a hand in assisting those people who are trying to better the cacao quality. One is at present established, and others will doubtless soon show themselves. They can also prohibit the export of any cacao that has not been properly fermented and graded. A strong hand is needed to do this, and in Sir Hugh Clifford there is a strong man, and it is to be hoped that he will be backed by the men in charge of the Nigerian Agricultural Department; and if he finds he is not, we hope he will endeavour to find someone with broad enough ideas to meet the situation. So far the policy has been to encourage the production of cacao in any condition, but this must stop if the Nigerian cacao is to become anything like that of the West Indies.

The preparation consists of picking the cacao when it is over-ripe, breaking the pods, taking out the beans and the nearly dry placenta, piling it up in a rough heap for a few days, and then putting it out on palm mats to dry. In some places the cacao, when extracted from the pods, is washed in the river and then laid out to dry. The beans which have commenced to germinate are picked out, but large numbers which have had the skin ruptured by the radicle are left in, and the moisture penetrates, and then we poor, inoffending planters hear rude remarks passed by brokers and buyers when we visit the markets in England. These remarks are justified, and if they were directed at the right people might be able to penetrate their red-tape hides. Recently I visited the show-rooms of Messrs. Porter, in Liverpool, and really felt ashamed to admit that I was from Nigeria when I saw the filth which was being sold as Nigerian cacao.

## THE ROYAL SUGAR COMMISSION.

### Statement of Accounts to March, 1918.

The Accounts of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply for the period from August, 1914, to March 31st, 1918, have been published as a Parliamentary Paper [Cmd. 447]. They are given in full below:—

Dr		TRADING ACCOUNT		Cr			
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.		
Purchases	152,058,398	13	11	Sales	147,620,780	6	9
Gross profit carried to Profit and Loss Account	7,356,521	12	10	Stocks in hand 31st March, 1918	11,794,140	0	0
	£159,414,920	6	9		£159,414,920	6	9

### PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

		£	s. d.	By Gross Profit brought down		£	s. d.
Salaries, etc.	25,828	6	2		7,356,521	12	10
Office accommodation, postage, etc.	4,063	1	7				
Interest on advances	657,657	0	0				
Net Profit	6,668,993	5	1				
Balance Sheet	27,356,521	12	10		£7,356,521	12	10

### BALANCE SHEET, 31st MARCH, 1918

Liabilities.		£		s. d.		Assets		£		s. d.	
Net issue from Exchequer	1,691,269	11	4	Cash in hand	469,134	0	10				
Sundry creditors	4,357,840	3	4	Sundry debtors	1,360,023	18	11				
Reserve*	905,194	0	0	Stocks in hand at 31st March, 1918†	11,794,140	0	0				
Balance being Net profit brought forward from Profit and Loss Account	6,668,993	5	1								
	£13,623,296	19	9		£13,623,296	19	9				

\* Via. for losses of cargoes afloat, by war or marine risks, £268,859; and for odder weight loss and contingencies, £36,335.  
 † At cost or selling price, whichever was the lower.  
 Note.—Of the profit of £6,668,993 5s. 1d. shown hereon as on 31st March, 1918, it is estimated that approximately £1,000,000 was absorbed in 1918-9 by the rise in the price of sugar purchased by the Commission. Further amounts will be similarly absorbed in 1919-20.

## A SMALLER SUGAR RATION.

### THE SUGAR-CANE IN SPAIN.

Probably few of our readers in the West Indies realise that the sugar cane flourishes in certain parts of Europe. Most whose acquaintance with our neighbouring continent is limited to its more northern parts will hardly believe it, but it is none the less a fact that cane sugar is produced on a small but commercial scale in Spain.

In an interview published in our contemporary the *Confectioners' Union*, of December 15th, Dr. Manuel M. Barroso, Secretary of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce, stated that the total production of sugar in Spain in the ten years from 1909 to 1918 reached the figure of 1,368,513,000 kilos, 133,262,000 being cane sugar, and 1,235,251,000 beet. The superficial extension of the ground devoted to the cultivation of cane sugar was, in 1918, 1,920 hectares (each hectare equals 2·47108 acres), with a production of 86,423 tons of cane, which means the production of 45 tons per hectare, and the ground devoted to the cultivation of beet during the year 1918 was 66,000 hectares, having produced 672,762 tons during the year. In the year 1918 sixteen firms in Spain manufactured sugar cane, and thirty-two firms produced beet sugar.

The following official statement was issued by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply on December 29th:—

"The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply desire to make it known that 115s. per cwt. duty paid, ex store, less 14 per cent. discount, has been fixed as the maximum 'reasonable' price for all privately imported or 'free' sugar for sale to or re-sale by manufacturers from December 29th, 1919, to January 24th, 1920, inclusive.

"Sugar imported by the Royal Commission will be issued for manufacturing purposes at the following prices:—60s. per cwt. against jam manufacturers' vouchers (brown), 100s. per cwt. against all other manufacturers' vouchers (blue). This latter price will be in force from December 29th, 1919, to January 24th, 1920, inclusive, and will be reduced as soon as circumstances permit.

"In consequence of the acute position ruling in producing countries, it has been found necessary for the present to limit issues to manufacturers to 75 per cent. of the quantity originally intended for the manufacture of jam, and 50 per cent. of the quantity issued during 1919 for all other forms of manufacture.

"In conjunction with these restrictions, the statement adds, the Food Controller feels bound to warn the public that a temporary reduction of the domestic sugar ration will be necessary at an early date in order to defeat what appears to be concerted action on the part of producers to take advantage of the



general position by raising their prices for early deliveries to no less than six or seven times the pre-war level. If the Government were compelled to purchase largely at present it would be necessary to raise the retail price in this country to over 1s. per lb."

It is now generally understood that the Food Controller's sweeping charges referred to Cuban producers. That British colonial producers were not parties to a ring—if any existed—was made amply clear by letters and interviews published in the Press

## GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

### V.—Sir Thomas Modyford.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

(Continued from p. 352.)

In November, 1669, he wrote home that most of the privateers had turned merchants, or had gone hunting in Cuba, or some of the rich had turned planters.

In June, 1670, the Spaniards landed both on the south and on the north side, and burnt many houses and took prisoners. Privateers were called in, and on June 29th, learning that the Spaniards were preparing to attack them, the Governor and Council commissioned Morgan to be Admiral in charge of all vessels with some 1,500 men, and to attack the Spaniards—as Modyford himself calls it, "a fond, rash action for a petty Governor without money to make war with the richest and, not long since, the powerfulest, Prince of Europe."

In August Modyford wrote home that he hoped to send soon a survey of the island, "which was so thinly inhabited till the end of the Dutch war that he was both afraid and ashamed to send it, lest it might fall into the enemy's hands." In September the survey, which gave an estimate of the population, parish by parish, and a total of 15,198, was sent home. There were fifty-seven sugar works, forty-seven cocoa walks, forty indigo works, and three salt ponds.

In September Quakers at Port-Royal were excused from personal guard duty at night on payment for three able and efficient soldiers. In 1670 Alderman Sir Thomas Beckford, one of the first of absentee proprietors, and the ancestor of the richest of all absentee proprietors, William Beckford, of Fonthill, was getting £2,000 per annum from his Jamaica property "clear of all charges."

In September, 1670, Modyford referred to his twenty-four years' experience in Barbados.

He wrote home that he had never suffered any Indians to be sold in Jamaica for slaves, except the Caribbees of St. Vincent, with whom Lord Willoughby was at war; so that many Indians lived very contentedly amongst them. These may have been from the Mosquito Shore or from neighbouring islands, the native Jamaica Arawaks having been exterminated by the Spaniards.

On hearing of the peace with Spain, Modyford sent a despatch to Morgan, who, having started on August 14th, was on his way to Panama; the vessel returned, having missed him at his old rendezvous, but was sent out again. Modyford points out to Arlington how great a safeguard to Jamaica the

buccaneers were; the logwood cutters, with twenty small vessels, being a good reserve.

On December 31st, 1670, Sir Thomas Lynch was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Jamaica, with a revocation of Sir Thomas Modyford's commission, but his commission was not dated till a month later.

As Modyford had, "contrary to the King's express commands, made many depredations and hostilities against the subjects of His Majesty's good brother the Catholic King," Lynch was empowered to arrest him and send him home a prisoner. There is no doubt that Modyford had been encouraged to permit buccaneering by the King, who shared in the profits, and he was made a scapegoat when Spanish complaints became too insistent and Albemarle was no longer living to protect him.

On March 12th, 1670-1, Modyford received Major James Banister, and a first batch of settlers from Surinam, which was being handed over to the Dutch in exchange for New York.

On May 16th Charles Modyford was arrested and lodged in the Tower. Writing thence in June, 1671, he stated that his father, Sir Thomas, was in Europe a "debtor," there being due to him for salary £6,250, and advanced for fortifications £2,500, and £1,100 for other purposes.

Both Sir James Modyford, his brother, and Thomas Modyford, his son, remained in the Council after Sir Thomas was suspended from the Governorship.

Modyford had the unanimous support of his Council. He relied on his power to use extraordinary remedies in extraordinary cases. He pointed out that, if he waited till he got leave from home to "take up any offensive arms," results might possibly be fatal, and that the man on the spot "clearly sees what cannot be imagined by much wiser men at so great a distance." It was urged against him that he first introduced a law that all the laws in force in England are as here, too, "a thing ridiculous in itself."

No money was in the Treasury when Lynch arrived, a dry season having blasted all the cocoa and sugar.

The revenue collected from rents of land, fines and escheats, taxation on ale-houses, and imposts on liquor and tonnage "never yet held out to pay all." Those few who had salaries allotted them (Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Major-General and judges) and the Receiver-General and the Commissioner of Impost paid themselves out of what they collected.

At a Council meeting held on August 15th, 1671, the King's instructions for the sending home of Modyford were read. These anticipated refusal of Modyford's part. Lynch, fearing to arrest him in Spanish Town, induced Modyford to follow him and some of the Council on board the *Assistance*, when he told him of his instructions to send him home a prisoner. Thence he transferred him to the *Jamaica* merchantman (Joseph Knapman, captain). When Modyford was detained on board, feeling was so strong in his favour that Lynch was unable to let him go ashore to visit his dying son. The *Jamaica* sailed on August 22nd.

(To be continued.)

## NELSON AND THE WEST INDIES. GOLD COAST CACAO INDUSTRY.

### West India Committee's Treasured Letter.

Visitors to the West India Committee Rooms will be interested to find among the recent additions to the Library there a copy of the first edition of "The Dispatches and Letters of Vice-Admiral Lord Viscount Nelson, by Sir Nicholas Harris Nicholas, G.C.M.G.," in seven volumes. In it is the memorable letter written by Nelson to Sir Richard Neave, Bart., Chairman of the West India Committee, in reply to the address presented to him by a deputation from that body after Nelson's pursuit of Villeneuve to the West Indies and back in 1805. The deputation had conveyed their opinion—

"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; and 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 Indian islands in general, and well deserve the grateful acknowledgments of every individual connected with those colonies."

Nelson's letter of acknowledgment runs as follows:—

London, August 28th, 1805.

SIR,—I beg leave to express to you, and 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, and therefore it became my duty to follow them. But I assure you, from the state of defence in which our large islands are placed, with the number of regular troops and numerous well disciplined and zealous militia, I was confident not any troops which their combined squadron could carry would make an impression upon any of our large islands before a very superior force would arrive for their relief. I have the honour to remain, Sir and Gentlemen, with the greatest respect, your most obliged and obedient servant,

NELSON AND BRONTE.

### ROLL OF HONOUR.

SUR-LIEUTENANT FRANK GRANT, R.N., who, we regret to state, died on Wednesday, December 10th, at Greenwich Hospital, was the grandson of the late Hon. John Glasgow Grant, of Barbados, and the nephew of Vice-Admiral Alfred E. A. Grant, R.N., Captain Percy Grant, C.B., R.N., and Hon. Eugene Grant. He was also related to the late Mr. Gardiner Austin, and the late Mr. Frank Moore, of Barbados, and Mr. Duff, of St. Lucia. After a few years in the Civil Service in Barbados, he was transferred to the Government service on the West Coast of Africa under the Colonial Office. He there contracted malaria and was invalided out of the service. When the great war broke out he joined the Navy as Paymaster, and served abroad most of the time in all quarters of the world. The hardship he then underwent undermined a constitution weakened by malaria, and he fell an easy prey to acute pulmonary tuberculosis. He leaves a widow, who is a niece of Lady Haddon Smith, and two children, for whom much sympathy is felt.

The Special Commissioner of the *Times* at Accra has been privileged to see an advance copy of the Report of a Special Committee appointed to consider the conditions of the cacao industry on the Gold Coast, and summarises its findings in an article published in the *Times Trade Supplement* of December 20th. With astonishing rapidity, comparable only to the development of the plantation rubber industry in the Middle East, he writes, the Gold Coast has become the biggest cacao-producing country in the world. The exports rose from 80 lb. in 1891 to 90,964 tons in 1917, and this year's crop is estimated at 180,000 tons, representing more than half the total annual production of cacao for the whole world.

At the present time, the colony has "all its eggs in one basket"; its welfare is almost entirely dominated by cacao. Naturally, therefore, the prospects of her maintaining the position in the cacao world, won in such an amazingly short time, is a question of far-reaching interest.

The Committee finds that in addition to the tendency to establish new plantations at the expense of what may be valuable forest, there is the further danger, already acute in some districts, of a serious reduction in humidity due to wholesale destruction of forests for cacao planting . . . and this in a country where the rainfall is already the lowest of any cacao-producing country in the world. In regard to the restriction of cultivation with the object of controlling quantity of output, the optimistic view is taken that this is unnecessary, seeing that the world's demand for cacao has by no means reached its limit.

The insatiable condition of the plantations is viewed with alarm, emphasis being laid on the farmer's habit of abandoning his plantation when pests appear and leaving it to become a fruitful source of infection, while he moves on to a new piece of land. "It seems to the Committee that the dangers, which now threaten cacao in the colony bid fair, in the near future, to extinguish what is now a profitable and what, with adequate care, ought in the future to become a still more valuable industry."

In spite of its recognition of grave and imminent dangers, as summarised above, the Committee, in view of native opinion and local conditions, such as the practically insuperable difficulties at present of enforcing laws, hesitates to advise the Government to pass legislation. As an emergency compromise it recommends further attempts to court the collaboration of native chiefs for renewed efforts to tackle the evils—head chiefs to be invited to pass by-laws under the Native Ordinance for the protection of forests; an Ordinance to be passed whereby it is a punishable offence persistently to neglect elementary precautions against the spread of cacao diseases and pests; evidence against offenders must be supported by officers of the Agricultural Department, and any fine inflicted to be moderate.

Concerning inspection, with a view to improving the quality and therefore the reputation of the colony's cacao, the Committee feels that, in the absence of information as to the quality of cacao the manufacturers desire, and, further, as bad or good cacao has never been defined, they cannot at present recommend inspection at port of shipment. They suggest, however, that the manufacturers in the United Kingdom be approached with a view to ascertaining what quality of cacao they desire, and if they would be prepared to pay prices according to grade and the cost of Government voluntary inspection.



## INDIA'S SUGAR INDUSTRY.

## Vast Areas Available for Cane.

India is, as is well known, the largest producer of sugar in the world, her output being over 2,330,000 tons a year. Yet even that immense quantity of sugar is insufficient for the requirements of her teeming millions, to meet which 600,000 tons are annually imported.

As already announced in the CIRCULAR, a Committee has been appointed to consider the whole question of sugar production in India, with a view especially of ascertaining what developments are possible. This Committee, of which Mr. James McKenna, C.I.E., Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India, is Chairman, and Mr. J. W. Macdonald, of "Tates," and Mr. W. W. Craib, a former British planter, are among the members, has now commenced its work.

Explaining more definitely its objects at the opening session at Cawnpore, Mr. McKenna said that there was no intention of the Committee forcing the cultivator to do anything that he did not want to do. The Committee proposed to investigate the problem of sugar in India in its broadest aspects, to see whether the present methods of cultivation could not be improved so that the cultivator would get a larger yield from the plot of cane which he at present cultivated, and also to ascertain whether by an improvement in his manufacturing processes he could not get a better output of sugar or gur from his cane.

The Empire was crying for sugar. If, therefore, India could become, as she was in the past, self-contained as regards sugar, her present large imports might be utilised by other parts of the Empire. It was even possible that in the future she might again become an exporting, instead of an importing, country. The labours of the Committee would be therefore directed in the first instance to ascertaining whether it was not possible to improve the position of the existing cane-grower by bringing to his aid methods of cultivation or of manufacture which had been found to give better results than the primitive ones which he had followed from time immemorial.

It would also be the duty of the Committee to investigate the probable effect of the introduction of any schemes of irrigation, both as regards existing areas under sugar-cane and areas likely to be brought under sugar-cane as a result of the provision of these facilities, care being taken that the economic balance between sugar-cane and food crops was not unnecessarily disturbed. But, apart from the existing areas under sugar-cane, there were vast tracts of unoccupied waste land in India which he believed could with advantage be placed under sugar-cane cultivation. In such cases it would be for consideration whether the best line of development lay in the direction of central factories or in the encouragement of small local manufacturers. If the former, the Committee would have to decide whether it was preferable to recommend large grants of land for central factories, which would be worked either by a system of tenancy or by hired labour. A reference to the financial papers of Bombay and Calcutta indicated that there was a vast amount of Indian and European capital awaiting investment, and the prospectuses of companies also revealed the fact that Indian and European capital was coming into closer relationship than had been the case in the past. But, in dealing with the proposition on this larger scale, the Committee would not lose sight of the economic and social welfare of the actual cultivator, and such questions as co-operation or profit-sharing would be brought under investigation.

## WEST INDIAN TRADE.

One of the chief difficulties in the way of establishing regular steamer communication between this country and the West Indies has been the small amounts of outward cargo offering. As was to be expected, shipments from Great Britain steadily declined during the war, owing to Government restriction of trade. Imports from the West Indies, on the other hand, increased very rapidly, owing almost entirely to the heavy purchases of West Indian sugar by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply. Owing to this cause the total volume of trade between the United Kingdom and the West Indies shows a marked increase, as indicated by the figures given below, which are based on those given in the Annual Statement of Trade recently published by the Customs Department as a Blue Book [Cmd. 306].

	Imports from West Indies.	Exports to West Indies.	Total trade.
1914	£3,712,002	£3,684,763	£7,396,765
1915	5,704,430	3,154,198	8,858,628
1916	6,255,525	3,880,487	9,646,012
1917	8,206,794	3,100,423	11,307,217
1918	10,536,761	2,542,170	13,078,931

Now that the chief staples of the West Indies are enjoying a substantial preference in the duties in the United Kingdom, and with the prospect of the West Indian colonies reciprocating by granting a preference to manufacturers of Great Britain, a further increase in trade between our oldest colonies and the Mother Country may be looked for.

## THE NEW YEAR'S HONOURS.

The list of New Year's Honours published on January 1st contained several names well known in West Indian circles. Prominent among them are those of Lieut.-Colonel Charles Richard Mackey O'Brien, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Barbados since June 1st, 1918, and of Mr. Samuel William Knaggs, late Colonial Secretary, and many times Acting Governor, of Trinidad and Tobago, where he enjoyed, and still enjoys, great popularity. Both are promoted to be Knight Commanders of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George. Mr. Herbert George de Lisser is appointed a Companion (with status of Commander) of the same order "in recognition of his public services and literary work." For many years Mr. de Lisser has been Editor of the *Daily Gleaner*, the leading newspaper of Jamaica, in which island he was born. He is the author of several historical works besides novels, and since its formation he has been Secretary of the Jamaica Imperial Association. On Mr. Gerald Aubrey Goodnan, late Solicitor-General of Barbados and now Chief Judicial Commissioner of the Federated Malay States, the honour of Knight Bachelor is conferred. Mr. H. H. Rutchings, Assistant Commissioner of Grand Turk, is the recipient of the King's Police Medal. The CIRCULAR cordially congratulates the above-named gentlemen upon the well-deserved honours conferred upon them.



## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

### By "Agronomist."

The use of cotton in making umbrella handles, ornaments, combs, &c., involves complicated processes. According to the *Drug and Chemical Market* the cotton is first converted into fine white tissue paper. This is immersed in a mixture of nitric and sulphuric acid, causing a chemical change. It is ground up and mixed with certain stabilising materials into a dough-like mass. This stuff is kneaded and moulded, and at length appears in the form of hard sheets. Sharp dies then cut the material into form, after which any necessary shaping, polishing, &c., is done. The varying colours seen are the result of adding dyes when the material is in plastic form. Thus are obtained imitation tortoise-shell, pearls, and ivory in their natural tints.

Attention was called lately in the CIRCULAR to the decreasing exports of camphor from Japan. Crude camphor is exported to the United States to camphor refiners. Only what is known as "improved" camphor is sent to Europe. The Government has estimated that the wild trees in Formosa should yield for ten or fifteen years at the rate of about 64 million pounds weight of crude camphor per annum. Afterwards the trees planted by the Government will begin to be cut down, although they will only be twenty to twenty-five years old, and the camphor tree does not reach maturity till it is sixty years old. It is expected that exports will increase as soon as the districts threatened by savages are under Government control.

Guadeloupe produces a large crop of vanilla. The yield in 1918 was 45,000 lb., and it is expected that when the 1919 crop is exported it will prove to be larger by 50 per cent. A portion of the crop was prepared after the Mexican method, and realized \$3.50 a pound in New York. The British West Indian planters have so far taken no interest in vanilla. Prices in Guadeloupe for coffee are said to be the highest ever known. It is shipped exclusively to France, where it is known as a "café de luxe," and sells at highest prices, corresponding to the Blue Mountain coffee of Jamaica. The coffee planters have given up the old idea that coffee trees continue to yield large crops twenty-five years after planting. As soon as they find the older trees giving signs of a dwindling crop they replace them with young trees.

The Indian botanist, Sir Jagadish Bose, lectured in London last month on work carried out in his Research Institute in Calcutta. By means of his crescograph and with the aid of a lantern and screen he rendered visible the movement of growth of a living plant. This is extraordinary, considering that the average rate of growth is about a hundred-thousandth part of an inch per second. By means of his invention he is able to show the effects of certain stimulating agents on growth. Using a chemical, the march of life can be slowed down, and at length arrested. The timely application of a suitable stimulant revives the dying plant, and increases the growth activity to many times the normal rate. The possibility of modifying the rate of growth is a matter of great practical importance. The world's supply of food depends on the growth of plants, and it is by the discovery of laws of growth that any great advance in agriculture is possible.

Sir J. Rose stated that the rule-of-thumb methods hitherto employed in the application of a few chemical stimulants and of electricity have not been found uniformly successful. His researches by means of the

crescograph had shown that a very important factor was the amount applied. Any excess above the critical point brings about a result diametrically opposite to what was expected. While a particular intensity of electrical current increased the rate of growth, an excess slowed it down. The same was true of chemical stimulants. A striking practical result was obtained with poisons, which, in certain doses, killed the plant, but in sufficiently minute quantities acted as an exceedingly efficient stimulant. The plants treated thus were far stronger and flowered a fortnight earlier. The treated plants, moreover, successfully resisted insect blights.

In the admirable presidential address given by Sir Daniel Morris to the South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies, he dealt with "the dispersal of fruits and seeds by ocean currents and tides." He gives the story of the establishment of vegetation on the small volcanic island of Krakatau. Every trace of organic life was completely destroyed and buried under a thick covering of glowing stones and dust during the stupendous eruption of 1883. Krakatau rises abruptly from the sea midway in the strait between Java and Sumatra about 25 miles from each. In 1886 the pioneers of vegetation were found not merely along the shore, but they had already extended to the interior. The first colonists were the blue-green algæ. Then appeared numerous ferns, and in a lesser degree there was a certain number of flowering plants. The seeds of the plants in the interior as well as the algæ had no doubt been introduced by the wind from the neighbouring islands. On coral islands sea-shore plants are the first colonists.

In 1887 Prof. Treub went a second time from Java to Krakatau. He found a considerable increase in the number of species in both coast and inland floras. Grasses in the interior often formed a jungle. Shrubs were few, and trees very rare. In 1906 Dr. Ernst and other botanists paid a visit. They found that the vegetation had become much richer in flowering plants both on the sea-shore and inland. The sea-shore plants contained some which are common on all tropical coasts. Coconuts even had sprung up. In the interior were sixteen species of ferns, also grasses and composites, with many shrubs and trees, among which were six species of fig trees. While the ferns were introduced by wind, 72 per cent. of the flowering plants were carried in by sea-currents, and the rest by birds and air currents. As the island is uninhabited, no plants were introduced by the agency of man or beast. "There is no doubt that after a long interval the vegetation of the once desolated island will again acquire that wealth of variety and luxuriance which is seen in the fullest development which Nature has reached in the primeval forests of the tropics."

Sir D. Morris has made the subject of the dispersal of seeds his own by his studies in the West Indies. In his address he describes the cocoon (*Entada*) of the West Indies with pods 3 ft. to 6 ft. long. The beans are 2½ in. in diameter, and are carried by the Gulf Stream across the Atlantic to St. Helena, Azores, western shores of the British Isles, Orkneys, and even to the Scandinavian coasts. It is astonishing that after their long immersion in sea water, some at least of them are still alive on their arrival and capable of germination. Grey nicker seeds, horse-eye beans, species of ipomœa are also drifted across, none the worse for their voyage. These are instances of the power of ocean currents in widely scattering seeds, &c. But in the particular case of the Gulf Stream, the dispersal is ineffectual, as temperature is all-powerful and prevents the establishment of these tropical plants outside the tropics.



## WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

### The Antigua Sugar Factory, Ltd.

The Company has had a satisfactory year. The rainfall averaged about 36 in., which is below the normal, but canes were received from some outside estates which increased the total supply. The directors, in their report for the year ended September 30th, note with pleasure that, in response to its appeal to contracting estates for more regular deliveries of canes, many of these estates decided to give special inducement to their labourers to work on Mondays. The result has been very satisfactory. There has been a marked improvement in the deliveries, and the hours during which the factory was out of cane were only 2 per cent. of the total. The following figures give the results of the year, and a comparison with previous years—

	1905-7 3 years	1908-10 3 years	1911-13 3 years	1914-16 3 years	1917-19 3 years	1919 1 year	
	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average		
Canes .....	Tons	27,106	42,288	61,612	42,302	45,690	93,186
Sugar .....	..	2,737	4,645	6,599	9,770	9,586	9,759
Sucrose in Cane ..	.. c.	1417	1437	1574	1567	1279	1230
Sucrose in Molasses ..	.. p.c.	7.55	6.07	4.61	3.22	2.63	2.77
Purity of Juice ..	.. p.c.	87.69	85.38	83.70	83.90	83.83	83.06
Recovery of Sucrose in Cane .....	.. p.c.	68.45	73.10	72.18	82.06	84.15	84.36
Yield of Sugar .....	.. p.c.	10.05	10.95	10.32	10.78	11.26	10.80
Price of Sugar per ton	..	£10 5.9	£11 15.3	£11 14	£14 7.8	£21 6.6	£24 14.1

The Company has now completed the period of fifteen years covered by its agreements with the Government, the debenture holders, and the original contracting planters. The Government has completed the cancellation of the £15,000 debentures held by it, the Company has completed the redemption of the other debentures, and has also completed the repayment of the money raised for additions. The total amount of capital spent on the factory having thus been liquidated, the "B" shares (of 1s. each) held by the Crown Agents, representing one-half of the value of the factory, fall to be distributed amongst the owners of the original contracting proprietors' estates in accordance with their agreements, while the "A" shares (1s. each) represent the remaining half. The directors consider it desirable that the "A" and "B" shares should be merged in one class, and that the Company's capital issued in respect of these should be increased, so that it may approximately represent the amount spent on the property. The sanction of the shareholders will be asked for later on to give effect to these recommendations.

After charging £10,229 14s. 5d. for debenture and additions to Sinking Funds, there remained a surplus of £66,003 13s. Out of this the new contractors receive 7s. 6.568d. per ton of canes, making a total of 33s. 5.068d. per ton, the original contractors 18s. 5.37d. per ton, making a total of 41s. 8.37d. per ton; and the "A" shareholders £20,745 9s. 6d. The directors recommend a dividend of 10s. per share, less income-tax (leaving a balance of £34,365 13s. 5d. to be carried forward), and honorariums of £1,500 to Mr. Henzell, manager, and £300 to the accountant.

Presiding at the fifteenth ordinary general meeting on December 18th, Mr. G. Moody Stuart reviewed the history and progress of the Company, and paid tribute to Mr. Chamberlain, Sir Gerald Strickland, late Governor of the Leeward Islands, and Sir Francis Watts, who first brought forward the proposals for a central factory, and supported them with the knowledge he had acquired.

The original desire of the planters in Antigua was that the Government should undertake the responsibility for a central factory. Mr. Chamberlain refused this on the ground that, if they did, they would lose their own money and the planters' money also; but he said if private persons, plantation owners and their friends chose to venture their money, he would approve of the Government giving a grant-in-aid to a pioneer factory to show what could be done, so that if that succeeded other fac-

ories could follow, established on ordinary business lines. An agreement was accordingly entered into between the Government and this Company, and the following is a brief summary of the work undertaken and accomplished under it:—

(a) The Government provided £15,000 and the Company £25,000, making a total of £40,000 for the erection of a factory to make 3,000 tons of sugar in the season. The factory was duly erected, the actual cost being £45,358, approximately £15 per ton of sugar capacity. It made its first crop in 1905. It has since grown to 10,000 tons sugar capacity, and the total cost to capital account has been £103,229, or £10 6s. per ton.

(b) The Government stipulated for fair co-operative terms for the original contracting planters, and that at the end of fifteen years, shares representing half the value of the factory should be made over to these. They have received high prices for their canes, the rate averaging in recent years over 9 per cent. on the f.o.b. price of sugar without any deduction for cost of bags or export taxes, the factory also bearing the cost of transport of canes from the estates. These terms are, I believe, much in excess of what has been paid in any other part of the world, and these planters are now to have their shares, representing £51,615, transferred to them free of charge. This result has come from their being not only contracting planters, but also because of their being placed in the position of shareholders in respect of the £15,000 subscribed by the Government.

(c) The Government also stipulated for fair rates for canes from peasant growers, and these have received about double the rates previously ruling. Now that the agreement with the Government under which they worked has terminated, and there is no longer any charge on the Company for interest and sinking fund for capital outlay, it is proposed to place them on a higher scale of payment for their canes.

(d) The subscribers of the £25,000 have received for the whole period an average of 20 per cent. annually on their capital; they have had their capital repaid in full, and they hold shares representing half the value of the factory, or £51,615, and, further, they have approximately £18,000 standing at their credit in the Company's books. The exact figure cannot be ascertained until the assessment for Excess Profits Duty is made.

(e) Another large section of the planting community has also profited by the factory, and the factory has profited by it—namely, the owners of plantations in the surrounding districts, who have joined as new contractors. These have been paid on terms which have included sharing in half profits on each year's working account. The prices for their canes have compared favourably with prices paid elsewhere, their average in recent years being equal to over 7 per cent. on the f.o.b. price of sugar, the factory bearing all the charges mentioned above in paragraph (b). These new contractors do not receive shares in the Company, but now that the capital outlay has been liquidated, the rate for their canes is to be 5½ per cent. on the price of sugar plus share in half the profits, which should give them a substantial increase on what they have had hitherto.

The Government has also received a good return on its grant of £15,000, for the Company's payments here for Excess Profits Duty have amounted to £44,476 and £16,951 in the island in export tax imposed because of the war—say, together, £61,427—and both the home and colonial Governments have profited also in other ways by the Company's work. Mr. Chamberlain's desire that the Antigua Sugar Factory should prove a pioneer factory, and be followed by others, was attained, in the first case, by the erection of a factory in St. Kitts seven years later on similar co-operative lines, and since then the factory system has spread. The local community has also benefited. Prior to its erection the salaries of estate managers and overseers were far from adequate.

the estate revenues being too small to admit of more being given. But soon after the factory started substantial increases were given on many estates; also, the labouring population generally had been in great poverty and distress. But with the coming of the factory there was a complete change—work for all, and fair living wages.

The funds which have brought about the above-mentioned results have come from the extra sugar produced by the work of the factory, as compared with that of the old Muscovado boiling-houses. These boiling-houses in Antigua took at least 15 tons of cane (many of them much more) to make 1 ton of sugar. The canes delivered to the factory in these fifteen years have amounted to 928,791 tons, which, in the Muscovado boiling-houses (on the 15-tons basis), would have given 61,919 tons of sugar. Instead of that these canes in the factory have yielded 100,012 tons of sugar. We have thus had 38,093 tons extra sugar, value £431,300 net—that is, after deducting cost of manufacture. It is out of this that the good rates for canes have come to the original and new contracting planters, the good return to shareholders and to the Government, the liquidation of the total cost of the factory, and better pay rendered possible to estate staff and labourers.

The results are due, in the first place, to the sound basis on which the work was planned, and then to the improvement in the quality, and the increase in the quantity, of the work as the years went on. In its first three years the factory took 10 tons of cane to make 1 ton of sugar, which was just the rate calculated on in advance. Its work steadily improved, and during the last three years it has taken less than 9 tons to the ton of sugar. In the first three years the output averaged 2,737 tons; in the last three years, 9,586 tons. The improvement in the work gave us over 10 per cent. more sugar costing nothing, and this, combined with more than trebling the quantity, has changed a success into a great success.

It used to be said by some in the island that it was a pity to see money taken out of the island. They thought money paid for interest or dividend to investors outside, who provided plant and machinery, skilled experts, and direction, was money taken out of the island. But the very opposite to that is nearer the truth. Sugar worth £431,300 has been raised by the factory—not by the planters—and the factory has handed over more than half of that to the planters, and less than half to the investors and the home Government combined.

The resolution for the adoption of the report and accounts having been adopted, the chairman moved a resolution providing for the establishment of a Staff Fund and for the transfer to it annually of 10 per cent. of the profits credited to the shareholders was then carried unanimously.

#### Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.

Presiding at the sixth ordinary general meeting on December 20th, Mr. F. J. Milner said that the Company's oil profits and other receipts for the year amounted to £254,422. Ample provision has been made for depreciation by writing off £54,010. The net profit for the year amounted to £187,379, to which had to be added the balance brought forward from the previous year—namely, 62,365—making a total to the credit of profit and loss account of £249,744. Of this sum they proposed to place £50,000 to reserve, bringing that account to £120,000, and they recommended the payment of a dividend of 12½ per cent., as compared with 10 per cent. in 1918. It was important to bear in mind that the proposed distribution was on the present issued capital—which was 50 per cent. larger than last year and involved nearly twice the amount of the previous dividend. They were now in a strong financial position. In addition to their holding in Government stocks and Treasury bills, valued

to-day at approximately £365,000, they had £312,000 on fixed deposit. The area held under lease from the Trinidad Government remained unchanged at 63,900 acres. In addition they had purchased a total of 5,196 acres of freehold land, freehold oil rights or surface rights. The total output of oil for the year was 171,286 tons, or approximately 17,000 tons in excess of the previous twelve months. On the Forest Reserve, where their main operations were centred, the success of new wells further confirms the existence of richly impregnated oil sands. At June 30th, 1919, thirty-six wells were yielding, and five had since entered the producing stage. The total footage drilled during the year was 17,291 ft., compared with 14,657 ft. last year. Speaking of two new oilfields recently purchased, Mr. Milner said:—"The first is known as the Santa Cecilia estate, and is situated a few miles east of Forest Reserve on the line of the Central Anticline. We were guided in our decision to commence our extended development programme on this estate by the favourable reports of our geologists and by the fact of our trunk pipeline passing through it. The other area selected lies in the Piparo district, and we are hopeful that oil of high grade will be discovered on this field, but before it can be opened up on a commercial scale the construction of a pipeline to La Carriere, about 12 miles distant, will be necessary. We have every reason to believe the development of these two fields will be successful and profitable." As to the future, the Chairman continued, the market for fuel oil, which in many directions was rapidly ousting coal, and for petrol, seemed assured, and the Company had practically concluded an agreement with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company for the disposal of light products, which should prove advantageous. The motion for the adoption of the report and balance-sheet was adopted unanimously.

#### The Demerara Railway Company.

The figures of gross expenditure for the half-year ended June, 1919, should read £31,377 2s 1d, and not as stated in last issue.

#### BRITISH GUIANA TIMBERS.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I see on page 330, col. 2, of CIRCULAR that Mr. Clementi says, "Development is unlikely in British Guiana timbers until determined efforts are made to get other kinds than Greenheart recognised and established in the markets of the United Kingdom, Canada, and U.S.A."

May I add that timber users in this country and Canada cannot take up business in new woods until they have some reliable estimate of the quantities of each kind available in British Guiana, and that these have not been forthcoming from the colony. Until such information is handy (after surveys) determined efforts cannot be made to satisfactorily establish the markets necessary.

I have this on the authority of timber merchants in a large way, who have examined nearly thirty samples provided me by the Board of Agriculture at Georgetown, and this information was long ago sent to Prof. Harrison and others.

GUY WYATT.

Cheltenham.

December 18th, 1919

Our contemporary *West Africa* voices the hope that General Guggisburg, the new Governor of the Gold Coast, will revive the proposal which he put forward when he was last in the colony to send a West African cricket team to England.



## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

### Appointments in the Bahamas.

Captain G. F. Corbett, C.B.E., R.N., has been appointed to the post of Inspector of the Imperial Lighthouse Service in the Bahamas. Dr. A. H. B. Pearce, Chief Medical Officer, is on an official visit to Long Island, and during his absence Dr. J. J. Culmer is Acting Chief Medical Officer, and Mr. W. J. Maura is Acting Chairman of the Hospital Board.

### Baby-Saving Movement in Barbados.

During December good showers fell nearly every day, and crops have greatly benefited. The *Barbados Advocate* records the sale of Cove, St. Lucy (115 acres), and Goodland, St. Michael's (128 acres), to Mrs. Springer for £9,740 and £5,336 respectively. A Baby Welfare League was started by Mrs. O'Brien at a meeting held at Government House on November 28th.

### Jamaica Loses Mr. J. H. Corinaldi.

The death of Mr. J. H. Corinaldi, which took place at his residence in Jamaica on November 29th last, deprives that town of a greatly respected citizen. Mr. Corinaldi, who was in his seventy-seventh year, was the brother of the late Mr. S. G. Corinaldi, and was associated with the *New Century* newspaper, to which he was a frequent contributor.

### A New Industry in the Caicos Islands.

The Direct Cable Company report that the weather during the month, as in the preceding few months, has been somewhat oppressive during the day, light winds prevailing. On seven days only during the month we were without a slight shower. Rain is badly needed. Owing to the absence of the usual scant supply of green fodder, animals are looking very poor, especially those that are turned out in the bush to forage for themselves. The conch shell industry has given a certain amount of employment to the fishermen. Large quantities of shell have been shipped to the United States during the month, and it is expected a large consignment will be ready when the next opportunity offers.

The clearing of land taken over by the new company that is being formed has been started. A Mr. Cowan, of New York, is the chief promoter, and it is the company's intention to plant cotton and castor-oil beans quite extensively in various parts of the Caicos group. This will give employment to a good number, who, since the closing down of the Fibre Plantation at Jacksonville, East Caicos, have been without employment and have had a hard time of it.

The salt industry is at a standstill, and shows no sign of moving just at present. It is hoped that as soon as things settle down in the United States things generally will brighten up.

### Trinidad's Germans Return to the Fatherland.

A serious strike of the stevedores of the port has been in force for about ten days, writes Mr. Edgar Tripp under date November 24th. Only in March last their wages and overtime were raised by mutual agreement by no less than 25 to 100 per cent. They now claimed further increases varying from 50 to 100 per cent. over and above the last. This demand, which was presented on the eve of the expected arrival of several steamers with large cargoes, was declined, whereupon almost every licensed stevedore struck. The steamers' agents promptly engaged other men from different parts of the country. Delay has resulted, but each day improves matters. Not one of the prominent agitators is a native of Trinidad. The steamers' agents have offered from the commencement to consider any-

thing that properly elected representatives of the men may submit it and when the men have returned to work. At last we have managed to get rid of about sixty of the interned Germans who for the past five years have been costing the colony a good deal more than they are worth. They left by a Dutch steamer in charge of a German official, who seems to have come for the purpose. He and they expressed their appreciation of the treatment that had been accorded them. Some of those remaining occupied positions in the colony before the war, and two at least have British wives and families. What will be done with them is not known, but no one cares for them to remain here. We are already being flooded with German literature and trade circulars. The crawling back movement has commenced in earnest, and, I suppose, will prove more or less successful. The Estimates for 1920 were presented at the last meeting of the Legislative Council, but disclose no item of unusual or special interest. Increases to salaries, &c., are freely granted, but this was to be expected and cannot be objected to under existing conditions. The revenue is estimated at £1,256,735, and the expenditure at £1,257,485. The export tax on produce and the war tax on incomes will be continued.

### Oil Litigation in Trinidad.

At a further meeting of the Legislative Council held yesterday, writes Mr. Edgar Tripp under date November 29th, substantial alterations in the Estimates presented at the previous meeting were announced. The revenue has been underestimated by about £80,000. It will now amount to £1,333,303 instead of £1,256,735, while expenditure has been increased from £1,257,485 to £1,300,787, the expected excess at December 31st, 1920, being £32,516, and the surplus in favour of the colony £161,701. The favourable differences were expected to be obtained from Customs, underestimated by £90,000. Produce Tax, and royalty on oil. Dr. Lawrence made some trenchant criticism on the estimates, which were received in tactful acknowledgment of the Doctor's "constructive efforts" by the Governor. It is significant to note that the expenditure for 1914-15 was £960,000. The advance to £1,333,000 in five years is an index either of the country's extravagance or prosperity. The strike among the stevedores and lightermen is fast fizzling out. Owing to the firm attitude of the steamers' agents, and especially to that of Mr. D. S. Webster, Attorney of the Royal Mail Company, the schemes of a few agitators from elsewhere have failed, and, barring some inevitable delay with fresh hands, the despatch of all steamers arriving has not been seriously interfered with. A notable feature in connection with this strike is that a large number of Venezuelans have volunteered for the work and have proved themselves very capable of performing it.

Under the patronage of the Governor and Lady Chancellor, Mrs. William Greig presented to a crowded and appreciative house on the 26th instant a "Pageant of Peace," which has for some time been under careful preparation in her competent hands. About sixty willing amateurs took part and did justice to the admirable training they had received. The whole performance was a striking and beautiful one, reflecting great credit upon every one connected with it.

There is considerable friction just at present between the agricultural community and the oil companies on the question of the responsibility for the consequences of the overflow of oil into cultivated lands, and of the pollution of rivers. Mr. Stollmeyer, a riparian owner, has carried litigation in the matter as far as the Privy Council, which has ruled in his favour, but has given the defendant company two years in which to remedy the evil before restraining injunctions can be put in force. The oil companies are now seeking to introduce legislation which will to a certain extent nullify the ruling of the Privy Council. In justification of this they plead that it is absolutely indispensable to



the industry that their power to dam streams should be maintained, and that they should be relieved from judicial consequences regarding the overflow of oil provided they prove that all reasonable precautions to prevent such overflow had been taken. On these points issue is joined. The Agricultural Society, after a debate extending over three meetings, has practically unanimously protested against the Bill giving effect to the proposed new legislation. The Chamber of Commerce has appointed a Committee, which is about to report on the matter, and meanwhile the Government holds its hand. Everyone is agreed as to the necessity and advantage of encouraging the oil industry in every reasonable way, and no doubt some practical solution of the difficulty will be arrived at.

**A District Engineer for Tobago.**

The retention of the ss. *Belize* in the Trinidad-Tobago service has caused much satisfaction. Mr Robert S. Reid, writing on November 23rd, reports that the vessel is getting increasing shipments of coconuts and small lots of cacao are also coming to hand. Mr. Schuelt has now been installed as district engineer and will find ample to do on the roads, bridges and buildings in the island.

**Warships Visit St. Lucia.**

Heavy rains have fallen during the last few weeks, writes Mr. Archibald J. Brooks under date November 26th, and much damage has been done to some of the main roads. The southern districts suffered the most, where, on November 6th, 5 in. of rain fell within six hours. At Canaries a section of the concrete wall erected last year to prevent the river from flooding the village was destroyed. Altogether something like £600 will be required to repair the storm damage. Luckily crops suffered little, and the prospects are very bright. Excellent cacao and lime crops are being harvested, and a bumper cane crop is expected. It is pleasant to be able to record the fact that Mr. E. G. Bennett, K.C., the able managing director of the Culo-de-Sac Company, Limited, has been sufficiently restored to health to enable him again to assume the management of the company's properties. H.M.S. *Yarmouth* has paid us two visits. On both occasions she remained for a few days. Visits made by his Majesty's ships are greatly appreciated by all, and it is hoped that they may be continued and become more frequent. H.M.S. *Calcutta*, under command of Admiral Everett, is expected to arrive on December 8th, and to remain for four days. An "At Home" given by Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Davidson-Houtson, C.M.G., at Government House on October 29th, was largely attended. A successful dance was held at the Bank House on October 28th, the attendance of some of the officers from the *Yarmouth* added to the enjoyment.

The following marriages have recently taken place: Mr Edgar Gallop, late of the C.R.G.A., to Mrs. Lionel Devaux (née Therese Chastanet), of "The Cedars," on the 5th inst.; Charles Count de Brettes was married to Miss Alix Maruchau, youngest daughter of the late Alfred Maruchau, of La Retraite, Vieuxfort, on the 15th inst.; while on the 19th inst. Mr. T. W. H. Hosegood, harbourmaster, was married to Miss Norah Dennehy, fifth daughter of the late Surgeon-General Dr. and Mrs. Dennehy, of "The Caribbees."

News of the death of Mr. Alexander Clavier, which took place at his residence, "Upton Lodge," on the 7th inst., has been received with great regret. Mr. Clavier was Sheriff and Registrar for thirty-three years, and for twenty-two years he was a member of the Legislative Council. The funeral was attended by representatives from all Government Departments and other public bodies. Mr. Clavier leaves a wife, two sons, and six daughters. Mr. J. Desmond Fisher, having obtained a teaching appointment in England, has resigned his position as headmaster of St. Mary's.

**WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.**

**Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, December 23rd, per R.M.S. *Coronado* (Commander, W. T. Forroster):—**

- |  |  |                                   |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Mrs. J. W. Alston                              | Miss E. D. Facey                       | Capt. & Mrs. H. Joslem            |
| Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Arbutnot                    | Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Ferguson            | Major and Mrs. H. J. Jarrett Kerr |
| Miss H. Arbutnot                               | Rev. and Mrs. J. F. Gartsshore         | Miss H. M. Jarrett-Kerr           |
| Miss B. Arbutnot                               | Miss J. K. Gartsshore                  | Mr. W. J. G. Kiloer               |
| Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Heresford                   | Mauler J. F. K. Gartsshore             | Mr. & Mrs. J. Knutford            |
| Major A. C. Birch                              | Mr. D. G. Goble                        | Col. J. W. Lee                    |
| Capt. and Mrs. H. T. A. Bosanquet              | Miss M. A. Gordon                      | Miss C. M. Lee                    |
| Miss E. M. Bosanquet                           | Dr. & Mrs. C. Gordon                   | Mr. J. P. Lynch                   |
| Col. H. Broadmead                              | Lt. Col. and Mrs. J. M. Graham         | Mr. N. L. McLean                  |
| Mr. W. Bushier                                 | Mr. I. Hairs                           | Mr. E. J. Monteleagre             |
| Lt. Col. and Mrs. J. Campbell                  | Bear Admiral Sir W. B. and Lady Hall   | Mr. R. A. Muir                    |
| Miss E. J. Capell                              | Mr. & Mrs. F. S. Haro                  | Major and Mrs. A. C. Paton        |
| The Hon. Mrs. W. H. Chetwood                   | Mrs. W. Harvey                         | Mr. L. K. T. Knievel              |
| Mrs. H. J. Chalk                               | Mr. S. C. Harvey                       | Miss A. E. Schlesinger            |
| Miss P. Chetwood                               | Mr. C. J. Hodgson                      | Mr. F. J. Shoad                   |
| Mrs. F. V. Cook                                | Mr. F. J. F. Wootton                   | Miss M. Shaw                      |
| Mr. A. H. D. Costa                             | Isaacson                               | Mr. & Mrs. K. Sinclair            |
| Col. the Rt. Hon. B. G. Sherman-Crawford, P.C. | Brig-Genl. L. L. Sadleir-Jackson, V.C. | Miss C. A. Wilmot                 |
| Mr. C. H. Davies                               | Mrs. L. L. Sadleir-Jackson             | Miss J. E. Wilmot                 |
| Mr. A. G. Facey                                | Mr. A. M. Jamieson                     | Mr. C. Stuart Somerville          |
| Miss I. G. Facey                               |  | Mr. E. A. Steadman                |
|  |  | Mrs. V. A. de Winton              |

**Home arrivals from West Indies per s.s. *Patuca*, December 28th:—**

- |                               |                         |                            |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Miss I. Salon Bicarra         | Lieut. E. H. P. Greaves | Miss Charlotte Boper       |
| Mrs. M. E. P. Brown           | Miss K. Kirkham         | Mr. Arthur Tracey          |
| Commander and Mrs. H. Mullard | Mr. F. Large            | Capt. and Mrs. A. H. Vince |
| Miss V. M. Bullard            | Mr. J. M. Marshall      | Mr. H. E. Waite            |
| Mr. E. M. Franklin            | Capt. E. B. Metbuen     |                            |

**Sailings to Jamaica from Liverpool on December 30th:**

- |  |                              |                            |
|--|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. O. E. Allo                        | Mr. J. Henderson             | Miss D. V. Peters          |
| Master W. Allo                               | Lord and Lady Walter Horvey  | Miss A. Pavia              |
| Miss N. Allo                                 | Miss C. E. Jackson           | Mr. J. H. Pibel            |
| Miss A. Anderson                             | Mr. F. H. Kinneer            | Mr. & Mrs. E. A. Poet      |
| Mr. and Mrs. W. Y. Archibald                 | Mr. C. T. McLara             | Capt. J. A. Ravenscroft    |
| Dr. H. F. Baxter                             | Mr. C. Mainwaring            | Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Rickaby |
| Mr. E. Bisset                                | Mr. J. Mason                 | Mr. E. Robinson            |
| Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Blackett                  | Middlemas                    | Sir Ernest Brentall        |
| Mr. J. Cameron                               | Miss Margaret Middlemas      | Mrs. C. E. Shorman         |
| Mr. C. Courtneidge                           | Miss Marion Middlemas        | Master H. J. Shorman       |
| Mr. R. Dance                                 | Mr. B. Mitchell              | Miss C. E. Shorman         |
| Miss W. Deiboldt                             | Mr. B. Noble                 | Mr. V. Smith               |
| Mr. R. Eyre                                  | Miss M. Y. Owen              | Mr. G. S. Thomson          |
| Mrs. K. B. Frazer                            | Mr. J. Parkin                | Mr. A. Tinswell            |
| Bear Admiral Sir Guy (Maunt, K.C.M.G., C.B.) | Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Peatfield | Miss M. Turner             |
| Miss F. Glossop-Harris                       |                              | Miss W. Vygan              |
| Mr. A. J. Gonzalez                           |                              | Miss F. R. Woolley         |
|  |                              | Miss A. A. Wyse            |

**Royal Dutch West India Mail Service.—Sailings from Dover per s.s. *Oranje Nassau* (Commander, P. G. J. Van der Est) on December 25th:—**

- |                            |                                   |                           |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Trinidad.                  | Mr. F. C. C. Morgan               | Mr. A. J. Wilson          |
| Mr. O. C. Arthur           | Miss B. Morgan                    | Lt. Guiniv.               |
| Mr. H. W. R. Wanting       | Mr. and Mrs. T. W. (O'Neal)       | Mr. A. R. Clacher         |
| Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Brown     | Mrs. V. M. Russell                | Mr. W. G. Harrison        |
| Mr. F. P. Bruce Austin     | Master P. A. Bussell              | Mr. L. B. McCarthy        |
| Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Pordham | Mr. C. E. Tildesley               | Harry Curacao.            |
| Mr. J. B. Harrison         | Mr. and Mrs. W. B. A. Weatherhead | Mr. and Mrs. G. Channinge |
| Dr. & Mrs. J. Harrison     |                                   |                           |
| Mrs. M. Hubbard            |                                   |                           |

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—List of passengers per s.s. *Quilque*, sailing January 7th:—**

- |                               |                              |  |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Lieut. Birch                  | Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gordon    | Lt. Col. and Mrs. P. W. Richardson         |
| Dr. and Mrs. J. F. E. Bridger | Master Gordon                | Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Richards                |
| Mr. A. Campbell               | Mr. G. Hamilton              | Miss E. Ridley                             |
| Commander Cooper              | Miss M. H. Hartley           | Mrs. Robinson                              |
| Mr. & Mrs. A. P. Cowley       | Mrs. A. H. D. Jones & child  | Mr. and Mrs. J. C. W. Rock                 |
| Lieut. J. C. Dandy            | Mrs. Maddison                | Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Spouner                 |
| Mr. T. F. Rhodes Disher       | Mr. T. H. Naylor             | Mr. A. McK Stitt                           |
| Mr. J. P. Eighill             | Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Perival   | Prof. & Mrs. F. A. Stockdale, M.A., F.L.S. |
| Mr. & Mrs. J. Fleming         | Miss M. Price                |  |
| Mrs. Francisco                | Brig. Gen. Cecil Edward Bice |  |
| Miss Francisco                |                              |  |
| Miss A. M. Garraway           |                              |  |
| Miss L. Genever               |                              |  |



## PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—2042 Central.  
Telegrams—"Curb, London."

15, SKEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 8.

January 8th, 1920.

**SUGAR.** Control prices in the United Kingdom, which were modified on November 3rd, remain as follows:—

	Wholesale.		Retail.
	Per cwt.	a. d.	Per lb.
Cubes, Lumps, &c. ... ..	72 0		8½
W.I. Crystallised (see below) ... ..	66 0		8
W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups (see below) ... ..	69 6		7½
W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing ... ..	"free"		No maximum

The Royal Commission has fixed a maximum price of 115s. for all "free" sugars remaining unsold, but at the moment there are no buyers for West Indian at this price, manufacturers showing a predilection for whites. Manufacturers' rations have been cut down to 50 per cent. of 1915. The special arrangement for the sale in the United Kingdom of West Indian crystallised and Muscovado and grocery syrup sugar, details of which were given in last CIRCULAR, have now come into force. Briefly, the basis of the arrangement is that these sugars will be graded by the Grading Committee as before, and that the Commission will pay for them a premium over the value of Cuban 96° raw sugar of 36'31s. per cwt. for crystallised and 31'42s. for Muscovado and grocery syrups. These premiums are made up as shown below:—

	Shillings & Decimals.	
	Per cwt.	
(a) Messrs. Scrutton's West India (freight rate ruling on the first day of the month in respect of which the price is fixed (at present 120s.))	6 00	6 00
(b) Marine insurance, ½ per cent.	26	26
(c) Landing, &c., incl. six weeks' rent and port rates	84	90
(d) Flat duty rate of	19 67	17 82
(e) Preference on	3 83	3 52
(f) Discount at 1½ per cent. on Commission's selling price	99	95
(g) Loss of interest	65	65
(h) Premium for grocery quality	4 00	1 52
Total addition to f.o.b. Cuban price	36 94	31 42

It will be noted that the allowance for loss of interest is slightly larger than as stated in last issue.

Quite a sensation has been caused by the charges of cornering the market levied by the Food Controller against sugar producers as a whole. Several writers in letters to the Press have shown very conclusively that British producers are not concerned in a ring—if any exists—but Mr. Roberts has so far refused to recant. Reference to this matter is made elsewhere in the CIRCULAR. The view in the Lane is that the Royal Commission, which could have bought sugar more cheaply in, say, October, missed its market.

The statement made in this column under date November 13th, that a transfer of part of the manufacturers' ration to the general public would only add a negligible amount to the householders' ration, is confirmed by the Royal Commission, which gives the amount as 1½ oz. per person per week only!

The outstanding fact is that the sugar ration is shortly to be reduced from 8 oz. to 6 oz. per head per week. The control of sugar in America is continued, the McNary Bill having been passed and assented to.

During the fortnight ended December 10th, new crop Cubas, basis 96°, ranged from 8½d. to 12c. Pres. Menocal has issued a proclamation prohibiting the export of any more of the 1918-19 crop, the object being to prevent this sugar (which was sold to the Equalisation Board) being sold as 1919-20 crop.

**RUM.** Market firmer. Jamaicas 1919 crop, 9s.

**CACAO.** Sales are advertised to take place on January 6th, just as these notes will be going to press. Cable news, however, will give details as to prices realised, so it will be wiser to say nothing as to prospective values to-day. It can be said, however, that the market remains unaltered; it can even be described as being strong, for the best class of Accras have risen to 100s. for home use, which is very near the best export value, whilst Arriba Guayaquils are said to have been dealt in up to 160s., against 142s. in November. This growth is always an "outsider" so far as the general market is considered. It wanders along paths entirely on its own, so cannot be taken as typical of the market's moods.

One of the broker's reports just issued speaks of a special committee having been appointed to investigate conditions connected with the cacao industry on the Gold Coast, and that their report will shortly be issued. This is the first that we have heard of this matter, and, speaking from the Gold Coast point of view, such a committee of investigation can do excellent work if the object sought after is to increase the output of Gold Coast cacao—which heaven forbid! there is too much already. At the same time, it cannot be denied that, as with sugar in India, also being investigated by a committee, the area under cacao in West Africa could put out larger crops than those already received without extending the area planted or to be planted. This being so, both India, with sugar, and West Africa, with cacao must see to it that further areas of land are not wasted, but if cleared, made to grow provisions or other most necessary crops, instead of being utilised to encourage careless cultivation, and increase pests for others to exterminate.

All this concerns the West Indian planters because the low prices accepted by the native producers pull down the value of decent growths carefully cultivated at considerable cost elsewhere. One day, perhaps, we shall have in London a real exhibition of cacao and chocolate, where the general public will be admitted, and the manufactured, not the raw, article will be on show and for sale. Each group will be ticketed with the growths embodied in its make-up, so as to enable discerning buyers and discriminating palates to realise that growths blended like West Indian, Ceylon and Guayaquils are both worth eating, and attractive in appearance, which is more than can be said of the bulk of the chocolate offered for Christmas. Such an exhibition, if arranged for in the not too distant future, would go a long way, one would imagine, to increase the demand for medium to fine West Indian growths; it certainly should go a long way to educate the public to realise that fine chocolate is still available if they insist upon having it.

It has been suggested that a wider range of values be given when quoting prices, but this is not easy, as the bulk of the trade done and reported is for the better and best qualities only; so that one can only guess at the comparative values of the cheaper grades. On this basis, it is probable that if superior Trinidads are worth over 130s., and good to fine 129s. to 130s., then good middling to good red would go at 127s. to 128s., and middling red at 125s. to 126s. So with Grenadas and St. Lucias the best are worth 126s. to 127s., the mediums 123s. to 125s., low common to fair common unfermented, perhaps, 115s. to 118s., and fair fermented 120s. to 122s. If, therefore, it is stated the best marks sold up to 130s. for Trinidads and 127s. for Grenadas, it shifts the responsibility of fixing the comparative values for other grades on to shoulders other than our own. West African kinds, even the best, are undoubtedly low in value against West Indian kinds; so take care and keep up your good name, lest you lose this premium in value.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** Lime Oil: Handpressed, steady; some business at 10s.; Distilled, rather better, with sales up to 3s. 9d. on spot. Lime-juice: Raw, fine Jamaicas sold at 2s. 6d. per gallon; Other sorts not asked for.

# The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXV.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone:  
6642 CENTRAL,  
3743 AVENUE.

15, SEETHING LANE,

LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams:  
CARIB, LONDON.

January 22nd, 1920.

### That Cable Service!

THE West Indian cable system—with the notable exception of that part of it connecting Jamaica with Bermuda, regarding which we hear nothing but praise—is really past praying for. At the time of writing it is in a state of complete chaos. The Jamaica-Porto Rico cables, which were interrupted in July and August last, again broke down on September 30th, cutting off the whole of the West Indies east of Jamaica from cable communication. From that date until January 5th, when communication with Barbados via Porto Rico was restored, it was possible to telegraph between the West Indies and the Mother Country only by means of the local Government wireless, when in action, or via Santiago and the French cables connecting Cuba and Haiti and Porto Rico, and that at a cost of 3s. 10d. per word as against the normal rate of 2s. 6d. provided for in the agreement of August 19th, 1914, with the West India and Panama Telegraph Company. Since then the French lines referred to have broken down, and messages can only be sent via New York and Haiti. But this is not all; the cable between British Guiana and Trinidad has been out of action since December, and since November 7th Barbados has been unable to get into touch by cable with either Trinidad or Demerara. As a result "telegraphic" communication between those parts of the West Indies can only be effected when the Government wireless stations are working.

For the rest, telegrams are being sent on from Barbados by steamer and schooner—a preposterous state of affairs in this enlightened Twentieth Century. Can it be wondered at that the West India Committee is being bombarded with protests and complaints? Naturally, these constant breakdowns and the mutilation of messages involve loss and inconvenience; but the grave disadvantages of the lack of cable communication does not end there, and we need only recall the fantastic rumours which were circulated in this country on the occasion of the recent strike disturbances in Trinidad to emphasise the anxiety which the absence of effective means of communication must cause to all interested in the West Indies. SIR EDWARD DAVSON, in his recent address before the Royal Society of Arts, put the matter in a nutshell when he said that, granted that the cable was to the business firm what the voice was to the individual, the West Indian firms recently had been almost inarticulate. Frequently broken cables, alleviated sometimes by spasmodic efforts of wireless communication, and more frequently only by the resort to such archaic methods as sending messages by ships, have resulted in incredible delays, and sometimes even in the total disappearance of messages *en route*, and almost invariably in their mutilation. While such a state of affairs continues to exist, it is not surprising that the decision of the Colonial Office not to undertake the expense of laying fresh cables has caused profound disappointment. We have never wavered in our opinion that the only way to remedy these disquieting conditions is for the Government to provide an all red cable service via Bermuda or St. Lucia, and linking up the other West Indian colonies by efficient cables or wireless. We are assured that the existing subsidies already being paid by Canada and the West Indies would go far towards meeting the necessary capital outlay, and we trust that this view will be endorsed by the Associated Chamber of Commerce at its forthcoming meeting in Barbados. The present cable contract has still four years to run, and it seems to us incredible that the West Indies will tolerate the continuance of the present state of chaos until its expiration in 1924. We are satisfied that no other country would do so, and venture to throw out the hope that the Colonial Office may possibly see its way to appoint a committee of those prominently interested to consider and report upon the best means of securing some amelioration of the present state of affairs.



### A Model Co-operative Factory.

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 Antigua Sugar Factory, and it is to be regretted that that great statesman did not live to see the success of the important movement which was thus initiated. Fifteen years have now elapsed since the mill of this factory first "went about," and the history of the Company controlling it, which was given to the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting on December 18th by MR. G. MOODY STUART, the Chairman (a full report of which was given in our last issue), will form encouraging reading to those contemplating the development of sugar production on co-operative lines. All the debentures, including those for £15,000 held by the Government, having been redeemed, and the capital spent on the factory having thus been liquidated, the factory has become the property of the cane suppliers and the original shareholders. Under the new Imperial fiscal system sugar development is bound to take place, and the great success of the Antigua Factory lays down the lines on which many similar centrals can be successfully established. For the West Indies, the co-operative system is peculiarly suitable. It is a recognised fact that co-operation between the cane supplier and the sugar maker results in economy of production. A striking instance of this is seen in the working of the Dutch beet factories. Holland has all along been the only country among those of the signatories to the Brussels Convention which did not avail itself of the protective £2 10s. between the Excise and Customs duties sanctioned by that agreement, and yet the balance-sheet of her factories showed a continuously favourable result. This has been attributable entirely to the co-operative system of working. In his remarks at the meeting of the Antigua Sugar Factory, Ltd., MR. MOODY STUART gave a striking illustration of the economy of modern manufacture. He showed that the old Muscovado boiling-houses took at least 15 tons of cane, and many of them much more, to make 1 ton of sugar. The factory, on the other hand, produced 1 ton of sugar from 10 tons of cane in its first three years, and latterly from only 9 tons. He omitted to mention that the various by-products of Muscovado sugar are considerably more valuable than those resulting from Central Factory sugar; but, even taking this into consideration, the balance of advantage is enormously in favour of the factory system, for he went on to show that increase in sugar production rendered possible by the erection of the modern factory was no less than 38,093 tons of sugar, valued at £431,300 nett, after deducting the cost of manufacture. Again, it must be remembered that the Factory has been fortunate in enjoying five years of abnormally high prices resulting from the war; but, in spite of that, we are satisfied that, for planters desiring to consolidate their estates by the adoption of the Central Factory system, no better model can be taken than that of this excellently managed Antigua concern. The Factory had the advantage of receiving £15,000 out of the grant-in-aid of £250,000 voted by the Imperial Parliament

in 1902, to enable the planters to tide over the period until the Sugar Convention became effective, and in view of the success of the venture we have no doubt that Government assistance on similar lines would be forthcoming for further schemes of the kind. It is a striking fact in connection with the Antigua Factory that the initial capital outlay of £40,000 has provided a factory turning out 10,000 tons of sugar a year. Further, the subscribers of the £40,000 have had their capital returned in full together with substantial dividends, and they now hold shares representing half the value of the Factory, the original cane suppliers holding the other half. Not the least interesting feature of the history of the concern, which MR. MOODY STUART so capably unfolded, was that the Factory originally only turned out 3,000 tons in a season, say, of 120 days—a figure which has now been raised to 10,000 tons, not by the expenditure of new capital, but entirely out of the profits, which have already provided for the redemption of the debentures. MR. MOODY STUART also mentioned that the capital account now stood at £10 6s. per ton of sugar, as against £15 per ton which it represented at the commencement. Thus clearly demonstrates the economic advantage of larger factories over small, as regards original cost. Of course, under existing conditions, factories could not be established at so low a cost, but, on the other hand, this should be compensated for by the present increased value of sugar. Another advantage of the larger factories lies in the cost of manufacture. There is also a further point which should not be overlooked. When the Government supported the Antigua scheme in the first instance it stipulated that canes should be purchased from peasant growers at fair rates. Although these growers have received lately double the rates previously paid, the Company, relieved from payment of interest on debentures and subsidiary fund, proposes to place these on a much higher scale of payment. The value of the peasant farming system to this island cannot be overstated. Summing up the results of the scheme, it will be noted that 10,000 tons of sugar are now produced from the same locality which formerly yielded 3,000 tons only; a prosperous cane-farming industry has been established, which has materially raised the level of the peasantry; the value of the contributing estates has been greatly enhanced; and the island possesses a factory valued at £103,299, which was non-existent fifteen years ago. Lastly, but by no means least, work has been found for the labouring classes, and much poverty and distress obviated. In view of these facts our readers will, we think, agree that we are not saying too much when we state that the Antigua Sugar Factory has proved the salvation of Antigua, and we join with MR. MOODY STUART in complimenting SIR GERALD STRICKLAND and SIR FRANCIS WATTS, no less than the Chairman himself, on the success which has attended their efforts in this connection.

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THE Index and Title-page of Volume xxxiv. will be published with next issue of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

**THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**

**Progress of the Endowment Fund.**

In order that readers may see at a glance the progress of the West India Committee's Endowment Fund the following figures are given prominently:—

Amount Collected	£10,214
Still to be Collected	9,786
<b>Minimum Total</b>	<b>£20,000</b>

It will be noted that the half-way house has been reached, and a good start made towards the goal. *The help of every member is solicited.*

The Committee's appeal for contributions to enable them to secure more convenient premises, and to develop the work which they are doing on behalf of the West Indian colonies, is meeting with a very favourable reception by the West Indian Press. Says the *Voice*, of St. Lucia:—

"As a guardian of West Indian interests in England the Committee deserves all possible encouragement. Working on behalf of these colonies it has, during the last two decades, raised and supported many funds for our direct benefit. Its general activity for the welfare of the islands has been untiring, whether relating to sugar, cocoa, or other interests, and the most recent example—that in connection with the war—can never be forgotten by us. With extreme solicitude the Committee watched over the interests of the West Indian soldier lads, whether they happened to be in England or in the various theatres of the war. We make a general call for a rally to the help of the Committee in its new task."

The *Clarion*, of British Honduras, of December 11th writes:—

"We hope members of the Committee will respond generously to the appeal made, so that the Executive may achieve the desirable object for which they are striving and which is so necessary to enable the Committee to carry on their good work. The West India Committee has done valuable work in the past, and will, no doubt, continue to do so in the future."

**SIXTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.**

Contributions already acknowledged	£10,143	15	6
Messrs Thomas Abrahams & Co.	10	10	0
D. Elliott Alves, Esq.	10	10	0
Messrs T. Boyd & Co.	10	0	0
C. W. O. Rochs, Esq.	5	5	0
Robert Catton, Esq.	5	0	0
Messrs McDonalds & Co.	5	0	0
Mrs. E. H. Shorey	4	0	0
"C. G."	2	2	0
T. L. McLintock, Esq.	2	2	0
William Smith, Esq.	2	2	0
Hon Donald McDonald	2	0	0
G. Campbell Arnott, Esq.	1	1	0
Messrs. Edward Billington & Son, Ltd.	1	1	0
William Fawcett, Esq., B.Sc.	1	1	0
W M. Gordon, Esq.	1	1	0
Luke M. Hill, Esq., M.I.C.E.	1	1	0
F. O. Roach, Esq.	1	1	0
Capt. J. B. Saunders	1	1	0
Stanley Savill, Esq.	1	1	0
Lady Sendall	1	1	0
E. C. Bernard Bonyun, Esq.	1	0	0
James E. Corbin, Esq.	1	0	0
Wallace McDonald, Esq.	1	0	0

Contributions towards the West India Committee Endowment Fund may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or may be forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London.

**Nineteen New Members Elected.**

The new year opened auspiciously for the West India Committee, nineteen new members having been elected by the executive at a meeting held on Thursday, January 8th. Last year 242 new candidates were elected—a figure only once exceeded—and with the support of all members it is hoped to beat all previous records in respect of membership. The names of those elected at the last meeting are given below:—

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES.
Mr. C. H. Bagot (British Guiana)	Lt.-Col. I. B. Davson, O.B.E. Mr. C. B. Sayles.
Mr. R. A. Farmer (Barbados)	Dr. C. E. Gooding, M.D. Mr. E. L. Skeete.
Hon. F. G. Woolford (British Guiana)	Mr. W. A. Boyd Sir Edward Davson.
Mr. Percy Shelley Bysse (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. L. de Mercado.
Mr. J. F. Clarke (Barbados)	Dr. C. E. Gooding. Mr. E. L. Skeete.
Mr. D. I. Scard (Country)	Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Messrs. J. L. Morrison, Son & Jones (London)	Mr. F. N. Martinez. Sir F. Hodgson, K.C.M.C.
The West End Landowners' Association (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. L. de Mercado.
Mr. H. R. Milliner (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. L. de Mercado.
Mr. F. W. Biddle, J.P. (British Honduras)	Lt.-Col. James Cran, O.B.E., V.D. Hon. T. R. Grant, M.I.C.
Mr. O. R. Bennett (British Guiana)	Mr. W. A. Boyd. Mr. E. R. Campbell.
Hon. A. B. Brown (British Guiana)	Mr. W. A. Boyd. Mr. C. S. Parker, C.B.E.
Mr. A. R. Morrison (British Guiana)	Mr. D. Morris Skinner. Mr. James Kirkness.
Mr. G. A. McKinstry (Barbados)	Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, O.B.E. Mr. J. H. Wilkinson.
Mr. F. F. Ross (British Guiana)	Mr. A. J. McConnell. Mr. C. S. Parker, C.B.E.
Mr. F. H. Watson (London)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. E. L. Marshall.
Edward Billington & Son, Ltd. (Country)	Mr. J. E. Tinne. Mr. E. S. Parker.
Dr. S. B. Jones (Anguilla)	Mr. D. H. Semper. Mr. Clement Malone.
Mr. D. Elliott Alves (Country)	Sir Edward Davson Mr. C. S. Parker, C.B.E.

Membership of the West India Committee is, by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, dated August 4th, 1904, confined to British subjects. Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is at present no entrance fee. The Secretary will gladly send specimen copies of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application. The minimum subscription is £1 1s, or \$5 per annum, and the compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.



## NOTES OF INTEREST.

"MONEY no grow 'pon tree."

It is announced that Messrs Gillespie Bros. & Co. have arranged to amalgamate their branch in New York, where they have done business for over thirty years, with the export department of the well-known firm of Messrs. Huth & Co. The style of the new firm will be Huth, Gillespie & Co., Incorporated.

In connection with the question of British transatlantic steamer communication with the West Indies it may be noted that the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique receives a subsidy of 4,591,532 francs (equivalent at the normal rate of exchange to £183,661) per annum for the service which it maintains between France and her West Indian colonies and Central America.

THE Honourable Adam Smith, C.M.G., has been appointed Mayor of Port-of-Spain in succession to Mr. F. E. Scott, O.B.E., who was warmly thanked by the City Council on the termination of his period of office. Mr. Smith has been a member of the Municipality on the Town Board since 1907, and his selection as Mayor is a very popular one. He will receive the assistance of Major Randolph Rust, who has been elected Deputy Mayor.

MR. LEON COLVIN, who was manager of the Jamaica branch of the Royal Bank of Canada from 1914 to August, 1919, is for the time being attached to the London branch of that Canadian institution. Mr. Colvin, who was born in British Guiana, is a son of the late Mr. Andrew V. Colvin, a well-known coffee-planter in the colony. Mr. Leon Colvin was appointed to the Georgetown branch, but the appointment was cancelled to enable him to take up work for the bank in London.

MR. JAMES CRABTREE, M.Sc., F.I.C., has been appointed Superintendent of the British Guiana Sugar Experiment Stations to be established on the lines set out in the CIRCULAR of October 18th last. Mr. Crabtree, who was specially recommended for the post by Dr. J. Augustus Voelcker, Consulting Chemist to the Royal Agricultural Society of England, graduated at Manchester University, where he took 1st Class Honours in Chemistry. Since April, 1915, he has been chemist in charge of the Laboratory and Pot Culture Station of the Royal Agricultural Society at Woburn.

An interview with the Secretary of the West India Committee regarding the amenities of Jamaica, which appeared in the *Daily Mail* on January 13th, resulted in the Committee on the following day receiving no fewer than sixty inquiries regarding the island from prospective settlers and visitors. Replying to the many diverse questions asked in these letters was no easy task, owing to the supply of descriptive literature and pamphlets regarding the island being exhausted. It is understood, however, that Mr. Frank Cundall has in the press *Jamaica in 1920* for which there is great need.

ST. KITTS is looking up! Not only will it soon have the *Handbook*—such a volume compiled by Mrs. Burdon being now in the press—but there is also a prospect of its also having a new hotel. Mr. John Bromley, who recently visited St. Kitts, has been granted by the local Government a concession over 10 acres of land for the purpose of the erection of a first-class modern hotel, which is badly needed in the

island. The site is in the neighbourhood of Basseterre and the Botanic Garden, and it is proposed to lay out golf-links and tennis-courts, and to specialise in accommodation for bathers in the sea. Any readers interested would do well to communicate with Mr. Bromley, whose address is 31, Manchester-street, W.

R.M.S.P. *Almanzora*, the latest of the famous "A" class of steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, has been refitted after war service, and is now about to make her first trip with passengers to the River Plate. Occasion was taken to give a special commemorative luncheon party on board on January 13th, which was much appreciated by all who attended. The *Almanzora* was nearing completion when the war broke out, and it had been intended that her maiden voyage should be made in the autumn of 1914. Events, however, decreed otherwise, and instead, the *Almanzora* became His Majesty's cruiser, spending three and a half eventful years in the Service. When shall we have "A" steamers on the much-neglected West Indian route?

FORWARDING from Antigua a contribution of £5 towards the West India Committee's Endowment Fund, Mr. R. S. D. Goodwin writes: "When we consider the good work that has been done by the West India Committee for many years past, and when we realise that we West Indians have in your rooms a bit of a home and friends who are willing to help us in every way, we ought to help your Fund to provide better buildings, not only for your sake and for your own comfort and for our future visits to England. Placing our own personal comfort on one side, we feel, or ought to feel, that in the West India Committee we have a strong and sensible body who have the real interests of these islands very much at heart, and we ought to support their efforts." We hope that all readers will share Mr. Goodwin's view. We want the West India Committee rooms to be regarded as a *piet-à-terre* by all visitors from the West Indies.

The *Maritime Merchant*, of Halifax, N.S., whose Editor has paid several visits to the West India islands, warns our friends in those parts of what he calls the "Annexation Bug." Says our contemporary:—"Seeing one of the Royal Mail steamers depart the other morning started us wondering as to how many of the present season's 'tourist crop' will come back from the South with the political confederation bug in their bonnets and immediately start boring their own and all their wives' friends and relations with an account of the great discovery they have made—namely, that the North is the complement of the South, that they have everything we haven't, that we have everything they haven't, and that therefore we should join hands in a close family circle while our Uncle Samuel, biting his finger-nails with envy, looks on from the outside. The *Merchant* would say to all people of susceptible minds who may be going to the West Indies this winter, to beware of the danger of catching this 'fad' we once had it, but only for a few weeks. Others got it and took a long time to get it out of their system; and it's the sort of affliction that doesn't get one much sympathy from West India people."

MR. SYDNEY J. VAN SERTIMA, son of the Town Clerk of New Amsterdam, Berbice, and the holder of the British Guiana scholarship for 1914, has come through his Bar Final examination with flying colours. He not only tops the list of all the law students, but has also been awarded a studentship of one hundred guineas, tenable for three years. In 1915 Mr. Van Sertima volunteered for active service from Oxford University, and, after serving for some time on the Western Front, was invalided and spent some months

in hospital at Cheltenham, suffering from trench feet. After being discharged from hospital he returned to France as corporal attached to the 9th Manchester Regiment, but was unfortunately made a prisoner of war at Cambrai on March 29th, 1918, spending nine months in Germany, until released after the signing of the Armistice, when he returned to England, and after being demobilised resumed his studies at Oxford, where he obtained his B.A. degree. The Government of British Guiana extended the term of his scholarship for a year in view of the time lost during his war service. He is now reading for the B.C.L. degree at Oxford, where readers of the CIRCULAR will wish him continued success.

## THE COMMITTEE AND THE COLONIES.

### Impending Visit of the Secretary.

The Secretary to the West India Committee leaves in the *Adriatic* on Wednesday next, January 28th, for New York en route for the West Indies. Owing to the existing difficulties of communication it is not yet possible to give Mr. Aspinall's itinerary in detail; but, as at present arranged, he will proceed first to Barbados, calling at the various ports of the Leeward Islands on the way. He will then probably visit Trinidad, Tobago and British Guiana, returning by way of Jamaica if facilities permit.

## THE FRENCH SUGAR INDUSTRY.

### 131 Factories Out of Action.

Of the 206 sugar factories in operation in France during the years 1913-14, 72 were totally destroyed, and 59 put out of action under the German occupation.

The *Journal des Contributions Indirectes*, quoted by the *Board of Trade Journal*, states that 28 factories on the Somme and 26 factories on the Aisne were razed to the ground, while factories in the Nord were more or less pillaged, and the plant taken away. At the commencement of the 1919 sugar season only 60 factories were able to undertake work in these areas. The reduction in production has thus been quite appreciable. Production for the season preceding the war was about 717,223,316 kilogrammes. The estimates for the present season are actually about 150,000,000 kilos.

It is true that there is a colonial production, but, unfortunately, the colonies which were formerly able to supply about 100,000,000 kilogrammes have been obliged to reduce their export, not only because of the difficulties of freight, but also on account of the high prices of alcohol, due to the State control. Last season imports from the colonies fell to 54,000,000 kilogrammes.

The rise in prices and compulsory restrictions naturally reduced the consumption, but nevertheless it became necessary to draw on foreign production. In 1918-19 foreign imported sugar amounted to 367,000,000 kilogrammes, of which 150,000,000 came from the United States, 101,000,000 from Cuba, and 38,000,000 from the Dutch East Indies.

In order to re-establish the industry it has been suggested that the number of factories should be reduced, and the average production of the remaining factories increased. For this purpose placing the factories in those areas where the best conditions prevail for supplies of beetroot and alcohol. It is considered, however, that German competition must be faced eventually. In Germany the whole of the beetroot crops is reserved for the sugar industry, whereas in France manufacturers of sugar and distillers compete for crops, prices of which gradually increase. In Germany, distillers are supplied exclusively by potatoes and grain.

The French State monopoly of the alcohol industry will involve competition between the Minister of Finance and the sugar producers, and in order to secure an adequate supply of alcohol the price to be offered by the State will have to be sufficiently remunerative. The price of industrial and other alcohol in France will consequently fix the price of sugar. According to official statistics the area under sugar beet fell from 249,349 hectares in 1913 to 75,720 hectares in 1917.

## SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

### Synthetic Production of 50,000 Tons Assured.

The long-promised Nitrogen Products Committee's Report was published on January 16th. It definitely advocates the establishment in the United Kingdom of the calcium cyanamide process on a scale sufficient to give an output of about 60,000 tons of cyanamide per annum, the synthetic ammonia (Haber) process to yield a minimum of 10,000 tons of ammonia a year, and the ammonia oxidation process to produce about 10,000 tons of nitric acid, or its equivalent in nitrates.

On the following day the *Times* announced that the rights of the new French Georges Claude synthetic ammonia process had been secured for the United Kingdom, South Africa, India, Australia and New Zealand by the Cumberland Coal, Power and Chemicals, Limited.

It is claimed that the new French process has enormous advantages over the German Haber process, and that, in fact, it represents the greatest development ever known in connection with nitrogenous products. It aims at increasing instead of diminishing the pressure at which the mixture of nitrogen and hydrogen are constrained to enter into combination to produce ammonia. Both in Germany and in the United States the tendency has been to endeavour to bring about their combination at lower pressures rather than at higher pressures.

The French process increases the pressure of combination to 1,000 atmospheres (14,000 lb. to the square inch) without reducing the temperature at which the combination is effected. By increasing the pressure of reaction to 1,000 atmospheres the yield of ammonia is increased fourfold up to 50 per cent., while the speed of reaction is commensurately increased. The power required to compress to 1,000 atmospheres is admittedly greater than to 200 atmospheres, but there are some essential advantages secured which, in the final result, make the total power expended per ton of synthetic ammonia produced no larger than what is required for compression at 200 atmospheres. The first unit of the synthetic ammonia plant which will be established in West Cumberland will be of sufficient size to provide yearly 50,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia.

It is contended that the successful carrying out of the scheme will make this country independent of the importation of Chile nitrate, both in peace and war, as the whole of the nitric acid, nitrate of ammonia, cyanides, and various other ammonia compounds required for commercial and military purposes will be produced in this country from synthetic ammonia at a lower price than they could be produced from the imported Chile produce.



## THE CHEMISTRY OF RUM.

By F. I. SCARD, F.I.C.

In the article recently published on Distilling nothing was said about the chemistry of rum, and it is thought that a few words on the subject may not come amiss to the tyro in rum manufacture. The basis of rum, as with other potable spirits, consists of that class of alcohol which is derived from yeast fermentation, and is commonly known as "spirits of wine." This form of alcohol is practically flavourless, and by itself would be useless as a beverage. It would be "silent" that is, would be without those attributes which constitute the particular form of alcoholic drink.

Alcohol is formed from sugar by the growth of the yeast plant. This organism feeds on the sugar, producing, in so doing, alcohol, and carbonic acid from the splitting up of the sugars into these constituents. Feeding, however, hardly describes the operation. The yeast plant grows and multiplies in fact, really feeds on the nitrogenous organic matter present; but it requires the sugar to enable it to do so.

In the molasses there are, besides the organic matter essential for the growth of the yeast, compounds which favour the growth of bacteria. What might be called the beneficent bacteria of rum, which cause the distinctive flavour, are the acetic acid organism, which produces acetic acid from the alcohol, and the butyric acid organism, which gives from the presence of organic matter peculiar to sugar-cane molasses, butyric acid—the same body which gives the characteristic flavour to rancid butter. Several other bodies are produced during rum manufacture—fusel oil, propionic acid, pipinol and aldehyde—by the action of maleficent bacteria. The last named of these bodies is formed from the destruction of the alcohol itself.

During distillation the acids mentioned above combine with the alcohol, forming what are known as "esters," or compound ether, and it is these esters which impart the flavour to rum and give it stimulating properties.

The object of adding sulphuric acid to wash is to produce a certain acidity, thus putting an obstacle in the way of the putrefactive bacteria, which feed on yeast cells, at the same time helping the development of the butyric ferment, which requires an acid condition for its development. It is the ester formed from this acid which gives the "pineapple" flavour to Jamaica rum. Its presence is essential to all rums, as without this ester the spirit ceases to be rum.

The reason why Jamaica rum contains so much of this body, and is consequently so valuable, is as follows: The yeast which provides the fermentation in sugar-cane distilleries is derived from the cane itself. The ordinary variety consists of round cellular bodies which grow by budding—that is, one cell buds out from another. This variety, unfortunately, will not flourish when the acidity gets beyond a certain point. When this point is reached—and the production of acetic acid soon brings it about if the

fermentation is slow—alcohol production ceases. But in Jamaica there is an especial yeast which will grow in a highly acid medium. Unlike the other yeast, it is rod-shaped, and multiplies by splitting up. The presence of this yeast, therefore, enables the fermentation to be prolonged, and substances such as bottoms, dunder, &c., to be used in the wash, which are favourable to the development of butyric acid.

In this connection it may be remarked that the writer on one occasion added butyric ether (ester) to a punchon of rum in Demerara, which was reported upon in *Mining-lane* as "resembling Jamaica."

An extremely objectionable body in rum is aldehyde. This is derived from the oxidation of alcohol, and is an intermediate stage in the formation of acetic acid. It is the cause of the "hot" flavour of new rum, and gradually disappears as rum "ages" with the formation of acetic acid and subsequently acetic ether (ester). It is more volatile than alcohol, and is found mainly in the "cold feints" of a Coffey still, and in the first portions that come over of a pot-still, the rush of venomous vapour which precedes the spirit is very largely composed of it. "Fusel oil," which is really another member of the group of bodies called alcohols, to which "vinic" alcohol—the potable and methylic alcohol used for methylation—belongs, has a lower boiling-point than vinic alcohol. It is therefore mostly found in the "hot feints" of the continuous still, and the "low wines" of the pot-still. It is an extremely objectionable body, from the points of view of physiological effect as well as flavour. It is important, therefore, in distillation that the spirit should not, with a continuous still, be run at too low a strength, or with a pot-still that the running of the high wines should be carried too far.

Parfunic and propionic acid—which also form an ester—are also extremely objectionable bodies, but do not exist in large quantities. Summing up the situation, it may be said that: (1) The distinctive flavour of rum is due to butyric ether; (2) butyric acid exists to a greater or less extent, according, primarily, to the nature of the yeast, and, secondarily, to the description of sugar products used for the wash; (3) acetic ether is an ester which gives the highly stimulating character to rum, in conjunction with butyric ether; (4) the objectionable bodies are the aldehyde, which disappears with age, and fusel oil, which can be avoided by careful distillation.

Fortunately, rum fermentation gives very little of these. A certain amount of flavour is also due to the colouring matter, when burnt sugar bodies are used for colouring; but this hardly enters into the chemistry of rum.

"Faults" in rum—that is, cloudiness on breaking down, and being allowed to stand—are due—

- (1) To resinous matter from the cask;
- (2) To too highly burnt colour;
- (3) To excessive proportion of fusel oil.

Apart from the question of yeast used in producing a high-flavoured rum, there are others which operate. The nature of the materials used is an

important factor. Rum is alcohol+special attributes, in the same way that whisky is alcohol+those bodies which cause it to be whisky. While, as stated above, the characteristic flavour of rum is caused by butyric and acetic ethers in conjunction, these bodies do not exist in the same proportion. Jamaica rums vary among themselves in flavour due to the varying proportion of butyric to acetic ether. This is due to the different material used. The cane-juice itself is an important factor. Different kinds of canes give a different quality of rum, due, partly, to the cane itself and partly to variations in chemical treatment necessitated thereby in the sugar manufacture. Even the different conditions of the same variety of cane will affect the flavour of the rum. On one occasion some Demerara rum made from very rank Bourbon canes were reported upon as being "green and stinky." There is therefore outside the others specified some bodies present in excessive proportions which come down from the cane itself.

Speaking generally, however, the less the juice is lined and reboiled the more favourable are the conditions for favourable rum making. That is to say, the more the natural "bouquet" of the juice is preserved in manufacture, the better will be the rum, and the more, if the cane-juice goes into the distilling, a similar result will be produced.

With a continuous still the rum has to run at a constant strength, and that a high one. With a pot-still, however, the "high wines" follow a curve of strength, and thus include more "other" bodies than continuous still spirit. But, whatever be the nature of the materials used, whatever be the kind of yeast and the nature of the fermentation, it is impossible to have a high-flavoured spirit without the presence of a certain proportion of "esters," and for the proportion of butyric ether in them to be comparatively high. Another agent in flavour is the nature of the still.

## THE SUGAR "CORNER."

### West Indians Exonerated.

The Food Controller has made the *amende honorable*. In a letter to a firm of West Indian merchants who protested against his charges of endeavouring to make a corner in sugar which he levied against producers generally, his Secretary wrote:—

"Mr Roberts desires me to say that both he and the Sugar Commission much regret to learn that you and some other British Guiana and West Indian producers have been subjected to unfair criticism as a result of the Press notice, which, in general terms, referred to the concerted action on the part of producers to take advantage of the present sugar situation by raising their prices for early deliveries. Mr. Roberts wishes me to explain that the reference to the producers in that Press notice was not intended to apply to those of the British Guiana and West Indian producers, who sold the whole crops of their estates at a reasonable price mutually agreed upon. This action was much appreciated by the Sugar Commission at the time, and will also be appreciated by the public."

## MR. HERBERT G. DE LISSER, C.M.G. An Appreciation.

By SIR SYDNEY OLIVIER, K.C.M.G., C.B.

The award of the honour of the C.M.G. to Mr. Herbert G. de Lisser is well deserved, and is welcome not only as a recognition of Mr. de Lisser's personal abilities, character, and public services, but as reflecting honour on West Indian journalism, well merited by the *Gleaner* newspaper. So far as I am aware this is an unprecedented testimonial to the status of the Press in these colonies, and if there is any West Indian paper that has earned such a testimonial better than the *Gleaner* I am not acquainted with it.

Mr. de Lisser has in my knowledge of him always been associated primarily with the Jamaica Press. He was a pupil of the late Mr. William Morrison, a Scotsman of perfervid genius, a fine influence in Jamaica, first as a schoolmaster and later as the Editor of the *Daily Telegraph*. Soon after I went to Jamaica as Colonial Secretary, being struck with the ability and apparently more than local enlightenment of some reports of lectures in the *Telegraph*, I wrote to Mr. Morrison to congratulate him on their excellence. He told me they were written by a young man on his staff who had all his education on the island.

At that time Mr. de Lisser was one of a number of young journalists, born and educated in Jamaica, whose daily achievement in producing the bulk of the matter of two daily papers filled me with continuous astonishment and admiration. Considering the disadvantages under which West Indian Editors labour, both on account of the limitation of the educational opportunities of their staffs and of the severe physical difficulties of filing and producing daily newspapers of considerable bulk in the conditions in which they work, I have always considered that the Kingston Press, and especially the management of the *Gleaner*, continuously maintained a very remarkable achievement. Mr. de Lisser was the ablest and most active-minded of the young journalists on whom this work depended. His range of interests and reading was very wide and his critical judgments notably enlightened. His industry was enormous, and he neglected no opportunity that came to him for travel and information. He became Literary Editor of the *Gleaner* under the Editorship of the late Mr. R. C. Guy—a much narrower-minded man—and is now Editor-in-Chief: his ability, literary capacity, and passionate devotion to the interests of the people of his native land forming a very fortunate combination with the temperate and high-toned traditions of the management of the *Gleaner*.

As an author—as distinct from journalist—he began to make his mark with short sketches of island life. *Twentieth Century Jamaica* was, I think, his first publication in book form. Since then he has published three exceedingly clever stories of island life—*James's Career*, *Susan Proudleigh*, and *Triumphant Squalitone*—the last, though not such attractive reading, in some respects the most penetrating of the three. A serial story of the "Jamaica Rebellion," which appeared later in the *Gleaner*, is, I understand, to appear in revised form.

For several years past Mr. de Lisser has added to his journalistic and literary work a great deal of energetic public service as secretary of the Jamaica Imperial Association, and the honour conferred upon him is doubtless in part a recognition of this activity.

Mrs. ARCHIBALD PILE, widow of the late Speaker of the House of Assembly of Barbados, met with a serious accident at her residence in Kensington Hall Gardens a few days before Christmas, but is, as her many friends will be glad to learn, very much better.



## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

By "Agronomist."

A list of the staffs in the Botanical Departments at home, in India, and the colonies is published as Appendix II. to the "Kew Bulletin" for 1919. What strikes one about it is the number of men in outlying parts of the Empire who have received their practical grounding under the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies—in itself a testimony to the world-wide value of that organisation.

The British Sugar-Beet Growers' Society have an estate at Kellam, near Nottingham. Beet will be grown on a large scale, sufficient to keep the factory at constant work. Soil, climate, and transport facilities are all suitable. This enterprise will probably be only the commencement of a new agricultural industry. It is anticipated that many thousands of people will find employment, and that the prosperity of the country districts will be restored.

The cultivation of coconuts is said to be the most profitable branch of agriculture in Trinidad, and is likely to increase in importance; 17,000,000 nuts and over 7,000,000 lb. of copra were exported during 1918. Oil to the amount of 140,000 gallons was produced for local consumption. In the Mayaro district there are three oil factories producing 100,000 gallons of oil and 500,000 lb. of oil cake per annum. The oil cake is mostly used as cattle food. Coir fibre is also produced. During the same year over 14 million coconuts were exported from Jamaica, or less than half the number exported in 1914.

The appearance of "sports," or spontaneous variations in plants, should always be carefully considered, and the sport propagated, if likely to be of use. For instance, in 1908 in Michigan an ear of Plymouth Rock wheat had one red seed among the other normal white seeds. The seed was sown, and from the progeny of that single seed more than 4,940 acres were sown to this Red Rock wheat in 1917 in Michigan State. In productivity it is much superior to all other varieties cultivated in the State, yielding more than a third larger crops than the parent wheat. It is excellent for bread-making, and has very strong straw, and resists cold.

Marshy land seems at first sight unsuitable for growing coconuts. But in Cochin China and Cambodia there are several experimental plantations which are doing well. The soils are rich in humus, and are very suitable for rice. But coconuts pay so much better that rice culture is abandoned, wherever the palms will grow. The plan adopted is to form mounds in the marsh by digging, and planting on the mound, so as to prevent most of the roots from being soaked. Digging continues as the palms grow, heaping the soil round the foot of the trees. Small parallel canals are thus gradually formed between the coconuts. When planting is in the early stages, expenses may be reduced by growing rice on the land where canals have not yet been dug, and which is raised only round the foot of the palms.

The war has stimulated research in various parts of the Empire in the problem of supplying food from local sources rather than by imports. It has been shown, for instance, in Jamaica by the Agricultural Society that native corn-meal can be prepared equal in keeping qualities to the meal imported from the United States. But certain conditions must be observed. The variety should be a hard kind, rich in protein, adapted

to growth in the tropics. The corn should be thoroughly ripened in the field before harvesting. It should be well dried before storing. The bins should be constructed to keep out insect pests. The corn requires fumigating or heating periodically to make sure that insects have not gained access. When the corn is ground, the meal should, if possible, be used comparatively fresh. If not, the germ which is by far the most nutritious part, is liable to ferment. If the meal must be kept for a lengthened period, the germ should be removed from the meal by the use of apparatus for the purpose.

The export trade in manufactured cotton goods was formerly almost entirely in the hands of Lancashire. But the manufacture has developed in other countries, and the Lancashire spinners have been compelled to confine themselves to finer counts, for which longer and finer qualities of cotton are required. The increasing proportion of American cotton consumed in their own local mills is forcing the British industry to look elsewhere for a large part of its supply of long-staple cotton. Sea Island cotton of the finest type has been supplied of late years from the West Indies. The extension and improvement of cotton-growing in India is being considered by the Indian Government. It is recognised that India cannot for at least ten years grow cotton in any large commercial quantity of a staple longer than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. Cultivation will be extended in Sind. A barrage is to be constructed on the Indus river for the purpose of irrigation and it is expected that eventually cotton can be grown  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. in staple.

In tropical countries there is a terrible waste of the power of work. Consequently the cost of work—brain-work or manual labour—is much dearer than it should be. The waste is the result of inefficiency in brain or muscle, and this depressing effect of energy is due to various tropical diseases. The investigation of some of these diseases has shown that when their nature is thoroughly understood they can be controlled or even exterminated in particular localities. Malaria and yellow fever, for instance, were banished from the Panama Canal zone. A Committee is now sitting in London to consider ways and means to send a Commission to the West Indies to investigate tropical diseases on the spot and attempt their gradual extermination. The knowledge gained will be applicable to all tropical countries, and will result in increased efficiency, especially in manual labour, besides saving thousands and thousands of lives. The Committee hope for special support from owners of estates, commercial men and the shipping community interested in the tropics, not only through motives of consideration for the welfare of their employees, but also from the effect on business of the abolition of the inefficiency due to ill-health.

The coconut palm is of such great economic importance that its cultivation is spreading in all tropical countries. It is well to consider in the formation of new plantations the practices obtaining elsewhere. It may thus be possible to find suggestions for improvements on local practice. The aim is naturally to get the best financial returns from the land cultivated. Agricultural departments in India are devoting attention to the subject and the *Agricultural Journal of India* (xiv., pt. 4) publishes a paper giving an account of the culture in Travancore. Varieties which bear fruit in seven or eight years are preferred to those fruiting in three or four years. The late fruiting varieties are long lived, flourishing for 100 years or more, whereas the early fruiting kinds last only twenty or thirty years. Only the nuts which ripen in dry weather on middle-aged palms are used for seed. They are stored for two months before sowing.

## GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

### IV.—Sir Thomas Modyford.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

(Continued from p. 6.)

Modyford, who spent the years 1672 to 1674 in the Tower, returned to Jamaica in 1675, with Sir Henry Morgan, when Lord Vaughan came as Governor. After being feasted at Port Royal, the Governor was treated to a "most splendid dinner" at Spanish Town by Modyford. Modyford was appointed Chief Justice by Vaughan, who soon afterwards quarrelled with him and dismissed him.

Neville, writing to the Earl of Carlisle, speaks of Modyford's "declared and avowed anti-monarchical principles," and adds, "he is the openest atheist, and most perfect immoral liver in the world"; but his account is obviously prejudiced, as he wrote to Lord Carlisle, "I am confident it would be necessary for your lordship not only to be careful to avoid mixing with him, but likewise to get some particular instruction to call him to account for his former actions." Oldmixon says of him: "He was very serviceable to the young planters by his instruction and government." Leslie says: "Sir Thomas Modyford was one of the best Governors that ever Jamaica had; he perfectly understood the way of managing the new colony; he encouraged building trade, but likewise promoted new settlements"; and Poyer gives evidence to the same effect.

He appears to have been successful in ingratiating himself with a number of those over whom he exercised control. In Barbados, in 1661, the inhabitants petitioned that his services might be continued, and in the autumn of 1670, when rumour had evidently reached Jamaica that Modyford was no longer in favour, a petition was sent home for his retention in office. It was signed by Henry Morgan, Theodore Cary, John Cope, Robert Byndloss, Thomas Ballard, William Ivy, and others, and was presented by a covering petition of merchants and freeholders of Jamaica residing in London, of whom the best-known signatures are those of Thomas Ducke, Andrew Orgill, Samuel Bernard, and Richard Beckford.

The Jamaica petitioners stated that they had for several years lived in the island in a very poor and unsettled estate, till it pleased the King to send, for their Governor, Sir Thomas Modyford, who, by the great encouragement he gave to planting, more especially by his own example, induced petitioners to partake themselves to a planting and settled condition, that he had passed many wholesome laws, with a free and unbiassed administration of justice, the petition concluding: "Now Petitioners, being jealous (by reason of various reports) that his Majesty may be persuaded to remove so good a Governor, pray him to continue Sir Thomas Modyford as Governor unless his Majesty shall find very pregnant reasons to the contrary."

It is interesting to relate that the petition is endorsed, "Read in Council, November 9th, 1670, and rejected."

Modyford died on September 1st, 1679, and was buried in the Church of St. Catherine, within the communion rails, "the Soule and Life of all

Jamaica, who first made it what it now is . . . the best and longest Governour, the most considerable planter, the ablest and most upright Judge this Island ever enjoyed."

His arms, as given on his tombstone, were Ermine on a bend azure, a mullet argent between two garbs, or, on a canton, a baronet's badge, impaling argent a chevron between three palmer's scrips sable; crest, a garb or erect.

There is, unfortunately, no portrait of him known to exist.

His wife Elizabeth, daughter of Lewin Palmer, of Devonshire, lies under a neighbouring stone:—

"Her life was pure, as cleare her fame  
None e'er thought evill of this Dame."

She belonged to the Palmers of Kent.

His son, Sir Thomas Modyford, junr., Baronet, only survived his father five weeks, dying on October 9th, 1679. He also was buried in the cathedral. His only daughter, Elizabeth, married first, on Christmas Day, 1676, Colonel Samuel Barry (son of the original settler of that name), and secondly, Sir Nicholas Lawes (later Governor of Jamaica), and died in 1694; she also lies in the cathedral.

Sir Thomas, the second Baronet, was succeeded by his brother, Sir Charles (member of Council under Sir Thomas Lynch), who died in 1687; and, in his turn, was succeeded by his son, Sir Norton (whose mother was Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Norton, Bart., of Coventry), who died in 1690, to be succeeded by his brother, Sir Thomas, who was member of the Jamaica Assembly for St. George, and afterwards a member of the Council. He married, in 1698, Jane, only surviving daughter of Sir William Beeston. He died in July 1702, and with his death the baronetcy became extinct in the third generation.

The five baronets were buried in St. Catherine, but there are only memorials to the first two to be seen, and these were removed from the church to the churchyard, probably when the church was enlarged.

The first Sir Thomas's younger brother, Sir James Modyford, was buried at Half-Way Tree, St. Andrew, in 1672-3, but there is no monument. His baronetcy became extinct with the death, in 1678, of his son, Sir John Modyford, who was buried in the Cloister of Westminster Abbey. His third daughter married, in 1681-2, as her second husband, Colonel Peter Haywood, later Governor of Jamaica.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

### SPAIN'S SUGAR INDUSTRY.

SIR,—In your issue of January 8th you refer to the existence of a small cane-sugar industry in Spain.

In this connection may I remind your readers of the important part which Spain played in the past in connection with the sugar industry of the New World? It was the Conquistadores who started sugar cultivation in Mexico, Cuba and Santo Domingo with canes brought from the Canaries, and although our West Indian colonies probably owed their canes in the first instance to Brazil there is no doubt that the inception of cane-growing in the West Indies was due to Spain.—Yours obediently,

FREDERIC I. SCARD.



## INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

### British Guiana Delegates in India.

A report of the proceedings when the British Guiana Colonisation delegates waited in deputation on Sir George Barnes, K.C.B., a member of the Viceroy's Council, in charge of the Department of Commerce and Industry at the Government Buildings, Delhi, on December 5th, is given in the *Civil and Military Gazette* of December 8th last.

The deputation comprised the Hon. J. J. Nunan, K.C., J.L.D., representing the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana, Mr. Thomas Greenwood, representing the West India Committee, Dr. Hewley Wharton, Mr. Joseph Luckhoo and Mr. Pabu Sawh.

According to our contemporary, Dr. Nunan, in introducing the deputation, stated that—

The colonisation scheme which they wished to place before the Indian Government and people had been referred by the British Guiana Legislature (in which there was a popularly elected majority in the financial chamber) to a large Committee consisting of members of the various representative bodies. This Committee divided itself into sections covering all the industries of the colony, and reported last April after three months' careful study. It was not a labour scheme or a project for securing cheap labour for any kind of planters. The factor of cheapness did not enter into it at all. The colony in all its races and classes and in all the capital invested in favour of it, because it was a question of vital importance for a British possession as large as Great Britain, were calling out for population. It was based upon free immigration of Indian agricultural families. The emigration and settlement would, they hoped, be supervised by officers of the Indian Government, at their expense. They would provide free passage, guarantee employment at the locally current rates, which were now about two rupees a day (the cost of living amounted to a little over one-third of the average earnings), they would provide free repatriation at any stage, whenever required, by the officers of the Indian Government, and free repatriation at the option of the individual or family after a short period of years. Those who engaged in agricultural work, either for an employer or on their own behalf, for three years, would receive reward grants of five acres of land on nominal terms. This was land prepared at the cost of the colony by an expensive process for immediate cultivation in the immediate neighbourhood of markets and factories. Other lands could be bought or leased on easy terms. No contracts of any kind were required. There was to be no trace of the old indenture system. There was no compulsory residence or service or other element of compulsion. Settlers could choose their own employers. Regular steamer communication, with two classes of passenger accommodation, would be provided by the aid of colonial subsidies between Indian ports and British Guiana. The Indian Government or people would incur no expense, as their population was now about 45 per cent. Indian (145,000), and as their Constitution involved the political equality of all races they were really offering India a colony of its own on the north-eastern coast of South America, with fertile soil and a healthier climate than that of India or any other large tropical colony. Their immediate scheme was limited to 5,000 adults of both sexes a year for the next three years. They offered medical supervision, improved sanitation, and improved dwellings, families to be housed in good separate cottages. Other details they were prepared to discuss with the

Indian Government and Legislature or any popular representatives. The principal products were sugar, rice, coconuts, coffee, and cattle.

Sir George Barnes said in reply:—Gentlemen, I am very glad to receive you formally on behalf of the Indian Government. I understand from what you tell me that your Government has prepared a scheme of colonisation for Indians to British Guiana, which you hope may tempt them to move to British Guiana. You tell me also of the various inducements which your Government hold out—that there will be ample opportunities of purchasing or leasing land on the part of those who wish to cultivate on their own behalf, and there will be opportunities for work at good wages on the part of those who wish to migrate as free colonists, accompanied by reward grants, or leases of land on nominal terms after a short period of work, either for employers or independently. I understand that your Government is as much against any renewal of the old indentured system as we are here, and your scheme is a true colonisation scheme, in that you insist that your colonists are families and not single individuals. I understand also that your colony guarantees the continuance of the equal political rights and status of all the inhabitants of the colony, without discrimination of race. I am not willing to express any opinion on your scheme at the present time, and before it can be considered by the Government of India I must lay down a condition that you must have first obtained the support of the Governments of provinces from which you hope to draw your colonists, and of the leaders of public opinion in this country. The question is one on which the Government of India will be largely—in fact, I may say entirely—guided by Indian opinion, and consequently you will have to make it your business to ventilate the subject with the thinking men of this country and the leaders of public opinion. When you have done that, secured their support, and the support also of the local Governments, I shall be very glad to see you again and discuss the matter with you, and I think it would be well that you should meet a representative Committee of the Imperial Legislative Council when it meets, if you are still in this country. You will then have an opportunity of laying your proposals before the Committee, and of proving that your proposals are to the advantage of the Indian people.

Dr. Nunan thanked Sir George on behalf of the Deputation, which then withdrew.

In an editorial on the same date the *Civil and Military Gazette* says: "There is at present in India a delegation from British Guiana to secure support for a scheme of free emigration to that country. It waited upon the Member for Commerce and Industry, and we commend highly the position taken up by Sir George Barnes in replying to the deputation. The hon. member said that the Government of India would consider the scheme after the deputation had secured the support of provincial Governments and leaders of public opinion. He suggested that the deputation should meet a representative committee of the Indian Legislative Council. This is the right spirit for the Government of India to show in approaching the consideration of such a subject, and we congratulate Sir George Barnes on his reply to the British Guiana deputation."

The final meeting of the West India Contingent Committee is to be held at the Colonial Office this afternoon. The report for the nine months ended September 30th last and a statement of accounts will be published in the next issue of the CIRCULAR.

## SUGAR SUBSTITUTES.

### The Dangers of Saccharin.

In the United Kingdom sugar substitutes may be freely used without any notification being made to the consumer. In the United States they order things differently. Warning has recently been issued from Washington, by the Bureau of Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture, to the effect that substitutes for sugar in canned goods or other forms of prepared foodstuffs put up by manufacturers must be declared on the labels of the packages if the goods are to enter into inter-state commerce. Officials of this bureau are charged with the enforcement of the Federal Food and Drugs Act, governing food substitutes and adulterants.

Under the Act, says our contemporary *Facts About Sugar*, which applies to all products carried in inter-state commerce, only substitutions which are harmless are permitted in foods, and those that are permitted should be clearly indicated, when used.

The object of the regulation requiring that substitutes be declared on the labels of the packages is not to limit the use of wholesome substitutes, officials of the bureau point out, but to let consumers know what they are getting. A purchaser of a food product, in which sugar, for example, is a normal ingredient, will naturally expect to get sugar in that product unless advised that a substitute has been used in the particular article which he is buying.

Again, as substitutes are usually cheaper than the ingredient which they are used to replace it is only fair that a distinction be made on the labels between foods that contain all the normal ingredients and foods in which one or more of them are replaced by a cheaper substance.

With respect to sugar, it is pointed out that there are a number of substitutes which may properly be used in manufactured foods, such as jams, jellies, marmalades, soda waters, confections, and the like, as long as their use is plainly indicated for the information of the buyer. Among these mention is made of malt sugar syrup, glucose, corn sugar, corn syrup, honey, and high grade refiners' syrup. As, however, these substitutes do not possess the same food value as sugar, it would not be fair practice to permit their use without declaring it on the label.

### Saccharin Injurious to Health.

There is one product which has been widely advertised by its manufacturers as a sugar substitute, use of which for this purpose is not legally permissible. This is the familiar coal-tar product saccharin. Saccharin has been held not a proper or legal substitute, since it is declared by authorities to be injurious to health, while, having no food value whatever of its own, it lowers the quality of any product in which it is used to replace sugar, which has a high food value.

The use of saccharin, whether declared or not, is therefore prohibited under the Federal Food and Drug Act, as well as by the laws and regulations of most of the states. A number of food manufacturers have been convicted for shipping into inter-state commerce foods adulterated with saccharin, and a criminal prosecution is now pending against a manufacturer of saccharin for shipping it labelled as harmless.

The Government officials strongly emphasize the point that even those foods in which harmless substitutes are used are subject to seizure and the persons responsible to prosecution if they are shipped without being labelled.

## AUSTRALIAN SUGAR PRODUCTION.

The possibility of Australia becoming a sugar-exporting country is not so remote as one is sometimes led to believe it to be. From official returns published in our contemporary the *Australian Sugar Journal* it appears that the Commonwealth consumption of sugar for all purposes in 1911 was 233,000 tons, whilst for the current year it probably will have advanced to 285,000 tons. The production and consumption for the four years immediately preceding the war were as follows:—

	Production. Tons.	Consumption Tons.
1911 ... ..	190,000	233,000
1912 ... ..	130,000	241,000
1913 ... ..	265,000	255,000
1914 ... ..	246,000	264,000

The following shows the statistical position since the Commonwealth took over control of the sugar crop of the country, from which it will be seen that, notwithstanding the drawbacks of cyclone, drought, frost, and labour troubles during the past two seasons, Queensland has produced during the war period no less than 1,025,000 tons of sugar, or somewhat over three-fourths of the total consumption of Australia, thus, be it remembered, at a time when the great beet sugar industry of the world was practically suspended, and when, owing to shipping scarcity, the importation of sugar was both uncertain and costly in the highest degree. The figures are as follows:—

	Imports. Tons.	Australian Production, Tons.	Con- sumption, Tons.
1915-16 ... ..	108,000	162,000	262,000
1916-17 ... ..	73,000	187,000	266,000
1917-18 ... ..	nil.	322,000	274,000
1918-19 ... ..	57,000	199,000	279,000
1919-20 (estd) ...	125,000	155,000	286,000
Total ... ..	363,000	1,025,000	1,386,000

## CATTLE RAISING IN GUIANA.

### The Rupununi Development Company.

The prospectus has been published in British Guiana of a company formed to develop the cattle industry in the colony, more especially on the Rupununi savannah. Its capital is \$1,000,000, divided into 100,000 shares of \$10 each, of which 26,650 have been offered for subscription. The first directors are the Hon. A. P. Shorlock, Mr. Robert Strang, Mr. H. E. B. O. Murray, and Mr. W. M. B. Shields, who will join the Board after allotment. It is proposed to raise the cattle on the Rupununi savannahs, and to send them down by the new trail, to the completion of which reference was made in a recent CIRCULAR, to the coastlands, where they will be fattened and held for sale. Mr. H. P. C. Melville's properties and cattle are to be taken over, and the Company will acquire a grazing lease for ninety-nine years over about 2,000 square miles of Crown lands in the savannahs at an initial rental of \$2 per square mile, besides the shares in the Abary Cattle Ranch Company. It will thus be a "going concern" from the very start, with excellent prospects of success before it.



## THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

### The Barbados Conference.

Mr. H. F. Provitc has been appointed to represent the West India Committee at the forthcoming Conference of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the British West Indies, which, as already stated, will be inaugurated in Bridgetown, Barbados, on February 23rd next. It is possible that the Secretary of the West India Committee may also attend, for, as stated elsewhere, he is, as at present arranged, leaving for New York *en route* to the West Indies at the end of the month.

Sir Edward Dawson, President of the Chamber, hopes to reach Barbados in the second or third week of February, and a fully representative gathering is assured, both the Jamaica Imperial Association and the British Honduras Chamber of Commerce, which have joined the Chamber since the last meetings were held, having decided to send delegates. It is expected that in all fully twenty-five delegates, drawn from every part of the British West Indies, will be present, besides a number of honorary members who have been invited to attend to represent various organisations interested in the development of the West Indies. The subjects on the agenda, which was published in the Circular of December 11th, have been considerably extended, and in view of their wide scope many interesting discussions may be looked for.

It may be recalled that the first conference of the Associated Chamber was held in Trinidad in 1917, and it is noteworthy that effect has since been given to many of the resolutions then passed.

## COTTON IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Experiments were made in the Philippine Islands in 1918 with the growing of American Upland cotton as well as native types, but they gave discouraging results. Sea Island was then tried with better success, and last year another consignment of seed of this variety was received from the United States Department of Agriculture, and planted in experimental plots at La Carlota. The good results obtained from last year's planting indicate that continuous propagation is advisable for the purpose of distributing the seed to various cotton growers of the islands. Experiments showed that both soil and climatic conditions in the Philippines are favourable for the growing of Sea Island cotton, and that it will thrive well there. Having regard to the recent increase in the value and use of the Sea Island cotton on account of its suitability for use in the manufacture of rubber-tyre fabric for automobiles and other similar motor vehicles, the prospects of this form of cultivation being taken up are regarded as hopeful.

An endeavour is also being made in the Philippines to develop a good weave of Panama hats, and to this end the local Department of Agriculture has placed a considerable area under the *jippi jappa*

plant (*Carludovica jamaicensis*), which is regarded as being well suited to the local soil and climatic conditions.

## IMPERIAL STATISTICS.

### Uniformity to be Secured.

Mr. Robert Johnstone, C.M.G., Collector-General of Jamaica, is attending the Imperial Statistical Conference, which held its first meeting in London this week. The object of the conference is to co-ordinate and make more efficient the statistical data of the British Empire, and one question for consideration is that of reaching the largest possible degree of uniformity in the date of starting the statistical and fiscal year in all parts of the King's Dominions.

In no part of the Empire is such uniformity needed than in the West Indies, and it is to be hoped that the work of the Statistical Conference will be fraught with satisfactory results to those colonies.

## SUN-DRIED VEGETABLES.

### Their Anti-Scorbutic Properties.

The work in progress at Quetta in the direction of the sun-drying of vegetables has been extended considerably, according to the annual report of the Imperial Economic Botanists at Pusa for 1918-19. Towards the end of 1918 this product was placed on the market for the first time at Quetta, and also at Calcutta. About 1,500  $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. tins were prepared, which found a ready sale. The demand at Quetta was extraordinary. The orders amounted to about 20,000 tins, of which only about 5 per cent. could be met. The principal purchasers were the engineering parties engaged on the Nushki Extension Railway, and the various regiments operating in Mesopotamia and Persia. An exhibit of Quetta sun-dried vegetables was arranged at the Medical Conversazione at Parel held in connection with the Bombay meeting of the Indian Science Congress. As usual, this attracted the attention of a large number of visitors. It also led to the establishment of an agency in Bombay for the sale of the product. The exhibit was afterwards shown at the Lucknow Flower Show. During the year 1919 the production of sun-dried vegetables at Quetta has been increased, and seven selling agencies in India, in addition to the one at Quetta, have been stocked. The cost of production has been considerably reduced, and the work accelerated by the use of power peeling and slicing machines imported from England. These have proved very successful and easy to operate. The preliminary results obtained on the anti-scorbutic and anti-beri beri properties of sun-dried vegetables were communicated by Captain Shorten, I.M.S., Professor of Physiology, Medical College, Calcutta, to the Medical Section of the Indian Science Congress at Bombay. This aspect of the work has since been considerably developed, and it is expected that the experiments will be completed during the present year.

## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

### Bahamas Governor Reviews the Session.

The Governor brought the session of the Legislature—which was the longest one on record in the annals of the colony—to a close on December 18th. Sir William Allardyce in his speech referred to the several Acts placed upon the Statute Book. The quantity and value of the two principal exports from January 1st to September 30th were as follows:—Sisal, 1,734,258 lb., value £63,357; sponge, 1,338,458 lb., value £162,061. These figures compare favourably with previous years. The decorticating machine, made by a firm of engineers in England at a cost of under £300, is expected shortly, and it is hoped will go far to solve the difficulty of hand-cleaned sisal. Mr. Crawshaw, the Marine Biologist appointed by the Colonial Research Committee to investigate sponge conditions, is expected to arrive in the colony shortly. There are hundreds of square miles of water suitable for sponge cultivation. Efforts to arrange a satisfactory mail and passenger service to ensure the opening of hotels by the Florida East Coast Company and a successful tourist season have not been successful up to the present. In the island of Eleuthera and in New Providence the agricultural prospects, and particularly those of the tomato cultivations, are extremely promising, and it only remains for the present enterprise to be successfully marketed to ensure a further large development.

### "Specials" for Jamaica.

H.M.S. *New Zealand* arrived at Kingston on December 20th. A proposal is on foot to enrol special constables to assist the local police. Mr. P. C. Cork, C.M.G., and Mr. William Morrison will represent the Jamaican Imperial Association at the forthcoming meetings of the Chambers of Commerce in Barbados in February. A crying need is that for steamer communication between the island and the Lesser Antilles, and the hope is general that the proposed steamer services to St. Thomas or St. Kitts may materialise.

### Gratuities in Land in Tobago.

The rainfall for November was 10.83 at King's Bay, writes Mr. Robert Reid under date December 8th, but so far not much harm has been done to the crop prospects. The autumn pickings were less than expected, but good returns are hoped for in the New Year. Although lands have been offered to returned soldiers, very few seem inclined to accept their gratuity in that form.

### The Trinidad Disturbances.

The statement of November 29th that the strike which had existed for some time was "fizzling out" seemed to be justified, but an unexpected turn occurred on Monday, 1st instant, writes Mr. Edgar Tripp under date December 9th. A number of those who had been "out" had announced their intention of returning to work, and were, in fact, proceeding to do so. Other stevedores who had decided still to hold out came down to the wharf in a gang, followed by a crowd of roughs and hooligans. They first invested the office building of the Trinidad Shipping and Trading Company, where every sort of threat and insult was offered, and then proceeded to the warehouse into which the cargoes of steamers of that firm are discharged. Notwithstanding the presence there of a body of the police and the principal inspectors, they forced their way into the building and compelled the non-strikers working there to leave the place and the clerks in charge

to close the warehouse. Encouraged by this success and the apparent unwillingness of the authorities to interfere, the mob, by this time much enlarged, proceeded to the General Steamers' Warehouse and Custom House and repeated the process, at the same time preventing all lightermen, cartmen and others who were working peacefully from doing anything. Still further emboldened, they then went to the principal shipping and general stores in the town, ordering each to close its doors, and doing it themselves if their orders were disregarded. Within one hour business in Port-of-Spain was suspended. It is the opinion of all who have had experience in local conditions that had half a dozen of the agitators and ringleaders been arrested at the start the whole outbreak would have been immediately quelled. Once out of hand, the crowd was, of course, far more difficult to deal with, and they then turned to the congenial work of hunting down every unfortunate man they could find who had committed the crime of working without their permission. On Tuesday afternoon the Hon. Dr. Lawrence saw the Governor, at whose instance a "Conciliation Committee" was appointed, consisting of representatives of the steamer agents, of the stevedores, including the Secretary of the Working Men's Association, whom everyone had previously refused to recognise, with Dr. Lawrence and Dr. McShine. Nothing was definitely arranged, but proposals were made which it was agreed should be considered by the full body of steammers' agents. Next day—Wednesday—found the town still held up, with all public warehouses and business places closed. About 2 o'clock it was announced by their leaders to a huge meeting of the strikers that the employers had agreed to increase wages by 25 per cent. Meanwhile H.M.S. *Calcutta*, in response to urgent calls, has arrived, and we breathe more freely. It is wonderful the quietening effect that a body of fully-armed Marines marching through the town has had on the disaffected ones. There is not likely to be any recurrence of the trouble in Port-of-Spain.

The Chamber of Commerce has been active in the matter, and is rendering all the assistance to the Government in its power. Vigorous measures are now being adopted. A number of arrests have been made. The Volunteers have been called out. Steps have been taken to enrol in a loyal emergency corps—probably under Major Bowen—young men from the late Merchants' Contingent, and a Commission of Inquiry nominated to report on the conduct of the constabulary during the strike.

At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held on Saturday the President, Mr. Geo. F. Huggins, O.P.E., explained to the members all that had so far been done by the Committee, and moved a resolution as to future action, which was duly approved. The Committee subsequently interviewed the Governor, at his Excellency's request, with the result that, after free and full discussion and consideration of the serious position of affairs, the Government may depend upon the full and loyal co-operation of the Chamber in all measures having for their object the restoration of law and order. Things are now apparently normal in town, but rumours of disaffection and disorder come from different parts of the country, in which inflammatory circulars have been issued, holding out wild promises of increased wages impossible of fulfilment.

Turning from the unpleasant to the agreeable side of life, on the Saturday afternoon before the riot a large At Home was held at Government House by the Governor and Lady Chancellor. About 700 had been invited and the number attending must have been gratifying to host and hostess. The beautiful grounds have been rendered more beautiful by recent opening out and improvement, and never looked better. Two or three hours were spent very happily in these pleasant surroundings, where at every turn one met and greeted



old friends from all parts of the island and enjoyed a generous hospitality.

Work has been resumed in the town and by the shipping, Mr. Tripp says, writing on December 13th. The Constabulary have now developed extraordinary and commendable activity in arresting and charging a number of rioters whose names they had taken during the disturbances, or who have been reported by some of the poor people who were brutalised. The acting Magistrate of Port-of-Spain, Mr. V. X. de Verteuil, has exhibited a most praiseworthy firmness in dealing with the roughs brought before him, and has inflicted fines and amounts as compensation to the injured, which will prove a wholesome lesson for the future.

Meanwhile some trouble continues in the country districts. At Tobago no praise can be too high for the bravery and prompt action of Inspector Cavanagh. With only a handful of policemen he gave a warning, had the Riot Act read, and fired. One person was killed and several wounded of a crowd which had already attempted to burn one store, and was attacking the wireless station. The danger had been telegraphed to Trinidad, and the *Calcutta* was rushed to the assistance of our Ward, arriving just in time. The call for Bowen's Loyal Force has been splendidly responded to by about 300 of the best of our young men. They will have to be reckoned with in any future efforts to interfere with the peace of the town. H.M.S. *Calcutta* left Trinidad on December 27th for Barbados, but is expected to return. H.M.S. *Pimeraire* was due to leave on January 5th. The Governor has appointed a Commission to inquire into the labour conditions of the colony and the question of wages paid. The Christmas races of the Trinidad Turf Club proved an unqualified success in spite of a deluge of rain. The attendance was a record one for the last thirty years. Sir Gilbert Carter, who was the guest of the Governor, attended.

#### Sir William Allardyce.

As the Circular is going to press, it is announced that Sir William Allardyce, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Bahamas, has been appointed Governor of Tasmania in succession to Sir Francis Newdegate, who becomes Governor of Western Australia. Sir William is not expected to take up his new appointment until the middle of April at the earliest.

#### VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

Mr. A. K. Agar	Mr. J. Hamilton
Miss M. M. Barrow, D.A.	Mr. N. Henriques
Mr. L. Lambert Hall	Mr. C. C. Henriques
Mr. W. A. Boyd	Mrs. E. T. Hutchinson
Mr. O. F. Branch	Mr. T. W. Innes
Hon. E. C. Buck, M.L.C.E.	Mr. E. B. Jago
Mr. E. C. Bugle	Mr. E. B. Jarvis
His Hon. Major J. A. Hurdon	Mr. A. H. Kirby
C.M.G.	Sir Norman Lamont, Bart.
Mr. A. Cameron	Mr. Thos Laycock
Sir W. K. Candler, K.C.M.G.	Mr. D. G. Leacock
Dr. W. Clarke, M.B., C.M.	Mr. N. D. Maidman
Mr. J. Connell	Mr. H. Mason
Mr. Paul Cressall, Junr.	Mr. W. Menzies
Mr. A. Cory Davies	Mrs. McKwen
Mr. H. Y. Delafons	Mr. T. Elton Miller
Mr. W. C. de Gale	Mr. J. Morrison
Mr. W. P. Ebbels	Mr. Alex. E. Morrison
Mr. J. R. Falconer	Mr. F. B. Oliphant
Mr. G. Farmer	Lieut. R. C. Otway
Major Duncan Fraser	Mr. W. C. Robertson
Mrs. M. C. Garnett	Mr. F. F. Rora
Mr. R. P. Gibbs	Mrs. A. S. Sealy
Mr. J. J. Gibson	Mr. J. H. D. Eallier
Mr. R. Gill	Mr. W. C. Shettle
Mr. L. A. Gomez	Mr. D. Morris Skinner
Sir G. Aubrey Goodman	Mr. W. A. R. Skinner
Hon. E. G. Gribbau	Mr. Athelstan Watson

Mr. N. Scott Johnston, 76, Hillside Road, Streatham Hill, S.W. 2.

Mrs. J. A. Perez, M.B.E., c.o. Henderson, 37, Arden Street, Edinburgh.

## WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.**—Sailings to West Indies from London, January 7th, per s.s. *Quitpu* (Captain W. E. Smith):—

Capt. J. R. Anderson	Miss A. M. Garraway	Mrs. Bobinson
Mr. L. Barnes	Miss L. Genever	Mr. and Mrs. J. C. W. Beech
Lieut. R. St. J. V. Birch	Capt. K. S. Gordon	Mr. B. J. D. Boss
Mrs. Black	Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gordon	Lieut. W. C. Shettle
Miss E. H. Black	Master Gordon	Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Spooner
Dr. and Mrs. J. F. E. Bridger	Mr. Gavin Hamilton	Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Stewart
Mr. Algernon Campbell	Miss M. H. Hartley	Miss M. K. Stewart
Comdr. V. M. Cooper	Capt. C. L. D. Hinds	Miss S. Stewart
Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Cowley	Col B. J. Ionias	Mr. A. McK. Stitt
Lieut. J. C. Dauby	Lieut. A. B. Macfarlane	Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Stockdale
Mr. A. Daunt	Capt. N. E. Mand-Rooby	Mrs. M. A. Temple
Mr. T. F. Rhodes	2nd Lieut. E. McTurk	Jobson
Disher	Capt. F. A. Newsam	Mr. C. L. Temple
Miss G. Dyett	Mr. T. H. Naylor	Jobson
Capt. P. Eckel	Capt. J. O'Connor	Mr. L. Tocher
Mr. J. P. Edgill	Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Percival	Mr. Tocher, Junr.
Mr. J. Fararu	Miss M. Price	Miss Tocher
2nd Lieut. C. A. Faruier	Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Richards	Miss Tocher
Mr. & Mrs. J. Fleming	Lieut. Col. and Mrs. P. W. Richardson	Mrs. J. Uphes
Mrs. J. Francisco	Miss Elsie Bidley	Lieut. L. B. Wheeler
Miss A. Francisco		
Major W. A. S. de Giala		

**Booker Brothers McConnell & Co., Ltd.**—Home arrivals from British Guiana per s.s. *Arakata* at Liverpool, January 4th:—

Mr. William Wallace	Mr. L. McLean	Mrs. F. M. Hootb & Family
Mr. W. B. Moffat	Mr. & Mrs. G. Myles	

**Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.**—Home arrivals from Jamaica per s.s. *Comitu* at Avonmouth, January 4th:—

Miss A. E. Henshaw	Mr. J. T. Russell	Mr. B. S. G. Richards
Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Browne	Major F. B. Dawes	Mr. A. Clark
	Miss M. N. Barrow	

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth on January 6th per s.s. *Paluca* (Commander S. H. Simmons):—

Miss D. Agrononte	Miss L. M. Gordon	Mr. P. Pilkington
Miss M. Andrew	Mr. Claude V. Hauges	Mrs. E. M. Fitzhugh
Miss E. M. Ashton	Mrs. L. G. Homewood	Mr. H. P. G. Boone
Mr. K. Backe	Mr. & Mrs. T. Hyde	Major V. H. Seymour
Mrs. S. Banks	Mr. E. Shirley Jones	Miss M. M. Shaw
Mrs. P. Bennett	Mr. G. P. Pemberton	Mr. E. A. Shrift
Miss Bennett	Leach	Master J. Shrift
Mr. G. E. Blair	Mr. A. Mackay	Mr. C. Sylvester
Mr. A. Northwick	Capt. J. G. Mackenzie	Mr. G. A. Thomson
Mr. A. Chapman	Miss V. E. March	Mr. H. W. Tomlinson
Mr. A. W. Dolg	Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Morrison	Major T. G. Tulloch
Mr. J. P. Donald	Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Nasrallah	Mr. W. G. Tysoo
Mr. R. J. Fraser	Mr. and Mrs. P. Nasrallah	Mr. A. Wey
Miss N. R. Gahnet	Mr. G. C. Peachey	Mr. W. G. Wilcox
Mr. G. Garnett		Mr. A. E. Young
Mr. A. Gibb		

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth on January 12th per s.s. *Comitu* (Commander J. H. Seadmore, D.S.C.):—

Col. J. Harlow	Mr. & Mrs. J. Gillespie	Mr. M. D. Morrison
Mr. P. A. Harlow	Miss E. M. A. Hammond	Mrs. A. G. Padwick
Mrs. Mates	Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Kelma	Miss J. M. Padwick
Mrs. D. Batten	Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Hewitt	Rev. & Mrs. E. Price
Mrs. Reach	Mr. and Mrs. W. Lyndea	Col. W. H. Wyndham-Quin
Mr. & Mrs. W. Lyndea	Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Brooks	Miss E. V. Rogerson
Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Brooks	Capt. A. R. D. Brown	Mr. C. H. Scarlett
Capt. A. R. D. Brown	Miss H. Browne	Mr. and Mrs. C. C. A. Scott
Miss H. Browne	Miss N. B. King	Major and Mrs. J. C. Scott
Miss N. B. King	The Hon. Miss O. M. Kitson	Mr. J. Bridson Seale
The Hon. Miss O. M. Kitson	Sir Hercules and Lady Langrishe	Dr. and Mrs. P. F. Sturbridge
Sir Hercules and Lady Langrishe	Mr. & Mrs. G. Lopez	Col. P. T. Townshend
Mr. & Mrs. G. Lopez	Col. E. D. Malcolm, C.B.	Mr. H. F. Oldham-Vilmet
Col. E. D. Malcolm, C.B.	Mr. J. A. Napier Martin	Miss U. G. R. Webb
Mr. J. A. Napier Martin	Mr. and Mrs. G. Napier Martin	Miss E. B. Williams
Mr. and Mrs. G. Napier Martin	Miss I. G. Morgun	Miss G. Sandford-Will

Additional outward steamer (s.s. *Nicoya*) to Kingston, Jamaica, from Liverpool, on January 10th:—

Mr. G. W. Caffyo	Mr. A. S. Norington	Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Page
Mr. M. A. Haon	Mr. E. F. O'Kullivan	

WHISKY to the value of one million dollars was recently shipped from the United States to Nassau, Bahamas.

**MARCH OF THE BOLL WEEVIL.**

**WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.**

**A Warning to the West Indies.**

Reference has frequently been made in the CIRCULAR to the ravages of the Boll Weevil in America and the consequent importance of keeping West Indian Sea Island cotton free from contamination by this pest, the ravages of which are described by Mr. J. A. Todd, of the Empire Cotton Growing Committee, who recently returned from a visit to the Southern States.

In a detailed report to his Chairman, Mr. Todd traces the progress of the Boll Weevil since it first came into Texas from Mexico in 1892. In 1918 its depredations reduced the total Sea Island crop to about 50,000 bales. The Weevil further advanced in 1919, and the crop in the "Islands" was not expected to exceed 5,000 bales, and in Florida and Georgia 10,000 bales. He adds:—

The prospects for next year (1920) point to the virtual abandonment of Sea Island cotton in Florida and Georgia. The whole position of the Sea Island crop is therefore as serious as it well could be, and the only hope is that some method of combating the pest may still be evolved. In this connection I made careful inquiries as to the prospects of a new method of poisoning which has been put forward by the Federal Department of Agriculture and has been very carefully tested on a large estate in Mississippi and also at a Government Experimental Station in Louisiana. The results are very hopeful, but there are serious practical difficulties to be faced in the application of the system which may prevent its general adoption. The method is to spray the plants with a very fine powder of calcium arsenate, but the work must be done under special conditions and with great care. A deputation of planters from the Sea Island districts recently visited the Mississippi plantation, and on their return issued a report to the Sea Island planters, giving the result of their inquiry. They are evidently determined to give the method a full trial in the Sea Island country next year, but it is doubtful whether it will be a success except on the large estates owned by white planters, and even there it will be necessary to reduce their acreage considerably in order that the area under cotton may be effectually dealt with. While, therefore, there is reasonable ground to hope that part, at least, of the area under Sea Island cotton may be saved, it would be unwise at the present stage to expect that this method will be generally adopted throughout the Cotton Belt, especially by the small planters, who still constitute a large proportion of the cotton growers. It is very doubtful, therefore, whether any substantial part of the Florida and Georgia crop will be saved.

MR. G. H. ROBERTS, the Food Controller, in a speech on January 19th, said that the Ministry of Food would come automatically to an end next August. He thought, however, that certain forms of control would have to go on, the necessary powers to be vested in another Government department, such as the Board of Trade or Ministry of Agriculture. With regard to the reduction of the sugar ration to 6 oz. per head a week, he said this was entirely due to the fall in the world output, and the shortage which now prevailed, aggravated by the internal policy of America, as a result of which America had absorbed an additional 750,000 tons. It appeared to him that the Cuban producers were taking advantage of the world's scarcity to force up prices.

**The St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory, Ltd.**

The directors in their eighth annual report, which covers the year ended September 30th, 1919, state that the rainfall for the year January to December, 1918, was about the average, and the supply of canes to the factory was fair, but the juice was much below the average in sucrose and in purity, hence the yield of sugar per ton of cane is low. This was largely due to heavy rains last April, causing the canes to spring. The factory plant got through the work of the season on the whole satisfactorily, notwithstanding minor difficulties which arose in most cases from the impossibility to get renewals of various parts in time for the crop. The following figures give the results of the year and a comparison with previous years:—

	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
Canes .. .. .	Tons 54,338	52,912	58,967	101,248	97,372	62,354	81,074
Sugar .. .. .	" 6,226	5,870	6,128	11,591	11,843	7,316	8,814
Sucrose in Cane	p.c. 11.62	13.49	12.02	12.88	11.98	13.02	12.11
Sucrose in Molasses	p.c. 3.81	3.63	3.18	2.90	2.60	2.24	2.54
Purity of Juice	p.c. 87.14	86.86	84.40	84.70	85.5	86.2	84.0
Recovery of Sucrose							
in Cane	p.c. 80.64	79.01	83.09	85.57	87.08	86.55	86.20
Yield of Sugar % degrees	11.46	11.09	10.39	11.44	12.16	11.73	10.87
Price of Sugar per Ton	£9 10.1	£9 3 10	£16 6 5	£17 18 10	£16 15 2	£20 9 1	£25 0 0

After charging revenue with £18,434 16s. 4d. for interest and sinking fund on debentures, additions sinking fund and railway extension loan, there remains a surplus of £48,841 7s. 6d., which is to be allocated as follows:— £23,420 13s. 9d. to original contractors (making a supplementary payment of 6/193 per ton and a total of 30/893); £22,078 12s. 5d. to the "A" shareholders (who hold 65,000 shares of 1s. each of the par value of £3,250), and £1,342 1s. 4d. to the Factory Staff Fund. The amount remaining at the credit of the "A" shareholders, after additions and deductions as shown in the balance-sheet, is £27,902 13s. 4d. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 2s. per share, which will absorb £6,500, leaving a balance of £21,402 13s. 4d. to be carried forward, subject to Excess Profits Duty, which in 1917-18 amounted to £15,406 0s. 8d. They record with deep regret the deaths of two managers—Mr. Conacher and Mr. H. K. Shannon—who will be succeeded by Mr. Alfred W. Gordon.

A Royal Commission on Decimal Coinage is sitting, and the Decimal Association is working hard to interest the general public in the question. If the public wish the change to be made it will be carried through without further delay. To business men especially the change would be a boon. There would be a great saving of time in calculations, particularly as a decimal system facilitates the use of calculating machines. There would be less liability to error in using simple arithmetic instead of compound. Greater ease in computing amounts expressed as a percentage—e.g., interest on loans, dividends, discounts, rebates, commission, &c. Less difficulty in converting British money to foreign moneys, practically all of which are already arranged on the decimal basis. The Decimal Association, the Association of Chambers of Commerce, and the Institute of Bankers propose that all the present gold and silver coins from £1 to sixpence inclusive be retained, that the florin shall contain 100 mils instead of 96 farthings, and the shilling 50 mils, and that nickel coins of the values of 10 mils and 5 mils be put into circulation. The Decimal Association have offices at Finsbury Pavement House, London, and are anxious to give information to all.

MR. R. J. CAMPBELL, the well-known preacher, is paying a visit to "Happy Jamaica," as the *Daily Mail* appropriately calls our largest West Indian island. Sir Richard Stapley, a member of the City Council, is also visiting the colony.



## PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6642 Central.  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

January 20th, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 6 per cent.—changed on November 6th from 5 per cent., at which figure it had stood from April 5th, 1917.

**SUGAR**. Control prices in the United Kingdom, which were modified on November 3rd, remain as follows:—

	Wholesale.		Retail.	
	Per cwt.	Per lb.	Per cwt.	Per lb.
Cuba, Lumps, &c. ...	72 0	5 1/2	72 0	5 1/2
W.I. Crystallised (see below) ...	65 0	5	65 0	5
W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups (see below) ...	61 6	7 1/2	61 6	7 1/2
W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing ...	"free"	No maximum	"free"	No maximum

The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, under the arrangement made with the West India Committee outlined in the last CIRCULARS, has fixed the price of West India grocery sugar for allotment during January-February as follows:—

Crystallised	97'08s. per cwt.
Muscovado	92'08s. per cwt.

It will be noted that the February price, which is based on Messrs. Willett & Gray's cabled quotation of 10'25 for 96° Cubas for February delivery, is to apply also to January allotments. The March prices will be announced on February 3rd.

Messrs. Willett & Gray's estimate of the beet crops of the Continent for 1919-20 show, on the aggregate, a decrease, the total being 3,494,000 tons as against 3,658,432 tons in 1918-19, and 4,247,416 tons in 1917-18. Germany shows a further diminution of 101,000 tons; Austria an increase of 35,000 tons; French production is on the up-grade, an increase of 55,000 tons on the 110,000 tons of last crop being provided for; the Belgian output is also increasing, with 128,000 tons as against 75,000 tons of last crop. There is a material increase in the Dutch production, 250,000 tons being provided for; Sweden and Italy show an increase. The great drop is in Russia. In 1917-18 the crop was 1,028,580 tons; it sunk to 700,000 tons in 1918-19, and the present crop is put down as only 350,000 tons.

The West India sugar statistics in London on January 10th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Tons.
Imports	468	1,825	976	
Deliveries	1,345	1,738	2,793	
Stock	7,269	6,081	9,170	

**RUM**. Firmer, with more demand. We value home-trade Jamaica 1919 distillation at 9s. 6d., and 1918 and 1917 rums are in greater request at considerably dearer prices. Demeraras, with age, are also dearer.

The stocks in London on January 10th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Puns.
Jamaica	6,456	3,747	6,927	
Demerara	14,429	10,401	5,086	
Total of all kinds	28,089	19,201	18,889	

**CACAO**. No public sales took place last week. The demand for West Africans has been the chief feature of the fortnight, especially for the home trade.

The stocks in London on January 10th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Bags.
Trinidad	24,740	15,514	16,571	
Grenada	13,922	6,807	14,947	
Total of all kinds	109,260	90,993	208,410	

**ARROWROOT**. Demand moderate for low middling quality at non-association prices. Medium and good qualities are neglected. Quotations unchanged.

**BALATA**. West Indian sheet, 4s. 3d. spot, 3s. 11d. c.i.f.

**GOPRA**. Market quiet; f.m.s. West Indian c.i.f. London, £71 10s.

**HONEY** is dearer. Jamaica, 87s. 6d. to 110s. per cwt., according to colour.

**LIME PRODUCTS**. **Lime Oil**: Handpressed, fair sales at 10s., with a better tone; Distilled, dearer, with business up to 4s. per lb. **Lime-juice**: Raw, more inquiry.

**ORANGE OIL**. Sweet: Three cases sold at auction at 19s. 6d. per lb., and supplies are still wanted. Bitter: Last price quoted was 17s. 6d., but an advance on this would now be obtainable.

**SPICES**. Pimento quieter with a small business doing at 6d. on the spot. Nutmegs: Large supplies at auction sold at 6d. decline on the previous high prices. Mace, which had been relatively cheap, was steady.

## OUTWARD STEAMER SAILINGS.

To	From	Packet.	Sailing
Jamaica	Liverpool	Meltonian	Jan. 23
Jamaica	Bristol	Rayano	Jan. 27
West Indies	Glasgow	Crown of Cadiz	Jan. 28
West Indies	London	Sphaeroid	Jan. 30
Bdos and T'idad	Liverpool	Nessian	Jan. 31
West Indies	Halifax	Caraquet	Feb. 6
West Indies	Halifax	Chaudiere	Feb. 20

The above dates are only approximate.

## DEATHS.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/8 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

**HUNTER**—Died at Manila, Philippine Islands, December 17th. Alexander Russell Gilzeau Hunter, aged 32, second surviving son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Hunter, Netherdale, Gartmore (By cable)

**TAYLOR**—On 12th January, at 87, Herne-hill, London, S.E. 24. Kate, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Taylor

## WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 2/8 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line

**GENT. TAILOR'S CUTTER** seeks position in Trinidad or Jamaica. First-class experience of the trade; can supply good references. Aged 29; late master tailor, B.W.I. Apply "A.H." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C.

**WELL-EDUCATED DUTCHMAN**, strong physique correspondent in modern languages, twenty-five years' experience on sugar plantations in Java, successful manager at white sugar factory, and adviser in Formosa, seeks position as adviser or manager in British colony, preferably Egypt. Good planter and sugar chemist; several processes known; first-class certificates. Reply "H.I.C." c/o The West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3

With the present CIRCULAR we are posting to all members a Calendar for 1920, the design of which is reproduced from the frontispiece of Jeffery's "West India Atlas," published in 1780, accompanied by the following letter, to which the attention of members is directed:—

SIR.—While sending for your acceptance a Calendar for 1920, I venture to request that you will kindly pay your subscription to the West India Committee for the current year, which became due on January 1st, at your earliest convenience, if you have not done so already.

In spite of the rise in wages and the great increase in the cost of production of the CIRCULAR, it is not proposed to increase the minimum subscription. It is hoped, however, that every member will contribute towards the West India Committee's Endowment Fund, particulars of which have already been sent to you.

Annual subscriptions and contributions towards the Endowment Fund can either be sent direct or paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or the Royal Bank of Canada.—I am yours obediently,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

# The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXV.

THURSDAY, FEB. 5, 1920.

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### The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:  
6642 CENTRAL.



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams:  
CARIB. LONDON.

February 5th, 1920.

### The West Indian Contingent Committee.

AT a meeting held at the Colonial Office on January 22nd the curtain was rung down on the work of the West Indian Contingent Committee, and the occasion seems a fitting one to take some stock of what has been achieved. To what extent the performance of that body has been beneficial must be left to the judgment of those who derived advantage from it. It will be recalled that the Committee came into existence at the instance of MR. BONAR LAW, Secretary of State for the Colonies, and it was appropriate that his successor, COLONEL AMERY, in the absence of LORD MILNER in Egypt, should have been present at the final meeting. In a speech, published elsewhere in the present CIRCULAR, COLONEL AMERY paid a tribute to the gallantry of all ranks of the British West Indies Regiment, which, in the stress and turmoil of war, received less recognition than it deserved. It was, he said, significant to think that the native population of the West Indies should have come forward in the way they did to take part in the great struggle. It was a highly significant thing politically, and it was also a noteworthy testimony to the patriotism of those who did it. One had to regard the effort made from the point of view of their own conditions. Here were men coming from the warm climate of the West Indies to face conditions which were extremely different and extremely hard. For the West Indian to face the cold of the winter in France meant an

effort and an undertaking involving as much sacrifice as that of an Englishman volunteering to serve for a jungle campaign in Africa. Of their success, which he attributed to the good qualities of the men themselves, he spoke with enthusiasm, attributing it in no small measure to the splendid work of the Commanding Officers and Officers of the Battalions, who fulfilled a difficult task with credit to themselves and to the British Army. In explaining the accounts, MR. H. F. PREVITE made a statement which will, we hope, clear away certain misunderstandings. Many men appear to have thought that the Committee had funds at its disposal which would enable it to make gifts in money to men who came to London on leave and so on. He pointed out, however, that during the four years of its existence the total sums available for the whole objects of the Committee were £12,500 only, and that as the total strength of the Contingent was not far short of 16,000 men, there was obviously no scope for making gifts to individuals. It was never the object of the Committee to supplement the pay of men, or to distribute largesse to individuals. Its objects were to give general assistance and to help necessitous cases, and to distribute such gifts as could be made generally. On the other hand, it must not be thought that the activities of the Committee were concerned only in expending the sum of £12,500. From first to last, £32,000 passed through their hands, this substantial total representing moneys received for the Trinidad Merchants' and Barbados Citizens' Contingents, including the sum of £6,980 15s. 4d deposited in trust for certain men on active service who virtually made the Committee their bankers. Other speeches were of a very complimentary character, and particularly gratifying to those who have been connected with the work of the Contingent Committee from its inception until its close. Special reference was made to the West India Committee by SIR EVERARD IM THURN, who described it as the mainstay and backbone of the great work accomplished. SIR FREDERIC HODGSON, SIR GEORGE LE HUNTE, and SIR WILLIAM GREY-WILSON were equally complimentary, and SIR SYDNEY OLIVIER sounded the true note when he referred to the great advantage which had accrued to the West India Committee by being brought into contact with the masses from the West Indies. He expressed the belief that the activities of the Committee in this connection had given them a greater position of influence in the West Indies, and had made them an even more valuable instrument in maintaining the friendly relations between this



country and its West Indian Colonies. It will be for the Committee to endeavour to maintain that position and to strengthen it, and we can only hope that those friends in the West Indies who, through the work of the West Indian Contingent Committee, had been brought into touch with it, will maintain the personal contact which should prove of incalculable benefit in the future.

#### Lancashire's Cotton Peril.

**T**HE Empire Cotton Growing Committee, in their report to the Board of Trade, refer at considerable length to the inception and development of the Sea Island cotton industry in the West Indies. It is noteworthy that since 1902, when this industry was re-established, much progress has been made in the direction of making the fine cotton spinners of Lancashire independent of foreign countries in respect of their supplies of Sea Island cotton. Thus at the present time the British West India Islands produce one-third of the world's total production of "best" Sea Island cotton, amounting to 12,000 bales of 500 lb. each, the remaining two-thirds being still produced in the Sea Islands off South Carolina, while of the second grade of Sea Island cotton (that in which Egyptian and Sakelarieties is classed) the British West Indies contribute 2,000 bales out of a total of 622,000—550,000 coming from Egypt, thus giving the Empire's share of this variety as 89 per cent. of the world's production. Incidentally, the Committee quote an interesting letter from the *Charlestown Courier*, reproduced in a paper read at the Manchester Literary Society in 1839, from which it would appear that, after the Declaration of Independence, the Loyalists who were provided with homes in the Bahamas took up the growth of Sea Island cotton in those islands with seed said to have been obtained from Anguilla. In 1886 seed was sent from the Bahamas to the planters of Georgia, one lot by COLONEL ROGER KELSALL, of Exuma, to JAMES SPALDING, father of the writer of the letter in question, who planted it on St. Simon's Island. The crop failed, owing to the winter frosts, but some plants were ratooned, or survived the winter, and bore cotton in the following year. Mr. SPALDING stated that the Sea Island cotton of Georgia and South Carolina was descended from these plants, and there is every reason to believe the accuracy of this statement. In regaining their supremacy in the cultivation of Sea Island cotton, the British West Indies have thus come into their own again. Commenting on the position, the Committee state that the West Indian crop, though small, is of world importance, and in this connection they recommend that means should be provided to secure the continuance, and, if possible, some enlargement of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, a matter on which, it is understood, the Tropical Agricultural College Committee have also laid very great stress. Unfortunately, owing to the superior attractions of sugar-cane cultivation, for the moment the annual production of Sea Island cotton in the West Indies has fallen off somewhat, the actual figure for 1918 being approximately 5,350 bales, as against 5,869 bales in 1908, the maximum reached. In view, however, of the Committee's recommendation that careful enquiry should be made as to the best

means of developing the Sea Island crop in the West Indies, we have no doubt that steps will be taken to investigate all possible sources of supply for this variety in those parts. As far as these colonies are concerned, attention has so far been mainly confined to Sea Island cotton, and, owing to the dangers of hybridisation, it is in the highest degree desirable that American cotton should not be introduced. On the mainland, however, it is different. It is stated that in British Guiana unsuccessful experiments have been made with Sea Island, Egyptian, and American cotton, and we regret to notice that the Committee have arrived at the conclusion that there does not appear to be any immediate prospect of the production of cotton for export in that colony. We hope, however, that we may regard the word "immediate" as in the nature of a saving clause. Hitherto the experiments have been confined entirely to the coast lands, where it is claimed that failure has been due to the soil and climate being unsuited to these imported varieties. We confess that this does not convince us, for it is recorded in BRYAN EDWARDS'S famous "History of the West Indies" that the finest kind and most perfectly clean cotton brought to the English market in the eighteenth century was that of the Dutch plantations of Berbice, Demerara, and Surinam, and he further showed that Berbice cotton fetched the highest price of any of the higher counts. But, setting the question of the cultivation of cotton on the coast lands on one side, is it not worth while to investigate the possibilities of the cultivation of American cotton on the savannahs of the interior, of which such glowing descriptions have reached us from SIR WALTER EGERTON, MR. CECIL CLEMENTI, and others? We certainly think that the cotton-growing possibilities of these immense and reputedly fertile areas are worth investigation, and if, as is stated, the climate is suitable for white folk, is it not within the bounds of possibility that the savannahs of British Guiana might be capable of furnishing the looms of Lancashire with a great part of their requirements, and thus help not to leave them at the mercy of the climatic vagaries of a single country, whose own requirements for her own crop are so rapidly developing? We commend the matter to the consideration of the Empire Cotton Growing Committee, and also to those large groups of capitalists who are understood to be turning their attention to the possibilities of our magnificent province

## THE PRINCE OF WALES' TOUR.

### Trinidad and H.M.S. *Renown*.

There is good reason to believe that, on his forthcoming voyage to the Antipodes, the Prince of Wales will call at Trinidad in H.M.S. *Renown*. If so, it is certain he will meet with a reception no less enthusiastic than did his father forty years ago, when, as Prince George of Wales, he and Prince Albert Victor visited the island in H.M.S. *Bacchante*. On that occasion the Royal Palm at St. Joseph and two Poinciana trees at Princes Town were planted by the royal visitors. The cruise of the *Bacchante* forms the subject of two interesting volumes, much of which was from the pen of our present King

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

### The Endowment Fund.

Interest in the West India Committee's Endowment Fund continues to increase, but it will require the united and persistent effort of all members to secure the minimum total needed to enable the Executive to carry out their policy of development, and to secure larger and more convenient promises. The state of the Fund at the time of going to press is as follows:—

Amount collected ... ..	£10,346
Still to be collected ... ..	9,654
Minimum total ... ..	£20,000

Some further references to the Fund, which have appeared in the West Indian Press, are given below:

Thus the *Dominica Chronicle*, in an editorial, writes:—

"Considering the deep interest taken in all affairs connected with the West Indies by the Committee, the appeal cannot but commend itself to the generosity of such West Indians as are in a position to help the furtherance of this cause."

The *Barbados Globe* is equally encouraging. In a leading article in its issue of November 17th it says:

"The West India Committee has, for a long number of years, been devoting its energies and finances to the cause of these West Indian colonies. Time was when the work of the West India Committee was viewed with grave suspicion; thoughtful men were slow to believe that it was possible to find individuals, devoid of interest in the welfare of these islands, who were so willing to give of their time and talent and of their wealth too for furthering these islands. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, however, the work of the Committee continued—slowly, no doubt, but it continued—with the result that to-day it boasts of an extensive membership drawn from every colony in this part of the world, and composed of men of every shade, the qualification for membership being based on intelligence and integrity alone. With the kindness of the West India Committee still green in the memories of planters and merchants whose sons have so recently been the recipients thereof, we feel it hardly necessary to do more than place the appeal before them as a means of inviting their aid."

### SEVENTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Contributions already acknowledged	£10,214	15	6
Messrs. J. B. Sherriff & Co., Ltd.	25	0	0
Mrs. E. Alleyne	20	0	0
Major W. H. G. Thorne	15	6	5
Miss A. C. Thorne			
F. E. H. Thorne, Esq.			
Messrs. Ross & Norton	10	10	0
Major Gervase Disney	5	5	0
Alec. W. Gordon, Esq.	5	0	0
James J. Law, Esq.	5	0	0
Messrs. Law & Connel	5	0	0
Messrs. James Murdoch & Co.	5	0	0
C. M. Manning, Esq.	5	0	0
Robt. S. Reid, Esq.	5	0	0
Abdool S. Rohoman, Esq.	5	0	0
G. S. Seton-Browne, Esq.	5	0	0
Balata, Ltd.	2	2	0
Captain G. Hudson Lyall, M. B. E.	2	2	0
A. R. C. Lockhart, Esq.	2	0	0

T. Cameron Coote, Esq.	£1	1	0
Mrs. Fenwick	1	1	0
Captain R. B. Fielden	1	1	0
Lieut. W. S. Le Grand, F. R. G. S.	1	1	0
Duncan Mackintosh, Esq.	1	1	0
Alex. R. Murison, Esq.	1	1	0
Mrs. MacGregor	1	0	0
Kenneth Reid, Esq.	1	0	0
Harris Harragin, Esq.	10	0	6

Contributions towards the West India Committee Endowment Fund may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or may be forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London.

## CONTINGENT COMMITTEE MEETING.

### Col. Amery Praises West Indian Troops.

The final meeting of the West Indian Contingent Committee was held at the Colonial Office at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, January 22nd. Sir Everard im Thurn, K.C.M.G., presided, and those present included Col. L. S. Amery, M.P., Acting Secretary of State for the Colonies; Lieut. Colonel Sir James Hayes Sadler, K.C.M.G., C.B.; Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., V.D.; Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., C.B.; Sir George Le Hunte, G.C.M.G.; Sir William Grey-Wilson, K.C.M.G., K.B.E.; Mr. C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G.; Mr. R. Rutherford; Mr. H. F. Previté; Lady Olivier; Lady Grey-Wilson; Mrs. Rutherford; Miss Previté; and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G. (Honorary Secretary).

The minutes of the preceding meeting having been confirmed, Sir Everard reviewed the outstanding features of the West India Contingent Committee as outlined in the report, which is published elsewhere in this CIRCULAR, laying particular stress on the activities of the Ladies' Committee, under the chairmanship of Lady Davson, with Miss Moseley as Honorary Secretary, and of those ladies who, like Mrs. Rutherford and Mrs. Rippon, had worked in their spare time. After moving the adoption of the report, the Chairman called upon Mr. Previté to explain the accounts.

Mr. Previté said the list of payments was interesting, as being typical of the different directions in which the money had been spent. He would call attention particularly to the balance-sheet, which gave the final balance on September 30th, 1919, from which it would be found that in the general fund—that is to say, money available for general purposes—they had £1,286 on that date. The expenditure for the three months ending December 31st, 1919, followed very much the same lines, except that, of course, they dealt with fewer men, and there was therefore a less rate of expenditure. There had been during that period transferred to the Trinidad Merchants Committee £777, which belonged to them, and which had not been spent on their behalf, and there were accretions on the receipts side of about £110, from further donations received, interest on deposit, and repatriation expenses recovered—with a balance to the account of the general fund of £745, which was still liable to be drawn on, as they still had something approaching eighty-five men, who



might become a charge in some way to the fund. There had been taken out by the auditors a summarised statement of receipts and payments of all the moneys which had been dealt with by the Committee from September 1st, 1915, to September 30th, 1919.

It had been a characteristic of this fund that, within the scope of the work which the Committee set out to do, there had been enough money at their disposal; owing to the generosity of the people to whom the appeals were made from time to time those who had been responsible—and the Treasurers more particularly—had never had the anxiety of feeling that they did not know where to get funds from to carry out the objects of the Committee. There had been some comment made from time to time, by members of the various Contingents, arising out of two misconceptions as to the scope and objects of the fund. Men had thought, in the first place, that the Committee had funds at its disposal and should be in a position to make gifts in money to men who had come up to London on leave, and so forth. In point of fact it would be found that the Committee only had, from first to last, £12,500 as being for its general objects. As the total number of the Contingent was upwards of 15,000 men, there was no scope in that to give money gifts generally to individual men. Then, again, men had thought that if the Committee had not these large funds at its disposal it ought to have them.

Those were two misconceptions. The Committee never intended to supplement the pay of the men or to make doles lavishly to individuals. Its objects had been explained by the Chairman, but the best idea of the objects on which the money was expended, and on which the Committee intended it to be expended, could be seen from the list of payments shown in the report. It was intended to give general help, it was intended to help necessitous cases, and the distribution of such gifts as could be made generally, and to be of general use to the men, and individual cases were only treated when there was really urgent necessity for it. To come to the question of direct pecuniary advantage to the men of the contingents, certainly they should be grateful to the Committee, for it was undoubtedly owing to the work of certain influential members of the Committee that questions concerning increased pay and gratuities were finally straightened out, and it was estimated that that must have put a sum of £250,000 into the pockets of the men of the West Indian Contingents. So on a mere matter of money they had very little to complain of.

The Committee felt that, as regards funds, they had all the money that was necessary for the purposes for which they were founded, and they believed that these results showed that the money was well and wisely expended for the good of those whom it was intended to benefit.

Sir Frederic Hodgson seconded the motion for the adoption of the report, and expressed the Committee's appreciation of the assistance rendered by the Colonial Office. He also paid a tribute to the West India Committee, without whose kindness in placing their staff, machinery and accommodation at the disposal of the Contingent Committee, it was difficult to say how the latter would have been able to carry on.

Sir George Le Hunte spoke of the splendid work which had been done by the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Aspinall, in helping West Indians in difficulties. Numerous were the cases he (Sir George) had referred to him, and never had he heard of a single case which had failed to get Mr. Aspinall's help and sympathy.

Colonel Amery, who was very cordially received, said that the meeting marked the close of a very interesting and indeed remarkable chapter in the military history of the British Empire—a chapter to which the historian of the future might possibly assign greater importance than could have been done by the public amid

the intense and urgent preoccupations of the actual contest. He continued:—

"We have all been impressed by the wonderful spectacle of the way in which the great Dominions and India have come forward in the struggle for our common liberties, but it is at least as significant to think that the native population of the West Indies should have come forward voluntarily in the way they did to take part in this great struggle. It is a very remarkable thing politically; it is also a remarkable testimony, I think, to the patriotism and courage of the men who did it.

"After all, we have got to look at the effort they made from the point of view of their own conditions. They were not going across a narrow channel to face dangers and conditions more or less known to them. They came from the warm climate and conditions of the West Indies to face conditions which, from their point of view, were extremely different and extremely hard. For the West Indian to face the cold of winter in the trenches in France meant an effort and an undertaking involving as much sacrifice as that of an Englishman volunteering to serve for a jungle campaign in Africa. Indeed, that that is no mere idle theory is shown by the actual casualty list of the Contingents. They sent practically 16,000 men—men who served and fought in almost every theatre of war—in France, Italy, Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia—and who, by the reports of the Generals under whom they served and of their own commanding officers, did good service, won commendation in despatches, and individually won many honours. Their success was due to the good qualities of the men themselves; it was also due in no small measure to the splendid work done by the officers and the commanding officers of the battalions—men who had in many cases a very difficult task, and who fulfilled it with great credit to themselves and to the British Army, of which, at any rate for the purposes of this great war, they were a part. ("Hear, hear.")

"That effort could only have been carried out successfully as the result of the work which this Committee put into it. It was this Committee which first gave coherent organisation and shape to the voluntary movement in the West Indies, secured the consent—the willing consent—and approval of the War Office at every stage, helped the Contingent in the actual problems that arose in dealing with the War Office—problems of pay, of conditions of service, of gratuities—and, as Mr. Previtè remarked, in that way rendered very great services to the men of the Contingent over and above those rendered in the actual distribution of gifts and comforts from the voluntary funds.

"I do not think I am in a position really to speak as well as others can of the splendid work which the members of the Committee have done. I know well that from you, Sir Everard, down—not forgetting the indefatigable efforts of the Secretary and of the ladies—the members of the Committee have toiled and worked to make this thing a success, and a success it has been. And now that particular chapter is closed; but I only hope it marks the beginning of a new chapter of brighter promise, and of prosperity and success to the West Indies." (Applause.)

Sir William Grey-Wilson expressed the opinion that war had been to the West Indies of the greatest national and political importance. The story of the prowess and the doings of the Contingents would be told from generation to generation, and would be an incentive and a link with the Empire it might not otherwise be easy to forge.

Sir Sydney Olivier, in proposing a vote of thanks to the West India Committee, said: "The enormous number of personal cases that Mr. Aspinall and Miss Moseley have dealt with by conversation with men, the mass of sometimes illegible correspondence, the almost inconceivable writing and syntax they have waded through,



can only be realised by a personal visit to the offices of the West India Committee. All that work has been carried on at considerable inconvenience in their rooms, which are already too small for them, and I think we owe a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Rutherford and his Committee, and a very sincere debt of gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Aspinall and Miss Moseley."

Mr. Rutherford responded on behalf of the Committee, and assured previous speakers that it had been a great pleasure to help the Contingent Committee in every possible way. He then proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was carried enthusiastically, and with this the proceedings terminated.

### Contingent Committee's Final Report.

The full text of the final report of the West Indian Contingent Committee, which is signed by Sir Everard im Thurn and Sir Frederic Hodgson, is given below:—

In presenting its final report, the Committee feels that it will not be out of place to review briefly the circumstances which led to its appointment and the work which it undertook.

Immediately after the outbreak of the Great European War, all classes of the communities in the British West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras showed a desire, as spontaneous as it was general, to be permitted to take part in the defence of King and Empire. Many who could afford to do so hastened to England at their own expense, and joined various units of his Majesty's Forces; but offers to furnish special contingents for active service were at first discouraged by the Army Council on the ground that the first duty of West Indians was to hold themselves ready to defend their own homes from the expected attacks by enemy cruisers. When, however, this menace became less serious, renewed requests by the West Indian communities to be allowed to send contingents to fight side by side with the Imperial and Dominion troops was gladly acceded to, and recruiting throughout the West Indian Colonies began in earnest.

At a meeting of gentlemen interested in the British West Indian Colonies, which was held at the Colonial Office on August 30th, 1915, by the invitation of the Right Honourable A. Bonar Law, M.P., then Secretary of State for the Colonies, the West Indian Contingent Committee was formed to provide for the welfare and comfort of the men of the West Indian Contingents, as well as of those who had come over independently, and of others who might come over to enlist in the new armies. An appeal for funds was issued on September 24th, and the response to this and to succeeding appeals has enabled the Committee, successfully it is believed, to carry out its purpose. In collecting subscriptions the Committee received valuable assistance from the local Committees and Honorary Correspondents.

For some months the Committee also provided for the welfare of the men of the Bermuda Contingents, for which it received the thanks of the Governor of the Bermudas; but on the formation of the Bermuda Contingents Committee its activities in this connection were transferred to that body. At a meeting held on November 29th, 1915, which Princess Marie Louise was graciously pleased to attend, a Ladies' Committee was formed, of which her Highness consented to become Patron, with the Countess of Stam-

ford as President and Lady Owen Philipps as Chairman. Lady Owen Philipps, finding it impossible to devote the necessary time to the work, was succeeded as Chairman by Lady Davson. This Committee did much valuable work, notably in providing warm clothing and other comforts.

The work which the Committee undertook eventually proved far greater and much more complex than had been anticipated. Instead of the 2,000 men at first contemplated, no fewer than 15,601 men were eventually enrolled in the British West Indies Regiment, the formation of which Corps from contingents of the inhabitants of the West Indian Colonies his Majesty the King was graciously pleased to approve on October 26th, 1915. Towards this total every West Indian Colony contributed, without exception, the numbers sent over from the various islands and from British Guiana and British Honduras being as follows:—

	Officers.	Men.
Barbados .. .. .	20	811
Bahamas .. .. .	2	439
British Guiana .. .. .	14	666
British Honduras .. .. .	5	528
Jamaica .. .. .	303	9,977
Trinidad and Tobago .. .. .	40	1,438
Grenada .. .. .	4	441
St. Lucia .. .. .	5	354
St. Vincent .. .. .	—	305
The Leeward Islands .. .. .	4	225
Total .. .. .	397	15,204

The Committee also provided for the welfare of the men of "the Trinidad Merchants' and Planters' Contingent" and "the Barbados Citizens' Contingent." These private contingents were raised by committees, comprising the Mayor of Port of Spain, Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G., Hon. R. S. Aucher Warner, K.C., Hon. Hugh McLelland, Major A. S. Bowen, Major Randolph Rust, Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, Mr. J. Howard Smith, Mr. John Phillips, Mr. J. F. Moodie, and Mr. Edgar Tripp, with Mr. G. F. Huggins, O.B.E., Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, in Trinidad; and Mr. Dudley G. Leacock, Rev. H. G. Dalton, D.D., the Rev. Fred Ellis, Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, O.B.E., Mr. R. G. Cave, Mr. E. A. Hinkson, Mr. Harold Wright, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. A. J. Mascal, Captain W. Bowring, and Mr. J. E. Mayers, in Barbados. The Committee assisted the men of these contingents, besides others who came over independently to enlist, acted *in loco parentis* to them while they were on active service, tended them when sick or wounded, provided them with board and lodging while on leave, and otherwise looked after their well-being. It kept in close touch throughout with Mr. G. F. Huggins, O.B.E., and Mr. Dudley G. Leacock, to whom the credit of raising and equipping the above-mentioned private contingents was mainly due.

It was at the outset distinctly understood that the Committee was not to interfere where military discipline was concerned, but it was found necessary to offer help in various matters affecting military details. For the first time in history, many thousands of non-European volunteers were taking their place side by side with white troops in European warfare, and it was not perhaps unnatural that difficulties and misunderstandings should occasionally have arisen. The Committee was able to afford to the War Office assistance in these matters, and desires to record its appreciation of the consideration



shown by the Army Council to its representations, notably in the case of those it felt it its duty to make regarding the question of the pay of the British West Indies Regiment, and also in respect of the gratuities, to which reference was made in the last half-yearly report.

The activities of the Committee from the date of its formation to December 31st, 1918, have been dealt with in detail in previous reports presented to contributors to the Contingent Fund. During the nine months ended September 30th last the work was carried on on the same lines as before. As was anticipated, it tended to increase when the period of demobilisation and repatriation began. Many fresh problems arose which called for frequent negotiations with the Colonial Office, the War Office, the Ministry of Shipping, and other Government Departments.

For repatriation the various battalions of the British West Indies Regiment which at the date of the Armistice were in France, Italy, Egypt, and Mesopotamia, were concentrated at Taranto, and the homeward transports left that port, Havre, and Brest on various dates between April and September, 1919. The Committee supplied games, cigarettes, &c., besides warm comforts for the early days of the voyage, to the men on each of the homeward-bound transports, and these appear to have been much appreciated by all ranks. The repatriation of officers and men from the West Indies, other than those who came over with the Contingent, was attended with greater difficulty. Owing to the demobilisation regulations not having been clearly enough explained to them overseas, many soldiers were released under the wrong group; but, on the facts being placed before that department by the Committee, the War Office consented to these men being transferred to the group which they should have selected. Repatriation was also much delayed owing to the absence of suitable shipping communication between the United Kingdom and the West Indies; but the Committee believes that, as the results of its representations, the men have been repatriated considerably sooner than would otherwise have been the case. By the end of September there only remained 200 men of the British West Indies Regiment still to be repatriated, and at the date of this report eighty-five only still await passages to Jamaica.

Of the war services of the West Indians it is perhaps not the place here to speak, except to record that they met with the hearty commendation, not only of the Regimental Commanders, but also of the Commanders in Chief and the General Officers under whom the regiment served. The following list shows the casualties incurred by, and the honours and distinctions awarded to, the British West Indies Regiment:

CASUALTIES	
Killed or died of wounds	186
Died of sickness	1,071
Wounded	687
HONOURS AND DISTINCTIONS	
Distinguished Service Order	5
Military Cross	9
Military Cross with Bar	2
Membership of the Order of the British Empire	2
Distinguished Conduct Medal	8
Military Medal	37
Military Medal with Bar	1
Meritorious Service Medal	12
Royal Humane Society's Medal	4
Medaille d'Honneur	1
Mentions in Despatches	49

Under the auspices of the Committee, a service in memory of West Indians who had fallen or died of sickness during the war was held in London at St. Clement Danes on Empire Day, May 24th, 1919, when a stirring address was delivered by Bishop Erdosham, subsequently published as a pamphlet.

The statement of receipts and payments for the nine months ended September 30th, and the balance-sheet, were duly audited by Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co. The total moneys handled by the Contingent Committee amounted to £31,980 6s 4d. Of this total, £12,571 7s 3d. represented general contributions; £3,005 5s. 7d. receipts on behalf of the Trinidad Merchants and Planters' Contingent Committee; £3,610 2s. 11d., sums subscribed for expenditure on specific objects; £856 11s. 6d., receipts on behalf of the Barbados Citizens' Contingent Committee; and £6,980 15s. 4d., sums received from members of the Contingents and others, to be held in trust and paid over on demand. All moneys received have been expended with the exception of £2,198 14s. 10d., which, as shown in the balance-sheet, represents the balances of the various funds. The largest item of expenditure was £6,045 8s. 6d. expended on various gifts to men. Clothing and comforts accounts for £2,205 6s. 5d., and musical instruments, badges, &c., for the British West Indies Regiment, £1,051 14s. 5d. Board and lodging for men on leave absorbed £1,737 1s. 8d. The cost of administering the Fund, including all postages, telegrams, printing and clerical assistance, was under 10 per cent. of the sum dealt with. The Hon. Treasurers desire to record their great appreciation of the services of Mr. G. P. Osmond, Chief Clerk to the West India Committee, who, from its inception, has kept the accounts of the Contingent Committee, which were necessarily somewhat complicated owing to the existence of several separate funds.

Believing it to be undesirable to carry on its activities indefinitely, and those of its members who are also members of the Executive of the West India Committee having kindly consented to undertake the responsibility of attending to all outstanding matters calling for attention, the West Indian Contingent Committee, as at present constituted, decided to terminate its work on September 30th, 1919. The functions of the Committee as from that date, the unexpected balances standing to its credit, and all outstanding liabilities on September 30th, have been transferred to these members of the West India Committee, who will continue to administer the "War Charity" so far as the funds can be applied for the purpose thereof, and, if there is any ultimate residue which cannot be applied to these objects, will apply for the sanction of the Commissioners as to the disposal of such residue. It is proposed that the balance of the General Fund, after meeting all liabilities, will be held by the above-mentioned members of the West India Committee in trust for expenditure on the objects for which the Contingent Committee was formed, it being a condition of the transfer that, subject to the consent of the Charity Commissioners, any balance remaining after the completion of the work is to be remitted to the Governors of the several West Indian Colonies, British Guiana, and British Honduras, in proportion, as each of these colonies contributed men to the Contingent, the

money to be used for the benefit of repatriated soldiers in need of assistance.

Viscount Milner expressed his approval of this proposal to terminate the activities of the West Indian Contingent Committee on September 30th, in the following letter, by the receipt of which the Committee was much gratified:—

Downing-street,  
August 23rd, 1919.

SIR.—I am directed by Viscount Milner to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of August 14th, and to inform you that he concurs in the proposal that the work of the West Indian Contingent Committee should be brought to a close at the end of September next, and that its interests should be handed over to the West India Committee.

2. Lord Milner is fully aware of the valuable services rendered by the Contingent Committee in ministering to the well-being and comfort of the men of the British West Indies Regiment, and of all those from the West Indies who patriotically responded to the call for men in the great struggle which, under Providence, has been waged to a victorious conclusion. He is confident that the labours of the Committee have been highly appreciated by the troops, and also by the people of the West Indies, who have subscribed generously to the funds required to carry on the work. He also desires to acknowledge the assistance rendered to the Colonial Office by the Committee, and, in particular, by yourself and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, the Honorary Secretary.

3. Lord Milner requests me to convey his cordial thanks to you as Chairman, to Sir F. M. Hodgson as Vice-Chairman, and to all the members of the Committee for their valuable services; and also to Mr. Aspinall, whose readiness at all times to assist the Colonial Office in matters connected with the work of the Committee has been much valued in this Department.

4. Lord Milner also desires me to express his great appreciation of the work of the Ladies' Committee. His thanks are especially due to the Countess of Stamford, President, to Lady Davson, Chairman, and to Miss Moseley, Honorary Secretary.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) H. J. READ.

Sir Everard in Thurn, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B.

In bringing this report to a close the Committee wishes to express its hearty thanks to all those who, whether in England, the British West Indies, or elsewhere, have given their help. It desires to bear testimony to the excellent work of the Ladies' Committee, and to the services of Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E., as Honorary Secretary of that body. Miss Moseley also devoted much of her time to the work of the Committee, to which Lady Cameron, Mrs. and Miss Bamford, Mrs. John Bromley, Miss Wilkinson, Mrs. Woodroffe, and other voluntary helpers also gave valuable assistance. The Committee also wishes to express its thanks to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the staff of the Colonial Office, the Director-General of Voluntary Organisations and

his staff, to the West Indian Club, and, above all, to the West India Committee, which, from the first, by generously putting at the service of the Contingent Committee its rooms and its organisation, has contributed in quite an extraordinary degree to the success of the Contingent Committee's work. Finally, it must place on record the very great services rendered by its Honorary Secretary, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G. His unfailing energy, his tactful and resourceful action were of great value, and the members of the West Indian Contingent, equally with the Committee, owe him a deep debt of gratitude for the work which he has so cheerfully and ungrudgingly done on their behalf.

## NOTES OF INTEREST.

"Ebery day da fishing day, but ebery day no fe catch fish." [The Executive of the West India Committee are, however, optimists, and hope to receive a contribution towards their Endowment Fund every day.—ED. W.I.C.C.]

THE Index and Title-page of Volume XXXIV. is now published, and will be sent to members on application.

MR. F. J. MORRIS, Mr. W. C. Messum, and Mr. P. M. Davson have been co-opted members of the Committee of the West Indian Club.

LOYDS report that the British schooner *Perfection* from Martinique, with a cargo of rum, is totally lost off the Hourtin lighthouse. All the crew have been saved except the master and one sailor.

WERE the West Indies ever part of the mainland? That is the question that Captain H. E. Anthony, of the American Museum of Natural History, has gone to Jamaica to attempt to determine.

THERE is a report current in certain quarters, says the *Sunday Times* of February 1st, that in his forthcoming Budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer may offer a rebate on the sugar duties.

It is announced by the Direct West India Cable Company that wireless communication with Trinidad and Demerara has now been restored, and telegrams for these places should now be routed *via* Bermuda-Jamaica at normal rates.

WITH reference to an article on "Cacao Production" in Nigeria, published in the CIRCULAR of November 27th, 1919, a correspondent in the southern provinces of that colony writes that the Agricultural Department there has now many more than five experimental plots of cacao, all of which are doing excellent work.

THE rate of freight for homeward Government cargo from Cuba to the United Kingdom has been raised by the Shipping Controller from 30s. to 85s. per ton in order to meet the increased cost of bunker coal and of loading and discharging. For uncontrolled freight the rate remains 140s. per ton from Jamaica and 120s. per ton from the other West Indian islands.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the West India Committee for the current year are now overdue, and it is hoped that members will remit their dues without delay. The Hon. Treasurers will be greatly obliged if members, when paying their subscription and their contribution



to the Endowment Fund through a bank, will kindly advise them what proportion of their remittance is to be credited to each account.

A CORRESPONDENT in Halifax thinks that very little West Indian sugar will go to Canada this season, even if the Dominion Parliament when meeting next month decides to increase the rate of preference to 50 per cent. or higher. To-day, he says, Barbados fancy molasses is selling in Halifax at 95c. f.o.b. Barbados per wine gallon, packages included, as compared with the pre-war price of 24c. per imperial gallon.

AN Ordinance, passed by the Legislative Council of St. Vincent, which made it compulsory to destroy by burning annually cotton bush either planted or growing at the end of the crop (the object aimed at being the eradication of insects and fungoid pests) has been amended. Planters may now bury the bushes, as it has been discovered that cotton bush has a high manurial value, and that burying will return to the land a considerable supply of potential plant food.

It is understood that the report of the Tropical Agricultural College Committee will shortly be published. In an interview published in the *Times* of January 23rd, Lieutenant-Colonel Amery said that the Committee's recommendations might produce something very useful not only to the West Indies, but to the whole Empire. It has been stated that the elected members of the Legislature in Jamaica have agreed to support an initial grant of £50,000 and £5,000 annually towards the College if Jamaica is made the headquarters of the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

IN the course of an address on "Limes and Some West Indian Products," given before the Liverpool Section of the Society of Chemical Industry, Major F. E. Etherington, of Holt, Thompson & Company, pointed out that before the war, of a total of 16,000 tons of citric acid annually imported into this country, 10,000 came from German sources. The average amount of juice yielded by the lime was 59 per cent. of its weight. The primitive method of hand crushing had been replaced by special machinery, and now the yield of citric acid from 8 gallons of juice varied according to the rainfall from 12 to 14 oz.

SIR FRANCIS WATTS, K.C.M.G., Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, has written a most interesting paper on "Tropical Departments of Agriculture, with Special Reference to the West Indies," which was read before the Colonial Section of the Royal Society of Arts on February 3rd by Captain Arthur W. Hill, Assistant Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Sir Francis himself being in Barbados. The chair was taken by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir David Prain, C.M.G. The date of the CIRCULAR going to press precludes further reference to the lecture in this issue, but it will be dealt with in greater detail in next issue.

By arrangement with the Crown Agents for the Colonies, the West India Committee will shortly publish a volume entitled "A Handbook of St. Kitts-Nevis," by Mrs. Burdon, the wife of the Administrator. The book, which will be published by authority of the local Government, will contain a mass of information regarding the mother colony of the West Indies and its allied islands in the Presidency, including a list of estates and their acreage and owners, which should prove of immense value to residents, visitors, and all interested in the welfare of that part of the Empire. The price of the handbook will be 5s. nett, or 5s. 6d. post free to any part of the world, and orders for it may now be sent to the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3.

## BRITISH COTTON.

### The Empire Committee's Report.

The report of the Empire Cotton Growing Committee to the Board of Trade was issued on January 22nd as a White Paper. The Committee was appointed as the outcome of a memorandum calling attention to the grave danger of the British cotton industry being dependent upon the United States for no less than four-fifths of its supplies of raw material, and being thus dependent upon the climatic vagaries of one portion of the world; while, moreover, America required every year, for her own consumption, an increasing proportion of her own crop.

The Committee recommend that an annual grant of £10,000 to the Committee be provided by the Treasury for five years to pay for the expenses of its maintenance and for any outlay necessary for initiating work in directions connected with its objects, that the agricultural departments in the British Colonies and Protectorates be greatly enlarged and strengthened, that a research institute be established, that provision be made for readerships by British Universities in plant physiology, genetics, mycology, entomology, for studentships, that a bureau for the interchange of knowledge of cotton-growing be established, that the Government of all cotton-growing areas be advised to take powers for exercising strict control for essential matters connected with cotton-growing, and that an agreement be made with the British Cotton Growing Association for that body to act for the Committee for marketing crops when desirable.

The report gives a striking table showing the sources of the world's cotton supply and the infinitesimal proportion of it under the British flag, those of American cotton, the really essential raw material for the Lancashire industry. Out of 16,715,000 bales of 500 lb. each, the Empire's share is only 415,000 bales, or 2.5 per cent. On the other hand, the statistics with regard to Sea Island cotton, which are given below, are altogether more encouraging.

Grade and Quality.	Where grown.	World's crop, bales of 500 lb.	Empire's share, bales.	Per cent.
I. Sea Island	Islands, South Carolina ...	8,000	4,000	33
	West Indies ...	4,000		
		12,000		
II. Sea Islands	Florida & Georgia	70,000	2,000	
	West Indies	2,000		
East Egyptian (Sakel, &c.)	Egypt ...	550,000	552,000	89
		622,000		

The report gives an exhaustive account of the West Indian cotton industry, from which the following extracts are made:—

"Sea Island cotton is a distinct variety. Its exact origin is unknown, and though its name 'Barbadense' indicates that it was originally brought from Barbados, yet it is probable that at least some elements of its character were derived from plants indigenous in Brazil. Whatever may have been its origin, the outstanding

fact is that it has for more than a century been the only cotton suitable for spinning the very finest counts and qualities of yarn. It is of very long staple, ranging from 1½ in. up to 2½ in.; it is extremely fine, and it has a silky appearance. The qualities, however, which render it specially suitable for spinning very fine yarns also make it exceptionally difficult to handle in the large percentage of 'waste,' and, unless it is very irregular in length of staple, with the result that its preparation for spinning involves the extraction of a large percentage of "waste," and, unless it is very skilfully manipulated, the yarn made from it is liable to show many imperfections. Its use was for many years confined to a comparatively small number of spinners, most of whom until lately were either in this country or in Lille; but a few years ago it became a common practice for spinners in the United States to use a large proportion of the lower qualities of Sea Island cotton for spinning comparatively coarse yarns for special purposes.

The production of Sea Island cotton during the nineteenth century was almost confined to the United States. Moderate quantities of rather inferior cotton were sometimes grown in Peru, and occasional efforts have been made from time to time in many other places—e.g., Fiji and Tahiti; but practically until the end of the century the whole regular supply came from the United States. In the United States the home of this cotton was from an early date and is still the 'Islands' of the coast of South Carolina, James, Edisto, John's and others. An interesting account of the origin of Sea Islands in the United States is given in a letter to the *Charleston Courier* which was reproduced in a paper read to the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society on February 20th, 1839. It appears that after the Declaration of Independence partisans of Great Britain were provided with homes in the Bahamas and there took up the growing of the Sea Island variety of cotton. It is said that they obtained the seed from the island of Anguilla in the British West Indies. In 1886 seed was sent from the Bahamas to planters in Georgia, one parcel to Governor Tatnall, of Georgia, which was planted by Nicholas Turbull, another sent by Colonel Roger Kelsall, of Exuma, to James Spalding, father of the writer, who planted it on St. Simon's Island, Georgia. The plants resulting failed to fruit on account of the cutting off of the crop by winter frosts. Some plants, however, were ratooned or survived the winter and bore fruit in the following year. Mr. Spalding says that all the Sea Island cotton of Georgia and South Carolina descended from these plants. It was only in the Sea Islands that the quality could be maintained, and seed fit for replanting secured. The size of the crop varied very greatly from year to year, but averaged from 10,000 to 12,000 bales, and of this about 4,000 bales were known as 'crop-lots.' These were produced with immense care and personal attention by individual planters of great experience whose crops had each their own identity, and often commanded a high premium for their name, which was accepted as a proof of quality. A greater quantity, however, of Sea Island cotton was grown in Florida and Georgia more than 100 miles from the sea. Here again the quality was very variable, but until 1917-18 these crops have averaged about 80,000 bales of 400 lb. These cottons were often sounder in character than the poorer qualities of the Carolina cotton, but as a whole they ranked, in price and for spinning purposes, on a distinctly lower level than the true Sea Islands. Small supplies of good cotton similar to these Florida and Georgia cottons were occasionally grown in Texas and elsewhere, but nothing ever appeared equal in quality to the produce of the Carolina Islands. Also it was never found possible to maintain the quality for more than a very few years without having recourse to fresh seed from the islands. It is, of course, arguable in the light of

modern knowledge that the deterioration of the seed was simply due to contamination by means of insects from neighbouring crops of short stapled cotton. But the belief was firmly held in the United States that it was only in the islands that seed fit for planting could be produced. To complete the story of the United States it must be mentioned that the boll weevil which for nearly thirty years has been spreading from west to east through the American cotton belt has recently reached the long stapled region of Florida and Georgia. This pest, which ordinarily reduces the production of short stapled cotton by a quarter or a third, is much more severe in its effect upon Sea Island cotton, which takes much longer to mature. It is not expected that the Florida and Georgia crop will this year exceed 25,000 bales, and the general opinion is that the growing of these cottons will be largely reduced or even abandoned. Further it is stated that the Sea Island district of South Carolina has this year been reached by the boll weevil. There is therefore cause to fear that the production of Sea Island cotton in the United States may be in danger of extinction. The importance of finding a substitute can hardly be exaggerated, and it is almost a miracle that in this century a substitute has been found in the British West Indies.

As regards the British West Indies there is no doubt that in many of the islands cotton has been grown spasmodically from the time when they were first visited by Columbus. Cotton of the Sea Island type appears to grow naturally in many places. Whatever industry, however, there may have been in the early part of the nineteenth century, it had become almost extinct, and it was only at the opening of the present century that a fresh beginning was made. In its earliest years the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies was brought into existence as one of the measures of relief for the distressed sugar-growers, whose position had been rendered almost desperate, owing to the competition of German and Austrian sugar which flooded the British markets under a disastrous system of bounties and cartels. The growing of cotton was suggested as an alternative to sugar. The first commercial attempt at cotton growing was made by a planter in St. Kitts in 1901 who, stimulated by certain experiments carried on in the Government Experimental Station, planted a small area and reaped a promising crop. In the following year this same planter, in addition to carrying on the cultivation in St. Kitts, was instrumental in causing a fairly large area to be planted in Montserrat."

(To be continued.)

**OUTWARD STEAMER SAILINGS.**

To	From	Packet.	Sailing.
West Indies	Glasgow	<i>Crown of Cadiz</i>	Feb. 10
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Paluca</i>	Feb. 14
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Pionier</i>	Feb. 14
West Indies	London	<i>Saba</i>	Feb. 19
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Ninian</i>	Feb. 20
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Camilo</i>	Feb. 21
West Indies	London	<i>Quillota</i>	Feb. 25
R'dos and T'dad	Liverpool	<i>Nubian</i>	Feb. 28
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chalew</i>	Mar. 5
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chignecto</i>	Mar. 19

The above dates are only approximate.

We regret to announce that, as the CIRCULAR is going to press, news has been received of the death of Mr. J. Cunningham, Editor of the *Daily Argony*, British Guiana, which took place in that colony on January 3rd. Mr. Cunningham was a much-respected resident of Georgetown for a considerable number of years, and was a member of the West India Committee.



## SOME POINTS IN CONNECTION WITH FILTER-PRESS WORK.

By F. I. SCARD, F.I.C.

There is no doubt that a great loss occurs in sugar factories from the faulty working of the filter press department, and at the same time there is no part of the factory which indicates more the character of the juice. This might be expected, seeing that it is to the filters that the impurities separated on clarification go.

The great object in working filter presses is, in the first place, to have the dirt in the most suitable condition for filtration, and, in the second, to maintain this condition until the dry cake period is reached.

The conditions desirable in a filter press are that, firstly, the distribution of the mud should be even between the leaves; secondly, that the filter cloth should be of good quality, and supported evenly throughout, so that there may be no rupture from uneven pressure; thirdly, that means should be afforded for maintaining the temperature of the mud; fourthly, that there should be full opportunity for free escape of the clear juice; and, lastly, that there should be good provision for washing and steaming the cake.

As the Kroog frame press probably satisfies these conditions, worked with a good double twill-cotton cloth, it is the press which is dealt with in these notes.

With the make of ordinary 96° crystals the work thrown upon the filter-press department is not great, other things being equal. At first sight it would appear to be the correct procedure to blow up the bottoms and send them at once to the presses. It takes, however, more press power to do this, and the time during which the mud is being operated is longer—another disadvantage. It is best, therefore, to relime the "bottoms," bring them to the boil in tanks provided for the purpose, allow to subside, run off the clear liquor, and then again "blow up" the mud and filter. Liming is practically economically necessary, as it brings the gums to a better condition for filtration.

In most instances pumps are used for forcing the mud through the presses. Although they make a neat plant, and appeal to the engineer, they are objectionable. They churn up the mud, and destroy the granular condition which is the aim and object to obtain, and at the same time cool it down. The montejus is far more suitable. It maintains a steady, even pressure quite free from pulsation, while it also keeps the mud hot without prejudice to its physical condition. It is essential, in order that the full montejus pressure should be brought to bear on the cake, that the connections between the montejus and the press should be ample in size. This should not be less than 3 square inches for the mud from 1,000 gallons of juice per hour for the main supply.

Another important point is that the pressure at the end of the operation should be high enough. This point is not less than 40 lb. on the square inch, and there should be a pressure-gauge on the main

connection to show if this is the case. The press being full, as shown by the pressure and the falling off in the run of clear juice from the juice cocks of the press, the latter is shut off from the mud montejus and the hot-water supply substituted. A small montejus fitted with a steam coil is best adapted for the purpose. The hot water enters the press through the plates, and thus pursues an opposite course to the mud. Before this is done the frame cocks have to be shut off. For an ordinary 200 square foot press 50 gallons of water will be found to be sufficient. The water having been passed through, the montejus is shut off, and steam blown through to drive out the last of this water. The cake resulting should be so dry as to break when held in the hand. It should contain more than 3 per cent. of sugar.

The great points to be borne in mind in order to secure a good cake are: Plenty of lime, plenty of heat, as small a volume of mud as possible, quick filtration, and hot washing.

It is the height of false economy not to use a strong filter-cloth. It is the cheapest in the end, and bag substitutes should be avoided.

In the manufacture of white sugar, although there is more work to be done, the mud is, or should be, in a good condition for filtration. Large quantities of lime and sulphurous acid are used, and this places the gummy matters in a good granular state. This condition is aided by the sulphate and sulphite of lime crystals, which help to keep the cake "open."

It is with the manufacturers of Demerara sugar that the greatest difficulty arises, as it is not permissible to use much lime, while there is much acid liquor from the eliminators. As, however, only juice of good quality is used, the trouble is minimised in this connection. The unavoidable loss of sugar from filter-press work should not be more than 1 per cent. of the sugar in the juice.

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### ROLL OF HONOUR.

News has reached England of the death at Saskatoon, Canada, of Arthur Worsley Holmes a Court, eldest son of the late Hon. Arthur Wyndham Holmes a Court, and the Hon. Mrs. Holmes a Court, of 22, Kildare-gardens, Westbourne Park, and grandson of the second Lord Heytesbury and of the late Hon. J. B. H. Berkeley, C.M.G., of Shadwell, St. Kitts. He died as the result of gassing and injuries received at Vimy Ridge. Mr. Arthur Holmes a Court was born at Heytesbury, Wilts, on September 17th, 1876, and educated at the Grammar School, Antigua. At the age of seventeen he went to Canada to learn farming, and later joined the North-West Mounted Police, in which force he did good service until the commencement of the Boer War, when he enlisted as a trooper in Strathcona's Horse. For his services in the Boer War he was decorated by King Edward VII. at Buckingham Palace with the King's and Queen's medals. In 1915 he enlisted in the Second Contingent Canadian Infantry and saw a good deal of service in France and Flanders, and was twice wounded before he received his fatal injuries.

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THE Hon. Lovel Coke has been admitted into partnership in the firm of Samuel Dobree & Sons, which he joined soon after the Armistice after ten years' service as an officer in H.M. Navy.

## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

### By "Agronomist."

The so-called "root disease" of coconuts in Trinidad is shown by Mr. Nowell, Mycologist of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, to be due to nematode worms, and to be really a disease of the stem (*W.I. Bulletin XVII*, 1919). The nematodes mainly occupy a zone at the base of the stem, which becomes red in colour as a result of infestation. Mr. Nowell suggests that the disease should be known as the "red ring disease" of coconut palms. Outward symptoms occur only when the palm is in a dying condition. The symptoms consist of the dropping of nuts and the progressive discoloration and failure of the leaves. The disease attacks the oldest leaves first. The advice tendered is to avoid planting nuts which have lain on the ground in the neighbourhood of infested trees. Another suggestion is to destroy infested trees promptly and completely.

Alcohol is being tested for internal combustion engines. The British Departmental Committee on power-alcohol is experimenting on London omnibuses with mixtures of alcohol-benzol and alcohol-benzol-petrol as compared with petrol alone. These experiments will enable the Government to take definite steps towards rendering power-alcohol available for all users of internal combustion engines. Benzol is a by-product of gasworks. Power-alcohol was produced in large quantities in Germany from potatoes and the refuse from beet-sugar factories. It might be prepared in the tropics from cassava, rejected bananas, &c.

Certain districts—e.g., in South Africa and Argentina—suffer from hail, which destroys fruit crops, corn, &c. The problem is whether it is possible, by dispersing the electricity in the air at a relatively low cost, the danger from hail would be overcome. Investigations have been made in Argentina with barbed wire as earthing for anti-hail apparatus and lightning conductors, reported in *Le Génie Rural*. The experiments were given up for financial reasons, but undertaken again to study the effect of electrical discharges on growing crops.

An electro-cultural device was installed to test the fertilizing action of the points on the soil in a field of maize. The electricity was received from small brushes on wooden poles 7½ ft. high, and distributed to barbed wire placed at 4 in. below the surface of the soil. The effect of the diffusion in the soil by barbed wire of weak but frequent oscillating discharges of the electric charge of the atmosphere directly above the crops was carefully studied. The increase in the crop of grain was 87 per cent. over the control plots which were not electrified. The author believes that his experiments also show the possibility of protecting from hail large districts which suffer greatly.

The report of the Empire Cotton Growing Committee to the Board of Trade will be read with interest in all countries where cotton can be grown. There is a world shortage of cotton without any prospect of there being a full supply for some years to come. Prices of cotton are already higher than any record since the cotton famine in the 'sixties. The shortage is partly due to the necessity of growing foodstuffs on part of the cotton lands, and partly to unfavourable seasons. The report points out that 85 per cent. of the cotton used in Great Britain comes from the United States. The British Empire can, with proper development, grow the quantity and the quality required.

The Committee recommend a central institute in a convenient cotton country to study all sciences which

affect cotton. Experts in cotton are required in agricultural departments of cotton-growing countries. To train men for the future, Universities should appoint additional professors or readers in plant physiology, genetics, mycology, and entomology. Provision should be made for research students in these and other sciences affecting plant life, and for a bureau of information about cotton. Local Governments should control seed supply, take measures to combat insect pests, and attend to other similar matters. The money required should be raised by some system of proportionate contribution. A levy of 6d. per bale would raise £100,000 per annum.

Great efforts are being made everywhere to restore industry to a peace basis and to improve it. The Hon. W. C. Redford, Secretary of Commerce in the United States, gave an account lately of what is being done in the States. He said that the industrial success of Germany arose out of two causes. First, the appreciation of the science which underlay each industry, its study, and its application in the industry. Secondly, the training of the mind as well as the hand of the worker, so that he should understand both *how* to do a thing properly and *why* that was the proper way.

Scientific research and vocational training are now being taken up. In the States experimental cotton and woollen mills, a paper mill, and industrial laboratories have been set up already. Any problem affecting a whole industry can now be worked out on a practical scale. The British Empire Sugar Research Association and other Research Associations in Great Britain are getting to work on similar lines.

The anti-tick campaign is being fought with great vigour in the United States. In one month 7,000,000 dippings of cattle were carried out to get rid of the ticks. Figures are given by the Department of Agriculture of one herd of 500 head where the milk production after dipping increased 10 per cent. Before dipping was resorted to, 12 to 15 per cent. of the herd was lost each year through ticks. Now there are no losses. The records show that cows only lightly infested with ticks produced 18 per cent. less milk than cows free of ticks. Cows heavily infested yield on an average 42 per cent. less milk than tick-free cows.

The general movement for the destruction of rats has led to the adoption of various plans. The latest suggestion is by Dr. Howarth, Medical Officer for London, published in the *Times*. The substance used is strong lithographic varnish. The container holding the varnish is put into boiling water. When the varnish is sufficiently warm, it will run. It is then spread one-sixteenth to one-eighth of an inch thick on pieces of strawboard or fairly thick cardboard measuring about 15 in. by 12 in. The bait is put in the centre of the board, and a margin an inch wide is left clear of varnish all round the board. These traps remain effective for three or four days, when the old varnish should be scraped off and a fresh layer applied. The rats are caught by sticking to the board and die of fright. But if the varnish is weak, or "tacky," they escape. The varnish is not poisonous. Dead rats are removed, and fresh varnish applied.

The present shortage of camphor accounts for the high prices now ruling—£10 per cwt. The *Agricultural News* says that it appears probable that camphor cultivation is, and will continue to be, a very paying proposition. As the official organ of the Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, it speaks with the highest authority. It recommends the planting of camphor trees as wind breaks and as hedges in as many different situations as possible. Planters will then be able to judge which are the most suitable places for maximum growth.



## OBITUARY.

DR. H. L. CLARE.

News of the death of Henry Lewis Clare, M.D., B.Ch., which took place at Bournemouth on January 24th, will be received with regret by his many friends in Jamaica and Trinidad.

Dr. Clare, who was born at Dublin in 1858, was educated at Rathmines School and Trinity College, Dublin, obtaining the degrees of B.A. in 1879, M.B. and B.Ch. in 1880, and M.D. in 1897. In 1881 he was appointed Junior Resident Medical Officer at the Public Hospital, Kingston, Jamaica, and after various Jamaica medical appointments became, in 1896, District Medical Officer at Kingston. He also served as member of the Central Board of Health; representative of Trinidad at the Conference on Quarantine in 1908 and 1912; President of the first West Indian inter-Colonial Conference on Tuberculosis at Trinidad in 1913; and as delegate from Trinidad to the International Congress on Infantile Mortality held at London in 1913. From 1907 he held the post of Surgeon-General and Chief Medical Officer of Health of Trinidad. Dr. Clare, having served his full term, retired from the service in 1917. Soon after his arrival in England, being anxious to do some war work, he obtained an appointment as Deputy-Commissioner under the National Service Board, first in Birmingham, then in London, until September, 1918, when he resigned owing to failing health. Since then he has resided at Bournemouth. He is survived by a widow and two sons.

MR. C. W. SCOTT.

We regret to announce the death of Charles William Scott, which occurred at Port-of-Spain on December 24th. Mr. Scott had been a member of the West India Committee since 1907, and was well known in West Indian business circles.

He was a native of Harwick, Roxburghshire, Scotland, and went out to Trinidad about twenty-eight years ago as a clerk to the firm of Wilson's. In 1900 he joined the new firm of Stephens & Scott, and in 1904 left that firm to take up again a position with the Wilsons, where he continued until that firm went into liquidation. Some six years ago he joined the firm of Salvatorej Terrami & Co. Mr. Scott leaves, besides his widow, two daughters, for whom deep sympathy is felt.

## THE COLONIAL BANK.

It will be recalled that some years ago negotiations were on foot for the absorption of the Colonial Bank by the Royal Bank of Canada. They failed, however, to materialise, and both institutions have since then made remarkable progress. It is now announced that the Bank of Montreal has acquired a substantial, but not a controlling, interest in the Colonial Bank, and that Mr. G. C. Cassels, London Manager of the Canadian Bank, had been invited to join the Board of the Colonial Bank. Readers of the CIRCULAR will remember that the National Bank of South Africa also acquired a block of shares in the Colonial Bank, on whose Board its London Manager, Mr. Cunningham, now sits. These developments are viewed with much interest in banking circles.

Capt. R. M. B. Parker left for New York in R.M.S. *Adriatic* on January 29th on his way to Demerara to inspect the estates of Houston & Hope, which he recently purchased there.

## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

### American Capital Comes to Caicos.

Business generally has been exceptionally quiet, according to a report of the Direct West India Cable Company. The merchants have dropped the price of both fishery and coarse salt. The conch shell industry is still giving employment to a number of men. No care is being taken as to selection or cutting of the shells, and this may spoil the market for all. Owing to the absence of steamers a large quantity are now on hand packed ready for shipment. The sponge and also the sigal industry is dormant.

A small sample of cotton submitted to the cotton experts in New York in June last was most favourably reported upon, the staple being of excellent length and quality. In August a small bale of 130 lb. of cotton cleaned at the Government factory here was shipped in order to test this market for our staple on a commercial basis. This cotton met with a most encouraging reception, and fetched 70 cents per pound. Mr. Charles C. Cowan, a cotton dealer of that city, stated that in the case of such a small consignment it had to be sold at a disadvantage as loose lots or samples, but that a larger consignment of the staple of that quality would undoubtedly realise higher prices. Mr. Cowan, representing a body of American capitalists has recently secured the lease for a number of years of Haulever estate (8,000 acres), Middle Caicos, from Miss E. J. Stubbs, for the purpose of growing cotton on an extensive scale. The new enterprise, the beneficial effects of which on the welfare and people of Caicos Islands are only faintly appreciated at present, has been placed under the management of Mr. W. R. Tateu, the Government Inspector of Salinas, who has resigned his appointment in order to undertake this work. Clearing and planting operations on a large scale have been commenced, and the outlook is now of a most hopeful character. Application for the purchase of a block of 7,000 acres of Crown lands at Providenciales Island, for the purpose of cotton-growing, has been received from American capitalists and has been accepted. It is therefore anticipated that before long the inhabitants of this island will reap advantage from the new industry. It should be some source of gratification to the Commissioner, Mr. G. Whitfield Smith, to see at last within sight the realisation of his persistent efforts of nearly five years to establish another industry besides salt.

### Antigua's Taxes.

In a letter published in a local paper in Antigua, Mr. George Henzell calls attention to the incidence of taxation in Antigua. He considers that taxation in that colony is disproportionately heavy on the factories and planting community, which he thinks is largely due to their not being sufficiently represented in the council, as although the eight official members are balanced by eight unofficial members, four of the latter belong also to the local or Federal Executive. Mr. Henzell instances the proposed Sugar Export Tax, which will make estates liable to a tax equal to 2s. 5d. per ton of cane, in addition to 2s. 6d. per acre for Land Tax. Last year's crop averaged 13 tons per acre, and, according to estimates sent in, 1920 will average 18 tons per acre, which, with the Land Tax, will bring the total taxation to no less than 46s. per acre.

### Barbados—Chamber of Commerce Meeting.

At the quarterly meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, held at the Commercial Hall, with Mr. V. Hanschell, the President, in the chair, and attended by Mr. A. J. Pavitt, British Trade Commissioner for the West Indies, Mr. T. A. Kinch complained of the hardships experi-



enced by the grocery traders, who were in many cases paying higher prices for imported foodstuffs than those fixed by the Government. This state of affairs, he said was due to the failure of the Food Control Committee to readjust prices according to the fluctuations of the market. Mr. W. R. Dunlop, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, has sailed for St. Vincent on an official visit; and Lieutenant-Colonel Deane has left the colony for St. Lucia to take up his appointment as Inspector-General of Police. The Industrial Exhibition took place as usual, and this annual function had a record attendance.

**Dominica—"Self-Help Association."**

The first anniversary of the birthday of the Women's Self-Help Association was celebrated on December 17th. The Acting Administrator, Dr. the Hon. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., spoke highly of the organising ability of Mrs. Woodward, and of the good work done by Miss Margaret Nicholls, the Honorary Treasurer. He also commented on the satisfactory state of the finances, and congratulated the Association on its year's work. Mr. E. P. Corner has arrived in the colony as the West Indian representative for Messrs. Fawcett, Preston & Company, Limited, of Liverpool. Major E. F. Becher has been appointed to be an unofficial member of the Legislative Council.

**St. Vincent—The Food Situation.**

The local *Times* of December 18th reports that the food situation in the colony is "assuming alarming proportions." It appears that during the week under review the price of food has been advanced 25 per cent. Dark sugar which had been retailed at 5d had risen to 8d and 9d. per lb., while fresh fish—the food of the poor—had made a similar leap from 3d and 4d. to 4d. and 6d. per lb. In fact, matters have reached the stage when some form of control is absolutely necessary. The colony is greatly grieved at the death of Father Maher, Catholic parish priest, who was very popular, but had only been in St. Vincent a few months. At an adjourned meeting of the Legislative Council the Appropriation Ordinance providing for a sum of £44,570 for the service of the colony during 1920 was passed. Cotton picking continues, but heavy rains, combined with the attacks of the cotton worm, have greatly reduced the yields, but the planters are hoping for a second bearing.

**Tobago Cacao Crops Promise Well.**

Mr. Robert S. Reid, December 17th, 1919—Showers have been falling daily with intervals of sunshine, which are ripening the cacao pods, and it is a pleasure to see the bright-coloured fruit now laden on the trees. Good pickings are expected from now onwards, but there may be a lull in February and March. The trees are not yet fully set for the spring crop. With favourable weather the output ought to be very satisfactory. As usual in December workers are plentiful, and planters hope that the recent advance in wages may encourage them to turn out well in the new year. There is a general feeling of relief that the recurrent threat of the removal of the *Belice* has been removed—at any rate for the next three years. The increase in freights on certain articles is greatly resented—not so much on produce, which at present prices can stand it, but on foodstuffs and other merchandise. Shopkeepers refuse to stock some items which cannot be sold without loss.

The Christmas services were, as usual, crowded, writes Mr. Robert Reid on January 1st, and the aged poor had their little feasts in the villages. The stores are said to have done excellent business during the holidays, and Tobago certainly was never more prosperous than now. Wages have been advanced all round, and peasant proprietors who are industrious are getting handsome prices for cacao, coconuts, fruit, vegetables and live

stock. It may safely be said that the lazy ones are the only growers—unless we except the parsons and the teachers. The teachers have got war bonuses, but the parson is still regarded as one who "lives by faith," and has more cause for going on strike than anyone I know in the West Indies at the present time. Good pickings of cacao are now being made and will continue for the next two months. Future prospects depend entirely on the weather, but up to now are very promising. There is a lull in coconut picking, but crops will soon be under offer. Planters prefer delivery on the beaches here rather than on the wharf, Port-of-Spain, where breakages and theft are serious drawbacks. In this connection large planters are looking forward to the time when they can get through bills of lading for their produce to European as well as Canadian and U.S. markets. It is hoped that the proposed intercolonial service will include a weekly call at Scarborough, and thus facilitate the import as well as the export trade. It is certainly a hardship that all goods are now handicapped by freight from Port-of-Spain, when the steamers pass so near by and the increasing trade demands an improved service.

Lieut. Cathcart, A.S.C., has returned to his plantation at "Agenza." Capt. Justin Miller goes to "Kendal Place" as manager. A fancy dress dance was held at "Richmond" last night, and Captain and Mrs. Short gave their guests in their variegated costumes a very happy time. The village folks must have been surprised to see them driving and motoring home in the early morning, as mandarins, shepherdesses, Bluebeards, &c., are not usual sights in Tohago!

**WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.**

**Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, January 17th, per R.M.S. *Changuinola* (Commander, A. D. Riseley):—**

Mr. G. Abello	Mr. A. Maggis	Mr. H. W. Oliphant
Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Balls	The Earl and Countess of Homeby	Mr. J. Ormiston
Mr. T. Hancock	Mrs. C. Heyliger	Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Paul
Mr. A. Butt	Mr. L. Howden	Miss S. I. Paul
Mr. T. Carter	Miss E. Hunt	Mr. Keith Preston
Brig. Gen. and Mrs. J. L. J. Clarke	Mr. & Mrs. E. Laseley Hunt	The Misses Rowntree
Mr. W. T. Dummit	See, T. J. Johnson	Lady Frances Ryder
Mr. F. Duval	Mr. J. Leiper	Viscount Sandon
Brig. Gen. F. H. Elmgie, C.B., C.M.G.	Mr. H. Maclean	Mr. A. Sinclair
Mr. & Mrs. C. F. Elms	Mr. R. C. Marshall	Mr. S. L. Small
Master J. Elms	Miss H. W. Moggridge	Mrs. E. Speirs
Mr. R. Forrest	Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Mulready	Miss C. Stewart
Mr. W. Gordon	Mr. S. J. Munis	Mr. W. J. Tillet
Dr. J. Grace	Miss A. Nelson	Miss M. Wedgwood
		Mrs. H. Willy
		Mr. W. G. Wilson

**Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth on January 27th, per R.M.S. *Bayano* (Commander, E. W. Castle):—**

Mr. C. Adamson	Capt. T. H. K. Griffiths	Dr. W. Wyndham Powell
Miss E. N. Adkinson	Miss R. M. Grimsbaw	Mr. H. C. Scotlock
Mrs. A. M. Alexander	Mrs. D. Heller	Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Scott
Mr. & Mrs. J. Allan	Master L. Hellyer	Mr. W. B. Scott
Miss E. G. M. Alab	Miss D. M. Hellyer	Mr. R. Scott
Col. H. P. Askwith	Mr. M. Hairy	Miss M. I. Scott
Brig. Gen. A. C. Bailyard	Miss M. G. Henry	Mrs. M. E. Scott
Mr. A. Bell	Mr. W. D. Holson	Lieut. Stanley, R.N.
Mr. & Mrs. S. B. Binny	Mrs. M. Holt	Lieut. Southern, R.N.
Mr. W. F. Bulman	Miss J. Holt	Capt. and Mrs. T. E. Shackleton
Lt. Col. & Mrs. Bowen	Miss M. Holt	Mr. J. A. B. Shelders
Buscariot	Miss M. V. Hoyle	Miss L. Shaw
Mr. E. H. Clark	Mr. H. H. Hutchings	Mr. & Mrs. T. Scott
Mr. C. H. Cockburn	Capt. and Mrs. H. D. McG. James	Shepherd
Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Dawes	Mr. H. H. Jenks	Miss M. S. Spicer
Mr. S. Dickson	Mr. A. Kemp	Mr. A. H. Stockley
Mrs. H. E. B. Drysdale	Mr. J. H. Lee	Miss Stockley
Miss A. Elmslie	Miss G. K. Lindo	Miss F. M. Sturdy
Miss G. M. Farquharson	Mr. & Mrs. S. Musgrave	Mr. & Mrs. R. Vernon
Vice-Admiral Fleet, C.B.E.	Miss Chaworth Mustafa	Mr. & Mrs. H. Gordon Wharry
	Mr. and Mrs. H. Nankivell	Mr. T. Whiteley
	Mr. G. C. Peart	Capt. and Mrs. R. S. Wilsone
	Mrs. M. P. Philkph	
	Mr. F. B. Powell	



## PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6642 Central.  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SKELTING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

February 3rd, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 6 per cent.—changed on November 6th from 5 per cent., at which figure it had stood from April 5th, 1917.

In view of the collapse in the world's Exchanges, and the depreciation of the pound sterling in America (to-day it is quoted at 3.47, with every prospect of a further drop), the Chancellor of the Exchequer has taken into consultation the financial experts, and they suggest that an international conference should be arranged without delay to adjust what has become a financial crisis unparalleled in the history of finance.

**SUGAR.** Control prices in the United Kingdom, which were modified on November 3rd, remain as follows:—

	Wholesale.		Retail.	
	Per cwt.	Per lb.	Per cwt.	Per lb.
Cuba, Lump, &c. ... ..	72 0	8 ½	72 0	8 ½
W.I. Crystallised (see below)	66 0	8	66 0	8
W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups (see below)	61 0	7 ½	61 0	7 ½
W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing	"free"	No maximum	"free"	No maximum

The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, under the arrangement made with the West India Committee outlined in CIRCULARS Nos. 554 and 555, has fixed the price of West India grocery sugar for allotment during February as follows:—

Crystallised ... ..	97'08s. per cwt.
Muscovado ... ..	92'08s. per cwt.

It will be noted that the February price, which is based on Messrs. Willett & Gray's cabled quotation of 10'25 for 96° Cubas for February delivery, is to apply also to January allotments. The March prices, which, up to the time of going to press, have not been received, will be published in the next issue of the CIRCULAR.

Mr. Gilbert Fox has left for New York, where, it is understood, he will purchase sugar on behalf of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply.

Mr. Himely has completed his estimate for the new Cuba crop, which amounts to 4,446,429 tons, and according to a cable received by Smith & Schipper from Java, the estimated 1920 crop for that island is 1,562,500 tons. Willett & Gray give the decrease in the world's production for 1920 as 516,439 tons.

As far as the market under Government control is concerned, there is no change. Sugars imported before December 27th, and which are "free" for sale to manufacturers, have not been keenly competed for, except white sugars, for which 117s. has been paid (the maximum price permitted by the Commission having been raised to 120s.). Yellow W.I. crystallised goes slowly at about 104s. to 106s.

The West India sugar statistics in London on January 24th were:—

	1920.	1919	1918.	Tons
Imports ... ..	1,513	2,473	1,235	
Deliveries ... ..	2,326	3,245	4,416	
Stock ... ..	7,323	5,422	7,806	

**RUM.** Importers complain that they are experiencing considerable difficulty in obtaining quick delivery of Dock Warrants, and serious delays have occurred. The West India Committee have taken the matter up with the Board of Customs.

The market for Jamaicas has been firmer, and high prices have been paid for 1917 and 1918 distillation. Particulars of prices, however, have not been publicly reported. For 1919 rums 11s. to 12s. 6d. is asked.

The stocks in London on January 24th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Puns
Jamaica ... ..	6,356	3,520	6,688	
Demerara ... ..	13,749	10,346	4,385	
Total of all kinds ...	27,483	18,863	17,708	

**COCOA.** The market remains firm and unchanged for West Indian kinds on the whole. The latest sales reported include Trinidad up to 130s., and Grenadas up to 129s. against 120s. on a previous occasion. St. Lucias sold up to 128s., but fine marks would be equal to fine Grenadas. On this basis, middling Trinidads would fetch about 124s. to 125s. still, and good middling to good red 126s. to 128s. Good fair to good red Grenadas are worth 125s. to 127s. 6d., common to fair 118s. to 120s. or 121s. Reports tend to show that America is importing Accras and West Africans to an increasingly heavy proportion. Out of the 2,500,000 bags that went in New York in 1919, fully one-half, or 75,000 tons, seem to have been West African.

As we go to press reports of further sales of Grenadas at 130s. have reached us. Trinidads have also been dealt in at the same figure. West African still seem to run short of requirements, and as high as 107s. and 107s. 6d. seem to have been paid for the best.

The stocks in London on January 24th were:—

	1920	1919.	1918.
Trinidad ... ..	22,838	19,457	15,161
Grenada ... ..	10,920	10,930	13,740
Total of all kinds ...	102,746	105,974	207,556

**COTTON.** The market has been more active, and quotations show an advance.

Imports of West Indian in the five weeks ending January 29th, 363 bales.

**ARROWROOT.** There has been some demand for the finest descriptions, which are practically cleared; otherwise no change.

**BALATA.** West Indian sheet steady; spot 4s. 5d., forward 4s.

**COPRA.** Market very steady and offers scarce. Value (buyers) f.m.s. West Indian Feb.-April shipment, c.i.f. London £73 10s., c.i.f. Marseilles £72.

**HONEY.** Jamaica in quiet demand at 90s. to 105s. for dark to good pale sort. Foreign sorts 2s. 6d. to 5s. below value of Jamaica.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** Lime Oil: Handpressed is dearer, with sales up to 15s. per lb.; Distilled is extremely scarce, with continued demand up to 7s. per lb. has been realised. Lime-juice: Raw has a somewhat firmer tone, but there has been no quotable change in values.

**ORANGE OIL.** Sweet, scarce and wanted; value about 23s. per lb. Bitter, no change reported.

**SPICES.** Pimento quoted at 6½d. with sellers at the price. Nutmegs and Mace were unchanged at auction. Slightly wormy to good sound Nuts 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. Mace, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 7d. per lb.; fine 2s. per lb.

## MARRIAGE.

OTWAY WALKER—On 20th January, 1920, at Holy Trinity Church, Henley-on-Thames, by the Rev. J. W. F. Walker, M.A., uncle of the bride, assisted by the Rev. R. M. Willis, M.A., and the Rev. W. A. Pennyston, M.A., Lieutenant Rupert C. Otway (late Royal Engineer), of Grenada, R.W.I., to Jessamy Iris, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Walker, of Normantstead, Henley-on-Thames.

## WANTS.

PLANTATION MANAGER, ex-officer, fourteen years' experience Ceylon and Africa, wishes to settle in West Indies with wife and child, and seeks billet. Cocoa, rubber, tea, coconuts, &c. Has successfully controlled large properties. Good testimonials. Reply "M.M." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

ACTIVE Partnership or directorship in established estate in West Indies, bearing strict investigation by gentleman (demobbed officer, R.A.F.) with some years' experience in West Indies. Capital, about £4,000, available. Apply "C. N. H." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

SOUTH AMERICA—English Sugar Company has vacancy for Factory Engineer as Assistant to Manager. Address by letter, giving full particulars of experience and qualifications, with copies of testimonials, and stating salary required, and whether married or single. "Azucar," c/o J. W. Vickers & Co., Ltd., 5, Nicholas-lane, E.C. 4.

# The West India Committee Circular

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### The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:  
6642 CENTRAL.



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams:  
CARIB. LONDON.

February 19th, 1920.

### British Guiana's Problems.

AN account given in this issue shows that much of the opposition to East Indian immigration into British Guiana has now been overcome, and the work of the deputation which went to India three months ago has been crowned with a great measure of success. Opposition to the scheme of labour immigration takes three forms. In the first place, both the Indian Government and the leaders of political thought have set their faces against the old indenture system. This system worked admirably in the past, and proved a godsend not only to the planters in Demerara, but also to the natives themselves; but facts must be faced, and the facts are that the spirit of the age is against the old system, and that the very name indenture has become associated with a species of slavery instead of the patriarchal institution it once represented. Just as we no longer apprentice a lad to a master to be taught his trade, so in the same way the spirit of modern India is against the East Indian emigrant being indentured with the view to his being turned into an able agriculturist and citizen. Not only was the deputation empowered to promise that its colonisation scheme was on the basis of entirely free immigration, differing in no way from ordinary voluntary colonisation, except, perhaps, in the advantages such as free repatriation, which it possessed, but its Chairman, DR. NUNAN, was able, after an exchange of telegrams with the Colonial Office, to announce that the cancellation

of all existing indentures had been effected. No sooner, however, had this form of opposition been overcome, than a new difficulty arose. The leaders listened attentively to the description of the advantages held by the present scheme, but pointed out that they had had promises made to them before from other parts of the Empire when the recruitment of Indian labour had been the object, but once the object had been attained the promises had sometimes been neglected. How were they to be sure that what was now undertaken would be carried out? Indentures had been cancelled, but might not the scheme now offered prove only the same system under another name? We are glad to think that the members of the deputation were able to dispel these doubts, and, according to the most recent advice, the leaders expressed themselves as being favourably disposed to the scheme, or at any rate undertook not to oppose it, which, in itself, was a distinct gain. There is a third difficulty, the full force of which has yet to be felt—the somewhat natural reluctance of the native labourer to set out on a three months' voyage over the "unplumb'd, salt, estranging sea," bound for a distant country of which he may hardly have heard. This obstacle is not insuperable, and with the aid of suitable publicity will tend to disappear. We are therefore able to state with some confidence that the chances of a resumption of Indian immigration into British Guiana are by no means remote, although it would be over sanguine, in view of what has yet to be accomplished, to expect it to start at a very early date. Meanwhile, how urgent the needs of British Guiana are for population is shown by the recently published Colonial Report of 1918, a summary of which is given in this CIRCULAR. Here is a country with a total acreage of 57,777,000, of which not more than 170,000 acres are cultivated, and the population only a little over 300,000. We find from the Colonial Report that the quantity of exports is falling off; instead of an advance, there are disappointing signs of retrogression. Before the colony's trade can be revived and increased to an extent which is easily practicable, but at present appears almost visionary—before the many schemes for the development of the hinterland, the opening up of vast tracts at present almost inaccessible, the harnessing of hydro-electric energy from the colony's waterfalls, which for power are not excelled the world over, can be put into successful operation, the great problem of labour must be solved. It is not a few thousand immigrants annually that are required, but, if it were possible,



hundreds of thousands. No amount of capital is of use without adequate labour in a country of this nature, and, situated as British Guiana is geographically, the State must be the prime means of meeting the deficit. The Indian scheme is a beginning. As a consequence, the cheering news which the East Indian members of the deputation are able to announce gives a pleasant expectation that the time is not far distant when one of the richest provinces of the British Empire will come into her own, and no longer starve commercially for want of population to fill her. Holding, as we do, the faith that if "one member of the body politic suffer, all the members suffer with it," we believe that, when the desired consummation is brought about, it will be not the colony only that will gain, but the whole Empire.

#### West Indian Chocolate Factories.

**S**UGAR has loomed so largely in the public eye in recent years, and especially from the strained economic conditions associated with the war, that the importance of the cacao industry to the West Indies is apt to be overlooked. Although labour, as with all industries, is a prime factor in its conduct, cacao does not call for it to such an extent as sugar, and as the machinery required for the preparation of the beans for shipment is small, cacao does not affect home industries as does sugar, with its heavy expenditure on massive and elaborate machinery. Again, cacao has not suffered from the iniquitous bounty-fed Continental competition as has sugar. The one disability West Indian cacao has had to face in the world's market has been the slow-grown cacao of St. Thomé and Príncipe. But it is to be feared that in the near future the West India cacao industry will not reap the advantage of Imperial preference to the same extent as will sugar. Cacao from the West Indies will still have the larger and increasing production of British West Africa to compete with in the home market, and all its advantage of contiguity to it. It is true there is Canada, but the Canadian consumption is very small compared with the West Indian output. It behoves West Indian cacao growers, therefore, to use every effort to maintain and improve their position in the home market by doing the utmost that agricultural science affords and is available to them to develop the quality of the cacao bean. Fortunately, of recent years the consumption of cocoa and chocolate is increasing enormously in this country, and that leads to the suggestion that co-operative chocolate factories should be instituted in the cacao-growing centres in the West Indies. It is not suggested that the production of choice products like those of Cadbury, Fry and Rowntree should be turned out, but a sample which would appeal to the general public here and in Canada for everyday use could well be made. Sugar is, of course, an important constituent of chocolate. White sugar is advisable, and Trinidad could supply this, as we understand that one large factory is contemplating the manufacture of plantation whites. In cocoa a starch of some description takes the place of sugar, and here again there is the arrowroot of St. Vincent to fall back upon. In fact, some such co-operative cocoa and chocolate factory would prove a financial success in the West

Indies, and give another manufacturing industry to those colonies. Agriculture is, of course, of primary consideration, but although, in theory, the best economic course from our Empire point of view is to supply the home markets with raw material, it is judicious not to be dependent entirely upon its production. There need be no competition even with manufacturers. Large quantities of foreign cocoa and chocolate are still imported, which West Indian chocolate and cocoa could well displace.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

### Progress of the Endowment Fund.

The appeal of the West India Committee for contributions to enable them to secure more convenient premises, and to develop the work which they are doing on behalf of the West Indian colonies, is still meeting with a generous response, and it has been exceedingly gratifying that a number of contributions have been accompanied by highly flattering expressions of appreciation of what has been accomplished by the Committee for the welfare of the West Indies.

In order that readers may see at a glance the progress of the West India Committee's Endowment Fund the following figures are given prominently:—

Amount collected	£10,511
Still to be collected	9,489
Minimum total	£20,000

Thus it will be seen that the Fund is making steady headway; but united and untiring effort will still be needed before the goal is in sight. A further list of contributions is given below. This brings the number of contributors to date up to 211, out of a total membership of 1,956.

#### EIGHTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Amount previously acknowledged	£10,345	17	5
Messrs. George Fletcher & Co., Ltd	52	10	0
P. A. C. Collymore, Esq., O.B.E.	25	0	0
Royal Dutch West India Mail	25	0	0
Messrs Pott, Cassels & Williamson	20	0	0
Sir H. A. Alcazar, K.C.	5	5	0
H. E. Murray, Esq.	5	5	0
Messrs. Edward Young & Co., Ltd	5	5	0
J. W. A. Maginley, Esq.	5	0	0
John Barclay, Esq. (Grenada)	3	3	0
James F. Dott, Esq.	2	2	0
W. H. S. Shears, Esq.	2	2	0
Ludovic de Verteuil, Esq.	2	1	8
Percy A. Abrahams, Esq.	1	1	0
A. Vyvyan Board, Esq.	1	1	0
Major F. E. Everington	1	1	0
C. R. C. Hart, Esq.	1	1	0
Mrs K. G. M. Hart	1	1	0
S. M. Jacobsen, Esq.	1	1	0
Lady Lubbock	1	1	0
F. C. Wells-Durant, Esq., K.C.	1	1	0
Hon. Carl de Verteuil	1	0	0
Hon. R. S. A. Warner, K.C.	1	0	0
Horace A. Bligh, Esq.	10	6	
P. M. Davson, Esq.	10	0	
Mrs. M. C. Garnett	10	0	
W. C. Jardine, Esq.	5	0	

Contributions towards the West India Committee Endowment Fund may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or may be forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London

**Fifteen New Members Elected.**

The membership of the West India Committee now totals 1,956. At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on February 5th, the following candidates were admitted, bringing the total number elected during the current year to thirty-four:—

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES.
Hon. Gideon Murray, M.P. (London)	Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, C.B.E. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Messrs. H. H. Hancock & Co. (London)	Messrs. E. D. & F. Man. Messrs. Carey & Browne.
Mr. A. Azeez Bohoman (British Guiana)	Mr. A. S. Bohoman. Mr. H. B. Gajraj.
Mr. G. D. Smooker (Trinidad)	Mr. J. W. McInroy. Mr. R. A. Torrance.
Mr. K. J. S. Harris (British Guiana)	Mr. N. J. A. Hascom. Hon. A. P. Sherlock.
Mr. William G. Watson (Barbados)	Mr. D. Morris Skinner. Mr. C. M. Manning.
Mr. C. E. Duroty (Trinidad)	Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. James Crabtree, M.Sc., F.I.C. (Country)	Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, C.B.E. Mr. A. J. McConnoll.
Messrs. Rowe & Tilman (Country)	Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. F. C. Highfield (Antigua)	Mrs. E. H. Shorey. Mr. W. Gillespie.
Mr. A. E. Roberts (Country)	Henry Head & Co., Ltd. Mr. W. Gillespie.
Mr. H. W. C. Annable (Country)	Henry Head & Co., Ltd. Mr. W. Gillespie.
Dr. H. M. Hanschell, M.R.C.S. (London)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. E. A. de Pass.
Mr. W. S. Le Grand, F.R.G.S. (Jamaica)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. W. Gillespie.
Mr. Lewis M. Ommanney (London)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Sir Wm. Trollope, Bart.

Membership of the West India Committee is, by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, dated August 4th, 1904, confined to British subjects. Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is at present no entrance fee. The Secretary will gladly send specimen copies of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application. The minimum subscription is £1 1s., or \$5 per annum, and the compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

THE prophylactic properties of grape-fruit form the subject of a complete column in the *Daily Telegraph*, which complains of this wholesome and delicious fruit not being more readily obtainable in this country, and tells the story of a large estate-owner in Jamaica who, staying at one of the biggest London hotels, had the utmost difficulty in being supplied with one of these fruit every morning. He insisted, and the request was complied with, but he was charged 7s. 6d. apiece for the fruit! This happened before the word "profit-sharing" had passed into the language.

**NOTES OF INTEREST.**

"UNWILLING pickney nobar hab iron."

It is announced that Mr. J. B. Kernahan, a member of the St. Vincent Legislative Council, has resigned his appointment in that colony, and will reside in Trinidad.

WE were interested to receive the first number of the reissue of the *Times* (Barbados) which made its bow to the public on January 10th, and we wish our contemporary a successful career.

It is announced that the appointment of Mr. Malcolm Young Grant (Director of the Jamaica Government Railway) to be a nominated member of the Legislative Council of Jamaica is confirmed.

"THE Cradle of the British Empire" is the attractive title of a lecture on the British West Indies which Miss A. A. James has been invited to give at Yarmouth on February 25th, under the auspices of the Women's Branch of the Unionist Association.

MR. R. E. CALDER, of the Robert Crooks Company of Canada, has been elected a member of the Council of the Montreal Board of Trade. Mr. Calder's knowledge of, and interest in, West Indian affairs will materially increase West Indian representation on that body.

A MESSAGE from Bermuda, received by the Direct West India Cable Company, states that Sir Edward Davson arrived in Bermuda on February 10th on his way to Barbados to preside at the Second Triennial Conference of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the British West Indies.

THE Bahamas will shortly have the opportunity of watching a light-weight championship fight, as, according to a cablegram from Florida, a contest between Freddie Welsh, ex light-weight champion of the world, and Benny Leonard has been arranged in that colony and sanctioned by the Governor.

THE work of the Milner Mission in Egypt having been brought to a successful conclusion, it is understood that Viscount Milner is shortly expected back in this country, when he will take up again the office of Secretary of State for the Colonies from Lieut.-Colonel Amery, who has acted in his absence.

THERE will be no arrival of Jamaica bananas in England this week. This is due, not to any shortage of supply, but to difficulties of freight. It is hoped it will not lead to an increase in retail prices; on the other hand, it could be made the occasion for disposing of the fruit only in perfect condition.

MR. JAMES WATSON, son of the late Henry Watson, Administrator-General of British Guiana, died on December 15th, 1919, aged sixty-six, at New York, where he represented the firm of Messrs. Weiting & Richter, Limited, of Georgetown, British Guiana, with whom he was connected in business for many years.

ACCORDING to a correspondent in Montreal, the Board of Trade there has adopted a resolution urging the Dominion Government to confer with the Governments of the West Indian colonies with a view to agreeing upon the most desirable and effective manner in which mutual co-operation and closer trade relations may be secured between those colonies and Canada.



A COMPLAINT is voiced by Jamaica importers that they cannot obtain delivery of goods ordered from England; in some cases they have been told that large orders placed now will take two years to complete. Consumers are hit both by this and by the low exchange rate of the pound sterling in America, which, however, it is hoped, the strenuous efforts now being made in this country will be successful in correcting.

THOSE members of the West India Committee who have not yet paid their subscription for the current year, which became due on January 1st, are asked to act on this reminder, and by prompt payment help to save stamps, paper, and not inconsiderable trouble! Subscriptions can be forwarded either direct to the Secretary, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3, or paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank.

ACCORDING to the *International Sugar Journal* arrangements are being made for the resumption of the work of the International Commission for Uniform Methods of Sugar Analysis, which was interrupted by the war. The last meeting was held in New York in 1912. The proposal to transfer the headquarters of the Commission to Amsterdam, under the direction of Dr. H. C. Prinsen Geeliga, is now under consideration of chemists in different countries.

AT a luncheon in Montreal, given in his honour on January 21st, by the Canadian West Indian League, Mr. Frank H. Keefer, M.P., Canada's Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, said he was going to the West Indies to see things and report to his Government with a view to a joint forward movement in trade, which would be to the advantage of both sections of the Empire. A resolution was unanimously passed strongly favouring an increase in the preferential rate now current between Canada and the West Indian colonies.

MR. HENRY D. BAKER, the United States Consul for Trinidad, in a recent report issued by the Federal Government, states as the opinion of leading geological experts who have visited Trinidad, that if drilling operations should ever be conducted considerably below the comparatively shallow depths thus far reached—3,000 ft. is the present lowest level—almost unlimited supplies of oil of a very high quality might be found. He does not, however, minimise the difficulties, especially in the matter of gas pressures, of geological structure, and of providing suitable drilling machinery, which have to be overcome before such a desirable result can be attained.

*West Africa*, in its issue of January 31st, wishes *bon voyage!* to the Secretary of the West India Committee on the trip to the West Indies which he is now taking at the request of his Committee in order that they may be kept in close touch with the trend of public opinion there on all matters affecting the welfare of the West Indies. Our valued contemporary goes on to predict that "a warm welcome will be given to him by the men of the West Indies regiments who came over during the war. He worked hard in their interests, and saw to it that they were fittingly clothed for this climate, and that they did not lack comforts. Much of the recognition given to these deserving men was due to his initiative. No one was prouder of the part the men from the West Indies played in the war than Mr. Aspinall." A cable despatched from New York on February 9th showed that Mr. Aspinall had arrived there safely. A further message received from the Halifax and Bermudas Cable Company on February 12th announced that he had left New York on the previous day in s.s. *Guiana* for Barbados, visiting other islands *en route*.

## BRITISH COTTON.

### The Empire Committee's Report.

(Continued from p. 39 and concluded.)

"In 1901 the Imperial Commissioner, Sir Daniel Morris, K.C.M.G., accompanied by Mr. Bovel, of the Agricultural Department in Barbados, visited the United States to study cotton growing. They decided that the most promising cotton for the West Indies was the high-priced Sea Island variety, and they had the courage to buy the available seed supply of Colonel Elias B. Rivers, whose cotton, though not of the very finest type, had the reputation of being the best selected and soundest strain available. This seed has formed the basis from which almost the whole of the Sea Island cotton grown in the West Indies has since been developed. There are exceptions in the case of certain types grown respectively in St. Vincent and Montserrat, while some of the cotton grown in Antigua may be traced to prior importations of seed known as the Seabrook type. The exception in St. Vincent occurs in respect of a type of extreme length and fineness developed from another of the 'crop-lots' of South Carolina. In this case the seeds were obtained through the resourcefulness of a British spinner, who collected the few seeds which had escaped the gin and were found in his purchase of this almost unique cotton. Some of the Montserrat types of cotton may be traced to very small quantities of seed furnished by a British spinner, which were carefully cultivated and a valuable type of cotton obtained by rigorous selection from the resultant plants. It may be said here that in each case, under the care and attention that has been given by those responsible, and favoured by the fertile soils of the West Indian islands, the cottons now grown have in no respect deteriorated, but on the contrary have in the matter of strength of yarn come to excel those from which they were derived. The total quantity of Sea Island cotton produced in the British West Indies is small, but we consider it worthy of this somewhat extended notice for two reasons. First, because of its very high intrinsic value. Its cost is at least equal to the best cottons of Carolina, and in its general gradation it corresponds very closely with the range of cottons grown in the best periods of Carolina cultivation. About 6,500 bales of 400 lb. are produced in the British West Indies, of which perhaps 1,500 bales are equal to the 'crop-lots' of Carolina, about 4,000 may be considered equal to the graded Carolinas, and the remainder are equal to the Florida and Georgia cotton. From what has been said about the menace of the boll weevil to Carolina, it will be seen that the future of the fine cotton supply of the world absolutely depends on the maintenance of the crop of the British West Indies.

"Our other reason for giving so much attention to a crop quantitatively so small is that the history of the modern development of cotton in the British West Indies affords in many ways a very valuable example of what ought to be done to develop cotton in other places. There have been in fruitful combination the persevering and intelligent efforts of planters, the science and organisation of Agricultural Departments in each island, assisted and co-ordinated by the Imperial Department for Agriculture, the co-operation of British spinners, and the advice and practical help in marketing rendered by the British Cotton Growing Association and its brokers. As regards the individual planters, much of the cotton is grown on plantations privately owned by Europeans, some of whom are resident, and others entrust their estates to responsible managers. Much originality has been shown in meeting the difficulties of growing a delicate crop, and of protecting and drying the cotton in the critical time of harvest. In many islands important additions are made to the



total crop by peasant proprietors, who individually grow sometimes only a few plants each, but who are so carefully instructed and guided by the Government officers that their cotton can be graded and marketed in commercially possible quantities, while price adjustments are equitably made after the cotton is sold. The Imperial Department and the local Departments of Agriculture in the separate islands have done remarkably good work. In communities so small the men employed have been necessarily few in number, but have worked most successfully. Endless difficulties from climate and soil have been met; insect pests and fungoid and bacterial diseases have been combated, in most cases with great success. Observations of value, not only in the West Indies, but of universal truth and applicable to many other countries, have been carefully made and recorded. Incidentally many men have been so trained in the West Indies as to be eagerly selected for subsequent employment elsewhere. Further, the commercial assistance of the British Cotton Growing Association has been of value. Cotton-growing in the West Indies began contemporaneously with the Association, and it was natural that the West Indies should have been one of its first interests. There is no doubt that in the first years the help the Association was able to render was very valuable. It is also, we understand, widely recognised in the West Indies that those British spinners who use the West Indian cottons have always been anxious to give their help in making the growing of cotton profitable to the growers."

### Unequal Results.

The Committee then proceed to give a survey of certain islands in connection with cotton growing. They state:—

"It is rather a striking fact that so far success in growing cotton has been confined to a few of the smaller islands.

"In Jamaica a fairly promising start was checked by hurricanes, and though recent efforts have again been fairly successful, there does not seem much prospect of cotton being produced on a large scale. In Trinidad, though experimentally cotton grows well enough, yet commercially it does not appear to compete successfully with cacao, sugar and other tropical products. In British Guiana sugar is preferred. Unsuccessful experiments have been made with Sea Island, Egyptian and American cotton, the failure of which is probably due to the fact that the soil and climate are unsuited to these imported varieties. In these circumstances there does not appear to be any immediate prospect of the production of cotton for export. Practically speaking, cotton is so far only established in the Windward Islands of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, in the Leeward Islands of Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Barbuda, Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, and in Barbados. In St. Vincent, where there is volcanic soil and an exceptional rainfall, the cotton grown is of a very high quality, and the prosperity of the island now largely depends on the cotton crop. In recent years there have been great losses from certain bacterial and fungoid diseases, but we are informed that the sources of these have now been traced by the Imperial Department of Agriculture and the Department of the island, and measures have been taken which it is confidently hoped will put an end to the diseases. In Grenada cacao is much more popular than cotton, but some cotton is grown in the islands adjacent to it. In St. Kitts, which has soil of great fertility and remarkably easy to till, and which has a favourable rainfall, cotton of very good quality is grown. Here it is often grown as an intermediate crop between the harvesting of the ratoon crop of sugar and the replanting of new canes. Thus this happy island is sometimes able to get two crops of sugar and also a fine crop of valuable cotton within the space of two years. Nevis, where the conditions

are less favourable for sugar, has found in cotton-growing a great addition to her prosperity. The cotton is of a good and useful kind. In this island there is a large area cultivated by peasant proprietors. Montserrat is another island to which cotton has brought a renewal of prosperity. The cotton at first was, comparatively, not very good; but in recent years the careful work of the Agricultural Department, backed by efficient management of the estates, has raised the standard of quality, and much of the cotton is now quite first class. In Antigua cotton has had a chequered career. It suffered at one time from exceptional attacks of pests and diseases, some of which were entirely new to science. In recent years, however, progress has been made, and the industry is now firmly established, though it must be recognised that there are considerable tracts in this island where it is probable that sugar will generally be preferred. Anguilla, Barbuda and the Virgin Islands do not call for any special remark. Cotton is thoroughly established on a small scale. Barbados has had a somewhat unfortunate record in regard to cotton. As the headquarters of the Imperial Department of Agriculture it made great progress with cotton until the years 1907 to 1909, when it was growing about 2,300 bales per annum. Since then the quantity has decreased, and it is said that the quality has deteriorated. The conditions on this island are very different from those prevailing in most other West Indian islands. It is flat and has a very shallow soil. There is no doubt that under present conditions sugar presents much greater attractions to the planters of the island, and it is probable that cotton will mainly be grown merely as a rotation crop, the chief object of which will be to purge the soil of certain insects injurious to sugar which do not attack cotton.

"To sum up, the growing of Sea Island cotton in the British West Indies is now firmly established, and it is possible for it to be increased to a considerable extent as compared with the figures already given. Whether such an increase will actually occur must depend entirely on the demand for this very special cotton. If the present supply of Sea Island cotton from South Carolina were to continue, the average annual demand for West Indian Sea Island cotton is not likely for many years to exceed the producing capacity of the West Indies. In such an event we think it may safely be left to the large and progressive firms of spinners, who use this cotton to do all that is necessary to encourage its growth. We have, however, grave fears, as explained in section 40, that the Carolina crop will fall a prey to the boll weevil before many years are past, and in this case it seems to us probable that there will be some difficulty in increasing the supply of the best Sea Island cotton from the West Indies sufficiently to make up for the loss of the Carolina cotton.

"Moreover, it is, we think, certain that there is no immediate prospect of obtaining from those West Indian islands which at present grow cotton any considerable supply to take the place of the Florida and Georgia crops which, as explained in section 40, are threatened with immediate curtailment and, possibly, with extinction.

"Thus the whole question of maintaining an adequate supply of cotton of the Sea Island type seems to us to demand serious and early consideration."

YET another company to enter the Caribbean oilfield is announced. The new-comer is the Oilfields of West Indies (Cuba), Limited, which has been formed with an authorised capital of £150,000, with the object of drilling for oil over an area of 500 acres on properties in Cuba known as "Prosperidad" and "Mariel," where, according to the prospectus, "masses of bituminous material are presumptive evidence of oil in considerable quantities."



## INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

### Return of British Guiana Delegates.

Dr. J. J. Nunan, K.C., LL.D., expects to leave India on the 12th February, having been able to complete his work there rather sooner than he anticipated. Dr. W. Howley Wharton, Chairman of the East Indian section of the British Guiana Colonisation Deputation, arrived in England on February 2nd. Mr. Thomas Greenwood, the representative of the West India Committee, sailed from India on January 30th.

These delegates had a somewhat uphill task, but are confident that their efforts have met with a great measure of success, and the scheme had progressed sufficiently by January 3rd to warrant Dr. Nunan cabling for the services of Mr. C. W. Doorly and Mr. A. H. Hill. The former sailed for India on February 6th, and Mr. Hill is still awaiting the authority of the British Guiana Government before taking similar action.

The work of the delegates during their three months' stay in India involved a considerable amount of travelling; a distance of no less than 10,000 miles was covered in train journeys. After the interview accorded them on December 5th by Sir George Barnes, K.C.B., of the Viceroy's Council, which was reported in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of January 22nd, the delegates had the advantage of meeting Mr. M. K. Gandhi, who expressed himself in sympathy with the scheme. At his suggestion Dr. Nunan applied to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on January 3rd for the cancellation of existing indentures, and this was authorised. Meanwhile, late in December, a returning immigrant ship had arrived at Calcutta from British Guiana. Although this was the first ship to repatriate labourers from that colony for over four years, it did not carry anything like a full complement of East Indians, and the favourable impression created by this fact was strengthened by the account the returning travellers gave of conditions in the colony from which they had come, no less than by their evident prosperity.

On December 25th the members of the Deputation attended a National Congress at Amritsar and were accorded seats on the platform. The leaders of public opinion in India expressed themselves as being favourably disposed to the colonisation scheme, despite their experience in the past of appeals from other parts of the Empire, when promises had been made in order to recruit labour, but had not in all cases been fulfilled, and despite also the industrial awakening that is taking place in India itself which may require all the labour available. A British Guiana tent was erected in the Congress grounds, and some 20,000 pamphlets in vernacular were distributed describing the advantageous conditions in British Guiana and offering free homes to enterprising Indian colonists.

It remains now for the Legislative Council Committee to pronounce on the question involved, but, of course, assuming a favourable answer is received, a great deal of important preliminary work has yet to be accomplished before immigrants can arrive in British Guiana. An Act must be passed in the Legislative Council, depots set up, agents appointed, and shipping conditions arranged. It will not, therefore, be safe to count on the scheme being sufficiently in working order for the first ship to leave India much before the end of the year.

Mr. P. N. O'HARA has been appointed Editor of the *Daily Argosy*, British Guiana, and Secretary to the Company, and Mr. A. Leighton business manager.

## COLONIAL REPORTS.

### British Guiana.

The report on the Blue Book for the year 1918 shows that the revenue of British Guiana to December 31st amounted to £863,625 (as against £736,473 in 1917) and expenditure to £774,481 (as compared with £733,689 during the previous year), leaving a surplus of £89,144. The funded debt shows an increase of £83,550, which at the end of the year under review stood at £1,076,127, and at the same date there was a surplus balance of assets over liabilities which amounted to £202,625. The total value of the imports for 1918 (including transit trade) amounted to £3,835,826, being an increase of £564,809 over the aggregate value of the imports of 1917. Cotton manufactures, matches, manures and machinery are mainly accountable for the increase.

The total value of the exports for the year was £3,524,798. This includes British and foreign goods re-exported and transhipped valued at £646,189. The value of the export trade was less than the previous year's transactions by £791,141, or a decrease of 18.34 per cent.

There was a decrease of 1433,245 in the value of sugar exported in 1918. The quantity was less than that exported in 1917 by 20,115 tons, the figures for 1918 and 1917 being 93,902 tons valued at £2,166,784, and 14,007 tons valued at £2,500,029 respectively. The year 1918 was a prosperous one for sugar-estate proprietors, as good prices were obtained. The sugar crop of the colony was a little below the average, being 107,539 as compared with 108,426 tons, the average yield of the preceding seven years. The export was somewhat restricted owing to freight difficulties. The returns submitted by estates show that in 1918 more than nine-tenths of the total area—73,565 acres—under cane was planted in varieties other than the Bourbon. Only 3,500 acres are now occupied by Bourbon unimixed with other varieties. Of the area, estimated at 69,000 acres, cultivated in new varieties, 92 per cent. was under canes raised from seed in this colony, while above 74 per cent. was occupied by varieties imported from Barbados. Of the total area in cane cultivation 78 per cent. is occupied by new varieties raised at the Georgetown Botanic Gardens.

The quantity of rum shipped during the year fell below the exports of 1917 by 801,440 proof gallons, and the value was less than that of 1917 by £314,937. The exports for 1918 were 2,614,481 proof gallons valued at £243,174, as against £3,415,920 proof gallons valued at £558,111 exported in 1917; 2,420,946 proof gallons of the quantity exported in 1918 went to the United Kingdom.

The area planted with rice amounted to 60,432 acres, of which 9,366 acres yielded two crops. The total yield was 37,000 tons of paddy, equal to 22,150 tons of rice. The increase in yield which should have accrued from the extension of the area was not realised, owing to the injurious effects of flooding in the spring, followed by a period of intense drought in the autumn. The rice grown was of the usual quality: 8,017 tons of rice and 81 tons of rice meal were exported during the year 1918. The very keen demand among planters of rice for the specially-selected seed-paddy produced at the experimental fields of the Board of Agriculture continued during the year. Very large areas of the front lands of the colony are pre-eminently suitable for the cultivation of rice, and hence the proportion of them planted in paddy should increase year by year.

The acreage under cacao remains stationary at about 2,000 acres. A very large proportion of the cacao produced—at least 150,000 lb. annually—is used locally either in the preparation of chocolate or of confectionery. There is an extensive belt of land in the colony well suited for cacao, and it is to be regretted that its cultivation is not extending as it ought to do.



The planting of Para rubber has materially decreased. It is estimated that 3,980 acres are planted with Para rubber as against 5,100 in 1917. There was no demand during the year for Para rubber plants. It has been proved that the Para rubber tree grows well on suitable lands in the colony. Unfortunately, on the lands most suitable for its cultivation, it has been very severely attacked by the Para rubber leaf disease, with, in some places, disastrous effects. Tapping operations are conducted on a small scale, as the majority of the trees in the planted area are young. The tappings of five-year, six-year and seven-year-old trees not affected by leaf disease have proved that yields of dry rubber per tree compare very favourably with those obtained in the Straits Settlements, Malaya and Ceylon, while the quality of the product is excellent. Difficulties in obtaining a reliable labour supply for tapping operations are becoming very serious, and with the leaf disease are the main causes which have restricted and have lessened the area under Para cultivation in the colony. Tapping experiments at the various experimental stations established by the Government continue to give satisfactory results, both as regards the yield of the trees and the cost of collecting the rubber.

The area reported to be under coffee was 5,156 acres. The export of coffee during the year amounted to 4,750 cwts., as compared with 2,374 cwts. in 1917 and 4,474 in 1916.

Coconuts are now planted on 29,400 acres of land, while the acreage last year was 23,900. The export of nuts decreased from 1,911,000 to 1,516,000, but in addition 2,437 cwts. of copra and 30,650 gallons of oil were exported. By far the greater number of the nuts grown, returned by the growers at 14,217,000, were used locally for the manufacture of oil or directly as food. There is still a very wide area of land suitable for the planting of coconuts, on parts of which extension of such planting is being actively carried on. Under proper cultivation and drainage the yearly crop will be very largely increased in the near future.

The cultivation of limes did not increase during the year; about 1,350 acres are now occupied by this product. The erection of machinery at Plantation Providence, Berbice, and at Plantation Agatash, Essequibo, for the production of concentrated juice and of citrate of lime has given this promising industry a much desired impetus. A small factory for the preparation of concentrated lime-juice has been erected by the Government at Onderneem, Essequibo, and its operations have been attended with marked success; 31 cwts. of citrate of lime, 12,936 gallons of raw and 3,671 gallons of concentrated lime-juice, and 180 gallons of oil of limes were exported.

There are large areas of land suitable for the raising of cattle. The number in the colony, including 24,000 estimated to be on the hinterland savannahs, was estimated in 1917 at 122,700, but it is certain that this estimate is far below the actual figure; 332 cattle were exported. Horses are returned at 1,000, sheep at 20,600, goats at 11,240, swine at 12,530, and donkeys at 6,700.

## CACAO CULTIVATION.

### Recent Experiments in Trinidad.

An interesting record of recent experiments in cacao cultivation is given in a paper read by Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.Sc., Director of Agriculture, Trinidad and Tobago, to the Agricultural Society of Trinidad. The experimental work as carried out at River Estate, Diego Martin, which was bought in 1897 as an abandoned sugar estate, with a small area in cacao. The price paid was altogether £5,929, but as a result of subsequent development the estate is worth now at least £35,000.

Of the two objects which such experimental work can have in view, Mr. Freeman does not deal with the improvement in the quality of the produce beyond quoting, with approval, an article by Mr. A. F. Knapp, B.Sc., on "Cacao Production: What the Manufacturer Wants," which appeared in the Circular for June 12th, 1919. As regards the other object—namely, increasing the quantity of the produce from a given area of land—the yield per acre of any particular estate is dependent on a number of factors. Experiments which are not yet complete are in progress to ascertain what is the most advantageous number of trees per acre. Hitherto in Trinidad 12 ft. by 12 ft. has been the usually accepted planting distance. In Grenada a system of closer planting is preferred. On the River Estate blocks of 1 acre each have been planted with trees ranging from 6 ft. by 6 ft. to 18 ft. by 18 ft.—in other words, from 1,210 trees to the acre to only 134. These are now coming into bearing, and it will be of great interest to see whether the advantage which at first lies with the more closely planted trees is maintained. It is obvious that each tree at 18 ft. by 18 ft. will have to yield over nine times as much cacao as is yielded by each at 6 ft. in order to give the same crop per acre.

Another factor is the bearing capacity of the trees. From the commercial point of view, it is of supreme importance to determine whether it is practicable to bring on to an estate heavier yielding cacao trees than those existing there at present. It is generally recognised that cacao trees vary in productiveness. The first point to settle is whether these variations are due to the individuality of the tree or to soil, seasons, and other external causes. Professor Carmody, late Director of Agriculture, saw the importance of this point, and in 1910 began a record of the yield of individual trees on River Estate. Results show that there are heavy, medium and poor bearing cacao trees, and the conclusion Mr. Freeman arrives at is that, speaking generally, a healthy tree remains year after year a heavy, medium or poor bearer. Sometimes a group of four trees can be seen growing close together so that their roots must be occupying the same patch of soil, equally developed and vigorous, and yet, perhaps, two of them are constant heavy bearers and the others equally constant poor bearers. Moreover, the experiments show that, while special manual treatment has an all-round beneficial effect; yet it will not convert poor and medium bearing trees into very good trees. Careful observation has not discovered any fixed law of regular alternations of heavy and light crops, and whilst a tendency to alternate heavy and medium crops was recorded, there was no alternation of heavy and poor crops. Again, some trees are constantly very heavy bearers year after year.

These data would seem to show that heavy bearing is mainly a matter of heredity. If this be so, to secure heavy bearing trees planters must use heavy bearers as the parents. The department has in progress an experiment which should determine which is the better method to attain this result—seedlings or plants propagated vegetatively—that is, by budding or grafting; and another experiment has been started to ascertain the best method of replacing poor bearers, whether by cutting them down and budding chipons from them with buds from heavy bearing trees, or by felling the poor bearers and substituting seedlings from heavy bearers, or by substituting calapacillo seedlings to be budded from heavy bearing trees. This experiment was only started in 1918, and the most interesting result at present is the wonderfully rapid growth of some of the buds placed on the chipons—10 ft. in a little over a year.

These experiments, which have been under the special charge of Mr. J. de Verteuil, F.I.C., F.C.S., when complete, should make our knowledge of cacao matters far more advanced than they are at present. They are being carried out on a scale befitting the second cacao-producing country of the British Empire.



## A MARKET FOR WEST INDIAN STAPLES.

The Trade and Navigation accounts for the year 1919, recently published by the Board of Trade, show a gratifying revival of British trade, to which reference has been made in the daily Press. The total imports for the year were valued at £1,631,901,864, as against £1,316,150,903 in the preceding year, and the exports £798,372,971 against £501,418,997.

Imperial preference only came into full operation on September 1st, and with sugar controlled throughout the year the figures available form no criterion as to the result of this beneficent policy. It will, however, no doubt be of interest to readers in the West Indies to learn what the United Kingdom's sources of supply of the commodities which they produce were.

Taking sugar first, it may be noted that the imports of this commodity were 31,919,311 cwts. (of which 30,658,779 cwts. were entered for home consumption), as compared with 26,113,009 cwts. in 1918 and 27,750,194 cwts. in 1917. Of the sugar imported last year 9,355,189 cwts. were refined and 22,594,152 cwts. raw, the latter as follows:—

	1917.	1918.	1919.
<b>Unrefined -</b>	<b>Cwts.</b>	<b>Cwts.</b>	<b>Cwts.</b>
From Russia ... ..	—	—	—
.. Netherlands ... ..	36,306	153,824	17
.. Belgium ... ..	—	—	15,385
.. France ... ..	—	—	170
.. Other Countries in Europe ... ..	—	12	7,748
.. Java ... ..	6,414,046	3,721,854	3,450,913
.. Philippine Islands ... ..	129,303	—	95,000
.. Cuba ... ..	13,927,047	16,478,014	11,490,554
.. Dutch Guiana ... ..	50,365	60,231	28,924
.. Hayti and St. Domingo ... ..	—	—	—
.. Mexico ... ..	—	—	—
.. Peru ... ..	1,017,867	853,912	1,516,155
.. Brazil ... ..	470,046	166,502	144,779
.. Mauritius ... ..	625,351	1,988,351	3,070,647
.. British India ... ..	2	834	101,979
.. Straits Settlements (incl. Fed. Malay States) ... ..	—	—	—
.. British West India Islands, British Guiana } ... ..	2,587,841	2,314,477	2,293,314
.. and British Honduras } ... ..	—	—	—
.. Other Countries not to Europe ... ..	42,612	58,185	378,503
<b>Total Countries not in Europe</b>	<b>24,384,490</b>	<b>25,523,146</b>	<b>22,570,822</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24,360,787</b>	<b>25,681,982</b>	<b>22,504,152</b>

Europe, which before the war supplied the United Kingdom with 96 per cent of its sugar, sent us only 575,580 cwts. of refined and 23,330 cwts. of raw in 1919.

Re-exports of raw cacao in the three years comprised 559,021 cwts. in 1918 and only 11,679 in the preceding year. In 1919, 323,526 cwts. were exported to the Netherlands, and 58,752 cwts. to the United States—presumably to take advantage of market conditions. Imports of coffee also showed an increase, amounting to 1,055,218 cwts. (as against 159,304 cwts. only in 1918); but towards this total the British West Indies contributed 28,462 cwts. only.

Imports of raw cacao went ahead rapidly after the

removal of the import restrictions, as will be seen from the following table:—

	1917.	1918.	1919
	<b>Cwts.</b>	<b>Cwts.</b>	<b>Cwts.</b>
From Ecuador ... ..	36,305	4,359	183,056
.. Brazil ... ..	37,239	12,786	73,300
.. British West Africa ... ..	826,696	539,742	1,457,714
.. Ceylon ... ..	21,767	2,189	18,087
.. British West India Islands ... ..	149,286	140,188	354,387
.. Other Countries ... ..	87,985	108,368	276,412
<b>Total</b> { Total ... ..	<b>1,156,160</b>	<b>847,840</b>	<b>2,272,803</b>
{ Entered for Home Consumption ... ..	<b>949,562</b>	<b>1,223,054</b>	<b>1,592,265</b>

Banana imports were again almost normal, 4,896,659 bunches having been imported last year as compared with 734,968 in 1918, when, it will be remembered—though one would like to forget it!—that the restaurants were charging 9d. for a single finger!

## SUGAR CONSUMPTION.

### Distribution in Great Britain.

The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply has supplied to the CIRCULAR the following interesting figures, showing the total amounts of sugar consumed during 1915, 1918, and 1919, and their distribution between private use and various trades and industries:

	1915.	1918.	1919.
	<b>Tons.</b>	<b>Tons.</b>	<b>Tons.</b>
<b>For</b>			
Domestic use, Catering &c. ... ..	1,194,000	579,288	790,661
War Office & Air Ministry ... ..	44,000	82,068	23,215
Admiralty ... ..	12,000	8,092	—
Navy & Army Canteen Board ... ..	—	4,580	2,474
Wholesale Jam Manufacturers ... ..	130,000	216,828	200,552
Condensed Milk ... ..	20,000	21,368	24,664
Drug Manufacture ... ..	6,834	3,417	7,490
Confectionery ... ..	151,632	41,760	166,198
Pastries ... ..	60,172	15,043	65,958
Biscuits ... ..	22,368	6,592	24,517
Candied Peel ... ..	4,612	1,153	5,065
Mineral Water ... ..	20,800	5,200	22,798
Other Beverages (excl. Beer) ... ..	7,380	1,845	8,089
Other Manufactures ... ..	32,224	8,056	35,320
Domestic Preserving ... .. (in Domestic)	18,012	—	64,459
Syrup Manufacture ... ..	39,257	74,498	68,066
Brewing ... ..	73,209	22,049	50,855
Sales without vouchers, losses &c. ... ..	—	1,068	34,129
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,818,488</b>	<b>1,109,905</b>	<b>1,596,004</b>

NOTE. 1915. These figures are based primarily upon the results of the inquiry instituted at the inception of the rationing scheme.

1918. These figures are the result of the first year's rationing, and cover the period 31st Dec. 1917-27th Dec. 1918.

1919. These figures are the result of the second year's rationing and cover the period 30th Dec. 1918-27th Dec. 1919, and include 19,526 tons the allotment of which was delayed until 1920.

Domestic ration—

30th Dec. 1918-26th Jan. 1919—8oz weekly	} Average
27th Jan. 1919-27th Sept. 1919—12oz.	
29th Sept. 1919-11th Oct. 1919—6oz.	
13th Oct. 1919-27th Dec. 1919—8oz.	

Privately imported sugar, sold for manufacturing purposes other than Syrup & Invert making, is not included.

## TWO LECTURES.

### Tropical Diseases.

Dr. Louis Sambon delivered a most interesting lecture on tropical and sub-tropical diseases on January 27th at a meeting at the Royal Colonial Institute, over which Sir Patrick Manson, M.D., G.C.M.G., presided. He showed that climate was not responsible for sickness in the tropics, disease being traceable to infection, which, by vigorous prophylactic measures against insect pests, it should be possible to eradicate.

The lecturer dealt at some length with conditions prevailing in the West Indies, and said that since his visit to the West Indies in 1913 he had been longing to return to the "Isles of the Blest." He went there then on behalf of the Colonial Office to investigate pellagra, a disease the recent recognition of which in Jamaica, Barbados and Antigua had caused some alarm. He found it present in all the islands of the Leeward group he was able to visit. It differed in no way from the classic form he had seen in Spain, Italy, France, Austria, Hungary, Roumania, Britain and the United States of America. In some of the islands he found sanitation much neglected and preventive measures ignored, but in making this statement he felt in justice bound to state that nowhere in the West Indies had he met with conditions so deplorable as in certain parts of Europe and especially in many of our rural districts at home. However, it was painful to find such diseases as elephantiasis, ankylostomiasis, yaws and leprosy rampant. Elephantiasis in young subjects was unpardonable, because this disease, mainly or entirely due to glarasis, was preventable. This had been demonstrated no less than forty-two years ago by Manson in China. The discovery that filariasis was a mosquito-borne disease soon became the corner-stone of modern biological medicine.

With regard to ankylostomiasis, he regretted to find that we were letting Americans cleanse our Augean stables. At Government House, in Barbados, he had met Mr. Wickliffe Rose, the capable Administrative Secretary of the Rockefeller Foundation, and heard him lecture on the subject, saying that America had been spending labour and money in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Southern United States to stamp out the fell disease that was sapping the life of their people, and infected labourers from the British West Indies had threatened to wreck their labours, and so seeing that the British were not likely to take any step in the matter, they had decided to offer to do it themselves at their own expense because even at their own expense they found it financially advantageous. These were not his actual words—indeed, he was a master in courtesy: but that was the purport of his message, and while admiring the practical far-seeing people the speaker represented, he felt intense shame at our neglect and supineness. He remembered the case of the Spanish physician who, in 1906, before the Madrid Royal Academy of Medicine, lamented not the loss of Cuba and Porto Rico but that, in less than two years, the Americans should have been able to eliminate yellow fever and ankylostomiasis, while Spaniards had done nothing for the health of these islands during their long domination since the days of Columbus. The next day, driving by Gun Hill, he saw Wilkinson's lion cut out of the coral limestone with head turned seaward, watching over the mighty ocean battlefield, like the Greek sentinel lion overlooking the famous plain of Chaeronea, and he wondered where British pride and sense of duty had gone. All they could show him concerning the control of ankylostomiasis was one of the old tin masks that were cruelly placed on the face of the poor anæmic slaves which hook-worm had turned into "dirt-eaters."

And leprosy. Was it not a shame that we should still be ignorant of its natural history and unable either to cure it or prevent it? The repulsive leper was still calling out "Unclean, unclean!"—for others to get safely out of his way; he was still being buried alive in out-of-the-way asylums, where he died more slowly than the Hindu leper women who, in ignorant superstition, allowed and even craved that they should be buried alive to ensure the children's immunity.

Linnaeus shared the popular belief of the Northern people as to the insect-transmission of leprosy and, from the few observations he was able to make during his hasty voyage, he believed the medium of infection should be looked for among culicoides and other such midges of cosmopolitan range but discontinuous distribution limited to peculiar scattered areas. There should be no real difficulty in arriving at an exact and complete knowledge of the natural history of leprosy; all we needed was to work at it. Take sleeping sickness. It had baffled investigation for over a century; then, suddenly, in less than three months, it was thoroughly elucidated, and if anyone ever had a right to say "*Veni, vidi, vici*," it was Castellani.

Returning from the West Indies, impressed by all he had seen, he suggested that the Lesser Antilles be chosen to carry out a thorough medical survey that might enable the study of the oecology of tropical diseases and possibly elucidate many points still obscure in this natural history—one point being the nature of black-water fever, still by many considered a "severe form of malaria," notwithstanding its far greater affinities with yellow fever and especially with the hæmoglobinuric fevers of cattle and other animals. The reason for selecting these islands was not the greater prevalence of tropical diseases, but the reverse—their far greater healthiness compared with other tropical countries. They offered ideal conditions for the investigations he proposed. In the first place they were small, and that was a great advantage. The phenomena of glaciation had been studied chiefly in the small Swiss glaciers because they were conveniently placed in the centre of the scientific world. Volcanic phenomena likewise had, for the same reason, been studied chiefly on Vesuvius and the small volcanic Lipari islands, so tropical diseases were best studied in small tropical islands—some of them, indeed, true laboratories. Further, he had suggested that one of the islands, preferably Barbados (already free from malaria and yaws) should be freed from elephantiasis and possibly pellagra and leprosy. With regard to elephantiasis, once called "the Barbados leg," there should be no difficulty, and he trusted that Sir Patrick Manson, to whom we owe practically all our knowledge on various kinds of filariasis, would himself, either by directing or carrying out the work he had suggested, be able to write *finis* to this great chapter in tropical medicine.

### Departments of Agriculture.

Sir Francis Watt's lecture on "Tropical Department of Agriculture," to which a brief reference was made in last CIRCULAR, was given before the Colonial Section of the Royal Society of Arts on February 3rd.

Captain Arthur Hill, who read the paper in the author's absence, said that posterity owed much to the mission gardens which the early missionaries established around their stations. As early as 1764 a botanic garden was instituted in St. Vincent, to which Lord Rodney sent the mango and cinnamon plants which he took from a French man-of-war in 1792. A botanic garden was also established at Bath, in Jamaica, in 1774. Various plants were brought there from Tahiti by Captain Bligh, among which were four varieties of sugar-cane, as well as the bread-fruit and other plants.

The critical days which the end of the nineteenth



century brought for West Indian agriculture and the great decline in the value of sugar, led to active inquiry into the possibility of improving the methods of growing the canes and manufacturing the sugar, and also directed attention to the introduction of other industries. The first experiment station as such was that started in 1886 in Barbados under the direction of Professor Harrison, with whom was associated Mr. J. R. Bovell. As the outcome of their efforts and round about 1890 and 1891 botanic gardens were established in St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat and St. Kitts. At first, however, economic conditions became steadily worse, which led to the appointment in 1896 of the West Indian Royal Commission, whose report marked a distinct period in West Indian history. There followed in 1898 the inauguration of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, for which an appropriation of £17,500 a year was made available from Imperial funds, and the appointment as Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies of Sir Daniel Morris, who fixed his headquarters in Barbados. A certain change of outlook was implied, for the institutions now were looked upon definitely as agricultural departments and not merely as botanical gardens.

The work of the Imperial Department now had two principal phases. It was concerned with the larger islands in its availability for general advice; its connection with the smaller colonies was more intimate and embraced a general supervision over agricultural matters, with a staff of scientific officers whose salaries came out of the Imperial purse. Much activity was centred in investigating the pests and diseases of the sugar-cane, and one of the first successes was in arresting the outbreak in 1896-7 of the virulent fungus disease known as *Colletotrichum falcatum*, which threatened the almost complete extinction of the Bourbon cane. It could now be claimed that the various diseases of the sugar-cane and the means of controlling them were fairly well understood.

The Department did not confine their attention to this side. They extended their advice to the factory as well, and the co-operative factory at Gunthorpes showed the possibilities of sugar making in small places if carried out on lines of modern efficiency.

Equal attention was being paid to the scientific cultivation of cacao and limes. In the latter industry it had been demonstrated that by concentrating lime-juice by steam heat instead of over open fires the loss of citric acid by burning could be reduced to quite low limits.

Sea Island cotton had provided scope for work of the greatest complexity, but already far-reaching results had been achieved, and innumerable were the pests—many of them new to science—which had to be combated. The lecturer instanced the success which had attended the investigations of the boll weevil, the cotton worm, *Periphetes gossypii*, the flower-bud maggot, which all attacked the growing plant, and the fungus and other diseases which fastened on the stored seed.

The lecturer concluded by reminding his audience that much remained to be done, and the work required the highest scientific attainments on the part of those who were engaged in it, and to this end the establishment of the Tropical Agricultural College would prove an invaluable assistance.

In the discussion which followed, Sir G. Le Huute, Mr. Sandbach Purker and Mr. Moody Stuart bore testimony to the immense value this department has been to the West Indies. Mr. and Mrs. Howard, so well known for their research work in agriculture at Pusa in India, were present. Dr. Barber, late Government Botanist and Sugar Expert for India, Sir Everard in Thurn, and Mr. Howard spoke on problems of tropical agriculture. The discussion indicated that probably more attention will in future be paid to the physiology of plants, to the properties of soils, and to climatic considerations.

## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

By "Agronomist."

Feeding experiments indicate, according to the *Biochemical Journal*, that adults require a regular supply of the vitamine known as fat-soluble A for the maintenance of health, although not as much as a young growing person. It appears probable that the resistance to diseases of bacterial origin is seriously impaired by a failure to obtain a sufficient supply of the fat-soluble factor.

Grapefruit in a grove in Florida showed a greenish tint at maturity instead of the normal deep yellow. Experiments were started in 1914 to determine whether fertilisers would influence the colour. It has been found that fertilisers have no effect in this connection. It is believed, however, that the controlling factor is associated in some way with the influence of the stock on the scion.

The report of the Forestry Sub-committee of the Imperial Reconstruction Committee lays down an invariable rule. It is that on all catchment areas for water supply all land which will produce a crop of marketable timber should be afforested. This rule might well be adopted in those of the West Indian islands where formerly trees were so abundant that the habit has been contracted of indiscriminately cutting down trees and rooting up saplings without supplying their places.

There are fifteen sugar mills in San Domingo. During the past year (1918-19) the production of sugar amounted to 1,166,761 bags of 320 lb. each. In the previous year the total was 905,057 bags, and the estimate for the year 1919-20 is 1,312,000 bags. New land has been cleared and planted round many of the mills. Some estates are going to extend the contract system (piecework) already employed to a limited extent. Others are trying to attract labourers by the promise of small bonuses at the end of the season.

A fossilised ear of corn from Peru is described in the journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences. The author states that, considering its thorough fossilisation, it seems hardly likely to be younger than at least several thousand years. A writer in the *Journal of Heredity* compares this fossil form with varieties of corn still being grown in Peru and Bolivia. He maintains that it is not like any of these varieties. It presents no new characters, but rather a different combination of characters found among existing types.

The grapefruit industry is an important one in the Isle of Pines. There are fifteen packing houses, some of which are equipped with the most modern improvements. The fruit is graded into eight different sizes from 36 to 112 in the regular crates. The work of packing goes on day and night, and the fruit is sent off to the pier for shipment at all times as soon as a train load is complete. All delay is avoided by proper arrangement so that the fruit may arrive in prime condition for the American markets.

The United Fruit Company is substituting oil as fuel in place of the coal, wood, and bagasse formerly used in its two sugar factories in Cuba. Six oil tanks are being erected. The tanks are of iron and are made in sections. On each property two tanks each of 20,000 barrels capacity are being erected 300 ft. from the factory, and another tank with a capacity of 5,000 barrels at a distance of 9 or 10 miles. The Texas Company is establishing a fuel oil station at Antilla,

and no doubt other sugar factories in the district will follow the example of the United Fruit Company.

Interesting experiments in manuring arrowroot have been carried out in St. Vincent (*Report Agri. Dept., 1917-19*). An average of 53,950 lb of arrowroot rhizomes per acre was produced where the soil was mulched with prunings of *Gliricidia maculata*. In soil that was not mulched the average was only 17,371 lb. A comparison was also made of different artificial and organic manures. An average yield of 49,385 lb. per acre resulted from a mulching with *gliricidia* prunings. The next highest average was with an application of phosphate and potash with a yield of 30,085 lb. The control plot, which was untreated only produced an average of 21,439 lb. per acre. *Gliricidia* makes a good fence, and when in flower is strikingly beautiful. No doubt experiments will be made, using these prunings as a mulch with other crops, such as coffee and cocoa.

The Australian wattle (*Acacia decurrens*) is being extensively planted in South Africa and in India for the manufacture of tanning extracts. In Southern India a concession of 6,000 acres has lately been obtained for planting wattle on the Wynard plateau 3,000 ft above sea-level. This area will be free of assessment for five years. At the end of that time a rental is to be paid calculated on the unimproved value. The trees will be stripped of bark after five years' growth. It is calculated that the yield of bark will be 25,000 lb. per acre, and the yield of green wood up to 100 tons per acre. The leather manufacturers will be supplied with tanning extract, and rubber planters with acetic acid for coagulating rubber. Acetone will be produced and other products such as methyl alcohol and formaldehyde from distillation of waste wood, also brown paper from the spent bark.

The citrus industry is of great importance in California. The Department of Agriculture lately took up the problem of dealing with the culls from orange and lemon crops. An experimental laboratory was established in Los Angeles to find out how to utilise rejects and waste fruit—fruit not fit for shipment because of minor defects such as small bruises or punctures. As a direct result of the work in the laboratory, four companies are producing by-products from the lemon, such as lemon oil, citrate of lime and citric acid. Twenty concerns are manufacturing orange by-products. Culled lemons were selling less than five years ago for \$5 a ton, but now, as a result of the experimental work, the growers are getting \$25 a ton for culls.

The Nitrogen Products Committee, appointed in 1916 to consider the nitrogen problem in all its technical bearings and to advise as to the starting of operations on an industrial scale, has issued its report. The most important bearing is that on food production; but in addition to valuable fertilising properties, nitrogen compounds are mainly essential in the dyes industry as nitric acid, and in the explosives industry as acid and nitrates. Nitrogen in the elementary condition, as it exists in air, appears to be inert, only acting as a diluent for the very energetic oxygen. But in the combined form it enters into the composition of the proteins with which the vital processes are so intimately associated, as well as into the compounds so necessary in dyes and explosives. The nitrogen problem, then, is chiefly the economic conversion of the free nitrogen of the atmosphere into compounds suited to the requirements of these industries. Commercial methods of combining the free nitrogen of the air include the direct electric arc method. This effects a combination of nitrogen and oxygen, which eventually on absorption in water yields nitric acid. This method could be used in the West Indies wherever water-power is available for generating electricity.

**OBITUARY.**

**MR. JOHN CUNNINGHAM.**

As briefly referred to in the last Circular, the death took place at Georgetown, Demerara, on the 29th December last, of Mr John Cunningham, Editor and manager of the *Daily Argosy*, after a brief illness from meningitis, within a fortnight of his return from a holiday visit to the United States.

Mr. Cunningham was born at Newry, County Down, Ireland, in 1874, and went to the colony in 1897, engaged on the editorial staff of the *Demerara Daily Chronicle*, under the late Mr. C. K. Jardine. In July, 1910, he transferred his services to the *Argosy*, which under his able management has retained its position as one of the most influential newspapers in the West Indies. Mr. Cunningham was an able and fearless writer, an indefatigable worker, and a town councillor of Georgetown, where he was deservedly popular, and will be greatly missed. He leaves a widow (daughter of the late Mr. Luizi P. Psaila, merchant of Georgetown) and one daughter.

**WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS**

**Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.**—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, February 10th, per R.M.S. *Coronado* (Commander, W. T. Forrester):—

- |                                  |                                |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Dr. K. H. Arkman                 | Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Bradgley    | Mr. F. Nelson                  |
| Mrs. J. B. B. Arkman             | Mrs. K. J. Gellatly            | Rev. C. S. Parker              |
| Col. J. H. Alcock                | Mr. O. Giloh                   | Mr. & Mrs. H. de Pass          |
| Capt. The Hon. H. K. B. H. Arden | Mrs. M. V. Gooding             | Mr. T. Peterson                |
| Comdr. J. M. Barker, R.N.        | Miss G. G. Gould               | Mr. & Mrs. F. W. Pierce        |
| Mr. & Mrs. W. N. W. Bird         | Mr. Crosswell Green            | Mr. J. Pridham                 |
| Mr. J. B. Blair                  | Lady G. Dailie-Hamilton        | Mr. M. A. Rafter               |
| Mr. E. Miltel                    | Mr. R. Hargrave                | Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Richards    |
| Mr. E. W. Verstarne              | Mr. E. T. Harrison             | Mrs. M. P. Boscoe              |
| Babbury                          | Mr. and Mrs. C. S. C. Harrison | Miss P. M. Nuscoe              |
| Rev. & Mrs. A. Buxton            | Mrs. M. J. Hazlett             | Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Boss          |
| Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Buxton        | Mr. A. D. Hill                 | Mr. H. Rothwell                |
| Miss L. K. Ruxton                | Mr. A. Hornoyd                 | Miss C. M. Sewell              |
| Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Carling       | Mr. H. Humphries               | Miss G. Skippence              |
| Miss M. A. Chapman               | Miss M. Hunt                   | Mr. A. Southgate               |
| Mr. F. J. Coombes                | Mr. & Mrs. C. Russell          | Mr. E. Starr                   |
| Curkin                           | Miss M. A. Jones               | Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Stears      |
| Miss D. B. Cobstable             | Miss M. Kitchingham            | Mr. H. Symington               |
| Curkin                           | Mr. H. W. Knight               | Mr. Healy Thompson             |
| Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Coppock       | Mrs. L. Lecky                  | Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Walker      |
| Mr. E. Danbridge                 | Rev. W. Lambert                | Mr. P. H. Wells                |
| Mr. D. K. Davidson               | Lady M. H. Manzie              | Miss E. L. Colt Williams       |
| Miss O. M. A. Fenn               | Miss G. Menzies                | Mr. W. J. Wilson               |
| Miss E. K. Fionmore              | Mr. C. M. Muirhead             | Col. & Mrs. E. W. H. Woodhouse |
|                                  | Mr. W. Mutter                  | Mr. J. H. Woodward             |

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.**—Home arrivals from West Indies per s.s. *Arzila*, February 9th:—

- |                      |                       |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mr. D. Baird         | Mr. & Mrs. W. M. Hart | Mr. J. A. Marriott          |
| Mr. R. E. Banton     | Mr. B. L. Hewitt      | Mr. J. McDearmid            |
| Miss V. M. Boodle    | Mr. A. H. D. Jones    | Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Thompson |
| Mr. & Mrs. F. Cherry | Major Keut-Johnston   | Mrs. Wells                  |
| Mr. Ant. F. da Silva | Mr. W. G. Maddison    |                             |

**BIRTH.**

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line. **DURIE.**—At Kingston, Jamaica, on January 6th, to Mr. and Mrs. Walter R. Durie, a son.

**WANTS.**

**SOUTH AMERICA.**—English Sugar Company has vacancy for Factory Engineer as Assistant to Manager. Address by letter, giving full particulars of experience and qualifications, with copies of testimonials, and stating salary required, and whether married or single, "Azucar," c/o J. W. Vickers & Co., Ltd., 5, Nicholas-lane, E.C. 4.

**REQUIRED** for South America, two young mechanical engineers with experience in running repairs and erection of sugar machinery. Knowledge Spanish an advantage. Write, giving full particulars of experience and qualifications, with copies of testimonials, and stating whether married or single, to "Azucar," c/o J. W. Vickers & Co., Ltd., 5, Nicholas-lane, London, E.C. 4.



## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

### Barbados Tramways.

The Bridgetown Tramways Company have replied to the petition presented to H.F. the Governor by the Civic Circle of the Ladies' Lyceum Club, to which reference was made in these Notes of December 11th, 1919. The Company points out that the cost of mules and material required for operating the service has increased enormously, and this has been accompanied by an unprecedented increase in passenger traffic; and that although the shareholders have for the last two years received no dividend, there has been no increase in the fares charged; and finally that the line will be electrified at the earliest opportunity.

### Preference Proposals in British Honduras.

The Hon. A. R. Usher writes under date January 21st that a Committee of the Legislative Council is now sitting to consider the advisability of this colony falling in line with the other West India colonies in giving a preference to the Mother Country and also to Canada, providing a steamship service can be established. This Committee is also considering the question of a "uniform tariff" for the West Indies, and there is little doubt that it will agree to adopt the recommendations of the Committee which has reported on the matter recently. The trial of rioters is now concluded, and things are getting normal again. The claims for damages amount to over £130,000. A Company of the Royal Sussex Regiment is stationed here at present, and the men seem to be contented and are getting along well with the inhabitants.

Mr. Walter Ronald Dunlop is expected here shortly to advise regarding agricultural prospects, and Mr. Matthew Alexander Murphy to act as Director of Public Works. The post of Surveyor-General is vacant, and also that of Superintendent of Police. The fire brigade is now being reorganised, and new engines have been recently imported at a cost of over \$40,000, and we are now looking forward to the rate of fire insurance being reduced.

### Protection for Dominica Coconuts.

Mr. Alfred Keys, Assistant Curator, Botanical Gardens, has been appointed Hon. Secretary of the Permanent Exhibition Committee of Dominica, *vice* Mr. J. Jones, resigned. Coconuts have been added to the list of protected produce under the Agricultural Produce Protection Ordinance, 1905.

### Emigration from Jamaica.

Mr. A. Spooner writes, under date January 10th, that the crop has already begun at a good many places, and from what one hears the yield prospects appear to be favourable, and, of course, prices are phenomenal. At the same time the cost of living rises daily, assisted possibly by the operations of the ubiquitous profiteer, and the supplies of locally produced foodstuffs are not what they should be, so that unfavourable weather may produce a serious state of affairs. This constantly increasing cost of living naturally creates unrest, and has resulted in several strikes. The importance of increasing local food supplies is being fully considered, and steps are being taken to acquire land from the large land-owners for the purpose of enabling the peasant class food producers to increase the area cultivated. In the meantime every ship seems to bring more visitors to Jamaica, so that one can only suppose that conditions here are less unpleasant than in the places where they come from.

The continuous and heavy emigration of labourers to Cuba may or may not be a good thing for Jamaica at

the present time. In a way it may be a good thing as a safety valve now that food supplies and population bear a different relation to each other than they used to do; on the other hand, the industries that produce the exports that provide the imports may suffer if this emigration continues. So much of Jamaica is taken up by comparatively labourless industries, like penkeeping, logwood raising, coconuts, pimento, and so much by small peasant industries, like ground provisions, bananas, coffee, ginger, annatto, that the great demand for agricultural labour is practically confined to a comparatively small sugar industry and the non-peasant banana industry. The remedy for emigration lies in the expansion of the sugar industry, and in the increase of peasant holdings; but the capital and combination required for the above expansion in these days is a matter not easily effected.

Mr. Beresford S. Gosset writes on January 10th that in the Blue Mountains the drier season has benefited the coffee crops, which promise to be good in quantity and quality. A great many of the leading sugar estates have recently changed owners at greatly enhanced prices, and central factories with up-to-date improved machinery is the order of the day. The largest banana planter in St. Mary's has recently disposed of the plantations he owned in that parish, at very fine prices, to a large American banana and fruit company. Cattle and mules are in strong demand at improved prices, but the restrictions on the price of beef makes the beef supply to be rather scanty at times in some places.

We are glad to see a portion of the Sussex Regiment out here in the Blue Mountains, and the barracks at Newcastle and Greenwich once more occupied by British troops. The exodus of such a large number of our prime young men to work on the sugar estates in Cuba makes the available labour supply rather scanty for local requirements.

### All-round Prosperity at St. Kitts.

The mails from England are still irregular, writes Mr. E. J. Sheeford, on January 7th. St. Kitts is hopeful of experiencing a prosperous year, for, speaking generally, there is little to be desired in both crop and price prospects. The cost of living is still very high, but both planters and employees will probably be ready to meet the situation in a reasonable way, for it is believed that higher wages for the handling and growing of crops are being paid than in any of the other B.W.I. islands.

### A New Coastal Steamer for St. Lucia.

The sugar prospects are bright, writes Mr. Archibald J. Brooks, under date December 27th, 1919, and with Muscovado selling at 7½d. per lb., and syrup at 10 cts. per gallon, cane planters feel that the "good old days" have returned; although no seedling cane has yet been found satisfactorily to replace the old Bourbon. Local companies which have been unable to declare dividends for many years are now beginning to show good profits.

It is recorded with regret that the death of the Rev. Canon Bascom, formerly Rector of Holy Trinity Church, Castries, took place on December 20th. The funeral was largely attended by all sections of the community, and the body was laid to rest in the Chancel of Holy Trinity Church. Mr. J. C. Moore, who for many years was Agricultural Superintendent of this colony, and more recently of Grenada, passed through here on his way to England a few days ago. Mr. Moore's ill-health has necessitated his retirement from the Government Service. Mr. Courtney George, the acting manager, Colonial Bank, Castries, has been appointed to an assistant inspectorship. During his short stay in this island he has made himself and the bank very popular with the general public, and his departure is regarded as a distinct loss to the island. Lieut.-Colonel Deane, O.B.E., the newly appointed Chief of Police, arrived during the month. Colonel Deane has seen much service in South Africa, German S.W. Africa,



France and Egypt. His Excellency Sir George Basil Haddon-Smith, K.C.M.G., Governor-in-Chief, Windward Islands, arrived by Canadian steamer on December 26th. His Excellency, who is accompanied by Lady Haddon-Smith, O.B.E., has taken up his residence at Government House.

A successful fête in aid of the Castries Crèche Fund was held in the Botanic Gardens on December 10th. Following a speech by Mrs. Degazon explaining the work of the crèche, his Honour the Administrator declared the fête open, the result being an addition of £68 10s. 7d. to the crèche funds. Mr. Deighton Rogers, who acted as general stage manager, is to be congratulated upon the fact that the working expenses were kept at such a low figure, thereby increasing the profits. The Government have at last, and after much strenuous effort, succeeded in solving the coastal service problem. A definite order for a new vessel to suit our requirements has been placed with Trinidad, at an estimated cost of £5,000. The vessel will burn crude oil, and her dimensions are to be: Length, 76 ft.; beam, 16 ft.; draught, 7 ft. 6 in.; and delivery is to be made in April. In the meantime, the small tugboat *Midge*, built for the Government in 1881, continues to do yeoman's service. The new driving road recently constructed between Castries, on the Leeward coast, and Dennery, on the Windward side, is now suitable for general traffic. The opening of this driving road to motor traffic should materially assist in the agricultural development of these districts, which previously had to depend upon sailing vessels to convey their produce to market. With a Government steamer running regularly to Vieuxfort, it should be possible for some enterprising person to run a number of light motor lorries—such as those made by the Ford Company—to connect with the steamer at Vieuxfort. Three German steam-tugs arrived to-day for coals. These are the first German vessels to call here since the declaration of war. They are said to be on their way to Chili to tow back to Germany some of the interned steamers, which have to be repaired before being handed over to the Allies.

#### Miss Moseley's Reception in Trinidad.

The Commission of Inquiry into the action of the constabulary during the disturbances continues to be held in camera, writes Mr. Edgar Tripp on January 14th. It is generally hoped that, as a result of the commission, the real originators of the disturbances will be brought to book. Four of the officials of the Working Men's Association have been charged with violent conduct, and convicted in the police court, but have appealed against the sentence imposed. Miss Moseley arrived here by the *Arzila* on the 10th, and was brought ashore in a launch by a number of the "boys" who went off to meet her. She was received on landing by Mrs. Gordon, the President, and the Ladies' Committee. It is needless to say that she has received a very hearty welcome, and it is hoped the visit will prove an enjoyable one.

Everyone has been glad to hear that the long-delayed honour to Sir S. W. Knaggs has at last been conferred on him. No more faithful officer ever served Trinidad.

The first estate to commence reaping operations for crop 1920 is Waterloo, which started yesterday. The prospects generally for the sugar crop are better than were expected a short time ago, the weather and other conditions having been favourable. There has been some delay in the compilation of the Produce Statistics at the Custom House this year, but it may be stated that the cacao crop is about 1,000,000 lb. short of the 5,000,000 lb. exported in 1918. Over 31,000,000 coconuts were exported during the year, but the shipment of copra was considerably less than the average. Asphalt showed signs of regaining former dimensions, and oil continues to progress in the quantity dealt with. An Ordinance to prevent the occurrence of lightning strikes in the future was carried through all its stages in the Legislative Council in one sitting, and comes into operation at once.

#### Trinidad's Distinguished Guests.

Saturday, the 17th instant, should be a red-letter day in the history of the colony, writes Mr. Edgar Tripp, on January 20th. The town was gay with bunting, and all classes were as one in their welcome to Admiral Lord Jellicoe, who landed in the morning from H.M.S. *New Zealand*, accompanied by Sir Robert Borden, the Prime Minister of Canada. The distinguished visitors were met at the landing-place by practically the whole of official Trinidad, and a very strong contingent from the City Council—from his Worship the Mayor, the Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G., to the officers of the board. The official and municipal courtesies having been offered, the Admiral and party were driven through cheering crowds to Government House, where they were received by His Excellency the Governor, afterwards returning to the ship. The Governor returned the call in the afternoon, and, in accordance with a special wire that had been received from the Admiral, a cricket match was played on the Queen's Park ground between Trinidad and a *New Zealand* team, during which Lord Jellicoe and Sir Robert Borden were present for a time, and praised the singular beauty of our ground. In the evening a dinner, at which some 200 covers were laid, was held at the Union Club. The Governor presided, and speeches worthy of the occasion were delivered by His Excellency and by the Vice-President, Sir Henry Alcazar, and the Attorney-General, Mr. Aucher Warner, and responded to very eloquently by the guests. Sir Robert Borden delivered a most inspiring address, concluding: "I pray God that, whether we be in the Mother Country, the Dominions or the colonies, we may so bear out our part towards the Empire in the future that we shall never have held to our lips the chalice of vain regrets for opportunities neglected."

Last night a brilliant ball was given at Government House, to which some 500 invitations were issued. Lord Jellicoe, Sir Robert Borden, Admiral Everett, and a considerable number of the officers of the three warships in the harbour attended. The function was successful in every way. This is the first large ball held in Trinidad since pre-war days, and was fully appreciated.

#### Direct Service Between Turks Island and England.

According to a report of the Direct West India Cable Company everywhere now looks green, and what little coin was saved looks healthy. On December 9th the ss. *Lanca* called here to land the Rev. T. S. and Mrs. Cannon. Business generally has been very quiet during the month. The conch shell industry is still progressing favourably, and consignments are now awaiting shipment. The sponge industry is reviving, and consignments have been shipped to the United States during the month. The cotton industry is going along steadily, and is giving employment to a good number. Clearing and planting operations are still going on.

The tower for the beacon light on Sand Cay Inlet having been completed, it is anticipated the light itself will be in operation at an early date. The light is to be a thirty-one day, three-wick lantern, having a visibility of 10 miles. The erection of the Sand Cay light has been under consideration for many years—indeed, as far back as 1891 we find that an Ordinance was passed for its erection. It will prove of the greatest value to vessels approaching the Turks Island passage from the south.

The ships of the two new steamship lines to call here, of which Messrs. Frith Brothers & Co. are the agents, are scheduled to start early in the New Year—the ss. *Vesta* from New York and the *Catalina* from England. The ships of both lines will call here on their return from south to land the labourers taken from here. A direct mail and freight service to and from England will be a great boon, our only means of transit now being by way of New York.



## PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6642 Central.  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, BREKING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

February 17th, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 6 per cent.—changed on November 6th from 5 per cent., at which figure it had stood from April 5th, 1917.

**SUGAR.** Control prices in the United Kingdom, which were modified on November 3rd, remain as follows:—

	Wholesale. Per cwt s. d.	Retail. Per lb. d.
Cubes, Lumps, &c. ... ..	72 0	8 1/2
W.I. Crystallised (see below) ... ..	66 0	8
W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups (see below) ... ..	63 6	7 1/2
W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing ... ..	"free"	No maximum

The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply has written to the Chairman of the West India Committee as follows:—"With reference to the arrangement concluded with this Commission, and detailed in our letter of December 20th, 1919, you will no doubt have received from Messrs. H. H. Hancock & Co. copy of a cable from Messrs. Willet & Gray in which they give the price for March Cubans on February 2nd as 10.50 cents per lb.

"The average quotation for cable transfers to New York contained in to-day's issue of the *Times* is 3.99.

"On this basis the price for British West India Grocery Crystallised and Grocery Muscovado allotted during March works out as follows:—

Crystallised ... ..	103.73s. per cwt.
Muscovado ... ..	92.81s. per cwt."

The Committee have also received a copy of a supplementary cable sent to Messrs. H. H. Hancock & Co. by Messrs. Willet & Gray, in which they quote Cubans March 10.50 and April 10.50.

The market for "free" sugars on the spot has remained quiet, and buyers have shown less interest in yellows and Muscovados, though white sugars have continued in demand. Low brown sugars are firm.

Mr. H. A. Himely, writing from Cuba under date January 12th, said that the strike of dock hands in Havana, which had, up to the time of writing, been in progress for twelve days, continued entirely to tie up the port, and that there were no signs of a settlement in sight.

The West India sugar statistics in London on February 7th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Tons
Imports ... ..	5,390	3,493	1,761	
Deliveries ... ..	2,979	4,436	6,160	
Stock ... ..	10,547	5,249	6,608	

**RUM.** There is nothing new to report in this market, and the prolonged delay in getting up samples from the docks makes business difficult.

The stocks in London on February 7th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Puns
Jamaica ... ..	6,552	3,391	6,433	
Demerara ... ..	13,757	10,606	4,080	
Total of all kinds ... ..	27,771	19,179	16,655	

**COCOA.** Everyone is studying the American figures for 1919, especially to see what quantities of West Indian kinds were imported and delivered for home use as compared with their rivals, especially Accras.

As the American demand is an important one, especially for the better-grade Trinidads, it is only natural that attention should be directed to so important a market as New York has proved all along for Trinidad's best marks.

Here are some of the figures taken from Messrs. George C. Lee & Co.'s well-known table:—

Jan.-Decr.	IMPORTS OF RAW COCOA INTO NEW YORK.		
	1919. Bags.	1918. Bags.	1917. Bags.
All kinds ... ..	2,656,402	2,233,754	2,490,237
Including:			
Trinidads ... ..	121,516	191,477	182,449
Grenadas ... ..	9,529	46,264	25,436
Jamaica ... ..	6,161*	4,648	9,853
Dominica ... ..	2,017	347	1,874
St. Thomas ... ..	13,216	—	93,508
Other Africa† ... ..	1,209,312	666,810	593,782

\* In 1915 21,015 bags of Jamaica were imported.

† All, or practically all, being Accras.

Reports speak of 175,000 tons of cocoa having been shipped from the Gold Coast (exclusive of Lagos) during 1919. If so, this means that 75,000 tons went to America and 100,000 elsewhere. That market, Accra, is unnecessarily excited at the time of writing, as new buyers have appeared on the coast just when the market wanted careful handling on account of short supplies when large exports were looked for. A rise in price has taken place—to what extent it would be unwise to say—that is not conducive to the best interests of the producing cocoa industry anywhere. There is far more real uncertainty as to how the sugar supply will last out for chocolate making both this year and in 1921; also and especially to ascertain what Germany will take, and pay good prices for, in the way of cocoa. Here is reasonable cause for speculative uncertainty, but only as a tonic for an otherwise somewhat listless market—on the surface. Grenadas have gone up to 131s. 6d. for one mark, and 129s. to 131s. for other picked lots, fair common down to 120s., low common (if sold) 118s., or even less. Fine St. Lucias also touched 131s., but went down to 108s. at the other extreme, a quality which, in these days, should not be produced, as everyone surely can turn out at least "fair to good" grades. Fair Dominicas are worth 122s., and good middling Trinidads 129s. to 130s. for good redish. What the best marks are worth seems uncertain, but some have been sold for export up to 134s. against 116s. as top price for Accras in Liverpool. London tends to an increasing extent to be the best, because the most stable, market for the disposal of raw cocoa, either for our own use or export, and as things settle down, if the Government does nothing to let this trade slip away from us, we shall do still better.

The stocks in London on February 7th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Bags
Trinidad ... ..	21,541	19,789	13,977	
Grenada ... ..	13,601	11,014	11,404	
Total of all kinds ... ..	102,420	124,600	208,191	

**COPRA** is quiet; f.m.s. West Indian Feb./Apr. quoted at 4.73 c.i.f. London.

**COTTON** has been in improved request, and quotations show an advance. Imports of West Indian in the seven weeks ending February 12th, 2,808 bales.

**HONEY.** Very dull at auction; buyers pursue a waiting policy. Jamaica quoted at 85s. to 105s. for dark to good palish, and 107s. 6d. to 110s. for fine smooth white. Cuba and San Domingo 5s. below Jamaica quotations.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** Lime Oil: Handpressed is firm, but quiet, with quotations unchanged; Distilled is easier. Sellers at 6s. 9d. per lb. Lime-juice: Raw in better demand, and up to 3s. 6d. paid for fine Jamaica. Dominica has sold at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d.

**ORANGE OIL.** Sweet: Dearer, and still very scarce; value about 26s. Bitter: No business reported.

**SPICES.** Pimento quiet, with sellers on the spot at 6d., but buyers holding off. Nutmegs and Mace unchanged.

# The West India Committee Circular

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone:  
6642 CENTRAL.



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams:  
CARIB, LONDON.

March 4th, 1920.

### A West Indian Agricultural College.

WE publish in another column the report of the Committee which was appointed in August of last year to consider the desirability of establishing a Tropical Agricultural College in the British West Indies, and matters connected therewith, which has now been presented to Parliament. Its publication may well mean, as **LIEUT.-COLONEL L. S. AMERY, M.P.**, pointed out in his letter commending the report to the earnest attention of the Colonies, the start of a new epoch for the West Indies. The Committee, as was inevitable, were unanimous as to the need of such a College at the present time. In not recognising sooner that tropical agriculture is a science which requires as much attention in the laboratory and the class-room as it does in the plantation, we have lagged sadly behind other countries with large tropical possessions. The United States have their Tropical Colleges in Porto Rico and Hawaii, and these places have reaped the full benefit of expert advice from these institutions, with the result of increased fertility and an improvement in the quality and quantity of the crops grown. In a lecture by **SIR FRANCIS WATTS, K.C.M.G.**, which we recently summarised, it was shown that the work done by the Imperial Department of Agriculture required the highest scientific attainments on the part of those engaging in it. One of the chief difficulties at present encountered was to obtain men of suitable acquirements for this arduous but invaluable work. The need would be met by the

proposed College, and we note that the Committee regard it as highly desirable that an intimate relationship should be established between the Imperial Department of Agriculture and the Tropical Agricultural College. As will be seen, however, by a glance at the suggested curriculum, the theory of agriculture in its higher aspects is only one of the suggested branches of training. The College is intended to benefit the students who wish to obtain some knowledge of the theory of agriculture in order to improve their qualifications as practical planters, no less than the post-graduates, whose mission it will be subsequently to give expert instruction and advice. Increased production is one of the cries of the moment—a cry with a very substantial amount of force behind it. As the report truly advises, in order that our Colonies may be placed in a position to compete successfully with foreign countries in the production and marketing of the staples of the tropics, it is of paramount importance that their young men should be offered opportunities for instruction in the principles of agriculture, and in the cultivation and preparation for market of tropical produce of every kind, including, especially, sugar and its by-products, rum and molasses, cacao, coffee, cotton, coconuts, rice, citrus and other fruits, notably bananas and dyewoods. The successful realisation of the scheme will bring incalculable benefit to the Colonies, but even greater will be the service it renders to Imperial trade as a whole. The choice of a home for the College rested between three islands—Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados. The claims of the last named were rejected on account of the comparatively small range of its products; of the other two, Jamaica would appear to be the natural selection, but it has at present one all-important disadvantage—its lack of easy accessibility to the other islands and British Guiana. On these grounds, Trinidad is recommended by the Committee. However, as **COLONEL AMERY** says, the necessary link of communication may have been supplied before a final decision on this point has to be made. If the school is established in Trinidad, it will have the advantage of close conjunction to oilfields in full working order; but the Acting Secretary of State for the Colonies does not identify himself with the Committee's recommendation that the study of this highly important industry should form part of the curriculum provided by the College. The question of providing ways and means for the establishment—the rock on which so many finely conceived schemes founder—has been carefully gone into, and a definite method of raising the necessary funds.



allocating the expenses as between the Imperial Treasury, the Colonial Administrations and private subscription suggested. The College will be Imperial in its scope and activities; its senior students will be post-graduates of British universities and colleges; many of its students will be available for service throughout the Empire, which has for long looked to the West Indies for its most brilliant exponents of this science; and therefore it is not unreasonable to hope and expect that the Imperial Exchequer will be willing to vote an annual contribution on the basis of £1 for every £1 contributed by the colony, its liability not to exceed £15,000 in any one year. The Colonies are invited to make an annual subscription for the maintenance of the College on such a basis, which is suggested as  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of their average revenue during the preceding three years, and, in return, they would be granted the right to nominate a representative to sit on the governing body. For the actual establishment of the College the Committee approve of a fund of £50,000 being raised by private subscription, and to the same source is looked for any further sums needed for annual maintenance. Private enterprise, the colonies themselves, and the Imperial Government, would be thus all invited to contribute their quota to a cause from which all will reap the benefit. There can be little doubt that industrial organisations and individuals interested in the West Indies who have seen the enormous strides made in late years in our tropical possessions, by the aid of scientific research, and believe whole-heartedly that, given suitable encouragement, a future of continued prosperity lies before these colonies, will be willing to make this further endeavour on behalf of an Imperial project with so rich a promise.

#### The Price of Sugar.

THE retail price of sugar, now that the further increase in cost has taken place, is from 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb., as compared with the price of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. obtained before the war. It must be remembered, however, that a large proportion of this is due to increased duty. The duty on loaf before the war was  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.; it is now 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. The increase of price, therefore, apart from the duty, is from 2d. to 8d. per lb. The cost is due—taking the bond price into consideration—mainly to the deficiency in the world's supply as compared with pre-war days. This, in conjunction with the pre-war consumption going on in the United States, has placed the whip hand of the situation in the hands of the Cuban planter, who has naturally endeavoured to make the most of it. There is, however, an economic point which has been quite overlooked in published comments on the subject. Owing to the enormous issue of paper money, with no gold and quite inadequate natural resources to maintain the credit of this country, the £ is now only worth about 13s., or even less. The 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. of the present-day price of sugar represents the paper-money value of the sugar only; the gold value of loaf would be about 7d. per lb., or 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. bond value, as compared with the pre-war 2d. The root of the whole matter—apart from the financial side of the question—is the want of an Imperial sugar supply. Had Imperial

sugar production received its proper recognition before the war instead of being sacrificed on the altar of pseudo-cheap sugar there would not be the want of sugar in the world to-day, and Cuban sugar would not be ruling the world's market. It will take time to put matters right, and in the meanwhile it behoves British producers not to be satisfied to rest on their oars as regards extension because of the high price they are getting now for their sugar. If the history of the British West Indian sugar industry is examined, it will be found that high prices have always led to trouble in the inevitable glut of sugar that follows. Fortunately, the Imperial sugar industry has now a protected market in this country, but that is no reason why every effort should not be made to place it in an efficient condition as regards economy in production and extent of output. In this connection the building of the new beet factory at Kellum and the re-starting of the Cantley Factory are interesting facts, and the time is not far off when a British beet industry will play its part in an all-British supply of sugar for Great Britain. It must be remembered, however, as regards the future price of sugar, that it must be regulated by the world's price, and, with the depreciated value of the £, an apparently high price—on all fours with that of other foodstuffs—is bound to continue so long as steps are not taken by the Government to strengthen the financial position of this country.

### LADY DAVSON.

We deeply regret to state that Lady Davson died on the morning of February 24th at her residence, 20, Fennimore gardens, S.W., after an illness of only three days. She had been in good health until the preceding Friday, when she was attacked by influenza, which was, unhappily, followed by pneumonia.

Lady Davson was the daughter of the late Mr. Hector Miller, M.A., LL.D., FR.S.E., of Inchbank, Perth, Scotland, and was married to the late Sir Henry Davson, K.C.M.G., who was for eleven years Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee, becoming Chairman in 1909, the year of his death.

There were four sons by the marriage. The eldest is Lieut.-Colonel H. M. Davson, C.M.G., D.S.O., who has served for many years in the Royal Horse Artillery, and is a member of the West India Committee. Sir Edward Davson, who is now in Barbados, and Lieut.-Colonel Ivan B. Davson, O.B.E., are both members of the Executive Committee of the West India Committee. The youngest son, Lieutenant Gordon Davson, Royal Horse Guards, was killed at Ypres in May, 1915.

In her earlier days Lady Davson visited British Guiana on several occasions, and never subsequently relaxed her interest in the affairs of that colony and the West Indies. During the war Lady Davson was indefatigable in her efforts on behalf of the men of the West Indian Contingents, and it will be long before her work as Chairman of the Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee is forgotten. She was also very prominently associated with the Colonial Nursing Association. She will be greatly missed by her very many friends in the West Indies and in this country.

**THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**

**Progress of the Endowment Fund.**

Interest in the West India Committee's Endowment Fund, which is being raised to enable the Committee to obtain more convenient premises and to carry out its policy of development, continues to be maintained.

The present state of the Fund is as follows:—

Amount collected	£10,763
Still to be collected	9,237
<b>Minimum total</b>	<b>£20,000</b>

Since the last subscription list was published donations amounting to £252 18s. have been generously subscribed by members, bringing the total number of contributors to date up to 236.

A further list is given below:—

**NINTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.**

Contributions already acknowledged	£10,510	14	7
Messrs. Da Costa & Co.	100	0	0
Messrs. Harvey Engineering Co. Ltd.	50	0	0
Messrs. T. Geddes Grant & Co., Ltd.	25	0	0
Messrs. Salvatori, Scott & Co.	20	0	0
Hon. Robert Craig	10	10	0
Messrs. Hanschell & Co.	10	10	0
Messrs. J. D. Sellier	10	0	0
Major E. T. Dixon	7	2	0
Alexander Duncan, Esq.	2	2	0
W. R. Durie, Esq.	2	2	0
L. J. Henzell, Esq.	2	2	0
H. Leighton Piper, Esq.	2	2	0
Hussain Baksh Gajraj, Esq.	2	0	0
J. W. Cathcart, Esq.	1	1	0
E. N. Fellowes, Esq.	1	1	0
Ambrose Hearn, Esq.	1	1	0
Rev. Cecil Image	1	1	0
E. A. Lister, Esq.	1	1	0
J. W. McConnell, Esq.	1	1	0
Dugald McPhail, Esq.	1	1	0
H. Cameron Menzies, Esq.	1	1	0
Sir Frederic M. Maxwell	1	0	0

**THE CABLE SERVICE.**

**Official Committee Appointed.**

It will be good news to readers on both sides of the Atlantic to hear that a Sub-committee, consisting of representatives of the Colonial Office, Admiralty and Post-office, has been appointed by the Imperial Communications Committee with a view to remedying the deplorable condition of the cable service between this country and the West Indies, which has been the subject of strong recommendations by the West India Committee, and of very frequent reference in these columns. The Chairman is Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, C.B., C.M.G., whose sympathetic consideration of the claims of these colonies for better communication is assured. It is understood that the Sub-committee has already met twice, and the results of its labours will be eagerly awaited.

**NOTES OF INTEREST.**

**"TAKE you no buy half bit bread."**

ACCORDING to figures compiled by the Census Bureau, Cuba has a population of 2,888,095, with 479,944 voters.

A CORRESPONDENT in Santo Domingo writes that, although the cane there is poorer than last year, it is so rich in sugar content that the crop promises to be a bigger one.

ACCORDING to the *Times*, a favourable view has been taken of the British Guiana colonisation scheme by the Committee of the Indian Legislative Council appointed to report on it.

THE use of war-tax stamps was discontinued in Trinidad as from January 1st. The postage from the colony to the United Kingdom, British Colonies, and the United States is one penny per ounce.

MEMBERS who have not yet paid their subscription to the West India Committee for 1920 are reminded that these were due on January 1st. Subscriptions can be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank, or sent direct to the Secretary, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

A KINDLY interest in St. Kitts-Nevis is being taken by the War Office, whose Geographical Section has in preparation a map of the Presidency, for the sale of which the West India Committee will act as Agents on behalf of the Government of St. Kitts-Nevis.

THE twenty-two vessels belonging to the Third American Destroyer Squadron, under the command of Rear-Admiral Plunkett, which arrived at Kingston on February 19th for a six days' stay, form the largest American fleet to visit Jamaica waters since 1898.

THE Rev. H. M. Brown, who acted as a chaplain to the British West Indies Regiment, writes that he is forming a Men's Institute at Morant Bay, Jamaica, and will be most grateful for any copies of periodicals and magazines, especially illustrated ones, that readers would send to him.

THE sailings of s.s. *Saba* from London on February 27th and of the *Crown of Cordova* from Glasgow to-day are the last of the "Direct Line" as constituted up to now. In future the service will be "The Harrison Direct Line." A notice of the transfer will be found elsewhere in the present CIRCULAR.

FOR the convenience of members who may wish to propose a candidate for election to the West India Committee an application form is forwarded with the current issue of the CIRCULAR. The Editor will gladly send specimen copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application.

THE Royal Mail Steam Packet Company announce that the reports published in the Press that it had been decided to omit calling at Brazilian ports by their steamers (in view of the influenza epidemic) are incorrect. Such a step may have to be taken, but for the present the usual route to the River Plate will be maintained.

IT will be noted from our advertisement columns that some interesting properties in Jamaica with an aggregate area of some four and a-half thousand acres are in the market. They comprise the well-known Orange Valley, Dundee, Phoenix Pen and Iver estates.



representing such varied industries as sugar, pimento, coconuts and dyewoods.

With the title of "Eliminating the Middleman," a cartoon appears in our contemporary the *Montreal Herald* on January 24th showing figures representing the West Indies and Canada engaged in a business conversation, which appears to be progressing most amiably, whilst from the other side a high wall a somewhat disgruntled Uncle Sam is exclaiming "Waal, by heck!"

With regard to the Prince of Wales's forthcoming tour to the Antipodes, it is now announced that H.M.S. *Renown* will leave Portsmouth on March 9th. The only part of the West Indies the Prince will call at on his outward voyage will be Barbados, at which island the *Renown* is due to arrive on March 19th, and leaves on the following day for Colon. It is hoped to reach Auckland on April 17th. Details of the return route have not yet been finally settled.

MR. A. W. KNAPP has written a book called "Cocoa and Chocolate: Their History from Plantation to Consumer," which will be published by Messrs. Chapman & Hall very shortly. Mr. Knapp, who is a member of the West India Committee, is well known to readers of the CIRCULAR by reason of his articles on cacao cultivation, and his book, which is intended to appeal both to the general public and to the reader who wishes to become conversant with the technical side of the subject, should prove a valuable work of reference.

THE exceptionally mild weather that we have been passing through has not been without its victims. Members of the West India Committee will be grieved to hear that their chairman, Mr. Robert Rutherford, was stricken down with a sharp attack of bronchial pneumonia on February 9th. It is pleasant to be able to record that he is making a good recovery, but it will probably be some time before he is able to resume business in the City.

TELEGRAPHIC communication with the West Indies remains unsatisfactory, and the only means of reaching Trinidad and British Guiana are either *via* Bermuda, Jamaica, and wireless at normal rates, or *via* Bermuda, Jamaica and Santiago at 3s. 10d. a word. In the latter case messages are sent from Barbados onwards by the best available means. On March 1st all communication with Antigua and St. Kitts was interrupted. It is good news, therefore, to hear that an Official Committee, to which reference is made in another column, has been set up by the Imperial Communications Committee to deal with the whole problem of cable and wireless as it affects the West Indies to-day.

THE Rev. R. J. Campbell has evidently enjoyed his visit to "Happy Jamaica," and has recorded some of his observations of life there in a series of articles to the *Church Family Newspaper*. He is disappointed with the singing he has heard, and thinks that neither in quality of voice nor in skill of execution does the Jamaican approach his brothers in the Southern portion of the United States. On the other hand, he considers that the organisation of the Churches on a contributory basis, due to the wise provision of the late Archbishop Nuttall, puts our own treatment of the parish clergy to shame. The Cathedral at Spanish Town, in Dr. Campbell's opinion, breathes more of the spirit of the past than any other building he has seen—sacred or secular.

THE trade returns of Barbados for 1918 have not yet been published, but the *Board of Trade Journal* has been enabled to make some extracts from the Customs report, which is still in manuscript. The total trade for the year was valued at £5,466,652, showing an increase of

nearly a million pounds on the preceding year. In the five years from 1914 the quantity of sugar and molasses exported—the molasses being included in terms of sugar—was 307,686 tons, an annual average of over 61,000 tons, which was much above the pre-war average. As the sugar was marketed at an unusually high figure, the island has enjoyed very prosperous times—the most prosperous, perhaps, in its history. Of the large quantity exported, 219,497 tons were shipped to Canada—about three-quarters of the whole.

THE world's rarest postage-stamp is now for sale. It is the 1 cent British Guiana, 1856, and, according to the *Sunday Times*, the existence of only one example is known to philatelists, and a curious history attaches to this unique "scrap of paper." Together with a companion 4 cents stamp, it was set up in type and printed by Messrs. Joseph Baums and William Dallas at the offices of the *Royal Gazette* in Georgetown in February, 1856, in order to meet a temporary hiatus caused by delay in the arrival of a fresh consignment of regular stamps from England. It was crudely printed from ordinary type upon coarse magenta-coloured paper. Such design as it possessed consisted of the device of a ship in the centre (taken from the heading of the shipping notices in the local newspaper), and the inscription "British" at the top, "Guiana" at the foot, "Postage" on the left, and "One Cent" on the right.

For seventeen years nothing was heard of the 1 cent stamp, until its discovery in 1873 by Mr. Vernon Vaughan, of British Guiana, who parted with it for 6s. Ten years later a London merchant paid for it the then considerable price of £25. Thence it ultimately found its way into the famous Parisian collection of the late Count von Ferrary, an Austrian, on whose death, in 1917, it was bequeathed to a Berlin museum; but the French Government intervened, and the Ferrary stamp treasures were sequestered under the enemy property law, and are now to be sold. There has been some discussion as to the price the British Guiana stamp will fetch. Estimates of its value have ranged from £400 to £5,000, but it is thought that the sum paid at the forthcoming sale will approximate more to the latter figure.

## THE "DIRECT" LINE.

### Change of Management.

THE CIRCULAR is informed by Messrs. Proutie, Service & Henderson and Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co., that after to-day they will cease to act as Managers of the "Direct" line of steamers from London and Glasgow to the West Indies. The service will, however, be maintained on the same lines as heretofore by Messrs. Thomas & James Harrison, of Liverpool and London.

The Direct Line was started with a service between London and Demerara about 1873 and was extended to the West India Islands in 1880. The Glasgow Line to Trinidad and Demerara was established in 1876.

While the West Indies will be loath to lose a connection so intimate and old-established, it is hoped that so far as the convenience of traders and passengers is concerned the change will be principally one of name. It is understood that the present time table will be continued without a break, and that the agencies in the West Indies will remain in the same hands. The new title of the Line will be "The Harrison Direct Line."

Messrs. Harrison are not strangers to the Caribbean, and it is felt that the interests of the West Indies will be fully protected in the hands of this strong and progressive Company.



## TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

### Committee's Report Summarised.

The Report of the Tropical Agricultural College Committee, which was appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on August 25th, 1919, has now been presented to Parliament. It is signed by Dr. A. E. Shipley, LL.D., Sc.D., F.R.S. (Chairman), Lieut. Colonel Sir David Prain, C.M.G., C.I.E., F.R.S. (Deputy-Chairman), Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., The Hon. Gideon Murray, M.P., Sir Owen Phillipps, G.C.M.G., M.P., Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., D.Sc., Sir Edward Davson, Mr. A. Abbott (who represented Sir H. Frank Heath, K.C.B.), Dr. C. A. Barber, C.I.E., Sc.D., F.L.S., Mr. Robert Rutherford, Mr. H. A. Trotter, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Dr. J. B. Farmer, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., Captain A. W. Hill, M.A., Sc.D., F.L.S., Mr. W. H. Humbery, Mr. J. W. McConnell, Mr. G. Moody-Stuart and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G. (Hon. Secretary).

The Committee was appointed to consider whether it is advisable to found a Tropical Agricultural College in the West Indies, and, if so, to make recommendations as to the situation, constitution, management, scope, finance, staff and buildings of such a College.

They are unanimously of opinion that its establishment is advisable, and go on to state that—

"The need for such an institution has for some years been increasingly apparent. In order that our colonies and Possessions may be placed in a position to compete successfully with foreign countries in the production and marketing of the staples of the tropics, it is of paramount importance that their young men should be afforded opportunities for instruction in the principles of agriculture, and in the cultivation and preparation for market of tropical produce of every kind, including especially sugar and its by-products rum and molasses, cacao, coffee, cotton, coconuts, rice, citrus and other fruits notably bananas, and dye-woods, many of which commodities constitute the raw materials employed in the manufactures of the Mother Country.

"Equally important is the need which exists of making full provision for the prosecution of research and for the training of scientific investigators in matters pertaining to tropical agriculture amid suitable surroundings, and for creating a body of British expert agriculturists well versed in the knowledge of the cultivation of land in the tropics, and of scientific advisers possessing an intimate knowledge of the means of combating pests and diseases the control of which is fundamentally essential to the successful development of agriculture in the tropics."

They further point out that the establishment of the College will only bring the West Indies in a line with such places as Porto Rico, Hawaii and Louisiana.

### Jamaica or Trinidad?

The question of proposed situation gives more difficulty. After hearing the evidence of Sir Leslie Probyn, K.C.M.G., and Mr. P. C. Cork, C.M.G., on behalf of Jamaica, and Major Sir John Chancellor, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., and Mr. T. A. V. Best, C.M.G., C.B.E., on behalf of Trinidad, and reading a valuable memorandum submitted by Sir Sydney Olivier,

K.C.M.G., C.B., the Committee recommend that the Tropical Agricultural College be established in Trinidad, provided that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is prepared to afford it adequate support and every reasonable facility. In coming to this decision, they were influenced by the fact that Trinidad possesses a wide variety of industries, and is easy of access by steamer communication to residents in the neighbouring islands and British Guiana. It was not easy to reject the claims of Jamaica. They state that:—

"The claims of Jamaica have great weight, this colony having a population approximating to that of the rest of the West Indian islands, and a still wider variety of industries than that possessed by Trinidad. They feel, however, that difficulties of intercolonial transit would form a serious obstacle to the transfer of the Imperial Department of Agriculture to Jamaica if, as is so much to be desired, the islands of the Lesser Antilles are still to derive immediate advantage from the work of that useful body.

"Mr. E. A. de Pass strongly urged the claims of Jamaica; but the Committee reluctantly feel that, owing to its geographical position, Jamaica must to some extent be treated as a separate unit in this matter. In view, however, of the great importance of that island's agricultural interests there should, in their opinion, be intimate co-operation between the Jamaica Agricultural Department and the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and the Committee believe that it would be of advantage to Jamaica to identify itself with the proposed Tropical Agricultural College. The Committee further suggest that the usefulness of the organisation at present existing in Jamaica for agricultural training and research might be extended by a modification in the case of that island of the financial proposals contained in a later paragraph of this report, so that Jamaica's contribution and the proportion of any Imperial grant added thereto might be divided between the funds of the proposed college and a local agricultural school.

"The claims of Barbados were also closely considered, but could not be entertained owing to the smaller range of that island's products."

Finally, in view of the generous offer of the Jamaica Imperial Association to support the initial grant of £50,000 and £5,000 annually towards the Agricultural College, if Jamaica be made the headquarters, the opinion is expressed that, in the event of Trinidad and the Windward and Leeward Islands not seeing their way to support adequately the proposed College, the possibility of its establishment in Jamaica may again be considered.

### Constitution and Composition.

The Committee think it desirable that the Tropical Agricultural College should from its inception be established as a legal entity, and think that this would best be effected at the outset by incorporation as a Company limited by guarantee, under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, with the ultimate object, after the College has been successfully established with every prospect of permanency, of petitioning the King to grant it a Royal Charter of Incorporation.

As regards constitution, they express the conviction that an intimate relationship should be established between the Imperial Department of Agriculture and the Tropical Agricultural College, and recommend that, in the first instance, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture be the Principal of the



College, and that, when occasion arises for a new appointment, it should be arranged, in consultation with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that the Principal nominated should also hold the position of Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, should the Secretary of State desire to appoint him to that office. The normal composition of the governing body, whose meetings should ordinarily be held in London, are suggested as follows:—

A	<i>Ex-officio</i> members (also <i>ex-officio</i> members of the Executive Committee) ... ..	2
B	Nominated members:—	
	Representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies ... ..	2
	Representing the Academic Board of the Tropical Agricultural College ... ..	1
	Representing the Contributing Colonies, possibly ... ..	6
	Representing the Contributing Industries, possibly ... ..	5
	Representing the Academic Institutions in the United Kingdom ... ..	3
C	Co-opted members ... ..	4
	Total ... ..	23

They recommend that the governing body should administer the affairs of the Tropical Agricultural College, should hold and expend all moneys, and should appoint and dismiss all officers of the College. The total given above is only approximate, as the nominated members might vary in number. The Academic Board should be composed of the Principal and the Professors of the Tropical Agricultural College, and should have charge of the Students of the College, and be responsible to the governing body for the discipline of the students and for the details of the instruction imparted to them. They further think that the staff should, from the inception of the College, include teachers with the status of Professors in the following subjects:—

1. General Agriculture;
  2. Mycology;
  3. Entomology;
  4. Agricultural Chemistry;
  5. Organic Chemistry;
  6. Agricultural Bacteriology;
  7. Agricultural and Physiological Botany;
  8. Genetics;
  9. Sugar Technology; and
  10. Agricultural Engineering and Physics;
- and teachers with the status of Lecturers in the two subjects:—
11. Stock and Veterinary Science; and
  12. Book-keeping.

### Curriculum.

They express themselves in agreement with the general principles of a curriculum proposed by Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., D.Sc., which is as follows:—

"(a) A junior course of instruction in tropical agriculture extending over two, or possibly three, years. This course should be arranged to meet the requirements of youths leaving the secondary schools of the colonies who intend to follow ordinary agricultural pursuits, probably in the colonies from which they come. There should be some educational standard of requirement for admission to the course. This might be an examination of the college, or certain recognised examinations might be accepted in substitution, such, for example, as the Senior Local Examination of Oxford

or Cambridge, or other similar examinations. This course of instruction should embrace general agricultural science and agronomy, together with such practical instruction in the elements of field agriculture as the equipment of the college permits.

"(b) A senior course of similar instruction extending over not less than four years.

"(c) A course of two years' instruction in more advanced tropical agriculture for students who have undergone a course of instruction in general agriculture in a recognised institution, such as a university, a university college, or an agricultural college. This course would practically coincide with the final two years' teaching of the last-named course (b).

"(d) Post-graduate study of special agricultural subjects in their tropical application, as, for example, entomology, mycology, chemistry, plant-breeding, and the general study of special crops such as sugar, cacao, cotton, coconuts, rice, and a variety of others, to be arranged to meet the requirements of individual students. These studies would be carried on through the college, in association with the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and, by arrangement with the respective Governments, through the medium of such local agricultural departments and experiment stations as appear to be particularly suited for the work. It is probable that facilities in connection with these studies may be offered by the owners of sugar and other factories and by the owners of plantations, and that courses of instruction to meet the needs of individual students may be arranged by the Academic Board to meet special cases."

In addition, they believe that a Sugar School, equipped with a complete plant on a small but working scale, should be established in connection with the Tropical Agricultural College, and that if the College be established in Trinidad, a technical branch might be added where men could obtain practical training in oil technology and the control of oilfields. In this connection they state that:—

"Students would have exceptional opportunities of acquiring knowledge, inasmuch as they would be able to visit the oilfields periodically, while the presence in the island of many fully qualified engineers, geologists, drillers, &c., would permit of lectures being given from time to time on all subjects associated with petroleum."

### Finance.

The Committee next proceed to deal with the important question of ways and means. Bearing in mind that the College would be Imperial in its scope and activities, and that the American Agricultural College in Porto Rico is subsidised by the United States Government, they recommend that:—

"(1) For the establishment of the college a fund of £50,000 and upwards should be raised by private subscription.

"(2) For the maintenance of the college:—

(a) Annual contributions should be invited from the various West Indian colonies on the basis of the equivalent of, say,  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of their average revenue during the preceding three years, and each colony, in return for its contribution, should have the right to nominate a representative to sit on the governing body of the college and to enjoy special privileges in respect of its students; it being understood in this connection that the constituent islands of the Windward Islands group should be regarded as one colony.

"(b) Annual contributions should be invited from the Imperial Government as grants-in-aid, on the basis of £1 for every £1 contributed by the col-

nies, the liability of the Imperial Government, however, not to exceed £15,000 in one year.

"(c) Voluntary contributions should be invited from industrial organisations and individuals interested in tropical industries"

### Secretary of State's Letter.

In forwarding the Report to the Governments of the various colonies, Colonel L. S. Amery, M.P., Acting Secretary of State for the Colonies, makes some interesting observations. After outlining the principal proposals contained in the Report, the letter goes on to say that, in the writer's opinion, the scheme propounded by the Committee is worthy of the most careful attention of the people of the West Indies, and adds that:—

"The proposed College offers advantages, direct or indirect, to every section of the community—to the students themselves by increasing their mental resources and economic value; to the planters, by providing them with qualified assistance; to the peasant proprietors, by placing skilled advice within easier reach and by improving the market for their produce; to factory owners, by supplying the chemical and other knowledge which is now so difficult to obtain; to the labourers, by rendering it possible for them to receive higher wages; to the general community, by the increase of trade and wealth, and, not least, by supplying a means likely to mitigate the severity of those periods of economic depression which will, I fear, long remain inevitable in the future as in the past. Moreover, it is likely to attract students, some of them men of experience, from all the tropical parts of the Empire; and the West Indies, in common with the British communities of Africa, Asia, and the Pacific, will no doubt benefit from the relations which will be formed and the ideas which will be exchanged."

Accordingly, Colonel Amery thinks the people of the West Indies have now an opportunity which might well mark an epoch in their economical history, and proceeds to give a valuable review of similar institutions in the Indian Empire and in foreign countries;—

"The Island of Porto Rico already possesses a 'College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts' associated with the University of Porto Rico. This College, situated at Mayaguez, was opened in 1912 in a building furnished at a cost of \$30,000 by the Government of the Island working under the Morrill and Nelson Fund provided by the Government of the United States. This fund, amounting to \$50,000, is the same as that furnished to similar colleges in the United States. Within a year of its foundation the College had in attendance over one hundred students from all parts of the Island of Porto Rico, and its direct grant from the insular Government, over and above the sum supplied by the United States Government, was \$61,000 for the financial year 1913-14. In addition to the primary work of teaching the principles and practice of agriculture to the students actually enrolled, the Mayaguez institution has from the outset undertaken the important task of aiding the ordinary teachers of Porto Rico in their effort to relate school training to the daily avocations of the people. It is not clear to me how far the Porto Rico College can or does devote itself to work other than the teaching of agriculture to its students and the training of ordinary school teachers in the subject. I am aware that the College was located at Mayaguez so as to be near the Agricultural Experimental Station which was established there seventy years before the college; but if there are published papers indicating activity on the part of that college in the investigation

of unsolved problems they have not been brought to my notice.

"The Sugar School in Louisiana is, however, known to undertake the tasks both of imparting and of advancing knowledge. The proposed College in the British West Indies should be able to do for their people all, and more than all, that the Louisiana institution does for the people of the United States. The College would certainly be intended to give due attention to every one of the agricultural industries and interests of the Colonies, not only as regards instruction, but also as regards investigation. In this respect it should come to deserve comparison with the singularly well-equipped Tropical Research Institute created by the Netherlands Government at Buitenzorg in Java, and with the similar institute at Pusa, in Behar, on behalf of the Indian Empire.

"At Pusa one of the most important duties to be fulfilled is that of the education, during a prescribed period and with regard to Indian conditions, of the recruits engaged for service in the agricultural departments of the various Indian Governments who have received their agricultural training at universities and technical colleges in the United Kingdom. At Pusa, too, are trained for such service those natives of India who are selected with a view to filling agricultural posts under the Government of India itself. It may be assumed that the new College will do for the West Indian Colonies what Pusa does for the whole of India.

"Besides the institution at Pusa, it has been found desirable to establish no fewer than seven agricultural colleges in the various provinces of India. These are for the most part occupied in the training of the sons of Indian landed proprietors."

### Recommendations Approved.

The letter agrees with the Committee's recommendations as to the site of the proposed College, but regards it as not impossible that, before it becomes necessary to decide the question finally, a link may have been provided in the form of steamship connection between Jamaica and the Lesser Antilles.

Regarding the views of the Colonial Office upon the Report's recommendations as a whole, the letter says:—

"While I am in cordial agreement with the substance of the report, I do not feel able at present to accept it in all its details. I am doubtful about the suggestion that a branch of the College might be established for Oil Technology, but this is evidently a collateral question which forms no essential part of the scheme. I feel more serious difficulty about the proposal that the Imperial Government should be asked for financial assistance. I readily admit that the proposed College is of great importance to the United Kingdom and to the Empire at large. But there are many educational institutions in the United Kingdom which are similarly of importance to the Colonies, although it is only in a very few cases that the latter make any contribution. The considerable measure of prosperity which many of the West Indian Colonies are now enjoying further weakens the case for Imperial assistance. I shall defer further consideration of this point until I have the views of the Colonies; but if Imperial assistance is not forthcoming it will evidently be necessary to raise the suggested rate of colonial contribution.

"I note that the report does not refer to the provision of courses of instruction suitable for teachers in elementary schools, but I should hope that the proposed College would find it possible to undertake this work."



## HISTORICAL SIDELIGHTS.

### Early Years of the West India Committee.

By LILLIAN PENSON.

*Miss Lillian Penson, B.A., who is engaged in a special study of the history and literature of the eighteenth century, has based the following account of the early years of the West India Committee on old records in the possession of the Committee and on MSS. in the British Museum and the Record Office.*

In the eighteenth century the West India Interest was a powerful influence in British politics. When matters relating to the West India islands were under discussion, the advice of the London merchants, or of the planters living in England, was frequently asked. As early as 1744 it was said that "the cause [of the sugar trade] was always popular in the House of Commons." This influence was exerted mainly for two ends—to prevent the decline of sugar production through the imposition of over-heavy duties on sugar or the undue decrease in prices, and to ensure the safety of the islands in time of war.

"Should Parliament propose laying an additional duty on sugar, adieu to all new settlements," wrote William Beckford, from Spanish Town, in 1743. So the planters in England and the London merchants, and the agents appointed by the colonial Legislatures met together and drew up their "case," which they distributed broadcast; and they visited the First Lord of the Treasury, Henry Pelham; and even, dividing themselves up into little "committees," they called on every Member of the House of Commons in town, not excluding Admiral Vernon, a terrible person, of whom one of the merchants truly said, "He uses many expressions peculiar to himself."\* The tax was defeated.

This was in the early months of 1744. So far as we know, the only permanent organisation at that time was the Planters' Club. This appears to have been, in the main, a social affair, but here the colonial agents and the planters met and talked over the business of their islands. "The Gentlemen of the Planters' Club," wrote a merchant in 1745, "have no authority from the planters to act as their representatives, but assume it to themselves as a right." The right lay really with the colonial agents, and it seems that at this time the sympathies of the agents lay rather with the merchants.

The position of the agents is interesting in connection with the West India Committee of the eighteenth century. From the year 1671, in the case of Barbados, and from a little over ten years later in the case of Jamaica, and from varying dates for the other islands, it had been the practice for the colonial Legislatures to appoint someone in England as their paid agent "to solicit their affairs." Very frequently the agent was himself either a planter from the colony living in England, or a London merchant trading with the West Indies.

\* I am indebted for the account of this incident to the kindness of Mr. Robert Rutherford, the Chairman of the West India Committee, who permitted me to read some old records of his firm. There must be other similar books of this period from which some valuable light would probably be thrown on the early history of the West India Committee.

Through this double interest he was naturally of considerable influence in the West India organisations of the time.

If it is true that in 1745 the Planters' Club was the sole permanent organisation, it was not long before another appeared. This was the Society of West India Merchants. In 1760 a letter from the Duke of Newcastle to Mr. Beeston Long, "Chairman of the West India Merchants," expressing his great regret at his inability to accept their invitation to a dinner, fixes the latest date at which the Society can have been founded. From 1769 onwards the minutes of meetings still in the possession of the West India Committee give a clear picture of the character of the organisation.

In these early days the two institutions—one of the planters, and the other of the merchants—continued side by side. It is only of the latter that the minutes of meetings have been preserved. We learn from these that Mr. Beeston Long continued as Chairman at any rate until August, 1783, and probably until shortly before his death early in 1785. There was, during the latter part of this time, a Deputy-Chairman, Mr. Richard Neave, who (later as Sir Richard Neave, Bart.) continued as Chairman after Mr. Long's death; the Deputy-Chairman was then another Mr. Beeston Long, the son of the first Chairman, and he, in his turn, succeeded Sir Richard Neave.

The Society had a paid Secretary, James Allen, without whose signature, we learn, in 1776, no notice issued by the Society was valid. This office also descended from father to son, and throughout the rest of the century a James Allen is Secretary. There was also a Treasurer, Mr. Samuel Long, of the same family and firm as the Chairman.

(To be continued.)

## MOLASSES FOR BOOT BLACKING.

### Government Chemist's Report.

One result of the war has been the absence of prosecutions for selling dyed sugar as "Demerara"—which has been practically unobtainable by the general public for the last few months, the bulk of the imports being passed into manufacturers' hands. Still, the Government chemist was called upon to examine 23,727 samples of sugar, and articles containing sugar, during 1919. This was, however, as his report states, for assessment of duty or drawback.

In this connection he points out that the great bulk of the revenue from sugar is derived from refined sugar, the duty being charged when the sugar is removed from the refinery warehouse.

The samples examined on importation, as well as those exported on drawback, include, besides sugar, articles made with sugar, and also those containing glucose, molasses, saccharin and other sweetening agents. Glucose is largely used for brewing purposes and in confectionery; molasses enters into the composition of food for cattle, blacking, sauces and dyewood extracts, and is employed in the manufacture of spirit; saccharin is an intensely sweet coal-tar product, which is frequently substituted for sugar in the manufacture of mineral waters and in the preparation of foods intended for diabetic patients. In consequence of the limited quantity of sugar available during the war

saccharin was increasingly used by the general public for sweetening purposes.

The variety of preparations containing sugar is so great that it has been found necessary to adopt fixed rates of duty in the case of those which are regularly imported or which are exported on drawback, samples being examined only in cases of doubt as to their description or rating for duty purposes. There are, however, many articles for which it has not been found practicable to fix a special rate of duty, and which, therefore, have to be tested on each importation, or where drawback of duty is claimed on exportation. Honey, although not liable to duty when genuine, is sometimes adulterated with invert sugar, upon which duty is payable. Six imported samples were charged as invert during the year.

Owing to the heavy duty on saccharin, which has approximately 500 times the sweetening power of sugar, the inducement to smuggle this article into the country is very great. The presence of saccharin has, therefore, to be searched for in all preparations in which there is any probability of its occurrence, and fifty-five samples of substances imported were specially examined with this object. Ten samples of saccharin products were drawn for the purpose of assessing the amount of drawback payable on exportation. The manufacture of saccharin in the United Kingdom, which had ceased for some years, was resumed in 1917, and 165 samples of saccharin and of the materials used in its production were examined in connection with the assessment of duty.

Formerly the number of samples of prepared cocoa examined in the laboratory was comparatively small, owing to the fact that these articles were subject to a fixed rate of duty of 2d. per lb., and no drawback was allowed. By the Finance Act of 1911, this fixed rate was replaced by duties calculated upon the actual proportion of dutiable ingredients (cocoa, sugar, and cocoa butter) contained in preparations of cocoa, and drawback calculated on the same basis is now allowed on cocoa preparations exported. It is necessary, therefore, to estimate the proportion of each ingredient contained in such articles, both on importation and exportation. In this connection, 1,216 samples of cocoa and its preparations were examined in the course of last year. In order to facilitate the assessment of the cocoa duty and corresponding drawback, fixed rates have been established in the case of goods which are imported or exported in large quantities—an arrangement which has been found convenient in connection with the sugar duty, and of which advantage has been taken by several hundreds of firms of exporters and importers.

## THE WOODS OF BRITISH GUIANA.

Up to the present time, with the exception of Wallaha shingles for roof purposes, shipped principally to the neighbouring islands, the only wood product figuring in the exports of British Guiana is greenheart, a speciality of the forests of that country. The water-resisting properties of this wood cause it to be much sought after for piers, canals, &c., where underwater wooden structure is required. It was used in connection with the locks of the Panama Canal, and enters largely into the structure of the Manchester and Liverpool Canal. There are, however, besides greenheart, many kinds of wood suitable for trade purposes, especially for furniture. In a recent letter to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR Mr. Guy Wyatt refers to no less than thirty! In the museum of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana, there is an inlaid

table in which all the different woods of the colony are represented, and which is in itself proof positive of their capacity for beauty.

From time to time efforts have been made to bring British Guiana woods to the notice of the wood-using public of this country, but nothing has resulted therefrom. Any visitor to the colony cannot fail to be struck with the furniture built out of crabwood, which might be termed the mahogany of the colony. This wood was also used by the old Dutch colonists for house-building, and it is possible that a relic of the past in the shape of a house built of crabwood, with exquisite paneling and floors, still exists. There are also several light woods, among which furniture woods taking the place of maple might be found. Pending a definite systematic exhibition of what can be supplied, those interested in the subject will find some specimens in the British Guiana Court of the Imperial Institute, and should any trader desire to receive working specimens, the West India Committee will be glad to obtain them for him.

## MALARIAL FEVER.

### Barbados' Immunity Explained.

By P. C. COOK, C.M.G.

When the question was raised by a member of the Committee on an Agricultural College for the West Indies as to why Barbados was free from malarial fever and other West Indian Colonies were not, I suggested that it was because Barbados had no water in which to breed them.

I was an interested observer of the investigations of the late Professor Sir Robert Boyce into the habits of the various kinds of mosquitoes found in British Honduras, and I was much struck by the evidence that the larvæ of anophelines were seldom or never found, except in slowly moving or frequently renewed water. Their favourite breeding-places were the banks of sluggish rivers, street gutters, &c., especially when overgrown by rushes, grass, or cover of some sort protecting them from minnows or mosquito-destroying fish. I cannot recollect any instance in which they were found in stagnant water, such as crab holes or water barrels, but doubtless leaking-water taps, or daily rains for ten days or a fortnight would furnish conditions suitable for their propagation. They contrast very markedly with the universal culex, who seems to prefer swamps and puddles, whether clean or unclean, and the stegomyia or yellow fever carrier who lives in your house or yard, and will breed in tanks, water barrels, the saucers of flower-pots, choked house gutters, &c.

Barbados is an island of coral formation, and I believe has no surface rivers or springs, the rain-water percolating through and forming underground streams, in which malarial mosquitoes do not breed.

All the other colonies contain surface rivers, springs, and streams where the conditions are such as the mosquitoes affect, but wherever proper precautions are taken, the breeding-places being searched for and destroyed, and the water stocked with minnows, malaria loses its terrors.



## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

### By "Agronomist."

Tests in Egypt in the cultivation of rice show that under conditions prevailing there it is more advantageous to sow the seed directly in the field than to transplant from a seed bed.

Endeavours are being made in Jamaica to promote fishery stations all round the coast. The plan is to supply nets, boats, and pots to a few responsible men at such stations. The cost would gradually be repaid, and the equipment become the property of the local station. Contracts will be arranged to purchase the fish. Motor trucks are to carry the fish to suitable markets. In time it is expected that launches will be put on to take the fishermen to and from distant fishing banks.

Many cacao plantations in remote districts of the Gold Coast have been abandoned. The prices offered in 1918 have been so low that the crops in many places could not be reaped without loss. Even so, there was an export of 66,343 tons, much less than that of 1917, but greater than in previous years. The probable effect of low prices will be to check indiscriminate cacao planting, proper care of existing plantations, and the taking up of other cultures, such as the oil palm, kola, coconuts, and rubber.

The *Daily Telegraph* gives interesting facts and figures supplied by the sole importers of bananas from the West Indies as regards expenditure. The cost of coal on a pre-war voyage was £1,600, whereas now the average expenditure amounts to £12,000. In 1914 a steamer could be run on a voyage for £3,250; the bill that has now to be met for the same journey is £17,000. Specially constructed steamers are required to convey the fruit across the ocean. During the war eleven ships of the banana-carrying fleet were lost. In order to continue the trade on a large scale these vessels must eventually be replaced. In 1914 a steamer could be built for £150,000. The latest quotation for a similar boat is £420,000.

The war has given a splendid chance to those enterprising men and women in the West Indies who have established dairies, and it is satisfactory to know that they have taken the chance. They have reaped well-deserved profits themselves, and they have conferred benefits on their neighbours. An illustration of how the amounts of butter and milk produced locally in Jamaica have increased is given in the *Journal of the Agricultural Society* for January. A statement by the railway authorities has been published, giving the quantities brought into Kingston by the railway for every month during the last five years. The totals for each year are, for 1914—16,522 lb. butter, 61,403 gallons milk; for 1915—30,880 lb. butter, 59,553 gallons milk; for 1916—46,334 lb. butter, 54,783 gallons milk; for 1917—60,935 lb. butter, 61,639 gallons milk; for 1918—75,921 lb. butter, 87,547 gallons milk.

As the question of fisheries is attracting some attention in the West Indies, it is well to watch developments elsewhere. The Bureau of Fisheries in the United States refers to a new industry—namely, the tanning of fish leather. It records excellent progress in overcoming a number of difficulties which at first hindered the development of the industry. Samples of fish leather now show great improvement over former samples. The leather is soft and pliable, and appears to be strong enough for many purposes. Scientific tests are to be carried out on the leather as to durability, pliability, wearing qualities, &c. A com-

pany formed for the purpose of catching sharks and porpoises and for tanning the skins has a station in North Carolina and another in Florida. The special nets invented for catching sharks and porpoises are a success. At the fishing stations the liver oil is extracted, and the flesh converted into manure; nothing is wasted.

The Chief Conservator of Forests for South Africa has submitted a memorandum concerning afforestation. In 1913 the Union imported 17,500,000 cub. ft. of timber, worth over £1,000,000. Nearly 90 per cent. was soft timber derived from pines, firs, &c. It is considered most probable that in fifty years' time the requirements will be at least double—that is to say, South Africa will then need 35,000,000 cub. ft., of which 50,000,000 cub. ft. are soft wood. The natural forest resources will not be able to supply 5 per cent. of the requirements. Unless the Union steadily pursues an afforestation policy it will be permanently dependent on imports for all the timber it will need. Between 1895 and 1913 the price of timber increased by one-third. It is evident that world-wide competition for this necessary raw material will again bring about a shortage. Possibly this shortage will be more permanent than that experienced during the war. It is therefore only a measure of prudence for the Union to grow timber locally to replace the imported article.

A forest commission in Great Britain recently stated in its report that forests are a national necessity; the country must have them, though they yield less than the current rate of interest on the capital involved. The Chief Conservator of Forests in South Africa believes that afforestation there will prove profitable. Assume that an acre of plantation of timber will yield 100 cub. ft. of timber per annum (a very conservative estimate), it will take 350,000 acres to produce the probable needs of South Africa in fifty years' time. An acre of pine trees may be expected to be worth £150 to £250 at thirty to fifty years of age. The basis of the calculation is that timber is put down as worth 1s. per cubic foot, and the annual increment at 100 cub. ft. per acre. It might be worth while for those who are interested in the West Indies to consider whether an afforestation policy there is not quite as necessary and quite as profitable to their Governments as to South Africa. Reports on forests in the West Indies have been made, but, possibly through want of a definite policy that gives encouragement to the undertaking, nothing very much has been done. Nothing will or can be done until all sections of the community realise the importance of the matter, and insistently demand that a comprehensive programme of afforestation be embarked upon.

Agricultural research in Australia (*Bulletin No. 7*) is concerned, amongst other matters, with the question of producing alcohol in the country to replace the imported petrol and kerosene. The cost of these imports is over £2,000,000, and the money is not even kept within the Empire. The problem lies in the production of fermentable matters, such as starch or sugar, at a cost that will enable alcohol to be sold for less than the price of petrol. In the engines at present in use, more alcohol than petrol is necessary in the ratio of 10 to 7. The price of alcohol should therefore be somewhere about two-thirds that of petrol. Methylated spirit is already made in Queensland from molasses, but the utmost that could be produced from that source would only be sufficient for the local requirements of that State. The most promising raw materials for the other States are corn (maize) and sorghum. In the West Indies the raw material would naturally be molasses, except where the rum made would be more valuable than petrol.

## SOME POINTS IN CONNECTION WITH MULTIPLE EVAPORATION.

By F. I. SCARD, F.I.C.

In a multiple effect the work done in a unit of time is proportionate to the difference in temperature of the initial steam and that of the vapour going to the condenser from the last body. Thus, if the steam pressure in the calandria of the first be 5 lb. on the square inch, corresponding to a temperature of 228 deg. F., and the vacuum in the last vessel is 26 in., equivalent to a temperature of 133 deg. F., the temperature is 98.5 deg., and the amount of work done would be the same as if the steam pressure in the calandria of the last vessel were at atmospheric pressure difference equivalent to 212 deg. F., and the vacuum in the last vessel 26½ in., corresponding to a temperature of 127 deg. F.

The causes which effect this result are:—

(a) Insufficient area of the vapour connections between the vessels leading to constricted flow of vapour from the body of one vessel to the calandria of the next. Thus, if there is not sufficient area in the vapour pipe between the third and last vessel of a quadruple effect, the temperature of the preceding vessels, and consequently of the steam in the calandria of the first vessel, would be higher than if there were ready condensation of the vapour from the third vessel in the calandria of the fourth.

(b) Scaling of tubes. This would lead to a similar result. Thus, if the scale in the last vessel is greater or on a more non-conducting nature than that in the third, the same effect would be produced as if there were constriction of vapour connection, and this applies to all the vessels.

(c) Bad circulation of vapour in the calandria. This cause also operates as in (a) and (b).

(d) Insufficient removal of condensed water and gases from the calandria also operates in the same direction.

The work done per unit of area in a particular vessel depends upon the differences in temperature between the vapour in the calandria and the boiling-point of the juice in the body. This should be the same for effects with the same number of bodies. The causes which modify the work done per unit of area are:—

(a) Circulation of juice over surface of tubes—the quicker the passage of juice the greater being the degree of evaporation.

(b) Circulation of vapour in calandria.

(c) Cleanliness of tubes both as regards vapour and juice surfaces.

(d) Degree of thickness and conducting power of metal of tubes.

(e) Efficient removal of water and air from calandria.

The vapour connections should have areas proportionate to volume of vapour passing through. The area occupied by a given weight of vapour increases with the temperature. The area should be such as to give a velocity of vapour of not greater than 50 ft. per second.

It sometimes happens that an evaporator "will not take steam." In other words, the first vessel boils at too high a temperature with a pressure of steam normally applied, while at the same time the vacuum in the last vessel remains as usual. This may be due to:—

(a) Scale in last vessel.

(b) Leakage of tubes in any of the other vessels.

(c) Communication between the calandria of the vessel through the calandria of the pump.

(d) Leakage in the vessels themselves.

It sometimes happens that the vacuum in the condenser cannot be maintained. This may be due to:—

(a) Leakage in pump valves or inefficient water connection.

(b) Too high a temperature from insufficient supply of condensation of water. The discharge water should not have a higher temperature than 110 deg. F.

(c) Faulty construction of condenser, the flow of water blocking the flow of vapour, and thus preventing proper condensation.

It is important that the calandria as well as the vessels themselves should be supplied with vacuum gauges. The pressure in the calandria of the first vessels should coincide with that in the steam supply connection, and this vacuum of any succeeding calandria with that of the body of the preceding vessel.

Cleanliness is an essential to good work. At least once a week a thorough cleaning of the heating surface should be carried out. When refining sugar is made, caustic soda should be used, the vessels being thoroughly boiled with the solution of it. When yellow or white sugar, hydrochloric acid is necessary. On no account should the vessels be charged to a greater extent than one-half of the capacity of the calandria. The circulation produced should be sufficient to cause the heating surface to be covered with juice. With juice of 10 deg. B $\bar{e}$ , 73 per cent. of the water should be boiled off. In other words, the outgoing density should not be less than 28 deg. B $\bar{e}$ .

In calculating the evaporation, it is highly important that both initial juice and syrup should be cooled to the atmospheric temperature before the readings are taken.

The quantity of water evaporated per square foot of heating surface should not be less than 6½ lb. with a triple effect, or 5 lb. with a quadruple effect for a bulk evaporation.

The amount of water evaporated per pound weight of steam is 2½ lb. in the case of triple effect, and 3.4 lb. in the case of quadruple effect.

The addition of another body to an existing effect does not increase the amount of work done in a given time so long as there is ample pump and condensing power for the original effect. If, however, there is a deficiency in this effect, there should be some increase in the amount of work done as well as economy resulting from increasing the effect.

The measure of the work of a multiple effect is, other things being equal, the power of condensation of the last vessel per unit of area of heating surface.



## AT WESTMINSTER.

### Export of Coal to Colonies.

Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson asked the Prime Minister on February 12th whether he was aware that the Coal Commission was now insisting on payment for coal for export to British Dominions, colonies and possessions of the same export price as for coal for export to foreign countries, and whether this policy would be reconsidered on an early date.

Mr. Bridgeman: Coal for export is now sold at the market price, irrespective of destination. The differential minimum prices are not, in practice, operative, as the market price is well above the highest maximum. No change of policy in this matter is contemplated.

Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson: Is the hon. gentleman aware that there is serious risk of a considerable portion of the coal trade of the colonies passing into the hands of America, and will that be taken into consideration if I can give evidence to show it?

Mr. Bridgeman: I shall be very glad of any information which the hon. gentleman can give me.

### Confectionery.

Sir A. Geddes, in reply to Sir Owen Phillips on February 18th, said:—The imports into the United Kingdom during 1919 included: Confectionery (other than chocolate confectionery), £1,013,238; cocoa preparations (including chocolate confectionery) containing sugar, £2,189,594. It is not known what proportion of the latter figure should be assigned to chocolate confectionery. It is, accordingly, only possible to say that the total value of confectionery imported in 1919 did not exceed £3,207,832. With reference to the last part of the question, I am informed that the cost at current prices of the additional sugar required for the purpose specified would be approximately £6,000,000.

### Empire Cotton.

On February 23rd Lieutenant-Colonel Amery, in a written answer to Mr. Chadwick, who asked if the British Empire only grows 24 per cent. of the total cotton of the world, said that the figure of 24 per cent. is for the whole Empire, including India, Egypt and the Sudan. The percentage for the colonies and Protectorates with which the Colonial Office is responsible is about one-quarter of 1 per cent. Apart from the small but valuable West Indian crop the production is almost entirely in tropical Africa.

### Indentured Labour (Crown Colonies and Surinam).

On February 24th Brigadier-General Surtces asked the Secretary of State for India whether he could state the approximate number of Indian labourers working under the system of indenture in Crown Colonies and in the Dutch colony of Surinam?

Mr. Fisher: The numbers, according to the latest information received at the India Office, were as follows in the years indicated:—

British Guiana, 1917, 4,818 out of a total Indian population of 138,140.

Jamaica, 1919, 872 out of a total Indian population of 18,997.

Trinidad, 1918, 3,359 out of a total Indian population of 129,251.

Surinam, 1917, 3,217 out of a total Indian population of 33,330.

The system of emigration to these colonies under contract was abolished by the Government of India on March 12th, 1917. All outstanding indentures in Fiji were cancelled with effect from January 2nd last, and it is understood that a similar step is being taken in British Guiana. The existence of indentured labour in the other colonies will automatically cease with the expiry of the current periods of indenture.

## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

### Prospects of Prosperity in the Bahamas.

The finances of the Bahamas are now in a flourishing condition, and a considerable amount of foreign capital is being brought into the colony, which promises well for its future development, writes Mr. Frank Holmes under date January 25th. The tomato industry is turning out extremely well, and there is every indication that the industry will grow and be of very great benefit to the colony. Very large quantities of liquor are being imported from the United States and Canada, and the duties on these are making very substantial additions to the colony's revenue.

### British Guiana and Indian Immigration.

It has rained heavily since the New Year, writes Mr. J. C. McCowan on January 5th. The 1919 crop will be short, but the promise for the 1920 one is good, and the cultivation is reported on, so far, as favourable.

The Governor had a conference with our Council on the 27th ultimo, at which Lieut.-Colonel I. B. Davson, O.B.E., was present, to put forward a telegram he had received from the deputation in India, the chief point being the cancelling of indentures, the last of which would expire in 1921. The meeting was in agreement that this should be done, and a telegram was sent off to this effect. A telegram was also sent to the Secretary of State as to Mr. Dooley proceeding to Madras this month. With the possible resumption of unindentured immigration from India, the feeling as to our labour supply is very hopeful. The Governor also dealt with correspondence with the Barbados Government regarding labourers from that island in families. Mr. W. C. Crawford, who has been formally appointed Recruiting Agent in Barbados, has been informed that, so far as the Government is concerned, it will only spend public money for the introduction of men accompanied by their wives and/or families on a twelve months' contract, it being understood that he will be left free to engage single men and those with families on a six months' contract for such employers as desire to have this class of emigrant, and are prepared to pay for them. The Governor has been appointed President of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society for this year.

A deputation from the Chamber of Commerce waited on the Governor on the 30th ultimo to discuss the condition of the cable service, which is certainly no better, and, if anything, worse than it has been. The Governor has promised to put the matter before the Secretary of State. The Combined Court sittings were concluded on the 24th ultimo. Machinery from foreign countries is to be taxed 5 per cent. *ad valorem*. A further 1 per cent. *ad valorem* has been imposed on imports and exports. A letter has been addressed to the Colonial Secretary, writes Mr. McCowan on January 17th, calling attention to the incidence of taxation, and in particular to the heavy burden imposed on the sugar industry by the new duties on exports and machinery. Lieut.-Colonel Davson has been elected a member of the Council, but his stay here concluded on January 15th. The marriage of Miss C. A. Bunbury to Mr. W. H. Badley is announced. News has been received of the death of Mrs. Beckett, wife of Mr. E. Beckett, of Messrs. S. Davson & Co., Limited, Berbice, on January 15th.

### Arson in Grenada.

A mysterious and somewhat alarming series of fires has been occupying the attention of the inhabitants of St. George's. It is believed locally that seven outbreaks within a week rather precludes the possibility



of accidental kindling! However, a body of sixty special citizen police and a mounted force have been enrolled. These patrol the streets every night, and by such energetic measures this particular form of nuisance should be abated.

**The Jamaica Elections.**

Among the new members elected to the Legislative Council are Rev. W. T. Graham (St. Mary), Mr. A. G. Nash (Manchester), Mr. R. F. Williams (Westmoreland), Rev. G. L. Young (St. Catherine), and Mr. P. W. Sangster (St. Elizabeth). There is a temporary sugar shortage in the island, but the Food Controller expects the position to be normal in about a month's time. For the present the local retail price of 4½d. per lb. will remain unchanged.

The St. Andrew Parochial Board has appealed to the Government for a loan to carry out a hookworm campaign in their parish, and the matter is under consideration. According to the *Baltimore Sun*, a company has been formed and incorporated under the laws of Maryland for the purpose of conducting the fruit business between Baltimore and Jamaica. Two steamers built for carrying tropical fruit have been chartered. The concern will be known as the Baltimore and Jamaica Trading Company, and Mr. A. Constantine Goffe has been appointed manager in Jamaica. Much regret has been expressed at the resignation of Mr. M. Y. Grant, director of the Railway Department, who has accepted an appointment in Peru. Owing to an outbreak of influenza on board the *Carrillo* (from New York) twenty-seven passengers were transferred to the quarantine station and were detained for four days.

**H.M.S. "Calcutta" at St. Lucia.**

The weather continues seasonable, frequent showers falling, with bright intervals of sunshine, says Mr. Archibald J. Brooks, writing on January 16th. A most successful Fancy Dress Ball was held at the Vigie Mess on New Year's Eve, and dancing continued until 3 a.m. H.M.S. *Calcutta* (Captain Percy L. Noble, M.V.O.), with Rear-Admiral Sir Allan F. Everett, K.C.M.G., C.B., arrived at this port at 7 a.m. on January 1st, and left on the morning of the 3rd. Among the officers was the well-known naval writer "Bartimeus," author of "Naval Occasions," "A Tall Ship," "The Sure Shield," &c.

On January 2nd His Excellency Sir George Basil Haddon-Smith took Admiral Everett for a motor drive along the new road to Dennery. In the evening the Governor and Lady Haddon-Smith gave a dance at Government House in honour of the *Calcutta's* visit. The music, provided by the ship's band, was greatly appreciated by the local guests. A large gathering attended the "At Home" given by H.E. the Governor and Lady Haddon-Smith on January 7th. Mr. H. de Minville, partner of the firm of Messrs. Minville & Chastanet, has been elected Chairman of the Castries Town Board. A variety entertainment in aid of local charities was held on January 13th. There was a good attendance, and every item of the programme was thoroughly enjoyed.

**Gratuity for St. Vincent's Soldiers.**

At the annual general meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society held on January 7th, Mr. P. F. Huggins was re-elected chairman for the current year, says the *Sentry*. Following a discussion relating to the forthcoming triennial conference of the Associated Chambers of Commerce for the British West Indies, the meeting unanimously elected Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P., and the Hon. J. Elliott Sprott to be the St. Vincent delegates to attend the conference. Dr. A. W. Lewis, M.R.C.S., has been appointed provisionally Resident Surgeon Colonial Hospital and Medical Superintendent of the Fort Institutions as from January 1st. Mr. A. M. Fraser has been appointed to fill the last vacancy in the Legislative Council as an unofficial member. As the result of an appeal by the returned soldiers, the

Administrator, at the advice of the Advisory Committee, has decided to grant a gratuity of £5 to all Service men. His Honour regretted that the colony's financial position would not allow of a larger disbursement. On January 5th the marriage of Lieutenant D. Alan Richards to Miss Hilda Simmons was solemnised at St. George's Cathedral.

**Tobago's Crop Prospects.**

Mr. Robert Reid writes, under date January 20th, that the early part of January was dry and breezy, and planters were rather scared about the young cacao on the trees; but from 13th there has been welcome showers, and the prospects for the spring crop are again more cheerful. The pickings thus far have found ready sale at good prices—\$23-24 per fanaga. Sales of Windward coconuts on the various beaches are reported at \$41 and \$51 for calls and selects respectively, and prices have since advanced. There is not much trouble now in connection with labour, although there is the insistent demand for higher wages. One estate offered a bonus of about 10.70 for a minimum number of days' work from 1st July to 31st December (equal to about four days per week), and only one worker in six qualified for the bonus. With a guarantee of work employers would only be too glad to advance wages in Tobago. East Indians help to some extent, and we would be thankful to have more of them. The jury sessions at Scarborough commenced on January 14th, when thirteen of the rioters were charged.

**WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.**

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Sailings to West Indies from London February 25th, per R.M.S.P. *Arzila* (Captain L. W. Bolland):—**

Miss J. S. B. Decket	Dr. A. Rind	Lieut. A. L. Schier
Dr. D. W. Bicket	Col. & Mrs. Geo. Lane	Comdr. Simpson
Mrs. E. H. Brown	Mrs. Laver	Mr. J. G. Smilie
Major and Mrs. J. A. Burdon	Comdr. H. Lavington	Mr. E. Sml b
Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Conyers	Mr. & Mrs. B. Malthus	Mr. C. Stanton
Miss M. L. Conyers	Major and Mrs. A. P. Manning	Mrs. H. I. Stephen
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Eleden	Mrs. M. J. Martiu	Master M. G. Stephen
Sergt. D. Field	Miss Martin	Mr. & Mrs. G. Moody Stuart
Sir Hugo M. Fitz-Herbert	Mr. D. L. Matthew	Stuart
Mr. L. Franklin	Mr. B. G. Matthias	Miss M. Moody Stuart
Miss E. L. Fraser	Miss F. A. Mycock	Miss M. J. Sturgeon
Miss J. W. de Gale	Mrs. M. D. S. Nicolson	Mr. N. Sutherland
Pta. Goodrich	Miss E. A. Nicolson	Mr. A. Thomson
Mr. J. R. C. Gordon	Capt and Mrs. L. M. Oumaney	Mr. H. Thorne
Mrs. E. Ground	Miss S. M. Orzard	Mr. W. S. Till
Mrs. L. M. Hamilton	Mr. F. W. Paley	Mr. J. A. Tinbe
Miss H. M. L. Harford	Mrs. M. A. Peraz	Mr. E. M. Whitbaird
Miss R. L. Jones	Pto. G. Ponle	Pte. A. H. Wilson
	Mr. A. J. Riley	Mr. C. F. Wood
		Miss W. B. Wood

**Elders & Fyffes, Ltd. Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, February 21st, per R.M.S. *Patuca* (Commander, S. H. Simmons):—**

Mr. J. L. Allan	Mr. A. Harland	Mr. & Mrs. J. Pfeifers
Mr. E. W. Athin	Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Hempton	Mr. T. B. Roberts
Mrs. N. W. Bacquie	Mrs. L. Grace Hutchinson	Mr. H. Slack
Mr. & Mrs. D. Murray	Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Inman	Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Stanford
Doblen	Capt. and Mrs. P. P. Kipping	Mr. A. E. Taylor
Capt. W. J. Collius	The Rev. Canon Langdon	Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Trappe
Capt. and Mrs. J. C. Dixey	Miss Langdon	Mr. H. Verdon
Mr. S. Elliott	Major & Mrs. G. Loch	Miss C. Verdon
Mrs. M. B. Ewen	Mr. and Mrs. J. Macdonald	Mr. and Mrs. Walsh
Mr. & Mrs. J. Gilchrist	Capt. & Mrs. W. Niven	Mr. J. Wildt
Mrs. M. Goss	Mr. J. Peet	Mrs. S. Wildt
Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Gresswell		Col. and Mrs. A. E. Winch
Mr. W. G. Griffith		
Mr. A. H. Grob		

**WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.**

**Direct West India Cable Company.**

The directors announce an interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of tax, on the ordinary shares for the past half-year, payable March 1st.



## PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—8842 Central.  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

March 2nd, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 6 per cent.—changed on November 6th from 5 per cent., at which figure it had stood from April 5th, 1917.

**SUGAR**. Control prices in the United Kingdom, which were modified on November 3rd, remain as follows:—

	Wholesale.		Retail.
	Per cwt.	Per lb.	Per lb.
Cubes, Lumps, &c. ... ..	72 0	4 6	4 6
W.I. Crystallised ( <i>see below</i> ) ... ..	66 0	4 6	4 6
W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups ( <i>see below</i> )	63 6	4 6	4 6
W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing ... ..	"free"	No maximum	No maximum

As recorded in last issue of the CIRCULAR, the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, working on the basis of prices for March Cubans on February 2nd—being 10·50 cents per lb.—has given the price for West India grocery sugars for allotment during March as follows:—

Crystallised	103·73s. per cwt.
Muscovado	98·81s. per cwt.

The decision of the Government to leave the maximum price of free sugar unchanged at 120s. until March 20th has had no effect in stimulating the demand, which remains very quiet. Quotations are more or less nominal, and manufacturers appear to be sufficiently stocked for the time being. White is quoted at 116s. to 118s., crystallised 100s. to 105s., syrups 83s. to 95s.

The lower Cuban quotations seem to have exercised a depressing influence on the market.

The West India sugar statistics in London on February 21st were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Tone.
Imports	6,241	3,946	2,132	
Deliveries	4,475	5,724	8,154	
Stock	9,902	4,414	4,965	"

**RUM**. The tone of the market is quieter, though the prices asked from Jamaica indicate a firmer attitude on the part of shippers. Early 1919 distilled Jamaicas are worth about 12s., and 1918 rums are held for 15s. 6d.

The stocks in London on February 21st were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Puns.
Jamaica	6,933	3,273	6,017	
Demerara	13,296	11,006	3,623	
Total of all kinds	27,801	19,185	15,575	"

**CACAO**. The market is short of supplies, and prices have followed a slowly rising tendency. Good Trinidads have fetched 140s., and even the commoner grades are selling at 130s. to 138s. These rates do not encourage consumption, which the permanent prosperity of the industry needs. Accra kinds are very high because very short at the moment, and have gone up to 124s. 6d.; but absence of supplies makes even that rate but nominal. Grenadas and St. Lucias have gone to 134s. and 134s. 6d.; Dominicas 134s., with lower qualities 10s. to 12s. less.

The stocks in London on February 21st were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Bags
Trinidad	20,481	19,847	13,261	
Grenada	12,418	9,985	11,113	
Total of all kinds	99,437	127,620	205,403	"

**ARROWROOT**. Since the temporary suspension of the grading prices, the demand has been a little better, and moderate sales have been made at a decline of ¼d.

to 1d. for good to common. Prices nominally ¼d. to 7½d.

**BALATA**. A fair business is passing, and the market shows an improvement for all kinds. West Indian sheet is quoted at 4s. 5½d. spot, forward 4s. 1d.

**COTTON**. The market has been quieter, and quotations are generally lower. Imports of West Indian in the nine weeks ending February 26th, 3,171 bales.

**COPRA** is steady, with small inquiry. Buyers f.m.s. West Indian March-May shipment, c.i.f. London, £73; c.i.f. Liverpool, £69 10s.

**HONEY**. There has been no demand at all since the auctions, upon which we reported in our last issue.

**LIME PRODUCTS**. Lime Oil: Handpressed is scarce and dearer, with small sales up to 16s. 6d. per lb.; Distilled is steady, but quiet. Value, 6s. 6d. to 7s. per lb. Lime-juice: Raw, firm; value 3s. to 3s. 6d. for fair to good West Indian.

**ORANGE OIL**. Sweet: None offering, but last price indicated was 33s. 6d. per lb. Bitter: No sales reported.

**SPICES**. Pimento: Rather more doing at 6d. per lb. on the spot. Nutmegs and Mace unchanged.

### VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

Miss M. M. Barrowes, B.A.	Mr. L. A. Gomez
Mr. W. A. Boyd	Sir G. Aubrey Goodman
Mr. G. F. Branch	Mr. J. Hamilton
Hon. E. C. Buch, M.I.C.E.	Mrs. E. P. Hutchingson
Mr. E. C. Bugle	Mr. N. Scott Johnson
Mr. A. Cameron	Sir Norman Lamont, Bart.
Sir W. K. Chandler, K.C.M.G.	Mr. Thos. Laycock
Dr. W. Clarke, M.B., C.M.	Mr. D. G. Leacock
Mr. J. Connell	Mr. N. D. Maidman
Mr. A. Cory Davies	Mr. H. Mason
Mr. H. Y. Delafons	Mrs. McEwen
Mr. W. C. de Gata	Mr. T. Elton Miller
Mr. J. R. Falconer	Mr. J. Morrison
Mr. G. Farmer	Mr. Alex. R. Morrison
Mrs. M. C. Garnett	Mr. W. C. Robertson
Mr. R. P. Gibbs	Mr. F. F. Roa
Mr. J. J. Gilson	Mrs. A. S. Sealy
Mr. R. Gill	Mr. Athelstan Watson

Major Duncan Fraser, c.o. Messrs. James Brodie and Co., 1, Gresham Buildings, Basinghall St., E.C. Mr. Thomas W. Innes, 38, Queen Anne's Mansions, St James's Park, S.W. Mr. C. C. Henriquez, 11, Queen Victoria St., E.C. Mr. E. B. Jago, Valentines School, Ilford, Essex Mr. W. Mearns, 39, Carlton Place, Aberdeen

### WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

**NURSE**—Services of trained nurse available in return for passage to Demerara. Good with children. Apply "G. G." c/o The West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

**PREMIUM** Apprenticed Engineer, aged 32, married, no children. 17 years' experience of all classes of engineering, used to control of men and of good education, requires position, any capacity, in Jamaica. Apply "M. H. K." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

**REQUIRED** for South America, two young mechanical engineers with experience in running repairs and erection of sugar machinery. Knowledge Spanish an advantage. Write, giving full particulars of experience and qualifications, with copies of testimonials, and stating whether married or single, to "Azucar," c/o J. W. Vickers & Co., Ltd., 5, Nicholas-lane, London, E.C. 4.

**DEMORALISED NAVAL OFFICER**, age 42, married, ordered to warm climate for health reasons, though not an invalid, seeks any position in W. Indies requiring integrity, tact, and common sense. Will Merchant, Shipping Co., or Planter give a real worker a start? Reply "C. L. P." c/o West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

# The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXV.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1920.

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### The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:  
6642 CENTRAL.



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3

Telegrams:  
CARIB, LONDON.

March 18th, 1920.

### McAdoo About Nothing.

WE trust that the PRIME MINISTER'S straightforward declaration, in reply to a question put by MR. GIDEON MURRAY, that there is not the slightest intention on the part of the Government to barter or sell any portion of the British West Indies will dispose finally of the startling suggestions which during the last week have found their way across the Atlantic. We welcome this statement, not because there was ever the slightest shadow of doubt as to what its purport would be, but because its utterance leaves no room for the breeding of mischievous rumors, which multiply apace when left undisturbed. It has been the fashion in certain quarters in the United States to cast covetous eyes on the British possessions in West Indian waters. Many reasons for their desirability as an acquisition have been put forward from time to time—trade, naval strategy, prohibitionist propaganda—none of which is of immediate concern to this country. But what may have started, harmlessly enough, as an attempt to expand the domain of "Pussyfoot," assumed a more menacing form when brought into prominence in connection with America's financial claims on Great Britain, and sponsored by MR. WILLIAM McADOO, a son-in-law of PRESIDENT WILSON, and a former Secretary of State. MR. McADOO, who, we believe, has aspirations to the Presidency, suggested in the American Press that the United States should buy from Great Britain all the islands off the Atlantic coast

—the Bermudas, Jamaica, &c.—and give her credit against her debt of £4,277,000,000 owing to the United States. He is further reported to have observed: "I imagine that Great Britain would not object to such a disposition of these islands, especially as they would go to a friendly Power; and I see nothing in such a proposal to offend the just pride of a great people; whereas such liquidation of a portion of the British debt might be a happy solution of part of Great Britain's immediate financial problem." There is a certain altruistic flavour about the suggestion which was apparently made in all seriousness. But it may well be that an international philanthropy was not the sole motive which dictated it. The *Morning Post* is reminded of some old lines of BRET HARTE:—

"Said William Henry Seward,  
As he cast his eye to le'ward,  
"This island of St. Thomas  
Is important to our commerce."

Well, America has had St. Thomas, as she has found Cuba important to her commerce, but the process is not capable of indefinite expansion. Those who favour the "happy solution of Great Britain's immediate financial problem" have had their answer, and have realised, no doubt, before now how much they had misread the British character. The inhabitants of this country and those of the overseas possessions are one flesh and blood; the thought of using the latter as an instrument of barter would be as much to the liking of Englishmen as the idea of selling their wives and daughters. Immediately MR. McADOO'S scheme of land purchase on the larger scale was announced it evoked an immediate and no uncertain response. Our old friends SIR SYDNEY OLIVIER and MR. GIDEON MURRAY lost no time in explaining eloquently in the London papers why this thing could not be, and MR. GIDEON MURRAY followed this up by his question in Parliament, to which we have already referred. This, we trust, will give the phantom its well-deserved quietus. However great the indebtedness with which Great Britain is faced as a result of the war, she is not as yet in a position of being unable to discharge her liabilities, and an Empire which covers a sixth of the world's land area may be regarded as good security. In some of the loose talk, however, which has centred round this topic, one all-important factor has, to some extent, been left out of account. Those most affected by any such transfer as was suggested are not the British or the Americans, but the people whose allegiance is to



come under another flag; yet much has been said and written about the advisability or the reverse of the proposal without any reference to *their feelings*. It is strange that the principle of self-determination should have been overlooked by a son-in-law of PRESIDENT WILSON. If it had occurred to those responsible in America for the present agitation to ascertain the mind of the British West Indians themselves in the matter, there would have been no necessity to proceed further. Indeed, after the storm of indignant protest in those parts which greeted LORD ROTHEMERE'S proposterous proposals to turn the Caribbean Sea, or part of it, into an American lake, it is surprising that there should have been any lingering doubt in any part of the world as to the strength of the bond which unites the Motherland and her oldest colonial possessions. It is hardly to be expected that a part of the Empire which has made such sacrifices, freely pouring out blood and treasure in the common cause, will be likely to desire to sever a connection which is so highly prized on both sides. It will not do to have a pawn ticket attached to what have been so often called the brightest jewels in the Imperial Crown.

#### Sugar in Mauritius.

THE annual report of 1918 of the Department of Agriculture of Mauritius is an extremely interesting document, as that colony, by taking advantage of natural conditions and the application of science to sugar growing and manufacture, has made its main industry a great success. The report states that the total area under cane cultivation in 1918 was 168,356 arpents, the arpent being practically an acre. Of this area 92,538 arpents were cultivated by big estates—that is to say, in conjunction with factories—the 75,848 arpents by planters growing cane only. The crop realised was 252,370 tons, as against 225,920 tons in 1917, and of this 95.5 per cent was in the form of vescon, or white sugar. It is interesting to see how this percentage is gradually increasing. In 1911 it was only 73.8 per cent., and this increase in high-quality sugar is a tribute to the improvement in manufacture which has taken place. A great deal of this increase is stated to be due to the system of double curing. The percentage of sucrose in the cane is stated to have been 13.63, and of fibre 12.6. Of this sucrose 81.1 per cent. is stated to have been extracted as merchantable sugar, the highest being 86.03 per cent., and the lowest 79.5. The number of factories in operation is stated to have been fifty-four. During the year Root disease had been very prominent among the canes, and considerable areas are stated to have been seriously attacked. In one district also *Phytophthora smithii* had given considerable anxiety, and its control had required much activity. As regards the Root disease, it is emphasised that its control is largely a question of agricultural methods employed. The year 1918, the report states, was remarkable for the conditions governing the disposal of the sugar crop. The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply were only able to take over 50,000 tons on account of shipping difficulties, and removed the embargo on the balance, so that it might be

shipped to India as soon as provision had been made for adequate payment in India. As regards the 50,000 tons, 17s. 6d. per cwt. was accepted as a mean price. In view of the difficulty of disposing of the balance of the crop, it was subsequently arranged that the Colonial Government should take over the balance of the crop, and raise money for the purpose of purchase and storage, any profit made, after deducting all expenses, to be divided among the planters. The scheme worked well after the Armistice. The Royal Commission later on took over the balance of the crop not disposed of at 18s. 8d. per cwt. f.o.b., and the average sale price of the entire crop averaged 17s. 10d. per cwt.

## TRINIDAD OIL.

### Facilities for Shipping to England.

On December 31st the West India Committee addressed to Lieut.-Colonel L. S. Amery, M.P., Acting Secretary of State for the Colonies, a letter calling attention to the high rates prevailing for chartering oil-tank steamers from Trinidad to this country. In six months these rates had risen from 50s. to 150s. per ton, and by the middle of January to the prohibitive figure of 240s. per ton, which, added to the cost of production and refining, and charges for landing and insurance, made the importing of Trinidad oil practically impossible. Some form of assistance was requested, such as the provision by the Government of tank steamers at a reasonable rate, or, in the alternative, the Government itself purchasing and transporting the oil on production to this country. The following reply has now been received:—

Downing-street.

March 9th, 1920.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 28th January, and to previous correspondence regarding the provision of shipping facilities for Trinidad oil, I am directed to inform you that it is understood that all the companies operating in the colony which are in a position to produce oil have now been able to make satisfactory arrangements for its shipment.

I am to inquire whether there are any particular firms which are still seriously affected by the high rates of charter for tank steamers.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. GRINDLE.

The Assistant Secretary,  
West India Committee.

THE Life of the late Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, whose memory is held in such grateful respect in the West Indies is shortly to be published in a form authorised by his family. The author will be Mr. J. L. Garvin, the well-known editor of the *Observer*. The West India Committee are glad to possess two letters from the late Right Honourable gentleman, one written on the occasion of his retirement from the position of Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1903, and the other in reply to the congratulations of the Committee on his attaining his seventieth birthday.

**THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**

**Progress of the Endowment Fund.**

The present state of the Fund can best be shown as follows:—

Amount collected	£11,442
Still to be collected	8,558
<b>Minimum total</b>	<b>£20,000</b>

Thus it will be seen that steady progress is being made, but that no relaxation of effort can be afforded if the amount still required is to be forthcoming. It is particularly hoped that every member who has not already done so will make a contribution to the Fund, and thus help the Committee to carry out its policy of development, and to secure more suitable premises for its work. The need for the latter is strikingly brought home every day, and nearly every mailbag contains letters expressing the conviction how much a more commodious rendezvous will add to the convenience of visitors from the other side.

**TENTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.**

Contributions already acknowledged	£10,763	12	7
The New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd. (2nd donation)	520	0	0
Messrs. Thos & Jas Harrison	50	0	0
Messrs Fredk Iayland & Co., Ltd.	50	0	0
Alfred Pawsey, Esq	26	5	0
" Well-wisher "	10	10	0
Messrs W. & C. H. Mitchell, Ltd.	5	0	0
F. W. Hudson, Esq.	3	3	0
T. Elton Miller, Esq.	3	3	0
Lewis Anderson, Esq.	1	1	0
H. Deverill, Esq.	1	1	0
G. C. Edghill, Esq.	1	1	0
H. M. Hanschell, Esq., D.S.C.	1	1	0
F. J. Morris, Esq.	1	1	0
Frank Oliphant, Esq.	1	1	0
W. M. Richards, Esq.	1	1	0
Julius Vigour, Esq.	1	1	0
J. Knox, Esq.	1	0	10
E. J. Shelford, Esq.	1	0	10
Ernest B Jago, Esq.		10	0

Contributions towards the West India Committee Endowment Fund may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or may be forwarded direct to the Hon Treasurers, the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London.

**Membership Reaches 1,980.**

During the current year no less than sixty-two members have been admitted to the West India Committee, which is seven more than during the corresponding period last year. The membership of the Committee is now only twenty short of 2,000—a figure which has never yet been reached, but should very shortly be capable of realisation. Satisfactory as this total is, it is still far lower than the figure at which it should stand, having regard to the work accomplished and before us. It is hoped, therefore, that all will help to this end by introducing eligible candidates for admission. At a meeting of the Executive on March 11th, presided over by Mr. Cyril

Gurney in the absence of Mr. Rutherford through illness, the following were admitted:—

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES.
Mr. G. Laffitte (St. Lucia)	Mr. Archibald J. Brooks Mr. C. Gurney.
Mr. V. C. Hanschell (Barbados)	Mr. V. Hanschell. Mr. G. Moody Stuart.
Mr. A. J. Hanschell (Barbados)	Mr. V. Hanschell. Mr. G. Moody Stuart.
Rev. W. Lipscomb Orpwood (London)	Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. C. Gurney.
Mr. F. W. Ashpitel (Jersey)	Mr. J. Herbert Scrutton. Mr. A. McConnell.
Dr. A. E. Wynter, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.R. Med.S., F.R.C.I.	Lieut. Col. H. A. Clifton. Mr. T. Greenwood.
Mr. V. D. Rowe (Jamaica)	Mr. L. de Mercado. Mr. W. Baggett Gray.
Mr. C. C. Calder (Jamaica)	Mr. L. de Mercado. Mr. W. Baggett Gray.
Mr. H. L. Lake (Nevis)	Mr. P. G. Greaves. Mr. E. Williams.
Mr. G. W. Jeffers (Nevis)	Mr. E. Williams. Mr. P. G. Greaves.
Mr. W. M. Morton (Nevis)	Mr. E. Williams. Mr. P. G. Greaves.
Sir Ernest Bickham Escott, K.C.M.G.	Mr. C. Gurney. Mr. E. A. de Pass.
Mr. A. Munro (London)	Mr. W. A. Boyd. Mr. J. A. Luckhoo.
Miss Madeline Brathwaite	Mr. L. H. Miller. Mr. F. J. Morris.
Mr. C. Packer (Barbados)	Mr. J. Connell. Mr. J. J. Law.
Mr. H. S. Hutson (Barbados)	Mr. J. Connell. Mr. J. J. Law.
Mr. Arthur Balderamos (British Honduras)	Hon. A. R. Usher. Mr. J. J. Franco.
Mr. B. W. Boyd (Jamaica)	Mr. L. de Mercado. Mr. A. W. Farquharson.
Dr. J. W. N. Hudson (Jamaica)	Mr. L. de Mercado. Mr. A. W. Farquharson.
Mr. Frank E. Lyons (Jamaica)	Mr. L. de Mercado. Mr. A. W. Farquharson.
Hon. Guy S. Ewen (Jamaica)	Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. Cyril Gurney.
Mr. W. C. Clauzel (St. Lucia)	Mr. S. Clauzel. Mr. C. Jonguo.
Mr. J. L. M. Perez (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Dr. J. A. Perez.
Mr. A. H. Mole (Bombay)	Mr. R. R. Mole. Mr. T. Greenwood.
Major T. G. Tulloch (London)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. L. de Mercado.
Mr. R. H. Cendrecourt (British Guiana)	Dr. W. Howley Wharton. Rev. E. R. O. Robertson.
Mr. A. L. Vorley (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. L. de Mercado.
Mr. C. F. Barrow (British Guiana)	Dr. W. Howley Wharton. Hon. A. P. Sherlock.

Last year Jamaica headed the list of the countries of residence of the new members elected, but Barbados came a very close second. Which colony will have the premier position in this respect in 1920? The new members so far elected this year reside in the following places:—

United Kingdom	23	Nevis	3	Anguilla	1
British Guiana	10	British Honduras	2	Antigua	1
Jamaica	10	St. Lucia	2		
Barbados	8	Trinidad	2		



## NOTES OF INTEREST.

"GOAT say him hab wool; sheep say him hab hair."

JAMAICA has contributed £6,400 to King George's Fund for Sailors.

SIXTY members of the West India Committee have now taken up life membership.

THE West India Committee welcomes to the ranks of its members Sir Ernest Bickham Sweet-Escott, whose devoted work as Governor of British Honduras from 1904 to 1906, and of the Leeward Islands from 1906-1912, will be remembered.

MISS C. A. LOSADA, M.D., of Trinidad, has the distinction of being the first lady doctor to cross the Atlantic in charge of a R.M.S.P. steamer. The doctor of the *Quillota* having been taken ill in Trinidad (we regret to hear he has since died), Miss Losada was appointed as ship's doctor for the voyage to London and back.

ALL the sugar to be made from the crops now being reaped in Guadeloupe, says a correspondent there, has been commandeered by the French Government at the relatively low figure of 99 francs per 100 kg.; but rum still obtains high prices, and the Usines are paying 73 francs per 1,000 kg. (about 1 ton) of cane.

MR. THOMAS GREENWOOD, the West India Committee representative with the British Guiana Colonisation Deputation, has now returned to this country from India. With the arrival of Dr. Nunan, K.C., all the members have now returned. An account of the progress of the deputation will be published in next CIRCULAR.

WITH reference to the notice given to the rare 1-cent British Guiana postage stamp, 1856, a correspondent calls attention to the fact that last week a slightly defective 4-cent British Guiana, 1856, black on magenta, was sold for £10 at a public sale. Another brown stamp to make its appearance is the shilling St. Lucia, which previously was printed in black on green paper.

IN an interview accorded to the *Montreal Gazette* Mr. T. B. Macaulay, President of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, propounds the interesting but disquieting theory that, by their artificial values given to the pound sterling and the American dollar, the Canadian Customs have wiped out the supposed preference to the British manufacturer, and replaced it by a preference in favour of the United States.

IN the leading article in last issue of the CIRCULAR, under the heading "The Price of Sugar," the first sentence should have read "The retail price of sugar, now that the further increase in cost is to take place, will be from 9½d. to 10½d. per lb.," instead of the words actually appearing, which, by a typographical error, gave the impression that the increase had already taken place.

CAPT. J. E. A. CRAWFORD, Highland Light Infantry, has been accepted for a cadetship at Sandhurst, and hopes to make his career as an officer in the Indian Army. Capt. Crawford, who is now twenty years old, is a son of the late Mr. O. W. Crawford and of Mrs. Crawford, of Barbados. He joined the Artists' Rifles in 1917, and was gazetted to a temporary commission in February, 1919.

THE Hon. Gideon Murray, M.P., who elicited from the Prime Minister a denial of the preposterous rumours as to a sale of West Indian islands to the U.S.A., was recently elected a member of the West India Committee. He was Administrator of St. Vincent from 1909 to 1915 and of St. Lucia till 1917, and is the well-known advocate of a "United West Indies," which is the title he has given to his publication in favour of West Indian Federation.

IT is expected that the report of the Indian Sugar Committee will be ready about October. That Committee has travelled over a good deal of India already, having visited the United Provinces, Behar, North-West Province, Punjab, Assam, and Bengal, and has also arranged to go to Burma and Java later on. Our correspondent says that barely 200,000 tons of sugar are manufactured or refined per annum in India, the rest of the cane being turned into *gur*. This, he thinks, is due to the very real difficulties of sugar production in India in spite of the favourable climate and the suitability of large areas of land.

TO the honours already printed in the CIRCULAR as having been gained by officers and men of the British West Indies Regiment must be added the following foreign decorations for war services, recently announced by the War Office—Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Hill, D.S.O., the popular C.O. of the 1st Battalion R.W.I. Regiment, gains the Order of the Nile, 3rd Class, and our congratulations are also due to Captain H. J. L. Cavanagh, of the 1st Battalion, and to Captain C. J. Farquharson, of the 2nd Battalion, on being awarded the same Order, 4th Class. Jamaicans also will be interested to know that to Brigadier-General Blackden, who was the life and soul of the recruiting movement in Jamaica, has fallen a well-deserved Commandership of the British Empire.

"I REMEMBER that in Barbados, which was our best regulated slave colony, and called 'Little England,' a law was passed for the protection of the white inhabitants. It enacted that if any white man should, by accident, heat of blood, or in self-defence, kill a slave, the said white man should go absolutely free and unpunished; but if any such white person should maliciously and intentionally kill and murder a slave, then he should be fined £11 16s. 3½d." The above is an extract from a speech made by Mr. Brougham on the "Black and White Law," reported in the *Sunday Times* of ninety years ago. It is curious in these days to think of an odd number of farthings entering into the computation of the value of a man's life, and the explanation would be interesting.

IT will interest our Trinidad and Barbados readers to know that Captain H. Duncombe Bindley, who was assistant private secretary to Sir George Le Hunte, C.C.M.G., in Trinidad from 1910 to 1912, has been appointed an assistant engineer on the Federated Malay States Railways. Captain Bindley is the son of Archdeacon Bindley, the Principal of Codrington from 1890 to 1908. He began his railway engineering work on the North Stafford Railways under the late Mr. G. B. Crosbie-Dawson, M.I.C.E., and Mr. F. A. L. Barnwell, M.I.C.E. He served four and a-half years in the Royal Engineers in France and England, was severely wounded, and subsequently joined the staff of the Adjutant-General at G.H.Q. in France. He was demobilised in January, 1919, and rejoined the North Staffordshire Railway engineer's staff. Captain Bindley is an associate-member of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

## HISTORICAL SIDELIGHTS.

### Early Years of the West India Committee.

By LILLIAN PENSON, B.A.

(Continued from page 66.)

The fund of which Mr. Samuel Long was Treasurer was derived from the so-called Charge on Trade—a levy of normally 1d. on every hogshead of sugar or cask of rum or 1,000 lb. of coffee imported, and of 1d. per ton on the shipping employed in the trade. Since the merchants acted in all their transactions as the factors of the planters, the ultimate burden of the import charge fell on the latter. This is an interesting proof of the unanimity that must have existed by this time between the merchants and the planters—a unanimity which soon found expression in the growth of a joint society.

The merchants met normally once a month. They had no regular meeting-place, a room being frequently obtained at the office of the Marine Society or at the London Tavern.

The political importance of the Planters' Club appears to have declined rapidly in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The agent for Jamaica (Stephen Fuller) was a merchant, and a very regular attendant at the merchants' meetings; so also was Richard Maitland, agent for Grenada, St. Vincent and Tobago. The agent for Barbados (George Walker) was a planter of that island, and he, therefore, did not belong to the Merchants' Society; but we learn from the Journals of the House of Assembly of Barbados in 1772 that there was very little for an agent to do just at this time, so his absence was not of very great importance. The influence of the planters was not, however, by any means dead. In times of special difficulty it was the custom for general meetings of planters and merchants to be held, usually at the London Tavern; they were summoned by public advertisement. There was a notable example of this in 1775, in consequence of the revolt of the North American colonies. These meetings caused great scandal to a certain writer in the *Gazetteer* and the *New Daily Advertiser*, who said that the amalgamation of planters and merchants was as unnatural as would be that of "Cornishmen and Scotch Highlanders." He had not studied the history of the West India Interest very carefully or he would have known that joint action had been usual right through the eighteenth century. These meetings are interesting also because of an apparently deliberate attempt made by "a meer creature of government" in New York to mislead the West India planters and merchants as to the true seriousness of affairs in North America.

Soon after this, before the year 1780, the Planters' Club seems to have changed its character, probably by the admission of merchants to its membership. At any rate, in 1783 a notice was inserted in the Press inviting West India Planters to attend at the Thatched House Tavern to form a club that should consist of planters only. And four years earlier we find that "The Society of West India Planters and Merchants" invited Admiral Keppel to a dinner.

Perhaps this title was substituted for that of the Planters' Club.

At about the same time the occasional general meetings of planters and merchants developed a permanent organisation—the Standing Committee of Planters and Merchants. Down to 1781 the general meetings always had as their Chairman Mr. Booston Long. In 1781 and 1782 we hear of a Mr. Nathaniel Bayly (apparently a planter) presiding at the meetings, and then Mr. Richard Pennant, and then Mr. Edward Long, and then again Mr. Pennant. From 1783 Mr. Pennant (created Baron Penrhyn in September of that year) remained as Chairman until after the close of the century.

So now again we have two organisations—one of merchants only, and the other a joint society of planters and merchants. Gradually, as might be expected, the joint society absorbed the functions of the other, until, in 1843, the merchants' meeting voted its own dissolution and the transfer of such of its members to the Standing Committee as were not already members of that body.

We have seen that the Chairman of the Standing Committee was Baron Penrhyn; the Treasurer, as for the merchants' meetings, was Mr. Samuel Long, and the Secretary was James Allen. The fund which provided for expenses was also the same, being derived from the charge on trade. The Standing Committee met frequently, as business required. It contained the principal merchants and planters, and included the colonial agents. As before, whenever there were matters of great importance to be considered a general meeting was called; apparently, Lord Penrhyn alone had the right to issue such a summons. From time to time, also, the Standing Committee appointed a Sub-committee to investigate and report upon some specific business, or to watch the progress of some Bill through Parliament.

This, then, is the true West India Committee of the eighteenth century. Its birth was delayed some time, as we may gather from a letter dated 1725, written by James Knight, the Jamaica agent, by misunderstanding between the planters and the merchants. These difficulties do not seem to have been wholly overcome by 1745, but probably disappear soon afterwards; at any rate, nothing more is heard of them after 1769. It is interesting that this "lack of harmony and good agreement," of which James Knight speaks, should have resulted in the continuance down to the middle of the nineteenth century of a separate Society of Merchants.

## HYDRO-ELECTRIC ENERGY.

In these days of coal scarcity and ever-increasing cost of power production, the importance of developing the available water power of the Empire becomes more than ever necessary, and so naturally the subject is awakening world-wide attention with a view to preventing the enormous waste of running water which has, unfortunately, been allowed to occur not alone in the United Kingdom, but in many of our colonies and overseas dominions.

In Jamaica, aptly named the "Island of Springs,"



a proposed hydraulic scheme is being examined and reported on for utilising the ample water power there available for electrifying the Government railways in that island; and in British Guiana, the Governor, Sir Wilfred Collet, is keenly interested in the possibilities of harnessing the several waterfalls in that colony for the development of electric energy to work the proposed railway to the interior, as well as supplying power for various manufactories on the coast lands, and in the city of Georgetown.

In this connection the following extract from the report of the Water Power Committee of the Conjoint Board of Scientific Societies appointed by the Government, referring to the potential value of hydro-electric power available from the Kaieteur and other falls in British Guiana, may be of interest in relation to the future development of the bauxite industry in that colony, and the suggested railway from Georgetown to the Brazilian frontier:—

"In regard to British Guiana, the principal available water powers lie on the Essequibo river with its tributaries the Potaro, Massaruni and Buyuni rivers. On the Potaro river the Kaieteur gorge has a total drop of over 1,900 ft.; the Kaieteur fall itself has a vertical drop of over 740 ft., the width of the head of the fall being about 400 ft. when the river is full. In times of exceptional drought, however, the width shrinks to 50 or 60 ft. No actual measurements have as yet been made by the Government of the colony, but it is evident that the potential water-power of British Guiana is extremely large. Thus the Kaieteur alone at the fall and gorge, assuming a mean depth of 10 ft. over the fall, offers possibilities of 2½ million-horse power. The power developable in periods of drought, assuming a width of 60 ft. and a mean depth of 5 ft., would be about 125,000-horse power.

"As very extensive deposits of bauxite have been proved in British Guiana, the country would appear to be exceptionally well situated for becoming an important producer of aluminium for the Empire."

At present the bauxite ore is being shipped out of the colony for reduction, or smelting, in the United States or elsewhere. The advantage to the colony in the future development of the industry would be manifestly greater if the material could be dealt with locally.

## THE PRINCE OF WALES.

The West India Committee is informed by His Royal Highness's Private Secretary that on the return journey from Australia, which will not be much before September, the Prince will most probably visit Jamaica and others of the West Indian islands. The dates and details have not, however, been finally settled, and engagements will be left in the hands of the Governors of the colonies stopped at. Meanwhile, the departure of H.M.S. *Renevan* from Portsmouth, which was to have taken place on Tuesday, March 9th, was postponed for a week owing to the outbreak of influenza on board. Barbados, which is the first port of call, and the only part of the West Indies to be touched by the Prince on his outward voyage to New Zealand, will not, therefore, be reached to-morrow, as the official programme intended. It is expected, however, that the period of twenty-four hours will still be all that is allotted to the Prince's stay at Barbados.

## COMPOUND FERTILISERS.

An interesting article in the *Fertiliser and Feeding-Staffs Journal* refers to the hostile attitude which has been taken in some quarters to compound fertilisers, by which is understood those which combine two or three of the principal elements of plant food, as, for example, phosphates and nitrogen, phosphates and potash, or a combination of all three, and points out the profitable results which, with rare exceptions, have followed experiments with complete combinations in different parts of the Empire.

Home-made mixtures have the merit of cheapness, but there are corresponding disadvantages. In the first place, if the materials were all equally fine and dry, and of about the same specific gravity, the variation in results would be very much lessened; but, unfortunately, this is not the case. Such a material as superphosphate, sometimes damp and sticky, does not easily lend itself to thorough mixing with sulphate of ammonia, nitrate of soda, kainit, muriate of potash, &c. The following table of approximate weight per cubic foot of different materials shows why they do not easily make a uniform mixture that will remain of constant composition:—

Material	Weight per cub ft
Superphosphate	60 lb.
Nitrate of soda	85 "
Sulphate of ammonia	55 "
Dried blood	30 "
Muriate of potash	60 "
Sulphate of potash	80 "
Kainit	85 "

Consequently, to ensure a fertiliser of constant composition, costly machinery is necessary for mixing, grinding, and incorporating the ingredients. Again, in home-made mixtures, a certain amount of chemical action is set up, which often prevents certain of the ingredients being mixed together until immediately before application, whereas in chemically compounded factory-made fertilisers all chemical action has taken place.

## OBITUARY.

MR. WILLIAM HENRY ALTY.

We regret to record the death of Mr. William Henry Alty, which took place on March 4th at his residence, Wynlass Beck, Windermere. Mr. Alty, who was seventy-one years of age, was for twenty years a member of the Acting Committee—now the Executive Committee—of the West India Committee. He was a Director of the firm of Messrs. Booker, Bros., McConnell & Co., Limited, with which he was associated for over fifty years.

At a meeting held on March 11th the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

"That the Executive of the West India Committee desire to place on record the deep regret with which they have learnt of the death of Mr. William Henry Alty, for many years one of their colleagues, and to convey to Mrs. Alty their expression of sincere and heartfelt sympathy in the loss which she has sustained."

The funeral of Lady Davson, whose death was recorded in the last issue of the CIRCULAR, took place on February 27th, the first part of the service being conducted at All Saints' Church, Ennismore-gardens, and the interment at Barnes Cemetery. There were a great number of floral tributes, including one—a wreath—sent by the West India Committee.

## GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

### V.—Sir Thomas Lynch.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

Sir Thomas Lynch was the son of Theophilus Lynch, fourth son of William Lynch, of Cranbrook, in Kent, and his wife Judith, daughter of John Aylmer, Bishop of London. He was thus a relative of Colonel Whitgift Aylmer, of Guanaboa, Jamaica. His mother was Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Rixton, of Rixton Hall, in the village of Great Sankey, in the parish of Prescott in Lancashire, and he quartered with his own arms (sable three lynxes rampant argent) the arms of Rixton (argent on a bend sable three covered cups or). They appear on the map accompanying Blome's *History of Jamaica*, published in 1672. The lynxes are also termed lioncels, or leopards.



SIR THOMAS LYNCH'S ARMS.

Lynch, who was baptised at Warrington in 1633, was admitted to Gray's Inn on December 12th, 1654. He apparently came out to Jamaica in 1655 as an officer in Venables's army, but his name does not occur in the lists of those taking part in the expedition. In 1660 he was in England. In the November of that year he (as Captain Thomas Lynch) and one Captain Epenetus Crosse petitioned the Privy Council for passage to Jamaica in one of the King's ships, they having done what they could for "the public concerns of Jamaica." Later in the year—January, 1660-1—Lynch was made Provost-Marshal of Jamaica for life.

In April, 1662, a suit, in which Captain Lynch had obtained a verdict against a Mr. Dallyson, came up before the Council on appeal, but Dallyson, "upon consideration," agreed to pay the fine. Doyley, in giving his decision, said he was "ignorant of the law."

In December, 1662, Lynch was made Colonel of the fifth of the five regiments of militia raised by Windsor—that stationed at Yallowes and Morant, "the richest settlement"—and he received considerable grants of land from Windsor.

In April, 1663, he was made a member of the Council. On May 2nd, 1664, he assumed control of the Government, and was also commander of the forces and judge of the courts, on the departure of the Deputy-Governor, Lyttelton, he having been previously chosen President of the Council. But he demitted office on the arrival of Colonel Edward Morgan, Modyford's deputy, on May 21st. In August, 1664, Modyford, in writing to his brother, called Lynch "a pretty, understanding gentleman, and very useful here; he has an estate, and would be very well beloved were he sheriff instead of marshall."

In 1664-5 Lynch wrote home complaining that the Governor, Modyford, had dismissed him from the Council and his office of Chief Justice, either, Lynch suggested, because he objected to plain speaking, or had been prejudiced against him by Doyley, or "that he would have none to shine in his hemisphere but himself and his son." He accordingly decided to return home instead of following out his intention to marry and "make this his England." Ten years of sufferings and hazards had endeared Jamaica to him, but he resolved never to return, though he had apparently still the sympathy and support of the Governor. He decided to go home by way of Havana and New England, and then to go to Spain to obtain permission to purchase cattle at Cuba and Hispaniola. He estimates that the cattle will only cost 4s. each, and will produce "better rents than any in England."

In October, 1665, he was at Bristol, and he apparently resided in England for the next five years.

At this time he was in possession of the Pele, the family mansion of the Sankeys in Great Sankey on the Mersey, in Cheshire. Traces of the moat are still to be seen.

In March, 1670, Sir James Modyford wrote from Jamaica to Lynch in England, saying, in reference to threatened Spanish attacks on the island, "I wish you had your plantation with you, and it were not too big to be sold; mine, if possible, I'll dispose of, and leave this warm sun for your God's blessing." And in August he learnt from Edward Stanton that his plantation was threatened by Rivera, the Spanish Admiral.

In September of that year Lynch was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Jamaica, and was knighted at Whitehall on the 3rd December, being described as "of Rixton Hall, in Great Sankoy." A few days later he married Vere, daughter of Sir Edward Herbert, of Weybridge, Surrey, who had been Attorney-General in the reign of Charles I.

In December £1,000 was voted for his "equipage and expenses in going to Jamaica," and he received his instructions. He was to publish the Treaty of Madrid for establishing peace in America within eight months, if he could agree with the Spanish Governors for a certain day, and to call in the privateers.

On January 4th, 1670-1, Modyford's commission



was revoked, because he had, "contrary to the King's express commands, made many depredations and hostilities against the subjects of his Majesty's good brother and catholic King," and Lynch was entrusted with a letter from the King to Modyford, instructing him "to be assisting" to Lynch, and giving him leave to return home when Lynch had no further use for him.

On January 13th Lynch was appointed by the Duke of York Commander-in-Chief of his Majesty's ships "in and about Jamaica," but he was not to interfere with the Admiral of any fleet sent from home.

Jamaica's commodities were no longer (the five years being expired) to be admitted duty free in England.

In March, 1671, Lynch was charged, with Sir Charles Wheeler, the Governor of the Leeward Islands, to come to amicable terms with French Generals and Governors in the West Indies. The King also instructed the Duke of York that Captain Hubbard, of the frigate which would transport Lynch thither, in case of opposition by Modyford's friends, was to assist Lynch "with his utmost force, by annoying by all ways the island, and particularly by destroying the privateers."

Lynch left for Jamaica, with his bride, on the 5th of January, 1670-1. On June 7th he wrote home to Arlington from Barbados, "Abundance here designing for Jamaica, and people from Antigua making inquiries." From Barbados he went with Wheeler to Dominica, Montserrat and Nevis (where he left Wheeler), and then on to Jamaica, where he arrived on the 25th of June.

In July Lynch wrote to Arlington that he had kept his bed four days out of the seven he had been here, and was now writing on it, the cause being gout. He sent cocoa and vanilla to Sir Charles Lyttelton, and some chocolate to Arlington.

In August he sent Modyford home a prisoner. At the same time he sent a detailed "Present State of the Government of Jamaica." In October he wrote home much concerned because he had received "never a syllable," and was uneasy about the log-wood cutters at Campeachy.

*(To be continued.)*

## JIPPI-JAPPA.

### Which is the Best Summer Hat?

The Panama hat cannot be said to be as popular an article of headgear in this country as it used to be some years ago; but it is agreed that for comfort and as an effectual shield against the sun's rays it far excels its rival, the straw hat, better known as the "bouter." Moreover, it is stated that, owing to the conditions of exchange with China and Japan, there is a notable shortage of straw braid imported from those countries, and therefore there is likely to be an increased demand for the Panama.

There is only one British colony where the Panama hat is made—namely, Jamaica. Its local name there is the "Jippi Jappa" hat—a name derived from the little town in Ecuador, South America, where these hats were first made, and whence the

industry was introduced into Jamaica. They are made from the leaf of a species of palm, and therefore closely resemble the genuine Panama hat.

The industry supplies many hundreds of people in Jamaica with a living, but, unfortunately, it has had to contend with severe and rather unfair competition from a species of hat made in Japan. These are manufactured out of paper—a fact of which the purchasers are probably not aware, since they are usually exhibited in the shops, along with the tropical product, as "Panama" hats. In view of the material of which they are composed, they can be, and are, produced very cheaply in enormous quantities. They have already destroyed the very considerable trade which the Jamaica product used to enjoy with Australia, and are rapidly superseding it in the United States and Canadian markets. The English market alone remains, and a considerable impetus was given to this market during the war, when the importation of foreign hats was for a time prohibited. With the reopening of the market, however, the Japanese manufacturers are again actively attacking the British trade. If they succeed in capturing it they not only take away employment from numbers in Jamaica, but also affect an industry in this country, since the Jippi-Jappa hat, unlike its Oriental rival, comes into this country in a rough state, and is bleached and finished by British labour at Luton.

As already mentioned, it is very doubtful whether purchasers of the Japanese article are aware of the material of which it is composed. It seems highly desirable that means should be adopted whereby the British public is enabled to know whether it is buying an Imperial product of suitable and durable material, or whether it is being offered a "cheap and nasty" substitute, the use of which, moreover, also interferes with the home industry of bleaching and finishing.

## THE CABLE SERVICE.

The West India Committee have been invited by the Imperial Communications Committee to send representatives to a meeting of their Sub-Committee on March 18th at the Colonial Office. This Sub-Committee is inquiring into the deficiencies of the present system of communication with the West Indies and British Guiana by cable and wireless, as was announced in a recent issue of the CIRCULAR. The following gentlemen have consented to attend the meeting to represent the West India Committee in addition to the Acting Secretary: Mr. F. A. de Pass, Mr. G. M. Frame, and Lieut.-Colonel Ivan B. Davson, O.B.E. It can only be a tale of chronic interruptions, incredible delays, and constant mutilation of messages that will be unfolded. No improvement at present can be recorded in the chaotic state of telegraphic communication beyond Jamaica. On March 1st, Antigua and St. Kitts were cut off, and nine days later the West India and Panama Telegraph Company reported communication with Barbados interrupted. Messages to the latter place have, therefore, either to be forwarded by the best available means, or can be routed via St. Lucia and wireless at the cost of 1s. per word beyond St. Lucia.

## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

### By "Agronomist."

Camphor plants in Ceylon, a little over two years old, yield on an average 10 lb. or 12 lb. of prunings. On distilling 100 cwt. of prunings there resulted a yield of 12 oz. of pure camphor. A larger percentage has been yielded in Florida from the prunings of trees less than twenty years old.

Peppers or chillies (capsicum) are grown on a commercial scale in California. In one county alone there are between 5,000 acres and 6,000 acres in cultivation under different varieties of capsicum. It is said that the amount realised by the sale of the pepper crop exceeds the returns from citrus fruits, peaches, apricots, eggs, &c. The total output of the county was estimated at about 2,000 tons of dried chillies, 500 tons of long red (dry), and 2,500 tons of peppers dried green.

Three or four acres of forest in the West Indies is often burned down to make a single provision ground to grow yams. There is no thought for the dozens of years it has taken to produce the timber, and no consideration for the damage done to the country by the waste. Those who use the "fire stick" cannot perhaps realise the consequent mischief, and do not know how scarce and valuable a raw material wood is becoming in the world.

Wood pulp is used in large quantities for making paper. During the war it was put to another use—to make cellulose acetate. Wood pulp by the action of certain chemicals is broken down until it looks like the natural silk carried in the body of the silkworm from which the cocoon is spun. In this condition the cellulose acetate is used for many purposes. It was utilised to an enormous extent for the production of non-inflammable waterproof material for aeroplanes and airships. It forms also the basis for cinema films. It has a great future before it in the direction of providing a substitute for natural silk. It will thus take an important share in filling the world's needs of textile fabrics.

The Curator of the Botanic Station in the Seychelles Islands states in a report on agriculture that the leaves of cassava are edible. The young shoots are pounded and squeezed to extract the juice. They are then cooked with salt fish, and greatly relished. Any juice left in the mass after pressing is evidently rendered harmless by the heat of cooking. The unripe fruit of the grandilla is boiled as a vegetable. The leaves of the horse-radish tree are used as a spinach, and the unripe pods like string beans. The flowers of the same tree are also cooked as a vegetable.

The manure heap in relation to agriculture has for some time been scientifically studied at Rothamsted Experimental Station. Articles in the *Agricultural News* from time to time call attention to the progress made, and point out the importance of these investigations to West Indian planters. One of these articles appears as an editorial in the number for January 24th. It shows how the rotting of vegetable fibrous material is the work of certain minute organisms. These organisms exist in the digestive tract of animals, and help in the breaking up of the fodder so that it can be digested. They, or similar organisms, are found in the manure heap, where they do their work, if supplied with moisture and air. This explains the practice advocated by some writers for many years of adding some manure to heaps of leaves or other vegetable refuse to hasten rotting.

Experiments have been carried out lately in California to find out the cause of the excessive dropping of young fruits of the navel orange, entailing considerable loss. The investigation indicates that the greater part of the dropping in the first weeks of growth is due to want of water in the young fruit. The district where the groves are situated is very dry, and the trees are artificially irrigated from wells. The want of water in the fruit is caused by high temperature combined with a low-water content of the atmosphere. Any plan which will increase the watery vapour in the air will be of benefit. The recommendation is to plant intercrops such as alfalfa, to mulch the ground, to protect by windbreaks, and to irrigate more frequently.

Copper occurs in the West Indies, but it was not profitable to work it at the price of the metal before the war. In July, 1914, copper was £62 per ton, now it is £120. It might therefore be advisable to inquire into the possibility of starting the industry under the most modern methods of working the ore. At present over 60 per cent. of the world's supply comes from America, the largest known deposits being in the Lako Superior region. The ores are quickly smelted to the crude metal. Using the dynamo as a machine for generating large quantities of electricity at a very low cost, this crude metal is subsequently refined by electrolysis with low consumption of electrical energy. The yield is a highly-refined copper eminently suited to the electrical industry commanding a higher price than copper refined by fusion. Gold and silver are yielded as by-products.

Plant pathologists meeting at Pusa in India in 1918 recommended the establishment in Great Britain of an Imperial Bureau of Mycology. Its chief duties would be (1) the identification of all injurious fungi for Departments of Agriculture; (2) the publication of a periodical for summarising current literature on plant diseases; (3) the formation of a reference library; (4) the answering of inquiries from plant pathologists. The report was published lately. The address of the Chairman, Dr. E. J. Butler, is reproduced in the *Agricultural News*. While strongly advocating the establishment of the Bureau, he was of the opinion that it should not directly engage in research in connection with diseases of plants in India and other overseas places. Every dominion or colony of importance had its own research institute and expert staff, and investigation of local diseases were best conducted on the spot. Arrangements are in progress for the early establishment of such a Bureau.

Scientists all over the world are looking out for raw materials for the production of power alcohol. The Director of Commerce and Industries to H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad has reported on the use for this purpose of the native mahua tree (*Bassia latifolia*). The sun-dried flowers contain 60 per cent. by weight of fermentable sugar. They can be collected and delivered to the factory in the district where they grow at 29s. per ton. The yield on proper fermentation and distillation is about 90 gallons of alcohol per ton. The flowers can be pressed, packed, exported, and stored for long periods without deterioration. The mahua flowers would appear to be a cheap raw material. The report of the British Inter-Departmental Committee on the production and utilisation of power alcohol states that so far as vegetable sources of raw material for the manufacture of power alcohol are concerned, we must rely mainly, if indeed, not entirely, on increased production—e.g., of molasses, mahua, maize—in tropical and sub-tropical countries. In the United Kingdom synthetic production in considerable quantities, especially from coal and coke-oven gases, is promising.



## COLONIAL REPORTS.

### The Bahamas Trade Increasing.

The practical collapse of the tourist season early in 1917, caused by the lighting restrictions and the unsettled diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany, occasioned the earlier closing of the hotel and consequently a very gloomy outlook for the season 1917-18.

Before taking any steps to advertise for the season 1918 the Board communicated with the Florida East Coast Hotel Company and endeavoured to get them to open the Royal Victoria Hotel, but the Company refused to do this unless the Government would guarantee them against loss by a subsidy, which was duly communicated to the Government.

It being found impossible to obtain a suitable steamship to place on the run from Miami to Nassau, and the Ward Line being unable to guarantee any service from New York, it was decided that to cater for tourists under these circumstances would be an unprofitable proposition, and the Board decided to incur no further expenditure for this purpose for the present.

During the summer quite a considerable correspondence was carried on with a number of ship and yacht brokers with a view to securing a vessel to run during the season between Nassau and either Jacksonville or Miami, but it was ineffectual on account of excessive prices asked, both for vessels and charters.

Mr. H. E. W. Grant, Colonial Secretary, in his report on the Blue Book for 1917-18 (just to hand), says that with the ending of hostilities the Board feel sure that the tourist traffic will again become one of the greatest assets of the colony.

The demand for both sisal and sponge has been increasing steadily since the outbreak of war. The value of the former in 1917-18 was £179,195, as against £17,219 in 1914-15, and of the latter £147,072, as against £93,395. The increases in values were due to the high prices ruling.

The imports and exports for the last six years have been as follows:—

Year.	Imports. £	Exports. £	Total. £
1912	357,808	276,115	633,923
1913	398,244	263,954	662,198
1914	367,524	221,491	591,015
1915	303,410	243,431	606,841
1916	475,067	332,679	807,746
1917	493,584	402,477	896,061

The total increase of trade was £88,315 as compared with 1916.

The revenue was £86,767, as compared with £90,472 in 1916-17. Of this, £72,011 was derived from Customs duties—a decrease of £4,654 on the previous year.

The expenditure was £105,254, as against £97,213 in 1916-17. The increase was mainly due to expenditure on the Bahamas Contingent for the British West Indies Regiment.

### Trinidad's Prosperity.

The report on the Trinidad and Tobago Blue Book for 1918 is just to hand, and, notwithstanding war restrictions, reduced transport facilities, and the large increase in the cost of all imported articles, the trade conditions of the colony during the year were fairly prosperous. The high prices ruling for the principal products of the colony—viz., cocoa, coconuts, copra, rice, maize and sugar and its by-products, molasses and rum—more than made good the shortage in the crops of cocoa and sugar, which were below the average crops of other years. This falling off in the crops was due to a large extent to the want of fertilisers, which under war conditions were unobtainable. The cultivation of coconuts and rice was still further extended, and considerable areas placed under lime.

The oil industry was heavily handicapped during the year by the difficulty experienced in obtaining the necessary mining machinery; it, however, made good progress, the quantity exported amounting to 43,600,000 gallons, most of which being a high grade fuel oil supplied to the Admiralty.

The enormous deposit of asphalt at the "Pitch Lake" was, owing to the want of shipping, very little worked, the exports amounting to 56,800 tons as compared with pre-war exports of 206,500 tons.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the colony for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue £	Expenditure.		
		Recurrent. £	Extraordinary £	Total £
1914-15	334,524	923,284	67,432	990,716
1915	1,037,803	979,989	75,412	1,055,401
1916	1,064,596	937,919	80,217	1,018,136
1917	1,098,183	997,513	100,182	1,097,695
1918	1,172,700	1,046,944	77,314	1,124,258

Although seriously hampered by the want of transport and war restrictions, the trade of the colony kept well up to standard, amounting in value to £10,258,579 (including transit goods), as against £10,093,715 for 1917, an increase of £159,824.

The imports amounted to £4,534,585, and the exports £4,575,204. 15.3 per cent. of the imports came from the United Kingdom and 36.9 per cent. from the United States. Of the exports 45.6 per cent. went to the United Kingdom and 31.2 per cent. to the United States. A considerable falling off has occurred during the war in the imports from the United Kingdom, which it is hoped will be made good as soon as the manufacturers in the Mother Country are in a position to resume supplies. The figures for the last years are as under:—

Year.	Imports. £	Exports. £	Total £
1914	4,225,409	4,201,341	8,426,750
1915	4,429,813	5,378,573	9,808,386
1916	4,470,728	5,057,174	9,527,902
1917	4,789,719	5,308,996	10,098,715
1918	5,108,960	5,149,579	10,258,539

Of the total imports, goods to the value of £4,318,756 were cleared for home consumption, and of the exports £3,559,201 represented the value of local products and manufactures.

Of the imports entered for home consumption, goods to the value of £895,818 were admitted free of duty. £1,356,900 were subject to *ad valorem* duty, yielding £105,313, and £2,066,038 to specific duties, yielding £233,884, or a nett Customs taxation on imports subject to duty of 9.9 per cent., and on the total imports of 7.8 per cent.

The following table gives the direction of the import trade for 1914 and 1918, and shows the effect which the war has had in deflecting the trade with the United Kingdom to other markets. The share of the United Kingdom has dropped from 34.6 per cent. in 1914 to 15.3 per cent. in 1918, while the share of the United States has increased from 29.5 per cent. in 1914 to 36.9 per cent. in 1918:—

	1914.		1918.	
	£	Per Cent.	£	Per Cent.
United Kingdom	998,837	34.6	658,056	15.3
Canada	325,374	11.3	804,005	18.6
Other British Possessions	201,171	6.9	488,820	11.2
United States	852,988	29.5	1,500,515	36.9
Venezuela	200,401	10.1	711,128	16.5
France	60,027	2.1	42,835	9
Germany	35,940	1.2	—	—
Other Countries	123,794	4.3	23,397	6
Total	2,888,532		4,318,756	

The quantity and value of the principal products exported during the year were:—

		£
Asphalt (including Manjak) ...	56,799 tons	88,825
Bitters ...	25,960 gals.	25,960
Cocoa ...	58,638,562 lb.	1,547,085
Coconuts ...	22,200,385 nuts	145,721
Copra ...	5,231,991 lb.	77,947
Molasses ...	897,168 gals.	169,363
Rum ...	145,038 gals.	29,590
Sugar ...	35,104 tons	811,068
Petroleum, Crude ...	40,856,298 gals.	400,610
Petrol Spirit ...	2,741,622 gals.	141,968

The staple agricultural products of the colony are cocoa, coconuts, sugar and its by-products—molasses and rum. The exports of cocoa in 1918 were 58,638,562 lb., valued at £1,547,085, and although 11,506,336 lb. less than the record crop of 1917, were in excess of previous exports since 1914. There was no particular trouble during the year from disease and pests, and there is reason to believe that the cultivation of this valuable product is being generally improved throughout the colony by better methods of tillage, drainage, &c. Experiments in hudding as a means of starting new cultivations, or of renovating old ones are being actively proceeded with.

The exports of sugar and its by-products were—sugar, 35,104 tons, valued at £811,068; molasses, 897,168 gallons, valued at £169,363; and rum, 145,038 gallons, valued at £29,590, giving a total value of £1,010,021. The sugar crop in 1918 was the lowest on record for many years, the exports amounting to 35,104 tons, as against 62,654 tons in 1917. The failure of the crop was attributed to the froghopper. Investigations into this pest are being carried out, and attention is being drawn to the necessity of taking more active steps for the prevention of root diseases, and of adopting more improved methods of cultivation, such as mechanical tillage, &c.

The coconut industry continues to make rapid progress, the exports in 1918 amounting to 22,200,385 nuts and 5,231,991 lb. of copra valued at £145,721 and £77,947 respectively. Owing to the high prices of imported fats and oils during the war large quantities of this valuable nut were used locally in the manufacture of coconut oil, which has taken the place of the imported article, particularly among the East Indian population. Considerable areas have been put into cultivation both in Tobago and Trinidad, and as soon as the young plantations come into bearing a large increase in the exports of this commodity can be confidently looked forward to.

The area of the forest reserve under the control of the Forest Department has been increased from 276 to 288 sq miles, and now forms about 15 per cent. of the area of the colony. There are 572 acres of plantations containing 180,000 trees, of which 89,000 are West Indian cedar, 13,000 East Indian teak, 49,000 cypre, 13,000 balsam, 15,000 poui, 600 mahogany, and about 3,400 other species. The teak was introduced from Burmah in 1913, and the trees planted in that year averaged 35 ft. in height and 14½ in. in girth.

Petroleum.—At the close of the year there were twelve companies engaged in the production of oil in the colony. The number of wells drilled during the year was 41, bringing the total number drilled at December 31st, 1918, to 410, of which 236 are on Crown lands. The royalty paid by operating companies on oil won from Crown lands during the year amounted to £18,314, as against £11,250 in 1917.

The quantity of oil extracted during 1918 was 72,872,398 imperial gallons, an increase of 16,791,484 gallons as compared with 1917. The quantity exported amounted to 43,597,920 gallons valued at £542,578, as against 37,138,608 gallons valued at £402,063 exported in 1917.

AT WESTMINSTER.

Not for Sale!

Mr. Gideon Murray asked the Prime Minister on March 8th whether his attention has been called to the proposal that, in return for the cancellation of part of our war debt with the United States of America, the British West Indian Colonies should be transferred to that country; whether he is aware that this suggestion has aroused great resentment and indignation in the British West Indies, as well as in other portions of the Empire, and whether, in these circumstances, he will make a definite and final statement that there is no intention whatsoever on the part of his Majesty's Government to barter away these loyal and ancient colonies?

The Prime Minister: There is not the slightest intention on the part of his Majesty's Government to barter or sell any portion of the British West Indies, whose inhabitants are loyally attached to the Crown and intensely proud of their membership of the British Empire.

On the same day Sir H. Brittain asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of recent statements made, he can assure the House that no portion of the British Empire is for sale?

Lieutenant-Colonel Amery: Yes, Sir; the British Empire is not for sale.

Trinidad.

Colonel Wadgwood asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies on March 2nd whether Mr. Hercules, Director of the African League, was recently refused permission to land on his native island by the Governor of Trinidad; whether this was on account of his efforts to promote trade unions among the native workers of the West Indies; and, if not, what were the grounds of this refusal to land?

Lieut.-Colonel Amery: I understand that Mr. Hercules is a native of British Guiana. The Governor of Trinidad refused to allow him to land in that colony because he considered that, in view of the excitement prevailing, Mr. Hercules' presence might endanger the public safety.

Sugar Imports.

In answer to Lieut.-Colonel Archer-Shee on March 2nd Mr. Bridgeman gave the following figures as the quantity of sugar imported for home consumption in the years specified:—

Description.	1913.	1914.	1919.
	Million Cwts.	Million Cwts.	Million Cwts.
Refined, foreign ...	17.9	15.6	7.9
Refined in bond ...	14.3	14.6	16.7
Unrefined ...	2.3	3.4	6.1
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>31.7</b>
Deduct drawbacks ...	0.9*	0.8*	†
<b>Net retained for home consumption ...</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>†</b>

\* These quantities cannot be apportioned between the respective descriptions of sugar shown above.  
† Information not yet available.

In reply to a further question from Lieut.-Colonel Archer-Shee on March 4th, Mr. McCurdy said that the present dearth of sugar was due to a decrease in the world's production of some 3,000,000 tons, coupled with an increased demand for consumption, particularly in the United States of America. For these reasons the amounts available for importation this year were con-

sub 73



siderably below the normal figure. The sugar imported into this country during the year 1919 had been for the most part passed immediately into consumption.

The Prime Minister on the same date stated, in the course of a reply to a question from Mr. Swan, that, as regards sugar, there was at present no congestion at the docks. Owing, however, to inability to find tonnage earlier to lift sugar purchased for loading in Cuba in January and February, large shipments were expected shortly.

#### Labour Conditions.

On March 1st Lieut.-Colonel Amery, in a written reply to Colonel Wedgwood, stated that labour conditions in the West Indies had been engaging the attention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies for some time past. Steps had been taken to obtain full reports from all the West Indian colonies, and he had since been in frequent communication with the Governors in the matter. He did not consider that the appointment of a special commission was necessary or desirable.

### WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.

**Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.**—Sailings to Jamaica per R.M.S. *Montagu*, from Avonmouth, February 17th (Commander, F. H. Swain):—

Mr. V. Abroyd	Miss F. C. Ellison	Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Lester
Lt.-Col. H. H. Howe	Capt. and Mrs. A. M. Furber	Miss J. Lester
Capt. and Mrs. W. C. Luker-Brown	Mr. V. Garza	Miss N. Lester
Miss Luker-Brown	Mrs. E. George	Mr. B. Miller
Mr. E. Brownlee	Miss E. D. C. George	Miss E. M. Mordant
Mr. E. G. Campbell	Colonel D. Hamilton	Mr. F. W. Morris
Miss B. K. Cooper	Mr. A. Hamilton	Mr. H. E. A. Pick
Mr. A. G. Craighhead	Miss I. Hinks	Mr. J. G. Sebire
Capt. & Mrs. A. W. E. Cranbo	Mr. J. B. Hastings	Mr. M. Themans
Admiral & Mrs. Deason	Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Heywood	Mr. and Mrs. J. E. V. Townend
Miss Deason	Mr. A. C. Hobson	Miss E. Trubridge
Miss S. S. Donkin	Mr. W. J. Hodgkinson	Mrs. C. Viliger
Mr. T. D. Drinnan	Mr. J. Kolbrooke	Mr. W. F. Waite
Miss M. C. N. Duggan	Mr. E. Holt	Mr. D. Y. Wheatley
Mr. & Mrs. A. Duncan	Mr. W. H. B. Le Grand	Miss D. B. Williams
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Farquharson	F.R.G.S.	Mr. J. H. Wilson
		Miss O. Withers

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, March 3rd, per R.M.S. *Cumulo* (Commander, J. H. Scudamore, D.S.C.):—

Mr. & Mrs. G. Atkin	Miss H. Garnett	Mr. & Mrs. T. Mackie
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. F. Bacon	Mr. P. V. Gatty	Miss M. A. Middlecott
Miss I. S. Beerra	Mr. and Mrs. J. Gonsalves	Mr. F. O. Mordant
Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Briercliffe	Mr. W. W. P. Gouda	Lt.-Col. C. B. Palmer
Miss E. D. Beiercliffe	Mr. A. B. Grant	Rev. & Mrs. A. W. Ross
Miss A. M. Russell	Mr. F. L. Hall	Miss E. F. Ross
Miss N. A. Hye	Mrs. G. S. Hamilton	Miss O. Scudamore
Mr. B. Campbell	Mr. G. Harrison	Mr. T. Sims
Lt.-Col. F. Selwyn	Mr. T. F. Harrison	Mr. W. H. F. Smith
Campbell	Mr. F. E. Hudson	Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Southby
Mr. E. B. Cason	Mr. S. Ilao	Miss A. S. C. Stephen
Lady Elizabeth Cochrane	Mr. & Mrs. G. Huggins	Mr. F. Tracey
Miss E. D. Collie	Mr. W. J. Irvine	Mr. & Mrs. J. Tushingham
Mr. J. Connacher	Lt.-Col. W. S. W. Parker-Jervis	Mr. R. M. Vardon
Miss F. Cripp	Miss E. M. Parker-Jervis	Mrs. and Lady H. Gordon Watney
Mr. & Mrs. A. A. Davis	Mrs. M. H. Kidd	Mr. M. Whitehead
Rev. & Mrs. N. Dobson	Master C. Kidd	Miss B. A. Wilson
Mr. R. A. Down	Lt.-Col. D. Lyell	Mr. J. W. A. Woodroffe
Mr. M. C. H. Colyer-Fergusson	Mr. G. O. McEntee	Miss V. Woodroffe

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, March 6th, per R.M.S. *Changuinola* (Commander, A. D. Riseley):—

Capt. and Mrs. M. H. C. Baird	Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Fletcher	Mr. W. H. Odium, senr.
Mr. R. H. Darwell	Mr. C. G. Gray	Mr. W. H. Odium, junr.
Mr. H. Bentley	Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Greene	Mr. P. L. O'Flanagan
Lt.-Col. and Mrs. J. R. Bliss	Mr. E. Harrison	Mr. F. W. Rawson
Mr. J. H. F. A. Chandler	Mr. N. S. Hind	Mr. J. J. Rogers
Mr. H. F. Chester	Mrs. E. Hunter	Mr. A. J. Smalley
Mr. R. S. Ernst	Miss E. Hunter	Mr. H. Smith
Mr. F. W. Essex	Mr. and Mrs. R. Johnstone, C.M.G.	Mr. F. L. Taylor
Mrs N. A. Fawcett	Miss D. C. Johnstone	Mr. & Mrs. E. Tyson
Miss J. Fawcett	Mr. H. Licwellyn	Miss Tyson
Capt. and Mrs. N. H. L. Pisk	Mr. L. A. McCormack	Miss T. Venn
		Mr. M. White
		Mr. B. O. Wilkin
		Mr. and Mrs. W. B. E. Williams

### WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

#### £30,000 for a Barbados Estate.

The month of January, says the *Agricultural Reporter*, closed with a rainfall which was most satisfactory, but up till the middle of February only very light showers had fallen, and the winds continued to blow at great speed. There was a very great scarcity of fodder on some estates. In some districts planters were in great straits with the feeding of their animals, and were resorting to the stripping of their poorest fields to get the animals a "bite" until they start reaping. Pasture lands had not been cared for, and the result was that the yield of grass was now much below the requirements of estates. Very rarely does one see a vigorous and abundant crop of grass on any pasture of long standing. A few gangs were recently seen employed in picking the carpet weed from pastures, and one estate had applied a mixture of sheep manure and nitrate of soda to some of its grass land. Dr F. J. E. Bridger, Health Officer of Bridgetown, and Captain J. R. Anderson have returned to the colony, and the latter has been appointed Assistant Inspector of Police. Redland Plantation, St. John, has been sold to Mr. E. T. Cox for the sum of £31,400. Mr. I. J. Tinling has retired from the management of Colleton, after a connection of over fifty years with the estate.

#### British Guiana's Plan for Housing Immigrants.

His Excellency the Governor, according to the *Daily Argosy*, has decided to allow a further export of 30,000 cwt. of colony-grown rice for February, pending the receipt of returns from the various producing districts. A distinguished visitor to the colony is Mr. Frank Keefon, K.C., Parliamentary Under-Secretary for External Affairs of the Canadian Government, who is on an unofficial visit to obtain information about the British West Indies and British Guiana. In connection with the effort being made to attract East Indians and the surplus population of Barbados to settle in the colony, the Government Public Health Department have drawn up plans for cottages to accommodate families, ranges for bachelors, and also plans of model settlements. These have been forwarded to the proper authorities for approval. It is proposed that when approved these plans will be available for inspection in the Government Public Health Department. The Hon. H. E. Brassington has been appointed local Vice-President of the British Empire Producers Organisation in succession to Mr. H. E. Murray, who resigned. In an *Official Gazette* is published the Bill abolishing the office of Solicitor-General and providing for the appointment of an assistant to the Attorney-General.

#### Dominicans for Cuba.

The *Dominica Guardian*, in an editorial on the subject, draws attention to the flow of emigration to Cuba, and goes so far as to say that almost every second man entering Roseau from the country districts is applying for a passport and a passage to Cuba. The local butchers continue to labour under very great difficulty in procuring animals for slaughtering purposes, although they are paying and are still willing to pay higher prices than ever for live stock. Sugar is also scarce—the retail price being 7d. per lb.; but the position is expected to improve. The Rev. Father Marciteau, F.M.I., has taken the place of the Rev. Father Francois, F.M.I., as parish priest at Grand Bay, the health of the latter priest making rest and change of climate necessary.

#### Honduras' Royal Visitor from Sweden.

The Hon. H. S. Schnarr has tendered his resignation to the Legislative Council owing to pressure of business.



and as a protection for his health, says the *Belize Independent*. Mr. T. J. Ferman has been appointed manager of the J. S. Otis Mahogany Company, Inc., for the colony. Mr. W. E. Allison, Superintendent and Traffic Manager of the Stann Creek Railway, has been permanently transferred to the service of German East Africa from the 4th ulto. Prince William of Sweden arrived at Belize on February 7th, and took up his quarters at Government House. The object of the Prince's visit is to engage in an archaeological research expedition in Central America. It is notified in the *Gazette* that the export of corn from the colony is prohibited. Persons carrying on business in the adjoining Republics and in need of the product have been requested to make arrangements to import from the United States or elsewhere.

#### Praedial Larceny in Jamaica.

According to the *Gleaner*, the Government have decided to take drastic steps to put a stop to the praedial larceny evil, which, for years, has been rampant throughout the island, and been a drawback to the agricultural development of the colony. A proposal will shortly be submitted to the Governor asking that the grant to the Agricultural Society be increased to £7,500 per annum. A recommendation was also made to the Governor recently that the offices of certain of the employees of the Society should be made pensionable. The matter has been considered in Privy Council, but his Excellency does not see his way to act on the proposal. Within the past few months there have been some discussions as to the manner in which yams, logwood, &c., have been sold. The complaint has been mostly in respect to the sale of yams. In certain parishes instead of yams being bought at 112 lb. to the cwt., purchasers have insisted in getting from 120 lb. to 180 lb. Representations have been made to the Food Controller, and a change has now been decided upon. Mr. Maxwell Hall, M.A., F.R.H.S., Government Meteorologist at Kempshot, who entered the Government service in 1884, died at Brandon Hill on February 20th, and the death of the Rev. Father Sullivan, a most popular preacher in the island, is announced from Massachusetts.

#### Tobago's Large Shipments of Coconuts.

There has been quite a flush of new leaves on cacao trees, which makes planters rather anxious about the spring crop, writes Mr. Robert S. Reid, on February 11th. The first or autumn pickings yielded better returns than was expected, but the trees are now comparatively bare, and very little cacao is expected during February and March. Coconuts are being freely exported both from Leeward and Windward, and s.s. *Belize* is finding it difficult to keep to her sailing dates on account of the increase in shipments. Some sugar is being rasped in the Leeward. Although coconuts have largely taken the place of canes, there is room for one or two central factories still in the Leeward district. Another ex-officer of the Air Service is casting his lot in Tobago as overseer at Roxburgh Estate. There is now quite a sprinkling of ex-service men in the island, and room for many more. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Miles, from Argentina, who have been spending some months at Merchiston Estate, return by this week's steamer to continue their holiday in the Old Country. Last week Bishop Anstey paid a hearty visit to the Anglican churches, and received a hearty welcome in all districts of the island. Almost every steamer brings visitors, and the need of a hotel is now most urgent. Miss Hamel Smith is about to open "High-moor" House, near Scarborough, for paying guests, which will be welcome news to Trinidadians in need of a holiday.

#### Trinidad and the Rate of Exchange.

During this week we have had a visit from the American Atlantic Fleet, comprising the super-Dreadnoughts *Utah* (flagship), and the *Florida* and *Delaware*, under Rear-

Admiral E. D. Eberle, says Mr. Edgar Tripp, writing on February 14th. As usual, the officers and men have been made very welcome, the latter especially in the Sailors' and Soldiers' Club, which owes its successful career to the founder, Mrs. Centeno, who has been ably assisted by a committee of well-known ladies. A number of the men have been landed every day, most of them appearing to be "full of money," which they have distributed freely amongst the many recipients whom they have found willing to relieve them of it. The men were very elated on landing to find that they were at once offered \$6.00 of our notes in exchange for every U.S. \$5.00 note. Some of the older sailors among them will probably remember the time when the reversed condition obtained, and American currency was at a serious discount. Most of the men behaved very well. At the same time, one could not help remarking on the large number who were evidently glad to be away from the "dryness" of their own country and ships, and who, perhaps, allowed their elation at finding themselves in a real free country to get the better of their discretion.

The writer proceeds to-morrow to Barbados with Messrs. W. Gordon Gordon, George Huggins and Adam Smith to attend the meeting of the Associated Chamber of Commerce. Considerable interest is being evinced in the conference. Exchange seems to be going mad here in sympathy with the money markets of New York and elsewhere. The rate has gone up within the last fortnight from 25 to 44 per cent. premium on drafts on New York, resulting in the strange condition that all our products exported to U.S. are inflated to a value in Port of Spain at least 20 per cent. higher than the selling prices of the same products in New York. Thus, cacao, which is selling to-day in Trinidad at 25 cents per pound, is being shipped to New York, where the quotation at date is 2½ cents per pound. But whilst our producers are gaining this large and somewhat fictitious profit, the unfortunate general consumer is paying an equally enhanced price for the necessaries of life imported from the States and Canada—such as flour, pork, fish, &c.—when exchange reacts in the other direction.

The exchange rates to Canada are about 10 per cent. less, which necessarily diverts a good deal of the trade to that country, which formerly was done through the States.

The weather of late has been very favourable for all cultivation. Light rains have been falling, which, whilst not sufficient to interfere with crop operations, have done material good generally.

At a meeting held on February 12th, it was decided, according to the *Port of Spain Gazette*, to entertain Mr. and Mrs. Aspinall, who were expected to arrive in the island about March 5th, at a public ball at the Prince's Building, and a dinner limited to members of the West India Committee. During the absence of Mr. Tripp in Barbados, the following provisional committee were invited to make the necessary arrangements: Messrs. W. G. Freeman, D. S. Webster, and H. Cipriani, with Mr. J. E. Scheult and Mr. A. Pereira honorary secretaries.

#### WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

NURSE.—Services of trained nurse available in return for passage to Demerara. Good with children. Apply "G. G.," c/o The West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, E.O. 3.

COPIES of WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR Nos. 556, 557 and 558 are much wanted. The Manager will gladly pay 6d. per copy for unsoiled copies delivered at 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3.

DEMobilised NAVAL OFFICER, age 42, married, ordered to warm climate for health reasons, though not an invalid, seeks any position in W. Indies requiring integrity, tact, and common sense. Will Merchant, Shipping Co., or Planter give a real worker a start? Reply "C. L. P.," c/o West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, E.O. 3.



## PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6642 Central.  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 8.

March 16th, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 6 per cent.—changed on November 6th from 5 per cent., at which figure it had stood from April 5th, 1917.

**SUGAR**. Control prices in the United Kingdom, which were modified on November 3rd, remain as follows:—

	Wholesale.		Retail.	
	Per cwt.		Per lb.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Coles, Lutops, &c. ... ..	72	0	8	3
W.I. Crystallised (see below) ... ..	66	0	8	3
W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups (see below) ... ..	63	6	7	1
W.I. Syrups, Ac., only for manufacturing ... ..	"free" No maximum			

The West India Committee have agreed to the following prices fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply for allotments of West India groceries and Muscovados for March and April:—

	March	April
Crystallised ... ..	103.73s. per cwt.	100.38s. per cwt.
Muscovado ... ..	98.81s. per cwt.	95.46s. per cwt.

The Royal Commission foreshadow a resumption of the 8-oz. ration. At present a quiet tone prevails, and only a small business has been transacted. If export were allowed, there would be a ready sale for all sugars at full prices.

Cuban production to February 7th is given as 780,943 tons as against 624,439 tons last year. Receipts at the ports show a decrease for this time of the year, but this has been caused through the lengthy railroad strike, which has now been settled. A cable from Havana, despatched on February 9th, said that the port strike was not completely over, but shipments of sugar had been made from that city. Concurrently with the news that the strike situation was clearing, a decline of prices for 96° test sugars was experienced in the New York market.

The West India sugar statistics in London on March 6th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Tons.
Imports ... ..	8,400	4,143	2,862	
Deliveries ... ..	4,144	6,188	9,601	
Stock ... ..	10,392	4,147	4,348	

**RUM**. The state of congestion at the docks in London is now so bad that the Port Authorities refuse to accept further arrivals for storage, and have asked shipowners to refrain altogether from carrying rum to London for some months. Demeraras have been dealt in at 6s. proof and about 8s. 5d. liquid.

The stocks in London on March 6th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Puns
Jamaica ... ..	6,754	3,155	5,684	
Demerara ... ..	12,518	11,460	3,285	
Total of all kinds ... ..	27,386	19,338	14,821	

**CACAO**. Large public auctions were held last week, and prices generally were two to three shillings dearer. Fine Grenadas went at 136s. to 137s., while common unfermented ruled as low as 122s. to 124s., and were not in great demand. Dominicas fetched from 134s. to 136s. 6d. for good fermented. St. Lucias brought from 134s. to 137s. 6d. for good fermented to fine marks. Jamaica sold well for good fermented at 134s., but lower grades are dragging and do not sell readily. Trinidad has been in very good demand for the finer qualities, and brought from 144s. to 146s. Lower grades are not so much wanted.

The stocks in London on March 6th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.
Trinidad ... ..	23,267	18,098	12,600
Grenada ... ..	17,123	13,018	9,523
Total of all kinds ... ..	115,877	148,345	199,816

**ARROWROOT**. Moderate sales have been made at an irregular decline of 1d. to 2d., but the demand does not seem to be more than the normal for current requirements. Prices nominally 4d. to 7½d.

**BALATA**. The market continues to advance, and shipments of good quality can be recommended. West Indian sheet is quoted at 4s. 6d. to 4s. 7d.; forward, 4s. 2½d. to 4s. 4d.

**COPRA**. Very dull, and prices are lower. West India Apl.-June c.i.f. London, £69 ton.

**COTTON** remains quiet. Imports of West Indian in the ten weeks ending March 4th, 3,171 bales.

**HONEY**. Very dull for all descriptions. At the last auctions practically everything was retained without bids. Normal value of Jamaica, 85s. to 105s.

**LIME PRODUCTS**. Lime Oil: Handpressed, small second-hand sales at up to 18s. per lb.; Distilled, quiet, but firm, with small sales at 7s. per lb. Lime-juice: Raw, steady, but quiet, with values unchanged.

**ORANGE OIL**. Sweet: Absence of fresh supplies is causing small second-hand parcels to realise extreme prices; Bitter, no business reported.

**SPICES**. There is no change to report in values. Sound Nuts, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d.; Mace, good pale 1s. 10d., fair red to palish 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. per lb.; Pimento, a fair business has been doing in spot parcels at 6d. per lb.

## VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Visitors from the West India are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

Mr. F. C. Archer	Sir. G. Aubrey Goodman
Mr. W. A. Boyd	Mr. F. Grant
Mr. G. F. Branch	Mr. J. Hamilton
Mr. James Brown	Mr. N. Scott Johnston
Hon. E. C. Buck, M.I.C.E.	Mr. Thos. Laycock
Mr. E. A. Bugle	Mr. D. G. Leacock
Mr. A. Cameron	Mr. J. A. Luchoo
Sir W. K. Chandler, K.C.M.G.	Mr. H. Mason
Dr. W. Clarke, M.B., C.M.	Mrs. McEwen
Mr. H. Y. Delafons	Mr. T. Elton Miller
Mr. W. C. de Gale	Mr. J. Morrison
Mr. J. B. Faconer	Mr. Alex. R. Munson
Mr. G. Farmer	Hon. J. J. Nassau
Mr. A. J. Findlay	Mr. W. C. Robertson
Mrs. M. C. Garnett	Mr. F. P. Roa
Mr. R. P. Gibbes	Mr. W. N. Sands
Mr. R. Gill	Mrs. A. B. Sealy
Mr. L. A. Gomez	Hon. H. B. Walcott, C.M.G.
Major Duncan Fraser, c.o. Messrs. James Brodie and Co., 1, Gresham Buildings, Basinghall St., E.C.	Sir Norman Lamont, Bart. Knockdown, Toward Argyllshire
Mr. J. J. Gibson, 13, Queen's Gate Terrace, S.W. 7.	Mr. W. E. Maudeville, c.o. The Colonial Bank, 29, Gracechurch St., E.C.
Mr. Thomas W. Jones, Jnr, Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James's Park, S.W.	Mr. W. Mearns, 39, Carlton Place, Aberdeen
Mr. C. C. Henriques, 11, Queen Victoria St., E.C.	Mr. Abbelston Watson, 25, Elgin Park, Redland, Bristol
Mr. H. B. Jago, Valentines School, Ilford, Essex	Mr. James Miller, 17, Gracechurch Street, E.C.

With a membership scattered all over the world, the Hon. Treasurers of the West India Committee would find it no easy task to collect subscriptions but for the co-operation of the members. This co-operation is relied on for the prompt payment of the current year's subscriptions, which became due on January 1st. They can be sent direct or paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada.

# The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXV.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1920.

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### The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:  
6642 CENTRAL.



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams:  
CARIB, LONDON.

April 1st, 1920.

### A Girdle Round About the Earth.

**W**E make no apology for returning once again to the question of the cable service between the United Kingdom and the West Indies. The problem is in truth pressing. We referred in our last issue to the fact that the West India Committee had been called into consultation by the Subcommittee of the Imperial Communications Committee, which is inquiring into the whole telegraphic situation as it affects the West Indies to-day. That Sub-Committee, which is presided over by MR. GRINDLE, of the Colonial Office, and includes CAPTAIN HOTHAM, representing the Admiralty, COLONEL CAMPBELL, the wireless expert, and MR. BROWN, representing the Post Office, has no light task. The pitiful inadequacy of the present system is indeed notorious. To-day the requirements of State, no less than commercial necessities, demand communication of the utmost rapidity. No less essential is the feeling of security that comes from the knowledge that messages will certainly be received within a given time, that secrecy is assured, and that messages shall arrive in a form reasonably similar to that in which they were dispatched. It cannot be said that, with one exception, any of these conditions are at present fulfilled. As to secrecy, we make no complaint, although one cannot but realise that, with the breakdowns that are unfortunately now of regular and prolonged occurrence, and the consequent makeshift of frequent retransmission, often through cable stations of different nationalities, the risk of leakage tends to be intensified. The

manner in which messages are delayed and mutilated is, however, only too patent. When one hears of the every-day experiences of members of the West India Committee, one is amazed that great losses are not more frequently incurred, and sometimes one wonders how trade can be carried on at all under these conditions. One London firm received recently a message from Demerara, which, it is true, took only seven days in transit, but of the thirty-two words it contained, eighteen were mutilated, and there were in all twenty-five mistakes. We do not believe this is typical, but know that it is not exceptional. The Berbioe house of another London firm was somewhat surprised to hear, by means of a cablegram that took eleven days, that the latter had had "insolvency proceedings stayed by a compromise," but it afterwards transpired that the code word conveying this disquieting information had been inadvertently substituted for one with the more innocuous significance of "Can supply goods from stock." Again, we hear of cablegrams dispatched from Trinidad and Barbados during January that are presumably still on their way, for they have not yet been received in London, although the letters confirming them have arrived long since. But why multiply instances? What is far more important is the provision of a remedy. We hear no complaints of the communication so and from Jamaica. We have always held the view that one of the existing companies should be invited to lay down a through cable between Bermuda and Barbados—similar to that between Bermuda and Jamaica—with an automatic relay on to Trinidad and British Guiana. The other islands could be linked up by means of wireless, in addition to the existing cables. The question of expenditure is doubtless a thorny one, but is not, we believe, incapable of solution. Since the suggestion was first made, the required outlay has probably increased threefold. It is not certain, however, that the subsidies at present being paid would not, over a term of years, be sufficient to cover the initial expenditure. Cheapness is only relative, and there are many who would not object to a higher rate per word, provided the service was efficient in return. The volume of traffic would regulate the increase and prevent, it is said, the price becoming prohibitive. On the other hand, it must be remembered that such an increase, however much in keeping with modern tendencies, is a retrogressive step, and is not to be recommended, unless the necessity can be unmistakably shown. The alternative of a complete installation of wireless is sometimes suggested. As a *pis-aller*, until the construction of the new cable, we should be disposed to welcome it. In this con-



zection it is interesting to recall the recent proposals of the Marconi Company, which offers at its own cost to construct, maintain and operate a complete network of Imperial wireless communications, including a route from England to the West Indies, with feeder stations embracing Jamaica, British Honduras, British Guiana, Trinidad, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, and the Windward and Leeward Islands; and the offer further promises to hand over the wireless stations to the Governments concerned, free of cost, at the expiration of thirty years from the inauguration of the service. A fascinating vista is opened up. Like Puck in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" the company—

"Will put a girdle round about the earth  
In forty minutes."

Alluring as the prospect sounds, it must be borne in mind that the cable still possesses certain advantages, both commercial and strategical, over wireless; it would not do in time of war to find ourselves equipped only with the latter. If, therefore, we are driven to a strict choice between one or the other as the sole system for the West Indies, we must still pin our faith to the suggested new cable route which the West India Committee have advocated for over fifteen years.

#### Future Sugar Work.

THE development of cane-sugar processes has been so great in recent years in the direction of mill work and sugar extraction generally, that it must be evident to all that the commercial limit is close at hand. This being the case, it is evident that the attention of sugar-producers will have to be directed to increasing the yield by means of a bigger tonnage of canes per acre of a higher sugar content than now obtains. The obvious courses to be pursued to obtain this end are—(1) to improve the cultivation, (2) to improve the system of manuring, and (3) to grow sweeter and better yielding canes. So much work has been done in these directions of late, that it is almost possible to predict the future. It must be remembered that Agricultural Departments in all parts of the cane growing world have been at work on these lines during the last twenty years. Does the result of their work justify a hope of improvement in the quantity of sugar obtainable from the acre of land? Certainly, so far they do not. No doubt, as regards manures and field operations their experiments have resulted in economy, but it cannot be said that improved yields have been obtained. The same may be said of the seedling cane production. But where the latter has been such a boom to the cane-producing world has been in the direction of replacing old varieties of canes with new where the former have become effete. It may be taken as certain that there would by this time have been no sugar cultivation in the West Indies and Java had it not been for the introduction of seedling canes collapsing; the Bourbon in the former colonies, and the Cheribon in Java suddenly collapsed. While, however, there does not seem any prospect at present of a cane being grown which would be superior to any known cane, this introduction and development of new varieties of canes means that

there is no chance of a collapse in the cane-sugar industry from failure of existing varieties. Thirty years ago the position was different. The power of the production of canes from seed was not known—in fact, it was thought to be impossible. Here, then, is the safeguard for the continuance of the cane-sugar industry. There is no fear of the sugar-beet going further in the direction of return per acre than now. It has reached its zenith of yield capacity. The position is different as regards the sugar-cane. There is room for progress in the agriculture of the cane-sugar industry and that is in the extension of the Official Agricultural Departments, to be "guide, philosopher and friend" to the sugar planters in their respective districts. In this way the conditions of cultivation and manuring suitable to the soil for the particular locality can be clearly defined; new varieties of canes provided to suit the conditions; disease and pests dealt with. It is by the field being conducted as scientifically as the factory that the cane-sugar industry will be made to continue to flourish, and we welcome the steps which have been taken by some British Guiana planters to establish an experiment station in that colony.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

### Progress of the Endowment Fund.

The present state of the Fund can best be shown as follows:—

Amount collected	£11,478
Still to be collected	8,522
Minimum total	£20,000

Continued progress can still be reported in the support given to the Fund, which is being raised to enable the Committee to obtain more convenient premises and to carry out its policy of development. It is believed that the help so generously given already on this side is not yet exhausted, and inklings have reached the Committee that members in the West Indies are preparing to subscribe generously, but no stone must be left unturned to ensure that the minimum total shall be reached in as short a time as possible. A further list of contributions is given below, bringing the total number of subscribers to the Fund to 269.

#### ELEVENTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Contributions already acknowledged,	£11,442	13	3
J. W. Macdonald, Esq.	10	0	0
J. B. Murray, Esq.	5	5	0
Messrs. W. N. Armour Co.	5	0	0
" Ex Officer "	3	3	0
F. W. Ashpittel, Esq.	2	2	0
Percival Stevens, Esq.	2	2	0
Sir Robert Roden, Kt.	2	0	0
A. W. Crichton, Esq.	1	1	0
Archibald Johnston, Esq.	1	1	0
Rev. W. Lipscomb Orpwood	1	1	0
H. Graham Yearwood, Esq.	1	1	0
G. P. Boon, Esq.	1	0	0
Henry S. Schnarr, Esq.	19	0	0

## NOTES OF INTEREST.

"OLD 'oman da ewcar fe gumma, gumma do swear fe old 'oman."

FROM British Columbia is reported a new source of sugar in the Douglas fir, the leaves of which are said to yield sugar in good quantities.

VICE-ADMIRAL SIR TREVELLYAN D. W. NAPIER, K.C.B., M.V.O., has been appointed Commander-in-Chief, North America and West Indies Station.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, it has been decided, is to have a branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, which, says the *Morning Post*, will be shortly open for general banking business.

CAPTAIN A. F. LASCELLES, a nephew of the President of the West India Committee—the Earl of Harewood—and a cousin of Lord Lascelles, was married in Delhi, on March 18th, to the Hon. Joan Thiesiger, the eldest daughter of Lord Chelmsford, the Viceroy of India, and Lady Chelmsford.

WITHOUT subscriptions the West India Committee could no more be kept going than an engine without fuel. Will, therefore, those members of the West India Committee in arrears kindly forward the amount due from them, or pay into any branch of the Colonial Bank or the Royal Bank of Canada?

THE Rev. W. Lipscomb Orpwood, the Vicar of St. Matthew's, Fulham, who has recently joined the West India Committee, is a descendant of Bishop Christopher Lipscomb, the first Bishop of Jamaica, and is promoting the Bishop Lipscomb Memorial Fund, which is being raised to renovate the Cathedral at Spanish Town.

MR. ARPINALL, in a letter written on board the s.s. *Guiana* off St. Thomas, on February 16th, stated that as then arranged he would arrive at Barbados on February 23rd, leave then for Trinidad on March 3rd, and Trinidad for Demerara on the 19th, where he hoped to proceed possibly via Paramaribo and Colon for Jamaica.

MR. W. N. SANDS, who until recently was the West India Committee's honorary correspondent in St. Vincent, is at present working at the John Innes Horticultural Institution at Merton, Surrey, which is devoted to research work in connection with plant breeding, but he expects about the end of May to leave for the East Indies.

It is anticipated that there will be no dearth of visitors from the West Indies to this country at this season, and it is requested, in order to ensure the accuracy of the Visitors' List, of the usefulness of which we are constantly being reminded, that members will not fail to notify the Secretary of the West India Committee of the time of their arrival and departure.

MR. R. RUTHERFORD, the Chairman of the West India Committee, is making a splendid recovery after his recent illness, and hopes to be back again in the City before very long. Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, C.B.E., is, we regret to learn, still seriously ill. Mrs. Buck, wife of the Hon. E. C. Buck, M.I.C.E., who is at present on this side, has had to undergo a severe operation, but is progressing as well as can be expected.

MR. GEORGE HERRIOT, who died in Argentina on March 18th, was the eldest son of Mr. W. Scott Herriot, director of the Mirreles Watson Company, of Glasgow, and grandson of the late Mr. F. M. Bury, who was a

District Magistrate in Demerara, where Mr. George Herriot was born in 1892. His service in the war started on that memorable August 4th, 1914, and included campaigning in Gallipoli, Egypt, and Palestine.

SIR WILLIAM ALLARDYCE's address on the opening of the Bahamas Legislature prior to his departure for his new appointment in Tasmania gives some interesting figures in connection with the colony's revenue. For 1920-21 the original estimate of receipts was given at £129,000, but for reasons believed to be not entirely unconnected with the advent of prohibition in America this figure has now been revised to over £200,000, as compared with an average annual revenue of £86,000 in the three preceding years.

MR. H. A. TROTTER, the Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee, was at the close of last year appointed a member of the Royal Commission on the Income Tax, which has now published a voluminous report. It is expected that many of the Commission's recommendations will be embodied in the forthcoming Budget to the satisfaction of people with small incomes. It will be remembered that Mr. Trotter is also one of the Commissioners of Lieutenancy of the City of London, and Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England.

THE entire Haitian debt is to be transferred to American banking interests, according to the *New York Herald*, including Haiti's foreign debt of approximately 120,000,000 francs, owed chiefly to France, which can then be liquidated while the franc is at a low rate of exchange. It is understood that the matter is undertaken with the approval of the creditors, and one result of the arrangement will be that it will now be possible to build new docks at both Port au Prince and St. Michael, and will permit of the reclamation of a large amount of interior land.

"As compared with the Riviera, the advantage is all on the side of the West Indies. There is no healthier climate in the world than that of Jamaica." Thus Dr. R. J. Campbell, who confesses to having stayed longer in the Tale of Springs than he originally intended; but the length of his visit has been partly due to no direct means of reaching the Bahamas presenting itself, and the famous preacher is amazed to find that "there is no way of getting from Jamaica to any other portion of the West Indies without passing through foreign territory and under a foreign flag."

## VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Visitors from the West India are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

Mr. Y. C. Archer	Mr. L. A. Gomez
Mr. W. A. Boyd	Sir. G. Aubrey Goodnan
Mr. James Brown	Mr. J. Hamilton
Hon. E. C. Buck, M.I.C.E.	Mr. Thos. Laycock
Mr. E. A. Bugle	Mr. H. Mason
Mr. A. Cameron	Mrs. McEwen
Sir W. K. Chantler, K.C.M.G.	Mr. T. Elton Miller
Mr. W. C. de lae	Mr. J. Morison
Mr. G. Farnor	Hon. J. J. Nuuss
Mr. A. J. Findlay	Mr. W. C. Robertson
Mrs. M. C. Garnett	Mr. W. N. Sands
Mr. B. P. Gibbs	Mrs. A. S. Sealy
Mr. R. Gill	Hon. H. B. Walcott, C.M.G.

Major Duncan Fraser, c.o. Messrs. James Brodie and Co., 1, Grosvenor Buildings, Basinghall Street, E.C.  
 Mr. J. J. Gibson, 11, Queen's Gate Terrace, S.W. 7.  
 Mr. C. O. Henriques, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.  
 Mr. Thomas W. Innes, 32, Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James's Park, S.W.  
 Mr. E. B. Jerni, Valentines School, Hford, Essex  
 Mr. Archibald Johnston, Ivy Bank, Brasade Avenue, Rutherglen, near Glasgow.  
 Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., Knockdow, Toward Argyllshire.  
 Mr. W. E. Mandeville, c.o. The Colonial Bank, 27, Gracechurch St., E.C.  
 Mr. W. Mearns, 39, Carlton Place, Aberdeen.  
 Mr. James Miller, 17, Gracechurch Street, E.C.  
 Mr. Athelton Watson, 25, Elgin Park, Redland, Bristol



## BRITISH GUIANA.

### The Indian Colonisation Scheme.

On March 19th a meeting of members of the Committee interested in British Guiana took place, presided over by Mr. A. J. McConnell, to listen to a most interesting account by Dr. J. J. Nunan, K.C., on what had been accomplished by the deputation which visited India in order to attempt to arrange for a resumption of Indian immigration into the "Magnificent Province."

Dr. Nunan gave a most graphic description of the progress of the members through India, of long journeyings, of interviews with Government officials and the leaders of political thought, of the ceaseless vigilance required to counteract hostile propaganda, and of the many minute causes from which sprang distrust and suspicion of the scheme.

Hostility broke out afresh when all but Dr. Nunan and Mr. Luckhoo had left, and some of the most difficult work of all was needed before this could be scotched. However, as the speaker was able to show, the deputation came through their ordeal most successfully, and they left India with the satisfactory knowledge that the name of British Guiana had a pleasant sound both to Government and governed alike in the Indian Empire.

A vote of thanks for his indefatigable efforts as leader of the deputation was proposed by Mr. T. Greenwood, and seconded by Colonel Ivan Davson, and carried unanimously.

### Mr. Greenwood Interviewed.

A representative of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR was fortunate to be able to secure a chat with Mr. Greenwood, who, it will be recalled, accompanied the deputation to India to represent the West India Committee. The first question asked him naturally was, "When can British Guiana expect to receive fresh immigrants?" to which Mr. Greenwood's reply was, "I cannot give any exact date, but the present position is that the Committee of the Legislative Council, by whose decision the Government of India stated that they would be guided, passed the following resolution at Delhi on February 10th, 1920:—

"This Committee, having heard Dr. Nunan and Mr. Luckhoo, are inclined to take a favourable view of the scheme of colonisation presented by them, in view of the guarantees and safeguards which they are prepared to provide by legislation or otherwise; but, before recommending a definite acceptance of it, would advise the appointment of a deputation of three competent persons to proceed to British Guiana and investigate the conditions on the spot and report to the Government of India."

"We have secured a modification of the embargo on emigration, but this alone will not secure colonists. We must wait until the representatives of the Indian Government, who are shortly to visit Demerara, have made their report. There is little doubt that this report will be a favourable one."

### Not a Picnic.

Asked what the chief difficulties in the way of

colonisation had been, Mr. Greenwood said, "No one who has not been to India can realise the complexity of the internal situation. The thinly-disguised hostility with which we were greeted on our arrival both by officials of the Indian Government and by leaders of political opinion, was due to many factors. In the first place, the feelings of Indian people had been harassed by highly-coloured and often untrue reports of the conditions under which their fellows were labouring in the colonies. We were also seriously hampered by the type of professional politicians that is always ready to discredit Great Britain and the British Empire. Moreover, British Guiana has had to suffer, in the minds of those to whom it was necessary to appeal, for the shortcomings of other colonies with regard to their treatment of Indian immigrants."

Asked whether the hostility to the scheme came from the people of India themselves or from the officials, Mr. Greenwood said that the true facts had to be very clearly explained to both classes. He continued: "In spite of Mr. Montagu's expressed views, Sir George Barnes made it clear to us that the Government of India would not consider any action along the lines of the Inter-Departmental Report which had been favourable to us, until they were satisfied that there would be no renewal of the annoying attacks from which the Government had suffered since 1909. With some of the Indian Government officials it must be confessed that anxiety to avoid attacks seemed to outweigh Imperial considerations. It was naturally extremely annoying to us to have continually to explain to people, who had had every opportunity of being better informed, that we were not trying to introduce the old indenture system in a new form."

### The Safeguards.

Mr. Greenwood concluded by saying that, largely owing to the energy of Dr. Nunan and the unstinted devotion of the East Indian section of the deputation, the opposition encountered at first from all sides had been broken down, and although much still depended on the ever-varying internal situation of India, yet the chances of an early resumption of immigration, and a steady flow of colonists thereafter, were at least distinctly favourable, provided that the conditions of the scheme were made perfectly unambiguous, and were afterwards rigidly observed, as there could not be the slightest doubt would be the case. All that now remained was for the Indian Government to associate itself formally, as they had undertaken to do on the receipt of the favourable report already mentioned, with the British Guiana Government's scheme, when this was presented. "One more question, Mr. Greenwood. You have mentioned safeguards being demanded. What form in your opinion, will these take?" "I think that these safeguards simply mean a formal binding on the part of the British Guiana Government, which the Indian Government will recognise, that the promises held out are not a mere scrap of paper, that the conditions of political equality enjoyed in the colony are as described, and that British Guiana is, as we know it to be, a fit home for free subjects from the Indian Empire."

## THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS.

### Successful Meeting at Barbados.

The delegates to the second triennial meeting of the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce, which took place in the House of Assembly at Bridgetown on February 23rd, were, according to the *Barbados Agricultural Reporter*, as follows:—

Sir Edward Davson (President).

The Barbados Chamber of Commerce: Messrs. V. Hanschell (Vice-President), E. I. Baeza, M.C.P., H. B. G. Austin, M.C.P., and H. J. Jones, M.C.P.

The Chamber of Commerce of Georgetown, British Guiana: Mr. Paul Cressall, Captain J. Mackintosh Reid, Mr. M. Gonsalves.

The Trinidad Chamber of Commerce: Mr. George F. Huggins, O.B.E., Mr. W. Gordon Gordon (Vice-President), Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G.

The Jamaica Imperial Association: Mr. P. C. Cork, Mr. W. Morrison.

The Agricultural and Commercial Society of Grenada: Mr. E. Donelan.

The British Honduras Chamber of Commerce: Mr. Stanley Wood.

The Dominica Chamber of Commerce: Mr. Donald O. Riviere, Mr. C. G. Harris.

The Agricultural and Commercial Society of Antigua: Hon. Donald McDonald.

The St. Lucia Agricultural and Commercial Society: Hon. W. V. Degazon, Hon. Gabriel Lafitte.

The Agricultural and Commercial Society of St. Kitts: Mr. J. R. Yearwood.

The St. Vincent Agricultural Society: Hon. J. Elliott Strott, Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P.

The Agricultural and Commercial Society of Montserrat: Hon. W. L. Wall, Mr. Charles Griffen.

### HONORARY MEMBERS.

The West India Committee: Mr. H. F. Previté, Mr. A. E. Aspinall, C.M.G.

The British Empire Producers Organisation: Mr. W. W. Gordon Gordon (Vice-President).

The Federation of British Industries: Mr. J. Moir Mackenzie.

The Royal Colonial Institute, the Canada-West Indian League, the Bermuda Chamber of Commerce.

Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture.

Mr. Frank H. Keefer, Canadian Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Mr. A. J. Pavitt, Imperial Trade Commissioner.

Mr. E. H. S. Flood, Canadian Trade Commissioner; Mr. Edgar Tripp (Honorary Secretary).

The Conference was opened by His Excellency Lieut. Colonel Sir Charles O'Brien, K.C.M.G., who promised to give his cordial support to any requests made of him, and accepted the President's invitation to become the first holder of the office of Patron of the Associated Chambers.

After an inspiring presidential address was delivered by Sir Edward Davson, from which extracts are given below, the following resolutions were passed:—

(1) "That this Association in Conference assembled respectfully requests the Secretary of State for the Colonies to convey to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales its deep gratification at the announcement that His Royal Highness intends to honour the West Indies with a visit in the course of his forthcoming tour, and to

assure him that he will receive the warmest of welcomes in these loyal and ancient colonies of the Crown."

(2) "That this Association expresses its appreciation of the work of the Department of Overseas Trade. Further, it welcomes the interest taken in the development of West Indian Trade by the West India Committee and other bodies."

(3) "That, in view of the expressed intention of his Majesty's Government to introduce a Bill for the prevention of dumping foreign commodities in the United Kingdom for sale at a price below that at which such commodities are sold in the country of production, this Association respectfully urges on his Majesty's Government the need of protecting commodities produced in the West Indies and imported into the United Kingdom against the above unfair competition."

(4) "This Association records its appreciation of the Fiscal Preference granted by the United Kingdom to certain West Indian products, expresses the hope that this may be extended, and invites West Indian Governments to consider the desirability of granting in return such preference as would be compatible with their financial resources."

### Points in the President's Speech.

The two new recruits to our Association—the Jamaica Imperial Association and the Chamber of Commerce of British Honduras—are of very great importance by their addition to our members.

The Prince of Wales will receive the warmest of welcomes in these loyal and ancient colonies of the Crown.

We can see by our trade returns that there is a distinct improvement and a distinct progress towards that end which we desire to see attained, and that is that the Mother Country should once again be the financial centre of the world.

Labour is the keynote of success, and much of the sorrow of this world has been due to the fact that men have desired to cheat or to abrogate this important and everlasting law.

To quote Mr. Bonar Law, no nation should be dependent on any other nation for those commodities which are essential to its existence.

While the West Indies were once the co-relations of Great Britain, Great Britain is now the co-relation of the West Indies.

There stretches before the West Indies a long vista of opportunities which we shall do well to develop to the utmost of our ability.

Scientific research is the necessary concomitant of any industry that hopes to exist in the future.

We must see to it that our methods of transport and communication are made as efficient as modern discovery and our own resources will permit.

## TROPICAL PRODUCTS EXHIBITION.

The 6th International Exhibition of Rubber, other Tropical Products and Allied Industries will be held at the Royal Agricultural Hall, London, June 3rd-17th, 1921. Widespread interest is being taken in the forthcoming event, arrangements are well under way, and already many Governments, important industrial associations and leading firms have signified their intention of participating. The Honorary President of the forthcoming exhibition is Sir Owen Philipps, G.C.M.G., M.P., and the Honorary Vice-President Professor Wyndham R. Dunstan, C.M.G., LL.D., F.R.S., Director of the Imperial Institute, London. The offices of the organisation are at 43 Essex-street, Strand, London, W.C.2.



## CACAO PRODUCTION IN NIGERIA.

The following notes by Mr. W. H. Johnson, Director of Agriculture at Hadan, in the Southern Provinces, dealing with the preparation of cacao beans, are printed in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts*:—

Although the practice of fermenting the beans is much more generally adopted than hitherto, a great deal of the crop is still marketed in an unfermented, or very slightly fermented, condition. The variety of cacao grown in Nigeria is the same as that grown in the Cameroons, yet Cameroons cacao almost invariably realises about 10s. more per cwt. than Nigerian cacao, simply because it is more carefully cultivated and cured.

Samples of the cacao, cured during a course of experiments carried over four years, were reported by the Imperial Institute to be worth 77s. to 79s. per cwt. at a time that Cameroons cacao was selling at 74s. to 76s. 6d. per cwt.

Although less prevalent than hitherto, the practice of washing the beans before drying them is still continued in some districts. This operation is not necessary; it may improve the external appearance of the beans, but it reduces their weight and makes the shell thinner and more susceptible to breakage and insect attack.

The fermentation process performs several useful functions—it removes the sweet pulpy tissue in which the beans are enveloped, and it alters their chemical composition. The bitter taste of the fresh beans is lessened, the peculiar chocolate aroma is developed, the tonic and stimulating principles are liberated, the colour is altered from violet to brown, while the kernel is loosened from its shell and more readily crumbles up when subjected to light pressure. A certain amount of weight is lost during fermentation, but fermented cacao dries more rapidly than unfermented cacao.

The period of fermentation necessary is not only dependent upon the variety of cacao under treatment, but upon climatic conditions as well. Varieties such as Orillo, which produce light-coloured and mild-flavoured beans, require far less fermentation than the bitter-flavoured, violet-coloured beans of the Amelonado variety. Fermentation changes take place more rapidly when the weather is hot and moist than when it is dry and cool.

It has been found that Nigerian cacao generally requires to be fermented for about six days. If, after fermentation, traces of the violet colour are found within the kernel, this is an indication that the period of fermentation has not been sufficiently prolonged.

## SUGAR PROCESSES.

### Old and New Compared.

Now that the extraction of sugar from the cane is approaching the limit, it is interesting to compare the work done in this direction with that obtained with the old muscovado process.

The mill work was necessarily poor—only single crushing could be effected for several reasons. Fuel was wanted of good quality, and carrying the crushing far was fatal to the subsequent manufacture, the open concentration necessitating a comparatively pure juice to give successful results. In this connection it may be remarked that a good deal of the excellence of old Barbados muscovado arises

from the windmill, in which the canes were crushed, and not ground as with a steam plant, the cream of the juice being thus secured.

With an ordinary plant from 60 per cent to 68 per cent. of juice would be extracted by the mills from normal canes—corresponding to about 75 per cent. of the sugar in the cane. The boiling of this juice would also yield about 75 per cent. of the sugar in the juice, polarising about 88 deg., and thus corresponding to a sucrose extraction of 66 per cent. of the sugar in the juice. The total sucrose extraction would thus be 49.3 per cent., or, say, 50 per cent. In addition there would be about seventy gallons of molasses as a by-product.

A modern central factory could extract from such canes 94 per cent. of sucrose in the form of juice and 90 per cent. of sugar, say 88 per cent. sucrose, of which 75 per cent. could be white. The extraction then of the sucrose in the cane would be 80 per cent., of which 60 per cent. would be white sugar. With the make of 96 deg. crystal somewhat higher results would be arrived at.

As regards extraction, therefore, a modern plant can extract 76 per cent. more sucrose from the cane than a muscovado factory, of which 75 per cent. would be white or another kind of high quality. The muscovado would only have the advantage in a large quantity of a much higher valued molasses—70 gallons as against the 40 to 50 gallons of the inferior central factory product.

In respect to fuel, the central factory has the advantage. In spite of the large quantity of good megass, at least 10 cwt. to the ton of sugar would be consumed in the muscovado working as against, at the most, 2 cwt. for the central factory. With the labour the result is enormously in favour of the central factory. This can be realised by trying to imagine a muscovado factory working up as much cane per hour—say 50 tons—as a fair size modern factory. The cane handling at the mills would be severe, but it is appalling to think of the number of hands required for working with the "copper wall" concentration, and the only extra cost of production of the central factory sugar lies in the interest and depreciation of a large capital account.

Dealing, however, with the manufacture only, and omitting the question of labour, the comparison would be as follows:—

<b>MUSCOVADO.</b>			
100 tons of sucrose in canes would give—			
Sugar possessing 88°	...	...	60 tons
Molasses with 60% "sweets"	...	...	70 galls
Fuel	...	...	25 tons
<b>CENTRAL FACTORY.</b>			
100 tons of sucrose in canes would give—			
White sugar	...	...	60 tons
2nd sugar	...	...	20 tons—80 tons
Molasses with 5% "sweets"	...	...	45 galls
Fuel	...	...	8 tons

As regards future extraction it cannot be expected that much more will be extracted of the sugar in the cane. It is possible—and the world's sugar production justifies this—that the 94 per cent. of modern work may be extended to 96 per cent., but

this is doubtful. There is a limit also to the extraction of sugar from that in the juice. There must be a "mother" liquor—viz., molasses—the presence of glucose rendering a saccharate of lime process impossible.

Sugar producers should therefore apply themselves to the questions of improved yields in the fields, and of the production of canes giving a higher sucrose content and lower fibre than those uncultivated.

### CANE WAX.

It is a well-known fact that the sugarcane contains amongst its constituents, other than sugar, a considerable quantity of a wax which, when purified, resembles Carnauba wax, and is consequently an extremely valuable product. It exists to a varying extent in the cane, and is most apparent in the rind. Indeed, some varieties of cane owe their external appearance of "bloom" to its presence. The wax finds its way into the juice during the milling, and is found in the filter-press cake, in which it exists to a considerable extent, 10 per cent. of the crude wax being no uncommon proportion. On the average, it may be stated that 100,000 tons of cane would yield in the press cake upwards of 250 tons of the crude wax.

The only working process of extraction extant is by drying the cake and digesting it with benzine, which is a solvent of the wax. The mixture is then filtered, after washing with benzine to extract the last of the wax; the benzine solution is distilled, the wax being left as a residue, and the benzine being condensed for further use. During this process the loss of benzine is stated to be only 1 per cent. It is difficult to believe, however, that in a tropical country, with a volatile body like benzine, the loss is not greater. The residue of the press cake, after extraction with benzine, is in a good condition for use as a manure.

The wax thus obtained is in a hard, brown condition, and resembles beeswax. It contains about 60 per cent. of pure wax, but is shipped in the impure form.

It unfortunately happens that, in many instances, the filter presses, instead of giving a cake containing not more than 50 per cent. of water, yield a mud rather than a cake. This condition, of course, would complicate the solution considerably.

From some cause, a natural explanation of which is the cost of working, the process has been far from being generally adopted. The fact remains, however, that the canes contain a valuable by-product which has not as yet been utilised. Any experiments in connection with the subject should, of course, be carried out on the estates. It unfortunately happens, however, that estates chemists have their time fully occupied with other matters during the crop season, the only time when the work of investigation can be carried out. It would, however, be possible, if cake be dried and sent to some expert at home for purposes of experiment, that a more feasible process of extraction might be discovered.

### MOLASSES AND INDUSTRIAL ALCOHOL.

The question is constantly arising, and inquiries being made of the West India Committee, as to the possibilities of the use of cane molasses for the production of alcohol for industrial purposes. The following details in regard to its manufacture may therefore be of interest. The ordinary molasses resulting from a cane-sugar factory contains from 50 per cent. to 55 per cent. of "sweets"—cane sugar proper—and glucose. With good work about 18 lb. of this roughly, 2½ gallons of molasses—are taken to obtain 1 gallon of alcohol of 60 deg. to 66 deg. overproof.

As regards the cost of its manufacture, a great deal depends on whether it is made in conjunction with a sugar factory or not. If the latter is the case, the coal consumption may be put as from 6 to 7 cwt. for 100 gallons of the spirit. The chemicals required would be 15 lb. of sulphate of ammonia and 1½ gallons of sulphuric acid for the 100 gallons, and a certain amount of lime for occasional washing down of the distillery. For 20,000 gallons a week output the cost of labour would be about 3s. per 100 gallons in cases where the value of the labour of an ordinary mechanic is 5s. per day. The cost of package would depend entirely upon whether wood is used or steel. In the latter case, packages would be returned to the distillery for re-use. In the case of an independent distillery, in addition to the above, there would, of course, be the cost of management, mechanical and engineering staff, and of hands attending the boilers.

It may, however, be pointed out again that the present fiscal regulations practically preclude the introduction of industrial alcohol from British Guiana into the United Kingdom, while the cost of shipping molasses, even if these were admitted free of duty, is equally out of the question unless a port of shipment for tank steamers is conveniently situated near the estates supplying molasses. If, however, those fiscal disabilities were removed, the best way of dealing with the matter would be to establish a central distillery at some shipping port. It may, however, be pointed out that some years ago a central distillery for the manufacture of rum from a group of estates in British Guiana proved a financial failure. It is true that this was on the ground of the bad quality of the rum made, but what was made would be at least as valuable as industrial alcohol, and the inference is not in favour of such a scheme being a success. Probably the solution to the problem of how best to utilise waste molasses will be found in the manufacture of industrial alcohol for motor purposes on the estate itself, to be used for driving ploughs and for agricultural implements in connection with mechanical tillage.

In this case it would have to be very strongly "denatured" to render it imputable to the tropical labourer.

The St. Vincent Arrowroot Growers' and Exporters' Association has as its Committee of Management Mr. H. P. Hazel (Chairman), Mr. G. R. Corea, Mr. H. Hayward, and Mr. Lewis Punnett, the last-named taking the place of Mr. C. J. Simmons in 1919. In its report issued for that year it is stated that, owing to the continued unstable condition of trade generally, the Committee had deemed it inadvisable to incur expenditure on efforts to extend the markets for arrowroot. Exports to Canada did not reach expectations during the year, but hopes were entertained of improvement in the Dominion market in the near future.



## GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

### V.—Sir Thomas Lynch.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

(Continued from page 80.)

Sir Thomas complained of the manner Modyford had granted land—“100,000 acres without a farthing of rent to the King or a foot planted.” On the 26th of that month his son and heir Charles (possibly named after Sir Charles Lyttelton) was baptised.

In order to prevent confusion from the ignorance and multiplicity of surveyors, he appointed nine surveyors who promised to make “a more exact description of the island than ever was yet.” Port Royal, he said, was rendered unhealthy by want of streets and public commodities, “nor are there hardly any landing-places left, and there is neither house, land, nor conveniency for the King and his ministers.” He bought a house dear, and had to give 15s. per acre for poor land, 7 miles off, for a provision plantation.

From the 25th of June to the 12th of August Lynch and his family lived under Modyford's roof, and “received all the assistance he could give.”

The month of September, 1671, saw the beginnings of a post-office. The Marshal was ordered to go on board every incoming ship and receive all letters, and to set up a list at Spanish Town and Port Royal, receiving 3d. per letter. Posting between Passage Fort and the capital was put under regulation, the charge being 2s. one way, with 4s. for a side-saddle or a “double horse” (pillion).

He took great care to see that the bounds of parishes and properties were duly recorded. In November, under fear of Spanish invasion, martial law was declared; but he rendered himself unpopular by deciding on defensive measures only, he being told that “it will check these people mightily to know they must fight like bruted beasts within the length of their claw.” He suggested that he might have power to “offend” the enemy.

In December, in consequence of loss of life from the privateers and other causes, the King ordered that ships were to be allowed to be sent back from Jamaica only three times a year—24th of March, June and September. Lynch's comment was that if not allowed to sail in December none would come.

In the same month Lynch wrote at length to Arlington. He said that the Spaniards could only ruin Port Royal, it being “absolutely impossible” for them to retake the island. He had applications against the Jews, but considered them and the Hollanders most profitable subjects, especially as traders. “War carries away all freemen, labourers and planters of provisions, which makes work and victuals dear and scarce. Privateering enriches the worst sort of people.” He expressed the hope that there might be peace in the West Indies even if war broke out in Europe, “as it seems to be feared”—a reversal of the Cromwellian policy. He had made Beeston Captain of the *Assistance* vice Wilgress, whom he had turned out for drunkenness. He would send Morgan home in six weeks “and the Spaniards satisfied.” He feared the other privateers would be distrustful. Of Morgan he says: “To

speaking the truth of him, he's an honest, brave fellow, and had both Sir Thomas Modyford's and the Council's commission and instructions which they thought he obeyed and followed so well that they gave him public thanks, which is recorded in the minute books. However, it must be confessed that the privateers did divers barbarous acts which they lay to his Vice-Admiral's charge.” “Esquire Pierce, from Barbados, and Captain Rendar, from Surinam, came to see the island, and are going away mightily satisfied.” What falls heaviest on them is the blasting of the cocoa; “fear most of the old trees will die, as in San Domingo and Cuba.” He hoped to send to the King some vanilla off his own land. At this time he begged that the *Assistance* might not be sent away till another frigate was sent, “or they will be exposed to the piracies of little privateers, and be insulted by their neighbours.”

In January, 1671-2, he reported that the Commissioners had returned from settling the government of the north side. “All the Surinamers are well settled, and there is but one dead.” “Every week almost comes a ship from London this way.”

Sir Charles Lyttelton seemed to have acted on behalf of Lynch while he was abroad. In January, 1671-2, he wrote to Lord Hatton on the closing of the Exchequer, “I have an order for £644 of Sir Thomas Lynches, well is it ye same misfortune.”

Lynch frequently asked for instruction about the cutting of logwood at Campeachy, which he thought he could arrange for without irritating the Spaniards. Sir William Godolphin advised that the cutting of the wood alone, and in places remote from Spanish towns, might be connived at, though not authorised, whereas the English settled there for months at a time. In July, 1672, the Council for Plantations advised the King that encouragement should be given to Jews, Dutch, and other nations to settle there (allowed); logwood cutting to be permitted on land not occupied by Spaniards; that a fourth-rate frigate be yearly sent out under the command of the Governor of Jamaica for the time being.

In March, 1672, Lynch sent to the King and Lord Arlington cocoa, vanilla and tobacco, and Lady Lynch sent to Lady Arlington “400 lb. of the best white sugar from Barbados, and a tortoiseshell box from here with combs and some vanillas.” She (Lady Lynch) was acting as “nurse, housekeeper and paintress,” which makes her “as busy as if she had all the affairs of the new world on her.”

At the same time Lynch wrote to Lyttelton that it had cost him £1,700 to come out, and he had already contracted debts to the extent of £2,500 to settle himself—which he would not be free of for three years. He said that what Modyford represented—that he had promised him “security of life and fortune”—was “a damned untruth.” He evidently looked to Lyttelton to put him right with those in authority.

At this time, too, the Commissioners for the north side laid out two towns—probably Montego Bay and Palmouth. It was a fortnight or three weeks going—the ways were so difficult.

In April Lynch sent Morgan home a prisoner in the *Welcome* (Captain, John Keene).

(To be continued.)

## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

### By "Agronomist."

An article in *Rev. Eauz et Forêts* refers to the value of bats in getting rid of insect pests. They are of special value, inasmuch as they take insects in the adult stage, and so do not destroy the parasites. The article states that systematic breeding of bats is proposed for use in the war-damaged forests of France.

Malaria is a scourge in southern Italy. It is computed that at least 5,000,000 acres in that part of Italy are not cultivated on account of malaria. Upwards of 2,000,000 cases occur annually, with 15,000 deaths. The mortality is not extreme, but the consequences in enfeeblement and entailed disease are beyond computation.

A particular kind of paper, manufactured in Hawaii and used there as a mulch on sugar estates, has been previously noted in the CIRCULAR. It is stated now that on one estate where it has been tried the cost of cultivation has been reduced by one-third. The yield of sugar was increased by half a ton per acre.

The Government of India has assigned an area of 400 sq. miles in Burma to be devoted to the growth of cinchona trees. There are about 1,200 acres planted with cinchona. Part is in bearing, but it will be ten to fifteen years before the whole plantation comes into bearing. The hope is entertained that India will eventually be able to supply not only her own people with quinine, but to spare sufficient for the wants of the whole Empire.

The production of tobacco in Australia is making great headway, and has a promising future. In Victoria the Department of Agriculture is assisting planters by providing plans for curing-barns, and by advising in regard to proper cultivation, harvesting, curing, and grading methods. Tobacco manufacturing concerns are contracting to purchase leaf at prices ranging from 6d. to 2s. 6d. a pound. In New South Wales the crop for 1919 is about 1,500 tons. The yield has averaged 15 cwt. to 16 cwt. per acre, and the price averages about 1s. 3d. a pound.

The *West Indian Bulletin* (xvi., p. 275) contains a very valuable paper on diseases of sugar-cane. It is drawn up by J. R. Johnston, of the Central Experiment Station, Cuba, with notes by S. F. Ashby, of Jamaica, C. K. Bancroft, of British Guiana, W. Nowell, of the Imperial Department of the West Indies, and J. A. Stevenson, of Porto Rico. It gives descriptions of common cane diseases and their causative fungi (with plates of some of these). It is an excellent handbook for sugar planters who wish to know something of the nature of such diseases and of the methods for their control. Pathologists will also find it useful for reference.

Planters are gradually coming to see that it pays to put up mills where their oil-producing plants grow. It saves much of the heavy cost of freight. For instance, a palm oil company in Sierra Leone has a concession of land carrying 2,000,000 palms with an estimated yield of 400,000 tons of fruit per annum. A mill is to be erected to deal with 12,000 tons of fruit, producing 1,800 tons of palm oil and 1,800 tons of kernels per annum. The cost of production is estimated to be not more than £50 a ton. The combined selling price for oil and kernels is £120 per ton. The African oil palm will grow where the coconut grows, and might with advantage be planted with it in the West Indies.

Certain diseases of human beings—for instance, malaria and pellagra—occur only in districts where the necessary conditions that induce the disease exist. A somewhat parallel instance in plant life may be traced in the "mosquito blight" of the tea-bush. Extracts from the original report in the *Planters' Chronicle* appear in the *Agricultural News*, and should receive the careful attention of planters, as it illustrates the necessity for a thorough knowledge of the soil. It appears that the tea-bush only succumbs to the attacks of the bug (so-called mosquito) when it is in bad health. The two chief factors that affect its health are climate and soil. Climate is outside control, but the physical condition of soil can be altered. Wherever the soil was found to be more or less water-logged, there the disease is present. Other adverse conditions are soil-acidity and soil denudation.

The stumps of trees left in a clearing are usually very troublesome to remove, and their extermination is costly. The ordinary method of digging out or pulling out by means of a jack is not altogether satisfactory, as many of the roots remain in the ground. The roots are attacked by fungi, which in a virulent form proceed to attack any roots of valuable plants that may be growing near, and cause damage or destruction. A very thorough and cheap method of extermination is the following: Bore several holes in the stump as deeply as possible. Pour into the holes a saturated solution of saltpetre. After a few weeks' interval light a bonfire on the top of the stump during dry weather. The whole stump to the smallest rootlets will smoulder away. The saltpetre penetrates throughout the root system, and acts like touch paper. The resulting ash fertilises the soil.

A Research Institute has been founded in New Zealand. The sum of £240,000 was left by the late Mr. Cawthorn for the purpose. The trustees appointed a commission of scientific men to advise as to the best method of procedure. Their main recommendations have been adopted. The chief work of the Institute is to be instruction in, and performance of, scientific research. The research is to be definitely related to the industries of New Zealand. The trustees, however, recognise that no sharp line can be drawn between technical and scientific research. They state that the term "technical" will be understood in a broad sense. A liberal scheme of scholarships and fellowships is arranged, so that University graduates may be attracted to carry out investigations under the guidance of members of the staff.

Serious consideration should be given to the results of manurial treatment of cacao in Dominica. A review of the statistics kept for twenty-five years, and of a second series of nine years, was published in the *Agricultural Report* for 1916-17, and as this Report may not be available to many planters it was reprinted in the *West Indian Bulletin* (xvi., p. 342). Plots were manured respectively with (1) phosphate and potash, (2) dried blood, (3) dried blood, phosphate, and potash, (4) cotton-seed meal, (5, 6, 7) plots with a mulch of grass and leaves, and two plots were not manured. The percentage increase of yield of cacao over the plots not manured was (1) 23.8, (2) 21.7, (3) 41.3, (4) 48.8, (5) 52.3, (6) 77.2, (7) 82.8. The Report concludes by saying that the chief feature of these experiments is the way they have proved that, by maintaining the humus content of the soil by systematic applications of organic matter, it is unnecessary to resort to the use of artificial manures. This is good news for the small settler who cannot afford to buy artificial manures, but can in spare moments collect bush and leaves for a mulch. If he adds to this mulch the manure obtained on his own holding from fowl, rabbit, goat, cow, or horse, the mulch will prove still more satisfactory.



## COLONIAL REPORTS.

### Jamaica.

The report on the Blue Book for 1918-19 is just to hand, and the island, it says, can be congratulated that no hurricane visited it during the year under review. The last three reports have contained reference to the devastating effects which have been caused by such visitors, but this time brighter conditions can be reported. As a result of the more favourable conditions, the banana industry again brightened up, and altogether the agricultural history of the island for the year may be regarded as satisfactory.

The total revenue and expenditure for the last two years have been as follows:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1917-1918 ... ..	1,052,486	1,098,410
1918-1919 ... ..	1,157,304	1,228,608

The total value of imports and exports for the last two years are as follows:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1918 ... ..	3,375,798	2,684,897
1917 ... ..	3,297,665	2,478,916

The slight increase must be attributed to continued enhancement of prices rather than increase in quantity, as tonnage remained restricted throughout the year, the Shipping Returns disclosing that during last year only 772 ships entered the ports of the island against 801 in 1917. The value of the exports was maintained principally by the continued high prices obtained for cacao and coffee.

The sources of supply of imports and the destination of exports may be analysed as under:—

#### SOURCE OF SUPPLY OF IMPORTS.

United Kingdom... ..	16.1
United States ... ..	67.6
Canada ... ..	9.6
Other countries ... ..	6.7

#### DESTINATION OF EXPORTS.

United Kingdom... ..	50.2
United States ... ..	23.3
Canada ... ..	14.4
Other countries ... ..	12.1

The exports of sugar fell to 26,000 tons, or about 6,000 tons less than in the previous year, but, nevertheless, the colony is exerting itself to increase the output of sugar to a marked extent so as to justify the granting of the Imperial Preference. The work of producing and testing new seedling canes, which has been in abeyance during the war, is now being taken up again by the Agricultural Department, and the sugar industry will now receive the attention which its recent developments should justify. The station at Hope made a special effort to supply new canes to the public, and a record output of 158,000 cane tops was issued during the year. The "IRA" cane from Africa was found to be a meritorious variety of remarkably quick growth, and is receiving the attention of planters. Six new cane seedlings of promise were received from the Barbados Department for trial.

The demand for rum has steadily increased, so as to raise the price of this product to a lucrative standard.

The coconut industry shows the effect of the hurricane of 1917 by an export equivalent to 22,000,000 nuts as against 30,000,000 in the previous year. The storm-damaged trees at the eastern end of the island became so seriously affected with *phytophthora* fungus, causing one form of bud-rot disease, that the Department carried out a wholesale campaign in the cutting down and burning of all diseased and damaged trees. Some 80,000 coconut palms were dealt with in this campaign, and the eastern end of the island is now almost free from coconut diseases. Logwood and its extracts ex-

perienced a further shrinkage in values from £540,000 to £400,000. The citrus trade had a moderate success, orange oil still being in good demand. Honey achieved a remarkable record during the year owing to the demand for it in the United Kingdom. The records show that 1,175 tons of honey were exported at a value of £151,700.

Interest has again been aroused in the cacao industry, and demands for cacao seedlings are again brisk. The Imperial preference and the good prices now obtainable for cacao will doubtless lead to a considerable development of this industry which, in Jamaica, can be so cheaply established in connection with the cultivation of bananas. Coffee has risen again to a position of importance, and this valuable staple now merits greater care and effort on the part of the smaller growers to produce a high-class product.

Pimento has been in firm demand at improved prices. The manufacture of "oil of pimento" for use in England as a substitute for "oil of cloves" for the manufacture of artificial vanilla has been one of the minor industries of the war.

## THE TRADE OF CANADA.

The summary of the Trade of Canada for the twelve months ending January, 1920—practically for 1919—given in the *Weekly Bulletin* of the Department of Trade and Commerce of that country, shows that the total value of the imports was \$970,773,307, as compared with \$923,121,048, and \$991,353,191 for the twelve months ending January, 1919 and 1918 respectively. Of these amounts \$630,820,200, \$519,798,522, and \$552,038,593 represented the value of the dutiable articles.

For the same periods the values of the exports were \$1,242,582,893, \$1,219,778,566 and \$1,544,540,880 respectively. These figures represented almost entirely Canadian industries, the values of the re-exports being only \$48,427,294, \$49,539,778, and \$46,239,287.

As regards the imports the bulk came from the United States, which were credited with \$755,063,986 for the period under review. The United Kingdom comes next with \$97,222,122; the British West Indies provided \$10,841,722 worth.

With respect to that portion of the trade which especially affects the West Indies, it is seen that cocoa and chocolate shows a considerable increase, the value of this being \$6,511,236 as compared with \$3,857,389 for the previous twelve months. Cotton also shows an increase, its import value being \$77,308,202 as against \$72,516,618 for the year ending January, 1919. The increase in the coffee value is very marked—its value being \$5,252,352, as against \$1,938,950 for the previous year.

That part of the imports which especially concerns the West Indies is sugar, and its value for the period under review was \$65,582,313, as against \$36,306,194 for the previous twelve months.

As regards the exports, the biggest item is that of bacon and ham, which stands at 247,050,782 lb., more than double the previous year's figures. The wheat figures, \$168,682,768, are also on the up grade.

There is one feature in the Canadian trade figures which does not point to the increasing prosperity



of that country, and this, that while the value of the imports is stationary, the value of the exports is diminishing. This means that, while the spending remains the same, the value of the industrial income is diminishing. This is the first symptom of financial decline in a country's prosperity, and it is hoped will not continue.

## AT WESTMINSTER.

### Petitions from Trinidad.

Lieutenant-Colonel Amery, in reply to Mr. Spoor on March 10th, stated that he had received a memorial from inhabitants of the Island of Trinidad, drawing attention to the Habitual Idlers Ordinance in operation there. The Ordinance had been passed to attain an important object—namely, to reduce the prevalence of praedial larceny, which had reached such a pitch as to become a deterrent to the cultivation of ground provisions and other foodstuffs by peasant proprietors. The Ordinance, which applied only to a male person who was found by a magistrate to be an habitual idler, had received the most careful consideration from the Secretary of State at the time, resulting in the enactment of an amending Ordinance to remedy certain points on which the original law had appeared to be defective. The Secretary of State had satisfied himself that it was most unlikely that the Ordinance could have any adverse effect upon wages, but he thought that its operation should be watched, and directed that an annual report upon its working should be supplied for the purpose.

He had also received a petition from a number of signalmen formerly in the employment of the Trinidad Government Railway, and also a report from the Governor, from which it was clear that the general manager had offered to see a deputation, and that these men had been discharged for refusing to return to duty when ordered to do so. There was no reason to think that the men had been treated with contumely when they presented themselves for interview with the general manager.

### Jamaica (Tariff Preference).

On the same date Mr. Gideon Murray asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether a commission representing the Colonial Office, Canada, and Jamaica had been appointed to advise as to whether the preference granted by Jamaica to the Dominion should be extended to the United Kingdom; if so, what that preference consists of; whether the commission has any other functions; and at whose instance it was set up?

Lieutenant-Colonel Amery: The question of preference between the West Indies, Canada and the United Kingdom has been under consideration at the Conference of Associated Chambers of Commerce of West Indies. No special commission of the character indicated in my hon. friend's question has been appointed to deal with the question of preference in Jamaica. As a matter of fact, Jamaica has not so far given a preference either to Canada or the United Kingdom.

### Coal Export.

In the course of a reply on March 11th to Mr. Houston, who asked whether homeward-bound steamers with cargoes of food from the Argentine had been unable to procure bunker coal at St. Vincent, the Prime Minister said the position had been materially improved during the last week, owing to the fact that vessels chartered for St. Vincent had been loaded with coal in the British Channel under special priority arrangements.

### Increase in Sugar Ration.

On March 11th Mr. McCurdy stated that it was hoped shortly to raise the domestic sugar ration, although this increase might have to be accompanied by an increase in the price.

### Sugar.

Mr. Bridgeman, in reply to Captain Sir B. Stanier on March 24th, said the total quantity of sugar imported into the United Kingdom in the year 1919 was 31,949,000 cwt., valued at £53,962,000.

Mr. Parker, in the course of an answer to Mr. Wilkie, said that he had received a suggestion that the domestic ration of 6 oz of sugar should be supplied wholly in white sugar, and that the brown should be reserved for manufacturing purposes. The latter was impracticable, and the Food Controller could not agree that the quantity of white sugar available was sufficient to supply the increased domestic ration.

### Sugar-Beet Cultivation in Ireland.

On March 18th Mr. Macpherson, in answer to Captain Redmond, promised an official report on the steps taken by the Irish Department of Agriculture to introduce and encourage the growing of sugar-beet as part of the crop rotation system in Ireland.

### Manufacturers' Sugar.

Mr. McCurdy stated on the same date, in reply to Mr. Swan, that he did not consider that the benefits resulting from any further reduction of the amount of sugar issued to manufacturers would be commensurate with the distress and unemployment which this action would cause.

### German Beet Sugar.

Mr. Swan asked on March 22nd whether representations had been made to the Supreme Council urging speedy action for the restoration of the German beet industry, so that the present shortage and high prices of sugar might be remedied; to which Mr. Bridgeman replied: "Careful consideration is being given to suggestions which have been made from time to time for stimulating the production of sugar throughout the Continent, but I am not aware of any representations having been made to the Supreme Council."

### Sugar Duty.

Mr. Chamberlain informed Mr. Kiley on March 25th that the standard rate of duty on sugar in 1914 was 1s. 10d. the cwt. The present rate was £1 5s. 8d. the cwt., which was reduced by one-sixth in the case of sugar of Empire origin. It was true that the duty had increased by something over 1,000 per cent. (1/6)

On the same date Mr. J. Parker (Lord of the Treasury) informed Mr. A. Short that, owing to the fact that the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply still held certain stocks of sugar purchased at prices lower than those now ruling, it had been found possible to issue sugar for domestic consumption at 10d. per lb., actually much below its economic value in the markets of the world. The stocks referred to were not sufficient to permit of the taking of a similar course in the case of sugar issued for domestic preserving, which had to be disposed of at its economic value, and on the same basis as sugar sold for manufacturing purposes—114s. per cwt., or 1s. 2d. per lb.

### Indian Emigration.

Sir J. D. Rees asked the Secretary of State for India on March 19th whether the Select Committee appointed by the Imperial Legislative Council of India to discuss colonisation schemes with deputations from Fiji and British Guiana has published its Report?

Mr. Fisher: I have seen a notice in the Press that the Committee appointed under a Resolution passed in the Indian Legislative Council on February 14th has concluded its labours and adopted a resolution regarding Fiji emigration, but I have not as yet seen that resolution.



## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

### Mr. Aspinall in Antigua.

On February 20th Mr. A. P. Cowley, M.B.E., presided at a special meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society convened to meet Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G., Secretary of the West India Committee. Those present, according to the *Antigua Sun*, included Mrs. Donald McDonald, Mrs. I. E. Dyett, Mrs. J. J. Camacho, the Very Rev. Dean and Mrs. Shepherd, Rev. P. K. P. Bolton, Rev. A. B. Hutton, Rev. J. W. Christopher, his Honour Mr. W. W. Wigley (Acting Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis), his Honour Mr. Oscar Webber (Acting Commissioner of Montserrat), Hon. W. D. Auchinleck, I.S.O., Hon. J. J. Camacho, Hon. R. A. L. Warneford, Hon. J. F. and Mrs. Foote, Dr. J. H. Cooke, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Ballou, Mr. J. J. Roden, Mr. and Mrs. R. Bryson, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. D. Goodwin, Mr. J. Goodwin, Mr. G. Maginley, Mr. W. Percival, Mr. Frank Goodwin, Mr. L. Tucker, Mr. A. Edwards, Mr. J. A. Gore, Mr. H. E. Haynes, Mr. Val Gomes, Mr. Geo. D. Roden, Mr. José Anjo, Mr. L. I. Henzell, Mr. E. D. Dew, Mr. W. G. Richardson, Mr. A. W. Gallway, Mr. Geo. Gallway, Mr. W. Thompson, Mr. J. Jones, Mr. W. C. Greenidge, Mr. A. H. Nurse, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Goodwin, Mr. A. E. Bird, Mr. I. E. Dyett, Mr. S. Smyth, Mr. and Mrs. W. McDonald, Mr. J. McSevney, Mr. J. P. Guy, Mr. Geo. I. Mendes, Mr. D. Mitchell, and Mr. A. E. Collins (Hon. Secretary).

The Chairman, in introducing Mr. Aspinall, spoke enthusiastically of the West India Committee and its work on behalf of the welfare of the West Indies, and said how necessary it was for the latter to support the Committee in its efforts to secure housing accommodation that would be suitable to represent so important a part of the British Empire. He stated that Mr. Aspinall hoped to stir up interest in the community so as to enlarge the membership of the Committee, and it went without saying he would succeed.

The Secretary of the West India Committee, who was received with applause, thanked those present for his reception, and stated the object of his visit. In the first place the West India Committee thought that it was imperative that their Secretary should make himself acquainted with the trend of public opinion in the British West Indies on the spot. Great importance was attached to this, because in these days of defective steamer communication and still worse telegraphic communication, it was almost humanly impossible to know what was going on in these delightful colonies unless periodical visits were paid to them. For the benefit of those among his audience who were not members of the Committee, he briefly sketched its history. Although 150 years old, it was a live and vigorous body, and the only one which was looking solely after the interests of the West Indian Colonies. The membership should be not 2,000, but at least 20,000, and he would go further and say that 10 per cent. of the 2,000,000 inhabitants of the British West Indies, should be members. The Committee was the first of its kind to admit ladies to membership, and he hoped for a large increase in the number of ladies who belonged.

As to the Endowment Fund, the suggestion for increased subscription had been turned down—it was better to have 40,000 members paying one guinea than 20,000 double that amount. The alternative was to raise a fund of at least £20,000. He knew he would not appeal in vain for Antigua's help.

A vote of thanks was moved by the Hon. J. J. Camacho, seconded by the Rev. J. W. Christopher, and carried with great enthusiasm.

### British Guiana's Sea Defences.

The *Daily Chronicle* says that, owing to the unprecedented high rate of exchange, local trade with America, as far as dry goods are concerned, is diminishing rapidly, and, as a result, orders for textile goods have been sent to the United Kingdom. With a view of increasing the efficiency and work generally of the post offices throughout the colony, the postal authorities have under consideration a plan of reorganisation which will affect the postmastership of between eleven to sixteen post-offices in outlying districts. Sir Charles Major, Chief Justice, and Lady Major have returned to the colony after having spent a holiday in England. The fifty-sixth half-yearly general meeting of the Demerara Mutual Life Assurance Society was held on February 17th, at which a very favourable report was adopted. Mr. Frank Stell, the newly-appointed Assistant Botanist and Mycologist for the Department of Science and Agriculture, arrived in the colony on February 17th. The Committee appointed by his Excellency to advise as to the best means of draining and irrigating the coastlands of Demerara and Essequibo by way of forming a permanent protection against the sea, have decided to send out circulars to estate managers and others with knowledge and experience of local drainage problems, in the hope of getting their views and information. The Director of Public Works submitted a scheme which will be considered. His Excellency the Governor has presented Military Crosses to Captains C. C. Sherlock, A.D.C., and P. E. F. Cressall. The shares in Sproston's, Limited, held by the Royal Bank of Canada, have been secured by the Northern Aluminium Company, who also hold the controlling influence in the Demerara Bauxite Company.

### Dominica's Exports.

The *Dominica Chronicle* says that the official returns of the public revenue as they successively appear in the *Official Gazette* continue to afford evidence of improving conditions in the financial situation. During the period April-November, 1919, the actual revenue amounted to £34,026, being a net increase of £4,800 on the revenue of the corresponding period in the preceding financial year. The total expenditure amounted to £31,219, being a net decrease of £1,767 as compared with the expenditure of last year. During Mr. Aspinall's too short stay in the island he was the guest of his Honour Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, the Acting Administrator. The export of the colony's staple products is increasing to a considerable and most gratifying extent, especially the export of coconuts. This is an indication that business matters are brightening up in Dominica, and that prosperity is returning to this island, which, as has been demonstrated on several occasions, has a wonderful recuperative power. The damage caused through a fire in Londonderry is estimated at £1,800.

The *Official Gazette* says his Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. H. W. Steele, Acting Crown Attorney, to be a temporary Member of the Executive Council of the Presidency, and Mr. R. A. Garraway to be a Government Officer, Sub-Treasury, Portsmouth.

### High Prices in Jamaica.

The hotels in Jamaica are full to overflowing, and, as a result of the demand on their space, charges have increased in consequence, and as much as 16 dollars per day is asked for a room and bath. As a result of the increased cost of living—the price of food-stuffs having been advanced a further 25 per cent. during February, says the *Daily Gleaner*—the Civil Servants have made application for a 25 per cent. increase in their salaries. A public fund is being raised to present a testimonial to Bishop Collins, who is leaving the island, and the amount subscribed to March 6th was £1,622.



**Failure of Cotton Crop in Nevis.**

Mr. E. Williams, February 20th.—The crop of cane for present season is just commencing, and promises fair, despite the extraordinary drought experienced after planting. The cotton crop, save in a few localities favoured by partial rain, has been an utter failure, and the inflated present price makes the position more regrettable. It is also a matter of regret that there is an outstanding balance for the cotton bought by the Government in 1918, and for which 3s. per lb. was paid on account. It is pleasant to report the advent of a trained matron for the Alexandra Hospital here, in place of Mr. J. A. Howell, who has been its popular master for many years, and who has now resigned.

**Tobago's Afforestation.**

Mr. Robert S. Reid writes under date February 26th: A vigorous effort is being made to restore sugar cultivation at Bacolet Estate, near Scarborough, and 500 Metayers are advertised for. Most of the factories have been dismantled, as the canefields were transformed into cacao and coconuts. There seems to be good prospect for muscovado sugar or cane syrup, and the small estates with wind or water power which have held on are now said to be getting good returns. It would be more useful to establish a central factory and grow canes on the cane farming principle, which would suit the independent ideas of the natives. In time it would be found that honesty and industry pays better than laziness and praedial larceny. The cacao pickings are now on quite a small scale. Light showers almost daily make planters more hopeful of crop in May and June. The coastal steamer meantime will get ample coconuts as cargo from all round the island. We could not wish for better weather. The trade winds keep the air cool by day and night, and the light showers still keep vegetation fairly green.

The Inspector of Wardens has been on a visit, also the Forest Officer, who is finishing up the boundaries of the Rain Reserve and keeping his eyes open for timber thieves. Tobago has still ample forests, but in due time the Forest Department will have to extend plantations. On several estates there are cedar, cypress and mahogany plantations, as planters recognise this as the best way to utilise wind-swept hillsides. It is said that by this week's R.M.S. *Belize* a dozen cabin passengers had to sleep on deck for lack of berths. There is much need for a resumption of the weekly service round Tobago. The Development Loan is now before the Legislative Council, and it is hoped that the road improvement in Trinidad will shortly render it unnecessary for the *Belize* to call at the south and east coast ports. When this takes place Tobago and the north coast of Trinidad will get a more satisfactory service.

**Secondary School for Turks Islands.**

Direct West India Cable Company (delayed).—The weather during January has been cool and pleasant, being one of the coolest months on record. On the 24th inst. Mr. McCowan, who is the promoter of the new Company (West Indian Development Company) that has leased the Haulever estate for cotton growing, arrived here. Business generally has been very quiet; the salt industry is still dormant, but a quantity of sponge has been shipped to the United States and also to Nassau during the month. The conch shell industry is going along steadily, and shipments are being made to the United States by every available opportunity. Several engines and outfits for cutting the shells arrived by the last steamer from New York, and in the course of a short time there will be twelve or more different parties in the business in the Dependency. All the shells are being used for cameo cutting. The new cotton crop is beginning to arrive, and from the general outlook the growing of cotton effects a good investment. The inauguration of a

school of secondary education for these islands is under way. The school is to be under the direction of the Rev. T. S. Cannon, who has been permitted by the Wesleyan authorities at Jamaica to remain here for another year for the purpose. The school, like the hospital, fills a want which has existed in this community for a number of years.

Living still continues hard, vegetables of all kinds being conspicuous by their absence. The Caicos people, finding cotton much more profitable than vegetables, now only grow enough for their own needs, so one gets very little from that source.

**WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.**

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Sailings to West Indies from London, March 17th, per R.M.S.P. *Quillota* :**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Lt. Belshaw-Holland<br>Mrs. W. Berry<br>Miss D. E. Bodley<br>Mr. C. H. Rollo's<br>Mr. H. C. Bovell-Jones<br>Mr. L. C. Bovell-Jones<br>Miss D. M. Winton<br>Capt. L. S. de Castro<br>Miss D. Le Comte<br>Mr. C. O. Constanduros<br>Mrs. R. Cooper<br>Mrs. E. O. Copland<br>Mr. & Mrs. J. Crabtree<br>Capt. J. E. A. Crawford<br>Mr. H. T. Delafons<br>Lieut. C. E. Duraby<br>Miss G. Dyett<br>Lieut. Col. J. O'Dowd<br>Egan<br>Miss S. O'Dowd Egan<br>Mrs. P. O. Elgie<br>Dr. F. W. Evans<br>Mr. J. C. Falconer<br>Dr. P. E. Field<br>Mr. A. J. Going<br>Lt. H. H. J. Goodacre<br>Capt. and Mrs. D. O. Gordon | Mr. T. A. Hartley<br>Mr. D. E. Henry<br>Mr. & Mrs. J. Howard<br>Howard<br>Mr. A. C. Hugh-Jones<br>Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Humphrey<br>Rev. W. Keary<br>Mr. R. Keating<br>Mr. A. Knight<br>Mr. C. Knight<br>Mrs. E. E. Lawson<br>Mr. E. A. C. Lawson<br>Miss O. Lawson<br>Miss O. B. Lawson<br>Mr. Edward Lawson<br>Mrs. L. Z. Leonard<br>Mr. J. C. McMichael<br>Miss C. R. McNeill<br>Mr. W. Miller<br>Mr. A. R. Morrison<br>Lieut. & Mrs. E. L. A. Nivet<br>Mr. K. A. Northey<br>Mr. D. Oliver<br>Mr. J. O'Callaghan<br>Comdr. and Mrs. R. M. Partridge | Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Peacock<br>Mr. G. F. A. Planchet<br>Mr. & Mrs. N. Fleming<br>Rev. T. E. Quick<br>Mr. A. T. Richard<br>Miss L. E. Goach<br>Mr. F. F. Ross<br>Mrs. S. Shuttle<br>Mr. G. N. D. Sinclair<br>Mr. C. H. Stanley<br>Mrs. J. B. Thelwall<br>Mrs. M. E. Till<br>Sister F. A. Veacock<br>Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Vezey<br>Miss G. Wedell<br>Dr. W. H. Wharton<br>Miss R. F. White<br>Dr. J. W. Whitman<br>Mr. R. M. Whitson<br>Miss Jean Will<br>Mr. A. N. Whitnor<br>Mrs. G. O. Wilson<br>Mrs. M. J. Welford |
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**Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, March 13th, per R.M.S. *Bayano* (Commander E. W. Castle):—**

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|--|--|--|
| Mr. J. Barrie<br>Miss M. M. Barrows<br>Mr. P. Bell<br>Mrs. M. Bingham<br>Mrs. H. Black<br>Miss H. M. Black<br>Mr. B. F. V. Holer<br>Mr. H. Callon<br>Mr. W. T. Chadwick<br>Mr. J. A. Colston<br>Mr. E. H. S. Cooke<br>Mr. J. H. Cooper<br>Mr. G. H. Courtney<br>Luck<br>Mr. J. V. Cowan-Goffe<br>Mr. H. Cunningham<br>Mr. O. H. Dawson | Mr. O. S. Edmonson<br>Mr. W. G. Elliott<br>Mr. J. Q. Ellis<br>Miss L. M. Ellis<br>Mr. H. Ford<br>Mr. R. C. Foster<br>Mr. P. C. Garnatt<br>Mr. A. S. Glodinning<br>Mr. J. C. Grenaves<br>Mr. W. L. Harvey<br>Miss M. O. Hawes<br>Mr. & Mrs. H. J. Hinton<br>Mr. L. G. Hoare<br>Mr. J. L. Johnson<br>Mr. & Mrs. A. Kelly<br>Mr. E. W. L'Estrange<br>Mr. W. G. Lyon | Mr. D. McKee<br>Mr. A. B. McNaughton<br>Mrs. M. L. Petrocchino<br>Mr. R. Piper<br>Mr. F. E. Preston<br>Miss D. M. M. Pryn<br>Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Rattenbury<br>Mrs. M. A. Robertson<br>Glasgow<br>Mrs. K. D. Scott<br>Miss Scott<br>Miss E. M. Sly<br>Miss A. Stanton<br>Mr. F. A. Whitaker<br>Mr. E. White<br>Mr. T. R. Williams |
|--|--|--|

**Sailings to Jamaica (from Avonmouth, March) 20th, per R.M.S. *Coronado* (Commander W. T. Forrester, O.B.E.):**

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|--|--|--|
| Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Allen<br>Mr. H. E. Berry<br>Mr. O. Calder<br>Mr. J. Collyer<br>Mr. & Mrs. V. Coop<br>Capt. and Mrs. F. M. Cooper<br>Mr. G. F. Corbett<br>Mr. J. N. Downes<br>Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Ferrice<br>Mr. A. C. Fletcher | Mr. & Mrs. F. W. Gibb<br>Mr. H. M. Hall<br>Mr. D. K. Holyson<br>Mr. McAllister<br>Miss E. Martyn<br>Mr. A. C. Mosman<br>Mr. J. Myatt<br>Mr. J. Pettigrew<br>Miss E. F. L. Pettigrew<br>Mr. & Mrs. J. Reyes<br>Miss D. Reyes<br>Mrs. J. Rusiter | Mr. R. H. Sanders<br>Miss E. L. Smith<br>Mr. H. Stockley<br>Mr. & Mrs. H. Tipping<br>Sir Robert Usher, Bart.<br>Mr. A. S. P. White<br>Cooper<br>Miss Williams<br>Rev. and Mrs. D. R. Winnifrid<br>Miss Winnifrid |
|--|--|--|

It is reported from New York that, owing to Mr. Bainbridge Colby's appointment as Secretary of State not having been confirmed, intending American travellers to the West Indies and Bermuda are unable to obtain passports.



**PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.**

Telephone—6902 Central.  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

March 30th, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 6 per cent.—changed on November 6th 1919, from 5 per cent., at which figure it had stood from April 5th, 1917.

**SUGAR**.—Control prices in the United Kingdom were modified on March 22nd, and are now as follows:—

	Wholesale.		Retail	
	Per cwt.	s. d.	Per lb.	s. d.
Cubes, Lump, &c. ... ..	84	0	10	4
W.I. Crystallised (see below) ... ..	80	0	10	0
W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups (see below) ... ..	71	0	9	0
W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing ... ..	114	0	No maximum	
Sugar for domestic preserving ... ..	114	0	1	2

The discount is reduced from 1/4 to 1/8 per centum

Licensed "free" sugar.—The maximum "reasonable" price for all licensed "free" sugar from 22nd March until 17th April, 1920, has been fixed at 114s. per cwt. less 1/8 per cent. Business in "free" sugars remains very slow.

In accordance with their arrangement concluded with the West India Committee, the Royal Commission have fixed the prices for allotment during April as follows:—

Crystallised ... ..	100	38s. per cwt.
Muscovado... ..	95	46s. per cwt.

As predicted in last issue of the CIRCULAR, the domestic ration was on March 22nd increased from 6 oz. to 8 oz.

The New York market has lately shown great strength, up to 11 1/2c. f.o.b. having been paid for 96" Cubans.

According to Guma Mejer, the Cuban production to February 29th was 1,247,842 tons, and, if the estimate of 4,435,714 tons is to be realised, there remains 3,187,872 tons to be dealt with. At the same period in 1919, 1,106,336 tons, out of a total crop of 3,971,776 tons had been made, and the above figures point to the present crop being a late one.

The West India sugar statistics in London on March 20th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918	Tons.
Imports ... ..	11,190	4,401	4,827	
Deliveries ... ..	7,526	7,386	11,290	
Stock ... ..	11,800	3,207	4,524	

**RUM**. Very quiet for Jamaica, and buyers are holding off. Quotations are nominally unchanged, 12s. 6d. being generally asked for 1919 distillation. Demeraras steady at 6s. proof for 1919 and 1920 rums.

The stocks in London on March 20th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Tons.
Jamaica ... ..	6,883	3,360	5,509	
Demerara ... ..	11,928	11,410	3,053	
Total of all kinds ... ..	26,985	19,741	14,192	

**CACAO**. The strike in Holland and the renewed disturbances in Germany has checked demand, and so caused a setback which will last until things settle down and become more normal again. In Holland it is hoped that Easter will see the end of the strike, and, if so, then raw cacao should go there more freely. Generally speaking, prices are unaltered, but everything is quiet. Trinidads are worth 138s. for common; 144s. to 148s. for middling red to fine plantation. Fine Grenadas, after touching 139s., are uncertain as to value until further sales have taken place; but West Indian kinds generally are worth 134s. to 137s.—if not a little more—for the best grades, 125s. to 132s. for fair to good reddish, down to 121s. for unfermented.

The stocks in London on March 20th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.
Trinidad ... ..	20,219	15,633	13,419 Hage
Grenada ... ..	16,349	12,410	14,825 "
Total of all kinds ... ..	139,385	147,177	198,397 "

**BALATA**. The market is unchanged since our last report. West Indian sheet steady; spot 4s. 8d., forward 4s. 4 1/2d.

**COPRA** is dull, with declining prices. Sun-dried West Indian spot London £64; April-June shipment 10s. less.

**COTTON**. In limited request only. Imports of West Indian in the eleven weeks ending March 11th, 3,171 bales.

**HONEY**. Lifeless. Jamaica nominally 80s. to 100s. per cwt., but buyers seem quite uninterested.

**LIME PRODUCTS**. Lime Oil: Handpressed quiet, but steady, with no change in value; Distilled easier; value about 6s. 6d. per lb., but no business reported. Lime-juice: Raw firmer, with further business at 3s. 6d. for good qualities.

**ORANGE OIL**. Sweet: None offering on spot. Bitter: Not inquired for.

**SPICES**. Pimento very quiet; sellers at 6d. on the spot. Nutmegs 2d to 3d. easier. Mace 2d. per lb. easier.

**OUTWARD STEAMER SAILINGS.**

To	From	Packet.	Sailing
Jamaica	Bristol	Putuca	April 7
West Indies	London	Quispue	April 7
West Indies	Liverpool	Matador	April 10
Jamaica	Bristol	Canito	April 14
West Indies	London	Savan	April 16
West Indies	Liverpool	Median	April 24
West Indies	Glasgow	Crown of Cadiz	April 26
West Indies	Halifax	Chaleur	Apr 1 30
West Indies	Halifax	Chignecto	May 14

The above dates are only approximate.

**WANTS.**

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

COPIES of WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR Nos. 503 and 549 are much wanted. The Manager will gladly pay 6d. per copy for unsold copies delivered to 15, Seething-lane, E.C.

YOUNG GENTLEMAN wishes position on a sugar estate in British Guiana with a view to becoming an overseer. Apply "F. H. S." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

**MARRIAGE.**

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

MASON—WAKEFIELD. On March 6th, at St. Luke's Church, Richmond, Major R. C. Mason, elder son of the late W. L. Mason, F.R.I.H.A., and Mrs. Freeman, of Skelgarth, Amble, to Dorothy C. Wakefield, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Wakefield, of the Morellas, Eversfield-road, Richmond and late of St. Kitts.

**DEATH.**

HERRIOT.—At La Corina Tucuman, Argentina, on the 18th March, George, eldest son of W. Scott Herriot, of The Mirror Watson Company Glasgow

# The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXV.

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1920.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone:  
6642 CENTRAL.



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams:  
CARIB, LONDON.

April 15th, 1920.

### Britain's Greatest Ambassador.

AS was naturally to be anticipated, the PRINCE OF WALES was received in Barbados with indescribable enthusiasm. His announcement there that Great Britain had not the slightest intention, now or hereafter, of bartering away her West Indian Possessions came at a most opportune moment. This enthusiasm may have been partly due to the PRINCE'S own unique personality, and partly to the great loyalty to the Crown, which is nowhere more apparent than in the West Indies; but it must also be accounted for by the fact that everywhere he was among men who had served alongside him in France, and with him shared the dangers and weariness of the long campaign. After leaving Barbados, the *Renown* proceeded through the Panama Canal, and, by a happy thought, the PRINCE expressed his great pleasure at meeting, in the Isthmus, numbers of HIS MAJESTY'S West Indian subjects who were working there. Although the plans for H.M.S. *Renown's* tour to the Antipodes permitted His Royal Highness stopping at "Little England" only on his outward voyage, yet we hope that much more time will be available on the homeward trip in September for the far more extended visit which the colonies deserve. Perhaps, even, the PRINCE will follow in his father's footsteps and write an account of the doings of H.M.S. *Renown*, similar to the voyage of H.M.S. *Bacchante*. Such a work would have a very wide public. It is especially to be hoped that the PRINCE will not confine his attention to the Antilles, but will be able to

include British Guiana in his itinerary. In our view not only would it be of the utmost benefit to the "Magnificent Province" itself to have the PRINCE as its guest, but there would be very much in this colony to interest and entertain him that could not be found elsewhere, and we cannot conceive anyone who would more enjoy, for instance, an aeroplane trip to the Kaieteur Falls than His Royal Highness. There would be, however, a further significance in such a visit. We know that the PRINCE intends to follow up his present tour with a journey to India, and it would be of the utmost value in making British Guiana more widely known than she is at present in the Eastern Empire if the connection between these two far scattered portions of the British Dominions were thus royally cemented. An account from the PRINCE of his experiences among the Indian workers he had seen in British Guiana would confer an invaluable boon in bringing home to the millions in India the exceptional advantages enjoyed by immigrants to the "Magnificent Province." Whatever may be decided, we trust that, when the autumn comes, the PRINCE OF WALES will enjoy being among HIS MAJESTY'S subjects in the Caribbean as much as he has enjoyed his visits to other parts of the Empire, and we know that he will meet with a no less enthusiastic reception from these loyal and ancient Possessions of the Crown.

### The West India Committee.

ON another page are given the names of no less than eighty-four new members, who were elected this afternoon, thus bringing the membership well over 2,000—a figure never before reached in the Committee's history. Sixteen years ago there was less than half this number, whilst twenty years ago it amounted to only a few hundreds. Such growth can only mean one thing—that the oldest of colonial bodies has found its niche among public institutions of proved worth and usefulness, and, further, that, in spite of its age, it should have before it an even more vigorous future. We published a short while back an article on the early years of the Committee, and to-day we print another, contributed by Mr. Frank Cundall, giving an account of the Committee as it existed in 1846—some eighty years, at least, after its inception. Records which date back as early as 1743 show the existence at that time of a West Indian Planters' Club in London, and it was not many years before a Society of West Indian Merchants made its appearance. When it was found that the interests of merchants and planters were not really diverse, there



was a fusion of the two elements, and from this sprang the West India Committee. Even in those days it was far from representing only the interests of proprietors resident in this country, and we find that the agents for British Guiana, Jamaica, and the other islands were *ex-officio* members of the Acting Committee, and took an active part in its deliberations. To-day over two-thirds of the members are resident in the West Indies. This we believe to be the true function of the Committee—to include all who are interested in the present and future welfare of these possessions. Nor ought we to be content until the membership totals not 2,000, but at least 20,000, which would only represent about 1 per cent. of the inhabitants of the West Indies. With such support behind it, there would be no limit to the driving force wielded by the Committee. What is required is that it shall speak with the full voice of those colonies, and that it shall make that voice heard in the centre of the Empire. The second Triennial Conference of the West Indian Chambers of Commerce has shown unmistakably that the time has gone by for independent and disjointed action, and that it is beginning to be realised how nearly identical in important respects are the interests of the various scattered portions of the West Indies. We believe that the visit of the Secretary of the West India Committee to the West Indies will have the effect of bringing those colonies in far closer touch with their representative body in London, and will thus be productive of immense good. The closer the connection between the Committee and the colonies, and the more support given the Committee by the latter, the more effectual will be the effort it is able to make. The Endowment Fund, provided the assistance of every member is forthcoming, should soon reach the minimum total it has been decided to obtain. This and increased membership are essential to ensure that the Committee shall be able to pursue its policy of development, and that no blow shall be left unstruck that will in any way secure an ever-increasing prosperity for the West Indies. Even in 1846 the Committee were working for the supply of labour by immigration. And it is as true to-day as when it was written, that "the Committee seek no advantage for the colonies for which they do not render full equivalent advantage."

#### British Honduras.

**O**WING to its isolated position in the mainland of Central America, and the absence of steamship communication, British Honduras suffers from a want of touch with the British West Indies and with the Mother Country. Jamaica, the nearest British province, is 700 miles away, and, although this is not so far as from Trinidad to Jamaica, the absence of communication completely cuts it off from the Caribbean colonies. Its sea trade is with the United States and Canada, its inland trade with Mexico and Guatemala. The colony is celebrated for its timber, notably mahogany, and is also the home of chicle, which forms the basis of the chewing-gum which has for so long been in favour with our American cousins, and the use of which is coming into vogue with the public on this

side. It also does a trade with the United States and Canada. The value of the trade for the pre-war year, 1913, was \$6,311,593, of which \$3,185,368 was due to imports and \$3,126,225 to exports. Nearly the whole of this amount—\$5,587,843—was in connection with the United States, the commerce with the United Kingdom only being represented by \$367,117. For that year the exports included 15,027,520 ft of mahogany, of which 5,000,000 ft. were imported from Mexico and Guatemala, 1,330,237 ft. of cedar, 6,352,630 coconuts, 3,163,129 lb of sapodilla gum (chicle), and 617,537 bunches of bananas. Like British Guiana, it suffers from want of development. Some fifteen years ago a scheme was placed before the Colonial Office for the construction of a railway from Belize, the capital, to the Mexican frontier. The colony was to pay a comparatively small subsidy to the promoter, who asked, as a *quid pro quo* for the railway, grants of land along the line. The scheme was vetoed by the Colonial Office, and an official scheme for the establishment of a short line in the Stann Creek district for the purpose of developing a banana industry was put forward instead. The time has come when, in the interests of the colony, the matter of its future position should be settled. If it requires, for the purpose of development, official federation with some other British Possession, surely Jamaica, from its comparative nearness, is much more suitable than Canada, affiliation with which country public opinion in the colony favours. It is no argument to say that because the commercial interests of British Honduras are at present with Canada, therefore it should be absorbed into the Dominion. The commercial interests of the rest of the British West Indies are largely with Canada, but the adherents of a union scheme are few; indeed, there are many West Indians who look forward to a West Indian Commonwealth in which all the Caribbean colonies should be united in all respects. It is also extremely probable that, under the new conditions of the Empire, with the efficient linking of the units with the Mother Country, the trade of Honduras would gravitate to the United Kingdom. The development of the resources of the colony—and there can be no question about their being big—would have the effect of stimulating steamer communication with the Mother Country; and in the development of the colony it must not be forgotten that a big consuming country in the shape of Mexico lies on the further side of the Rio Hondo. It has therefore the advantage of a market at its very door for a certain class of goods—not merely the produce of the colony, but imported. The future of British Honduras, therefore, is one which will have to be taken in hand by our legislators, and it appears to us that, as a preliminary measure, there should be steamship communication with the Mother Country, and this should form part of the general shipping scheme which must inevitably be formulated with regard to the British West Indies generally. The question of whether British Honduras is to continue on its own or be joined up with Jamaica or Canada can then be considered. But the time has come when some steps should be taken to develop the colony, and map out its future.

**THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**

**Progress of the Endowment Fund.**

The present state of the Fund can best be shown as follows:—

Amount collected	£11,813
Still to be collected	8,387
<b>Minimum total</b>	<b>£20,000</b>

Contributions towards this Fund, which the West India Committee are raising in order to extend further their usefulness, the recognition of which is being shown in such a gratifying manner by the number of candidates seeking election, and, in particular, to obtain premises which shall form a worthy setting for a body which is at once the oldest colonial body, and represents such a vastly important portion of the Empire as the British West Indies, are continuing to come in.

In future issues of the Circular it is hoped to include the lists of donations which have been collected in the islands, British Guiana, and British Honduras.

It is all important that the minimum total of £20,000 should be obtained in as short a space of time as possible. This can only be done by the enthusiastic co-operation of all members, and it is the earnest hope of the Honorary Treasurers that every member who has not so far contributed will take an early opportunity of doing so.

A further list of subscriptions is given below, thus bringing the total number of contributors up to date to 303:—

**TWELFTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

Contributions already acknowledged	£11,478	3	3
Chamber of Commerce, Georgetown, Demerara	50	0	0
Cul-de-Sac Co., Ltd., St. Lucia	12	0	0
J. F. Clarke, Esq.	5	4	2
Mrs. E. Haynes	5	0	0
Carter Rey, Esq.	5	0	0
E. B. Skeete, Esq.	5	0	0
G. P. Skeete, Esq.	5	0	0
T. S. Skeete, Esq.	5	0	0
Hon. E. G. Bennett, K.C.	4	0	0
E. L. Atkinson, Esq.	3	3	0
A. C. Westmoreland, Esq.	3	3	0
N. J. A. Bascom, Esq.	3	2	6
T. Flood, Esq.	3	2	6
V. C. E. Gomes, Esq.	2	2	0
G. A. McKnistry, Esq.	2	2	0
G. A. Slack, Esq.	2	2	0
Lewis Anderson, Esq.	1	1	0
C. H. Bagot, Esq.	1	1	0
Sir John Chadman, K.C.M.G.	1	1	0
Lt-Col J. H. Collins, V.D.	1	1	0
Messrs. Delgado Bros.	1	1	0
A. W. Farquharson, Esq.	1	1	0
D. O. Kelly-Lawson, Esq.	1	1	0
J. S. Matthews, Esq.	1	1	0
F. S. Noel, Esq.	1	1	0
A. Shepherd, Esq.	1	1	0
H. K. M. Sisnett, Esq.	1	1	0

Hon. G. Whitfield Smith, I.S.O.	£1	1	0
C. M. Austin, Esq.	1	0	10
J. Devenish, Esq.	1	0	10
Allan H. Ferry, Esq.	1	0	10
M. A. French, Esq.	1	0	10
R. A. Torrance, Esq.	1	0	10
Mrs. H. H. Sealy	1	0	0

Correction to Tenth List: E. J. Shelford, Esq., £1 0 10d., should read £2 1s. 8d.

Contributions towards the West India Committee Endowment Fund may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or may be forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London.

**Eighty four New Members.**

By the election, at a meeting of the Executive this afternoon, of eighty-one new members two records are broken. Never before have more than fifty members been admitted in any one month; and, further, never before has the membership totalled 2,000; and it is hoped that, now this figure has been comfortably reached, the membership will never descend below it. If the Committee were as widely known and supported as it deserves, the membership would not be 2,000, but 20,000. If, in fact, it were 200,000, that would be but 10 per cent. of the inhabitants of the British West Indies. The candidates elected were as follows:—

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES.
Mr. H. A. Lake (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. L. de Mercado.
Mr. C. H. A. Iver (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. L. de Mercado.
Lord Castlemaine	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. L. de Mercado.
Mr. F. J. Shand	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. L. de Mercado.
Capt. J. E. A. Crawford (Barbados)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. W. Gillespie.
Mr. A. H. Hill (British Guiana)	Mr. Evan Campbell. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. R. C. R. Shand (Trinidad)	Mr. G. MacG. Frame. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Hon. Mr. Justice W. P. Michelin (St. Kitts)	Mr. H. F. Provité. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Hon. F. H. Watkins, I.S.O. (Antigua)	Mr. H. F. Provité. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. A. S. Davis (St. Kitts)	Mr. H. F. Provité. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. A. Moure Losada (St. Kitts)	Mr. H. F. Provité. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. J. A. Uddenberg (St. Kitts)	Mr. H. F. Provité. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. J. Farara (St. Kitts)	Mr. H. F. Provité. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. J. K. French (St. Kitts)	Mr. H. F. Provité. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. E. Pereira (St. Kitts)	Mr. H. F. Provité. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Hon. Frank H. Kaefer, K.C., M.P. (Canada)	Miss Mary Mosoley, M.B.E. Mr. H. Jason Jones.
Mr. E. A. Donelan (Grenada)	Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P. Mr. J. Elliott Sprott.
Hon. W. V. De Gazon (St. Lucia)	Mr. J. Elliott Sprott. Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P.



Mr. C. C. George (Trinidad)	Mr. H. F. Previté. Mr. R. Rutherford.	Mr. G. C. Wyatt (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Mr. J. W. McCarthy.
Mr. J. H. Wenham	Mr. C. Gurney. Mr. T. Du Buisson.	Mr. H. A. de Freitas (Trinidad)	Mr. J. W. McCarthy. Mr. H. I. Jeffers.
Rev. Fathor W. F. Dugast. (St. Lucia)	Mr. W. Gillespie. Mr. R. Rutherford.	Mr. C. H. Pierre (Trinidad)	Mr. J. W. McCarthy. Mr. H. I. Jeffers.
Mr. C. C. Mahon (Barbados)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. Harold Wright.	Mr. Leon Fuentes (Trinidad)	Mr. J. W. McCarthy. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. E. J. Seignoret (Dominica)	Mr. S. L. V. Green. Mr. W. C. Winston.	Mr. C. L. W. Fleming (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Mr. H. Warner.
M. A. K. Petrie Hay	Mr. N. Scott Johnston. Mr. W. Gillespie.	Mr. C. W. Fleming (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Mr. H. Warner.
Mr. A. E. Mackio (Antigua)	Mr. H. H. Hart. Mr. C. B. Sayles.	Mr. D. Mahibir (Trinidad)	Mr. H. Warner. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. F. T. Ince (Barbados)	Mr. G. H. Arthur. Miss Mary Mosley, M.B.E.	Mr. S. F. Lawrason (Canada)	Mr. T. Boyd. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Hon. J. S. Rae (St. Vincent)	Miss Mary Mosley, M.B.E. Mr. H. F. Previté.	Mr. A. T. Skeete (Barbados)	Mr. H. F. Previté. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. E. P. Boyce (Barbados)	Mr. H. F. Previté. Mr. R. Rutherford.	Mr. F. W. Greaves (Barbados)	Mr. H. F. Previté. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. M. Gonsalves (British Guiana)	Mr. H. F. Previté. Mr. R. Rutherford.	Mr. J. B. Traverso (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G.
Mr. A. E. Taggart (Barbados)	Mr. C. W. Haynes. Mr. L. T. Yearwood.	Mr. H. Govia (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G.
Mr. P. S. Wood (British Honduras)	Hon. Donald McDonald. Mr. H. F. Previté.	Mr. F. Herrera (Trinidad)	Mr. M. Hamel-Smith. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. C. G. Harris (Dominica)	Mr. J. Elliott Sprott. Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P.	Mr. George Grell (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Mr. M. Hamel-Smith.
Mr. K. B. Skeete (Barbados)	Mr. G. H. Arthur. Miss Mary Mosley, M.B.E.	Mr. Charles Nottinho (Trinidad)	Mr. F. E. Scott. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Dr. F. F. Manning (Barbados)	Mr. C. W. Haynes. Mr. H. F. Previté.	Mr. C. R. Smith (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G.
Mr. H. D. Manning (Barbados)	Mr. C. W. Haynes. Mr. H. F. Previté.	Mr. A. H. Hamlyn (Trinidad)	Mr. A. J. Hamlyn. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. H. Inniss (Barbados)	Mr. C. W. Haynes. Mr. H. F. Previté.	Mr. Paul Dumoret (Trinidad)	Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Messrs. Plantations, Ltd. (Barbados)	Mr. C. W. Haynes. Mr. H. F. Previté.	Mr. J. R. Hing King (Trinidad)	Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. C. C. Cave (Barbados)	Mr. C. W. Haynes. Mr. H. F. Previté.	Mr. G. R. Wright (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G.
Mr. J. Gill (Barbados)	Mr. C. W. Haynes. Mr. H. F. Previté.	Mr. J. E. Barcant (Trinidad)	Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G. Mr. J. W. McCarthy.
Mr. N. Leacock (Barbados)	Mr. C. W. Haynes. Mr. H. F. Previté.	Mr. H. Pampellone (Trinidad)	Mr. J. W. McCarthy. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Ensey Hall Estate (Execu- tors of Mr. D. B. Callaghan) (Jamaica)	Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. R. Rutherford.	Mr. C. O. Waterman (Trinidad)	Mr. J. W. McCarthy. Mr. A. Waterman.
Mr. R. Parris (Barbados)	Mr. A. O. Skinner. Mr. R. Rutherford.	Mr. F. M. Goodwin (Trinidad)	Mr. J. W. McCarthy. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. Henry H. Baird (Barbados)	Mr. H. B. G. Austin. Mr. J. H. Wilkinson.	Mr. W. H. Mills (Trinidad)	Mr. H. Warner. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. W. W. Nurse (Barbados)	Mr. H. B. G. Austin. Mr. H. Jason Jones.	Mr. J. E. Schentl (Trinidad)	Mr. T. O'Connor. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. A. J. Pavitt (Trinidad)	Mr. H. B. G. Austin. Sir Edward Davson.	Mr. H. C. Bernard (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Mr. H. Warner.
Mr. M. B. Connell (Barbados)	Mr. C. W. Haynes. Mr. H. F. Previté.	Mr. W. S. Randcholl (British Guiana)	Mr. H. B. Gajraj. Mr. A. S. Rohoman.
Mr. H. W. Lofly (Barbados)	Mr. H. B. G. Austin. Mr. H. Jason Jones.	Mr. Fred G. Grant (Trinidad)	Mr. G. MacG. Frame. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. A. V. Fisher (Jamaica)	Mr. F. C. Fisher. Mr. Harold Henriques.	Mr. W. H. Yearwood (Barbados)	Mr. H. Graham Yearwood. Dr. E. Graham Pilgrim.
Mr. R. A. Morris (Jamaica)	Mr. L. de Mercado. Mr. A. W. Farquharson.	Miss F. A. Forsyth (British Guiana)	Hon. A. P. Sherlock. Hon. J. B. Cassels.
The West India Electric Co. Ltd. (Jamaica)	Mr. L. de Mercado. Mr. A. W. Farquharson.	Mr. M. M. Nock (Trinidad)	Miss Mary Mosley, M.B.E. Mr. W. G. Friseman.
Mr. R. Frith (Canada)	Mr. T. Geddes Grant. Mr. Edgar Tripp.	Mr. E. A. Newsam (Barbados)	Mr. W. A. Boyd Mr. V. A. Gale.

**NOTES OF INTEREST.**

"MAN help Cef to-day; 'noder time him help watch-man."

Owing to a printers' strike in Havana, Mr. Himely's valuable "Weekly Review" has recently appeared in type-written form.

MR. A. F. WHITE, General Manager of the Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates, Ltd., of Demerara, writes that he is expecting to arrive in England, via Canada, at the end of this month.

It seems likely that Barbados will shortly have a motor-omnibus service in addition to its mule-drawn trams, as a firm in Bridgetown is asking, through the Department of Overseas Trade, to be put in touch with manufacturers of motor omnibuses.

Owing to the rise in all working expenses, the Atlantic shipping lines announce an increase from 25 to 50 per cent. on freight rates between the United Kingdom and North America, to take effect on April 15th. A comparatively small increase in passenger rates is also indicated.

TIME is getting on, and it is now over three months since subscriptions to the West India Committee became renewable. Those members who have not already done so are therefore requested to remit the amount due, or to pay it into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada *without further delay*.

CAPTAIN J. A. RAVENSCROFT, of the War Office, has just returned to England from Trinidad, where he has been on a mission with the object of expediting the final settlement of the accounts of the British West Indies Regiment demobilised soldiers, and he expressed himself as most satisfied with the work of the local Staff Pay offices, and is convinced that everything has been carried out in a thoroughly satisfactory manner in these model organisations.

THE Agricultural Department of Saint Lucia has performed a useful work in issuing, in the form of a circular, a few words of advice to agricultural peasants, showing that the present high cost of living can only be defeated by increased production, and recommending the use of local products wherever possible. The distribution of produce will be made easier by the new coasting steamer which has been built by the Government, and the new motor transport service working between Castries and the Windward Coast.

MR. ASPINALL cannot have had much time to spare during his whirlwind tour of the West Indies. Only leaving New York on February 11th, he has since visited Antigua, Guadeloupe, St Thomas, Barbados, and Trinidad, where he arrived on March 5th. The opportunity did not present itself for him to carry out his original intention of proceeding thence to British Guiana, but Mr. H. F. Previté, the other representative of the West India Committee at the meeting of the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce in Barbados, went in his place to the "Magnificent Province." Mr. Aspinall instead visited British Honduras and Jamaica, where he arrived on April 8th. Accounts show that everywhere he was received with the greatest enthusiasm and true West Indian hospitality. From Jamaica he hopes to pay a brief visit to Canada, and he and Mrs. Aspinall

expect to leave New York, bound for the home country, on May 2nd, in company with Sir Edward Davson and Mr. H. F. Previté.

It is claimed, according to *Tropical Life*, that machinery has now been designed whereby coconuts of all sizes, shapes and conditions (green, dry or semi-dried) can now be rapidly husked and the nuts separated and bagged on the one side, whilst the coir is conveyed elsewhere, compressed and baled for export. The husked nuts can even be counted whilst being bagged and automatically sewn when the sacks are filled. Facile as we are with a shortage of labour in all parts of the world, these statements deserve attention. In no industry does the unknown and the untried exist as with appliances that have been evolved, but not tried, at any rate not on a commercial scale, since 1913, for extracting the nuts, kernels, oil or fibre from coconuts and other oil-yielding seeds, and it will be both interesting and important to watch as the world, especially the vegetable-oil extracting world, settles down, what really useful machines and appliances have been brought into existence during the past five years. The coconut manufacturing industry has become an immense concern in America. It would have been at least twice as large over here but for the war. It has been claimed that over 200 vegetable-oil yielding seeds have been experimented with of late years, and that many of them have proved possible commercial successes. It can be understood, therefore, how varied the machinery must be that has to deal with them.

**TRINIDAD AND TUBERCULOSIS.**

The bold and successful warfare which Trinidad has been carrying on for the amelioration of tuberculosis is strikingly illustrated by the fourteenth Annual Report of its Association for the prevention of that disease. Education in this respect has made very great improvement, and no longer have the poorer residents the same tenacity in the old belief that a "hot, hermetically-sealed room stinking of peration and insulated from all contact with sunlight and fresh air" was an indispensable precaution against the contraction of coughs and colds. Although 1913 showed a slight increase of 10 per 100,000 in the rate of deaths from tuberculosis on the preceding year, yet as a result of the propaganda the Association has carried on there has been a steady decrease in the numbers since 1905, when, out of a population of 302,000 no less than 783 persons died from the dread disease. The Association's efforts have been attended with a great measure of success, and if their scope could be enlarged and the campaign pursued with even greater vigour, it is possible that the death-rate could be further reduced to an appreciable extent.

**OUTWARD STEAMER SAILINGS.**

To	From	Packet	Sailing
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Barranca</i>	April 21
B'dos & T'dad	Liverpool	<i>Medion</i>	April 24
West Indies	Glasgow	<i>Crown of Cadiz</i>	April 27
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Changuinola</i>	April 28
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Mancanares</i>	April 28
Trinidad	Boulogne	<i>Crynsen</i>	May 2
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Rayano</i>	May 5
B'dos & T'dad	Liverpool	<i>Asian</i>	May 8
West Indies	London	<i>Quillot</i>	May 12
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chignecto</i>	May 14
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Cavaquet</i>	May 28

The above dates are only approximate.



## ASSOCIATED WEST INDIAN CHAMBERS.

### FURTHER RESOLUTIONS.

(Continued from page 91.)

In the last issue of the CIRCULAR were printed four resolutions dealing with the visit of the Prince of Wales, the Conference's appreciation of the West India Committee and the Department of Overseas Trade, fiscal preference, and the dumping of goods into the United Kingdom respectively.

The official verbatim report of the proceedings is not yet to hand, but by the kindness of the Hon. Secretary to the Associated Chambers (Mr. Edgar Tripp), the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is now able to give a complete list of the resolutions, the further ones being as follows:—

#### Venezuela's Differential Tariff.

"That this Association records its grave disappointment and regret at the long-continued indifference of the Imperial Government with regard to the imposition by the Government of Venezuela of the 30 per cent. differential duty upon produce and merchandise imported into the Republic from the British West Indian Colonies, admittedly in violation of existing treaties, and expresses the hope that the negotiations now in progress between the Imperial Government and the Government of Venezuela will result in the abrogation of this serious restriction on the legitimate trade of these colonies."

#### Canadian Reciprocity.

"That the Association records its appreciation of the benefits which have accrued to the West Indies from the Canadian West Indian Reciprocity Agreement, and expresses its belief in the desirability of a reciprocal increase in the amount of the existing preference; it further hopes that the Imperial Canadian and West Indian Governments will take immediate steps to allow their representatives, together with commercial representatives, to meet in conference in order to make the necessary arrangements for the development of existing trade relations and other cognate matters."

(The consideration of the foregoing resolution was continued, and agreed to with the reservation by the Trinidad delegates that they were not empowered to agree to any preference being granted to Canada greater than that given to the United Kingdom and to other parts of the Empire.)

#### Steamship Communication.

(1) "That this Association generally approves of the suggestions made in sub-sections A to E and G to K of paragraph 48 of the report of the West Indian Shipping Committee, but suggests that, as regards sub-sections (a), (b) and (c), tenders should be called for when they can supply a practicable basis for negotiation, and urges that, as regards sub-section (j), prompt action should be taken by the competent authorities, and recommends that sub-section K should be considered as applying equally to British Guiana."

The paragraphs of the Shipping Committee referred to are as follows:—

(a) That a direct mail and passenger service, with a fixed time-table, should be established as soon as possible, and be maintained between the United Kingdom and the Lesser Antilles and British Guiana.

(b) That tenders should be called for within a year's time for both a three-weekly and a fortnightly service, and that the Governments concerned should then

decide what service they can mitigate. That the only adequate service would be one providing for steamers sailing fortnightly and carrying not less than 120 first-class passengers.

(c) That in the meantime no subsidised service should be maintained with the United Kingdom.

(d) That every effort should be made to open up and develop the colony of British Guiana.

(e) That Trinidad is on the whole the most convenient port of transhipment for any branch services.

(g) That if direct communication between Jamaica and the United Kingdom can be secured by the diversion of some service proceeding through the Panama Canal, a small subsidy would be worth paying for the purpose of securing such communication.

(h) That every support should be accorded to such efforts as the Canadian Government may make to open up or maintain steamship communication between the Dominion and Bermuda, the Bahama Islands, Jamaica and British Honduras.

(i) That no attempt can at present be made with advantage by the Governments concerned to institute air services at their own expense, but that any experiments undertaken by private enterprise should be watched with a view to gaining experience.

(j) That such action as is practicable should be taken upon our suggestions in regard to the French surtax and the Venezuelan surtax.

(k) That any measures possible should be taken in order to improve the accommodation on board ship for the labourers who travel locally between the islands.

(2) And the Association further welcomes the proposal made in the telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governors and Administrators of West Indian Colonies for a conference to be held at Ottawa on the subject of steamship communication between Canada and the West Indies.

(Mr. H. B. O. Austin and Mr. Jason Jones, Barbados Chamber of Commerce, voted against the adoption of sub-section (d), as to Trinidad being, on the whole, the most convenient port of transhipment for any branch services.)

"That this Association desires to record its appreciation of the manner in which regular steamship services between the West Indies on the one part and the United Kingdom and the United States on the other were maintained by unsubsidised steamship lines throughout the war."

"That the representations of the Agricultural and Commercial Society of St. Vincent with regard to the freight rates charged in St. Vincent as compared with the other islands be forwarded to the West India Committee with a view to their bringing the matter before the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company."

"That this Association records its belief that the development of tourist traffic throughout the West Indian Colonies and British Guiana should be fostered and promoted in every way possible."

#### Tropical Agricultural College.

"That this Association desires to record its appreciation of the address given by Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., and cordially supports the establishment of a Tropical Agricultural College in the West Indies."

#### The Dutch Standard in Canada.

"That, in the opinion of this Association, the present method of grading sugar in Canada for duty purposes by means of the Dutch Standard is undesirable and detrimental to the interests of the West Indian Sugar industry, and inasmuch as this system has proved an irritating obstruction to the trade, the Association respectfully suggests to the Canadian Government the expediency of collecting the duty by the Polaroscope Test only without regard to colour, and respectfully

invites the various West Indian Governments to take action in the matter."

### Customs and Trade Conference.

(1) "That the Association welcomes in principle the Report of the Inter-colonial Customs and Trades Conference as a step towards the increasing unity of the West Indies, and recommends its further consideration and investigation by the Governments and commercial communities of the respective West Indian colonies."

(2) "It further approves of immediate action being taken in respect of the third and fourth resolutions contained therein."

### Improvement of Health Conditions.

"That, in view of the effects of disease on the welfare of the community, and especially on its industrial life, this Association respectfully invites the Governments and responsible bodies of the West Indian colonies to take all steps towards the improvement of health and sanitary conditions, and recommends the calling of an inter-colonial medical conference to consider how far these objects can be attained.

"It also suggests the consideration of the desirability of establishing a Central Health Authority for the furtherance of these aims."

"The Association further expresses its appreciation of the work carried out in the British West Indies by the Rockefeller Institute Commission, and desires that copies of this resolution be sent to the London School of Tropical Medicine, the Tropical Disease Prevention Committee, and the Rockefeller Institute, in addition to the aforesaid Governments and bodies."

### Cable Breakdowns.

(1) "That, in view of the present deplorable state of telegraphic communication through breakdown of cables, and loss, mutilation and delay of messages, in the West Indies, except Jamaica, and in view of the vital importance of these colonies maintaining efficient telegraphic communication with the United Kingdom and Canada, and also with each other without passing over foreign territory, this Association respectfully, but strongly, urges the Secretary of State for the Colonies immediately to appoint a representative Committee to decide what steps can be taken to provide the efficient, reliable, and all-British system required."

(2) "That, in view of the existing state of affairs, this Association requests that the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown be invited as to whether the Agreement dated August 10th, 1914, made between His Majesty's Government, the Government of the Dominion of Canada, the Crown Agents for the Colonies, and the W. I. and P. Telegraph Company, Limited, can be terminated under clause 17 thereof."

(3) "That, if possible, the services of the wireless expert now in the West Indies be obtained in order to report on the possibilities of establishing and improving wireless communication within these colonies; and that this last resolution be immediately communicated to the Crown Agents and to the Governments of these colonies with the respectful request that they may take prompt action thereon."

### Labour and Emigration.

"That, in view of the emigration of West Indian labourers to foreign countries, the attention of Chambers of Commerce and Agricultural and Commercial Societies be invited to the desirability of offering all possible inducements to the labourers to remain in the land, and, further, of bringing to the notice of those desiring to emigrate, by all methods of publicity, the advantages and opportunities of employment existing in the British Colonies as compared with those of foreign lands."

"Further, it hopes that the various West Indian Governments will permit and encourage the recruiting of any surplus labour in their colonies by those other colonies which can offer sufficient inducements."

### An Annual Conference.

It was also decided to place the Jamaica Resolution on record:—

"That the Jamaica Imperial Association is of opinion that a consultative body, nominated as follows—one member by each Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies (including British Guiana and British Honduras), and one by the Jamaica Imperial Association, and one by the Government and Legislature of each colony, should be appointed to assemble annually in Trinidad, British Guiana, Barbados and Jamaica, in rotation, and discuss, advise and resolve upon all questions of common concern, each delegation reporting to its Government and Chamber immediately afterwards," and to pass the following resolution in relation thereto:—viz.:—

"That, in view of the satisfactory results attending conferences held on various subjects relating to the colonies, this Association recommends that such conferences should be further utilised with a view to encourage the development of common interest and action in all matters pertaining to the progress and welfare of the West Indies."

### Military Garrisons in the West Indies.

"That this Conference desires to place on record its grateful appreciation of the superb and imperishable record established by His Majesty's Navy and Army, and the Auxiliary Forces of the Crown during the world war. Further, that it welcomes the renewal of visits by certain of His Majesty's warships to West Indian waters, and is of opinion that no time should be lost in once more establishing garrisons of Imperial troops in the various West Indian colonies with the object of still further cementing those ties which have been renewed and strengthened by the mutual sacrifices of the late war."

According to a correspondent, the whole meeting proved an unqualified success. By good fortune the two representatives of the West India Committee, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G., who came from New York, and Mr. H. P. Previté thanks to a record passage by the s.s. *Santille* from London—arrived in time to be present from start to finish. Again, Mr. P. Stanley Woods, the delegate from far-away British Honduras, after a round-about passage, also was there.

All the islands and British Guiana were represented, the only disappointment being the non-appearance of the Jamaica delegates, Mr. Cork and Mr. Morrison, who had been nominated by the Jamaica Imperial Association, but were unable to find passages by any steamer which would allow of transshipment in time. As will be seen above, the resolution which was to have been brought forward by them was taken in charge by the President.

The proceedings lasted a full week—from the 23rd to the 28th of February—and, as at the first meeting, were marked by the best spirit of all-round give and take, and hearty co-operation for the general good; all the resolutions or amendments thereto being ultimately carried unanimously. Our correspondent continues:—

"The outstanding feature of the whole was the masterly, and indeed brilliant, chairmanship of Sir Edward Davson. His great tact and ability merited and



received the thanks and admiration of every member present, whilst his opening address at the Conference, and final speech, delivered at the farewell banquet given by the Barbados Chamber of Commerce, were models of lofty thought most eloquently expressed.

"Apart from the work of the Conference, the delegates had a most delightful time, thanks to the bounteous hospitality and attention of the members of the Barbados Chamber and others, who left nothing undone or unthought-of to make our visit enjoyable. I venture to think that, both from a business and social point of view, the second triennial meeting of the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce will prove to have been a memorable one, and one that will always be borne in pleasant and satisfactory remembrance by everyone who was privileged to be present."

### CIVILIAN WAR HONOURS.

The final list of appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for services in connection with the war, to be dated January 1st, 1920, has just been published, and contains several names well known in the West Indies, among the recipients of honours being the following:—

#### K.B.E.:—

Mayson Moss Beeton, for services in connection with the Newfoundland Forestry Corps. Sir Mayson Beeton was Secretary of the Anti-Bounty League from 1897-1903, and Special Commissioner for the *Daily Mail* in the West Indies, 1896-1897.

Lieut.-Commandor Charles Edward Down, O.B.E., R.N.R., Marine Superintendent, Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

#### G.B.E.:—

Arthur Everett Shipley, F.R.S., LL.D., D.S.C., Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University. Dr. Shipley recently presided over the Tropical Agricultural College Committee, whose report was recently summarised in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

#### O.B.E.:—

John William Kitchin, Deputy Director-General, Munitions Supply Department, Paris, Ministry of Munitions.

John Edward Munro, Secretary of Cocoa Advisory Committee and Raw Cocoa Distribution Committee, Ministry of Food.

Elizabeth Louisa Penelope, Countess of Stamford, a Vice-President of the Red Cross Society, and President of the West Indian Contingent Committee.

#### M.B.E.:—

Captain Stanley Nesham Braithwaite, Southampton Marine Superintendent, Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

Miss Amy Christine Adela Huggins, Port of Spain.

Mr. P. STANLEY WOODS, who was the British Honduras representative at the recent meeting of the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce in Barbados, left immediately after the Conference for this country, where he intends staying at least to the end of the month. His eldest son, who served with the R.W.I.F. in Mesopotamia, has started working for the Bar, being entered at Gray's Inn. Mr. Woods was somewhat surprised to find that, although he touched at many of the West Indian Islands, including those belonging to France, and went through the United States, he was not asked for the passport with which he had armed himself before leaving Honduras until he arrived at Liverpool!

## HISTORICAL SIDELIGHTS.—II.

### The West India Committee in 1846.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

A rare pamphlet, which should interest members of the West India Committee, has recently been added to the West India Reference Library of the Institute of Jamaica. It reminds one that history often repeats itself. It is entitled "Report of the Acting Committee to the Standing Committee of West India Planters and Merchants, at their Half-yearly Meeting held on the 11th March, 1846," and was reprinted from the London edition of Maurice & Co. by R. J. De Cordova, of Kingston, Jamaica.

The Acting Committee then consisted of:—

Neill Malcolm, Esq., Chairman.  
Charles Cave, Esq., Deputy Chairman.

*Members Ex-officio:—*

The Viscount St. Vincent, Chairman of the Standing Committee.

George Hibbert, Esq., Treasurer.  
William Burge, Esq., Agent for Jamaica.  
John Pollard Mayers, Esq., Agent for Barbados.  
James Colquhoun, Esq., St. Vincent, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica, and Virgin Isles.  
Patrick Maxwell Stewart, Esq., M.P., Agent for Tobago.  
William Holmes, Esq., Agent for British Guiana.  
Joseph Marryat, Esq., Agent for Grenada.  
Edmund Nugent, Esq., Agent for Antigua.

*Other Members:—*

Henry Barkly, Esq. M.P.	Langford Lovel Hodge, Esq.
William Beckford, Esq.	Michael M'Chlery, Esq.
James Cavan, Esq.	Charles M'Garel, Esq.
Andrew Colville, Esq.	Alex. Macgregor, Esq.
Patrick Cruikshank, Esq.	Charles Marryat, Esq.
Henry Davidson, Esq.	James Milligan, Esq.
Alexander Grant, Esq.	Frederick Mortan, Esq.
Benjamin Greene, Esq.	Henry Pearce, Esq.
Thomson Hankey, jun., Esq.	Alexander Stewart, Esq.
Samuel Hibbert, Esq.	

It is strange to find Burge called agent for Jamaica, for that office had been abolished in the preceding December. Joseph Marryat, the agent for Grenada, was the author of a large number of pamphlets on the Emancipation question, written on behalf of the planters, and the father of the well-known novelist. William Beckford was probably one of the six sons of Francis Love Beckford, son of Francis Beckford, a brother of the celebrated Lord Mayor. James Milligan was possibly a son of Robert Milligan, who was instrumental in founding the West India Docks. Samuel Hibbert came of a family well known in Jamaica.

One would have assumed that the Acting Committee was similar to what is commonly called a Standing Committee were it not that there was also a Standing Committee.

They state in their report that they had "continued steadily to pursue those practical measures which appear to them best calculated to restore the cultivation and prosperity of the West India colonies." They go on to say: "Seven years have now elapsed since the final emancipation of the negroes, and these colonies are still struggling to rise from the grievous depression which that event inflicted upon them. Although the production of

sugar has gradually increased from the lowest return of 107,000 tons to 142,000 tons last year, yet the loss and suffering which have been endured during the intervening period are but partially abated."

They then proceed to show that large sugar estates pay much better than small ones; that unsuccessful cultivation had caused many planters to lose their share of the compensation fund (for emancipated negroes), chiefly, they considered, due to the fact that the British Government at first declined to allow the planters to hire free labour from outside the islands. In considering the prospect of the tardily granted Migration, they say: "At the outset it cannot be expected that the people of India will have so much knowledge of the colonies to which they are proceeding as to determine beforehand upon adopting them as their future home, and therefore it is difficult, however desirable, to persuade them to take their families with them. A greater proportion of women and children will be found in the returns of emigrants than could at first have been expected, and it is hoped that by offering certain immunities at the close of their period of service, many of them will be induced to settle permanently in the colonies."

They then proceed to consider the sugar trade, and state, *inter alia*, "The permission to send refined sugar from the colonies, which had been so long withheld, was at last granted simultaneously with the reduction of the differential duty on foreign sugar. So short a time has since elapsed that it has not yet been practicable to take advantage of this relaxation; but arrangements will, doubtless, be made as soon as possible to prepare sugar in a better condition for shipment, so as to avoid the loss by drainage, and save unnecessary charges. It is, however, a mistake to suppose that, after an erroneous policy has been for a very long period rigidly maintained, its sudden abrogation will be immediately followed by all the benefits which may eventually result from the change. The benefit, on the contrary, is more generally of slow growth, somewhat in proportion to the inveterate obstinacy with which the error has been cherished. New arrangements cannot be made without sacrificing much of the capital already invested."

They then return to the question of immigration, and lay stress on the urgent need of the sugar planters for imported labour. They point out that improved machinery cannot take the place of labour, and that others than the planters benefit by immigration. They appear to have died hard in their opposition to emancipation, which they allude to as "that crude measure." They were not hopeful of the result. They say: "Looking to the competition which they have heretofore maintained, the prospects for free labour are not encouraging. Until the duties on East and West India sugar were equalised, or rather until the approach of high prices at the final emancipation of the negroes, the exports from Bengal were quite insignificant, though the same markets were open alike to the produce of India and of Brazil and Cuba; and although Java and Manilla have contributed towards the increased supply required in Europe and America, yet they have not displaced an ounce of slave-grown sugar."

## COLONIAL REPORTS.

### British Honduras.

Notwithstanding the war, the volume of trade for 1918, says the report on the Blue-book for that year, was greater than ever before in the history of the colony. Wages were comparatively high, but the prices of the common necessities of life increased correspondingly. The agricultural industry suffered considerably for want of labour. What little labour there was was attracted by higher pay to mahogany cutting and the gathering of chicle from the forests for making chewing-gum. There was a temporary revival of logwood cutting for the dye industry, but it did not last long owing to a big drop in prices.

The revenue and expenditure for the last three years were as follows:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1916-17	\$640,462	\$613,788
1917-18	676,227	675,235
1918-19	721,233	670,737

The total trade of the colony amounted to \$7,234,073, which exceeded that of 1917 by \$2,000,414, and that of 1913 by \$932,480. Trade with principal countries was valued as follows:—

United Kingdom	\$367,117
U.S.A.	5,587,843
Republic of Honduras	586,256
Mexico	456,266
Canada	13,558
Jamaica	23,278
Guatemala	175,757

Exports were valued at \$3,668,657 (or \$1,865,690 more than in 1917), but nearly half of this amount was produced of other countries exported via the colony. The value of exports to various countries was as follows:—

United Kingdom	\$11,902
U.S.A.	3,406,694
Guatemala	25,362
Honduras	23,840
Mexico	200,613

Imports were valued at \$3,565,416, as compared with \$2,793,773 in 1917 and \$3,185,368 in 1918; \$100,090 worth of cattle and \$12,193 worth of horses and mules were imported from the Republics of Honduras and Guatemala. The value of rice imported was \$94,817, of salted fish \$8,867, of fresh fruit and vegetables \$23,918, of condensed or preserved milk \$79,709, and of sugar from neighbouring republics \$79,351. These are commodities that might have been produced in the colony, and amount, in the aggregate, to \$398,945 in value.

The value of imports from various countries was:—

United Kingdom	\$355,215
British Possessions	44,970
U.S.A.	2,181,149
Guatemala	150,395
Honduras	562,416
Mexico	255,653

### Grenada's Good Results.

The report on the Blue-book for 1918-19 says that the colony is progressing with upward strides in its atmosphere of prosperity, and demands for improved conditions and conveniences that a few years back were considered beyond the means of the colony are now regarded as necessities. The revenue for the period under review was £110,386, as against £106,138 for the previous financial year, and the expenditure £108,251, as compared with £109,390. The total trade amounted to £1,080,109.

The value of the exports amounted to £702,777, of



which £699,096 represented the produce of the colony. The direction of the exports was as follows:—

Great Britain ... ..	£386,348
Other parts of British Empire ... ..	26,226
United States ... ..	290,039
Other foreign countries ... ..	164
	£702,777

The principal products exported were:—

	1917.	1918.
Cacao ... ..	£412,260	£519,365
Cotton, raw ... ..	9,182	23,156
Lime Juice ... ..	11,184	14,255
Cotton Seed ... ..	2,347	2,309
Nutmegs ... ..	23,520	103,417
Mace ... ..	15,397	31,691

With the exception of cotton seed, the value of all other products exported show a gratifying increase, due not only to enhanced prices, but to increased output.

Of the cacao, 41 per cent. went to Great Britain, 56 per cent. to the United States, and 2 per cent. to Canada. Of the nutmegs, 54 per cent. was exported to Great Britain, 39 per cent. to the United States, and 4 per cent. to Canada. Great Britain received 95 per cent. of the mace and all the lime juice and raw cotton.

The value of the imports was £377,332. The United Kingdom supplied £76,691, Canada £51,827, Newfoundland £13,829, the neighbouring Colonies of Barbados, Trinidad, and British Guiana £55,895, and other places £14,873, making a total from British countries of £213,145. The United States supplied £151,980, and other foreign places £12,237, making a total of £377,332.

Food and drink supplies and tobacco amounted to £186,095, and manufactured and other goods to £191,237. Of foodstuffs, the United Kingdom supplied £6,315, as against £60,847 from the United States, and of manufactured and other goods the United Kingdom supplied £67,473, and the United States £91,138.

Owing to the restricted supply of imported foodstuffs, and to high prices prevailing owing to the war, every encouragement was given to the growing of ground provisions. The results have been a useful object lesson to the people, as the advantages to be gained by helping themselves have been proved to their knowledge. In previous years they depended largely on imported wheaten flour from the United States and ground provisions from the neighbouring colonies, but are able now to rely more on their own produce. As an illustration, twenty years ago, when the population was considerably less than at present, 30,037 barrels of flour were imported, as against 23,066 in 1918.

Nutmegs during the war were in great demand, and the price in 1918 rose to figures that gave unprecedented returns to those who fortunately owned such produce.

The price of raw cotton also exceeded previous records. The cotton produced is almost entirely Marie Galante, and the cultivation is in the hands of small growers, chiefly in Carriacou.

Lime cultivation has been tried to some extent in Grenada, but not with promising results. All citrus plants seem not to fare well, and are subject to attacks of black blight, which is prevalent and difficult to eradicate.

Coconuts are being extensively planted, and in time to come will probably add largely to the colony's economic production.

JAMATCA is now issuing its own 5s. currency notes, and half-crown and 10s. notes are to be added. According to the *Daily Observer*, the initial issue of the 5s. notes will be 30,000. The face shows the arms of the colony on the top left-hand corner, and an impression of the King's head on the right. On the reverse is represented a ship of olden type in full sail.

## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

### By "Agronomist."

The hopes of the engineers who have been boring for oil in Derbyshire are apparently not going to be realised. Out of seven wells sunk only one is yielding oil. The flow averages the small amount of 2,000 gallons weekly. Drilling has been undertaken in several other places, but there is no evidence of the presence of oil in quantity.

The phosphate deposits of the island of Nauru, in the Pacific, are stated by the President of the Board of Agriculture, New Zealand, to be sufficient to meet the demands of the world for 200 years. The quality of the phosphate is said to be the highest grade (85-86 per cent.). There are several phosphate islands in the Pacific, but Nauru contains the largest known quantities of high-grade phosphate in the world.

Peruvian cotton is marketed in four classes. The Peruvian rough comes to Liverpool only from Peru. It is especially valuable, because it can be mixed with wool in textile manufactures. It is a long-staple rough cotton. Its market price is influenced more by the price of wool than that of cotton. Peruvian moderate rough has a shorter staple. Peruvian smooth is derived from the American upland. Peruvian sea-island is mainly a variety of Egyptian cotton with a long, fine staple.

New Zealand has a large export trade in apples. They are selected and packed with such care that they are sent half round the world and arrive in excellent condition. Most of the fruit goes to South America—Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil. There is a smaller export to Australia and to the British Isles. A still smaller amount goes to Canada (west coast), to Fiji, and other countries. The export is likely to be doubled and trebled in time, as for every acre in bearing another will soon come into bearing, and additional orchards are being planted.

Artificial silk has been made on a large scale for some years. Now a German process for making artificial wool is patented, according to *L'Exportateur Belge*. The process consists in soaking wool scraps in a viscous solution of cellulose with a small percentage of glue. The product is cut into thin sheets. It is made waterproof by treating it in the process of manufacture with compounds of chromium, and later with formaldehyde and tannin, after which the product will resist the action of boiling water. The addition of glycerine gives it sufficient flexibility.

The high rate of exchange in the New York money market against remittances from the West Indies is referred to in an editorial in the *Agricultural News*. It points out the bearing of the high rates on local corn production. Corn and corn meal are imported in large quantities from the United States. Local prices are nearly double what they are in the States. It would therefore be profitable to grow corn more extensively, and the danger of a shortage of foodstuffs would be lessened. The Government granaries in St. Vincent and Antigua show that corn can be dried and stored successfully, even in a damp climate, and can be protected in bins from insect pests.

Manufacturers of sugar machinery in the United States have active agents in Trinidad, especially at the end of the crop season, when requisitions for machinery

and supplies are made out. They study the working of plants under actual operation, and then propose improvements which would eliminate as much personal labour as possible. They point out, for instance, the advantage of the quickly adjustable trash plates and rollers, and the efficient cush-cush distributors. Their centrifugals duplicate British makes, but they maintain that theirs have an advantage in being fitted with attachments for mechanically unloading the machine, whereby one man, instead of two, can attend to four centrifugals. These agents are experts in sugar manufacture, and show a general all-round helpful interest in the productiveness of the factory. They thoroughly educate the purchaser in the practical use of the equipment sold him, and see that any defects in the same are remedied. This is an example of the claims the Americans are putting forth for their machinery and their trade methods in general. There is no doubt they are making strenuous efforts in Trinidad and elsewhere in the West Indies to capture trade from British interests.

A Commission on Country Life was appointed twelve years ago by the United States Government. The President expressed the view that it was right that attention should at first have been concentrated on the means of increasing production. But the effort for better farming, he maintained, should be accompanied by the effort for better business and better living on the farm. Good crops are of little value unless they open the door to a good kind of life on the farm. The recommendations of the Commission were founded on the belief that country life might be made to supply health, education, occupation, and society. The agricultural colleges are beginning to adopt the suggestions towards putting the economic and social sciences on their programme. The business and social relations of farming are now accepted as being quite as much in the field of the colleges as the technical factors of production. There is every probability that the Tropical Agricultural College of the West Indies will follow the lead of the American Colleges in admitting rural economics and rural sociology amongst the studies.

Investigations on pellagra continue, but no further light has been thrown on the causative agent. It is strange to find medical men in Roumania still attributing his disease to a diet of maize, after the publication of the exhaustive Report on Pellagra in the West Indies by Dr. Sambon, the expert on tropical diseases. Papers in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, in discussing pellagra, suggest that faulty diets derived from cereals, root-crops, &c., produce a susceptibility to infectious diseases. As correctives they recommend the regular and liberal use of leafy vegetables, and, above all, the inclusion in the diet of a suitable amount of milk. Dr. Sambon has made extensive travels in the investigation of pellagra, and finds that this disease occurs even in places where maize does not form the chief element, or any portion, of the diet. He points out that pellagra endemic areas are, as a rule, sharply defined. Although so far there is no actual proof of Dr. Sambon's theory that the causative agent is a protozoon in the blood, and that the infection is carried by an insect, as it is in malaria, yet all the abundant evidence goes to show that it is likely to prove perfectly correct. To investigate thoroughly such very difficult problems as tropical diseases, it is necessary to have a very wide knowledge, not only of medical science, and especially of hygiene, but of entomology, of zoology in general, and particularly of protozoal organisms, and also of botany, including ecology. In all these domains of knowledge Dr. Sambon is a past-master, and besides he is an archaeologist who has studied the evidence of former ages on these subjects, and their bearing on modern problems.

## WEST INDIAN COFFEE.

The alcohol prohibition in the United States has naturally directed the public attention still more to the use of non-alcoholic stimulants, and coffee naturally comes in for its share. For many years coffee has been a favourite drink in that country, the yearly imports averaging over 1,000,000 lb. In 1919 it was 1,051,839,900 lb., of which 158,348,135 lb. came from Central America, and 571,921,573 from Brazil. The West Indies contributed 47,949,384 lb. Of the grand total of imports, 43,622,153 lb. were exported, leaving a consumption of over 1,000,000 lb. It may be expected in the future that this world's consumption will be extended, and the attention of agriculturists in the British West Indies might well be directed to the extension of its coffee. At present Jamaica is practically the only country growing it to any extent, but there are many parts of the British West Indies which are suited to its growth. Sir George Young, in his "West India commonplace Book," gives the exports of coffee from the British West Indies in 1804 as 232,809 cwt., of which 176,531 cwt. came from Jamaica; in 1916 the latter colony only 69,956 cwt. In 1803 Dominica exported 44,000 cwt.; now practically none. In the Dutch days of British Guiana, coffee figured as a prominent item of exports, and although that colony is not so well suited as the bulk of the islands for its growth, it may well become a factor in future development.

Writing in 1807, Sir George Young states as to coffee that "teas have superseded its general use in England," but there is every evidence of its coming into greater favour than of recent years. There is little doubt but that coffee as a stimulant is far more suitable than tea. It supplies more nutriment, and does not produce indigestion. It does not irritate the nerves in the same manner, and the most self possessed people in the world are great coffee-drinkers. It is hoped, and may be expected, that coffee will take its place again in general West Indian exports.

## VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

- |                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mr. F. C. Archer             | Mr. J. Hamilton               |
| Mr. W. A. Boyd               | Mr. E. E. C. Hoarck           |
| Mr. James Brown              | Mr. Thos. Laycock             |
| Hon. E. C. Buch, M.I.C.E.    | Mr. H. Mason                  |
| Mr. E. A. Hogle              | Mrs. McEwan                   |
| Mr. A. Cameron               | Mr. T. Elton Miller           |
| Sir W. K. Chandler, K.C.M.G. | Mr. J. Morison                |
| Mr. W. C. de Gale            | Hon. J. J. Nunan, K.C., LL.D. |
| Mr. G. Farmer                | Mr. W. C. Robertson           |
| Mr. A. J. Findlay            | Mr. W. N. Sands               |
| Mrs. M. C. Garnott           | Mrs. A. S. Sealy              |
| Mr. R. P. Gibbs              | Hon. H. B. Walcott, C.M.G.    |
| Mr. R. Gilt                  | Mr. A. F. White               |
| Mr. L. A. Gomez              | Mr. P. Stanley Woods          |
| Sir G. Aubrey Goodman        | Mr. Harold Wright             |
- Major Duncan Fraser, c.o. Messrs. James Brodie and Co., 1, Gresham Buildings, Basinghall Street, E.C.
- Mr. J. J. Gibson, 14, Queen's Gate Terrace, S.W. 7
- Mr. F. C. Henriquez, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.
- Mr. Thomas W. Innes, 35, Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James's Park, S.W.
- Mr. E. R. Jaco, Valentines School, Ilford, Essex
- Mr. Archibald Johnston, Ivy Bank, Braeside Avenue, Rutherglen, near Glasgow.
- Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., Knockdow, Toward Argyllshire
- Mr. W. E. Mandeville, c.o. The Colonial Bank, 29, Gracechurch St., E.C.
- Mr. W. Mearns, 9, Carlton Place, Aberdeen
- Mr. James Miller, 17, Gracechurch Street, E.C.
- Mr. Athelstou Watson, 25, Elgin Park, Redland, Bristol



## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

### Barbados Reaping Commenced.

According to the *Barbados Advocate* of March 16th, reaping operations had commenced on a fairly general scale, although there were still places that will not start until later in the month. The yield in the northern parishes showed that the canes were not yet full ripe, so that operations were not being hurried on. The weather was suitable.

A matter which is arousing discussion is with regard to the leasing of part of the newly opened Esplanade in Bay-street to the British Union Oil Company as a site for a jetty and fuel-oil station. The lease was sanctioned by the House of Assembly in January, but the statement given by the member who explained the object of the resolution, and who is the solicitor for the Company, did not mention that the Esplanade would be interfered with.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Agricultural Society, held on February 27th, says the *Standard*, the President's proposal that the ordinary business of the Society should be adjourned in order to allow the distinguished guests present—Mr. A. E. Aspinall, C.M.G., and Mr. H. F. Prévité—to address the meeting, was unanimously agreed to.

A very appreciable sum was collected at the meeting on behalf of the West India Committee's Endowment Fund.

### H.M.S. "Calcutta" Visits British Guiana.

The Government has sent for the observation of the Association the suggestion made by the Hon. C. Grannum, Colonial Treasurer, that the amount lying at the credit of the Immigration Fund account should be transferred to the Colonisation Fund. The matter will be dealt with at a meeting of the Council this afternoon, writes Mr. J. C. McCowan on March 1st.

The arrival of the H.M.S. *Calcutta* has been a source of interest to the community. Her light draught permitted her being moored alongside the Werk-en-rust Wharf of Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co. (Messrs. Sandbach's old premises which were destroyed in the fire of 1913). This is the first time a warship has been got alongside a wharf here. A dinner was given at the Georgetown Club to the Admiral and officers, and there have been a series of football matches with cricket and tennis events. She leaves to-morrow for Trinidad.

The arrival here also of the Klark-Urban Theatrical Company and a circus company has given us more entertainment than we are accustomed to.

The expected arrival of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in Caribbean waters on his way to Australia has aroused some interest, and at a meeting of the Legislature on February 20th it was decided to cable the Secretary of State asking that this colony be included in the itinerary of the Prince.

### British Honduras Chamber of Commerce.

A very interesting session of the Council was started on Friday, March 12th, primarily for the consideration of the estimates for 1920-21. His Excellency the Governor delivered a long and interesting address. The appointment of Mr. M. A. Murphy to act as Director of Public Works from October 10th, 1919, is notified in the *Gazette*. Mr. Murphy arrived in the colony recently. According to the *Clarion*, Mr. Dunlop, the agricultural expert sent out by the Imperial Government to investigate the condition of agriculture in the colony with a view to making recommendations for develop-

ment, has gone to Stann Creek. The Annual General Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held on Friday, February 27th, the Hon. G. E. Graham, President, in the chair.

### Collapse of St. Lucia's Strikes.

His Excellency the Governor and Lady Haddon-Smith left for St. Vincent by the R.M.S. *Chignecto* on Wednesday, February 4th, writes Mr. Archibald J. Brooks, under date February 29th. The strike fever has spread to this colony and broke out among a certain section of the coal-carriers on January 28th. A settlement was made three days later, when a substantial increase was granted the strikers, who then resumed work. On Monday, February 16th, strikes broke out in all directions. A section of the police struck and demanded increased wages, although a 15 per cent. increase had recently been granted them, and many other privileges were at the time under consideration by the authorities to improve the conditions of service in the Force. Lieut.-Colonel Deane, O.B.E., Chief of Police, appealed to the men to await the decision of the Government in the questions referred to, but they evidently wanted the excitement of a strike, and had it. The strike fever spread quickly, and the coal-carriers again tried their luck, also the Castries Town Board Constables, the crew of the Government steam-tug *Midge*, employees in some of the business establishments, and the labourers on several estates. Many of the coal-carriers were prepared to continue work, but were prevented from doing so by the discontented element. Matters might have assumed serious proportions, but the appearance of H.M.S. *Constant* quietly gliding up the harbour on Tuesday afternoon effectively put a stop to all talk of strikes, and work was soon resumed without any further increases being granted. In the case of the police the strikers were dismissed, and those who remained faithful to their duty were each given a £5 bonus by the Government.

Sir Edward Davson passed through here on Wednesday, February 18th, on his way to Barbados. Captain E. H. Poulton, the newly-appointed Colonial Engineer, arrived from England on January 31st. Four days later he left Castries, accompanied by the Agricultural Superintendent, for a tour of the island, thus losing no time in making himself acquainted with the problems connected with the opening-up of the colony for the transport of agricultural produce. The new road being constructed for motor traffic between Castries and Dennery is almost completed. It is now possible to travel by car or light lorry from Gros Islet to Soufriere via Castries, Dennery, Micoud, Vieuxfort, Laborie and Choiseul, and from Anse-la-Raye to Castries. When the small section between Anse-la-Raye and Soufriere is similarly opened up it will be possible to motor around the island. The opening-up of the Soufriere to Anse-la-Raye section would render the island independent of sea traffic, and would once and for all do away with subsidies to coasting steamers, which have proved such a heavy burden in the past. The Government hope to establish shortly a bi-weekly motor service between Castries and Dennery for the transport of passengers and produce.

### St. Vincent's Officials' Salaries.

The chief business before the Legislative Council at a meeting on February 19th, says the *Sentry*, was to approve of the gratuity to be given to the returned soldiers and to increase the salaries of various officials and subordinates. Two Bills were before the Council, one to amend the Jury Ordinance and the other to impose Restrictions on Alien Banks carrying on business in the colony. The Council approved of all these measures and sanctioned the expenditure required for the purposes.

Owing to high winds prevailing, fishing has been rendered difficult, and, as a result, there is a scarcity of fish in the island.

**Trinidad Entertains Mr. Aspinall.**

Mr. Edgar Tripp writes under date March 18th:—We have had the very great pleasure of welcoming Mr. Previté and Mr. Aspinall, both of whom have addressed various bodies here, and have, of course, been warmly received. The latter especially has been visiting all parts of the colony, adding, no doubt, to his already more intimate knowledge of the island than that of most of us who have lived nearly all our lives here. He is leaving to-morrow or next day, and as I write is being given a farewell dinner in Port of Spain by the local members of the West India Committee.

A Bill to deal with seditious writings and practices was recently introduced in the Legislative Council. It is meeting with much opposition, the most important of the opponents being the Hon. Dr. Laurence, who said all there was to be said against it in a moderate and reasonable manner. Besides this, a "Monster Meeting" was held at the Prince's Building, at which the speakers impressed on the audience the terrible nature of the attack attempted to be made against their rights of free speech and action. One of the principal orators spoke of the recent riot as a "trifling difference between employers and employed," whilst the Chairman described the Bill as "part of German propaganda introduced by the Government to promote disloyalty among the people." Both these inspiring remarks were received with vociferous applause, according to the papers, from which it may be presumed that the recent rioters formed no small part of the audience. Be that as it may, one cannot understand why any persons, excepting those seditiously inclined, should object to the stern repression of sedition.

Mr. Tripp continues on March 19th:—The dinner in honour of Mr. Aspinall at the Queen's Park Hotel last night proved a very happy event. The chair was occupied by Mr. Wm. Gordon Gordon. The Governor was, unfortunately, unable to be present, as he was himself entertaining the Bishop of Mauritius. The toasts were the guest of the evening and the West India Committee, which were appropriately spoken to by the Chairman and Mr. G. F. Huggins, and responded to by Mr. Aspinall and Mr. Previté, who were both at their best, which is saying a good deal. All went merry as a marriage bell, and it is the general wish that both of these welcome visitors will carry away with them pleasant recollections of Iere and their many sincere friends there.

We all must learn with general astonishment and regret, from a paragraph in this morning's paper, that Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co., and Prentice, Service & Henderson have severed their connection with the Direct Line Service, which will in future be carried on by Messrs. T. & J. Harrison. The red ball flag of the former firm has been familiar and welcome in West Indian waters for over a century, through good and bad times, and it comes as something of a shock, especially to those who have known it during many years and have had dealings with both ships and owners, to think that it will fly no more in our harbours. All through the weary years of the war, when far more favourable freights offered elsewhere, the Scrutton steamers continued their regular service, for which nothing but gratitude is rightly felt and expressed. It is some consolation to feel that the line will not pass into the hands of others than our old friends the Messrs. Harrison, whose steamers have been so long and favourably known here.

**Coconut Picking in Tobago.**

Fine, cool trade winds still prevail, says Mr. Robert S. Reid on March 17th, with occasional light showers. In this district there has been two inches of rain since March 1st, and vegetation is remarkably green, in spite of the somewhat blustering breezes. The young cacao pods have been dried up again, and the flush of new leaves is in some places the third since December. This

means a curtailed spring crop. Pickings are on a small scale, but there may be another spurt of crop in April-May from the cool valleys. With the great increase in bearing trees, coconut gathering continues the year round, delayed at times by lack of pickers, who can afford to rest on their oars occasionally, as they can earn bigger wages than any other estates workers. About twenty years ago a coconut picker's day's work was 300 nuts, for which he was paid a shilling, and considered he had earned a good day's pay, as day-workers were then paid 5d. to 8d. per day. Now 1,000 to 2,000 nuts per day is regularly picked, for which 4d. or 5d. per 100 is paid. Wages have been advanced all round, and a further increase would be gladly given in exchange for more regular work. On some estates bonuses are already given for steady work, but, thus far, a few days' leisurely work in the "Garden" has far more attractions than regular work and wages on the settlers' plantations. There is, however, a keen demand for contracts to plant cacao, coconuts, and timber, and in this district quite a large acreage has been given out in this and recent years. The regular labour supply is curtailed by those contracts, and proprietors, who find it difficult to maintain existing cultivation, may have serious trouble to carry on when the contracts are taken over a few years hence. It is not surprising that the Planters' Association is wishful of joining in with Demerara to get East Indians, and offer subsidies in the shape of land, as well as guaranteed employment.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR.**

To the Editor WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—Referring to the leader on "Future Sugar Work" in your issue of April 1st, may I make the following remarks?—

The hope of an increased average yield in connection with the cane lies in the enormous difference in the yield that at present obtains, ranging from 15 to 60 tons per acre, so that if only the lower yields could be increased the average would be raised. The difference is noticeable even on the same estate and on the same parts of the estate. Then, again, the systems practised are very numerous. In some localities only plant-canes are grown, in others ratoons may be run to three or four years. It seems to me that herein lies the strength of the future as regards cane yields, and a big scope for experimental station work.

With the beet it is different. It is an annual crop, and the system of cultivation pursued is practically the same in all instances, with nothing like the difference in yield of roots per acre as with the cane, and now that the possible has been reached in the direction of sugar content there is no further room for increase on the yield of sugar per acre.

I think that the above represents what your leader writer intended to convey. As to seedling canes, the position seems to me to be as follows:—

1 Their introduction has had the effect of maintaining cultivation by the substitution of new varieties for old, and by the substitution of sweeter canes for those with low sugar content.

2 No seedling cane has yet been grown which has beaten the record of old variety canes for sugar content or for sugar yield per acre under similar field conditions.

3 But there is no reason why in time canes should not be produced which will do this.

Yours faithfully,

F. I. SCARD.

From Sacramento, California, comes the news of the marriage of Miss Maizie Hamel-Smith, of Trinidad, to Mr. Russell House.



**PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.**

Telephone—6842 Central.  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SEEDING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

April 13th, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 6 per cent.—changed on November 6th, 1919, from 5 per cent., at which figure it had stood from April 6th, 1917.

**SUGAR.** Control prices in the United Kingdom were modified on March 22nd, and are now as follows:—

	Wholesale.		Retail.	
	Per cwt.	Per lb.	Per cwt.	Per lb.
Cubes, Imports, &c. ...	84 0	10½	80 0	10
W.I. Crystallised (see below) ...	71 9	9	71 9	9
W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups (see below) ...	114 0	1 2	114 0	1 2
W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing ...	"free" No maximum			
Sugar for domestic preserving ...	"free" No maximum			

The discount is 1½ per centum.

In accordance with their arrangement concluded with the West India Committee, the Royal Commission have fixed the prices for allotment during April and May as follows:—

	April.	May.
Crystallised ...	100.38s.	110.98s. per cwt.
Muscovado ...	95.46s.	106.06s. " "

There is rather more inquiry for "free" sugar, and a steady tone prevails in the market; but there is a scarcity of white spot sugars. West India crystallised has changed hands at 100s. to 107s. Owing to a reduction in the Cuba crop estimates—Willett & Gray and Guma-Mejer having reduced their forecasts to 4,000,000 and 3,900,000 tons respectively—there has been sustained firmness in America, and manufacturers have become alarmed at prospects of future scarcity. Prices have risen to 15½ cents, c. and f. buyers—equal to about 87s.

The West India sugar statistics in London on April 3rd were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Tons.
Imports ...	11,381	6,105	5,273	
Deliveries ...	8,225	7,895	12,730	
Stock ...	11,292	4,402	3,580	

**RUM.** The market maintains a firm tone, though nothing is reported doing in Jamaica, which are held for full rates. Demeraras, at 6s. 3d. proof, mark 3d. advance.

The stocks in London on April 3rd were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Puns.
Jamaica ...	7,214	3,319	5,461	
Demerara ...	12,333	11,032	2,984	
Total of all kinds ...	27,842	18,832	13,919	

**CACAO.** The market is dull, and prices show a decline from 2s. to 3s. Trinidads have fetched 141s. to 146s. for good middling red, and 148s. to 150s. for fine to superior, which is full value. Grenadas have sold at 124s. to 128s. for fair, and 133s. to 135s. for fine. A few bags of Dominicas realised from 120s. to 140s., and Jamaicas have been disposed of for 121s. 6d. for fair and up to 137s. 6d. for fine.

Messrs. Edgar Tripp & Co. report Trinidad shipments for January and February as 22,385,438 lb., compared with 12,052,998 lb. and 14,841,342 lb. to same period in 1919 and 1908 respectively. We learn from the same source that unsatisfactory reports have been received from Venezuela, where the crop has proved disappointing.

The stocks in London on April 3rd were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Bags
Trinidad ...	18,499	14,108	13,880	
Grenada ...	20,753	9,795	14,422	
Total of all kinds ...	151,663	132,102	189,131	

**ARROWROOT** continues dull, and prices are unchanged.

**BALATA** keeps very firm. West Indian sheet strongly held. Spot value, fair average quality, 1s. 8d.

**COFFEE.** Imports of West Indian to February 29th, 1,106 cwt.

**COPRA** is steady and quiet; f.m.s. West Indian is quoted at £58 c.i.f. London.

**COTTON** continues in limited demand. Imports of West Indian in the fifteen weeks ending April 8th, 4,334 bales.

**HONEY.** Very dull, and there seems to be no inquiry from any quarter. At the last auctions nearly everything offered was withdrawn without attracting bids of any kind.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** Lime Oil: Handpressed, market practically bare; small sales have been made at up to 22s. 6d. per lb.; Distilled, firm and dearer, with sales up to 8s. per lb. Lime-juice: Raw, quiet, but steady, with small business passing at 3s. 6d. for good quality.

**ORANGE OIL.** Sweet, scarce; nominal value 35s. per lb.; Bitter not inquired for.

**SPICES.** Pimento quiet; importers ask 6d. for spot parcels, but buyers are holding off. Mace, steady at 1s. 6d. to 1s. 10d. for red to pale. Nutmegs lower; slightly wormy, 1s.; 110's to 80's, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 5d. per lb.

**WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.**

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.**—Sailings to West Indies from London, April 7th, per R.M.S.P. *Quilpie* (Commander, W. E. Smith, D.S.O., R.D., R.N.R.):—

Mr. H. A. H. Allen	Capt. and Mrs. O. L. Hancock	Mr. Pasbhu Saah
Mr. & Mrs. J. Banner	Mr. F. K. Harris	Mr. V. B. B. Shand
Mr. and Mrs. Osmond	Mrs. J. M. Harris	Miss D. M. Smith
Hecky	Mr. & Mrs. A. Hill	Mr. W. P. Stephenson
Lieut. and Mrs. K. Hill	Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Hine	Miss S. E. Stewart
Mr. J. H. Bishston	Mr. & Mrs. A. Horne	Mrs. Somo Stewart
Mr. F. C. Bonner	Miss E. M. Lockhart	Rev. and Mrs. J. J. Stunley
Mr. A. J. Collier	Mr. R. J. Mackenzie	Mr. G. W. E. Stodley
Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Collins	Mr. E. McAdams	Dr. & Mrs. E. Sutcliffe
Miss Collins	Mrs. H. McArthur	Mr. T. W. G. Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. H. Daly	Mr. Francis McCorry	Mr. H. K. Turner
and Infant	Mr. J. W. Kearns	Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Wagner
P. O. R. Duou	Mr. and Mrs. K. B. Miles	The Misses Wagner (5)
Mrs. H. M. Doring	Miss Florence Owen	Mr. R. Walter
Lieut. G. C. Flower	Mr. G. E. A. Planchat	Mr. & Mrs. J. Weir
R.N.R.	Mr. V. F. Priddleaux	Mr. D. W. M. Whittle
Mr. W. L. Grundy	Brig.-Genl. C. E. Rico	Mr. H. C. Wood

**Elders & Fyfes, Ltd.**—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, March 31st, per R.M.S. *Montagna* (Commander, F. H. Swan):—

Mr. E. Brocklehurst	Mr. & Mrs. F. W. Gibb	Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Lycaught
Miss A. Broome	Mrs. I. W. Griffin	Mrs. E. E. MacRae
Mr. C. H. Carr	Lady Sybil Hambro	Mr. G. Madgwick
Mr. and Mrs. Dixon	Mr. J. Hudson	Mr. C. Power
Spain	Mr. and Mrs. A. B. A. Kierulff	Mrs. N. F. Taylor
Capt. and Mrs. A. B. Drake	Miss M. Kierulff	Miss J. Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. J. Dudgeon	Major J. R. King	Mr. J. H. Thompson
Mr. F. W. A. Elliott	Capt. and Mrs. C. M. Lloyd	Mr. Nancy Walter
Mrs. F. C. Fitteroff	Lloyd	Mr. A. E. Wilcock
Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Foreman	The Misses Lloyd (3)	Miss L. Worth

**WANTS.**

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

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# The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXV.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1920.

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### The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:  
6642 CENTRAL.



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegramms:  
CARIB, LONDON.

April 29th, 1920.

### The Associated Chambers.

THERE can be no doubt whatever that the second meeting of the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce, under the Chairmanship of Sir EDWARD DAVSON, which was held at the end of February, has proved a most striking success. As we go to press the full verbatim report of their deliberations has not yet been received, but the value of such conferences from time to time can be judged both from the complete unanimity that is shown to have prevailed, no less than from the importance of the subjects under discussion. We were able to give in our last issue a summary of the results achieved. From it will be seen that steamship communication, the cable service, preferential proposals, health, labour, emigration—all came under review. It is sincerely to be hoped that the conclusions arrived at, striking as they do at the root of the problems with which the West Indies are faced, will not fall into the dusty "limbo of forgotten things," but will attract the attention they deserve, and will bring about a decided improvement on the lines suggested. With regard to the cable service, for instance, here we have an influential and representative gathering of the foremost men from all portions of the West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras, making the strongest recommendation that, if legally possible, the present cable contract shall be terminated, which in itself discloses a sufficiently startling state of affairs—not more so, however, than the known facts warrant. This, then,

seems the principal function of such a Conference—that each unit shall work for the common good, and that, in place of the purely parochial point of view, shall come about a realisation of the wider vision. The interests of smaller and larger islands are shown not to be antagonistic. To take the question of labour and emigration, which is apt to be charged with controversial matter, the moderate and the reasonable standpoint demands that labour shall not be restricted in finding its own market, but that there should be every inducement for the worker to remain in his own colony, and when, as in the case of overcrowded Barbados, emigration is not inimical to the colonies interested, such emigration should be to a sister colony within the Empire. There is no question here of the bigger colonies taking advantage of the comparative weakness of the smaller islands. It is by its attitude to questions of this sort that the success of the Conference must be judged. Its value is apparent from the Jamaica representative's proposal that the various West Indian Chambers of Commerce should appoint a representative to meet annually, and that a representative from each Legislature and from the Jamaica Imperial Association should be present. If such a scheme is brought into operation, it will, we believe, result in a federation that will prove of far greater practical value than any artificial and arbitrary conjunction of widely separated interests.

### The Thin End of the Wedge.

ON the 22nd of March last, a question was asked by Mr. SWAN in the House of Commons as to whether or not representations had been made to the Supreme Council urging speedy action for the restoration of the German beet industry, so that German sugars might be available for the wants of the United Kingdom. To this an evasive reply was made by Mr. BRIDGMAN that careful consideration was being given to suggestions which had been made from time to time for stimulating the production of sugar throughout the Continent, but he was not aware of any representations having been made to the Supreme Council. Our readers will remember how, quite early in the war, a form of contract for dealings in German beet after the war was circulated among certain brokers in Minchingham, which plainly showed an effort to restore the *status quo ante bellum* would be made as soon as circumstances would permit. That these anticipations are being fulfilled is foreshadowed by Mr. BRIDGMAN'S reply to Mr. SWAN, and the Board of Trade's returns for March, just issued, confirm



them. Once more the name of Germany appears among the countries of origin of imported sugars. It is true that the amount was small—a little over 800 tons—but the ominously indicative part of the matter is that Germany was the only Continental country from which sugar was obtained for the use of the United Kingdom. Is it the thin end of the wedge? We all know the untiring trade energy of our late enemies, and we are sure that no effort will be spared by them to regain their footing in the market for sugar in this country. Unfortunately, there are still those who hanker after the fleshpots of Egypt in the shape of "cheap" sugar, who remain blind to the lessons of the past, and who would gladly sacrifice our sugar colonies if by so doing the price of their sugar is lessened by one halfpenny per pound. We do not advocate prohibition of German sugars, but what we do want is a guarantee that the future of British sugar be safeguarded, and the only way to do this is the inclusion of an adequate anti-dumping clause in the customs tariff of the United Kingdom. Without this the tariff preference to British colonial sugars does not give the advantage against German sugars that it appears to do. The United Kingdom market is at Germany's door, and the difference in cost of freight neutralises to a considerable extent the financial advantage which British colonial sugar receives from it. If the United Kingdom market is to be retained for British colonial sugar, steps should be taken at once to nip in the bud the German efforts to regain it.

#### Home-Grown Beet.

THE terms under which the new Home-Grown Sugar Company, Ltd., is constructed—an account of which is given further on in our columns—will be of special interest to those interested in the development of the West Indian sugar industry, inasmuch as they include especially favourable conditions of Government assistance. Practically, the Government advances half the issued capital, and guarantees for ten years interest at 5 per cent. on the remaining moiety, any profits over 5 per cent. on the public issue being devoted to the purchase by the directors of the Government shares, with cumulative interest, until they all become the property of the Board of Directors—in other words, of the holders of the public shares. A lead is thus afforded to colonial Governments as to what terms would be sanctioned by the Colonial Office for cane-sugar development. Although the interests of the West India Committee are naturally with the cane-sugar industry, as has been often pointed out it has no hostile attitude whatever to the production of beet sugar in the United Kingdom. But it does take exception to British public money being devoted to the purchase of French machinery, as was stated in Parliament on April 15th to have been done in the case of the Kelham factory. Practically the only difference in method between cane and beet processes lies in mills being used in the one case to extract the juice and diffusion batteries in the other. There is nothing mysterious about beet-sugar manufacture calculated to prevent our own makers of cane-sugar machinery turning out efficient plants for beet-sugar manufacture. Diffusion is not

unknown in the cane-sugar world, nor the clarification processes belonging to beet sugar, while multiple effects, vacuum pans, crystallisers, centrifugals, and we need not say boilers, are common to both. We sincerely trust, therefore, that, in any future schemes of the kind that may be put through, it will be stipulated that the Government assistance is conditional on the machinery being obtained from our own makers.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

### Progress of the Endowment Fund.

The present state of the Fund which is being raised in order to obtain more commodious premises for the Committee, and to develop still further the work the Committee has undertaken on behalf of the welfare of the West Indies, can best be shown as follows.—

Amount collected	£11,886
Still to be collected	8,114
<b>Minimum total</b>	<b>£20,000</b>

Among the donations printed below will be seen one of the first lists of contributions collected directly in the Colonies, of which the amounts have actually been received, but it is believed by no means exhausts what members in Barbados have generously promised to subscribe, and it is known there are similar lists on their way from other colonies. If every member will work with a will to attain this object, it should not be long before the minimum total for which the Committee have appealed is reached.

#### THIRTEENTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Contributions already acknowledged £11,613 1 5  
Per Messrs Wilkinson & Haynes Co.,

Ltd., Barbados:—				
Messrs Manning & Co	£100	0	0	
H. J. Jones, Esq.	50	0	0	
C. W. Haynes, Esq.	25	0	0	
H. H. Barnard, Esq.	10	0	0	
H. A. Mahon, Esq.	10	0	0	
W. W. Nurse, Esq.	10	0	0	
C. M. Manning, Esq.	5	0	0	
W. H. Barnard, Esq.	2	2	0	
W. R. Shilstone, Esq.	1	0	10	
		213	2	10
Estridge Estates (St Kitts)		40	0	0
W. F. Samuels, Esq.		5	5	0
E. Powis Gladwin, Esq.		4	4	0
G. Sinclair Browne, Esq.		2	2	0
Surgeon-Captain A. G. Curphey		1	1	0
F. Holmes, Esq.		1	1	0
J. J. Rodrigues, Esq.		1	1	0
J. F. Gulland, Esq.		1	0	0
T. C. Inmiss, Esq.		1	0	0
R. Leslie Nicol, Esq.				19 0
Gain on Exchange, Barbados		2	5	0

Contributions towards the West India Committee Endowment Fund may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or may be forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London

## NOTES OF INTEREST.

"No trow away duddy water before you hab clean."

PLANS are well advanced for the amalgamation of the Overseas Club, which celebrates its tenth birthday, this summer, with the Royal Colonial Institute.

STEPS are being taken to establish a beet sugar industry in Western Australia. It is proposed that the growers should be recruited from the distressed soldiery.

ACCORDING to a correspondent in Halifax, there has been a market for the first time for large quantities of Demerara rice, and it is understood that the Canadian millers could use considerably more than the quantity at present reaching them.

FOR his gallant services in the Royal Air Force during the European War, Lieut. Cecil Walter Murray, son of Mr. H. E. Murray, of British Guiana, was on February 27th decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross by His Excellency the Governor of Trinidad.

WE are interested to see that the go-ahead character of British Guiana is well illustrated by the appearance in the *Journal of the Board of Agriculture* of an article purporting to be quoted from the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR which, up to now, has not made its appearance in these columns.

THE remaining properties belonging to the estate of the late Colonel W. G. Dawkins in Jamaica will be seen, from our advertisement pages, to be for sale. The total area for disposal is upwards of 10,000 acres, and includes the well-known "Dawkins Caymanas," let to Mr. Crum Ewing.

CAPT. A. K. AGAR, who, it will be remembered was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn at the beginning of 1919, has recently been demobilised from the R.A.S.C., and sailed early in this month for Dominica, where he intends to practise at the Bar. Until lately he owned the Carlet Estate in that island.

THE total value of mineral production in Canada in 1919 amounted to \$175,075,915. Of this amount \$72,401,829 represented metals and \$74,919,392 non-metals, the balance being due to structural materials and clay products. The total amount is a falling off from 1918, when the value of \$211,301,897 was reached.

A GENTLE reminder that subscriptions for the current year were due on January 1st has been sent to every member of the West India Committee who is still in arrears. That it may have the desired effect is the fervent hope of the Hon. Treasurers, whose voluntary efforts are greatly lightened when subscriptions are paid without delay.

OWING to the operation of atmospheric, wireless communication with Nassau, Belize, Trinidad and Demerara has been lately subject to considerable delay. It is understood that the Sub-committee of the Imperial Communications Committee, which is inquiring into the whole question of West Indian communications, has now presented its report.

MEANWHILE the good ship *Henry Holmes* has been in the shipwrights' hands for fully thirteen months, and is still lying in the Gulf of Paria looking more like a hulk than a sea-going ship. It is reported that she is likely to be there until August at least. How are cables to be repaired

when the repair ship itself requires repairing? *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?*

ACCORDING to the *South African Sugar Journal* the authorities at Mount Edgcombe have solved the difficult question of the clarification of the juice of the Uba cane by treating it, in the first instance, by the double carbonisation system. The clear liquor from the second filtration is then treated with sulphurous acid gas (sulphitation), concentrated in the evaporator, and the syrup filtered through high or low pressure filters.

IN the year 1919 the consumption of sugar per head in the United States amounted to 85.43 lb., against 73.36 lb. in 1918. The total consumption was 4,067,671 tons, or 577,065 tons more than in 1918. The amount of Cuban sugar consumed in the United States was 2,067,651 tons, as against 1,881,244 tons in 1918. During 1919 665,490 tons of sugar were exported from the United States, principally to France and Great Britain.

SIR JOHN TANKERVILLE GOLDNEY, who died on April 11th at the age of seventy-three, was in 1880 appointed Attorney-General of the Leeward Islands, and in the following year became Acting Chief Justice there. He was made a puisne Judge in British Guiana in 1884, and, after three years in the Straits Settlements, held the position of Chief Justice of Trinidad from 1892 to 1902, when he retired. Sir John was knighted in 1893.

THE amount of proof spirit delivered from bond for the purpose of methylation or for use in the arts and manufactures during the three months ending March 31st, 1920, was 36,745 gallons. Molasses can be imported free of duty for the purpose of industrial alcohol. The industry is still in its infancy, as the above quantity of spirit would only be equivalent to about 550 puncheons of molasses—at the rate of 2,200 puncheons for the year.

A NEW variety of the Uba cane is reported from Natal. As sugar makers know, the standard Uba cane, although hardy and prolific, is hard to grind, and the juice difficult to manufacture. The cane is purple-striped, and, if anything, more fibrous than the Uba. It is stated to be even more hardy than the Uba and to be a vigorous grower. The sugar content is stated to be quite satisfactory. It may be mentioned that the origin of the Uba cane is India, and not Cuba.

MR. ALBERT R. LING, F.I.C., the well-known sugar chemist, has accepted a Professorship at Birmingham University. It will be remembered that he was Chairman of the Empire Sugar Sub-Committee formed in connection with the London Section of the Society of Chemical Industries. It may well be that now that Mr. Ling, who has been for thirty years connected with the sugar industry, has joined the University staff, the latter may take an active interest in sugar technology, as has been done so successfully at Glasgow.

HIS many friends in the West Indies and at home will sympathise with Mr. Luke M. Hill in the recent death, from heart failure, of his wife, as announced in the present issue of the CIRCULAR. Mrs. Hill was well known in social circles, and as a Church-worker in Georgetown, British Guiana, for many years, up to the time of her husband's retirement in 1910. She was the daughter, by his first marriage, of Captain Thos. E. Plant, of the ship *Fairlie* and other well-known liners of Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.'s old West Indian Fleet. She married Mr. Hill in 1877.

A big increase is going on in the manufacture of saccharin in the United Kingdom. In January and Febru-



ary, 1919, 353,663 oz. were imported, of which only 13,055 oz. were for home consumption. For the same period in 1920 the amounts were 21,848 oz. and 24,558 oz. respectively. There were no exports in 1919 of articles containing saccharin, but in January and February, 1920, 217,053 oz. were exported in one form or another. But why does the Board of Trade class saccharin with sugar in its returns? It should be entered among drugs, the mere fact of its sweetness not entitling it to rank with sugar.

THE report of the Lamaha Committee—the body which has the control of the water conservancy on the East Coast of Demerara, and which supplies Georgetown with water for non-drinking purposes—for the year ending 31st of January, 1920, has just been published. It shows that the expenditure for the year amounted to \$881,681, and that the water supply was satisfactory. Mr. M. Nascimento, the Deputy Mayor of Georgetown, and Mr. I. Gonsalves were elected members of the Committee in the place of the Hon. E. G. Woolford and Mr. I. Cunningham. The other members of the Committee are Mr. Magistrate Gilchrist, President, Messrs. Beach, Craig and Deverill, representing the estates, and Hon. Prof. J. B. Harrison, C.M.G.

THE British Guiana Immigrant Return for the six months ending the 30th of June, 1919, shows the total number of immigrants in the sugar estates was 2,382 males and 974 females. Of these 1,349 and 560 respectively come from Calcutta and 1,033 and 414 from Madras. The unindentured immigrants resident on the estates amounted to 22,024 males and 15,891 females. Of these 21,704 and 15,637 respectively came from Calcutta and 320 and 254 from Madras. There were 9,922 male and 9,173 female children on the estates. Including the public institutions, there were 34,965 males and 26,236 females in the colony—in all, 61,201 East Indian immigrants. The total number of deaths for the six months among the indentured immigrants was 155, with 4,159 among the unindentured—in all, 4,314.

The Department of Agriculture and Commerce in Tokyo has issued statistics of the production and consumption of sugar in Japan proper during the years 1917-18. In 1918 the output of the nine existing factories amounted to 424,017,000 kin, valued at 75,935,000 yen, as compared with 390,704,000 kin, valued at 66,364,000 yen in 1917. According to a Japanese authority Japan, before the war, consumed annually 5,400,000 piculs, but her consumption at present averages 8,000,000 piculs (about 3,000,000 bastard, 2,400,000 piculs centrifugal, and 2,600,000 piculs refined) yearly. Exports are limited to refined sugar, sugar candy, and a small quantity of sweetmeats, but these, particularly in the case of candy, are gradually increasing. In 1915, 1,165,000 piculs of refined sugar and 1,000 piculs of sugar candy were exported these quantities increasing in 1917 to 2,209,000 piculs refined and 37,000 piculs candy. Exports for 1918 were 1,909,000 piculs refined and 50,000 piculs candy, and it has been estimated that those for 1919 amounted to 1,139,000 piculs refined and 44,000 piculs candy, the decrease being attributed to the boycott movements in China, which country receives the greater part of Japan's sugar exports. Shipments were made to England and France, however, and in this way the portion which was not taken by China was diverted into other channels. In view of the fact that 70 per cent. of the total quantity of sugar consumed in China is imported from Japan, and that exports to that country are bound to increase as the consumption of sugar increases, it is expected that the sugar-refining industry in Japan will see a large development in the near future, unless there is increased production in China.

(1 Kin = 132 lb. avoird.; 1 picul = 132 lb. avoird.)

## GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS.

### Sir William Mitchell-Thomson.

Sir William Mitchell-Thomson, Bart, K.B.E., M.P., who has been a member of the Executive of the West India Committee since 1906, has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food.

Sir William, who was born in 1877, was educated at Winchester, Balliol College, Oxford, and Edinburgh University, and was called to the Scottish Bar. In 1916 he was appointed Director of the Restriction of Enemy Supplies Department. Since 1918 he has represented the Maryhill Division of Glasgow in the Coalition Unionist interest, and before that he was the Member for North-West Lanark and North Down. For some years he was a Director of the Trinidad Shipping and Trading Co., Ltd., and the Trinidad Estates Co., Ltd. He resigned these positions in order to be able to give more time to politics.

### Resignation of Sir Sydney Olivier.

It is announced that Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., C.B., so well known as the Governor of Jamaica from 1907-13, has relinquished his position as Assistant-Comptroller and Auditor-General, which he has held since 1917. Before that he was Permanent Secretary to the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.

## THE BAHAMAS.

### New Governor Appointed.

His Majesty has been pleased to approve the appointment of Major Harry Edward Spiller Cordeaux, C.B., C.M.G., Governor of St. Helena, to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bahama Islands in succession to Sir William Allardyce, K.C.M.G., who has been appointed Governor of Tasmania.

Major Cordeaux has had a distinguished career. Born in 1870, he was educated at Cheltenham and St. John's College, Cambridge, where he graduated with honours in 1892. He joined the Army in 1894, and entered the Bombay Political Department four years later. From 1898 he served in Somaliland to 1910, when he was appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Uganda; in the following year he became Governor of St. Helena.

## BRITISH GUIANA.

### The Prince of Wales's Tour.

At the meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on April 15th the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

"That, in view of the great number of Indian colonists already in British Guiana, and of the favourable chances of an early resumption of Indian immigration into that colony, this meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee believes that it will prove of the utmost Imperial importance for His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to have visited British Guiana before the tour he intends to make to India, and accordingly they strongly urge that His Royal Highness be respectfully invited to pay a visit to British Guiana in the course of his homeward journey from the Antipodes in the autumn."

**Lord Milner Thanks Dr. Nunan.**

Dr. Nunan, leader of the deputation which visited India for the purpose of arranging a resumption of Indian colonisation for British Guiana, has been much gratified to receive the following letter from the Colonial Office:—

Downing-street,  
April 9th, 1920.

Sir.—I am directed by Viscount Milner to acknowledge the receipt of your report on the work of the British Guiana Deputation to India, dated the 24th March, and to express my high appreciation of the able and valuable services which you and your colleagues have rendered to the colony in face of great difficulties.

With regard to the question of Maltese immigration, I am to inform you that the Secretary of State has asked the Governor of Malta for his report on the results of such investigations as he may have made.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
H. J. READ.

It is announced that, in reply to inquiries as to whether any decision had been arrived at regarding the appointment of an Indian deputation to visit British Guiana, Mr. Dooley, who is in India, has sent a telegram to the Colonial Office stating that the decision of the Government of India has been communicated by despatch to the Secretary of State for India, who will address Lord Milner on the subject.

**THE BUDGET.**

**Increased Duties on Rum.**

Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer, introduced the Budget on April 19th. Its most sensational feature was the very large sum it was necessary to raise to meet current expenditure.

Sugar and cocoa escape any attentions. The principal provisions which, it is believed, will be of interest to readers of the *COURIER* are set forth below:—

(1) *Postage Rate*.—To make up a deficit on the Post-office vote an increase in postal rates is announced. The suggested new rates are as follows: For letters to British possessions generally—

Not exceeding 1oz., 2d. (instead of 1½d.).  
For every additional oz., 1d. (as before).

(2) *Petrol Tax*.—It is proposed to remove the tax on motor fuel after this year, and a licence duty on motor vehicles is recommended to take its place.

(3) *Rum*.  
“These,” said the Chancellor of the Exchequer, “are minor alterations important only as they affect particular interests, but bringing no additional revenue to the Exchequer. I come now to serious business. First, I address myself to spirits.”

It is proposed that, as with other spirits, the Customs duties on rum, which stood at £2 12s. 10d. per proof gallon, with a preference of 2s. 6d., shall now be £3 15s. 4d., the same preference being retained. Excise duties are raised to 72s. 6d. a proof gallon. Prices will have to be readjusted accord-

ingly, the retail price being raised by 2½d. a gill and 2s. per bottle.

(4) *Cigars*.—Cigars are to be still taxed at 15s. 7d. per lb., but 50 per cent. *ad valorem* duty imposed. Jamaica cigar producers will be interested to find that five-sixths preference of the 15s. 7d. is retained, plus two-thirds of the *ad valorem* surtax.

(5) *Twice-Taxed Incomes*.—The standard rate of income-tax will not be altered from 6s. in the £1, but is to be remodelled to some extent in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission.

Dealing with the case of the same interests being taxed twice over within the Empire, Mr. Chamberlain spoke as follows:—

“The lower income tax should be eliminated by the countries concerned respectively remitting proportions of their tax equal in the aggregate to the whole of the lower tax. Between the United Kingdom and the Dominions it is proposed that relief should be afforded by the reduction of the rate of the United Kingdom income-tax, including super-tax, up to one-half of the rate of tax charged upon the taxable income, and the balance of relief, if any, shall be given by the Dominion concerned. Thus, in the case of a taxpayer charged in the United Kingdom at the rate of 5s. on income which is also taxed in the Dominion at the rate of 3s., the relief from the United Kingdom income-tax will be at the rate of 2s. 6d.—that is, one-half of 5s.—and the balance of relief—namely, 6d.—necessary to eliminate altogether the lesser of the two charges, will, under the terms of the proposal, be afforded by the Dominion in question. I confidently hope the Dominions will adopt the proposal, and make relief complete by similar action on their part. In any case, I propose to put the alteration into operation forthwith.”

It is understood that “Dominions” in the above statement is intended to include colonies where there is an income-tax in force.

(6) *Excess Profits Duty*.—Twenty per cent. is added to this tax, bringing it up to 60 per cent., at which it was fixed in 1916; but it is promised this increase will not be put into operation if it is found practicable to impose a levy on war fortunes. A new tax to be levied concurrently with the Excess Profits Duty is the Corporation Profits Tax, at the rate of 1s. in the £1 on profits after the first £500 of concerns with limited liabilities engaged in trade or similar transactions. Where a concern is liable to both taxes any Excess Profits Duty will be treated as a working expense in arriving at the profits for the purpose of the new tax. It is proposed that in no case shall the duty exceed 2s. in the £1.

Thus it will be seen that business houses which have their headquarters in the Home Country are subject to income-tax, Super-Tax, Excess Profits Duty, and perhaps, in addition, the new Corporation Tax from almost all of which the majority of resident proprietors in the West Indies are fortunately exempt.

Mr. EDWARD BAYNES, late of Antigua, who was awarded an O.B.E. in the recent honours list, has been appointed private secretary to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Shipping. Mr. Baynes formerly belonged to the Colonial Service, Dominica, &c., and served in the Ministry of Shipping during the war, but was recalled to his own department, the Ministry of Health, some months ago.



## AN IMPERIAL CONGRESS.

### Trinidad's Share.

Of the thirty-six resolutions already drafted for consideration at the Ninth Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire, which is due to be held at Toronto from September 14th-17th, 1920, three are in the name of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce. These deal with the questions of an all-red cable service, trade with Venezuela, and European troops in the British West Indies, very much on the lines of the resolutions passed at the Associated West Indian Chamber of Commerce in February, to which reference has already been made in these columns. The resolutions are as follows:—

(1) "Whereas the vital importance of direct cable communication between the United Kingdom and His Majesty's Dominions beyond the seas is an unquestioned and acknowledged fact;

"And whereas the passing of British telegrams through foreign and possible enemy territory is a source of national danger;

"Be it resolved that this Chamber reiterates its opinion as to the urgent necessity of establishing without further delay cable communication between these colonies and Great Britain, passing solely through British territory, and recommends that a sufficient subsidy be provided by the participating colonies."

(2) "That this Congress records its grave disappointment and regret at the long-continued indifference of the Imperial Government with regard to the imposition by the Government of Venezuela of the 30 per cent. differential duty upon produce and merchandise imported into the Republic from the British West Indian colonies, admittedly in violation of existing treaties, and expresses the hope that the opportunity now afforded by the negotiations recently initiated by the Government of Venezuela to improve commercial relations between the Republic and the Empire will be availed of to obtain the abrogation of this serious restriction upon the legitimate trade of these colonies."

The third resolution deals with the advisability of again establishing garrisons of Imperial troops in the West Indian colonies. It was pointed out at the Associated Chambers meeting in Barbados that this would cement the good feeling between men drawn from widely scattered portions of the Empire in the common bond of the Empire's service during the war.

## HOME-GROWN BEET.

The prospectus of "Home-Grown Sugar, Ltd.," the Company formed to take over the interests of the British Sugar Beet Growers' Society, Ltd., has now been issued. The authorised share capital is £1,000,000 in £1 shares, and the present issue consists of 500,000 shares at par. Of these 250,000 are offered for public subscription, the remaining 250,000 being subscribed for by the Government. Further Government support is given by the interest at 5 per cent. being guaranteed on the public issue of 250,000 shares for ten years.

As regards the distribution of profits, after payment of 5 per cent. on the public shares, any sum remaining over will be devoted to the purchase of the Government shares at par, after any moneys

owing to the Government under their guarantee have been paid.

The Kellman Estate, near Newark, Noctis, was purchased for the purpose of a sugar-beet scheme out of the Development Fund in 1917. Half the property will be devoted to the settlement of ex-soldiers and ex-sailors; the other half—about 2,800 acres—has been developed as a farm.

A factory is to be erected to work up 600 tons of roots per day, and in an ordinary crop season should be capable of turning out 8,000 tons. The estate itself will only form the nucleus of the beet-root supply in the form of about 6,000 tons—say, 800 tons of sugar. It is expected that the roots sufficient to make up the factory crop will be grown by the neighbouring farmers. The estimated cost of the factory is £300,000.

As regards the yield of the land, it has been proved that 13 tons of washed roots containing 17 to 18 per cent. of sucrose can be obtained per acre on a working basis, but the directors only figure on 10 to 12 tons with a sugar content of 16 per cent.

The sugar to be made will be white granulated, which is estimated to fetch £50 per ton at the factory door, and the cost of production is estimated at £44 13s. per ton, including the provision of £4 per ton for the beets.

The directors of the Company are Sir Deville Stanier, Bart., M.P. (Chairman), the Hon. E. G. Sturt, Mr. D. M. Horne, Sir Ernest Jardine, Bart., Mr. G. L. Courthope, M.P., Mr. J. Mason, the Earl of Denbigh, and Mr. G. H. Roberts, M.P.

## SUGAR CROPS OF THE WORLD.

At the present time, when the new order of things as regards the world's output of sugar is on the verge of coming into operation—if it has not begun so already—Messrs. Willett & Gray's statement as to the sugar crops of the world for the three years 1917-18, 1918-19, 1919-20 is interesting reading.

Taking the totals first into consideration, it appears that in 1917-18 the world's cane sugar crop amounted to 12,313,394 tons. In the following year there was a slight diminution, only 11,943,078 tons being recorded as having been produced, the deficiency being still further increased in the estimate for the current crop—11,906,511 tons. The beet crops, as might be expected, showed a great diminution in Continental figures, the 4,291,206 tons of 1917-18 diminishing to 2,809,000 tons in 1919-20. The United States beet crop also shows a decrease of from 674,892 tons in 1917-18, to 650,000 tons in 1919-20. An increase of 11,292 tons to 16,000 tons is also noticeable in Canadian beet.

As regards the cane crops, while the output of Hawaii and Porto Rico remains practically stationary, the Louisiana crop is nearly halved, the 217,497 tons of 1917-18 becoming 103,202 tons in 1919-20. There has been, therefore, no increase in the principal domestic and territorial United States sugar production. It is, however, interesting to note that the production of the American West Indian Virgin Islands—practically Santa Cruz only—increased from



5,420 to 12,000 tons as the result of United States protection.

It is towards Cuba that the eyes of the sugar world are directed. Before the war the development of the sugar industry of the "Pearl of the Antilles" had been, under the stimulus of United States preferential treatment, very rapid. The blow to Continental beet supplied a further *vis a tergo*, and Cuba now, for the current crop, holds the premier position among sugar producers in the world, with the estimated enormous output of 4,000,000 tons.

From some cause or other—it is to be feared a falling-off in the quality and yield of the canes—the Java crop, in spite of the incentive to production in the world's sugar famine, shows a decided falling-off. The 1917-18 crop amounted to 1,778,345 tons. There was a slight diminution in the following year, but the 1919-20 crop is given as being only 1,336,763 tons. In the British West Indies and British Guiana there is not yet evidence of expansion to any great extent. The Trinidad crop is expected to show an increase from 45,256 tons to 65,000 tons, that of Barbados from 65,260 tons to 70,000 tons, of Jamaica from 34,300 tons to 50,000 tons, while the British Guiana crops only exhibit the low figure of 90,000 tons.

It is refreshing to see that at last the century-old 24 million tons of the production of British India at again departed from by a lift to 2,800,000 tons for 1919-20. This may be looked upon as an important index of the future of Indian sugar, and of its effect upon the world's supplies.

Turning to the South American Republics, the only increase in production of note is to be found in Argentina. Here the 1917-18 output of 87,699 tons is raised to 260,000 tons. But disappointment will be felt in the Peru output. With that country's great natural advantages, expansion might be expected. The output of this country for 1919-20 is, however, much the same—250,000 tons—as in 1917-18, when 265,000 tons were reached.

In Africa, the only country showing an increase of moment is Natal. The sugar crop of this colony has been for some years in the neighbourhood of 100,000 tons, being 106,000 tons 1917-18. In 1918-19, however, 144,000 tons were made, and the estimate for the current crop is 150,000 tons. The Egyptian production, which has been under a cloud for some years, also shows signs of animation in an increase of about 10,000 tons on the 79,456 tons of 1917-18. The Mauritius crop remains stationary at about 235,000 tons.

The main points as regards the immediate future of sugar as shown by the above figures are, firstly, that Cuba will dominate the Western world in this respect; secondly, that an increase may be expected in the future as to the Java crop; and, thirdly, that British India is at last on the high road to self-support in sugar supplies. But Cuba is very near its limit of output power. There will be a sugar famine in the world for some years to come.

As we go to press, we learn from the Colonial Office that the Prince of Wales, on his return from Australia, about the third week of September, will visit British Guiana, also Jamaica, Grenada, Trinidad and Antigua.

## AUSTRALIAN SUGAR CROP.

The sugar production for Queensland for 1919 was estimated officially to be about 155,000 tons. During the last six months of 1919, says the *Board of Trade Journal*, the weather was exceptionally dry, and the outlook for the current year was bad, the ratoon, or re-growth, crops making no progress, and the plant cane, though started, standing still. Summer showers and storms were of local value in places, but the monsoonal, or wet, season set in in good time, and now excellent rains are reported.

In 1917 an area less than that at present under crop for the 1920 crushing produced over 300,000 tons of sugar, or with New South Wales and Victoria, 30,000 tons above the official estimate of Australian consumption.

## POTASH.

An important new source of supply of potash is about to be tapped, which will be available for agricultural purposes. It is stated that a well-known Swedish company (Patentaktiebolaget Jungner Kalicement), of Norrköping, has, according to the Press, commenced to manufacture potash on a large scale, and has decided to increase its capital from 2,100,000 to 3,500,000 kroner in new shares at par for the purpose.

Dr. Jungner's invention consists in the production of cement from potassic minerals and rocks, such as feldspar, granite, gneiss, &c., and the simultaneous extraction of potash as a by-product to be used as an artificial manure or for industrial purposes.

The first activities of this company were hampered owing to the scarcity of certain raw materials during the war, but now that this hindrance has disappeared, great hopes are entertained of being able to produce large quantities.

About 56 lb. of potash are expected from each ton of cement, and as a cement factory of a normal size has an annual production of 50,000 tons, this will mean a total of 1,000 tons of pure potash.

## SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

### Representations as to Price.

The following letter was on April 20th addressed to the Director of the Commercial Division, Board of Agriculture and Fisheries:—

DEAR SIR,—Considerable dissatisfaction has been expressed by members of this Committee at the price demanded for sulphate of ammonia, which they are licensed to export to the West Indies, and they are utterly at a loss to understand why they should be compelled to pay for this fertiliser, which is to be used in the production of essential foodstuffs for consumption in this country, often as much as double the amount that is asked of the home agriculturists engaged in the same pursuit. They feel that, if there is any sulphate of ammonia surplus to home requirements, it should be available for export to the colonies at the same price as is asked of the farmer in Great Britain. Even so there is, of course, the extra cost of freight to be provided.

My committee will be glad to hear from you what is proposed in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) GILFRED N. KNIGHT,  
Assistant Secretary.



## UNITED KINGDOM'S CACAO.

The development of the cacao trade in the United Kingdom is well shown by the returns issued by the Board of Trade in the "Accounts relating to Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom" for last February. These give the figures representing the imports for the first two months of the current year, as well as those for the corresponding periods of 1913—the pre-war year—and 1919. In January and February of 1913, the amount of cacao imported for all purposes was 164,581 cwt., and these figures may be taken as representing the normal pre-war trade. In 1919 and 1920, however, these entries for the corresponding periods had risen to 481,425 cwt. and 409,131 cwt. respectively, an enormous increase. The bulk of this was due to the rapidly increasing production of British West Africa, no less than 365,052 cwt. coming from this source in 1919, and 283,381 cwt. in 1920, as compared with 52,080 cwt. in 1913.

As regards the other countries of supply, a notable increase is observed in the figures for the British West Indies, the 1913 figures for the two months standing at 28,920 cwt., while the 1919 and 1920 figures were 52,140 and 60,187 cwt. respectively. The falling off in the cacao imports from Ceylon has been very marked, only 8,199 cwt. coming from this source in January and February, 1920, as against 16,904 cwt. in January and February, 1913. The imports from Brazil have sunk to the negligible figure of 782 cwt. Everything points to the British Colonies of the West Coast of Africa being in future the most important source of cacao in the world.

A most interesting feature in the returns is the record of the amounts of cacao imported for home consumption. In 1913 the figures under this head for January and February were 161,581 cwt. in 1919 and 1920, 194,683 cwt. and 207,547 cwt. respectively were recorded. Nothing could illustrate in a more marked manner than these figures the increased consuming capacity of the people of this country for chocolate and cacao. Before the war the taste for chocolate—mainly among the fair sex—was developing, and the effect of the war has been, by increasing the spending power of the people, to develop largely the consumption of cacao products. Like the craving for sugar, that for chocolate has arisen as a sequence of the diminished consumption of alcohol; and even if the Board of Trade figures did not show it, the chocolate-bedecked shop windows do.

Another interesting fact brought out by the returns is that Great Britain is becoming more and more of a distributing centre for cacao. This is, of course, due to the closing of Hamburg, then the world's distributing centre, during the war. The amount exported in January and February, 1913, was 28,539 cwt.; during the corresponding months of 1920, 166,751 cwt. The bulk of this 57,339 cwt. went to Holland, which had been accustomed to draw its supplies from Hamburg, in January and February, 1913, only 2,623 cwt. going to that country. The same remark may be made as to the United States;

that country had only 4,777 cwt. in the first two months of 1913, as against 23,281 cwt. in 1920; the figures for other countries also showing the same trend. Will this last as Hamburg resumes its mercantile activity?

## BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

The Board of Trade returns, just to hand, show that for the quarter ending 31st of March 6,544,960 cwt. of sugar were imported, as against 5,492,595 cwt. in the corresponding period of last year. The only beet sugar imported came from Germany, and amounted to 16,009 cwt. Cuba supplied 2,473,621 cwt., Peru 331,577 cwt., Brazil 102,674 cwt., Mauritius 1,500,760 cwt., British India 29,713 cwt., and the British West Indies 306,249 cwt. The stocks on hand on the 31st of March were 1,426,000 cwt. of foreign refined, 480,000 cwt. of home refined, and 3,386,000 cwt. of unrefined—in all 5,286,000 cwt. as against 5,911,000 cwt. at the same date last year. The quantity of imported molasses delivered duty free to distilleries was 264,938 cwt.

As regards rum, 1,384,110 proof gallons were imported for the quarter, as against 508,800 gallons for the corresponding period of last year. Stocks have enormously increased, 12,047,000 proof gallons being recorded as against 6,519,000 gallons on the 31st March, 1919.

The imports of cacao were 662,059 cwt. for the quarter. This is less than for the same period last year, when the figure was 792,914 cwt., but very much greater than the corresponding 1913 figure of 256,914 cwt. British West Africa supplied the bulk of this—501,794 cwt. Only 78,491 cwt. came from British West Indies. The exports amounted to 211,934 cwt. as against 7,251 cwt. last year.

The amount of coffee imported was 174,190 cwt., these figures being practically identical with those of last year. Only 1,400 cwt. of this came from the British West Indies, the major portion emanating from Brazil, which sent in 44,695 cwt. The total imported from British possessions was 49,805 cwt., a great increase on the 1913 figures, when only 6,087 cwt. were imported for the quarter. The exports amounted to 141,102 cwt., as against 45,763 cwt. for the same quarter last year.

The imports of rubber go on increasing in amount, 59,464,200 lb. being imported for the quarter as against 49,924,500 lb. for the corresponding period of last year. The Federated Malay States supplied 17,484,700 lb. of this, the Straits Settlements 14,159,500 lb., and Ceylon 12,763,100 lb. The exports amounted to 50,302,900 lb., as against 25,933,600 lb. to the 31st of March last year, principally to the United States, which took 32,497,300 lb.

Cotton to the extent of 871,726,500 lb. entered the United Kingdom for the quarter, 1,021,600 lb. coming from the West Indies; 103,576,800 lb. were exported as against 691,900 lb. last year.

The importation of bananas shows a big increase, the quarter's figure being 1,438,765 as against 508,304 bunches to the same period last year.

## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE BOOK

By "Agronomist."

An article on bud rot of the coconut in the *British Guiana Journal* attributes the cause to bad drainage. If the subsoil water is sour and polluted, the mineral matters needed in the formation of food material remain undissolved. The feeding roots then become asphyxiated and die—the beginning of the end.

Cacao trees and pods in Ecuador have been suffering from disease since 1916, and the crop, in consequence, has declined. In 1916, it amounted to 9,831,300 lb. In 1917 the yield was 7,656,300 lb. In 1918 it had decreased to 4,200,000 lb. Unless the disease can be checked, it is feared that cacao-growing on a large scale in Ecuador is doomed.

The State of Minas Geraes, in Brazil, is getting several agricultural experts from the United States. They will be employed as travelling instructors in the State. One is a cotton expert, two are to advise in fruit culture, another is an expert in tobacco, three are wanted as experts in grain, two will deal with live-stock questions, and one is a dairy expert.

Las Palmas, one of the Canary Islands, has become an oil-fuel station. The Canary Islands have been important as coaling stations in the past, and probably the same geographical reasons will result in their being important for oil supplies. No doubt the West Indian coaling stations will adapt themselves in the same way to the changing conditions of commerce.

The Froghopper is exhaustively treated in a paper in the *Trinidad Bulletin* by Mr. C. B. Williams. Alternation of wet and dry periods during the growth of the sugar-cane is shown to be an important factor in determining the prevalence of "blight." The most important climatic condition appears to be the severity of a dry period in September or October. The remedy is to get the fields into a condition to lessen the effects of excessive moisture and drought.

Notes on agriculture in Cyprus in the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute* states that the Cyprian donkey at its best is a fine animal. The donkey mares range from 13 to 13.2 hands, with girth measurement of 58 in. to 60 in., and shank 6½ in. They have great room, and are well shaped with a straight back and good quarters. The Cyprus jennet is much superior to the mule. For army or general pack purposes it cannot be surpassed in any country in the world. A large number of donkey stallions have been exported to India, Uganda, South Africa, Syria and Egypt.

Cyprus has many vineyards, and makes wines of various qualities. Commandaria is one of the oldest and most famous sweet dessert wines. It became very famous in the time of the Knights Templar. Stocks of the vintage of previous years are always on hand. Evaporation causes it to become a syrup or pulp. The new wine is added to it, thus acquiring a bouquet and characteristic flavour. A certain quantity is exported, and fetches a high price. Fresh grapes are largely consumed locally, and considerable quantities are exported to Egypt. Raisins are dried and exported.

The lime industry of Montserrat is of the greatest importance to the island. Exports consist of raw and concentrated lime-juice, citrate of lime, pickled limes,

lime oil (hand-pressed and distilled). Investigations have been carried out by the Department of Agriculture (Report 1917-18) on the problems involved in connection with the cultivation. It is important to maintain an area sufficient to keep up the exports. The advice given is regularly to spray young trees to keep down scale insects, to give lateral shelter to young fields by such plants as the pigeon pea, to provide efficient wind-breaks, to manure the trees, and, in some cases, to drain the land.

The avocado has twenty three pages devoted to it in the *Trinidad Bulletin*. The Director leads off with early history, cultivation, selection of good varieties, propagation, food value, and export. He lays stress on the food value of the avocado on account of its comparatively high fat content, and reproduces the statement that the only fruit comparable with the avocado in this respect is the olive. The trees cultivated at present in Trinidad show a low fat content in their fruit. An article by the Acting Government Analyst deals with the composition of Trinidad avocados, and shows that the Trapp variety yields 9.8 per cent. of oil in California, and only 2.5 per cent. in Trinidad. This is a remarkable difference, and no suggestion is given to account for it—whether soil, or climate, or other factors. Budding the avocado is treated by the Curator, and is of considerable importance. Mr. Ulrich deals with insects affecting the plant, and Mr. J. B. Korer with fungous diseases. There are four plates illustrating these last two articles.

India is the largest cotton-producing country in the Empire, yielding between 4,000,000 and 5,000,000 bales. But very little of this can be used in Lancashire. Efforts have been made for more than a century to promote the cultivation of long-stapled cotton suitable for the requirements of the British cotton spinners. But it cannot compete commercially with the existing short-stapled varieties, except in some few tracts. It is necessary, therefore, that special forms of long-stapled cottons should be artificially evolved of such yield and quality as can repay planters. It is startling to find that the average yield of cotton in India is only about 85 lb. per acre. In the United States the yield is nearly 200 lb., and in Egypt 450 lb., per acre. The report of the Indian Cotton Committee of 201 pages dealing with improvements in culture and in commercial methods, is admirably summarised in the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute*.

The mahua, or mahwa tree, of India (*Bassia*) was noted in the *Circular* lately as being a possible source of power alcohol. This tree, not unlike a mango tree in appearance, has been looked upon as a fountain yielding food, wine, and oil to the inhabitants of the country where it grows. The part eaten is the succulent corollas of the flowers, which drop from the trees in spring. They form a nourishing food used fresh, or dried, or cooked. The flowering season is a great feasting time for the humbler members of creation. Birds and squirrels feast among the branches by day, whilst the villagers collect the corollas which fall to the ground. At sunset peacocks and jungle fowl steal out from the surrounding jungle to share the feast with deer and bears. Each tree yields 2 or 3 cwt. of flowers. What is not eaten is distilled in primitive pot-stills into a strong-smelling spirit like whisky. When the essential oil which gives the peculiar smell is removed, the spirit comes very near good brandy. The fruit which follows after the corollas have fallen produces seeds from which a butter-like edible fat or oil is obtained. This substance, used by the people as butter, is of commercial importance, as it is used for margarine, soap, candles, &c. The tree grows on poor, stony soil, ill-suited to most other trees, and withstands drought. The seeds should be sown on the spot about fifteen to twenty to the acre.



## GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

### V.—Sir Thomas Lynch.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

(Continued from page 94.)

In May an "open conference" was held between the Council and Assembly, the Governor presiding, to settle what should be done to fortify the island in view of the warning sent by the King, who expected that what was necessary "should be done at our own charge." The Council unanimously decided to strengthen Port Royal, but the Assembly declined to vote the funds.

In July Lynch wrote to Williamson: "Our Council has now at least 100 sheets of papers of his before them, but not even from the meanest of their clerks has he had a syllable."

In August it was decided that ships should be sent as Lynch determined. In the same month the Governor of New Providence, Bahamas, wrote for assistance to the Governor of Jamaica, "the rock whence their first government and order was hewn." He hoped to be adjoined by the King as a branch of the Government of Jamaica. Lynch replied that he was unable to help them beyond sending some powder and shot, and renewing Modyford's commission. He had applied to the Council of Plantations in the matter. "Arms here are very dear, and stores the King has none, every planter buying for himself." "Mrs. Guy and other Bermudians have had great success in Jamaica."

Audry, Lynch's brother-in-law, was made Lieutenant of the *Assistance*, in which he sailed from Jamaica on July 8th, 1672. Lynch was given permission to have logwood cut "in desolate and uninhabited places," and to endeavour to prevent complaints by the Spaniards. When the Spaniards took the British logwood cutters' ships, Lynch did not dare retake them.

His plantation, "which is the most eastward, and open to the sea," suffered by the hurricane of 1672, which, in the Caribees, was "the cruellest that ever was. It has reached this island, which none ever did before."

He dismissed Colonel Modyford from the Council for acquitting Peter Johnson, a Dutch pirate. Lynch himself sat at the new trial.

In October, 1672, the Earl of Shaftesbury, with some other partners, who had received from the King "a property in some islands not lying far from Jamaica," wrote and asked Lynch for cocoa trees and Jamaica pepper.

In November, 1672, the Council of Plantations wrote to Lynch that they feared that the Dutch meditated an attack on Jamaica, and he was to protect himself as he best could; later it was decided to send two frigates to cruise about the seas. On November 5th he wrote home that he had received a letter from the Council of Plantations of the 23rd of July—the only letter he had received since his arrival!

In December, 1672, there was a rumour in London

that the Earl of Winchelsea was going over as Governor of Jamaica.

At that time trade improved. That of 1672 was three times as great as that of the previous year. By the Treaty of Madrid of the 8th July, 1670, it was provided that all injuries which the people of Great Britain and Spain have suffered by each other in America be buried in oblivion.

In April, 1673, Lynch wrote that the people were apt to be over-secure than fearful, and suggested that if this surplusage of the people in the Caribbee Islands were directed to Jamaica "his Majesty's lordship would become a kingdom." His account of the island is the first ever taken, that of Sir Thomas Modyford being "made by guess." He gave it as his opinion that "young colonies, like tender plants, should be cherished and dealt easily with, it being better to put soil to their roots than to pluck too early fruit."

In the same month he wrote that he was pleased at the idea of being superseded—his expenses increasing at home, and his estate not doing so in Jamaica. Here is "a vast country to be kept by a few men; a port to be defended with no ships; a town without fortifications, ammunition, guns, carriages, fireships, platforms, &c.; to be had or made without money." He excuses himself for not giving detailed information about the plants of the island, as being "one who is illiterate, and has been always brought up in the noise and tumults of war." In July a second son, Thomas, was baptised. In August Lynch urged on the Assembly the advisability of having someone in England to "solicit" for them, but "it was as ill-approved as the building of fortifications."

As early as March, 1673-4, it was proposed to appoint the Earl of Carlisle Governor of Jamaica. A draft commission was then drawn up, but Lord Vaughan's name was later inserted. On March 23rd, 1674, draft instructions were prepared for Col. Morgan (Henry Morgan, of Panama fame), Deputy-Governor of Jamaica, to repair thither with all convenient speed, as an *avant courier* of the Governor. His appointment alarmed the Spaniards, and made them fortify the South Sea. On November 3rd, 1674, Lynch's commission as Lieutenant-Governor was revoked, Lord Vaughan having been appointed Governor on the 3rd of April, and a letter, dated November 20th, directed Lynch, after he had handed over to Vaughan, to return and give an account of his stewardship.

Lynch did not think it was to the interest of England that any but the Spaniards should have the Indies, "for their pride and laziness do but make them their industrious neighbours' *mineros*." In November, 1674, he wrote home that he had treated with all respect possible the Marquis de Mantonon, nephew of the Duchess Montausier and the Comtesse d'Alonne, the Captain of a French man-of-war, which twice brought prizes to Jamaica which Lynch would not let him sell. He writes on the eve of his departure: "The island has improved these last three years to a marvel, and the people are as contented as English can be. Many wish his continuance, but not himself. None can come to this Government with so much joy as he shall quit it, for the dis-



countenance he has had in England has not only disheartened him, but disabled him from serving the King as he would and ought." On March 7th Lynch demitted office to Morgan. Vaughan, on his arrival six days later, was entertained by Sir Thomas Lynch and Sir Thomas Modyford, "to both of whom he shows great respect."

There was trouble between Lynch and Vaughan over the £4,000 received on account of a negro prize vessel, which was condemned to the King, Lynch being charged with appropriating the money. In a letter to Sir Joseph Williamson, Vaughan alludes to "their friend Sir Thomas Lynch," with whose prudent government and conduct of affairs he was well satisfied, and he recommended him as Deputy-Governor, being already disgusted with Morgan.

*(To be continued.)*

## THE TRAINING OF OVERSEERS.

*(From a Correspondent.)*

The subject of the best preparation of a young man who intends to devote himself to the growing and manufacture of sugar is one which is constantly cropping up. It is fraught with unusual difficulties on account of the agricultural side having to be considered as well as the manufacture, for although the separation of the factory from the field as regards management and interest is becoming every day more general, it is still necessary, so far as British colonies certainly are concerned, for the aspirant to include the agricultural and the manufacturing sides of production in his preparation for the future.

Let it be supposed that the youth has just left school, where he has acquired a general education, and, in addition, a smattering of chemistry and practical mechanics. He now requires to make himself acquainted with the principles and practice of general agriculture, and of the raw cane-sugar manufacture. How can this best be done? In the first instance, the agricultural side of the question should be taken up, and there are three courses open to him. He can either go to an Agricultural College, such as that at Wye or Reading, where the principles of agriculture are fully taught, and a smattering of practice; or go as a pupil to a suitable farmer, where he would have a real acquaintance with the practice, and trust to books for the acquisition of the principles. The writer recommends the latter course, although both have objections. A "college" man is apt to be "tête exaltée" about practice, and the farm pupil to under-rate the principles. The third course, in which the college is taken first and the farm afterwards, appeals to the imagination. To take, however, the two courses would involve too much time in point of view of the necessity for devoting a good share of the preliminary training to the manufacturing side, and the farm course would be of more practical good for the future apprenticeship as a planter than the college course.

The manufacturing side of the preliminary training is the one which has been most neglected, but is of primary importance if the factory management,

as well as that of the field, forms a part of the objective. The novice has already acquired the elements of chemistry, physics, and practical mechanics at school. He has been proficient in the manipulation of chemical and physical apparatus, and has learnt the use of tools, lathes, &c. He has now to apply his knowledge. Three months in the laboratory of an analytical chemist associated with the various industries in which sugars enter in various forms will give him practical acquaintance with that side of the subject, and the remaining nine months of the year to be devoted to this training should be spent in the workshops and erecting sheds of some engineering firm connected with sugar. There he will learn all the details of the machinery with which he will subsequently come into contact—such as methods adopted for erection, the making of joints, fitting, &c.

Two years will thus have been spent in training for his future sphere in life, and should be of the greatest service to him. The danger lies in his over-rating the extent of his knowledge. He must bear in mind that when he enters on his duties on the estate, either in the field or in the factory, he will commence at the bottom of the ladder. He should say to himself, "I really know very little," and devote himself to filling up the gaps in his knowledge on the one hand, and simplifying and modifying what he does know on the other. He ought also to provide himself with a library of standard works on sugar growing and manufacture, and when on the estate keep himself acquainted with what is being done in the outside sugar world by subscribing to journals devoted to the subjects of his profession.

Of course, should the cane-growing be separated as regards management from the factory, only the field training or the manufacturing training need be undertaken.

## AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

### Trinidad's Offer.

The West India Committee is informed by cablegram, despatched on March 26th, that Trinidad offers to give £50,000 towards the Agricultural College, presumably if the College is established in that colony. It will be recalled that the Jamaica Imperial Association cabled to the Tropical Agricultural College Committee the offer of a similar amount on behalf of that island. It will be interesting now to see, in view of the equal generosity of both these colonies, on which the final choice will rest for the home of the proposed College.

## AT WESTMINSTER.

### Imperial Preference.

Mr. Baldwin, on April 15th, informed Mr. R. Young, who inquired the estimated gain to the consumers of sugar as a result of the reduction of the Customs duties, that preference was only one of many factors that have to be taken into account in investigating fluctuations of prices, and for this reason it would be at all times extremely difficult to trace the exact effect of Preference in retail prices. In any case, there had not been suffi-



cient experience of the working of Preference to enable the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make such an estimate.

#### Grants in Aid.

On April 13th Lieut. Colonel Amery supplied Mr. Waddington with the following statement, showing the grants made from Votes of Parliament in the years named, in aid of the expenses of administration in the West Indian colonies:—

	1900-1.		1905-6.		1910-11.	
	Expenses of Administration.	Special Purposes.	Expenses of Administration.	Special Purposes.	Expenses of Administration.	Special Purposes.
Antigua .....	£ 2,500	£ 750	£ 2,500	£ 914	—	£ 671
Barbados .....	—	2,000	—	1,895	—	821
British Guiana .....	—	700	—	550	—	—
Dominica .....	75	1,500	—	1,335	—	615
Grenada .....	—	700	—	490	—	—
Jamaica .....	—	200	—	240	—	—
Leeward Islands (Federal A/c)	—	990	—	1,265	—	760
Montserrat .....	3,000	550	—	550	—	400
St. Kitts Nevis (St. Christopher and Nevis)	4,460	1,290	—	1,185	—	520
St. Lucia .....	—	2,000	—	1,227	—	500
St. Vincent .....	—	1,500	750	1,222	—	385
Tobago .....	—	500	—	400	—	—
Virgin Islands	—	510	—	550	—	490

In 1914-15 and 1918-19 no grants in aid were made to any of these possessions.

#### Sugar Machinery in Great Britain.

Sir A. Boscawen informed Mr. Macquisten on April 15th that Home-Grown Sugar, Ltd., wherein the Government had taken half of the issue of £500,000, was about to place its contract for sugar factory machinery with a French firm. He had ascertained that the contract was placed after consideration of competitive tenders, of which the French firm's was the lowest. The board of the Company was desirous of obtaining the special knowledge of the French manufacturers which was not available in this country, the principal competitors in the United Kingdom not having had experience of beet factories. He was not aware of the facts that at least two thirds of the machinery used in making beet sugar was identical with cane-sugar machinery, and that the major portion of it could therefore be made in this country, but would be willing to receive a deputation from a firm or firms capable of making it.

To Mr. Macquisten, who asked on April 21st whether the difference between the tender of the French firm who received an order for machinery for Home-Grown Sugar, Ltd., and the two nearest British tenders was largely made up of the difference between the Exchanges, and whether it was the settled policy of the Ministry to foster agriculture at the expense of other industries, Sir A. Boscawen replied that the order was given to the French firm mainly on account of their special experience of beet-sugar factories. This difference of price was therefore not a primary consideration.

On the same day Sir William Mitchell-Thomson informed Mr. Edwards that the shortage of sugar was such that the quantity available for domestic fruit preserving was very considerably less than was available last year. It was a mistake, however, to suppose that the supply was limited to 2 lb. per head. That quantity was allotted in respect of each member of an applicant's household; but an additional quantity at the rate of 1 lb. of sugar for 8 lb. of fruit available for preserving was granted to people growing their own fruit. The total quantity to be allotted for distribution was 35,000 tons, as against 61,500 tons last year.

## WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

#### The Colonial Bank.

Presiding over the 164th half-yearly general meeting on April 22nd Mr. Charles F. Wood, Chairman, said he was glad to be able to report a very healthy growth for the half-year under review. The figures which were before the meeting showed a most substantial increase for the six months, the total of the balance-sheet being £13,711,562, as against £11,157,589 in June last—an increase of £2,553,973, or about 23 per cent. But as the business was so largely seasonal, a much more instructive comparison was with the figures for December 31st, 1918. Between that date and December 31st, 1919, notes in circulation had increased by £218,000, or about 45 per cent. Deposits had gone up from £5,406,000 to £8,508,000, which showed the very substantial growth of 57 per cent., while acceptances on behalf of customers had grown from £770,000, as on December 31st, 1918—when the figures chance to be a little lower than usual—to £2,506,000. The total increase for the year in liabilities to the public was from £7,105,647 to £12,349,953, or 73 per cent. As against these larger liabilities, holdings of cash on hand and at call and of British Treasury Bills had been increased by £545,000, being from £1,345,000 to £1,890,000, while total advances to customers, together with their liability for acceptances, had grown from £6,100,000 to £10,989,000, an increase of 80 per cent. These figures were fairly convincing evidence of the continued success and increasing prosperity of the Colonial Bank, but at the same time it should be borne in mind that to a certain extent the larger figures merely reflected the higher prices of the commodities which it was the Bank's business to finance.

#### THE PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Turning to the profit and loss statement, the net results were also quite satisfactory. Net profits were £80,266, as compared with £17,651 for the same period in 1918, an increase of about 68 per cent. Out of this £80,266 it was proposed to distribute £15,000 in dividends at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum (less income-tax), to carry £25,000 to the Reserve Fund, which will bring this fund to £375,000, being about 11 per cent. on the paid-up capital, and to credit £10,000 to the Staff Pension Fund. While increased prices generally brought higher profits to the planter, the merchant and the banker, there was another interest to be considered—that of the consumers, of whom the whole nation was made up. For the consumer, especially the man on salary or on fixed income, was finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet, and was everywhere protesting against the exorbitant prices he had to pay for the necessities of life. But when the machinery of the world, so badly thrown out of gear by the war and its aftermath, was once more running smoothly, it was certain that, as production increased, prices would fall, and the positions would be reversed, and what will be welcomed as a ray of sunshine by the consumer may well have a threatening look to the other side. Already the cloud, no bigger than a man's hand, might be seen on the horizon, and the wise captain shortens sail, makes all trim and taut on deck, and looks out for squalls. And so in all seriousness he urged upon good friends in the West Indies, West Africa, and elsewhere the wisdom of the old adage, "When you're making money, save it."

The business between Canada and the West Indies was very extensive, and recently the Bank had a close working arrangement with the Canadian Bank of Commerce. They had now come to the conclusion that they must follow the example of other Canadian Banks and establish their own branches in the West Indies. While they were sorry to see more competition, they knew the Canadian Bank of Commerce well enough to feel sure

that they would find them fair and honourable competitors, and competition of this kind was not to be feared. But the fact that they were entering a field where their own Bank had hitherto acted for them had necessarily led to the termination of their arrangement, and he was pleased to be able to report that a close connection with the Bank of Montreal had been formed, the oldest and largest of the Canadian banks, who had acquired a substantial stock interest in the Colonial Bank.

#### WEST AFRICAN AND HOME BUSINESS.

Proceeding, Mr. Wood said:—

In the general prosperity of West Africa the Colonial Bank was having its share. They now had eighteen branches there, as compared with thirteen at the same date last year, four of the new offices being in the Gold Coast and one at Victoria, in the Cameroons, formerly German territory. As a whole, the West Coast branches were doing well, and they were assured that their entry into West Africa had been fully justified. With their home business there was every reason to be satisfied. They had recently opened a branch at Hull, where the oil-crushing industry was very important. It was too early yet to say anything as to prospects, but the branch would enable them to offer customers additional facilities, and they hoped that in course of time it would be a profitable addition to their business. Liverpool and Manchester both showed good progress, while the increase of business in London and of the work in head office had compelled them to take in No. 30, Gracechurch-street, which, in anticipation of their needs, had been acquired some two years ago. The directors would continue to watch with the greatest eagerness all developments which would be of interest to the bank, and to do their best to ensure that, with the help of its powerful friends in Great Britain, Canada, South Africa, and elsewhere, the Colonial Bank would worthily take its part in helping to build up and develop the wonderful potential resources of the Empire. (Cheers.)

#### THE BANK'S ACTIVITIES IN JAMAICA.

Mr. Charles H. Hewett (joint general manager), who has just returned from a visit to Jamaica, gave an account of the Colonial Bank's activities there, as well as in the rest of the West Indies. He said that Jamaica was at the moment very prosperous, and in this prosperity, he was glad to say, the Bank shared. They had in Jamaica eleven branches besides their principal branch in Kingston, and were opening two more as soon as the necessary buildings could be completed. In his opinion the business of the Colonial Bank in Jamaica was never in a better state than at the present moment, and from all that he heard he felt justified in saying that the Bank had never been held in greater esteem by the community than it was to-day. Their total staff in Jamaica consisted of thirty-six men and twenty-one women, and he found them all, both men and women, most contented, loyal and zealous workers. The manager and other officers were uniting in their efforts to please the Bank's clients and to increase the Bank's business, and they received loyal support from the whole of the staff under them. With regard to the other West Indian islands and British Guiana, he hoped to visit some of the islands and British Guiana in the near future, so he would not say much about them on that occasion, except that the crops generally were up to the average, and, as prices were very good, they were all prospering. In British Guiana an effort was being made to develop the hinterland, and a large company had been formed to raise cattle there. Scarcity of labour was the greatest difficulty in British Guiana, and there were now hopes that immigration from India in some form might be allowed to recommence. In Trinidad there was great activity in the oil industry, and oil was becoming an increasing necessity for the needs of the Empire.

Resolutions adopting the report of the directors and confirming the dividend of 5 per cent., subject to income-tax for the half-year ended December 31st, 1919, were seconded by Mr. Cyril Gurney, deputy-chairman, and duly carried.

The retiring directors (Messrs. Charles F. Wood, Cyril Gurney, Oliver V. G. Hoare, Robert Rutherford, and the Right Hon. Sir Edward A. Goulding, Bt.) were re-elected, as also were Messrs. D. Cunningham and G. C. Cassels, who have been appointed by the Court during the half-year under the Colonial Bank Act, 1917. Mr. A. E. Cutforth, F.C.A., was re-elected auditor of the Corporation.

#### Bank of Montreal.

The decision of the Bank of Montreal to increase its capital by \$2,000,000, says the *Morning Post*, in its issue of the 22nd inst., follows the recent arrangements for the development of foreign business through association with the Colonial Bank. The policy of the Bank of Montreal is to facilitate external trade through alliance with financial institutions already established rather than to open its own foreign branches. The development now being provided for will chiefly concern the West Indies, British Guiana and Africa. The new stock brings the outstanding capital to \$22,000,000.

#### The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The Court of Directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, acting on the powers conferred upon them by the Company's Royal Charters, have constituted a Liverpool Board of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, on which Mr. Thomas Rome, Mr. George Melly, and Mr. J. G. Nicholson have accepted seats as the first members. Mr. Thomas Rome will act as Chairman.

Sir Owen Philipps, G.C.M.G., M.P., has been appointed Chairman of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company in succession to Mr. Thomas Rome, who has resigned the Chairmanship, and whose resignation, together with that of Mr. J. G. Nicholson as Deputy-Chairman, has been accepted with regret. Mr. Rome and Mr. Nicholson will both continue to be Directors of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company in addition to being members of the Liverpool Board of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

#### The Sena Sugar Estates, Ltd.

The Sena Sugar Estates, Ltd., has been registered under the English Companies Acts, with a share capital of £1,500,000, and a debenture capital of £260,000, to take over the whole of the business and goodwill of the Sena Sugar Factory, Ltd., and also the whole of the sugar plantations and sugar refineries held by that Company and Hornung & Co., Ltd., jointly. The new Company has commenced business. The directors of the new Company are: Mr. John Peter Hornung (Chairman), Major Charles Bernard Raphael Hornung, Mr. Arthur Nevile Lubbock, Major Albert Panu, O.B.E., Sir Merrick Raymond Burrell, Bart., C.B.E., Mr. Libert Outry, Capt. George Hornung, and Hornung & Co., Ltd., have been appointed General Managers and Secretaries of the Company.

The business carried on by the Sena Sugar Factory, Ltd., on its own account, and by it and Hornung & Co., Ltd., under the management of the latter Company, will therefore be continued, without break, on the same lines as heretofore.

Mr. FRED. G. GRANT, managing director of Messrs. T. Geddes Grant & Co., of Port of Spain, sailed for Halifax on April 20th, after a three months' business trip in this country. He states, as his impression, that English business methods are very far from being as effete as the Englishman himself, with his customary self-depreciation, sometimes makes out.



## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

### How Barbados Welcomed the Prince.

As I write, says a correspondent in Bridgetown on March 26th, Barbados is *en fete*, the eagerly anticipated visit of the Prince of Wales being in progress. For years to come the loyal Barbadians will no doubt date happenings from this auspicious event. The *Renown*, with the Prince on board, arrived with true naval punctuality at 5 o'clock yesterday, according to plan, and was escorted to her anchorage in the roadstead by H.M.S. *Calcutta*, which will accompany her to Colon to-morrow morning. The programme was opened by the official visit of the Governor to the *Renown*, which took place at 6 p.m. In the evening a ball was given on board for which 200 invitations were issued. This morning his Royal Highness landed at the steps near the Chamberlain Bridge at 10 a.m., and, after inspecting the Guard of Honour, proceeded to the House of Assembly, where he was presented with an address by the Governor, to which he replied in suitable terms, referring especially to the fact that this was his first visit to a colony of the rank of Barbados. The Chamber had been stripped of its usual appurtenances, and the ceremony took place on a dais opposite the doors. The Prince, surrounded by his brilliant staff, made a picture which will not easily be forgotten. The Chamber was beautifully decorated by a committee of ladies, sago palms, arranged in the shape of the Prince of Wales' Feathers, and bougainvilleas striking the prominent note. Trafalgar Square, which was packed with a dense throng of the general public, whose enthusiasm knew no bounds, was embellished with a handsome triumphal arch surmounted by the crown and feathers. After the reception ceremony was over, and many returned soldiers had been presented to His Royal Highness, the Prince was driven through Broad-street and various country districts, where he was accorded a most enthusiastic reception. A garden party at Government House and a ball at the Public Buildings, at both of which the Prince mingled freely with the guests, brought the festivities to a close.

The House of Assembly has shown its appreciation of the work of the West India Committee by referring back a proposed grant of £250 so that it may be increased to £500. Four of the leading mercantile firms are combining to form a local shipping trading company. They represent shipping, coaling and trading interests.

The crop is in full swing, and planters are in good heart, the young canes for the 1921 crop showing a magnificent spring. The island has enjoyed quite a busy winter season, the Marine Hotel and other establishments on the coast having been filled with visitors for weeks. The island's two immediate needs are mail and telegraphic communication. Regular mail and passenger service between Barbados and the United Kingdom is greatly needed, and it is feared that unless the matter is taken up seriously many intending visitors to England will be unable to secure passages this year. The position with regard to telegraphic communication is worse than ever. The news bulletins are so old that they have become a farce, and the mercantile and planting community are justly indignant. American visitors are amazed that the British Government should allow such a state of affairs to continue.

### Meeting of the Rupununi Company in Guiana.

Mr. G. R. Reid, LL.B., an English solicitor, has been admitted by the Full Court to practise as a solicitor in the Courts of the colony. During the war Mr. Reid was in the R.N.V.R., and from 1916-1918 was in command of the Demerara Wireless Station. It is understood that

Mr. Reid will join the firm of Messrs. Cameron & Shepherd. The *Argony* reports the visit of Mr. J. A. Gillies, K.C., of Nova Scotia, who expressed himself as delighted with Georgetown, and everything he saw there. Mr. G. Ball Greene, Assistant Colonial Secretary, was stated to be recovering slowly after an operation on his knee. The quantity of rice to be exported during April and March was fixed by proclamation at 100,000 cwt.

Under the presidency of the Hon. A. P. Sherlock, Chairman, the first statutory meeting of the Rupununi Development Company, Ltd., was held on February 27th. The Chairman said that the prospects of the Company were excellent. Their negotiations with the Government had been extremely satisfactory in every way. The Government had treated the Company in a liberal spirit, and the Company, on its part, had realised that they were working as much for the colony as for the shareholders. In other words, the development of the Rupununi district was a colonial question. There were only two difficulties that stood in the way of good returns—one was the question of transport, and the other was organisation. As regards transport, it had been proved that cattle could be brought down from the district and landed in good condition, but, owing to several bad places on the trail, it was impossible to bring down any number of steers. The acquisition of the Abary cattle ranch had proved a wise step.

### Jamaica.

Important revenue measures were put before the Legislative Council on the 26th inst. One was a Bill to increase the duty on cigarettes to the extent of from ½d. to 3d.; another was a Bill empowering the Governor to modify or remove the duty on imports; another for the purpose of the reconstruction of the Amusement-tax; while a fourth was for the purpose of increasing temporarily certain duties in connection with Excise. The latter included a provision for the increase of 60 per cent. as a surtax on the existing duties on rum. The duties on cigars manufactured for sale by retail were increased from 6d. per 100 to 1s. per 100, according to price. Pipe tobacco was also subjected to an additional duty of 6d. per pound.

A revaluation of land for taxation purposes has been carried out by the Government of Jamaica, and the valuation roll of the colony has been increased by £1,250,000.

### Tobago's Exports.

Light showers still continue, and the March rainfall was 3.41 in., writes Mr. Robert S. Reid, under date April 2nd. Cacao and coconuts were being freely exported, but deliveries of the former are falling off. The *Heliza* had a record "freight" of about 300 passengers last week, and her holds were well filled. She was able to land motor cars and a lorry at Tobago, in spite of rough weather, which reflects credit on Captain Falconer and his crew. Unfortunately, these bumper cargoes mean late arrival, and Tobago will be happier when the weekly service round the island is resumed. It is hoped that road development in Trinidad will shortly make it unnecessary to do the trip round the south and east coast of Trinidad. Last week the Wages Commission held meetings at Scarborough and Roxburgh, and planters and labourers gave evidence, which probably surprised the Trinidad men on the Commission, most of whom must have had crude ideas as to Tobago. It was pleasant to see the Rev. M. Lala, an East Indian clergyman, who was keenly interested in the cultivation and scenery of the island, and especially to find so many of his countrymen contented workers on the plantations.

A comparative table of produce shipped from Tobago 1918-19 shows for the latter year striking and noteworthy increases of value in nearly all items—an increase which cannot be solely accounted for by the increased prices ruling; 2,114,710 lb. of cacao were shipped in 1919, fetching £45,732. The quantity of coconuts was



increased fourfold, and the value of the exports, from being £1,953 in 1918, reached £16,578 in 1919. Copra showed a small decrease in quantity and price; 219,270 lb. of muscovado sugar were shipped in 1919, as compared with 121,180 lb. in 1918, but there was a diminution in the number of gallons of molasses.

**Trinidad's Clocks: The Right to Strike!**

Mr. Edgar Tripp writes, under date March 22nd, that the opposition to the Sedition Bill proved ineffective, and the measure was passed on the 19th in the Legislative Council by a majority of 17 to 2, after one or two slight amendments introduced by the Government had been adopted. In speaking of the Bill the Governor voiced the sentiments of most of the community when he said that, however undesirable it was to speak of sedition or racial antipathies, facts had to be faced, and it was vain to pretend things were what they were not. His Excellency continued that it was within his knowledge that propaganda of a seditious character aimed at exciting racial animosities was being carried on in the island by a few ill-disposed and foolish persons—not Trinidadians, but foreigners or natives of other colonies. He was prepared to consider amendments in Committee, but it was essential in the interests of peace and good order in the colony that the Bill should be passed. In this connection it is to be noted that one agitator, who has just undergone two months' imprisonment with hard labour, as a leader in one of the riot incidents, was taken, upon his release, straight on board a steamer and deported to his native country—Barbados—sobbing. This will bring home to the alien that he must behave himself or quit.

History is repeating itself. About thirty years ago the whole colony became frantically excited over the stoppage of the ancient clock on Trinidad Cathedral, owing to the objection—successfully urged by an unofficial Member of Council—that the Government should continue an old-established grant of £20 a year to keep it wound up and repaired. The agitation succeeded, and the clock resumed its useful service. Another timepiece now occupies the mighty mind of the public, especially the lady public. Why the ladies should be specially interested is not known, excepting, perhaps, those of them who wish to verify the hour of their husbands' return from "Lodge." But the fact remains that all the lady residents in the fashionable quarter of St. Clair are up in arms, and have signed in overwhelming numbers a formal petition to the Governor in Council against the recent discontinuance of striking, between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., of the clock in the Royal College Tower. This clock was one of the generous gifts to the public made by Mr. W. Gordon Gordon at a cost of about £1,000. Originally it not only announced the time each hour of the twenty-four, but chimed the intervening periods. Suddenly the chimes ceased at night. Someone in the neighbourhood had objected, and the obliging authority in charge had them cut off—except by day. Emboldened by this success, a further objection to striking the hour at night was put in, and acceded to by the powers that be.

At the last meeting of Council a suggestion that the Government should dispose of the floating dock and workshop was considered. The concern originally cost the Government £71,000. It stands now at about £96,000, but the latter sum includes largely increased premises, plant and stores. Meanwhile profits have paid interest, but not all sinking fund due, and about £15,000 will be required shortly to dock the dock itself. Mr. Ball says it is now on a good paying basis. Offers are requested.

Mr. Arisnall left yesterday for Barbados (*en route to Jamaica*) by the *Arzila*. He made the best use of his time while here, travelled from one end of the colony to the other, personally inspected every industry, delivered any number of excellent speeches on the West

Indies in general and the West India Committee in particular, and showed an all-round and genuine interest in everything. His extraordinary vitality was noticed by all, and his visit has added to his own popularity, and to the interests of the Committee, he so worthily represents. Nothing but good can result. Miss Moseley, who returned here from Barbados, leaves to-day for the Bahamas, *via* New York.

**Royal Victoria Institute Burnt.**

I very much regret to report a serious disaster here in the destruction by fire yesterday morning of the Royal Victoria Institute, together with the contents of its museums, &c., which are irreplaceable, continues Mr. Tripp on April 1st. The institute was originally erected in 1892 to commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, and enlarged in 1914. Further extensions were in contemplation to assist in the further development of the highly useful work of the Institute as an educational centre, open at nominal fees to all classes of the community. There is no clue to the origin of the fire so far, but from the rapid spread of the flames, &c., a carefully worked out incendiary plot is suspected.

At the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held yesterday Mr. Geo. F. Huggins was re-elected President, Hon. A. Fraser, Vice-president, and five members of the old Committee, with one new member, Mr. A. Cory Davies. A year's good work was reported.

**WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.**

**Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.**—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, April 14th, per R.M.S. *Manila* (Commander, J. H. Scudamore, D.S.C.):—

Mr. A. R. Angus	Mr. & Mrs. A. O. Fuentax	Mrs. M. McKersie
Mr. H. J. Bartlett	Mr. S. C. Greenway	The Misses McKersie (3)
Capt. I. M. J. S. Rattge	Mr. J. E. Hall	Miss E. Maxwell
Capt. & Mrs. H. S. Harau	Mrs. E. Hall	Miss D. M. Mitchell
Miss O. E. Ballard	Mrs. M. E. Hawker	Mrs. J. A. Nankivell
Mr. T. Ballivant	Mrs. H. O. Helmy	Mrs. A. F. Orrett
Miss K. D. Campbell	Miss D. Helmy	Miss E. F. Orrett
Mr. H. T. Carimel	Master E. A. H. Helmy	Mr. & Mrs. McL. N. Staight
Mr. H. E. Chown	Mr. & Mrs. H. Huggins	Mr. H. Thornburn
Mr. W. G. Clarke	Mr. E. S. Lopez	Browne
Mr. A. A. Coats	Major & Mrs. W. F. M. Loughran	Mr. A. E. D. Watson
Mr. M. E. Cohen	Mr. J. O. MacGregor	Mr. H. Weller
Master J. Cohen	Mr. A. A. Martinez	Rev. G. P. K. Wislaw
Miss F. Mc Dallas	Mr. C. H. O. Masters	Mr. W. W. Wynne
Mr. W. H. Dickin		Miss A. Young
Mr. A. Freeman		

**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

Mr. F. C. Archer	Mr. J. Hamilton
Mr. W. A. Boyd	Mr. E. E. C. Husack
Mr. James Brown	Mr. F. G. D. King
Hon. E. C. Buch, M.L.C.E.	Mr. Thos. Laycock
Mr. E. A. Husic	Mr. W. Mason
Mr. A. Cameron	Mrs. McEwen
Sir W. K. Chaudler, K.C.M.G.	Mr. T. Elton Miller
Hon. B. S. Davis	Hon. J. J. Numan, F.C., LL.D.
Mr. W. C. de Gale	Mr. W. C. Robertson
Mr. G. Farmer	Mr. W. N. Sands
Mr. A. J. Fiddlay	Mrs. A. S. Sealy
Mrs. M. C. Garnett	Hon. H. B. Watlett, C.M.G.
Mr. R. P. Gibbes	Mr. A. B. White
Mr. B. Gill	Mr. P. Stanley Woods
Mr. L. A. Gomez	Mr. Harold Wright
Sir G. Aubrey Goolman	

Major Duncan Fraser, c/o Messrs. James Brodie and Co., 1, Gresham Buildings, Basinghall Street, E.C.  
 Mr. J. J. Gibson, 14, Queen's Gate Terrace, S.W. 7  
 Mr. C. C. Henriques, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.  
 Mr. Thomas W. Jones 33, Queen Anne's Mansions, St James's Park, S.W.  
 Mr. E. B. Jago, Valentines School, Ilford, Essex  
 Mr. Archibald Johnston, Ivy Bank, Braehead Avenue, Rutherglen, near Glasgow  
 Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., Knockdow, Toward Argyllshire  
 Mr. Dudley G. Leacock, Hotel Metropole, Bournemouth.  
 Mr. W. E. Mandeville, c/o The Colonial Bank, 29, Gracechurch St., E.C. 4.  
 Mr. W. Mearns, 39, Carlton Place, Aberdeen  
 Mr. James Miller, 17, Gracechurch Street, E.C.  
 Mr. Atbelston Watson, 25, Elgin Park, Bedford, Bristol



**PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.**

Telephone—4942 Central.  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

25, SKETCHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

April 27th, 1920

**BANK RATE**, 7 per cent.—changed on April 15th from 6 per cent., at which figure it had stood from November 6th, 1919. The raising of the Bank rate to 7 per cent. was preceded by an advance in Treasury Bill rates to 6½ per cent. discount.

The Council of the League of Nations have invited the Governments of the twenty-five States belonging to the League to send delegates to an International Financial Conference to be held in Brussels at the end of May. The object of the conference is to study the serious financial position.

**SUGAR.** Control prices in the United Kingdom were modified on March 22nd, and are now as follows:—

	Wholesale.		Retail.	
	Per cwt.	Per lb.	Per cwt.	Per lb.
Cubes, Lumps, &c. ... ..	84 0	10½	80 0	10
W.I. Crystallised (see below) ... ..	71 9	9	71 9	9
W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups (see below) ... ..	114 0	1 2	114 0	1 2
W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing ... ..	"free" No maximum			
Sugar for domestic preserving ... ..	The discount is 1½ per centum			

The maximum "reasonable" price for all licensed "free" sugar from April 19th until May 15th has been fixed at 150s. per cwt., less 1¼ per cent., and for muscovados and W.I. grocery syrups 141s. 9d. as compared with 114s. and 105s. 9d. respectively.

In accordance with their arrangement concluded with the West India Committee, the Royal Commission have fixed the prices for allotment during April and May as follows:—

	April.	May.
Crystallised ... ..	100.38s.	110.98s. per cwt.
Muscovado ... ..	95.46s.	106.06s. " "

On April 22nd representatives of the West India Committee and the Cane Sugar Grading Committee waited upon the Royal Commission, who would not, however, agree that a reversion could at present be made to the old method of compulsory allotment of West India sugars, but suggested, in the alternative, that now that manufacturers had to pay 150s. per cwt. for granulated and dry white, they might be willing to accept West India grocery crystallised at a figure which showed a reduction on that price, but was still profitable to the importer.

Fully one-half of the Cuban crop has now been harvested, and the reports showing tonnage of cane per acre are very disappointing. There is a general verdict of "light tonnage" for the present crop, but it is impossible at the moment to say what the shortage will be, estimates varying from 30 per cent. under last year's output to 30 per cent. under this year's original estimates.

The American beet crop just ended has also been an unsatisfactory one, and is the smallest recorded during the last seven years. According to the Meinrath Brokerage Company, the total production for the 1919-20 campaign was 726,337 tons, being a decrease on the previous season's output of 36,099 tons.

Messrs Willett & Gray now estimate the decrease in the world's production for 1919-20 as 956,673 tons, as against their former forecast of 516,339 tons.

The West India sugar statistics in London on April 17th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Tons.
Imports ... ..	13,832	6,617	5,617	
Deliveries ... ..	9,311	8,122	14,431	
Stock ... ..	12,657	4,687	2,173	

**RUM.** The market is not quotably changed since our last report, but the tone has become very dull. This is in consequence of the increased spirit duty—raised from 50s. to 72s. 6d. per proof gallon—and it is not possible at the moment to forecast what effect this increase will have on the demand in the United Kingdom.

The stocks in London on April 17th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Pins.
Jamaica ... ..	7,462	3,203	5,349	
Demerara ... ..	12,343	11,371	3,468	
Total of all kinds ... ..	29,805	19,012	14,215	

**CACAO.** The set back continues, especially since the Bank rate has moved up to 7 per cent., and caused the weaker holders to have to sell on an unwilling market. Nominally prices are unaltered. Fine Trinidad marks at 147s. to 150s. but what exact value can be placed on the commonest grades it is impossible to say—probably 136s. to 138s. Fine Grenadas remain at 130s. to 132s., St. Lucia the same, with rather less for Jamaicas and Dominicas. Against this the commonest of these growths should run at 118s. to 120s. Accras have gone back in spite of the shortage. San Thomés are quoted very high at Lisbon, but Rabias are said to have gone flat.

The stocks in London on April 17th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Hags.
Trinidad ... ..	17,419	14,098	14,926	
Grenada ... ..	20,131	8,624	24,124	
Total of all kinds ... ..	151,762	121,817	192,759	

**ARROWROOT.** There is nothing to report.

**BALATA.** The market has remained unchanged since our last report. Spot value fair average quality, 4s. 7½d. to 4s. 8d.

**COFFEE** is dull. Stock in London on April 17th, 17,491 tons.

**COPRA** is strong, with many buyers and few sellers; f.m.s. West Indian is quoted at £63 c.i.f. London.

**COTTON** continues slow of sale.

**HONEY.** In spite of the advance in sugar, this article shows as yet no change, and the demand is very dull. The Continent is heavily stocked. Fair Jamaica is worth about 80s. to 85s. per cwt., and good 90s. to 102s. 6d.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** Lime Oil: Handpressed, very scarce; small sales at 25s. per lb.; Distilled, steady, with some business at 8s. per lb. Lime-juice: Raw, quiet, but values unchanged.

**ORANGE OIL.** Sweet, quiet, with sellers at 35s. per lb.; Bitter, not in demand, and value quite nominal.

**SPICES.** Pimento quite lifeless; importers still ask 6d., but there are no buyers. Nutmegs easy, but very little offering. Mace unchanged.

**MARRIAGE.**

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

**BERTHON—FERRIER.**—On 10th April, at St. Mary's Church, Wimbledon, by the Vicar, the Rev. Horace Monroe, M.A., Lieut. Charles Pierre Berthon, R.N., elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Timée Berthon, of Penrhos, Wimbledon, to Ruth, second daughter of the late John Ferrier and Mrs. Ferrier, of Woodhayes, Wimbledon Common.

**DEATH.**

**HILL.** At Cheltenham, Glos., on the 5th April, 1920, Easter Monday, Lucy Sarah Carolus, the beloved wife of Luke M. Hill, M.Inst.C.E., late city engineer of Georgetown, British Guiana.

# The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXV.

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1920.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone:  
6642 CENTRAL.



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams:  
CABIB, LONDON.

May 13th, 1920.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Established since 1750. Incorporated by Royal Charter

**N**OTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the members of the West India Committee (Incorporated by Royal Charter) will be held at the Committee Rooms, No. 15, Seething-lane, in the City of London, on Thursday, the 27th day of May, at 3 p.m.

### AGENDA.

(1) To receive and adopt the annual report of the Executive Committee, the audited statement of the income and expenditure account for the year ended December 31st, 1919, and the balance-sheet.

(2) To elect eleven members of the Executive Committee in the place of the following, who retire by virtue of Article VI. of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, but are eligible for re-election:—A. Duckham, Esq., M. Garnett, Esq., W. Gillespie, Esq., T. Greenwood, Esq., C. Gurney, Esq., A. N. Lubbock, Esq., N. Malcolmson, Esq., Sir Owen Philipps, G.C.M.G., M.P., R. Rutherford, Esq., H. A. Trotter, Esq., and W. A. Wolseley, Esq.

GILFRED N. KNIGHT,  
Assistant Secretary.

May 13th, 1919.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,  
Incorporated by Royal Charter.

15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3.

[The Report and Accounts will be published in next issue of the CIRCULAR.]

### Imperialism in Sugar.

**T**HERE is one point in connection with the treatment of British sugars in the Customs and Excise tariffs of the United Kingdom which has escaped the attention of those colonial producers who depend upon the home market for the disposal of their sugars, and who have been congratulating themselves, and rightly, on the extent of the Customs preference given them against foreign sugars. This is, that home-grown beet sugar will not only enjoy the same degree of advantage in the Excise as existed before the war, but also the advantage as regards imported British sugar, which was allowed for under the Brussels Convention, and which the Cantley sugar received. Home-grown sugar, therefore, will have the benefit of a Customs surtax of £4 13s. 4d. as regards foreign sugars, and also of £2 6s. 8d. as to British imported sugars. Home-grown beet, therefore, is protected to the extent of £7 as against foreign sugars, and £2 6s. 8d. against colonial sugars, while the latter are only protected to the extent of £4 13s. 4d. against foreign sugars, and are placed at the disadvantage of £2 6s. 8d. in regard to home-grown sugar. The importance of this should not be under-rated. It is true that at the present moment the home-grown beet industry is in its infancy, but it is quite possible to contemplate a considerable growth of it under those extremely favourable fiscal conditions. The Cantley Company is already offering £4 per ton for beets, representing between £40 and £50 at least per acre to the farmers—a strong inducement to the latter to grow them. It is a curious fact, but the British colonial sugar producer may find himself at some future date in a very similar position as regards the market of the United Kingdom, in the way of having to fight against protected beet sugar as he did before the war, only in this case the opponent would be home-grown instead of Continental beet. Home-consumed German beet received the benefit of £2 6s. 8d. in the way of surtax, which permitted German exporters to keep colonial sugars out of the United Kingdom market with their surplus sugars. Now home-grown beet will have the advantage of the same degree of surtax. Should, therefore, the home-grown beet industry develop, and at the same time there be a considerable extension of British colonial sugar designed for the United Kingdom, the latter will be in a very serious position. The matter is dealt with differently in the United States. There the sugars of Hawaii and Porto Rico go in free of duty, and are thus on precisely the



same footing as the beet sugar of the West and the cane sugar of Louisiana, which pay no Excise. In each case the sugars, whether imported or home-grown, receive the same degree of protection. We sincerely trust that the Government will see their way to remove this injustice by giving to home-grown beet only the same measure of protection as they have granted colonial sugar. It may be said that this is unnecessary, as home-grown beet will never be produced in this country to any extent. But who can tell? At any rate, and without wishing harm in any way to home-grown beet prospects, we consider that this matter should be put straight.

#### Rum and Central Sugar Factories.

THE question of "What shall we do with our molasses?" in view of the coming extension of the West Indian sugar industry, is an important one. The supply of rum is already greater than the demand, and the consumption for all purposes in the United Kingdom cannot be placed at a higher figure than 3,500,000 proof gallons per annum. Every new factory that is installed makes the position worse, if rum is aimed at as the destination of the molasses. A 10,000-ton factory—that is to say, a factory turning out 10,000 tons of sugar for the crop—would produce at least 2,000 puncheons of rum. As the factory would aim at a maximum extraction of sugar from the juice, the molasses would be of inferior quality, and as it would not be strong enough, if intended to be sold as rum, for any other purpose, would be a fatal financial proposition. The problem to be faced is a serious one, and we should not be doing our duty if we did not represent the matter in a clear light. There are, however, several courses other than rum manufacture open. One of these is to make a high-strength spirit for motor purposes to be used locally. This, of course, means a general revision of the local excise regulations and some expense in de-naturing. It has, however, been pointed out to us that the latter difficulty could be got over by admixture with petrol. The manufacture of strong spirit also demands the use of a continuous, instead of a pot, still. A second use would be its conversion into molasses, but here again there is a considerable offset in the fact that the supply of megass would be considerably drawn upon and lead to fuel expense. Another method would be to use the molasses as fuel, along with the megass. This has not, however, been found satisfactory on account of the furnaces clogging. The fourth method is to apply it to the cane-fields as manure, for which it is valuable, not merely on account of the potash it contains, but by reason of the sugar in it being a stimulating food for the bacteria of the soil. There are therefore two solutions of the problem; the one in which high-strength spirit is made for motor purposes, and the other the application to the soil as a manure. The first is likely to be of increasing importance in the future. New factories would do well, however, not to erect distilleries until the use of industrial alcohol has been definitely arranged for in their locality, and to devote the molasses to manurial purposes for the time being.

#### "The West India Committee Circular."

THE value of a periodical for advertising purposes depends, firstly, on the extent to which it reaches the consumer of the article to be advertised, and, secondly, upon the matters of interest in its pages. The journal should be subscribed for not for the advertisements, but for its general importance. It is here that the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR has such an especial value. It is part and parcel of an ancient organisation which has arisen in recent years like a Phoenix from its ashes. Its fortnightly journal is eagerly sought for, on account of the interest of its matter, by its 2,000 members connected with the West Indies, who are representative of all classes and interests of the community in those colonies. It goes into the hands of the leaders of commercial, industrial, social and official life, and it reaches the powers that be right along the line. As to the industries themselves, the older established ones are growing rapidly now that the West Indies are taking their proper place in the Empire. Sugar will always be the principal industry of these colonies, and from the point of view of advertisers, the most important by reason of the heavy expenditure on machinery and stores that it involves. The first cost f.o.b. of the machinery of the factories, taking only the pre-war price, would represent between £2,000,000 and £3,000,000 and the expenditure on renewals is considerable. There is also a constant "scrapping" going on of old types, and the substitution of new. The stores also, bags for packing, cloths for filtration, oils and grease for lubricants, packing, tools for the workshops and the mechanics, chemicals for manufacture—such as lime and sulphur—also form important items of expenditure. The manufacture of rum also provides scope for the supply of stills and other details connected with that industry, and laboratory demands for scientific apparatus must not be lost sight of. Then, again, the outlay on artificial manures is considerable, while ploughs, reaping-knives, &c., are also in great demand. The next important industry—cacao—is also a consumer in the way of drying apparatus, bags, and other details connected with the industry. The lime industry is associated with apparatus for concentrating lime-juice, distilling essential oils, and manufacture of citrate of lime. The growing oil-fields of Trinidad form a fruitful field for boring apparatus, pumps, packages, &c. Then there is the social side, with the consumption of spirits (inevitable in the tropics), and the thousand and one necessities of everyday life obtained from the Mother Country. Although the circulation of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is mainly in the West Indies, and in West Indian circles at home, it does not end there. There are copies of it on almost every passenger vessel that crosses the Atlantic. It is subscribed for in almost every cane-sugar-producing country, and in this way its advertising columns reach other than British sugar makers. But, after all, good wine needs no bush, and the nature of the advertisements as attached to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR testify to the value and scope of its advertisement pages.

**THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**

**Progress of the Endowment Fund.**

The present state of the Endowment Fund can best be shown as follows:—

Amount collected	£13,685
Still to be collected	8,315
<b>Minimum total</b>	<b>£20,000</b>

This, it is gratifying to be able to state, shows an advance of nearly £2,000 on the amount of donations already acknowledged. The list shown below contains the further generous donations collected by Messrs. Wilkinson & Haynes Company, of Barbados, and the first instalment—a substantial one—of what has been collected by Mr. Edgar Tripp in Trinidad, amounting to no less than £1,027. There also appears the contribution of £500 generously voted towards the Committee's development by the Combined Court of British Guiana—a mark of recognition which the Committee are extremely gratified to have. This is the second Government Legislature from whom a contribution has been received, the first being the Bahamas. Besides these, it is known that the Legislatures of British Honduras, Barbados and Jamaica have voted sums for the Committee. Over £6,000 still remains to be received before the Committee can embark upon obtaining new premises which shall form a worthy setting for their activities. Some of this, no doubt, is on its way, but the help of all the members, of whom 343 have already subscribed out of a total of over 2,000, is particularly requested to attain this result in the shortest possible time.

**FOURTEENTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

Contributions already acknowledged—£11,886 2 3

Per Messrs. Edgar Tripp & Co., Trinidad:

Messrs. G. F. Huggins & Co. Ltd.	£150 0 0
Messrs. G. R. Alston & Co.	100 0 0
Messrs. Stephens, Ltd.	100 0 0
A. V. Stollmeyer, Esq.	100 0 0
Archer Coal Depot	50 0 0
Cedros Estates	50 0 0
J. Ribeiro, Esq.	50 0 0
Messrs. D. Hope Ross & Co., Ltd.	50 0 0
Messrs. Edgar Tripp & Co.	50 0 0
Messrs. Davidson & Todd	25 0 0
Wm. Greig, Esq.	25 0 0
M. Hamel-Smith, Esq.	25 0 0
Frank Haynes, Esq.	25 0 0
Millers' Stores	25 0 0
Windward Islands Estates, Ltd.	25 0 0
Messrs. J. T. Hamlyn & Sons	20 0 0
J. H. Rapsey, Esq.	20 0 0
Messrs. W. S. Robertson & Co.	20 0 0
Messrs. Skooch & Co.	20 0 0
C. R. Clarke, Esq.	18 14 8
A. Greig, Esq.	10 0 0
J. McCarthy, Esq.	10 0 0
D. S. Webster, Esq.	10 0 0
L. M. Hobson, Esq.	5 4 2
J. Black, Esq.	5 0 0
C. Flemming, Esq.	5 0 0
R. C. Cooden-Chisholm, Esq.	5 0 0
J. R. Hingking, Esq.	5 0 0

A. Lewis Innies, Esq.	£5 0 0
G. T. MacDougall, Esq.	5 0 0
J. Wilson, Esq.	2 1 8
H. A. de Freitas, Esq.	2 0 0
Jas. Gilbert, Esq.	2 0 0
C. P. Rojas, Esq.	2 0 0
— Foster, Esq.	1 0 10
C. H. Gordon Short, Esq.	1 0 10
Harold Gilbert, Esq.	1 0 0
W. C. Jardine, Esq.	1 0 0
Walter H. Mills, Esq.	1 0 0

	1,027	2	2
The Government of British Guiana	500	0	0
Messrs. S. P. Musson, Son & Co.	100	0	0
Ressouvenir Estate	100	0	0
Per Messrs. Wilkinson & Haynes Co., Ltd., Barbados:—			
Messrs. Laurie & Co.	£25	0	0
R. Arthur, Esq.	10	0	0
T. A. Kinch, Esq.	5	0	0
Messrs. Norman Roach & Co.	5	0	0
R. H. Edwards, Esq.	2	1	8
C. S. Johnson, Esq.	2	1	8
"X Y Z"	2	0	0
W. J. Knight, Esq.	1	1	0
Messrs. Mayers & Son	1	0	10
Messrs. Stuart & Sempson	1	0	0
	54	5	2
"Anon"	5	5	0
Hon. S. Cuthbert	5	0	0
Hon. S. Wolffsohn	2	2	0
E. C. Yard, Esq.	2	2	0
A. Balderamos, Esq.	1	0	0
G. V. Hepburn, Esq.	19	0	
Harcourt Parris, Esq.	9	7	
Gain on Exchange, Barbados	1	2	9

**MR. CHARLES SANDBACH PARKER, C.B.E.**

We deeply regret to state that Mr. Charles Sandbach Parker, C.B.E., died on Sunday, May 9th, at his residence, 45, Cadogan-place, S.W. 1, after a severe illness, lasting eleven weeks. Mr. Parker, who was a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, at which he was unfailing in his attendance, since 1903, was born in 1864, and was at Oxford University. He was one of the original directors of the Demerara Company, and had been its Managing Director in London since July, 1908. Essentially a fighter throughout his life, he was a doughty champion of all that was for the benefit of colonial sugar. He was one of the founders and Chairman of the British Empire Producers Organisation, and was also prominently connected with the Royal Society of Arts and the British Empire Sugar Research Association, and he was a member of the Trade and Industry Section of the Royal Colonial Institute. Three times he unsuccessfully contested the Barnstaple Parliamentary Division as a Unionist, in the General Election of 1919 only losing by a narrow margin. In 1919 he was appointed a Commander of the British Empire for his services to the country during the war. He leaves a widow and two daughters, for whom the greatest sympathy will be felt. An appreciation will appear in next CIRCULAR.



## NOTES OF INTEREST.

"BEGGAR beg from beggar never get rich."

DR. R. MORTIMER JOHNSON, the Government bacteriologist of Barbados, has arrived in England on leave.

A LIVERPOOL steamer has brought into British Honduras 60 lb. of lace consigned from Germany, which constitutes, the *Clarion* believes, the first shipment of any kind of goods into that colony from Germany since war was declared in August, 1914.

MR. ASPINALL, as already announced, had intended leaving New York on the 2nd of this month, but a cable received from him states that the s.s. *Oriana* had postponed her sailing till May 10th, which should bring him back to this country by about the 20th.

"I PREDICT that next winter there will be a greater volume of travel to the West Indies than ever, because everybody who has made the trip this winter has come home a booster," is what Mr. F. J. Ward, of John P. Mott & Co., Halifax, who has returned to Canada, restored to health, told the *Maritime Merchant*.

THE Philippine Islands in 1913 produced 313,051 tons of sugar, of which 15,000 tons were made by seven factories turning out centrifugal sugars. In 1919, the *Louisiana Planter* goes on to say, the output was 411,273 tons, to which thirteen modernly equipped factories contributed 100,000 tons. At present 500,000 acres only of the big areas available for growing canes are in cultivation.

THE British and Latin America Chamber of Commerce, whose President is Sir James Kenmel, is, according to the *Morning Post*, proposing to institute in London, on a considerable scale, a Commercial Centre which shall tend to strengthen reciprocal trading relations between Great Britain, the West Indies, and the countries of Central and Southern America. The scheme is to embrace a permanent exhibition of the natural resources of those places.

ON April 21st there was launched from Messrs. Cammel Laird & Co.'s yards the new single-screw steamer *Zent*, intended for Messrs. Elders & Fyffes' trade between the West Indies, Central America and Europe. She is the first of three steamers now being built for the same owners, and her leading dimensions, says the *Shipping World*, are length b.p. 400 ft., breadth 51 ft., and she is designed to steam at a speed of 13½ knots when loaded. The ship of the same name which is now being replaced was the first of Messrs. Elders & Fyffes' fleet to be lost during the war. She was torpedoed under circumstances brutal and ruthless to the last degree, being attacked without warning and sunk at once after being struck by a second torpedo, and only eleven out of her crew of fifty-eight were saved.

To prevent liquor being smuggled into Florida a coast-guard patrol is maintained. According to the *Morning Post*, an American submarine running on the surface at night was fired at off the Florida coast by a patrol boat, whose commander told the commanding officer of the submarine that his orders were to stop any vessel suspected of smuggling liquor and to fire on a suspected vessel if she refused to stop after a shot had been fired across her bows. The submarine commander expressed his opinion of prohibition and its enforcement in vigorous nautical language, and the Secretary of the Navy has ordered an investigation to ascertain whether the Commander-in-Chief of the "Prohibition Navy" can take pot-shots at naval vessels engaged on their lawful occasions.

## HISTORICAL SIDELIGHTS.—III.

### The Bristol West India Club.\*

By LILLIAN M. PENSON, B.A.

In the latter part of the eighteenth century there were, besides the West India Organisations of London, four West India Societies—those at Bristol, Glasgow, Lancaster and Liverpool. Traces can be found in the West India Committee records of the existence of the Liverpool Organisation in 1776, of those of Bristol and Glasgow in 1777, and of that of Lancaster in 1787. In the case of Bristol there is no reference between the 10th March, 1777, and the 19th December, 1786. The explanation of this can be derived from the West India Club Minute-books now in the possession of the Society of Merchant Venturers of Bristol.

The first extant Minute-book of the Club opens with January, 1782. On the 28th of that month a meeting was held at the Bush Tavern, Bristol, "of several gentlemen interested in the West India trade," and it was decided "that a New West India Society should be formed, upon the general principles and for similar purposes for which the former society was established," and the first meeting was to be held on the 5th February. Why the former society, of which no records have hitherto been found, had ceased its activities, it is not stated. As has already been suggested, a reference in the West India Committee records fixes the earliest date at which it can have been dissolved as 1777, only five years earlier. It may be that in Bristol, where the trade was carried on by the same merchants with West Africa, North America, and the West Indies, the effect of the American War of Independence had been more serious than in London, where the merchants traded principally as the factors of planters in the West Indies. It may be also that the decline in the West India trade of Bristol had caused the merchants to think that it was not necessary to maintain the Society, and that they had then found its absence inconvenient. It is, perhaps, more probable that the reason was more restricted. One of the rules of the new Society was that "No Stranger whatever shall at any time be invited as a Guest, unless it be by Card from the Secretary, and with the particular ap[pr]obation of the President." Perhaps it was thought that the former club resulted in the diffusion of information which it was desirable, especially in time of war, to keep secret.

If this last explanation is the true one, great care was taken that the difficulty should not recur. It was determined at the meeting of the 5th February, 1782, that the Society should meet once a month, and that four times a year—in March, June, September and December—strangers might be invited, and on other occasions the meetings should be for

\* The account has been compiled mainly from the Minute Books of the Club. I am therefore indebted for it to the kind permission of the present owners of these books, the Society of Merchant Venturers of the City of Bristol.

† Mr. John Latimer in his "Annals of Bristol in the Eighteenth Century," 1893, p. 142, comments on the fact that ninety-nine firms of West India merchants signed a representation on the subject of taxes in 1724, while only thirty-five signed a similar representation in 1789.



business, and no strangers might be present. It is interesting to note that not only was the membership of the new Society largely the same as that of its predecessor, but the former President, William Miles, was reappointed.

The Bristol Club, which was established at this time, differed in certain respects from the West India organisations of London, both in its constitution and in its character. Its constitution was much more definite. There were some sixteen to twenty members, each of whom paid an annual subscription of £5 5s. New members were from time to time proposed and elected at meetings of the club, and from time to time there were notices of the withdrawal of members. As has been seen, the dates of the meetings were determined beforehand. Regularly each year one of the members was elected to serve, apparently without fee, as Treasurer and Secretary for the ensuing year. There is no record in the Minute-books of general meetings similar to those held in London to which persons who were not members could come, and in 1789, when such general meetings were held, they were recorded in a separate Minute-book, and took place, not, like the ordinary meetings, at Bush Tavern, but in the Merchants' Hall, by the invitation of the Society of Merchant Venturers.

The difference in the character of the Association is no doubt largely responsible for the greater rigidity of its organisation. The activities of the Bristol West India Club were, as its name suggests, far more predominantly social than those of the meeting of West India Merchants or the Standing Committee of Planters and Merchants in London. The meetings were always held at a dinner, the payment for which constituted the largest item in the expenditure of the Society. Frequently it is recorded that no business was transacted at the meetings, and a prominent place in the minutes is taken by the account of wagers between members of the Society, generally on some point connected with the West India trade, the penalty of these being a dozen bottles of claret to be consumed by the Society.

Apart from these distinctions, the meetings bear close resemblance to those held in London. They determined the rate of freight between the port and the islands; they organised the prevention of theft on the quays; they negotiated with the Admiralty for the provision of convoys in time of war; they drew up petitions to the House of Commons on the sugar and rum duties. It is indicative of the different methods by which the trade was conducted from Bristol and from London that the meetings also considered and determined the wages of ships' carpenters and sawyers employed by certain firms of shipbuilders; for, to a far greater extent than the merchants of London, the Bristol merchants were in the eighteenth century the owners of the vessels employed in the trade.

What was the relation between the West India Club of Bristol and the London organisations? Constitutionally there was no connection. The Bristol Society was established quite independently of those of London, although at about the same time as the Standing Committee of Planters and

Merchants. But there was frequent intercourse between them. The most important instance was in 1789. In April of that year there was held in Bristol a "General Meeting of the Planters, Merchants, Manufacturers and others, in this City and its neighbourhood, interested in the British West India Islands and in the trade to Africa." The meeting opened by the reading of the minutes of a meeting held at the London Tavern on April 9th, a meeting recorded in the minutes of the Standing Committee. In June it was decided, in consequence no doubt of a resolution of a meeting held in London on April 24th, that a charge on trade similar to that levied in London should be raised by the merchants trading to the West Indies from the port of Bristol. This was a crisis which the Societies of London and Bristol alike regarded as of great importance, and joint action was therefore adopted. Co-operation also took place in March, 1785, with regard to Pitt's Irish Resolutions; in December, 1786, in connection with the proposed Commercial Treaty with France, and in January, 1789, on the question of an alteration in the rate of King's Tax.

The initiative in this co-operation seems to have come on the first occasion cited from London, but in the other instances from Bristol. The Bristol merchants and planters realised, as we learn, indeed, from a statement made by them in January, 1789, the greater influence of the London organisations, an influence derived not merely from their extensive membership, but also from their proximity to the Central Government and the presence in them of the accredited agents of the colonies. Nevertheless, the Bristol West India Club maintained throughout an attitude of independence, and in this it was fully justified by the long connection of Bristol with the New World and the presence in the Club of members of the most prominent merchant families of Bristol.

## THE SUGAR CROPS.

Nearly 24,000 tons was the amount by which last year's crops in the West Indies fell below what had been estimated. Slight increases over their estimates, made in Jamaica, Barbados, St. Kitts and St. Vincent, were more than counterbalanced by the shortage of 30,000 tons in Trinidad and British Guiana. The Board of Trade Journal gives the following estimates for the present year's crops, cane syrup being included in terms of sugar on the basis of three puncheons of syrup being equal to one ton of sugar:—

	Exports, Estimate,	
	1919. Tons.	1920. Tons.
Barbados ... ..	75,271	50,000
St. Kitts ... ..	10,901	15,000
Antigua ... ..	12,841	16,667
St. Vincent ... ..	570	1,136
Trinidad ... ..	37,605	40,000
Jamaica ... ..	43,000	48,000
British Guiana ... ..	83,140	96,000
St. Lucia ... ..	3,661	4,300
Montserrat ... ..	58	115
Total ... ..	267,247	271,318



## POWER ALCOHOL.

### British Guiana and the Petrol Problem.

From the United States, which consumes annually twice the amount of petrol used throughout the rest of the world, comes the disquieting information that their own resources of this valuable article are not sufficient to last more than another fifteen years at the present rate of consumption. This is, of course, on the assumption that the oil could be produced in that time. The alternatives with which the United States are faced are either to import the petrol or to reduce consumption, or to find an efficient substitute for industrial purposes. The second is not to be expected in view of modern tendencies. Importation will be a matter of extreme difficulty, seeing that the shortage of petrol is world-wide. Consequently, attention is largely focussed on the prospects of the production of power alcohol on a commercial scale. The present position is fraught with the gravest concern to those who are studying this problem, which is of vital importance to the Empire. The Hon. E. C. Buck, M.L.C.E., Director of Public Works, British Guiana, published recently a paper entitled "Oil Fuels and their Value as compared with Coal," which embodied much of the subject matter of a paper published by him in British Guiana in 1916. In this way British Guiana and Mr. Buck have proved themselves pioneers. In this paper he says of petrol substitutes and their relation to Empire development that the value of oil for use in internal combustion engines is 3.96 times the value of coal, of which petrol is 3.4 times the value. There is, of course, no comparison between the present prices of these fuels, since residual oil suitable for steam raising can be obtained at 11d. per gallon, gas oil suitable for power motors at 11½d., paraffin costs 2s. per gallon, petrol 3s. 2d., whilst British coal is now no less than 37s. per ton. The prices given are wholesale ones.

"Thus," Mr. Buck continues, "we are faced with the fact that, thanks to our enterprise and invention, we have built up an enormous system of oil-driven engines for power and transport, far in advance of the economical supplies of oil forthcoming, with which to work, and are thus in the position of a broker who continues blindly to sell short, regardless of the day of reckoning that must come."

Unless we are prepared to relapse back to coal for the production of power, light and heat, and use the available oil only for production purposes, we must courageously face the hard facts, and take concerted action in those colonies that are suitable for the production of power alcohol. The by-products of the sugar-cane and other semi-tropical and tropical produce should be utilised to the utmost. For this purpose British Guiana and the West India islands, Mauritius, India, Australia and South Africa offer boundless opportunities. It has been pointed out from time to time that in British Guiana alone, which at present produces about 100,000 tons of sugar per annum, some 2,000,000 tons could be produced if the vacant lands suitable for cane cultivation were utilised and labour were forthcoming, as, it is to be hoped, will be the case in the not far

distant future. It has been computed that the molasses from a ton of sugar will supply 20 gallons of power alcohol. It can thus be readily seen that, when British Guiana's resources are developed to the full, about 40,000,000 gallons of power alcohol can be produced from this one colony alone, and there is no doubt that this would help immensely towards relieving the situation.

Something must certainly be done, seeing that on both sides of the Atlantic we are consuming petrol at an enormous rate, and the whole course of industrial development is being based on the assumption that ever-increasing supplies of power alcohol are forthcoming. Dr. W. R. Ormanby, in a recent article in the *Observer*, has clearly pointed out that the bulk of industrial alcohol must come from maize and molasses, but it may well be that there are other tropical products in British Guiana and the West Indies from which alcohol could be made on a commercial scale. The increased production of cane-sugar and the increased manufacture of industrial alcohol could go hand in hand, and such a happy result would at once contribute largely to the development of the West Indian colonies, and at the same time add immensely to Imperial resources. It is believed that the Government Departments are by now alive to the necessities and possibilities of the position, and it would not be surprising if in the near future a Royal Commission were appointed to report on the possibilities of producing power alcohol in the colonies. If the report is favourable the necessary legislation will, it is presumed, be forthcoming to amend excise restrictions and to bring about a favourable opportunity for the enterprise.

## WEST INDIAN AVIATION.

### Prospects of Commercial Flying.

A service in the interior of French Guiana has already been inaugurated with French machines, and British companies have also projected schemes for advancing aviation in the Caribbean, but it is believed that the ambitious project formed by one company for a passenger, mail and freight service between Trinidad, Tobago, St. Vincent, Grenada, Barbados, British Guiana and Venezuela, which has been given a certain amount of prominence in the Press, has so far failed to materialise. Other companies, however, are in the field, and it should not be long before some such scheme for the West Indies was definitely embarked upon and in full working order. An interesting lecture was given by Major-General Sir Sefon Brancor before the Royal Aeronautical Society on Wednesday, April 28th. He strongly advocated State subsidies for the successful inauguration of commercial aviation. Sir F. H. Sykes, who followed, hoped to see a substantial improvement in engine design. Colonel Ivan B. Davson, O.B.E., who took part in the discussion, brought it round to a practical view of colonial needs to day.

He said the lecturer had dealt largely with the possibilities of commercial aircraft in perhaps one of the most populous parts of the world, where everybody



was alive to the needs of rapidity over land and sea. He (Colonel Davison) had been recently in places where the reverse was the case. There were places where the sea was only "bridged" by schooners—places where the existing railways were slow, laborious, and irregular, and also places where they did not exist at all. It was in such places as those that commercial aviation could be promoted most economically. Regularity seemed to be desired and valued generally even more than frequency of opportunities. Moreover, the lecturer's idea of an irregular service was not likely to engender confidence among people who did not understand aeronautics. There was a further matter which he touched on with diffidence. There were places where the powers that be were attracted by aviation, and were tempted to commit themselves to the principle of State support, and he knew of syndicates and firms who were much tempted to have a dash at little enterprises that looked like plums about the Empire, but in this country the idea of State support had not been encouraged. A recent State despatch rather burked the issue by suggesting that the whole question should be postponed for one year. He believed that without State support British aviation would be a long time coming into its own.

A full report of the meeting and the discussion will appear in the June issue of the *Aeronautical Journal*.

## MUSCOVADO SUGAR.

Few there are now who remember the days when the only sugars in the market were the white sugar of the refiner and the "brown" sugar of the plantation—the sugar made before the vacuum form came into use; on the sugar estates—when the sugar was made by the simple process of boiling down after heating, treatment with lime, and "skimming" and brushing to remove the impurities, the syrup thus formed being allowed to cool until the crystals had separated, and the magma produced allowed to stand in hogsheads with perforated bottoms until the molasses had drained away.

The sugar thus formed was "muscovado," the same description, and made by the same process, that Père Labat found in full swing in the French West India Islands in the seventeenth century.

The lower qualities of this sugar went to the refiners, the better quality to the grocer—for direct sale to the public.

This sugar was sweet and luscious. Sweet from the actual amount of pure sugar it contained—luscious from other constituents of the cane-juice left in it, bodies which represented the "bouquet" of the cane-juice, and which had absorbed, as it were, the power, the stimulation, of the tropical sunlight, and the glamour of the tropical atmosphere.

Gradually the use of the vacuum grew, estates became larger, and the process of extraction of the juice from the cane by mills driven by steam, instead of deriving their motive power from the wind or water or oxen, developed. The molasses were no longer drained from the crystals, but separated by the centrifugal; the sugar crystal no longer had adhering to its surface luscious and honey-like molasses, except in the case of the special make of "Demerara" sugar. It became, in fact, unsuitable

for direct consumption, although its value to the producer was higher on account of the greater amount of it extracted from the cane.

As time went on, therefore, the supply of grocery muscovado became less and less. Popular taste went to the white sugar, attracted by the delusive purity of its appearance, and nowadays the only raw sugars on the market are 30,000 or 40,000 tons of that made by the "Demerara" process, and a few thousand tons of muscovado from Jamaica and Barbados.

I have spoken above of the "delusive" purity of white sugar. By this it is not to be inferred that these sugars are not pure—they are *too* pure. If these sugars which made from cane products could only be made to retain the qualities of the cane juice which the muscovado and Demerara sugars do, they would be perfection; but, unfortunately, they cannot.

It is invariably found in Nature that articles used for food contain, derived from the sources from which they are obtained, properties which materially assist their assimilation and food properties. Cane-juice is especially noted for this. It is particularly strength-giving. In the reaping season, negro cane-cutters live practically entirely on cane-juice, doing exceptionally heavy work. The sugar—the sucrose of the cane-juice itself—could not give this. It is the other constituent bodies which yield the properties which enable the energy of the sucrose to be brought into play, and it is these other bodies which are found in muscovado and Demerara sugars which render them so valuable as articles of diet.

For tea muscovado sugar is quite unsuitable—its flavour is too high and obscures that of the tea—but for sweetening fruits and purposes where this rich flavour is desirable it is unparalleled. But if we would properly appreciate muscovado sugar, use it on bread and butter! A bit of bread, butter, and muscovado sugar forms the most delicious diet that could be imagined. But the days of muscovado sugar are nearly over. As already mentioned, economic conditions of production are wiping it out, and soon this exquisite and health-giving product of the tropics will be no more seen.

F. I. S.

## OUR LIBRARY.

Volume IV. of the work on *The Flora of Jamaica* has now been received. The authors are Mr. William Fawcett, B.Sc., the late Director of Public Gardens and Plantations, Jamaica, and Dr. A. B. Rendle, M.A., F.R.S., F.L.S., of the Department of Botany, British Museum, and these names are sufficient to guarantee the continued value of the work.

The particular volume under consideration deals with the Dicotyledons, the members of the families Leguminosae to Callitrichaceae being described. As with the previous volumes, the descriptions are minute and comprehensive, and the illustrations numerous. The importance of the work being carried out by Messrs. Fawcett and Rendle, especially for purposes of reference, cannot be over-rated. Some time has unavoidably elapsed since the appearance of Volume III., but this is explained in the preface, and an apology is made for the absence of reference to later papers than those dated 1917 on this account.



## INTRODUCTION OF COFFEE.

In the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* appears an interesting article on the early use of coffee. All the present trees in the West India islands were propagated from cuttings or slips sent to Martinique in 1720. The story has been told delightfully by Charles Lamb in the following lines:—

"Whene'er I fragrant coffee drink,  
I on the generous Frenchman think,  
Whose noble perseverance bore  
The tree to Martinico's shore,  
While yet her colony was new,  
Her island products but a few;  
Two shoots from off a coffee tree  
He carried with him o'er the sea.  
Each little tender coffee slip  
He waters daily in the ship,  
And as he tends his embryo trees,  
Feels he is raising 'midst the seas  
Coffee groves, whose ample shade  
Shall screen the dark Creolian maid,  
But soon, alas! his darling pleasure  
In watching this his precious treasure  
Is like to fade—for water fails  
On board the ship in which he sails.  
Now all the reservoirs are shut,  
The crew on short allowance put;  
So small a drop is each man's share,  
Few leavings you may think there are  
To water these poor coffee plants:  
But he supplies their grasping wants,  
Even from his own dry parched lips  
He spares it for his coffee slips.  
Water he gives his nurselings first,  
Ere he allays his own deep thirst,  
Lest, if he first the water sip,  
He bear too far his eager lip.  
He sees them droop for want of more;  
Yet when they reached the destined shore  
With pride the heroic gardener sees  
A living sap still in his trees.  
The islanders his praise resound;  
Coffee plantations rise around:  
And Martinico loads her ships  
With produce from these dear-saved slips."

Eight years after the above, the coffee plant, according to Mr. Frank Cundall, in his "Historic Jamaica," was introduced into that island by Sir Nicholas Lawes, the Governor, who cultivated it on his estate, Temple Hall, in Liguanae.

## THE PRINCE'S SPEECH.

### Reply to Governor of Barbados.

Below is printed the speech made by His Royal Highness on the historic occasion of his recent landing at Bridgetown:—

Your Excellency,—I am sincerely grateful for the kind and loyal terms of your address, which has touched me very much. I have looked forward keenly to my visit to Barbados, the first British colony of this rank in which I have had the honour to set foot, and the pleasure which I anticipated is greatly enhanced by the warm and friendly welcome which you have given me to-day.

As a naval officer, the King knows this colony and the other islands of the British West Indies well, and his Majesty particularly desired me to tell you how happy are his memories of the time which he spent among you here. Since its first occupation this beau-

tiful island, as you remind me in your address, has flown no flag but the British flag, and, under many trials both in peace and war, it has never wavered in its staunch allegiance to the British Crown. I shall be happy to tell his Majesty that your devotion to his Throne and family are as warm and constant to-day as they have always been in the past.

I regret that my stay in the island must be so short, but I hope to see as much as possible of its population and its industry to-day. I have learnt with the deepest interest of the equal freedom and opportunity which under representative institutions you have secured to your inhabitants of whatever race; and I trust that all classes of the population will continue to make sound progress under the liberal principles of Government which have long been the colony's pride. I know of the fine services rendered by the Barbados Contingent of the British West Indies Regiment during the Great War. It is now for the people of the colony to show their common sense and steadiness in dealing with the problems of reconstruction which are absorbing attention throughout the British world; and I hope that all will derive contentment and their due measure of permanent benefit from the great prosperity which the island has achieved.

I thank you for your much too generous reference to my small services in the war, and also for your good wishes on my voyage to Australia and New Zealand. My visit to Canada was a most wonderful experience, and I know that I shall value just as greatly the memory of this second voyage on which I have just set. Your welcome to-day is a happy augury for the remainder of my tour, and I appreciate it very much.

I beg you to convey to all the people of this ancient and most loyal colony my best wishes for their progress and success.

## CANE-JUICE.

### The Reducing Sugars in It.

Cane-juice, unlike the juice of the beet, contains naturally a reducing sugar—that is to say, a sugar which reduces the copper in Fehling's solution when boiled with it from the higher oxidised condition to that of the suboxide, in the same manner as the sugar resulting from the hydration of cane sugar by inversion, the sugar in honey and in glucose prepared from starch. Unlike sucrose—the sugar of the cane—maltose, the sugar formed by the action of diastase on starch, convert sugar and honey sugar, it has no action on polarised light. It is called, in sugar manufacture, "glucose," but the term is unfortunate on that account. It is not, as generally supposed, a retrograde formation from cane sugar, but is rather one of the intermediate stages in the formation of it from starch. The latter, by the action of chlorophyll, is formed in the leaves, and this "reducing" body is the product formed prior to the ultimate production of sucrose.

That this is the case is evidenced by the fact that the growing parts—the top joints of the cane—contain a greater quantity of it than the lower, riper part, and similarly with unripe canes. It is a part of the life of the cane. It exists entirely in the sap or the blood of the cane, and is not found in the pith cells, which contain an almost pure solution of sucrose.

In addition to the natural glucose of the cane-juice, there is frequently present a body which is of "traumatic," or post-mortem formation. This

body is the result of injury to the cane such as comes from the attacks of rats, voracious insects, and the like, or from age after cutting—in fact, from any cause which causes local or entire dearth. It is of the nature of invert sugar, the sugar produced chemically by boiling sucrose with acids. This is a compound sugar, consisting of a sugar which turns the plane of polarisation of light strongly to left, and is called laevulose, and, of dextrose, a right polarising sugar, such as produced from starch by prolonged boiling with sulphuric acid. It consists of equal parts of laevulose and dextrose, and its action on polarised light is to the left, due to the fact that the laevulose has a greater left-handed rotation than dextrose has right. It follows, then, that cane-juice invariably contains a small proportion of a reducing sugar—a natural product of the cane, and necessary for its sucrose producing, and may contain a greater or less amount of invert sugar derived from the cane sugar, the production of which it is the aim of the sugar producers to avoid.

The natural cane "glucose" is sweet, the intense sweetness of molasses in which it accumulates giving evidence of this. Like the invert sugar, it has no special effect in hindering crystallisation of the cane sugar.

It is fermentable with the production of alcohol. As already mentioned, it accumulates in the molasses, where it is associated with such of the sucrose which can no longer be separated by crystallisation, and with whatever invert sugar that may have been formed during manufacture.

Even the small quantity of .5 to 1.5 per cent. of the occurrence of reducing sugars in harvested canes it is difficult to determine whether any invert sugar is present. But if the molasses be taken, the true amount of sucrose be determined by double polarisation, and the result compared with the amount of sucrose estimated by taking the reducing power of the molasses before and after inversion, the question of the presence or absence of invert sugar can be determined. Should the presence of invert sugar be ascertained, however, it must be remembered that it may have been produced during manufacture. If none is found, of course, there was only the natural glucose in the juice.

To sum up the subject, it may be said that a fresh, sound cane contains only the natural reducing glucose, but that injury during life, or disease, and undue length of time between cutting and manufacture may increase the presence of reducing sugar by the formation of invert sugar from the sucrose. The natural glucose is the builder of the cane sugar, the invert sugar the destroyer.

F. J. S.

THE Trade Conference between the British West Indies and Canada will open at Ottawa on May 31st, when all the British West Indian islands will be represented. Sir George Foster, Canadian Minister of Trade and Acting Prime Minister, has announced as the objects of the Conference the improvement of communications and the renewal and extension of the existing Preferential Tariff Agreement. Later it is hoped to publish a full list of the delegates.

## GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

### V.—Sir Thomas Lynch.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

(Continued from page 134.)

One of Lynch's last acts in Jamaica was to draw up an interesting account of the state of the Church in the island. He left Jamaica in 1675, and took up his residence in a house in Leicester Fields, London. While in England he placed his experience at the disposal of the Lords of Trade and Plantations, and he frequently attended their meetings when the affairs of Jamaica were discussed. In 1679-80 he purchased the manor of Esher, land by the former home of his wife at Weybridge.

He submitted "Reflections on the State of the Spaniards, and the Island of Jamaica." "It is to the English interest that the Spaniards be preserved in the possession of what they have in the West Indies, for their colonies are large and thin of people, so they cannot take from the English anything that they hold. The Spaniards have great wealth and no industry, so the English that trade to Spain and in the West Indies may get sufficiently by them, which they cannot by any other nation. It is as much against the interest of England to have any more colonies in America as it is for it to have those they now possess peopled and fortified, especially Jamaica, which would then do more against the Spaniards than all the power of England. Reasons why war and privateering obstructs the planting and peopling of Jamaica. To check the Spaniards, and show the King's resentment of any affronts done his Majesty, suggests that the King give the new Governor of Jamaica the title of Viceroy of Jamaica, New England, or America, and that, if the King assumes the power of placing Governors in New England, they may have an appearance of depending upon Jamaica, and have the powers and advantages which are set forth."

If the news-letter, dated from Jamaica July 18th, 1677, in the Record Office, printed in the "Calendar of State Papers," is really by Sir Thomas Lynch, Lynch was at that date in Jamaica; but there is evidence that he was then in London, and no other evidence that he was in Jamaica. It tells of the taking of Santa Marta by Coxon and other buccanniers. He was, however, in England in the November of that year.

In October, 1677, Morgan and Byndlosse were accused by Vaughan of corresponding with privateers. At the same time Lynch submitted proposals about settling the government of Jamaica, presumably to the Lords of Trade and Plantations. He said the present Lieutenant-Governor (Morgan) was incapable of such a trust, being "governed by his brother-in-law, Colonel Byndlosse, a very ill man."

In December, 1679, Sir Thomas Lynch, Lord Vaughan and Sir Francis Watson attended the Lords of Trade and Plantations. Lynch then reported "A Brief Account of the Government of Jamaica Since His Majesty's Restoration."



In December, 1679, in addition to Lynch, Jamaica merchants (C. Modyford, Waterhouse, Duck, Orgill, Potts, Beck and Sir F. Chaplin) were consulted by the Lords of Trade and Plantation.

In May, 1681, a draft commission as Governor of Jamaica (as successor to the Earl of Carlisle, Morgan having been Deputy-Governor in the mean while) and instructions to Lynch were considered by the Lords of Trade and Plantations, and in August the commission was issued.

After consultation it was decided to make Lynch a real Governor, he agreeing to accept the title with "no allowance from the Exchequer by reason of the title."

On November 1st Lynch was lying at Plymouth waiting for the ships, owing to foul weather. On December 20th he wrote that he had been at Plymouth eight weeks. He sailed in the *Sweepstakes*. He was sixteen or eighteen weeks wind-bound. His wife fell ill at Madeira, so that after a month or five weeks he was forced to leave her behind with half his family. She and their son Charles died at Madeira, and their bodies were returned for interment at Esher. A monument to their memory, with a portrait of Lady Lynch, is in the disused church; a photographic copy of it is in the Jamaica History Gallery in the Institute of Jamaica. Sir Thomas left a sum of money to provide for the preaching of a sermon in her memory, yearly, on the 30th September "forever."

Lynch left Madeira on April 6th. On entering the tropics he fell ill, and was ill for some days after he landed in Jamaica on May 14th. Both of the King's houses at Spanish Town and the Point being out of repair, he stayed at Colonel Molesworth's. "The revenue appeared to be so poor that "I am like to live here, as I am come, at my own charge." In August he was still sick. He wrote: "The people are well enough disposed, but by letters from England and evil designs here have been spirited into extraordinary distrusts and jealousies." "Much cotton, sugar, indigo, &c., is made in the island, and there are hopes of vast quantities of cacao in a few years." He thought that cacao would yield cent. per cent. Trading ships were built in the island—twenty in number—from 15 to 45 tons, admirable sailors. They were, however, on the main, undersold by "great Dutch ships."

The difficulty of the Assembly tacking bills to the Revenue Bill was discussed, and dealt with satisfactorily. In October, 1682, Lynch sent to the Bishop of London a full and sympathetic account of the churches and clergy in the island. In November, in a letter concerning piracy, he said: "This fishing for wrecks draws all kinds of dissolute fellows to Providence." He also alluded to the frequently mentioned need of naval protection. "The want of a frigate here has made pirates to increase in number and impudence." He wrote in February, 1683: "We are fed by provisions from New England, New York, and Ireland, and have fishermen at the South Coys; all these routes were interrupted and dangerous." With regard to the privateers, he wrote: "You cannot blame me for being the historian of these rogues for this year, for I have business with few else." H.M.S. *Ruby* was sent out

to protect Jamaica. Lynch later sent her to help St. Kitts against the Indians and privateers. The *Guernsey*, *Ruby* and *Bonito* were King's ships protecting trade and putting down piracy. The *Ruby* was too big for shoal waters to follow peringoes; the *Guernsey* evidently did for this. "The *Bonito* crushed the little rogues before they grew bigger." Lynch, who had instructions to suppress the buccaneers, pleaded for full power of Admiralty. "With this I dare answer for everything; without it I hold myself accountable for nothing."

## CACAO IMPORTS.

Of the 18,274 cwt. of cacao imported into this country from the British West India islands during March, 15,902 cwt. were brought to London, 2,364 cwt. to Liverpool, and only 8 cwt. found their way to Bristol. The total value of these imports, as given by the *Confectionery Journal*, is £106,969. During the same month the imports from the Gold Coast were about ten times the quantity of the West Indian product, being 183,569 cwt.; but their value, which is given as £982,000, was only just over nine times as much. The third largest importer of the raw article is Venezuela, which shipped 4,445 cwt. to Liverpool during the month. German West Africa comes very close with 4,086 cwt., but this only fetched £20,761.

## AUSTRALIAN SUGAR.

A deputation representing the Queensland Sugar Growers and Millers has asked the Commonwealth Prime Minister that the price of sugar be increased from £21 to £30 6s. 6d. per ton. In his reply, says the *Times*, the Prime Minister said he wanted to be shown clearly the factors in the increased cost of production. There was the further difficulty that next season's crop would amount to only 200,000 tons, rendering it necessary to import 100,000 tons, costing at least £45 a ton. To cover this increased cost sugar would have to be retailed at 6d. per lb. instead of the present price—4d. per lb.—or else the deficiency would have to be met out of the Exchequer.

## THE UBA CANE.

In our last issue the adaption of the double-carbonatation (not carbonisation) system of clarification to the juices of the uba cane was mentioned as having proved successful. This is a very important matter, as there is very little doubt that the Uba cane will continue to be the cane grown in the development of the African sugar industry on account of its hardihood and the big yield of cane per acre. It is a fact worth noting that the Uba is an old cane and not a new variety. Louisiana and Cuba have both claimed it, on the strength of "uba" being "Cuba" without the "C"; but it has now been very clearly established that it came from India. This is especially interesting, inas-



much as India was the original home of the sugar-cane, and it looks very much as if the cane of many centuries back in India is becoming the cane of the future as regards Africa. The uba cane is also being introduced into the West. But whether it will get as far as that is uncertain; but there is little doubt of its cultivation undergoing considerable extension, and this will mean that the double-carbonatation process will be revived in the cane-sugar world as a means of clarification. Also the mills will have to be differently graded as to their normal power to make up for the difficulty in dealing with the fibrous canes.

## TRINIDAD'S AGRICULTURAL LEVY.

On the proposal of Mr. G. Moody Stuart, and heartily backed up by the Trinidad Agricultural Society and the Chamber of Commerce, it is suggested that the capital sum required for the establishment of the Tropical Agricultural College in Trinidad, if this comes to pass, shall be raised by means of a voluntary levy on agricultural produce, both this year and next. The suggested levy on cacao is at the rate of 4d. per 100 lb., which, on an estimated production of 60,000 lb., should realise the sum of £10,000. Again, a voluntary tax of 2s. 3d. per 1,000 lb. on sugar should bring in a further sum of over £13,000. If about £2,000 were forthcoming also from coconuts and copra, the total would be well over £25,000. It only remains for this year's crop estimates to be realised, and for there to be no falling off in the crops of the following year, for the complete £50,000 required for the setting up of the college to be found.

## OUR BLINDED SOLDIERS.

By SIR ARTHUR PEARSON.

Travellers are agreed that in the West Indian colonies is to be found scenery not to be surpassed for beauty in any other part of the world, and it is scarcely possible to conceive that, where everything is so pleasing to the eye, there does not exist an extra sense of appreciation of the gift of vision. Amidst these richly coloured scenes, how much of the happiness of life is dependent, consciously or subconsciously, on the effect produced in the mind of the beholder by what he looks upon! Where else should one find keener sympathy with men blinded—living in darkness illuminated only by the pictures that the power of suggestion and imagination create?

I put down that thought as it comes, though I doubt if I need any excuse for making an appeal to the readers of the CIRCULAR to join me in the rather big job I have undertaken of looking after the soldiers who have lost their sight in the war. What has been done? Practically all of these blinded men have come to St. Dunstan's—the hostel I established in London—to receive every possible help and training to compensate them for the loss of sight—as much as may be—by the development of other senses.

All sorts of people face life with all sorts of drawbacks, and by looking on blindness in the light of

a handicap, though of all the most heavy, they were inspired to every effort to get back to the plane of normal life. How far they have succeeded is told simply enough by the fact that, apart from exceptional cases, these men are now all able to employ themselves at work varying from poultry-farming to typewriting and stenography, to earn their own living, and, in many cases, to make more money than they did as sighted men. Thus, with the additional income of their war pensions, they are making a new start in life amid the circumstances which would have seemed incredible under the first sense of hopelessness when they realised that their sight was lost.

To train these men at St. Dunstan's, however, might be counted a small task compared with the new responsibility of looking after them in their widely scattered homes. The organisation for their after-care is already in full swing, and if you agree that too much cannot be done for these men, who have done so much for themselves, then I know I may count on your help to establish the finances of this organisation so that the care of these men will always be assured. The fight against blindness is a mighty hard fight, and if a man knows that the organisation that helped in the first stage will be behind him right through, if by means of this organisation he can be kept in touch with his blinded comrades, and still draw inspiration from the spirit of St. Dunstan's which first gave him victory over blindness, then he will find it far easier to surmount his difficulties; then he will be constantly encouraged by this practical evidence of public sympathy in what he has suffered, and, even more important, in what he has achieved.

May I, in advance, measure your generosity to these blinded soldiers by the splendour of those scenes that daily reward your sight?

[We need hardly state that we shall be most happy to receive and to forward to the proper quarter any contributions which our generous readers may forward to us for St. Dunstan's—a most deserving charity.—ED.]

## OBITUARY.

MR. JUSTICE ALBERT EARNSHAW.

We regret to announce the death from cerebral hæmorrhage, at the age of fifty-five, of Mr. Justice Albert Earnshaw, who was Acting Chief Judicial Commissioner in the Federated Malay States. After a distinguished career at Durham and Oxford Universities, at each of which he obtained First Class honours, he was called to the Bar in 1893 at the Inner Temple. In 1914 he was appointed a Police Magistrate and Coroner for Grenada, but was in 1906 transferred to British Guiana as a Magistrate of Georgetown, afterwards serving as Acting Puisne Judge. After two years on the Gold Coast, he came back to British Guiana in 1911 as Puisne Judge under Sir Henry Bovell until 1914, when he went to the Straits Settlements. One who knew Mr. Earnshaw well writes of him as a man of the greatest ability and considerable legal achievement. He was possessed of a well-balanced mind, and his work in all the colonies in which he served was highly esteemed and officially commended. He was much attached to the West Indies and British Guiana, where he had many friends, by whom the news of his sudden death will be received with great regret.



## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

### By "Agronomist."

Oranges, lemons, citrons, sweet limes, the shaddock, and the bergamot orange are extensively grown in Cyprus. The best and most common orange is the oval Jaffa. Bitter oranges are grown from seed for stocks on which the better kinds are grafted. The Director of Agriculture in Cyprus states in the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute* that much loss has been sustained through disease. The two most common causes are the planting of trees too close together, and over-watering. Too frequent irrigation accounts to a large extent for the widespread damage caused by gummosis.

The cultivation of the almond tree has greatly extended in Cyprus. It seems indifferent to soil, thrives particularly well on limestone, and resists drought. The date palm grows promiscuously throughout the plains. The trunk wood is very hard and fibrous. It is used for beams in houses, and in the construction of water-wheels. It is also utilised as fuel burning slowly, and giving out great heat. Dates ripen well in Cyprus, and are gathered from October to December. Hazel nuts, col-nuts, walnuts, pistachio nuts, as well as the fig, melon, and banana are grown.

Trinidad is dependent on Venezuela for cattle for food purposes, and has to import horses and mules at great expense from America. Several Trinidad and British Guiana capitalists have joined together and formed companies for the leasing of grazing lands in the back country of British Guiana. It is hoped that in a few years' time these ranches will support half a million head of cattle, and be able to send 50,000 steers every year to the coast for export, and at the same time to supply all the horses and mules required in Trinidad.

The Uba sugar-cane in Natal grows on throughout the year with varying rapidity. The growing period required to reach its full maturity is twenty-two months. It ratoons for ten or twelve years. The yield of cane sometimes amounts to 60 tons per acre. At the highest yield it takes about 8 tons of canes to produce 1 ton of sugar. Although it is not likely to be grown wherever tropical conditions of climate exist, yet even in the tropics use may be found for it in the hills. It, however, requires powerful machinery to crush it. The *Agricultural News* gives extracts relating to it from the *International Sugar Journal* and the *South African Sugar Journal*.

An uninterrupted supply of Chile nitrate was, unfortunately, necessary during the war as a basis for the production of explosives for our Navy and Army. Had Germany been dependent in the same way, the war could not have lasted for a year. But our enemy was able to produce in Germany from the nitrogen of the air the necessary nitrogenous compounds of which synthetic ammonia contributed by far the greater proportion. In order to be independent of imports of nitrate for agricultural, chemical, and war purposes, Germany had developed and installed works on a gigantic scale for the production of synthetic ammonia. This compound is manufactured by combining hydrogen and nitrogen gases under compression.

A Frenchman, M. Claude, has invented a new process for increasing the pressure at which the mixture of nitrogen and hydrogen are constrained to enter into combination to produce ammonia. He has also invented a less expensive method of fixing the ammonia for fertiliser purposes than can be secured by using sulphuric acid in the manufacture of sulphate of ammonia. By the addition of carbonic acid gas to a saturated solution of ammonia and common salt, chloride of ammonia and

bicarbonate of soda are formed. The value of chloride of ammonia as a manure has been found to be at least equal to that of sulphate of ammonia. It is anticipated that with this cheap source of nitrogen at our disposal the waste lands of the British Isles can be made to yield corn, and render the nation self-supporting for its cereals. As the chloride is less weighty than sulphate, it will probably be also largely used in the West Indies as a nitrogenous manure.

Niue Island in the South Pacific, according to a writer in *Tropical Life*, is composed entirely of coral limestone with scarcely any soil. Coconut palms, nevertheless, flourish and bear well. The nuts are of good quality, and copra is the chief export. Niue Island has an area of 100 square miles. It consists of a central plateau about 200 ft. above sea-level, surrounded by a rim of a quarter to half a mile in width, which is about 80 ft. above sea-level. There cannot be any percolation of sea-water to the roots of the coconut, there are no streams, and all surface-water from rain is drained off by fissures in the rock. The whole island, however, is covered with vegetation. The writer says that the chief requirements in the way of manure can be supplied by wood ashes and guano. To show the good effect of manure, he tells of a coconut planted on the site of an old fowl-house, which bore nuts in less than five years—eight years being about the average for bearing on the island. There is no coconut disease. There are many similar situations in the West Indies, where the limestone rock can be blasted with dynamite for planting.

Enormous quantities of glycerine were used during the war in the manufacture of explosives. In Germany the supply of fats, as raw materials for making glycerine, constantly grew less. As a substitute for fat, sugar was taken, as the chemical structure is somewhat similar. In the ordinary fermentation with yeast, it was well known that small quantities of glycerine are produced—about 3 per cent. of sugar. By adding alkali to the liquid in fermentation, the percentage of glycerine was increased to nearly 13. But the alkaline liquid was favourable also to the growth of acid-forming bacteria, which was not good for the glycerine. It is found, however, that if the alkali used were sodium sulphite it acted as a poison to the harmful bacteria, but did not affect the yeast cells. When the sulphite is added in increasing quantities, the yield of glycerine increases to as much as 36 per cent. of the sugar. Acetaldehyde is yielded also in larger quantities, and made use of for war purposes. The yield of alcohol and carbonic acid proportionately decreases.

Palm oil, which was sold before the war at about £28 per ton, is now being marketed at over £80. The *Times Trade Supplement* has an illuminating article on the subject. An average bunch of fruit has about 1,500 fruits. The fruit is fibrous-fleshy outside, with a very hard nut inside. The nut varies in size from a hazel nut to a walnut, and contains a hard kernel. The fleshy outside, when removed, resembles a mass composed of equal parts of shredded coconut matting and yellow tallow. About 60 per cent. of its weight is recoverable as liquid palm oil. This oil has much the same characteristics as tallow, and can be used as a tallow substitute. It must always be prepared where the crop is grown, as the fresher the fruit the better the oil. The nuts are dried in the sun, and the kernels extracted. The palm kernels yield a different kind of oil from that of the outside—the palm oil. Kernel oil is more like coconut oil, and can be used as a substitute for coconut oil in the manufacture of margarine, &c. This oil need not be extracted immediately, as the kernels keep excellently. There is a double advantage in shipping kernels as such—firstly, a cheaper rate of freight; secondly, there is a market in Europe for the residuum.

**AT WESTMINSTER.**

**WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.**

**Machinery for English Beet.**

Sir A. Boscawen informed Mr. Macquisten that it was not the case that there was any recognised standard design of beet-sugar machinery or factory. Invitations to tender for the supply of the machinery were specifically invited from British engineering firms, but the response was disappointing. The company also had taken expert advice as to foreign firms who had experience of beet-sugar machinery, and on such advice invited the Compagnie de Fives, Lille, to tender, and decided to give the contract to that firm. It had, however, been arranged that British firms who specialised in specific parts of the machinery should have the opportunity of acting as sub-contractors for such parts.

**"Free" Sugar.**

Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson, answering Mr. Shaw, on May 3rd, stated that the regulations concerning the sale of "free" sugar permitted of such sales for the purposes of a wholesale or manufacturing business only. Any wholesale firm offering to sell such sugar indiscriminately to the general public was liable to prosecution. The quantity of "free" sugar in the hands of traders was limited, and was continually diminishing in amount. In view of the machinery and expense which would be involved, control and distribution under the rationing scheme would not be warranted.

**Anti-Dumping Bill.**

Mr. Bonar Law informed Captain Wedgewood Benn, on April 26th, that it was still the Government's intention to introduce an Anti-Dumping Bill during the present Session.

**Spirits and Cigars.**

Mr. Austen Chamberlain informed Viscountess Astor, on April 28th, that the declared imported values of spirits imported into Great Britain was as follows in the years stated:—

1913	£1,781,000
1914	1,790,000
1918	3,022,000
1919	7,257,000

In answer to Mr. Hood, the Chancellor stated that the weights of cigars consigned to this country, 1913-1919, was as follows:—

Year ended 31st December.	Consigned from Cuba, lb.	Consigned from all other countries, lb.
1913	1,128,000	533,000
1914	848,000	486,000
1915	828,000	405,000
1916	687,000	208,000
1917	425,000	149,000
1918	1,057,000	136,000
1919	1,367,000	304,000

**Sugar for Brewing and Jam Making.**

Mr. McCurdy, in reply to Mr. Hope, on April 29th, stated that he had no exact record of the quantity of sugar used for brewing in 1919, as sugar of this quality, which was unfit for grocery or manufacturing purposes, was not imported or controlled by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply. It was, however, estimated that approximately 30,855 tons of such sugar were used for brewing during 1919, and that the amount required during the present year would be approximately 60,000 tons.

Mr. McCurdy informed Mr. James Brown on April 22nd that the quantity of sugar issued to jam manufacturers during 1919 was 200,500 tons. It was proposed, if circumstances permitted, to allocate during 1920 112,500 tons.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

**Harbour Improvements in Nassau.**

The Select Committee of the House of Assembly, considering the question of Harbour Improvements, are awaiting the arrival of a representative from a dredging concern in Florida. The *Nassau Guardian* says that, with deep water at the bar and inside the harbour, the future of Nassau will be assured. The Hon. J. Stanley Rae, a Bahamian, at present Attorney-General of St. Vincent, has had the honour of Knight of the Order of the Crown conferred on him by the King of the Belgians, in recognition of his work on behalf of the Belgian Relief Fund in British Honduras. On April 13th the marriage of Mr. H. E. Aspinall to Miss Rosalie, by the Rev. H. A. Haasold, was solemnised at St. Andrew's, and on the 14th, at the Priory, by the Rev. C. Schreiner, Mr. A. L. McDermott was married to Miss Muriel Altway.

**Union Jack Club for Barbados.**

According to the *Barbados Advocate* of March 30th, the weather had been favourable for reaping, but the tonnage of the canes was rather low, few acres having been reported to have given more than 25 tons, the juice not being rich. Those planters who sold in advance in November-December were regretting their action, as the market had advanced from £7.50 the then price—to £10 per 100 lb. Syrup is quoted at 92 cents per gallon.

Blowers estate, St. James, 453 acres, has been sold to Mr. R. C. Murphy, owner of Bath, St. John for £65,000.

Mr. Alistair Cameron has presented £5,000 to the Navy for the purpose of founding a Union Jack Club at Barbados as a memorial to his son, Lieutenant Alistair Lindon Cameron, R.N. He has called Mr. J. C. Collins, at present in England, offering him £3,000 for Holborn House, Fontabelle, as the site for the club.

The obituary includes Mrs. Elizabeth Trimmingham, widow of the late Colonial Postmaster, and Mrs. Collymore, widow of Mr. Ernest Collymore, late of the Colonial Bank.

**Oil in British Guiana?**

Writing under date April 1st, Mr. J. C. McCowan said that the weather generally during the past fortnight had been dry, and as a result, cultivation had suffered.

Messrs. A. G. Biden and J. D. McD. Bourne had arrived in the colony to take up their appointments of Colonial Auditor and Assistant Auditor respectively.

According to the *Daily Argosy*, a large number of Canadians recently visited the colony, and deplored the fact that it was not possible for them to see the beauties of the interior without encountering considerable difficulties and discomfort.

Seventy-two returned soldiers had each been handed cheques for £15 by his Excellency the Governor in connection with the land settlement scheme.

Mr. John Junov, a retired planter, died at the Public Hospital on March 23rd, at the age of seventy-seven years.

Mr. J. A. Williams, residing in this colony, recently obtained permission from the Dutch Government to explore 23,000 hectares of land said to contain petroleum. He had succeeded not only in interesting local men, but also a number of American miners who had expressed their intention to inspect the land with a view to entering into an arrangement with him to commence boring operations for oil. The land located by Mr. Williams is situated not far from Springlands on



the Dutch territory, and is easily accessible. It is felt that if oil is struck in that area this colony will be considerably benefited, for those concerned will certainly turn their attention to finding out what are the possibilities of oil being discovered in this colony, the view being held by not a few persons that British Guiana has got and should be made to produce oil provided that the correct location is made.

#### West India Committee in Honduras.

The *Clarion*, in its interesting issue of April 8th, gives a full account of the speech made before the Chamber of Commerce by Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G., Secretary of the West India Committee, who arrived in that colony on H.M.S. *Calcutta*. The Hon. G. E. Graham presided, and those present included the Hon. S. Cuthbert, Captain Henry Melhado (Vice-Presidents), Lieutenant-Colonel J. Cran, V.D., O.B.E., Hon. A. R. Usher, M.B.E., Hon. H. E. Phillips (Acting Colonial Secretary), Hon. W. C. F. Stuart, Hon. F. W. Wade, and Mr. Gerald Smith (Colonial Postmaster). In introducing the guest, the President said that Honduras was one of the most important parts of the West Indies, and a colony that could be very greatly developed if only they went the right way to work. Mr. Aspinall, after mentioning that he had met Mr. Stanley Woods in Barbados, said he felt that it would not be long before there was a line of steamers plying between this colony and the Dominion of Canada. There was no reason why there should not be equally good communication with Jamaica. The Rev. J. B. Brindley and Colonel Cran also spoke, and a vote of thanks was proposed by the Hon. S. Cuthbert, which was seconded by the Chairman, and brought an enthusiastic meeting to a close.

Seventeen gentlemen in Honduras are mentioned in the *Clarion* as applying for membership of the West India Committee.

A football match between members of the Royal Sussex Regiment and H.M.S. *Calcutta* was won by the sailors.

Mr. M. S. Metzgen has been appointed Internal Revenue Officer, and the Hon. S. Wolfsohn has been appointed the Governor's representative in connection with the Belize Ice and Electric Light Company.

#### Jamaica's Cable and Steamship Communications.

Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G., Secretary of the West India Committee, who arrived here aboard H.M.S. *Calcutta* from the West Indies, via British Honduras, on Thursday, April 8th, sailed on April 17th for England via New York, after completing a tour of Jamaica, according to a report of the Direct West India Cable Company.

Mr. Aspinall has delivered several lectures on the work of the Committee throughout the island, and has been successful in raising a considerable sum of money in the form of subscriptions towards the West India Committee Endowment Fund.

In a farewell lecture, delivered at the rooms of the Jamaica Imperial Association on April 16th, Mr. Aspinall referred to the isolation of Jamaica from the other West India islands in the matter of the cable and steamship communication.

He said in part that it was almost impossible to realise what relief it was to arrive in Kingston, the terminus of the Halifax-Fernuda cable route, after his experience of the other islands. In Trinidad, for instance, the only means of communication open was by the wireless, which had proved entirely unsatisfactory, and in Barbados one had to forward cables in this the twentieth century by a sloop to another island, whence they were despatched over a foreign cable. As regards steamship communication, this was well illustrated by the fact that, although delegates from British Honduras were able to attend the conference, those from Jamaica were not. He urged that Jamaica do everything possible to remedy the present

state of affairs, particularly as regards cables, by securing the extension of the Halifax-Fernuda cable route to the other islands, thus removing present deficiency in the cable service between these islands, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council held on April 9th, a message from the Governor was read, inviting the Council to take early action, so that Jamaica might be represented at the Canadian-West Indian Trade Conference to be held in Ottawa during May. The Conference is to consider the whole question of trade relations and transport facilities between the Dominion and the British West Indies, and the proposal for holding the conference is set forth very fully in a telegram which the Secretary of State has received from the Dominion.

In reply to a question by Mr. Phillipps, the Colonial Secretary said that the Governor intended to ask the Council to give its sanction for the establishment of a sugar factory having a minimum annual output of 10,000 tons of sugar. The Council would receive from His Excellency a message explanatory of the matter.

The *Daily Gleaner* announces that two Admiralty experts have arrived in the island, who have completed arrangements for building oil tanks on a specially constructed water pier at Harbour Head. The tanks, which are being built in England, are to be erected in view of the fact that all the latest ships of the Navy are oil-burners.

#### St. Lucia Prospering.

Our mails appear to take as long to reach here as they did during the days of sailing boats, writes Mr. Archibald J. Brooks. Parcels are always sent by the G.P.O. to New York, and this causes considerable delay in transit. Surely, now that the Scrutton steamers and the R.M.S.P. Company are running regularly direct to these islands, there should be no need of sending to the United States.

The trial of the two men, Edwards and Joseph, for the murder of one man and the wounding of three others on the road from Castros to Denney while conveying money to pay the labourers at the Denney sugar factory in December, was commenced on Monday, March 15th, and concluded at midnight on Saturday, March 20th. Both prisoners were found guilty, and his Honour Chief Justice A. de Freitas passed sentence of death. Much credit is due to the newly-appointed Chief of Police, Lieutenant-Colonel R. Deane, O.B.E., for the able way in which he personally worked up the case from the start. In summing up, his Honour the Chief Justice commented upon the very able manner in which Lieutenant-Colonel Deane delivered his evidence in court.

Shipping, which had fallen off considerably during the last two years, appears to be on the increase.

Our exports for 1919 reached a high figure, being as follows:—Sugar products, £120,328; cacao, £75,185; lime products, £14,593. Coconut extension continues, and this industry will in the course of time, become one of the staple crops of this island. Very few of the West Indian islands are so well balanced as St. Lucia in the nature of its agricultural industries. We have in sugar, cacao, limes and coconuts four good strings to our bow and our future is very promising.

#### Trinidad and the Agricultural College.

The dispatch from Lord Milner, dated January 27th, covering the report of the Tropical Agricultural College Committee, was duly circulated here, says, Mr. Edgar Tripp, and special attention was drawn to the offer of Jamaica to make an initial grant of £50,000 if the college were to be established in that colony, and to the answer of the Committee that in the event of Trinidad and the Windward and Leeward Islands not seeing their way to give adequate support the possibility of establishing the college in Jamaica might again be considered.



This colony, however, I am pleased to report, was not prepared to take a back seat in so important a matter.

At a largely attended meeting of the Agricultural Society, held yesterday, the Governor in the chair, Mr. Moody-Stuart moved:—That this Society heartily welcomes the proposals in the report, which, if carried out, would be of the highest importance to the future prosperity of the colony and the West Indies generally, and that the sum required for the establishment of the college here should be made by a tax on produce during 1921 and 1922 sufficient to meet the amount.

The motion was unanimously carried. His Excellency congratulated the Society as being a unique body in that they had come to the Government on more than one occasion and said, "Tax us." He had never been connected with or heard of any other body in the world who had said so, but he would heartily welcome it if other bodies followed their good example—it would make the lives of Governors easy. However, he promised to give effect to the resolution of the Society, and we may therefore take it as an established fact that before very long an institution which has so often been spoken of and so much required will be started in the colony.

**Cotton in the Turks Islands.**

Direct West India Cable Company.—Report for March.—The weather during the month has been variable, some days very oppressive, others quite cool. The evenings and early mornings have been cool and pleasant, and the absence of mosquitoes has left nothing to be desired.

On the 25th Mr. C. Yorke Slader, who arrived in the colony on the 23rd to act as Judge of the Supreme Court, passed a sentence of death, which is the first sentence of its kind passed in the Dependency for over a century.

During the latter part of the month the salt industry started to move, and at present there are seven three-masted schooners here waiting cargoes of salt, and several more are expected. This, with the large number of labourers on the various steamers, offers employment for all.

The conch shell industry for the present is stopped, and very few shells are being cut. One of the largest shippers of shells has been advised not to make further shipments for the present, as, owing to the difficulties of transhipment from the United States to Italy, the New York market is glutted.

Sponge shipments have been made during the month to the United States. It is probable that, now the conch shell industry is shut down, those who have been diving conches will divert their attention to sponge as they did formerly.

The sisal industry is still dormant.

The cotton industry is going along steadily, and from news to hand the acreage planted out is looking good. Quantities of raw cotton are being brought from the Caicos group to be ginned at the Government factory at Grand Turk. The Commissioner has just received advice that the balance of cotton shipped to Liverpool realised 5s. 10d. per lb., and that the Empire Cotton Association of Great Britain, to whom the Commissioner sent a sample, were so pleased with it that they have presented him with a Macarthy roller gin to be used for the next crop. The peasantry of the Caicos group would appear to be giving most of their attention to the growing of cotton now, as very little produce is arriving here. Charcoal, a commodity which we have to get from Caicos, is also scarce, costing 2s. per barrel.

A copy of Dr. Purinton's report on three months' working of the Manning Emergency Hospital was sent by the Commissioner to the British Red Cross Association, who were so impressed with the good work it has done that they have given the Commissioner £150 wherewith to purchase instruments for the operating room.

**WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.**

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Home arrivals from the West Indies per R.M.S.P. *Quillota*, London, April 28th:—

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| From Barbados:—<br>Miss K. E. Arthur<br>Mrs. M. Baeza<br>Mr. & Mrs. W. Barnard<br>Miss A. B. Clarke<br>Sir John and Lady<br>Dinsdale<br>Miss A. M. Evelyn<br>Rev. and Mrs. F. P.<br>Fitzpatrick<br>Rev. and Mrs. Poyle<br>Miss B. Hall Hull<br>Mr. and Mrs. J. N.<br>Knight<br>Mr. and Mrs. E. K.<br>Lamb<br>Misses V. M. and M. A.<br>Law<br>Miss M. A. Layne<br>Miss K. I. Liddelow<br>Mrs. M. E. Macdonald<br>Mrs. J. Peters<br>Mr. and Mrs. J. W.<br>Keynolds<br>Miss K. M. Seymoure | Mrses S. and J. Tilden-<br>Smith<br>From British Guiana:—<br>Mr. and Mrs. H. C.<br>Dagley and family<br>Mr. G. E. Hodgkin<br>Mr. P. H. Edwards<br>Mr. & Mrs. R. Geering<br>Mrs. A. J. Hill<br>Miss E. J. Murray<br>Mr. L. M. Nightingale<br>Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Boy<br>and Infant<br>Mr. and Mrs. A. Seton<br>Milne<br>Mr. E. Strang<br>Rev. and Mrs. C. W.<br>Townsend<br>From Trinidad:—<br>Dr. H. McCaul Alston<br>Major H. B. O. Cod-<br>dington<br>Major W. A. S. de Gale<br>Miss E. M. De Gannes<br>Miss Frecheville | Mr. and Mrs. W.<br>Frecheville<br>Hon. H. R. Fuller<br>Mrs. E. H. Greenwell<br>and two Children<br>Mrs. M. E. Hoadley<br>Misses E. M. and K. P.<br>Hoadley<br>Miss F. M. Huxford<br>Mrs. & Master McClean<br>Mr. and Mrs. Robert S.<br>Beid<br>Miss D. Beid<br>Mr. and Mrs. F. J.<br>Schultz<br>Master S. C. M. Smith<br>Mr. and Mrs. J. B. L.<br>Todd<br>Mr. F. W. Urieh<br>Mr. C. B. Williams<br>Mr. and Mrs. J. E.<br>Wilson<br>Mr. and Mrs. W. B. A.<br>Weatherhead |
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Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, April 28th, per s.s. *Rayana* (Commander, F. W. Castle):—

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| Miss I. S. Anderson<br>Mr. A. B. H. Hinkcomb<br>Mr. K. T. Bruce<br>Mr. J. H. Casswell<br>Mr. J. W. Churchill<br>Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Clark<br>Mr. R. J. Davis<br>Mr. & Mrs. G. Grahame<br>Mr. C. E. Heal<br>Mr. F. Hockoo<br>Mr. W. O. Isaacs<br>Mr. J. E. Jackson | Mr. and Mrs. A. B.<br>Johnson<br>Mr. B. Le Roux<br>Dr. H. G. McCarthy<br>Mr. and Mrs. J. C.<br>McNaught<br>Capt. and Mrs. D.<br>Macpherson<br>Mr. H. E. Madden<br>Mrs. K. Meek<br>Mr. B. Moll<br>Mrs. V. Nolan | Miss M. Nolan<br>Mr. J. W. Robertson<br>Mr. E. Setton<br>Mr. S. C. Stainmaker<br>Mr. P. J. Sterouson<br>Miss K. F. Stevenson<br>Mr. R. W. Stock<br>Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Toft<br>Mrs. E. A. Wey<br>Mr. and Mrs. A. E.<br>Williams<br>Mr. W. C. Wilson |
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**VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.**

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

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|---|---|
| Mr. F. C. Archer<br>Mr. W. A. Boyd<br>Rev. J. B. Brindley<br>Mr. James Brown<br>Hon. E. C. Buck, M.I.C.E.<br>Mr. E. A. Hingle<br>Mr. A. Cameron<br>Sir W. K. Chandler, K.C. & G.<br>Rev. Canon Dalton, D.D.<br>Hon. B. S. Davis<br>Mr. G. Farmer<br>Mr. A. J. Findlay<br>Mrs. M. C. Garnett<br>Mr. R. P. Gibbs<br>Mr. B. Gill<br>Mr. L. A. Gomez<br>Sir G. Ambrey Goodman<br>Mr. J. Hamilton<br>Mr. E. H. C. Hosack | Mr. L. Cyril Innes<br>Mr. F. G. B. King<br>Mr. E. K. Luce<br>Mr. Thos. Laycock<br>Mr. B. Mason<br>Mr. D. T. McEwing<br>Mrs. McEwen<br>Mr. T. Elton Miller<br>Hon. J. J. Nunan, K.C., LL.D.<br>Mr. C. T. Pitcher<br>Mr. W. F. Samuels<br>Mr. W. N. Sands<br>Mr. E. E. H. Thorne<br>Mr. F. Urieh, F.R.S., C.M.Z.S.<br>Hon. H. B. Walcott, C.M.G.<br>Mr. A. J. White<br>Mr. John Wilson<br>Mr. P. Stanley Woods<br>Mr. Harold Wright |
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- Major Duncan Fraser, c.o. Messrs. James Drodic and Co., 1, Gresham Buildings, Basinghall Street, E.C.
- Mr. J. J. Gibson, 11, Queen's Gate Terrace, S.W. 7
- Mr. C. C. Henriques, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.
- Mr. Thomas W. Innes, 38, Queen Anne's Mansions, St James's Park, S.W.
- Mr. E. H. Jace, Valentine's School, Fford, Evesham
- Dr. B. M. Johnson, c.o. Dr. Phillips, "Martimboe," London Road, Newbury, B.E.
- Mr. Archibald Johnston, Ivy Bank, Braeside Avenue, Rutherglen, near Glasgow.
- Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., Knocklow, Toward Argyllshire
- Mr. Dudley G. Leacock, Hotel Metropole, Bournemouth
- Mr. W. E. Mandeville, c.o. The Colonial Bank, 29, Gracechurch St., E.C.
- Mr. W. Mearns, 38, Carlton Street, E.C.
- Mr. James Miller, 17, Orsot Church Street, E.C.
- Mr. Athelston Watson, 25, Elgin Park, Bedland, Bristol

By Rule IV, members of the West India Committee whose subscriptions are unpaid will not be entitled to receive the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.



## PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6942 Central.  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E. C. 3.

May 11th, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 7 per cent.—changed on April 15th from 6 per cent., at which figure it had stood from November 6th, 1919.

**SUGAR.** Control prices in the United Kingdom were modified on March 22nd, and are now as follows:—

	Wholesale.		Retail.	
	Per cwt.	Per lb.	Per cwt.	Per lb.
Cubes, Lump. &c. ... ..	84 0	10s	84 0	10s
W.I. Crystallised (see below) ... ..	80 0	10	80 0	10
W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups (see below) ... ..	71 9	9	71 9	9
W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing ... ..	"free"	No maximum	"free"	No maximum
Sugar for domestic processing ... ..	114 0	1 2	114 0	1 2

The discount is 14 per centum.

The maximum "reasonable" price for all licensed "free" sugar from April 19th until May 15th has been fixed at 150s. per cwt., less 14 per cent., as compared with 114s.

In accordance with their arrangement concluded with the West India Committee, the Royal Commission have fixed the prices for allotment during May and June as follows:—

	May.	June.	
Crystallised ... ..	110.98s.	142.76s.	per cwt.
Muscovado ... ..	108.06s.	137.84s.	"

A steady tone has prevailed in the market during the past week for free sugar, and high-grade sugars have been in good demand. White sugars are very scarce and almost unobtainable. Jamaica, Demerara and Trinidad crystallised spot—or against blue vouchers—are quoted at 130s., while Jamaica muscovados and Trinidad syrups, spot are quoted at 150s.

Trinidad reaping operations continue favourable, but only an average crop is expected. According to Messrs. Edgar Tripp & Co., considerable sales to the United Kingdom have been effected at £38 10s. f.o.b.; shipments to all countries from January 1st to March 31st were 10,982 tons.

The demand in the American market has remained unchecked, in spite of the high prices ruling. Retailers, as well as manufacturers, are clamouring for supplies, the price being a secondary consideration. Sales of Cuban and Javas have been made at 19c. to 20c., and one shipment of German beet is reported to have been disposed of at 19½c. duty paid.

Mr. Himely, who has now reduced his estimate for the present Cuban crop to 3,925,000 tons, says that planters in the island have never before suffered such a disastrous drought as has recently been experienced, and numerous fires in the dried-up canefields have aggravated the situation. Three more factories finished their crop during the week ended April 19th, all with disappointing results, and, owing to the protracted drought, the outlook for next crop is not encouraging. The promised land of 4,000,000 tons is still a long way off. The receipts at all ports to April 17th were 2,383,478 tons, and the increased exports to European countries as compared with previous years are very marked.

The imports of sugar into India for the eleven months ending February amounted to 372,990 tons as against 466,373 tons for the corresponding period of the preceding year. This is due to increased output of home grown sugar, the crop for season 1919-20 being estimated at 3,000,000 tons.

The West India sugar statistics in London on May 1st were:—

	1920.	1919	1918.	Tons.
Imports ... ..	19,447	7,301	6,605	
Deliveries ... ..	10,740	8,841	15,087	
Stock ... ..	16,843	4,652	2,455	

**RUM.** The market has been upset by the Budget, and buyers are all holding off until it is found what effect the increased spirit duty will have upon consumption.

The stocks in London on May 1st were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Puns.
Jamaica ... ..	7,779	3,122	5,258	
Demerara ... ..	12,768	12,051	4,170	
Total of all kinds ... ..	29,081	19,555	14,913	

**CACAO.** The market for the last fortnight has been flat. Out of a total of 6,435 bags offered at public auction on April 27th only a small part found buyers. Trinidad partly sold at 14s. to 150s. A few bags of Grenadas were disposed of from 126s. to 130s., but other West Indian was neglected.

The stocks in London on May 1st were:—

	1920	1919	1918.	Bags.
Trinidad ... ..	21,058	14,067	14,699	
Grenada ... ..	28,021	7,706	25,706	
Total of all kinds ... ..	175,841	115,770	185,581	

**ARROWROOT.** A little more enquiry for common at 4d. to 4½d., and choice at 7d.

**BALATA.** The market generally is rather easier. West Indian sheet easy with sellers at 4s. 4d. c.i.f., spot 4s. 7d.

**COFFEE.** The situation in the coffee market has not improved, and values continue to sag in the absence of any export demand. Imports of West Indian to March 31st 1,469 cwt.

**COPRA** is steady and quiet with only a small business passing. West India f.m.s. prompt shipment is quoted at £59 London.

**COTTON** continues quiet, but prices generally show a hardening tendency. Imports of West Indian in the nineteen weeks ending May 6th, 4,631 bales.

**HONEY.** Still very dull. Jamaica is quoted nominally at 80s. to 105s. for dark brownish to fine pale.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** Lime Oil: Handpressed. No change in value. Supplies still very scarce. Distilled, quiet but steady at 8s. per lb. Lime Juice: Raw, very little enquiry.

**ORANGE OIL.** Sweet, sales of good Jamaica at 30s. per lb. on spot. Bitter is not wanted.

**OIL.** Exports from Trinidad to March 31st, 9,224,424 gallons

**SPICES.** Pimento, lifeless with sellers at 5½d. but no buyers. Nutmegs, 80s. ½d., 110s. ½d., slightly wormy 9d. Mace, good pale 1s. 9d., red to palish 1s. 5d. to 1s. 9d.

### WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 2/8 for three lines and 8d. for each additional line.

**THOROUGHLY** Competent Banana Overseer, 2½ years' experience in Jamaica, full knowledge of draining system, desired position as Overseer. Apply "B. M. L." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, London, E. C. 3.

**EX OFFICER,** single, age 31, seeks position on Cacao or Cocoa Estate in Trinidad. Willing to become pupil. Salary no object. Apply "G. F." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething lane, London, E. C. 3.

# The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXV.

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1920.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone:  
6642 CENTRAL.



15, SRETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams:  
CARIB, LONDON.

May 27th, 1920.

### The Secretary's Tour.

**B**EFORE these lines appear the Secretary of the West India Committee will most probably have arrived back in England, thus concluding what has been a memorable and, we are certain, a most enjoyable tour. After an absence of ten years—appropriately enough, his first visit to the West Indies took place in 1900, his second in 1910, and this, his third, in 1920—MR. ASPINALL left England at the end of January, and, sailing via New York, visited St. Kitts, Antigua, Dominica, at all of which places, no doubt, he was delighted to renew his impressions, and where the West India Committee, in his person, was paid the compliment of the greatest courtesy and hospitality. He then arrived in Barbados at the end of February in time for the Second Triennial Meeting of the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce, at which Mr. H. F. PREVITE and he were the West India Committee delegates. Then on to Trinidad, whence after a week, in which he travelled throughout the island, it was his intention to visit British Guiana. Unfortunately, this could not be if his other engagements were to be carried out; but what must have been his great disappointment at not being able to go to the "Magnificent Province" may have been in some measure compensated for by the opportunity of travelling in H.M.S. *Calcutta*, which accompanied the *Renown*, with the PRINCE OF WALES on board, through the Panama Canal. MR. ASPINALL, further, had the honour of being invited to luncheon

by His Royal Highness. He was then able, by means of the kindly services of H.M.S. *Calcutta*, to proceed to British Honduras, and after too short a time there to go on to Jamaica. Here a full programme had been prepared for him by the Jamaica Imperial Association, who organised a public meeting for him. We print in this issue an account of some of his remarks on that occasion. He was also entertained to dinner by the officers of the British West Indies Regiment and by the Jamaica Club. On April 17th he sailed in ss *Tarives*, reaching New York on the 22nd. From here he took the opportunity of visiting Montreal and Ottawa, where he had interviews with the Acting Prime Minister, SIR GEORGE FOSTER, and MR. FRANK KEEFER, Under Secretary for External Affairs, who continues to take a lively and active interest in the welfare of the West Indies. Thus, MR. ASPINALL has been away for a period of four months. Although during this period he has accomplished very much, he has doubtless felt how short a time it has been for his purposes. He will no doubt bring back to the West India Committee in London a renewed impression of the requirements and feelings of the Colonies which will serve to bridge the thousands of miles that separate the home country from its West Indian possessions. We believe, moreover, that the tour will have been instrumental not only in bringing the Committee at home in touch with the West Indies, but we are certain that one result of the Secretary's visit will have been to give to the Colonies themselves a wider appreciation of the Committee's many efforts on behalf of the continued progress and prosperity that we feel sure the West Indies are destined to enjoy.

### The Price of Sugar.

**T**HE new prices of sugar announced in this Circular follow the main recommendations of the Select Committee on National Expenditure; 1s. 2½d per lb. is now the approved retail price for cubes and loaf sugar, and 1s. 2d. for West Indian grocery crystallised, and 1s. for muscovado, although the Committee on Expenditure recommended ¾d. or 1d. more even than this figure, and the higher price may even yet have to be faced. Whilst consumers are naturally anxious about the position, and the world shortage is justly blamed for the large sum they are asked to pay, there is yet a singular lack of clear thinking even in official quarters, which should have the opportunity of being well informed. The suggestion has even been gravely made that all will not be well again until we once more see



the revival of the Continental beet industry in all its pre-war strength, and that all possible encouragement should be given to our late enemies to enable them to pay a proportion of their war indemnity in the shape of sugar. This attitude shows that many have entirely misread the lesson they should have been taught by the history of the past few years. Hankering again for the fleshpots of Egypt in the shape of the cheap Continental sugar, they do not realise that it was largely our dependence on this one source of supply, and our refusal to give even equality of treatment to the sugar-growing possessions, that has largely brought about the present state of affairs. What might have been done had wiser counsels prevailed is clearly shown by the case of Cuba. Before the Spanish American War the average annual sugar production of the "Pearl of the Antilles" was 600,000 tons. Now the granting of American preference has contributed to bringing about her present unexampled prosperity, when instead of 600,000 tons over 4,000,000 tons are produced. Even were there no shortage, the consumer could not expect to obtain sugar at the pre-war price any more than he is obtaining any other staple commodity at such a figure; the purchasing power of money has, at any rate for the time being, declined. The West Indies have never feared the competition of beet-sugar, either British or Continental grown, provided that the dice are not loaded against them. Surely the remedy for the present state of affairs, which will best suit not only our own present needs, but prove of lasting Imperial benefit, will be not to wait anxiously and helplessly the time when the Germans and Austrians can again flood our markets, but instead to take all possible steps to encourage the Colonial growing of this important product with a view to rendering the Empire eventually self-supporting.

#### The Petrol Shortage.

ACCOUNTS of the prospective shortage of petrol continue to come forward, and the world is faced with a condition of things which requires immediate and strong measures to establish a substitute for this important factor in the working machinery of the world. Not so many years back there was the prospect of a shortage of coal; and the alarm thus created was relieved by the increasing use of internal combustion engines in which the fuel was petrol. What the steam-engine was to the horse, sail and windmill, petrol became to the steam-engine, and, as with the latter, has been a prime factor in the world's industrial development. A shortage of petrol means not only an arrest of progress, but also a partial industrial paralysis. It is now recognised that in alcohol a substitute for petrol can be found; and, as *Punch* put it in a recent issue, the internal combustion of it will be substituted for internal consumption! As the world knows, alcohol is obtained by the yeast fermentation of sugar, with subsequent distillation. The sources of it may be divided into two classes, the one in which a fermentable sugar exists already, and the other in which it can be prepared by chemical treatment. Molasses is a good example of the

first class, the second being illustrated by potatoes and all farinaceous articles and by wood. The supply of molasses for this purpose is quite inadequate to make up the deficiency, as, even if the whole of the world's molasses were converted into alcohol, not more than 300,000,000 gallons would be produced. To use up food products to supply alcohol in view of the world's shortage of food would also be suicidal. There is, however, a very likely product suitable for the purpose, and that is woody fibre—not merely in the form of wood itself, but also as straw and saw dust. From these, by heating under pressure with sulphurous acid, or other strong acids, a fermentable sugar can be obtained. Woods quite unsuitable for other purposes could be thus utilised. But the whole subject gives food for much thought. There has been a depletion of the world's stock of coal going on for some time; now there is a threatened petrol famine, and forests, the only new source of power remaining, will have to be turned to account for power purposes. When these run short, the industrial world, depending on motor power other than the strong arm of the tiller of the soil, will cease.

#### THE OTTAWA CONFERENCE.

The importance attached to the Conference on Imperial Preference which is to take place in Ottawa at the end of this month is clearly marked by the fact that Colonel Amery, M. P., left London last week in order to be present.

The Conference was convened by the Canadian Government to discuss with representatives of the various West Indian Colonies questions of shipping development, and of cable communications as well as the preferential tariff. It is thought that the time has now arrived when it will be to the mutual advantage of the West Indies and the Dominion if the latter increases the preference rate, which the West Indies have enjoyed, and it is likely that as much as a two-thirds preference may be offered for tropical products.

It will be remembered that although in 1912 Canada extended the benefit of the preferential tariff to all the West Indies, reciprocal terms were not granted to Canada at the time by the Bahamas, British Honduras, Jamaica, and Grenada, the reason given by those standing out of the agreement being that their interests with the United States would be prejudiced thereby. There is now, however, every reason to believe that reciprocity in relation to Canada will be complete so far as the West Indies are concerned. It is believed, also, that no rate will be advocated by either side without a corresponding preference to be given to the Mother Country. Thus the Ottawa Conference may well prove the harbinger of a chain of preferential tariffs throughout the Empire.

Two well-known British Guiana names occur in recent obituary lists. One is of Mr. Justice Lionel Hawtayne, who has been a Puisne Judge in the Gold Coast since 1912, and the other is Mr. Frederick Beerles, who went to Nigeria in 1903.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

### Annual Report of the Executive.

We give below the Report of the Executive of the West India Committee, which will be laid before the Annual General Meeting this afternoon.

The Executive beg to present to the members of the West India Committee their annual report, the income and expenditure account for the year ended December 31st, 1919, and the balance sheet.

#### MEMBERSHIP.

During the year, 242 new members were elected, and at its close the total membership stood at 1,948. It has since well exceeded the record figure of 2,000. The members elected during 1919 reside in the following countries:—

Great Britain	90	British Honduras	4
Jamaica	35	Dominica	4
Barbados	29	St. Kitts	4
British Guiana	27	St. Lucia	4
Trinidad	23	St. Vincent	2
Grenada	5	Nevis	1
Antigua	4	Miscellaneous	10

#### OBITUARY.

The Executive record with deep regret the deaths of Mr. Middleton Campbell, who for eight years was their Chairman, and of Mr. William Henry Alty and Mr. Charles Sandbach Parker, C.B.E., for many years their colleagues, and of the undermentioned members of the West India Committee:—

Mr. W. H. Beach	Mr. J. Miller Lash
Hon. S. Burt	Miss C. Leacock
Mr. D. B. Callaghan	His Honour A. W. Mahaffy
Lieut. C. Forte Cave	Mr. S. D. Melville
Dr. H. L. Clare	Mr. Audley C. Miles
Mr. J. Cunningham	Lieut. W. J. Miller
Mr. E. H. G. Dalton	Mr. E. R. Mordecai
Mr. A. N. Dixon	Mr. A. S. A. Ormsby, LL.B., M.I.Meoh.E.
Mr. Edward Estridge	Dr. A. H. Rich
Mr. C. K. Gibbons	Lieut. E. C. P. Ripley
Mr. E. Hernandez	Mr. C. W. Scott
Hon. G. S. Hudson	Mr. A. C. Siegert
Mr. A. P. G. Hunter	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. P. Haughton James	Mr. J. O. Ulrich
Mr. G. E. Jarvis	Mr. Carl Witting
Mr. L. C. Jeffrey-Smith	Mr. S. L. Williamson
Major E. C. Ker-Seymer	

#### ANNUAL MEETING AND OFFICERS.

The report and accounts for the preceding year were adopted at the annual meeting which was held on May 29th. At a subsequent meeting of the Executive, pursuant to Article 5 of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, Mr. R. Rutherford was re-elected Chairman, Mr. H. A. Trotter Deputy-Chairman, and Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. William Gillespie and Mr. R. Rutherford Honorary Treasurers for the ensuing year. During the year Mr. Evan Campbell, Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Clifton, Colonel G. A. O. Lane, Mr. F. H. Watson and Mr. C. F. Wood were elected members of the Executive Committee. Sir William Mitchell-Thomson, Bart., K.B.E., has felt himself obliged to resign his membership of the Executive on his appointment as Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food, and his resignation has been accepted with regret.

#### FINANCIAL POSITION.

Owing to the circumstances arising out of the war, and notably the increase of wages and cost of production of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, as explained in last report, the income and expenditure account for the fourth year in succession shows a debit balance, the deficit being £300 18s. It was decided to avoid, if possible, raising the minimum annual subscription of one guinea, and instead to issue an appeal for donations towards an Endowment Fund, with the object of securing a regular income, thus enabling the Committee to obtain assistance for the Secretary and more commodious premises. The Executive gratefully acknowledge the generous response with which the appeal has been met. By the end of the year no less than half the £20,000 which it was agreed was the minimum sum required had been subscribed, mostly by members residing in this country, there not having been time to receive an answer from the West Indies. Since then a further £5,000 has been received, including contributions from the Legislatures of the Bahamas and British Guiana, and further substantial amounts have been promised. The thanks of the Committee are due to the Press of the West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras for their support in making the fund known, as well as for the invariable courtesy in all matters touching the West India Committee.

#### THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

On December 1st, as the first result of the appeal, Captain Gilfred N. Knight was appointed Assistant Secretary.

#### THE SECRETARY'S WEST INDIAN TOUR.

On January 28th, 1920, the Secretary left for a tour of the West Indies, and Mr. H. F. Previté, a member of the Executive, and he were appointed to represent the West India Committee at the second triennial conference of the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce in Barbados. It was also desired that he should bring the Committee into closer touch with local requirements and feelings of the different colonies. Besides Barbados the Secretary visited Antigua, Dominica, St. Kitts, Trinidad, British Honduras and Jamaica. In all these places he addressed meetings, and was successful in raising a considerable sum for the Endowment Fund. He was unfortunately prevented from visiting British Guiana as had been intended. Mr. Previté, however, went to the latter colony, and actively supported the steps which had been taken locally on behalf of the Committee. The thanks of the Committee are due to both these gentlemen for their invaluable work on behalf of the Committee in the West Indies.

#### THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

The Committee have continued to place their staff and offices at the disposal of the West Indian Contingent Committee, whose final report was published in the CIRCULAR. The work of the Contingent Committee terminated on September 30th, from which date the West India Committee undertook the responsibility of attending to all outstanding matters calling for attention. The majority of officers and men who came from the West Indian colonies having been



repatriated, there have only been a few men who, from sickness or some other cause, have remained behind in this country and have received help from the Committee. At the end of 1919 the sum of £745 16s 2d stood to the credit of the West Indian Contingent Committee to be administered by those members of the Executive of the West India Committee, who had been members also of the Contingent Committee, on behalf of the purposes for which the Contingent Committee was instituted.

#### IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

On April 30th the Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced in his Budget a preferential tariff on goods of Imperial origin in respect of duties then existing. This preference, which was one-sixth of the duties, affected cacao, coffee, sugar and tobacco. A smaller preference, at the rate of 2s. 6d. per gallon, was given to rum. A copy of the resolution, passed at the annual general meeting on May 29th, expressing the Committee's satisfaction, was forwarded to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

#### IMMIGRATION INTO BRITISH GUIANA.

The Committee continued to work actively in support of the British Guiana Indian Colonisation Scheme. In July the Committee placed their rooms at the disposal of the deputation, headed by Dr. J. J. Numan, K.C., which arrived from British Guiana with the object of furthering the scheme, and helped to arrange meetings and provide propaganda. Mr. Thomas Greenwood accompanied the deputation as the representative of the West India Committee, which visited India in October, and has presented a valuable report, embodying the conclusions which he has formed as to the best means of securing a resumption of Indian immigration.

#### CABLE COMMUNICATIONS.

The Committee continued to emphasise the need of improved means of telegraphic communication in and between the various British West Indian colonies, and again advocated an all-British route to Barbados or St. Lucia via Bermuda. To the Committee's representations, Lord Milner replied that it was not proposed to lay new cables in the West Indies at that time, but that the Naval wireless stations were to be used for commercial purposes. It has been since found that, owing to the operations of atmospheric conditions, the wireless system has been frequently useless, and, after further representations from the Committee, in March of this year the Imperial Communications Committee appointed a Sub-Committee to make recommendations on the subject of telegraphic communications with the West Indies, and a deputation, comprising Lieutenant-Colonel Ivan Davson, O.B.E., Mr. E. A. de Pass, and Mr. G. M. Frame and the Assistant Secretary, gave evidence as representatives of the West India Committee.

#### TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

In August, a Tropical Agricultural College Committee was appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to consider whether it was advisable to found a Tropical Agricultural College in the West Indies, and, if so, to make recommendations for its situation, constitution, and finance. The Tropical Agricultural College Committee included among its

members the Chairman and Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee, also Sir Owen Phillips, G.C.M.G., M.P., Sir Edward Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass and Mr. G. Moody Stuart, members of the Executive, Mr. Aspinall acting as Honorary Secretary. The report recommending the establishment of an Agricultural College in the West Indies has been approved by the Government and presented to Parliament.

#### STANDING OIL COMMITTEE.

A Standing Oil Committee was formed in November. As the result of its deliberations, representations were addressed to the Colonial Office to obtain facilities for the shipment of Trinidad Oil to this country and for putting Empire oil on the same basis as home spirit in respect of the incidence of taxation. As regards the question of shipment, a communication has been received from the Colonial Office stating that satisfactory arrangements had been made by all the companies operating in the colony who were in a position to produce oil.

#### HONORARY CORRESPONDENTS.

The thanks of the Committee are again due to their Honorary Correspondents for their valuable assistance in keeping the Committee in touch with local events.

R. RUTHERFORD, *Chairman*  
H. A. TROTTER, *Deputy-Chairman*  
GILFRED N. KNIGHT, *Assistant Secretary*.

May 20th, 1920.

[The Balance-Sheet and Accounts will be found on pages 151 and 152.]

## NOTES OF INTEREST.

"When black man tief, him tief half-a-bit.  
When buckra tief, him tief de whole estate."

MR. T. B. MACAULAY, President of the Sun Life Assurance of Canada, is now in England, but only partly, as he says, on business. He expects to return to the Dominion in June.

"It will take two or three years to restore the sugar situation to the normal. If Europe took her full quota the shortage would be enormous."—Mr. Hoover, in the United States House of Representatives, on May 14th.

WINCHESTER Repatriation Centre was closed on April 30th, and it is announced that the issue of free return passages to ex-officers and ex-soldiers who came from overseas to join the British Army will shortly be discontinued. All who have not already claimed them should therefore apply at once to the Secretary, War Office (Mob. 2 (c) Repatriation), Park Buildings, St. James's Park, S.W. 1.

It has been enacted by an Order-in-Council that the regulations governing the drawback of Customs duties paid on goods exported to Newfoundland, established by Order-in-Council in 1879 and 1883, shall apply equally to goods exported to Bermuda, the British West Indies, British Guiana, and British Honduras, "in all respects as if the names of such several colonies or possessions were written in the said Orders-in-Council accompanying the name 'Newfoundland' wherever the latter now occurs therein."

A NEW edition of the Rules and List of Members of the West India Committee, complete till the end of April, is now in the press, and it is hoped to post it

to members very shortly. Owing to the war, it is the first list that has been published for over six years, and the compiler feels that, whilst he has done his best to escape inaccuracies, a few may be unavoidable, and he will be gratefully if any errors or omissions are brought to the notice of the Secretary, West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, E.C.

THE funeral of Mr. C Sandbach Parker, C B E, whose death on May 9th was recorded in last issue of THE CIRCULAR, took place at Fairlie, in Ayrshire, where he owned an estate, on May 13th. On May 18th a most impressive memorial service was conducted by the

Bishop of Hereford, assisted by Canon Carnegie. Sir Frederick Bridge's setting to the "Crossing of the Bar" was beautifully sung by the choir, and the service concluded with Chopin's Funeral March. Among others present were noticed:—

Mrs. Parker, Sir William Trollope, Sir Thomas Mackenzie, Mr. Robert Rutherford (Chairman of the West India Committee), Mr. William Douglas, Director of the Demerara Company; Mrs. Rippon; Mr. Rendell, Secretary of the Demerara Company; and Mrs. Rendell; Mr. W. A. Wolseley; Mr. W. P. B. Shepherd; Col. Ivan Dawson, O.B.E.; Mr. A. D. Bratt, of Plantation Diamond; Mr. Claud Berthon; Mr. E. Lummore Marshall; Mr. Guy Wyatt; Mr. J. C. Ganzoni and Mr. C. F. Worters (of Messrs Czarnikow); Mr. Fairrie; and Captain Gifford N. Knight.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

### BALANCE SHEET, 31st December, 1919.

£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d		
To Sundry creditors for printing, &c.			531	0	8	By Investments at Cost—							
.. Sundry creditors for advertisements received in advance			213	18	7	£500 Trinidad 3 p.c. Inscribed Stock			444	17	3		
.. Subscriptions received in advance			191	12	9	£200 British Guiana 4 p.c. Inscribed Stock			214	1	0		
.. Unexpended balances of special funds			54	4	8	£200 Jamaica 3½ p.c. Inscribed Stock			194	11	0		
.. Life Members' subscriptions account			577	10	0	£200 Antigua 4 p.c. Inscribed Stock			203	9	8		
.. Endowment Fund donations account			9,816	14	6	£300 Barbados 3½ p.c. Inscribed Stock			290	6	0		
.. Bank Loan			600	0	0	£300 Western Australia 4 p.c. Registered Stock			294	16	0		
.. Income and Expenditure Account—						£300 Dominion of Canada 4 p.c. Registered Stock			299	13	6		
Balance at 31st December, 1918	2,450	11	1						1,941	14	5		
Less Deficit for the year 1919 as per annexed account			300	18	0	Life Membership Fund—							
						£600 5 p.c. War Stock 1929/47			571	0	3		
									2,512	14	8		
			2,158	13	1	Endowment Fund—							
						£10,000 5 p.c. War Stock 1929/47			9,279	15	0		
											11,702	9	8
						.. Office furniture—							
						Balance at 31st December, 1918			360	3	1		
						Less Depreciation at 7½ p.c. per annum			27	0	3		
											333	2	10
						.. Library and Pictures, &c.—							
						Balance at 31st December, 1918			697	8	5		
						.. Sundry Debtors for Advertisements, &c.			410	10	5		
						.. Subscriptions in arrears received in 1920			42	19	11		
						.. Commissions on advertisements paid in advance			131	18	6		
						.. Stock of books at cost			22	14	9		
						.. Cash—							
						At banks			711	13	7		
						In hand			16	2			
									712	9	9		
									£14,143	14	3		

R. RUTHERFORD, )  
 CYRIL GURNEY, ) *Hon. Treasurers.*  
 W. GILLERPIN, )  
 ALGERNON ASPINALL, C.M.G., *Secretary.*

We report that we have examined the books of the West India Committee for the year ended 31st December, 1919, and have checked therewith the above accounts, which we hereby certify to be correct.

3 Frederick's Place,  
 Old Jewry, E.C. 2.  
 17th May, 1920.

PRICE, WATERHOUSE & CO.





**THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**

**Progress of the Endowment Fund.**

Three-quarters of the minimum total of £20,000 which the Committee are endeavouring to raise has now been received, and the Fund stands as follows:—

Amount collected	£15,311
Still to be collected	4,689
<b>Minimum total</b>	<b>£20,000</b>

A spurt is now required to reach the goal in record time; 418 members have already generously subscribed, but the co-operation of these and the remaining 1,637 is required to bring about this most desirable result. Below will be noticed a most generous list of subscriptions that have been received from the Jamaica Imperial Association. The gratifying news is to hand by cable that the Select Committee of the Jamaica Council have recommended that a contribution of £2,000 be made to the Endowment Fund.

**FIFTEENTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.**

Contributions already acknowledged £13,685 14 11  
Per the Jamaica Imperial Association:—

Amity Hall Co., Ltd.	£200 0 0		
A. W. Farquharson, Esq.	200 0 0		
Vere Estates Co., Ltd.	200 0 0		
Hon. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett	100 0 0		
Clarence Lopez, Esq.	50 0 0		
Sir John Pringle, K.C.M.G.	50 0 0		
Messrs. J. F. Thompson & Sons	50 0 0		
F. W. Whitelocke, Esq.	50 0 0		
Messrs. Cargill, Cargill & Dunn	25 0 0		
John C. Farquharson, Esq.	25 0 0		
George W. Muirhead, Esq.	21 0 0		
C. H. A. Iver, Esq.	20 0 0		
W. Baggett-Gray, Esq.	10 10 0		
N. C. Henriques, Esq.	10 10 0		
Hon. C. W. Hewitt	10 10 0		
Issac Fox, Esq.	10 0 0		
H. C. Shekell, Esq.	10 0 0		
Douglas S. Lopez, Esq.	5 5 0		
Stafford Maxwell, Esq.	5 5 0		
William Morrison, Esq.	5 5 0		
West Indies Imperial Trading Assn., per H. M. Littlejohn, Esq.	5 5 0		
Hon. B. S. Gossett	5 0 0		
Jamaica Times, Ltd., per W. R. Duttie, Esq.	5 0 0		
J. B. Kilburn, Esq.	5 0 0		
E. T. Forrest, Esq.	3 5 0		
Dr. A. M. Mills	2 2 0		
J. G. M. Robertson, Esq.	2 2 0		
C. B. Wesleygammon, Esq.	2 2 0		
Lewis Anderson, Esq.	1 1 0		
		1,089	0 0
Royal Bank of Canada, Montreal		500	0 0
Per Messrs. Wilkinson & Haynes Co., Ltd., Barbados:—			
Messrs. C. F. Harrison & Co.	£25 0 0		
A. F. Levitt, Esq.	2 1 8		
		27	1 8
Messrs. Birch & Co.		5	0 0
Dr. G. N. Alexis		1	1 0
Lieut. C. Hutson		1	1 0
V. A. Gale, Esq.		1	0 10

Archibald Munro, Esq.	1 0 0
Gain on Exchange, Barbados	11 6

Contributions towards the West India Committee Endowment Fund may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or may be forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, the West India Committee, 15, Sothling-lane, London.

**Thirty-Five New Members.**

At a meeting of the Executive on May 13th, thirty-five new members were elected to the West India Committee, making now a total of 2,091. The candidates elected were as follows:—

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDER.
Mr. Llewellyn G. Jones (P.E. Africa)	Mr. E. Powys Gladwin. Lt.-Col. Ivan B. Davson, O.B.E.
Dr. Henry E. K. Fretz (Trinidad)	Mr. H. W. Fretz Mr. C. Forbes Todd.
Mr. J. Moir Mackenzie (London)	Lt.-Col. Ivan B. Davson, O.B.E. Mr. E. A. de Pass.
Colonel B. J. Inniss (London)	Mr. F. A. Stockdale. Mr. W. Abbott.
Mr. Ernest Hood (London)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. F. A. Windridge.
Mr. W. N. C. Farquharson (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson Mr. L. de Mercado.
Mr. W. Blackburn Smith (Bermuda)	Mr. A. Cory Davies. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. C. E. Murphy (Barbados)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. E. Luxmore Marshall.
Mr. Rupert Rapier (Grenada)	Messrs. Jonas Browne & Son. Mr. John Barclay.
Mr. C. H. Hobson (New York)	Mr. G. R. Macintyre. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. G. E. L. Poulton, A.M.I.C.E. (St. Lucia)	Mr. Archibald J. Brooks. Hon. Wm. Peter.
Lt.-Col. Robert Deane, O.B.E. (St. Lucia)	Mr. Archibald J. Brooks. Hon. Wm. Peter.
Barbados Mutual Life Assurance Soc. (Barbados)	Mr. J. R. Baneroff. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. C. F. Grant Thomas (Barbados)	Mr. J. D. Murray. Mr. J. H. Wilkinson.
Mr. H. B. Stoyle (B. Honduras)	Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. W. H. Richards (B. Guiana)	Mr. Robert Strong. Mr. A. Murison.
Mr. F. O. Low, Barrister-at-Law (B. Guiana)	Dr. W. Hewley Wharton. Mr. W. H. McTear.
Mr. Alfred Torrio (Trinidad)	Mr. A. Cory Davies. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Messrs. Shand, Higson & Co. (Liverpool)	Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. E. R. Campbell.
Capt. Ernest F. Adams, R.A.F. (Country)	Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. G. R. Hutchison (B. Guiana)	Mr. G. R. Hutchinson. Lt.-Col. Ivan B. Davson, O.B.E.
Mr. Lynch King (B. Guiana)	Hon. R. E. Brassington Mr. E. R. Campbell.
British United Oil Co., Ltd. (Barbados)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Sir Wm. Trollope, Bart.
Viscount Sandon (Country)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. E. Luxmore Marshall.
Mr. F. J. Larrouy (B. Guiana)	Hon. R. E. Brassington. Mr. Thomas Greenwood.



NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES.
Mr. W. S. Jones (B. Gujana)	Hon. R. E. Brassington. Mr. Thomas Greenwood
Mr. J. Adamson (Country)	Mr. E. A. Percival. Mr. Edgar Tripp
The Canadian Bank of Commerce (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett
Mr. R. T. Harrison (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. L. de Mercado.
Mr. Charles Levy (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. L. de Mercado.
Mr. G. J. Machado (Jamaica)	Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett.
Mr. T. E. Whitelocke (Jamaica)	Mr. L. de Mercado Mr. A. W. Farquharson
Mr. G. Phillpotts Brown (Jamaica)	Mr. J. de Mercado. Mr. A. W. Farquharson
Mr. F. W. Mann, LL.B. (London)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. E. Luxmore Marshall.
Mr. A. Blackburn Smith (Bermuda)	Mr. A. Cory Davies. Mr. Edgar Tripp.

The members elected during the current year come from the following places:—

Barbados	36	Miscellaneous	8	Nev's	3
Trinidad	32	St. Kitts	6	Dominica	2
Jamaica	23	St. Lucia	6	Grenada	2
British Guiana	20	British Honduras	4	Anguilla	1
Country	18	Antigua	3	St. Vincent	1
London	18				

At a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, the following resolution was, on the motion of the Chairman, passed unanimously:—

That the Executive of the West India Committee desire to place on record the deep regret with which they have learnt of the death of Mr. Charles Sandbach Parker, C.B.E., for many years one of their colleagues, and to convey to Mrs. Parker their expression of sincere and heartfelt sympathy in the loss which she has sustained.

## THE WORLD'S OIL SUPPLY.

It has already been noted in these columns that the time is rapidly arriving when the world in general, and the United States in particular, will have seriously to consider how much oil they are consuming, how much they can afford to consume, and whence the balance is to be obtained. It has recently been computed that whereas other countries are now using about 200,000,000 barrels of oil yearly, yet they have resources large enough to last more than 250 years at this rate. In striking contrast are the production figures for the United States, which, at the present rate of consumption, 400,000,000 barrels a year, or twice as much as the remainder of the world, has only an eighteen-year supply. In other words, it may be said that the United States is using up its own oil supply fourteen times as fast as the rest of the world.

According to a recent account from New York, not counting all to be obtained from shales and other recoverable materials by distillation, the world's supply of recoverable petroleum amounts to as much as 60,000,000,000 barrels. Of this amount 43,000,000,000 barrels may be regarded as oil more or less definitely "in sight," as shown by actual drilling with successful results. The remainder covers the available oil which it is believed will be found in other regions in which oil seeps, asphalt deposits or favourable geological condi-

tions point to oil, although no producing wells have yet been drilled. Of this great amount, which is thirteen times the oil already taken from the ground in America and about nine times all the petroleum yet produced in the world, 7,000,000,000 barrels only, in round numbers, are believed to be left in the United States and Alaska, the remaining 53,000,000,000 being in foreign countries.

This latter supply is nearly equally divided between the old world and the new, the Americans having a total very close to that of the remaining continents. However, as in the case of coal, much more oil will be developed north of the equator than to the south.

Fortunately, it is simply impossible to discover and take out the oil remaining in the ground in the United States, 7,000,000,000 barrels, in so short a period as eighteen years. Instead of mining our petroleum so rapidly, we must either depend more and more on oil from other sources or get along with less oil. Our children will doubtless do both.

The present position is of interest to the West Indies in two ways. Whilst the market for oil emanating from Trinidad and Barbados, and any that may be struck in British Guiana, is assured, there is bound to arise also a large enquiry for efficient substitutes. As was recently shown in THE CIRCULAR, power alcohol produced from molasses takes a foremost place amongst these substitutes.

## MADE IN GERMANY.

The present world shortage of sugar provides the opportunity for an attempt to revive the Continental sugar-beet industry, and the Germans make no attempt to conceal their aspirations in this connection.

Dr. Zeller, a German sugar expert, has come to the conclusion that it will be of the greatest economic advantage to that country to make every effort to get its beet-sugar output back to its pre-war status, and resume exportation on a large scale. In former times, he says, Germany produced one-third of the world's sugar-beet crop and one-seventh of the world's sugar; but during the last working year she produced only 741,847 tons—nearly two million tons less than in 1913-14. When Germany, however, shall have overcome the present difficulties in its sugar industry, such as coal shortage, lack of artificial fertilisers, scarcity of draught animals, and the precarious labour situation, it will be able to produce, in spite of its decreased territory, not less than 2,330,000 tons of sugar annually. To encourage the German farmer in cultivating sugar-beets, Dr. Zeller points out that no other crop so strengthens the soil and fits it for subsequent grain crops.

He also points out that the sugar industry is independent of foreign products; it can produce an exportable commodity without having to import raw materials. Furthermore, the low rate of exchange of the German mark at present makes it possible for Germany to compete with foreign sugar in all parts of the world.

Dr. Zeller says that the victory of the cane sugar over the beet sugar industry is one of the most important economic results of the war. Cane and beet-sugar production increased gradually, especially since the conclusion of the Brussels Sugar Convention in 1902. In 1913-14 the world's sugar-cane production amounted to 9,800,000 tons, in comparison to 4,100,000 tons for the year 1902-3. During the same period the production of beet sugar underwent many changes, but increased, nevertheless, from 5,700,000 tons to 8,700,000 tons. But the war altered this situation entirely in favour of countries which grew sugar-cane.



## LEMON GROWING AND CURING.

The following interesting article on the cultivation and curing of lemons is taken from the *Queensland Agricultural Journal*. It is from the pen of Mr. Williams, of Victoria, who says:—

Any person choosing a site for growing lemons should see that he choose one where he can have a supply of water. The method he adopted in applying water to the trees was to plough furrows on each side of them both ways, and run them full of water as evenly as possible, and next day, when the water had soaked into the soil, to run the disc over to fill the furrows, and leave the soil loose. A fair watering would carry the trees over a month at least in the driest time.

The most suitable soil for lemons he found to be a deep, fine loam with clay subsoil, which should be under-drained and subsoiled to a depth of not less than 12 in., then left to lie fallow through the summer. In the autumn the land should be well worked and fined with the disc harrow, and further fined and harrowed with the Acme harrow, then gathered in lands of 20 ft. with the plough, and finally harrowed lengthways to bring it into good tilth. If the land is stubborn to break, the roller may be used with advantage. Mr. Williams holds that 20 ft. by 20 ft. is the best distance at which to plant—at all events in his district, the distance being accurately measured by means of a strong wire marked at every 20 ft., stretched across the land, and trees planted at each mark. Care must be taken in planting not to plant deeper than the nursery mark, as the top roots should only just be covered with soil, which should have a decided fall from the neck of the tree; otherwise they may contract collar rot through water lodging round them.

Regarding shelter, to produce a good percentage of clean-skinned fruit the trees must be sheltered from heavy winds, either naturally or artificially.

In undulating country, lemon trees should not be planted in the gullies, as the frost would destroy large numbers of both trees and fruit.

For artificial shelter nothing beats the *Pinus insignis* planted 20 ft. apart in the rows, and the rows 10 ft. apart. In six years they will come together and form a perfect breakwind 20 ft. to 30 ft. high. A double row of locust trees also makes a good break. For manuring, the most useful are a blood manure, superphosphate, and a small portion of kainit, used alternately. Stable manure, where procurable, tends to keep the ground loose among the trees. Peas sown in autumn and ploughed in early in the spring, are very beneficial, as they add nitrogen to the soil and keep it open. The soil should never be allowed to set around lemons. Mulching outside of the drip of the trees tends to bring the roots too near the surface, and thus interferes with working the land during summer. After any fall of rain of any consequence during summer, the land between the trees should be gone over with a disc harrow or cultivator, and loosened to a depth of 3 in. or 4 in., and underneath the trees the long-handled Dutch hoe should be used, so that the moisture may be retained in the soil. In a well-kept orchard the foot should always sink in the soil, and no weeds ought to be seen during the summer.

Is there any general system of pruning lemon trees? Mr. Williams says he has searched and inquired in every place he had visited where citrus fruits are grown for a system, but had found that no general system was recognised. Some growers never cut a tree under any circumstances, and maintain that it is wrong to do so; others, again, trim the tops to give the tree symmetry and balance. Such plants may do for some years, but ultimately the trees suffer and die a premature death, as the lemon, as a rule, is a very heavy bearer, and if

left to Nature with regard to pruning it kills itself by bearing. After some experience Mr. Williams comes to the conclusion that lemon trees should be systematically pruned. The best time for the operation is in the spring, and by what he terms "back-pruning"—that is, beginning in the centre of the tree and removing a portion of the off-shoots from each limb outwards, always taking care to leave foliage enough to shade the inside of the tree. A main point is to keep the tree fairly balanced by removing strong stem shoots, and keeping the tree growing fairly evenly all over, for if one portion is allowed to take the lead it does so at the expense of the other portions of the tree, which, besides rendering it unsightly, also injures its bearing powers.

If the system he advocated were followed out, the tree would receive proper light and air, it would be less liable to insect pests, and the fruit would come more even and clean inside and outside alike, besides adding very materially to its length of life. On the gathering and curing of the fruit Mr. Williams says that lemons, to have the best colour and quality for table use, should be cut off the tree with a proper fruit-cutter, and handled with great care, or else a large percentage will spoil in curing. They should be taken off when the fruit is changing colour, and left for a day or two in the open air before putting away. They should then be placed in trays in single layers, and placed in a dry, dark cellar of even temperature, not at any time over 60 deg. Fahr. The trays may be placed on each other to any convenient height, and in three weeks should be moved and examined, and wasters removed. In the course of a month they should be gone over again, when all that are likely to go wrong will have done so. The lemons are then perfectly cured, and should be of a beautiful bright-yellow colour.

The cells are decomposed, and give out the juice freely and of far better quality than if taken off the tree direct. The lemons can then, if wrapped in tissue paper, be sent any distance if kept moderately cool and dry, or stored to meet the changes in the market. Mr. Williams incidentally mentioned that he has frequently kept his lemons twelve months with very little change after the first seven or eight weeks.

## BRITISH GUIANA COLONISATION.

At a meeting of the Executive on May 13th, the following resolution was passed, thanking Mr. Greenwood for his report on his work in India in connection with the Colonisation Scheme:—

That this meeting of the Executive wishes to place on record its high appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Thomas Greenwood, one of their members, in representing the West India Committee in connection with the British Guiana Colonisation Scheme, and to thank him for the very valuable report which he has made as a result of his visit to India;

to which Mr. Greenwood in his reply says:—

I need hardly say that I much appreciate the kind way in which the resolution has been expressed, and can only hope that the Colonisation movement will before long prove to be of benefit not only to British Guiana, but the whole of the West Indies.

On May 20th a meeting was held at the Colonial Office, presided over by Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, C.M.G., to discuss the precise terms regarding the wages, reward land grants, and repatriation to be offered to immigrant families, and the best method of communicating these terms. Representatives of the West India Committee were present.



## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE IN JAMAICA.

### The Secretary's Speech Before Jamaica Imperial Association.

Many as have been the speeches made by Mr. Aspinall during his tour of the British West Indies, none gives a clearer idea of the work of the West India Committee, and of the reasons why it has been found necessary to raise an Endowment Fund, than that delivered by him on April 16th before the Jamaica Imperial Association. It is therefore thought to be of interest, especially in those islands which the Secretary of the West India Committee was unfortunately unable to visit, to publish some of the points in this speech.

He said that it was not solely the Endowment Fund which prompted his being there. It was absolutely impossible for anyone sitting in an office in London to get the true West Indian atmosphere and to deal adequately with matters concerning these colonies. The personal touch was of paramount importance, and it was hoped in the future it might be possible for the Secretary of the West India Committee to visit these colonies more frequently, so that this organisation might be able more effectively to watch over and protect their interests. The West India Committee was established about 200 years ago, when sugar was king, and was the oldest colonial body in existence. But though ancient, it was a very live body. The days of the West India nabobs had gone, and the Committee was established on a broader basis than ever before. What had the Committee done for the West Indies? In the campaign against foreign sugar bounties it was in no small measure due to the Committee's efforts, under the leadership of the late Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, that equality of opportunity in the markets of the world was restored to the British sugar industry. But for this there would have been no sugar industry in that island to reap the benefit of the present high prices. It was due also to the Committee's persistent efforts that the Imperial Government in 1902 voted a substantial grant-in-aid to the British West Indies. It was to be hoped that never again would it be necessary to ask for doles in this way. With the assistance of the late Archbishop of the West Indies and Mr. Arthur Farquharson, the Committee was instrumental in securing for Jamaica a free grant of £150,000 and a substantial loan from the Imperial Parliament for repairing the damage done by the disastrous earthquake of 1907.

After referring to what had been done also for the gallant men who came over to fight in the war by the West India Committee, camouflaged as the Contingent Committee, Mr. Aspinall explained why a special fund was now needed. The cost of printing THE CIRCULAR had gone up 300 per cent. With postage at 8s. 6d. per annum, and likely to be higher, this did not leave much out of the £1 1s. which was the annual subscription. Moreover, £1 1s. only represented a purchasing power of 10s. in London to-day. Again, the appointment of an Assistant Secretary had become necessary, and anyone who came to London would realise it was an absolute disgrace that a body looking after such vast interests should be housed in such miserable premises. The West India Committee must be properly and fittingly housed, so that it can carry on its work more effectively.

For the purpose of fixing the tariff valuation of sugar imported into India, the Government of India has agreed to accept the Java 23 Dutch Standard and above as the standard grade.

## COLONIAL REPORTS.

### Leeward Islands.

The aggregate revenue of the Presidencies, according to the report on the Blue Book of the Leeward Islands during the financial year ended March 31st, 1919, was £198,019, showing an increase of £5,972, in comparison with the revenue for the year 1917-18.

The expenditure for the year 1918-19, exclusive of Imperial grants, was £202,054, as against £198,157 for the previous year, showing an increase of £3,897.

The total value of imports, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £866,521, as against £869,746 in 1917, being a decrease of £3,225. The value of the internal trade between the Presidencies amounted to £41,880, as against £32,033, being an increase of £9,847. The total value of exports for the year 1918 was £912,877, as against £1,091,631 in 1917, being a decrease of £181,754.

In the case of Antigua the chief export was vacuum pan sugar, valued at £175,660, as against £255,607 in 1917. The year 1918 was, from an agricultural point of view, a gloomy one, the sugar crops, generally speaking, being at least 33 per cent. below normal owing to the drought which prevailed.

In St. Kitts-Nevis the low rainfall of the previous year was responsible for the short sugar crop, only 9,105 tons of sugar being exported in 1918, as against 16,948 tons in 1917. The export of Sea Island cotton (579,569 lb. lint) was a fair average return, and the high prices paid by the Imperial Government made this crop an extremely valuable one for the Presidency. The cultivation of coconuts in Nevis is being extended, and this industry seems likely, in the near future, to be one of some importance.

In Dominica the lime crop for 1918 amounted to 318,074 barrels, being the smallest recorded during the past nine years, and showed a decrease of no fewer than 70,000 barrels, as compared with that of the previous year. The exports of concentrated juice, which represented approximately 70 per cent. of the crop, amounted to £59,596, and raw juice, representing 25 per cent., amounted to £74,747. While other West Indian islands in which sugar and cotton are the main products have benefited by high prices during recent years, Dominica, on the contrary, has suffered in many ways. The embargo on citrus products, in spite of strong representations, continued from April until September. There appears to be no increase of interest in cacao cultivation, and, apparently, the planting of new areas is not contemplated by either planters or peasants. Without development work the output must inevitably decline in the course of years. The shipments of coconuts continue to decline, and have fallen since 1914 from 554,549 to 89,676 in 1918.

As regards Montserrat, speaking generally, the agricultural situation remained in 1918 in a satisfactory condition. Progress and development are to be recorded in connection with the staple crop, cotton, the exports of which, including 428,222 lb. of lint, constituted the largest output known. The area planted in cotton was 3,167 acres, so that the average yield was 136 lb. of lint, as compared with an average of 146 lb. per acre for the previous fifteen years. The relatively poor average yield was attributed to the low rainfall during the critical months of the development of the crop. It is interesting to note the extent to which peasant growers are now directly interested in the cotton crop. It is estimated from available data that, of the 3,167 acres planted in cotton, 800 acres were grown by peasants on their own land or on lands leased by them, while about 950 acres were planted on estates on the share system, which leaves only 1,400 acres cultivated by estates directly with paid labour. It is regrettable that there is no general improvement in the outlook for lime cultivated in the island.



## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

### By "Agronomist."

The production of Egyptian cotton in the United States has grown from 375 bales in 1912 to 16,000 bales in 1917 under the direction and stimulation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The annual importations of Egyptian cotton into the United States during the last ten years have been over 180,000 bales.

The value of artificial manures in helping crops in their resistance to adverse effects of climate is noticed in the *Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture*. For instance, where soils are light, and droughts occur, the use of potash manures prolongs the vegetative growth, and enables plants to resist the drought. Again, where heavy rainfall occurs, phosphatic manures help to ripen the crop before the time when the rain is expected.

The Belgians are beginning to grow cotton on a large scale in the Congo. From experiments already made the climate and soil seem to be well adapted to the cultivation. The natives are encouraged to grow cotton in their own small fields under European supervision. The requirements of Belgium are about 250,000 bales a year. This is at present far beyond the productive capacity of the colony. However, it is stated that during the year 1919-20 13,000 acres will be under cultivation.

Snuff inhaled through the nostrils by means of a forked tube was used by the native necromancers in the West Indies in the time of Columbus, and is still so used in South America. It is not made from tobacco, but from the seeds of the "cohoba" tree, known to science as *Piptadenia peregrina*. The snuff possesses violent narcotic properties. While under its influence the necromancers were supposed to hold communication with unseen powers, and their incoherent mutterings were regarded as prophecies or revelations of hidden things.—Ann. Rep. Smithsonian Inst.

Canada is only beginning to realise her immense resources. The vast regions of northern Canada, comprising more than a million square miles with rich grass lands, carry immense herds of caribou, the American reindeer. According to *United Empire*, a company has been formed under the auspices of the Government for the commercial ranching of these herds, and for the introduction also of Scandinavian reindeer from Norway. It is believed that this will create an almost limitless source of meat supply, and that the highly nutritious and palatable meats of the caribou will soon be within the reach of the dining tables of the world.

A very important development in agriculture has taken place in the French West Indian Island of Guadeloupe. The sugar industry in Guadeloupe and Martinique is of very ancient date. Prinsen Geerligs states that it was in these islands that the manufacture of sugar was first pursued in a scientific manner, and the methods invented there were gradually copied in other sugar-producing countries. The agricultural practice was, however, so defective that the quantity of sugar produced has gradually been reduced so low that disaster to the industry was inevitable unless a change could be effected. Mr. J. R. Bovell, Superintendent of the Agricultural Department of Barbados, was invited to visit the island and report on the sugar industry. The result was that a syndicate was formed of the various factories, and a "Station Agronomique" established.

The Director appointed was Mr. J. S. Dash, B.S.A., Assistant Superintendent of Agriculture in Barbados, who has issued his first annual report. It is evident from this report that the Director has vigorously attacked the defective practices in agriculture. He points out the want of uniformity in the quality of the canes—a very large number of canes of little or no value being mixed with one or two good varieties. Many varieties are poor in sucrose, many are abnormally woody, and a large percentage of canes valueless through the attacks of the moth borer and root disease. There was a great lack of pen manure, and the labour employed was insufficient. Moreover, chemical control was defective. Attention is given to the raising of cane seedlings from Barbados, to experiments in growing Sea Island cotton, to the use of leguminous plants as green manure, to the improvement of fodder, and, finally, to pests and diseases.

Bananas in New South Wales are suffering from disease. The most characteristic feature of this disease is that the leaves do not spread in normal fashion, but remain close together. From its appearance it is called "Bunchy Top" or "Cabbage Top." The leaves are extremely brittle; the fruit is either not developed or the bananas are small and black at the apex; the roots are invariably unhealthy, and are sometimes found to be infested with celworms. However, the biologist, Dr. Darnell-Smith, does not attribute the mischief to celworms, but to conditions of climate and soil. The diseased plants are growing at the extreme southernmost limit, and are therefore naturally sensitive to adverse climatic conditions.

The African oil palm was introduced into Jamaica in the seventeenth century. Sir Hans Sloane states in his *Natural History of Jamaica* that this tree was brought over with some others from Guinea in tubs, watered by the way, and then planted by Colonel Colbeck in his plantations. A head of the oil palm was brought to Sloane, while in Jamaica, from Guinea by "an ingenious surgeon to a merchant ship trading there." Sloane fully describes it, and gives a large drawing of it. He says that among the several vegetable substances which afford oil which is so necessary for maintaining life and promoting manufactures, he knew none but the fruit of this and the olive tree whose pulps are useful for these purposes, oil of almonds, &c., being from seeds.

The dwarf or ivory coconut is attracting attention in the Federated Malay States. *Tropical Life* gives useful information derived from the *Agricultural Bulletin*. Under good conditions it begins flowering in its third year. The first flower spikes contain only male flowers. The succeeding spikes bear an increasing number also of female flowers. Ripen fruit is yielded in nine months from the appearance of the flower spike. The "meat" is said to be richer in oil and sweeter in taste than that of the big coconut.

Taking the fourth year as being the first yielding year of the dwarf coconut, the average yield per tree for that year is 10 nuts, for the second year 30 nuts, for the third year 60, fourth year 80, fifth year 100, and sixth year—being in full bearing—120 nuts. Under ideal conditions a much higher average could be obtained. With a leaf-length of only 12 ft., it is found convenient to plant the palms 24 ft. by 20 ft., which gives 90 to the acre—a number nearly double that required when planting big palms. With this planting it should be possible to get 10,800 nuts per acre when in full bearing, as against 1,800 nuts from the big coconut. With the dwarf coconut also there is the great advantage of easy and rapid packing, and inspection for beetles and other pests.



## WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

### The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The accounts for the year ended December 31, 1919, show a profit of £424,140 17s 5d., and, after making provision for depreciation and taxation, and transferring £350,000 to the reserve fund and £10,000 to the superannuation fund, the court recommend the payment of the usual half-yearly dividend on the preference stock, and a dividend of 5½ per cent., less income-tax, on the ordinary stock, making 8 per cent. for the year, and leaving a balance of £50,891 to be carried forward. In view of the need and opportunity for further developing the business, the Court of Directors found it desirable to petition the King in Council for the grant of a Supplemental Charter conferring upon the Company power to create new capital, and on March 14th His Majesty was pleased to approve the grant of the Supplemental Charter applied for.

Since last report three of the Company's large passenger vessels employed in national service during the war—*Almanzora*, *Andes* and *Avon*—have been redelivered by the Government, thus enabling the Company to re-establish the passenger service from Southampton and the Peninsula to Brazil and the River Plate. Since the termination of the war, a marked revival has taken place in passenger and emigrant traffic. Owing to continued advance in the cost of wages and stores, and especially of fuel, it has been found necessary to augment passage rates, but these increases are much less in proportion than the increase of operating costs. During the year under review export trade has developed. An adequate supply of tonnage has been provided in the trades served by the Company, but many of the Company's steamers have been obliged to leave ports in the United Kingdom with a considerable amount of empty space, and in some cases in ballast, thus causing homeward earnings to be relied upon as the mainstay of revenue. The contract with the Canadian Government for the service between Canada and the West Indies has been further extended for another year. The contract for a mail and passenger service between the United Kingdom and the West Indies, performed by the Company for many years, having terminated, the Company has been providing, without subsidy, sailings of passenger vessels of smaller and more economical character than those previously employed. Since these sailings were established, advances in the price of coal have been imposed by Government control, resulting in considerable losses being incurred, even by these small vessels. Unless relief in this respect can be secured it may be necessary to discontinue passenger sailings to the West Indies, a course which the Court of Directors would take with regret.

The Company's fleet consists of fifty-four ships, with a tonnage of 325,843 tons, and steam tugs and launches 4,042 tons, making a total tonnage of 331,825 tons.

The fleets of the other Companies closely affiliated with the R.M.S.P. Company represent 1,565,815 tons, which together make a total of 1,897,640 tons, exclusive of vessels building.

### The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Limited.

The accounts for the year ended December 31st last show the amount to credit of revenue as £116,886 12s 3d., and the expenses have been £101,931 6s., leaving a balance of £14,955 6s. 3d., to which is added £3,625 13s. 6d. from interest on investments, and £3,222 brought forward from December 31st, 1918, making a total of £21,802 19s. 9d. Interim dividends were paid on November 26th, 1919, amounting to £11,769 12s., and there remains a balance of £10,033 7s 9d. In the directors' opinion there is no alternative than to carry forward this balance to the current year's account.

The year 1919, now under review, the fiftieth year of

the company's existence, has been the most disastrous in its history, the primary cause being the unprecedentedly long delay of the cable steamer, the *Henry Holmes*, at Trinidad in undergoing her third survey.

The General Asphalt Company, in its annual report for last year, shows a gross business of \$14,755,610, from which the gross profits were \$2,311,370. After all deductions the net earnings available for dividends were \$1,160,315, or the equivalent of \$3.05 a share on the common stock after providing for preferred disbursements. The net for dividends is practically the same as in the preceding year, when the amount available for this purpose was \$1,163,207.

THE CIRCULAR is informed that the Uroz Oilfields, Limited, who have holdings in France, have now acquired a Government prospecting licence for 1,500 acres in the Ward of Charuna in the island of Trinidad, and have acquired from Captain Ashmead Bartlett, M.C., mining leases for the Farnum and Graham properties situated in the Ward of Montserrat in the same island.

## U.S.A. SUGAR CONSUMPTION

There are indications that sugar consumers in New York, who for a time were prepared to pay any price for their sugar, are at last complaining, and it is generally felt that the suspension of the Equalisation Legislation Board which controlled sugar in the late period of the war was premature. Still, sugar remains free and unrationed throughout the United States. Shops, hotels, cafés are all liberally supplied and no shortage is apparent to the visitor. Where, as at some hotels, the "sure pochette" system is adopted, each individual cube of sugar being wrapped in a package, this is done more for the sake of the advertisement printed on the paper covering than for any reason of economy. Before an Investigation Committee in Washington recently, Mr. Palmer, Attorney-General, asserted that President Wilson would have bought the entire Cuban crop last year at a low figure if Congress had not ignored his request for the necessary legislation. "If I am guilty in Louisiana," he declared, "then I am guilty elsewhere in respect of all necessities." He also stated that sugar refiners had entered into an agreement with the Department of Justice to co-operate with the Government in preventing the resale of sugar to the trade, which would have the effect of decreasing speculation, although, of course, it would not cure the shortage.

It is obvious, at any rate, that increasing interest is being displayed in America in the means of securing a more stable basis for sugar prices.

## OUTWARD STEAMER SAILINGS.

To	From	Packet.	Sailing
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Camilo</i>	May 28
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Changuinola</i>	June 4
R'dos & T'dad	Liverpool	<i>Nubian</i>	June 5
West Indies	London	<i>Quilpu</i>	June 9
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Rayano</i>	June 11
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chaleur</i>	June 25
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chignecto</i>	July 9

The above dates are only approximate.

## AT WESTMINSTER.

### Sugar Prices.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food (Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson) informed Mr. Doyle on April 27th that the price of sugar for all manufacturing purposes was raised on April 19th to 150s. per cwt., a figure in accordance with the prices ruling on that date in the markets of the world. While the price for sugar for domestic consumption was being provisionally maintained at 80s. per cwt., this had only been made possible by the utilisation of sugar purchased at dates previous to the recent advances. Any rise in the price of a raw material must involve a certain hardship to both manufacturers and consumers, but he could not agree that the Government should now subsidise the sweetened condensed milk industry by issuing to manufacturers of that commodity supplies of sugar at a price below its present cost.

Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson informed Mr. Purchase on May 10th that the sugar then being retailed at 10d. per lb. had been purchased in many different consignments at prices which had varied considerably from time to time. It was therefore impossible to give any precise figure of cost price. He would, however, state that the present price of Cuban raw sugar was 18½ cents per lb., or 109s. per cwt., if the rate of exchange was taken at 3 dollars 80 cents. This figure was approximately equivalent to 150s. per cwt. duty paid in London.

### Sugar Control.

Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson, in reply to Mr. Maclean on May 5th, said there was no foundation for the statement that at least 3,000 tons of sugar could be brought into the country every fortnight and sold cheaper than controlled sugar. As regards the supply of sugar, the world's present production as compared with the pre-war production of sugar had decreased to the extent of some three-and-a-half million tons. As regards the price of sugar in this country, sugar for the domestic ration was being retailed at a figure much below the price in other countries, including the United States. Every effort was being made by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply to secure adequate supplies of sugar.

### Re-Exportation of Cacao.

Mr. McCurdy informed Mr. Scott on May 4th that in March, 1919, permission was given to importers of raw cacao to re-export 50 per cent. of each consignment, but, on the advice of the trade, this concession was not made retrospective, except in the case of cacao found to be unsuitable for home consumption.

### Petrol.

In reply to Mr. Pannellather, who asked on May 6th what progress had been made in fostering the production of power alcohol and other petrol substitutes in this country, Mr. Ronar Law stated that the inquiry which was being made into the production of power alcohol was not confined to this country alone, but would embrace the whole of the British Empire. Progress was being made, but, in view of the wide scope of the subject, it was not possible to make any statement at present.

Mr. Kellaway informed Sir R. Cooper that it was the desire of his Majesty's Government to give all possible encouragement to the development of national resources, including petroleum, within the Empire.

### Rice Shortage.

On the same date Colonel Amery informed Mr. Forrest that the situation as regards the colonies chiefly affected by the rice shortage had now been relieved by the release of large additional quantities from

Burma. Efforts had been made for some time past to encourage the growth of rice and other indigenous foodstuffs locally.

### Rum Imports (India).

On May 10th Mr. Montagu informed Mr. Robinson that rum imported into India in 1918-19 was from the countries, in the quantities, and of the values stated as follows:—

Country.	Gallons.	£
United Kingdom	4,419	4,110
Java	202,283	23,113
Other countries	4,861	2,459
Total	211,563	29,682

### Empire Cotton Growing.

To Major Henderson, who asked, on May 10th, when it would be possible to make an announcement in regard to the Government's decision on the recommendations contained in the report of the Empire Cotton Growing Committee, Sir R. Horne replied that the Government had already announced its decision to make a grant to the Empire Cotton Growing Committee of £10,000 a year for five years for administrative and other expenses in connection with its work. The question of the precise nature and extent of any further State financial assistance towards the promotion of cotton growing in the Empire was still under consideration.

### Trade Unions, British Guiana.

Mr. Spoor asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether a draft Ordinance for the incorporation of the British Guiana Labour Union has been submitted to him; whether he is aware that the Ordinance is promoted by the union in question; and whether he will intimate his approval in order that the Ordinance may be submitted to the British Guiana Court of Policy?

Lieutenant-Colonel Amery: The answer to the first two parts of the hon. Member's question is in the affirmative. The draft Ordinance is still under consideration. There would appear to be objections to the incorporation of a single Labour Union, but the Secretary of State proposes to approve of the introduction of legislation of a general character similar to trade union legislation in this country.

### Indian Communities in the Colonies.

Lieutenant-Colonel Amery informed Mr. Bennett on May 12th that the electoral law of the Cape Province of the South African Union and of Southern Rhodesia drew no distinction as to race or colour in respect of voters qualified for registration. In British Guiana there was an elected Legislature, and there was no racial distinction as regards the franchise. In Fiji Indians did not exercise the franchise at present. In Trinidad the Legislative Council was nominated. In Ceylon a person of Indian origin born in Ceylon and otherwise qualified was able to vote for the Ceylonese member of the Council. In British Guiana there was an elected member of the Legislature who was of East Indian race, and in Ceylon a person of Indian origin but born in Ceylon sat on the local Legislature by election as the Ceylonese member. There were no elected Indian members of the Legislatures of other Colonies or Protectorates.

It is very sad to have to record the deaths, on May 8th and 13th, of Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Barnard, well known in St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Barbados. Very shortly after their arrival in this country a few weeks back with three of their children, the whole family contracted influenza, and pneumonia supervened. The children are progressing satisfactorily.



## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

### New Hotel for Bahamas.

Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E., who since the outbreak of war had been engaged on war work in England, has now returned to the Colony. Miss Moseley was welcomed on landing at Rawson-square by many of the Daughters of the Empire, including the President, Mrs. T. H. C. Lofthouse, M. B. E., and Lady Tudor.

At the opening of the Sessions on April the 21st, says the *Nassau Guardian*, Sir Frederic Maxwell, K.C., was admitted to the Bar of the Bahamas, his petition for admission being presented to His Honour the Chief Justice by the Hon. A. Kenneth Solomon, Acting Attorney-General. At the same time he enjoyed the unique distinction of being admitted to the Inner Bar on his appointment as King's Counsel, which had been gazetted a few days previously.

A new hotel is to be built in the colony by the Nassau Hotel and Steamship Co., Ltd., its suggested name being the Hotel Fort Montagu. Good progress is being made in clearing the site.

### Fires in Spanish Town.

According to the *Gleaner*, the Hon. St. John Branch, K.C., Hon. H. A. L. Simpson, and the Hon. J. H. Philipps are likely Jamaica representatives for the Ottawa Conference. This, however, has not yet been confirmed.

The representatives of an English oil company, who recently were given permission by the Government to have access to Crown lands in Westmoreland and Hanover, appear to be satisfied with their geological examination. The *Gleaner* learns from investigations made that there is a bright prospect of oil fields being opened and run on a commercial basis.

Numerous fires have broken out recently in and near Spanish Town, and it is believed that the outbreaks have been incendiary in their origin.

The United Fruit Company's medical department, which began operations just a year ago, is to be congratulated for the excellent services it has rendered. During the seven months ending April the staff treated over 10,000 patients, the most prevalent diseases being malaria and hook-worm.

### Export Cotton Duties Increased in St. Vincent.

The *St. Vincent Times* of April 8th says that the weather during the past fortnight has been very favourable, and a fair amount of rain has fallen all over the colony and cultivation has benefited. The cotton crop is over and the plants destroyed except in a few places, where advantage is being taken of the extension of the season to gather the gleanings. A considerable acreage is being cleared for cotton, and an attempt is being made to make the coming crop a record one for St. Vincent. It is certainly not gratifying to know that a neighbouring island, smaller than St. Vincent, produces more cotton than us, and efforts should be made not only to produce the finest Sea Island cotton in the world, but the biggest crop in the West Indies.

An Amending Export Duties Ordinance, passed by the Legislative Council on March 31st last, increases the export duties on cotton by 200 per cent.

An Ordinance, passed by the Legislative Council on the 7th inst., imposes a trade duty on wines, malts, liquors, and spirits of 2s. per gallon.

### Trinidad and the Ottawa Conference.

We have had unusually dry weather during the past month and the country is very dried up, writes Mr.

Edgar Tripp on April 21st. The usual fires in cane pieces are in evidence, but so far no very serious damage has occurred. For the past two or three days there have been indications of a change in the weather, and rain is threatening in every direction, although so far it has failed to fall.

Meanwhile crop operations are proceeding vigorously, and reaping will probably be completed at an earlier date than usual.

The colony has been well supplied with steamers, both outward and homeward and to the United States and Canada. We have all been glad to see the renewal of the regular service of that excellent line the Royal Dutch Mail, which has become quite a favourite with passengers, especially since the return boats have lately been proceeding direct to Havre, whence transshipment to the United Kingdom is so easy.

Lord Milner has telegraphed to the Governors of all the British Colonies, quoting a telegram dated March 25th from the Government of Canada, with regard to transport, commercial, and Customs relations between Canada and the British West Indies, and stating that it is advisable that the Conference should be held at an early date between representatives of these colonies and the Government of Canada on the subject. Further, that the present time is opportune and the sentiment favourable, and it is suggested that the Conference should take place at Ottawa in May.

Lord Milner adds that H.M. Government concurs generally in the Canadian proposal, and at a meeting of the Legislative Council, held on the 9th inst., it was resolved:—

"That this Council approves of a representative being sent to Ottawa to attend the Conference proposed by the Government of Canada to consider the development of trade relations and transport facilities between the British West Indies and Canada," and the Governor has telegraphed requesting the Secretary of State to arrange that our Collector of Customs, Mr. Walcott, who is at present on leave in England, should represent Trinidad at the Conference.

His Excellency, with his usual promptitude, has appointed a Committee, with Mr. W. Gordon Gordon as Chairman, to review the present Customs Tariff, with a view to considering and advising as to the practicability of obtaining some form of Imperial Preference, so as to prepare concise instructions as to the Trinidad representative.

The only hitch, if it may be so called, in the proposed arrangements arises from the fact that at the recent meeting of the Associated Chambers at Barbados the question of closer reciprocity relations with the Empire was very fully debated, and it was resolved, *inter alia*—

"That the Association hoped that the Imperial Canadian and West Indian Conference will take immediate steps to allow their representatives, together with commercial representatives with equal powers, to meet in conference to make the necessary arrangements for the development of existing trade relations and other cognate matters."

The Canadian proposal now put forward suggests that each West Indian Administration be invited to send one representative to the Conference, but—

"May appoint such experts or advisers as it deems necessary to assist the representatives, but these shall not have any voting power."

Probably the Government of Canada is unaware, or overlooked the desire of the Associated Chambers, with regard to the position of commercial representatives at the Conference, and no doubt representations on the point will be made by certain of the Chambers of Commerce interested. There is a meeting of the Trinidad Chamber this afternoon, when no doubt the subject will be brought forward, but I shall be unable to communicate the results, as the mail will already have closed.

With regard to the proceedings generally at the Conference, the principle seems established that whatever preference is granted by these colonies to Canada shall also be granted to the Mother Country and the other parts of the Empire.

The Governor has given his assent to the Ordinance recently passed to provide for the punishment of seditious acts and seditious libel, to facilitate the suppression of seditious publications, and to provide for the temporary suspension of newspapers containing seditious matter.

Every real well-wisher of the colony welcomes this Act, which cannot detrimentally affect any loyal subject.

The usual shortage of water throughout the country, which is experienced with increasing force each year, is again being felt. This is really the most serious question of the many that affect the future health and prosperity of the colony. It is one that should be dealt with without a moment's unnecessary delay. It seems idle expending hundreds of thousands on deep-sea piers that are not really required, and that no one interested in shipping has asked for, when this pressing need for one of the first necessities of existence remains unprovided for in nine-tenths of the area of the country. Unfortunately, we are an easy-going lot of people, and each year we quickly forget the inconvenience of the dry season drought when the copious fall of the rainy season sets in.

It has been decided that the colony will participate in the British Empire Exhibition, to be held in London next year, and a Committee, with Mr. Freeman as chairman, has been appointed to submit recommendations as to the exhibits to be sent.

In the Barbados Mail Notes in last CIRCULAR the name of the late Lieut. Alistair Gordon Cameron, D.S.O., R.N.R., should be as now stated, and not as it then appeared. The mistake is regretted.

## THE PRICE OF SUGAR.

Under the above heading, the following letter, over the signature of the Chairman of the West India Committee, appears in the *Times* of May 20th:—

SIR— It cannot be too widely known that consumers in this country need never have been affected as they are by the present world shortage of sugar had it not been for the *laissez-faire* policy adopted by successive British Governments in the past. But for this policy, which favoured the subsidised beet-sugar industry of the Continent at the expense of our own sugar-growing colonies, the Empire could, and would have, easily been able to produce a much larger quantity of this valuable commodity at the present time. Evidence of the accuracy of this contention is to be found in the results produced by the more enlightened policy of the Government of the United States. They not only encouraged the increase of production in their own dependencies of Porto Rico and the Philippines by admitting those sugars free of duty, but also enacted a countervailing duty against bounty-fed sugars, and at the same time gave to Cuba a preference on the general tariff of 20 per cent. The result has saved the world from a sugar famine, enabling—as it has done—Cuba to increase her output from about 600,000 tons prior to the introduction of Preference by the United States Government to about 4,000,000 tons. I do not contend that if we had adopted a similar policy in the case of our own tropical possessions we should now have sugar at the pre-war price, any more than any other staple can be obtained at such a figure, but it cannot be doubted that the price would have been considerably lower had equality of treatment been accorded to the sugar-growing colonies.—Yours obediently,  
R. RUTHERFORD.

## WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Sailings to West Indies from London, May 12th, per R.M.S.P. *Quilona* (Commander, J. B. Muir):—

Major and Mrs. A. V. Board	Mr. J. Dwyer	Mr. F. Newell
Mr. F. G. Bond	Mrs. L. B. Heath	Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Newman
Mr. F. M. Dorthwick	Master H. W. E. Heath	Mr. & Mrs. O. Nugent
Mr. M. V. Doucaud	Sister T. D. Hindley	Mr. J. Parkinson
Lt. J. E. P. Brass R.N.	Mrs. W. M. Howell	Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Petrie-Hay
Capt. W. F. Brydau	Mrs. P. M. Howell	Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Preston
Mrs. M. E. Cabill	Mr. & Mrs. V. C. Illing	Mr. Scipio-Pollard
Mr. A. D. Figueiredo	Mrs. P. M. Jaffrey	Rev. and Mrs. W. R. Symons
Campos	Mr. & Mrs. Kemsley	Mrs. M. J. Timothy
Mr. W. Cole	Mr. J. Kirkcass	Mrs. H. M. Watson
Mr. J. E. Edwards	Mr. E. R. Lickfield	Mrs. T. C. Watson
Mr. H. V. Everington	Mr. H. Lipp	Mr. J. F. A. Young
Miss F. Fernandus	Mr. C. Mackinnon	
Mr. H. M. Cifkins	Mrs. E. Muirhead	
Miss A. H. Hambling	Miss A. Maillard	
Mr. & Mrs. W. M. Hart	Mr. C. W. Mathario	
	Mr. A. Neckles	
	Mr. A. B. Neekles	

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, May 5th, per s.s. *Comrado* (Commander, W. T. Forrester, O.B.E.):—

Mr. W. Anderson	Mr. J. L. Dyer	Mr. R. P. Penna
Mr. J. S. Biscoe	Mr. A. Fairlie	Mr. E. A. Plosted
Mr. T. W. Biscoe	Mr. S. H. Gardner	Mr. J. N. Ross
Col. H. Blagrove	Mrs. E. C. Griffith	Mr. H. Royce
Mr. H. de Mercado	Mr. A. K. Harder	Mr. S. Williamson
Mrs. H. de Mercado	Capt. R. F. Mitchell	Mr. G. W. Yates

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, May 14th, per s.s. *Matagua* (Commander, F. H. Swain):—

Miss M. Bowring	Mr. P. Macgregor	Mr. and Mrs. W. B. K. Williams
Miss E. M. Child	Mr. F. E. Neworthy	Miss M. S. Williams
Miss E. W. Gordon	Mr. A. H. Bollason	
Mr. D. D. Henderson	Mr. A. D. Thomas	

## VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

Mr. F. C. Archer	Mr. E. E. C. Hoguck
Rev. J. H. Brindley	Mr. L. Cyril Innes
Mr. James Brown	Mr. F. G. W. King
Hon. E. C. Buck, M.I.C.E.	Mr. E. K. Lane
Mr. E. A. Bugle	Mr. Thos. Laycock
Mr. A. Cameron	Mr. H. Mason
Sir W. K. Chandler, K.C.M.G.	Mr. D. T. McEwing
Rev. Canon Dalton, D.D.	Mrs. McEwen
Hon. R. S. Davis	Mr. T. Elton Miller
Mr. G. Farmer	Hon. J. J. Nunan, K.C., I.L.D.
Mr. A. J. Findlay	Mr. C. S. Petcher
Mrs. M. C. Garnett	Mr. H. S. Reid
Mr. R. P. Gibbs	Mr. W. F. Samuels
Mr. H. Gill	Mr. J. E. Shadwick
Mr. L. A. Gomez	Mr. E. E. H. Thorne
Sir G. Aubrey Goodman	Mr. F. Urich, F.R.S., C.M.Z.S.
Mr. J. Hamilton	Mr. A. J. White
Mr. Albert Haumond	Mr. John Wilson
Mr. A. H. Hill	Mr. Harold Wright
Mr. F. E. W. G. Austin, "Compton Manor," near Winchester, Hants.	
Mr. A. E. Craig, c/o C. B. Hamilt., Esq., C.M.G., "Orbiton," Parley Surrey.	
Mr. J. J. Gibson, 11, Queen's Gate Terrace, S.W. 7.	
Mr. C. C. Henriques, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.	
Mr. Thomas W. Innes, 47, Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James's Park, S.W.	
Mr. E. H. Jago, Valentines School, Ilford, Essex.	
Dr. B. M. Johnson, c/o Dr. Philips, "Martinhoe," London Road, Norbury, S.E.	
Mr. Archibald Johnston, Ivy Bank, Braegde Avenue, Rutherglen, near Glasgow.	
Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., Knockdow, Toward Argyllshire.	
Mr. Dudley G. Leacock, Hotel Metropole, Roumoumouth.	
Mr. J. C. Macintyre, 24, Gordon Street, Gordon Square, W.C.	
Mr. W. E. Maunder, c/o The Colonial Bank, 29, Gracechurch St., E.C.	
Mr. W. McEars, 39, Carlton Place, Aberdeen.	
Mr. James Miller, 17, Gracechurch Street, E.C.	
Hon. Stephen S. Sledman, 28, London Gardens, Chiswick, W. 4.	
Mr. Athelton Watson, 25, Elgin Park, Edinburg, Winstol.	
Hon. G. Williams, c/o Messrs. S. Dobree & Sons, 7, Moorgate Street, E.C.	

## WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

COPIES OF "THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR," Nos. 562, 563, and 564, are much wanted. The Manager will gladly pay 6d. per copy for unsold copies delivered at 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C.3.



## PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6942 Central.  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

May 25th, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 7 per cent.—changed on April 15th from 6 per cent., at which figure it had stood from November 6th, 1919.

**SUGAR.** Control prices in the United Kingdom were modified on May 17th, and are now as follows:—

	Wholesale.		Retail.	
	Per cwt.		Per lb.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Cuba, Lumps, &c. ... ..	116	0	1	2
W.I. Crystallised (see below) ... ..	112	0	1	2
W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups (see below) ... ..	85	9	1	0
W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing ... ..	"free"		No maximum	
Sugar for domestic preserving ... ..	114	0	1	2

The discount is 1½ per centum.

The maximum "reasonable" price for all licensed "free" sugar from May 17th until June 12th has been fixed at 160s. per cwt., less 1½ per cent., as compared with 150s.

In accordance with their arrangement concluded with the West India Committee, the Royal Commission have fixed the prices for a fortnight during May and June as follows:—

	May.	June.
Crystallised ... ..	110.98s.	142.76s. per cwt.
Muscovado ... ..	106.06s.	137.84s. "

The market remains firm, with an active demand for all descriptions. White sugar remains scarce and almost unobtainable; Jamaica, Demerara and Trinidad crystallised, spot, are quoted at 120s. to 131s., while Jamaica Muscovados and Trinidad syrups, spot, are quoted at 115s. Now that licences to re-export can be obtained for privately imported sugars, this may facilitate the disposal of West Indian sugars. We understand that 10,000 tons of 96° sugar has been contracted for for sale to the British Government from an East African port, at £95 per ton f.o.b.

The American market, according to Willett & Gray, remained unchanged during the first week of May, with a moderate business doing in Cuba 96° sugars at 19.56 cents. While the market for the nearer months had been firm with a constant good demand, sugars for July-August shipment were somewhat irregular, as there had been offerings of fairly large quantities of Java and other sugars at prices considerably below the present quotation for Cubas. The same authorities have finished the compilation of the out-turn of the 1919-20 beet crop in the United States, which they give as 652,957 tons, representing 0.96 tons yield of sugar per acre harvested. Mr. August Lueder, a well-known authority in American sugar circles, died in New York on April 26th.

Messrs. Guma-Meyer & Himely now estimate the Cuban crop as 3,650,000 tons and 3,700,000 tons respectively as against their former forecasts of 3,900,000 tons and 3,925,000 tons—a further reduction of 250,000 tons and 225,000 tons. The weather continues dry in the island, and is not only affecting the present crop, but bids fair to have a very bad effect upon the one of 1920-21. Last year's plantings, which, if allowed to stand until the next crop, would have yielded a big tonnage, have all been cut to make this crop. The number of centrals grinding on April 26th was 162, and total receipts were 2,519,902 tons. Exports amounted to 1,790,769 tons, and the stocks were 715,403 tons as against 1,030,559 tons at same date last year.

The Italian beet crop, which was estimated at 50,000 tons, has exceeded that figure by about 20,000 tons.

The West India sugar statistics in London on May 15th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	
Imports ... ..	20,395	11,698	6,735	Tons.
Deliveries ... ..	12,134	10,270	15,777	"
Stock ... ..	16,397	7,620	1,845	"

**RUM.** There is nothing doing in this market, and it is still impossible to forecast the result of the increased spirit duty. Buyers are completely holding off.

The stocks in London on May 15th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	
Jamaica ... ..	7,721	3,613	5,260	Puna.
Demerara ... ..	13,103	12,332	3,608	"
Total of all kinds ... ..	30,251	20,428	14,235	"

**CACAO.** The market is flat. The first public sales since April 27th were held on the 18th inst., and of more than 23,000 bags offered, only a very small quantity found buyers. About 30 bags of exceptionally fine Trinidads (there were 5,436 bags offered) were sold for 140s., and 10 bags of exceptionally fine Jamaicas were disposed of for 126s. The remainder was bought in.

The Ministry of Food have removed all the control both on cocoa powder and the export of raw cacao as from the 17th inst., but it is not anticipated that this will have any effect on current prices.

The following table shows the imports of raw cacao into the United Kingdom from January-April for the last three years:—

	1920	1919	1918
Ecuador ... ..	57,947	73,950	939
Brazil ... ..	865	60	2,417
British West Africa ... ..	665,132	767,896	87,034
Ceylon ... ..	18,469	14,425	1,562
British West India ... ..	110,164	63,242	79,290
Other Countries ... ..	49,436	52,952	10,978
	901,913	1,602,525	182,220

The stocks in London on May 15th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.
Trinidad ... ..	23,780	16,016	13,341
Grenada ... ..	26,169	7,743	25,187
Total of all kinds ... ..	195,503	111,142	177,980

**ARROWROOT.** Only a very small business doing. Prices are unchanged since our last report.

**BALATA.** West India sheet rather easier, spot value 4s. 6½d. to 4s. 7d.; near positions, 4s. 3½d. c.i.f.

**COFFEE.** There is still no business doing in export qualities. Quotations for May, 118s.; and for July, September, and December 108s. 6d., 105s., and 102s. 3d. respectively. Imports of West Indian to April 30th, 1,857 cwt.

**COPRA** is steady and quiet. West India f.m.s. is quoted at £59 c.i.f. London or Antwerp.

**COTTON.** West Indian Sea Island is quoted at 80d. to 90d. Imports of West Indian in the twenty weeks ending May 13th, 4,728 bales.

**HONEY** is quiet, but there is a better undertone owing to the advance in the price of sugars. Jamaica is quoted nominally at 80s. to 100s. Business is being done in Australian at 70s.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** Lime Oil: Handpressed, scarce but quiet. Small sales up to 26s. 6d. per lb. Distilled, rather easier. Some business down to 7s. 6d. per lb. Lime-juice: Raw, more inquiry; value unchanged.

**LOGWOOD** is in limited request only, and quoted at £15 per ton c.i.f. London.

**ORANGE OIL.** Sweet firmer. Jamaica worth 33s. 6d. to 35s. per lb. Bitter, no demand; value nominal.

**SPICES.** The market is quiet and easier. Pimento, no business passing; there are sellers at 5½d. Nutmegs, dull and lower; quotations, 80's, 1s.; 110's 10d. Mace, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. for pale.

# The West India Committee Circular

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### The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:  
6642 CENTRAL.



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegram:  
CABIB, LONDON.

June 10th, 1920.

### Putting Back the Clock.

**D**URING the last six years the West Indian shipping situation has undergone a remarkable change. In 1914-15 the steamers *Elra* and *Essequibo*, which were specially built for the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to meet the requirements of the West Indian transatlantic service, were plying between Southampton and Trinidad under contract with the Imperial and Colonial Governments, while the *Berbice* and *Balantia*, under the flag of the same Company, were similarly providing intercolonial communication. Owing to circumstances arising out of the war, these contracts were terminated prematurely, and the West Indies have since been compelled to depend on smaller steamers sailing at irregular dates, and upon the limited, though comfortable, accommodation provided by the cargo steamers of the Direct Line for direct communication with the Mother Country, and on the sadly overcrowded Canadian mail steamers and the Quebec Steamship Company's vessels for intercolonial travel. There are further changes to be recorded. No patriot will deplore the disappearance of the Hamburg-America Line steamers, which used to make nearly two hundred calls at St. Thomas every year. On the other hand, the hauling down of the familiar flags of the Direct Line has naturally been the subject for very sincere regret, for these two companies served the West Indies both loyally and well throughout the war. Though they were receiving no subsidy, and though the temptation to transfer

their ships to other and more profitable routes must have been great, these companies maintained communication between the United Kingdom and the West Indies without a break, and the same can also be said of the Booker Line. But, as is now well known, the Direct Line has been taken over by MESSRS. T. & J. HARRISON, whose white flag with a Maltese cross upon it is already known in West Indian waters, and we are glad to learn that this Company, which may be counted upon to maintain the tradition of the firms whose steamers and goodwill they have acquired, intend to develop their freight service in many directions, and we trust that they may be induced to cater for passenger traffic as well. A further and even later change is the transfer of the Quebec Steamship Company from the ownership of the Canada Steamship Line, Ltd., to that of MESSRS. FURNESS, WITBY & Co.—a very live and active concern, now running an admirable service of tourist steamers between New York and the Bermudas, which reap an immense advantage from it. We understand that MESSRS. FURNESS, WITBY & Co. propose to place larger vessels on the New York-West Indies route, and that here, again, important developments may be expected. It is also announced that, following a consolidation of the interests of MESSRS. W. A. HARMAN & Co. and the American Ship and Commerce Corporation, many of the trade routes of the Hamburg-America Line are to be reopened under the American flag. Meanwhile the transatlantic situation calls for immediate action. The trouble about it is that everybody wants to travel at the same time, there being very well-defined travel seasons in the West Indies—and mid-summer is practically a close time in this respect; but, seeing that it was possible to maintain direct passenger steamer communication between the Mother Country and the West Indies in the days of poverty in those colonies, it surely is not unreasonable to feel confident, as we do, that some successful arrangements can be made for the resumption of such services now that the West Indies are, generally speaking, more prosperous than they have been for over two centuries. With coal at £9 a ton, and expenses generally still on the up-grade, from the high figures which they reached after the war, it can hardly be expected to re-establish communication on absolutely the same lines as before, which must be looked back upon as the height of luxury to those who go down to the sea in the present ocean steamers. We believe the West Indies would be content with a greatly modified service, provided it were constant and regular. Business men must have regular communication. The West Indies are flooded with



American travellers, who step in where their English *confreres* fear to tread owing to the uncertainty of facilities for getting home again when they once reach the Caribbean. The matter is one which affects the smaller colonies more acutely than the large, but in dealing with this matter the West Indian colonies east of the Caribbean Sea should be treated as a whole. So far as communication with Canada—the further development of which is so greatly to be desired—is concerned, much is expected from the Conference now sitting at Ottawa, and, in this connection, it is interesting to note that the Council of the Montreal Board of Trade, at a meeting held on May 19th, expressed the opinion that a first-class passenger service, sufficiently attractive to divert from other countries the large and increasing tourist traffic, would be an effective means of enlarging the interest of Canadians in the West Indies and the development of mutual trade. Following this up, the Committee reported that a better freight and passenger service was required to increase trade and other relations between Canada and the West Indies, "the provision of which might reasonably form part of an arrangement for reciprocal preference." The Committee also recommended that first preference be given to direct steamship service to the British West Indies, British Guiana, Jamaica, Bermuda, the Bahamas and British Honduras. They pointed out that the Bahamas and British Honduras were to-day without direct steamship connection with Canada, which prevented the development of what might be a large and profitable trade. To return to the transatlantic service, it may be recalled that the West Indian Shipping Committee, in their report, recommended that tenders should be called for both a three-weekly and fortnightly service within a year's time, and, as that report was signed in August, 1919, it is not too soon to expect a move to be made in the matter.

#### Industrial Alcohol.

**I**N our last issue we alluded to the petrol famine which is imminent, and referred to the fact that alcohol is practically the only substitute as a source of power for industrial purposes which appears to exist. We pointed out that if all the molasses in the world were converted into alcohol the amount yielded would be but a drop in the ocean of what is wanted. But there is very little doubt, in the way matters are shaping, that the British West Indies will be called upon to do what they can in the direction of converting their molasses into industrial alcohol, even to the extent of substituting its make for that of rum. There is one point in this connection which it is essential should be brought before such estate owners, whose factories are already provided with stills for rum making, and that is, that in every probability there is not a single still in the British West Indies which will satisfy the requirements in this respect. Pot-stills are out of the question, and although the few existing continuous stills in the West Indies will give a strong spirit, it will in every probability not be strong enough for the purpose. Denaturing is obligatory, and the only way of denaturing feasible on a large scale is to mix the alcohol with the petrol when it is required for internal combustion engines. The ordinary denaturants are out of the question for use when

dealing with large quantities of spirit. But for alcohol to mix with petrol it must be of not less a strength than 66 O.P. That is to say, it must contain not less than 95 per cent. of pure alcohol. The ordinary continuous still used in the West Indies will certainly not give this strength, much less the pot-still. This is a position of things which certainly should be realised by West Indian proprietors. For the manufacture of industrial alcohol in the British West Indies, therefore, the existing stills are unsuitable. The future of this source of power will demand the use of a still of far greater rectifying capacity. It is true that spirit of a lower strength than 66 O.P. can be used for internal combustion engines by their proper adjustment, but the point is that there is every probability that petrol will have to be used for the purpose of denaturing, and that, as pointed out, a strength of spirit far exceeding that possible to be yielded except by special stills will be demanded. The use of alcohol will be to eke out the supply of petrol, and its strength must be adapted to this purpose.

#### The Saccharin Menace.

**O**NE effect of the shortage of sugar has been to bring prominently forward again the subject of the use of saccharin as a substitute for it for sweetening purposes. The Board of Trade Returns show that for the first four months of the present year no fewer than 1,035,835 oz. were manufactured in the United Kingdom, as against 173,450 oz. for the corresponding period of last year. As saccharin has 500 times the sweetening effect of sugar, the former quantity is equivalent to nearly 15,000 tons of sugar in four months—45,000 tons a year—or six times last year's production. In this connection it is difficult to imagine why the Board of Trade persists in continuing to classify saccharin with sugar and molasses, whereas it is one of the many products obtained from coal-tar, and ranks with veronal, aspirin, and the hundred-and-one medicinal products familiar to our nerve drug *habitues*. While in time of emergency we do not imagine that there is any particular harm from its occasional use as in the case of the drugs above mentioned—the figures quoted show that there is great danger, in view of the high price and of the shortage of sugar, of the use of saccharin extending and becoming a habit. Nothing could be more detrimental than this to the health of the nation, and the position is intensified by the great probability of the shortage of sugar continuing for some time to come. As with other drugs, the use of it may become a habit, and when the sugar famine is over and ample supplies again come forward, the habitual users of saccharin may continue to prefer it to sugar.

We regret to learn that Sir Richard Stapley, who had been in bad health during the latter part of his five months' stay in Jamaica, which he was visiting in company with Dr. R. J. Campbell, died on board the ss. *Camito* on May 20th, when she was two days from England. Sir Richard, at a time when English visitors were being floored by the American-owned hotels, purchased the Constant Spring Hotel, ran up the largest Union Jack he could buy, and threw it open to visitors within a fortnight—a splendid example of practical patriotism.

**THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**

**Progress of Endowment Fund.**

Contributions towards the West India Committee's Endowment Fund are now coming in extremely well; but a united effort is still required to carry the total beyond the minimum figure originally aimed at. It is understood that the Secretary of State for the Colonies commended the appeal to the favourable consideration of the various West India Governments, and the Legislatures of the Bahamas, Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras have already responded. In Jamaica, as already announced, a Select Committee has recommended a substantial contribution, and it is hoped that the Legislatures of Trinidad and Tobago, and the Windward and Leeward Islands will be equally generous. In ventilating the appeal the West Indian Press have been exceedingly helpful, and it is gratifying to notice as a result of their efforts the still growing interest in the movement.

It may be recalled that the objects of the Fund are to enable the West India Committee to develop and extend the work which they are doing on behalf of the British West Indies by securing secretarial assistance and more convenient premises. The sixteenth list of contributions is given below.

**SIXTEENTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.**

Contributions already acknowledged £15,311 10 11

Per Edgar Tripp, Esq., Trinidad:—

Hon. A. H. Cipriani, O.B.E.	£50 0 0
R. J. Henderson, Esq.	25 0 0
Messrs Mackenzie & Co.	25 0 0
Messrs J. Glendinning & Co.	20 0 0
J. Phillips, Esq.	20 0 0
Paul Dumoret, Esq.	10 0 0
George Grell, Esq.	10 0 0
Fred Herrera, Esq.	10 0 0
Messrs. Arnott, Lambie & Co.	10 0 0
A. Mendes, Esq.	10 0 0
Messrs Ph. N. Pampelloune & Co.	10 0 0
M. Permy, Esq.	10 0 0
E. A. Robinson, Esq.	10 0 0
E. Barcant, Esq.	5 0 0
A. B. Carr, Esq.	5 0 0
T. B. Carr, Esq.	5 0 0
C. Cleaver, Esq.	5 0 0
C. B. Franklin, Esq.	5 0 0
James Fraser, Esq.	5 0 0
John Grant, Esq.	5 0 0
Messrs Marquez & Co.	5 0 0
C. Nettiho, Esq.	5 0 0
P. A. T. O'Connor, Esq.	5 0 0
Rust, Trowbridge & Co.	5 0 0
F. M. Scott, Esq.	5 0 0
Messrs Wm. Scott & Co.	5 0 0
Messrs Smith, Robertson & Co.	5 0 0
Trinidad Import and Export Co., Ltd.	5 0 0
Henry Warner, Esq.	5 0 0
A. A. Waterman, Esq.	5 0 0
Rev. H. H. Morton	2 10 0
Messrs Muir, Marshall & Co.	2 1 8
Chas. Sanguineau, Esq.	2 1 8
C. F. Sumner, Esq.	2 1 8
H. I. Jeffers, Esq.	2 0 0
C. Th. Pierre, Esq.	2 0 0
J. Scheult, Esq.	2 0 0
Robert Duff, Esq.	1 0 10
Rev. C. D. Lalla	1 0 10

Dr Mahabir	£1 0 10
G. C. Wyatt, Esq.	1 0 10
H. C. Bernard, Esq.	1 0 0

£324 18 4

Per the Jamaica Imperial Association:—

H. Jose Charley, Esq.	105 0 0
Messrs. Samuel Hart & Son, Ltd.	50 0 0
Messrs. J. E. Kerr & Co., Ltd.	50 0 0
Stainton Clarke, Esq.	10 10 0
Eugene Browne, Esq.	10 0 0
G. Philipotts Browne, Esq.	10 0 0
R. P. Rerrie, Esq.	10 0 0
C. A. Scott, Esq.	10 0 0
Hon. R. F. Williams	10 0 0
Michael Marzouca, Esq.	5 5 0
H. M. Doubleday, Esq.	5 0 0
G. A. Campbell, Esq.	3 3 0
H. P. Hewitt, Esq.	2 2 0
R. C. Holmes, Esq.	2 2 0
Gosset Howard, Esq.	2 2 0
J. S. Levy, Esq.	2 2 0
David Mills, Esq.	2 2 0
Ivan H. Salimon, Esq.	2 2 0

291 10 0

Per Messrs Wilkinson & Haynes Co., Ltd, Barbados:—

Messrs. Cave, Shepherd & Co.	50 0 0
H. B. G. Austin, Esq.	25 0 0
G. Challenor, Esq.	5 0 0
R. Challenor, Esq.	5 0 0
C. H. Inniss, Esq.	2 1 8

87 1 8

Owners of Blue Castle Estate, Jamaica	50 0 0
Owners of Shrewsbury Estate, Jamaica	50 0 0
Hampton Court Pln., Ltd.	25 0 0
Sunbury Estates, Barbados (2nd don.)	15 0 0
R. Bruce Archibald, Esq.	10 0 0
Harold Wright, Esq.	10 0 0
V. L. Oliver, Esq.	5 0 0
V. Verley, Esq.	5 0 0
Mrs. A. H. Wood	5 0 0
D. Mahabir, Esq.	1 0 10
F. W. Ulrich, Esq.	1 0 0
Gain on Exchange, Barbados	1 2 1
Correction to Fifteenth List—V. A. Gale, Esq., £1 0s 10d, should read £2 1s 8d	

**Annual General Meeting.**

Presiding at the annual meeting on May 27th. Mr. R. Rutherford referred to the past year as one of the most prosperous ever enjoyed by the West Indies. The West India Committee had successfully urged the release of most West Indian staples from Government control.

Continuing, he hoped that Imperial preference had come to stay, but it would none the less remain necessary to demonstrate its advantages by developing to the fullest possible extent those British industries which would enjoy the resulting advantages. To this end, improved steamer and cable communication between this country and the West Indies was imperative, and the Committee were working incessantly to bring about these improvements. He went on to say that the West India Committee were fully alive to the desirability of establishing closer trade relations between the West Indies and their younger brother, Canada. Mr. Rutherford then proceeded to deal with the various matters referred to in the Annual Report, and, in conclusion, moved the adoption of the report and accounts. The resolution having been seconded by Lieut.-Colonel Ivan B. Davson, O.B.E., and carried unanimously, Mr. J. Rippon, O.B.E., moved the re-election to the Executive Committee of the



following members, who retire by virtue of Article VI of the Royal Charter of Incorporation: A. Duckham, Esq., M. Garnett, Esq., W. Gillespie, Esq., T. Greenwood, Esq., C. Gurney, Esq., A. N. Lubbock, Esq., N. Malcolmson, Esq., Sir Owen Philipps, G.C.M.G., M.P., R. Rutherford, Esq., and H. A. Trotter, Esq. The resolution having been seconded by Mr. Carey-Elwes and carried unanimously, on the motion of Mr. G. M. Fraine, seconded by Mr. C. H. Barr Fryer, Mr. R. Montgomery Parker, of the Wales Estates, Demerara, was elected a member of the Executive.

In the course of an account of his tour to the West Indies, Mr. Aspinall said he had returned with the impression that the two crying needs of the West Indies were improved steamer and cable communication with this country. He had not noticed any pronounced wish for political federation with Canada; on the other hand, there was a real desire for closer trade relations with the Dominion.

## NOTES OF INTEREST.

"No call alligator long moult till you puss him."

It is reported that an important Cuban Central has been offered 14½c.-15c. per lb. for its 1920-21 crop, but has refused to accept.

MR. EVELYN S. PARKER has been elected Deputy-Chairman of the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company.

BRITISH Guiana, British Honduras and Trinidad will be represented at the Empire Timber Exhibition to be held in London this year.

MR. ROBERT MARTIN JONES and Mr. William Young Edghill have been admitted to partnership of the firm of Messrs. Jones and Swan, of Barbados, from which Mr. E. F. O. Swan retired on April 9th.

PURE cane sugar for preserving can now be obtained at the West Indian Produce Association, 14, Creechurch Lane, E.C., at 1s. 7½d. per lb. by customers, whether registered with the firm or not. Purchasers must give a guarantee that the sugar will be used for preserving, though they need not necessarily own fruit trees.

THE marriage of Mr. Maurice Holy-Hutchinson, M.C., and Miss Melita Keppel was solemnized at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, on June 7th. The bridegroom is the third son of the late Right Hon. Sir Walter Holy-Hutchinson, who was Governor of the Windward Islands from 1889 to 1893, and of Lady Holy-Hutchinson.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made by the directors of Home Grown Sugar, Ltd., for the cultivation of sugar beet for the new factory at Kelham. Farmers in Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and neighbouring counties will be asked to contract for the sale of their crops, which will be used in addition to the beet grown on the Kelham estate.

"THE Tale of a Roaming Catholic" is the title of a book by Archdeacon F. P. L. Joss, sometime Archdeacon of Demerara, and now Rector of St. Endellion, Cornwall. The Archdeacon spent forty years in British Guiana, and several chapters are devoted to his experiences in that Colony. The book will be obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 6s. net.

A CABLEGRAM from Kingston announces that the Jamaica Legislature, which, it will be recalled, recently threw out a Preference Tariff Bill because it did not give an adequate preference to the Mother Country, has

approved a preference of 40 per cent. on cotton piece goods from Great Britain, and 50 per cent. on such goods if made from cotton grown within the Empire.

AMONGST those present at the memorial service for the late Mr. C. Sandbach Parker on May 18th, to which reference has already been made, were Captain Fairbank, M.C., representing Mr. Ben H. Morgan, Chairman of the British Empire Producers' Organisation, and Mr. Harold T. Pooley, General Secretary of the organisation, with which Mr. Parker had been so prominently connected.

MANY years ago it was a generally accepted dogma that grocers adulterated the brown sugars of those days with sand, although no authentic cases were instanced. In this connection it is interesting to be able to state that two samples of sugar containing 10 per cent. of sand have come to the notice of a local food authority. The sugar was of very fine grain and of about 18 Dutch Standard in colour, and was evidently manufactured to suit distribution with fine quality sand, which probably existed near the factory.

It is announced that the *Moeve* has been surrendered to the Naval authorities. Considerable reference to the activities of this notorious raider will be found in a new book to be published entitled "The Royal Mail War Book," which is fully illustrated, and is to be published by Messrs. Heinemann. It will be primarily a record of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's part in the war, but will be concerned more with instances which claimed public attention during the period of hostilities than merely "domestic" matters.

BRITISH Guiana is to lose, temporarily at any rate, the services of her Attorney-General. Dr. J. J. Nunan, K.C., who so ably led the Colonisation Deputation from that Colony, has been seconded from the Colonial Service with the approval of the Secretary of State and of the Governor of British Guiana, on his appointment as Deputy British Delegate under the Reparations Commission to the Austrian and Hungarian Committees. Arrangements are being made for revision of the Statute Law of British Guiana to be still carried on under Dr. Nunan's supervision.

ON the occasion of the King's birthday, the honour of knighthood has been conferred on Mr. Colin Rees Davies, Chief Justice of Bermuda, and Mr. Percival Stevens, Inspector of Mines in Trinidad, has been appointed a Companion of the Imperial Service Order. Sir Colin Rees Davies was called to the Bar in the Bahamas in 1901, and was Registrar-General of British Honduras from 1905 to 1913, when he became Solicitor-General of British Guiana. He has been Chief Justice of Bermuda since 1917. Mr. Stevens has been in the Trinidad Civil Service since 1874, when he was appointed Assistant Engineer of Government Railways.

THE maps of St. Kitts and Nevis, prepared by the Geographical Section of the War Office for the Government of St. Kitts-Nevis, are now ready, and can be obtained from the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. Both maps present a wonderfully clear and up-to-date survey. That of St. Kitts, which is the result of surveys made by Major the Hon. J. A. Burdon, C.M.G., F.R.G.S., is 23 in. by 18 in., and has a scale of 1 in. to a mile. On it is included a plan of Basseterre on the scale of 4 in. to the mile. The other, representing St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla, which is due to Mr. Carter Roy in addition to Major Burdon, is 19 in. long by 14 in. wide, and has a scale of 1 in. to 2 miles. The price asked is the extremely moderate one of 2s. 6d. nett for each sheet, or they will be sent post free on receipt of 3s. 6d. for one map or 6s. for both.



## THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

By ALGERNON ASPINALL.

When I first visited the British West Indies those Colonies were in the depths of depression. Their staple industry was on the verge of ruin, British cane-sugar being naturally quite unable to compete in the markets of the world with heavily-subsidised beet from the Continent of Europe; and so great was the lack of confidence that it was impossible to secure capital for development. I was now to return to the Caribbean at a time when the islands were basking in the sun of such prosperity as they had not known since the palmy days when sugar was King, and it may be imagined how eagerly I looked forward to the fresh tour through the islands which I was to make on behalf of the West India Committee.

My late respected chief, Sir Nevile Lubbock, always used to say that the best time to leave for the West Indies was as soon as one had swallowed his Christmas pudding. Unfortunately, I was unable to follow this sound advice, for owing to a variety of circumstances—prominent among them being the winding up of the work of the West Indian Contingent Committee—it was nearly the end of January before I was able to hoist the Blue Peter, figuratively speaking. In the absence too of any facilities for reaching Barbados direct, I was compelled to ignore the counsels of the old sea-captain to "sail south till the butter melts, and then due west," and to proceed to Barbados by way of New York.

It is always either raining or foggy, or else freezing hard when one leaves for the West Indies. At least that is what one is led to believe from the many West Indian travel-books which have been published in the last hundred years. Be that as it may, it was certainly pouring in torrents when I left Waterloo Station on the evening of January 28th to join the good ship *Adriatic*, of the White Star Line, which sailed from Southampton on the following morning. The transatlantic voyage has been so often described by more capable pens than mine that I do not propose to dwell here on its amenities or its discomforts, but will dismiss in a few lines a journey which in the pre-war days used under most favourable conditions to be accomplished in less than five days, but now takes anything from eleven to fourteen, so greatly has the clock of ocean travel been put back.

I was fortunate in finding among my fellow-travellers Mr. Gilbert Fox, who was proceeding to America on behalf of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply,

to endeavour to bring down the price of sugar; Captain Montgomery Parker, who was on his way to British Guiana to inspect his newly-acquired estates, Hope and Houston; Mr. E. E. Moreau, of the Trinidad Central Oilfields; and Mr. H. W. Cowan, of the Canada Steamship Lines, Limited, which then controlled the Quebec Steamship Company, so that even at this early stage of my journey I had every opportunity of discussing West Indian affairs. Commissioner David C. Lamb, of the Salvation Army, was also a passenger, and I enjoyed several talks with him about the labour problem in British Guiana, which was a subject of discussion between him and the West India Committee some years ago. Barbadians are notoriously ubiquitous—was there not even one in the *Formidable* with Rodney on the occasion of the Battle of the Saintes?—and though I failed to find a direct representative of "Little England" on board the *Adriatic*, tradition was kept alive by the presence of Mrs. Robin-



THE SNOWCLAD FIDUCLES OF THE S.S. "ADRIATIC"

son, the wife of that well-known Barbados estates proprietor, Mr. E. A. Robinson, who was on her way to join her husband in Trinidad. I had many interesting conversations with Mr. Fox, who realised that he was up against a tough proposition; but even the fall in the exchange to \$3.19 which was recorded by a marconigram during the voyage failed to damp his enthusiasm, or to bring about any relaxation of his activities as Master of the Ceremonies in the smoking-room. In England, the weekly sugar ration had been reduced to 6oz. per head, and it was a revelation to find that on board one could get as much sugar as one wanted, the sugar-basins positively groaning with lump and granulated. As we even then concluded, the Americans are determined to have sugar and are willing to pay any price to get it, and it can only be concluded that liners are victualled in respect of this prime necessity in American ports. Otherwise, they should certainly come under the rationing scheme.

On our voyage towards the setting sun we encountered head-winds all the way to the Ambrose lightship, which interfered with our progress; but it was diffi-



cult to realise that the daily "run" of our floating hotel of 24,000 tons burthen was often actually less than those accomplished by the old R.M.S. *Pura* of 4,000 tons, twenty years ago, as my records show. Yes; the clock has indeed gone back.

I stated above that I intended to dismiss the voyage in a few lines; but, at the risk of being discursive, I must refer to the vagaries of the weather on the Atlantic in their bearing on the suggestion often made that West Indians can dispense with direct steamer communication with the mother-country, as they can travel to and fro in perfect comfort via the United States and Canada. The changes of temperature were not only very marked, but also astonishing in their suddenness. In the morning one might be enjoying a summer climate and in the evening be chilled to the marrow by Arctic winds and vice versa. One day we would awake to find the rigging and upper works a mass of frost and snow, and the decks like a sheet of ice, while within a few hours the atmosphere would be close and sultry. Apart altogether from the unpleasantness of transhipment at a northern port in winter, it would terribly tax the constitutions of all but the most hardy West Indians to have to submit to the rigours of the North Atlantic passage.

When we eventually reached New York we found the city of skyscrapers paralysed by the after-effects of a blizzard—the worst ever experienced on the Atlantic seaboard, it was said—which had swept over it a few days before. Traffic was practically at a standstill, and the street cars caught in the open when the storm was at its height were frozen solidly in and quite unable to move. The streets were a foot deep in ice, and thereby hangs a tale. As my readers may perhaps have heard, America is now dry—absolutely, painfully, horribly dry, at any rate as far as the proletariat is concerned. Consequently an appeal by the Mayor for ten thousand men to clear the streets met with little response. It was commonly said that the reason for this was that they simply would not face the bitter weather unless they were provided with something to keep out the cold. If a good ration of wholesome West Indian rum had been issued, the hold-up in New York due to the blizzard would undoubtedly have been of shorter duration.

But I must hasten on to the West Indies, as I did in actual practice. The vessel which was to take me down the islands was the *Guiana*, of the Quebec Steamship Company, since passed into the capable hands of Messrs. Furness, Withy and Company, whose steamers *Fort Hamilton* and *Fort Victoria* are now so well known on the New York-Bermuda route. I must confess to having experienced some misgivings when I first saw the *Guiana*. Compared with the *Adriatic*, she looked small and insignificant, and a foot or more of snow did not help to improve her appearance. These misgivings were soon, however, dispelled when we put out to sea, and the *Guiana* proved one of the most comfortable ships in which I have ever had the fortune to travel, thanks to the personality of her skipper, Captain Carmichael, who could not do enough for the comfort of his passengers, while her "table" was excellent, a circumstance largely due, I believe, to her enjoying the services of "Ferguson," chief steward, whose gastronomic sense is of the highest order.

(To be continued.)

## THE CABLE QUESTION.

### Thousands Lost by Delays.

The West Indian telegraphic situation continues to engage the close attention of the West India Committee, which loses no opportunity of impressing upon the authorities the urgent necessity of laying a cable from Bermuda to Barbados, Trinidad and British Guiana, and developing intercolonial communication by wireless where possible. The imperative need for prompt action is becoming daily more apparent, and it is not too much to say that thousands of pounds have been lost through the break-down of the existing system—if it can be called a system any longer.

Thus a firm of West India merchants submitted documentary evidence recently to the West India Committee to show that the hold-up of a cablegram regarding the sale of produce which was despatched from Demerara on April 10th and had not reached London on May 17th resulted in a loss of £2,400. Another firm similarly reports the loss of £5,000 through a cablegram regarding the price of diamonds, which was sent to Georgetown on May 6th, only reaching its destination on May 25th—*nineteen days overdue*. These instances of loss could be multiplied.

Meanwhile the *Viking*, which has been chartered by the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, is at work repairing broken cables, while the repairing steamer, *Henry Holmes*, is herself being repaired at Trinidad, where she has been in the shipwrights' hands for upwards of fourteen months. It is said that she will be ready for sea by July, but this forecast is regarded as optimistic.

So far as Barbados is concerned, the position will be relieved next winter by the laying of the cables by the Western Telegraph Company from Para to Barbados, and by the Western Union Company from Miami to Barbados, landing rights for which were recently granted by that Colony. These cables will normally be used only for direct traffic between the United States and South America, but arrangements have been made whereby the Companies undertake to accept messages for transmission between Barbados and the United Kingdom and Barbados and America, and vice versa, when the other cables are interrupted.

At the annual meeting of the West India Panama Telegraph Company on May 26th, Sir Alexander Freeman King, K.C.B., who presided, attributed the check in the growing prosperity of the Company to the long detention of the *Henry Holmes* at the Trinidad Government Dock, where she had been exactly double the time she took to build, while more than her original cost had already been spent in repairs. He added that the sentiment of patriotism ought, perhaps, not to have entered into the question where the ship should be docked, and if the directors had anticipated that by entrusting the work of repairs to the Trinidad Dock they would have lost the services of their steamer for more than six months they would have thrown patriotism to the winds and sent the ship elsewhere. The services of the cable-ships of other companies which they were able to hire were not altogether successful,

especially in the later months. In the earlier months they managed to hire the French Company's ship, and she did good work until she was, unfortunately, wanted by her owners to repair their own cables. In September they began negotiating for the services of a ship of an American company, but they did not get her till the end of December. In a period of eight weeks she restored two cables and repaired one break in another, and was then recalled at short notice. Bills up to the present for the hire of steamers have amounted to about £40,000.

"I have, however, some good news," Sir Alexander continued. "The cable-ship which we recently chartered is doing well, and, unless anything unforeseen occurs, we ought before the end of next month to have our important cables in order again. We shall not then, I think, have any serious difficulty in recovering most, if not all, of the traffic we have lost through interruptions, and, in view of the increases in the early part of last year, there is reason to hope that the business will be good."

## THE OTTAWA CONFERENCE.

The West Indian-Canadian Conference was opened on June 1st at Ottawa, where the delegates were welcomed by the Duke of Devonshire, Governor-General of Canada, and Sir Robert Borden, the Premier.

Colonel Amery, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Colonies, representing the British Government, said:—"I hope the outcome of this Conference will mark an advance in the great movement of Imperial development and Imperial preference, of which Canada has consistently been a pioneer."

At a joint session of the unofficial members of the Legislature, members of the Executive Council, representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and of the Planters' Association, which was held in British Guiana, the majority of those present voted in favour of increasing the preference to Canada to 50 per cent. The feeling of the meeting was, however, against giving any subsidy for steamer communication. The House of Assembly of Barbados has also expressed itself against contributing towards a subsidy for the Canadian-West Indian steamer service, but has authorised its representative to offer an increased tariff preference to Canada, the Dominion, in return for such preference, to increase the tariff preference on sugar and to leave liquid sweets free of duty, as at present, and to abolish the Dutch standard.

Dissatisfaction has been expressed in the West Indies at the decision that the commercial representatives are to attend the Conference in an advisory capacity only, and the following resolutions on the subject were passed at a meeting of the Executive of the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce held at Port of Spain, Trinidad, on May 5th:—

(a) That the Executive Committee of this Association regrets that the invitation of the Canadian Government to the West Indian Colonies to attend a Conference at Ottawa does not make provision for the attendance of commercial representatives with equal speaking and voting powers to the official representatives in accordance with the resolution passed at the recent Conference at Barbados.

(b) It further regrets that the date fixed for the Con-

ference does not afford time for an exchange of views between the West Indian Colonies regarding the several matters to be discussed at the conference. It is considered that such exchange of views, as tending to promote a common understanding and unity of action, is a preliminary essential if full benefits are to be obtained from the Conference.

The names of the official delegates to the Ottawa Conference on trade between Canada and the West Indies are as under:—

Great Britain.—Lieut.-Col. J. S. Amery, M.P., Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Captain E. J. Edwards, British Trade Commission to Canada.

Canada.—Sir George Foster, G.C.M.G., Sir Henry Drayton (Minister of Finance), and Hon. Martin Burrell (Minister of Customs).

Bermuda.—Hon. W. E. Jackson and Hon. S. S. Spurling (adviser).

Bahamas.—Hon. Harcourt Malcolm, K.C.

Jamaica.—Hon. E. St. J. Branch with Hon. Robert Johnstone, C.M.G., and Hon. J. H. Phillips (adviser).

British Guiana.—Captain J. M. Reid.

Trinidad.—Hon. H. B. Walcott, C.M.G.

Grenada.—Hon. H. B. Ferguson.

Barbados.—Hon. W. L. C. Phillips, O.B.E., and Mr. H. B. G. Austin (adviser).

Leeward Islands.—Hon. Donald Macdonald.

The Conference, to which Mr. C. H. Payne is Secretary, met in the Victoria Museum at Ottawa, and the meetings were held *in camera*.

## NO OIL MONOPOLY.

Sir Auckland Geddes, in a speech at a dinner given in his honour by the Pilgrims Club on May 26th, denied that Great Britain had acquired an oil monopoly and proposed to "hold the world to ransom." He declared that 70 per cent. of the world's oil output comes from American soil, and all of this was subject to Government control in an emergency.

Sixteen per cent. of the world's oil came from Mexico, and three-quarters of this was controlled by American capital. In addition, Americans had either secured production or prospected in ten other countries. The British Empire's production was about 2½ per cent. of the present world supply, while the supply of Persian oil controlled by British capital was about 2 per cent.

In consequence of the limited quantity of sugar which it has been found possible to allot this year for domestic fruit preserving out of stocks imported by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, large growers of fruit may not be able to obtain an adequate supply of sugar for preserving, and wastage of fruit grown by private persons may in some cases arise. It has therefore been decided to relax the restrictions which at present exist on the sale of privately imported sugar, and to allow such sugar to be sold, either wholesale or retail, for the express purpose of the domestic preserving of fruit. Any person purchasing supplies of privately imported sugar must give a written undertaking that it will be used solely for domestic jam-making.

It must be clearly understood that sales of privately imported sugar merely for the purpose of supplementing the ordinary domestic ration are still not permitted.



## TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

### Trinidad's Offer of £50,000.

Following the unanimous adoption of resolutions by the Trinidad Agricultural Society and Chamber of Commerce in favour of the report of the Tropical Agricultural College Committee which was published in the CIRCULAR of March 4th last, the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago on April 9th agreed to the following resolution, which was moved by the Hon. A. H. Cipriani, O.B.E., and seconded by the Hon. W. G. Kay:—

"That the Council approves the recommendation of the Committee appointed to consider the desirability of establishing a Tropical Agricultural College in the West Indies, that such a College be established in Trinidad, and recommends that the initial sum of £50,000 required for its establishment be raised by a tax on agricultural produce during the years 1921 and 1922."

The tax advocated by the Agricultural Society is 4d. per 100 lb. on cacao, 2s. 3d. per 1,000 lb. on sugar, 1s. per 1,000 on coconuts and 3s. per 1,000 lb. on copra.

It now remains to secure the necessary contributions for the maintenance of the proposed college, which it will be remembered it was proposed should be raised by annual contributions from the participating colonies on the basis of the equivalent of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of their average revenues during the three preceding years, annual contributions from the Imperial Government, on the basis of £1 for every £1 contributed by the colonies—the liability, however, not to exceed £15,000 in one year and voluntary contributions from industrial organisations and individuals interested in tropical industries.

## BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

The amount of sugar entering the United Kingdom in the month of April was 174,460 tons, of which 4,029 tons came from Germany, 158,182 tons from Cuba, 16,582 tons from Mauritius, and 22,140 tons from the British West Indies. This brings the total for the year to April 30th to 500,248 tons as against 456,652 tons for the corresponding period of last year. The quantity liberated from the home refineries was 54,036 tons, bringing the total for the four months to 220,400 tons, as against 263,234 tons for the first four months of 1919. These figures show us that storing up of sugar is going on.

The stocks on hand on April 30th consisted of 62,100 tons of foreign refined, 32,300 tons of home refined, and 259,300 tons of unrefined, in all 353,700 tons, as against 329,856 tons at the same period last year.

The imports of rum continue to show a decrease. Only 383,024 proof gallons being imported, as against 2,137,381 for April last year; 215,150 gallons were liberated for consumption during the month, making the total for the four months 1,709,144 gallons.

The stocks continue very heavy, no less than 12,153,000 gallons being on hand on April 30th, as against 8,245,000 gallons last year.

The imports of cacao for the month amounted to 242,854 cwts., of which 76,500 cwts. were entered for home consumption. The sources of supply were—British West Africa, 166,168 cwts.; the British West

Indian Islands, 31,703 cwts.; Ecuador, 26,697 cwts.; Ceylon, 6,314 cwts., and other countries, 11,971 cwts. The total entry for the four months was 901,913 cwts., of which 385,311 cwts. were for home consumption.

The exports of cacao were 63,320 cwts. for the year, making 275,260 cwts. for the four months. This is a great advance on the 1919 figure, when the exports for the four months only amounted to 9,730 cwts.

The stocks on hand on April 30th amounted to 1,069,000 cwts., as compared with 975,000 cwts. at the same date last year.

The imports of rubber for the month were 21,247,200lb., making 80,711,400lb. for the four months. Of the latter the British possessions accounted for 65,235,300lb., the bulk of which came from the Straits Settlements, 19,373,200lb., the Federated Malay States, 24,481,300lb., and Ceylon, 16,396,400 lb.

The exports amounted to 15,607,900lb. for the month, and 65,910,800lb. for the four months. The latter figure is a great increase on last year's, when the exports amounted to 33,095,800lb. As usual the United States has been the principal country to which rubber was sent from the United Kingdom, that country receiving no less than 40,173,600lb. in the four months, France coming next with 11,715,300lb.

## WEST INDIAN STILLS.

There are at the present moment three descriptions of stills in use in the British West Indies, two of which are of the "pot-still" class and the third of the Coffey continuous type. The two descriptions of pot-stills are those in use in Jamaica and British Guiana respectively, the continuous type being confined entirely to the latter colony and Trinidad.

The Jamaica type of pot-still differs from that in use in British Guiana in consisting of two "retorts" in addition to the vessel in which the actual separation from the wash takes place, whereas the British Guiana type has one retort and a rectifier. In the Jamaican type the strengthening is effected by the redistillation in the retorts of the weaker spirit from the preceding stills by the vapours from the still itself in the case of the contents of the first retort, and by the vapour from the first retort in the case of the contents of the second retort. When the distillation is started, the still proper contains the wash, in a comparatively weak alcoholic condition, the first retort, the weak spirit left in the second retort at the end of the previous distillation, and the second retort, the "low wines" or weak spirit actually condensed and obtained after the strong spirit or "high wines." There is thus a successive strengthening of the alcoholic vapour until it is strong enough to be condensed.

In the British Guiana still a rectifier is substituted for the second retort. This is a vessel consisting of a vertical nest of tubes surrounded by water which flows around them to a greater or less extent. It is placed over the retort, and as the mixture of alcohol and water vapour passes up the tubes, the water vapour is separated from the alcohol vapour by reason of the condensing temperature of the former being higher than that of the latter. Then, as the

mixed vapour ascends the tubes, there is a constant condensation back into the retort of weaker and weaker spirit, while the vapour is strengthened by the time it reaches the top of the rectifier to a degree desired for condensation in the condensing worm. As with the Jamaica type, the "low wines" are returned to the retort for the next distillation. The difference in working between the Jamaican and the British Guiana stills, therefore, is that with the former the rectification of the spirit is effected by straightforward redistillation, and in the latter by a constant returning of weak spirit to the retort to be redistilled. The Jamaica process lends itself to the turning out of rum of the weaker shipping strength characteristic of it, and to the retention of the flavour which is developed as the result of the special condition associated with the fermentation. The conditions of British Guiana fermentations, on the other hand, necessitate a higher degree of rectification: hence the substitution of the rectifier for the second retort of the Jamaican stills.

In the continuous stills there is no intermission of the process as with pot stills. The wash passes in a continuous stream into the still, and the spirit emerges in a continuous stream out of it. There are very few stills of this description in use in the West Indies, and these are of the Coffey type, as already mentioned. The Coffey still consists of two columns, the analyser and the rectifier. The analyser consists of a column of sections separated by perforated trays. The hot wash from the rectifiers, when it has become heated in and effecting the rectification and condensation, is introduced at the top and finds its way to the bottom of the column. Steam is applied at the base of the column, separation of the spirit being effected by the vapour passing up the analyser as the wash passes down. The low wines from the bottom of the rectifier column is also pumped into the top section of the analyser, where it mixes with the wash and is redistilled.

From the top of the analyser the alcohol-charged vapour is conveyed to the bottom of the rectifier, which consists of a series of sections similar to those of the analyser. Here it comes in contact with the pipes containing wash on its way to the analyser, and, as with the British Guiana rectifier, the water vapours. Condensation takes place in the upper part of the rectifier through the agency of the wash entering the still, the condensing sections being provided with non-perforated plates, and the strong spirit is drawn off from the lower one of these.

"British Guiana Commercial Handbook," compiled by Captain J. M. Reid, Controller of Customs, Demerara. ("The Argosy" Company, Ltd.; price 1s. 6d.; obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms.)—A wealth of information regarding the "Magnificent Province" is contained in this pamphlet of eighty-seven pages. It contains a mass of statistics regarding the trade and industries of the Colony which should prove invaluable to those capitalists and others who are now being attracted by the potentialities of our South American colony. Captain Reid has done his work well, and the only adverse criticism which we have to make is that it seems a pity that the numbers are omitted from the various references to other pages throughout the book. The injunction "For further information regarding this (the Canadian Trade Agreement, see page " is distracting.

## GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

### V.—Sir Thomas Lynch.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

(Continued from p. 139 and concluded.)

In November Lynch complained that the French pirates of Hispaniola damaged the Jamaica trade, and was told to make reprisals. In February, 1682-3, the King confirmed the laws of Jamaica for seven years, with the exception of some requiring amendment.

Lynch at times suffered much from the gout. In May, 1683, he wrote to the Lord President of the Council: "I have heard from Sir Charles Lyttelton of your lordship's infinite kindness in favouring our petition to the King and passing our laws." "I am not likely to get any salary, but am indebted to hire of war vessels, building of ships, and repairing of King's houses."

In a conciliatory speech to the Assembly on concvening them, on the 21st of September, 1682, he told them that "God hath been pleased to give me a moderate estate, and the King a competent salary, that I am sure to be paid here or in England, and I neither need nor desire anything from you." This speech, together with that with which he prorogued the Assembly, is printed in "A Narrative of Affairs Lately Received from His Majesty's Island of Jamaica . . . London, 1683"—a rare book, a copy of which is in the West India Library in the Institute of Jamaica.

In June, 1683, he wrote home urging that a dormant commission should be given to Colonel Molesworth—"an intelligent, loyal and virtuous gentleman, who will serve the King and country." He was a free trader. In his speech to the Assembly he said: "It's against the reason and nature of commerce to put a perpetual or standing price on goods we need, for trade ought to have all liberty and encouragement. We see, therefore, in those places where it is freest, there it is greatest."

At that time the King's revenue consisted of quit-rents, fines, forfeitures, escheats, licences for taverns, and an impost on strong liquors. Sir Henry Morgan endeavoured to get the value of pieces of eight arbitrarily settled at 6s., but Lynch defeated him.

In September, in addressing the Assembly, he said: "Who has ever seen Port Royal so full of ships? or known the planters to have sold their goods so dear? And are you not all my witnesses that within these fifteen months every man's freehold throughout this great island is almost risen in value from 50 to 200 per cent.?"

In October the Governor charged Morgan with "disorder, passions and miscarriages at Port Royal," and with countenancing disloyalty. He was dismissed from all commands; "that little, drunken, silly party of Sir Henry Morgan's" was rendered harmless, and a dormant commission as Lieutenant-Governor was given to Colonel Hender Molesworth.

In February, 1684, the Lords of Trade and Plantations ordered that the Jamaica law against pirates



should be sent to all the other plantations in America to be passed there.

In April Lynch complained bitterly to the Governor of Carthagena of the acts of the Spanish Governors and the "Nueva Espana Flota."

In June Morgan appealed to the Lords of Trade and Plantations against Lynch, but the Lords upheld their previous decision. With him were Charles Morgan, Robert Byndlosse, and Roger Elletson.

Charles Morgan, brother of Sir Henry, was a kinsman of Lynch's first wife, and she had done him some service. Morgan had insulted Lynch by putting on new and light colours at the news of her death when everyone else wore black.

Lynch married, on the 24th of June, 1684, Mary Temple, daughter of Thomas Temple, of Frankton, in Warwickshire, and sister of Anne, "La Belle Temple," of Grammont fame, the second wife of his friend Sir Charles Lyttolton. A third sister, Susanna, was wife of Samuel Bernard, Speaker of the Assembly, and subsequently fourth wife of Sir Nicholas Lawes.

Lynch died but two months after his marriage, on the 21th of August, 1684. His death was hastened by the mismanagement of the trial of a privateer, as these men had been the source of much trouble to him during life. He was buried in the Cathedral the following day. His monumental slab was, in the nineteenth century, removed to the churchyard. It bears the following inscription, without any date:—

"Here lyes Sir Thomas Lynch in Peace, at Ease and Blest;

"Would ye know more, the World will speak ye Rest."

On it are his arms—three lynxes rampant, and a lynx passant as crest.

A monument to his memory is in Whitechurch, near Denbigh. With a disregard for exactness not infrequently seen in epitaphs, it records that he was "a man remarkable for his valour and loyalty, having been three times Governor and Captain-General of Jamaica, in which government he died, leaving his daughter his vast fortune, honourably gotten, well bestowed, and prudently managed." As we have seen, he presided over the destinies of Jamaica—once as President of the Council, once as Lieutenant-Governor, and only once as Governor.

Lynch's best epitaph may be found in the fact that the King told Molesworth to "follow Sir Thomas Lynch's methods and example."

His widow, in spite of the fact that he left properties in Jamaica, and had money owing to him by the Treasury, had to borrow £500 with which to bury him.

Lynch was probably a larger landowner in Jamaica than any Governor before or since. During his residence he acquired, from time to time, some 30,000 acres of land. He disposed of, from time to time, some 8,000, so that he left at his death some 22,000 acres. He received from the Crown four parcels of land at Port Royal, 1,600 acres at Pera, near Port Morant, and 1,020 acres in Stileman's Valley, in St. James, and he became part-owner of Goat Island and the Salt Ponds ground in St. David, now known as Yallahs Ponds, of mal-

odorous fame. He acquired by purchase 2,800 acres in Vere, 5,000 acres at Lynch Vale, in St. Elizabeth, 1,300 acres near Colbeck, in St. Catherine, 2,300 acres in the Salt Ponds, in St. Catherine, 2,000 more in St. Catherine, 1,600 acres in St. Mary, besides smaller amounts in Clarendon, Vere, St. Thomas-in-the-Vale, St. Andrew, St. David, and St. George, and, in addition, numerous houses in St. Jago de la Vega, and parcels of land at Port Maria. Amongst the lands which he held, the principal were 1,020 in St. James, 1,000 in Clarendon, and 4,600 in St. Thomas.

Philadelphia, daughter of his first wife, who was twenty one years of age in 1698, was heiress of her father. She married, firstly, Sir Thomas Cotton, Bart. and, secondly, Captain Thomas King. She sold some of her Jamaica plantations to Thomas Beckford, a kinsman of her father.

She married, as his second wife, Colonel Hender Molesworth, who had assumed the government of the colony on the death of his friend Lynch.

The parish of Vere, in Jamaica, is named after the first Lady Lynch, having been created a parish on the 9th of May, 1672. Peter Beckford, later Lieutenant-Governor of Jamaica, is referred to as a nephew of Sir Thomas Lynch, but there is no evidence as to the manner of the relationship.

## THE ENTOMOLOGICAL CONFERENCE.

The British West Indies are represented by Mr. H. A. Ballou, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, Mr. G. E. Bodkin, of British Guiana, and Mr. F. W. Urich at the Imperial Entomological Conference, the sittings of which were opened by Lord Harcourt at the Rooms of the Linnean Society at Burlington House on June 1st. On June 2nd Mr. Ballou read a paper on Insect Pests, while on the 9th Mr. Urich dealt with the respective merits of artificial and natural methods of control of such hindrances to cultivation. But the real West Indian Day was June 7th, when Mr. Ballou discoursed on the resistance of plants to insect attacks, Mr. Bodkin on insect pests of British Guiana, Mr. Urich on those of Trinidad, with special reference of course to our old enemy the frog-hopper, Mr. Ballou completing the séance with a review of the conditions of agriculture in the West Indies. Dr. Guy K. Marshall, Director of the Imperial Bureau of Entomology, undertook the arrangements for the Conference, which was also attended by Mr. F. A. Stockdale—fresh from his visit to the West Indies—and Professor Maxwell Lefroy among other distinguished scientists.

The Imperial Bureau of Entomology was originally inaugurated in 1909 under the name of the Entomological Research Committee (Tropical Africa) by the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, for the purpose of stimulating the study of the numerous insect pests that are retarding the development of tropical Africa, and especially the blood-sucking and disease-carrying insects. In 1913 its activities were extended to cover the whole Empire, its principal functions being to collect and disseminate all the published information relating to injurious insects; to identify insects sent in by entomological, medical and veterinary officers from all parts of the Empire; and to distribute entomological specimens.

## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

### By "Agronomist."

The dairy products, milk and cheese, are more economical as food than meat, poultry, fish or eggs. Milk is a complete food in itself, containing protein, fat, sugar, vitamins and mineral matter. Cheese is an excellent substitute for meat or eggs.

New views of heredity are emphatic on one point, namely, that in breeding animals for any special purpose, attention should be paid to the character of the progeny of an individual rather than to that of its ancestors, if its real value is to be determined.

It is well known that in the breeding of cattle for the production of milk and butter the results depend on both the sire and the dam. But students of the Mendelian theory, experimenting with poultry, have discovered in the course of their researches that the breeding of a good laying strain of hens depends entirely on the male.

The castor-oil plant has been suggested as a catch crop on rubber estates. The *Agricultural Bulletin* of the F.M.S. is of the opinion that it would scarcely prove profitable, if the price of castor seed falls to former levels. In India the cultivation is carried on by the peasantry, and not on a large scale on estates.

An experiment with regard to weed control and the use of fertilisers in Hawan is noticed in the *Agricultural News*, from an article in *Facts About Sugar*. The experiment was designed to show the effect of weeds on the cane and the value of fertilisers, both in the presence and in the absence of weeds. The results show that full advantage cannot be taken of heavy fertilising unless weed control is also carried out.

Rats seem to be increasing in numbers and activity in the West Indies. The *Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society* speaks of a loss of as much as one-third of some crops. Poisons may be dangerous; traps are only moderately effective. The journal recommends a trial of bird-lime, for which the sap of bread fruit, jack fruit and fig tree are used. It should be placed all over spots frequented by rats. The idea is that it will stick to the feet and tail. The rats will roll to clean themselves. The more they try to get rid of it the worse coated they become, until at last they are unable to move, and are killed.

Nearly a year ago attention was directed in THE CIRCULAR to a remedy against rats used with great effect in France, especially in the trenches during the war. This is a plant known as the red squill. The Director of Agriculture in Jamaica is obtaining a supply of squill. He proposes to prepare, at the Government Laboratory, a liquid extract of squill. This will be issued to the public as a rat poison, not injurious to other animals. If favourably reported on, the supply will be increased. Seed is to be imported, and experimental cultivation started in the Port Royal Mountains.

Sugar planters will be interested in the Report of the Agricultural Department, Antigua, for 1918-19, as it deals with the agriculture of the sugar cane. A few points may be indicated here. The main factor governing returns is water supply. An annual rainfall of 50 to 55 inches is sufficient in fertile soil. This quantity is very seldom obtained in Antigua, and it is necessary to conserve in the soil all that falls. To prevent its loss by evaporation, three methods are recommended—the for-

mation of dust mulches, liberal use of pen manure, and deep ploughing on heavy lands.

Where labour is scarce, implements drawn by mule or horse are especially valuable for forming the dust mulch. In places where it is not feasible to use mule-drawn implements, hand cultivators may be substituted. If the amount of pen manure obtainable is insufficient, efforts should be made to increase it artificially. This can be done by throwing "bush" into the pen, or by forming separate deposits of bush with a little pen manure added. In deep ploughing care should be taken that the fertile top soil is not buried and the lifeless subsoil brought to the surface.

Experiments have been made in Antigua in the improvement of cane lands by means of green dressing crops. The best crop for this purpose is stated to be the Barbuda bean. This is one of the forms of the species *Phaseolus lunatus*. Other forms of this species are known by the names Sugar Bean and Lima Bean. It quickly makes a mantle over the ground, and prevents weeds from growing. When its roots are well developed drought has not much effect on it. Other points in its favour are that insects are not liable to attack it, and it gives a larger crop of green dressing than many other plants that have been tried. Being a leguminous plant, it adds nitrogen to the soil, as well as humus.

The story was told in the *Times* a few days ago, by a traveller in Jamaica, of his journey across the John Crow range of mountains, which he claims had never been crossed before. In this he is mistaken, for these mountains were crossed about the year 1890 by Inspector H. T. Thomas, of the Constabulary, shortly after Sir Henry Blake had become Governor. At the suggestion of Inspector Thomas, a notice was published in the *Gazette*, changing the name of John Crow to Blake Mountains. But it is difficult to change local names of long standing, and the mountains are still called by their old name.

It would seem strange if in a small island like Jamaica, not 150 miles long and only 40 or 50 miles in breadth, there were some districts that had never been crossed by any human being. There is another large district, the "Cockpit Country," which is very rarely crossed except by one path. Its sole inhabitants now are a few Maroons. The limestone here, as in John Crow Mountains, has been carved by rain water into the most fantastic surfaces; unclimbable cliffs will bar the way in one direction and precipices in another. There is no surface water, and the rocks have sharp edges which cut boots to pieces. Even if crops could be grown, the produce could not be marketed. It is practically a desert.

A "climbing bamboo" (*Chusquea*) grows in the mountains of Jamaica, Haiti and Porto Rico. Anyone who has been in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica must have seen this graceful little bamboo climbing over bushes and trees and hanging in feathery masses of great beauty. It flowers only at long intervals, and then, after flowering and setting seed, the plants all over the mountains die, and give place to the seedlings, which spring up in great profusion. The strange point about the flowering is that it appears to be quite independent of climatic conditions. Sir D. Morris sent living plants from Jamaica to Kew Gardens in 1882, and these plants growing in Kew hot-houses flowered at the same time as the wild plants on the mountains of Jamaica. This period of flowering was from the autumn of 1884 to the beginning of 1886. The next flowering season was just thirty-three years later, chronicled in the *American Journal of Botany* for last March.



## SEEDLING CANES IN INDIA.

A preliminary Note now published regarding the behaviour in North India of the first batch of sugar-cane seedlings distributed from the sugar-cane breeding station at Coimbatore says that the sugar industry in India is at present in a bad state. Though India can boast of nearly half the world's acreage under cane, her output is only a fourth. The yield per acre in India contrasted with that obtained in the other cane countries is all the more to India's disadvantage when it is remembered that, whereas in the other countries the figures represent the quantity of refined sugar, the Indian figures are those for *gur* or *jaggery*, a more impure product. It is encouraging, however, to know, says the Report, that Java, which in the year 1860 was able to produce only about as much sugar per acre as India at the present day, has since been able to force up production in such a manner that in the year 1918 that country ranked second only to Hawaii in the matter of production per acre. Insuperable difficulties of climate may, however, prevent Indian production rising to the level of other tropical countries.

It is further evident that to improve the Indian industry attention will have to be concentrated on North India, chiefly the United Provinces, because (1) that Province contains nearly half of India's acreage under cane, and (2) it is a vital industry in that province, and sugar-cane is the chief rent paying crop, a crop "which could not easily find an equivalent in any other crop grown there." The Punjab and Bengal would come next with their one-third to half-million acres under cane.

The purely botanical work—viz., that of breeding a better cane for North India—was entrusted to a breeding-station which, in November, 1912, was started at Coimbatore in the Madras Presidency under Dr. C. A. Barber, C.I.E., who was appointed Government Sugar-cane Expert for all India, but with headquarters at Coimbatore. This was sought to be attained by raising canes from seed, instead of from cuttings as is ordinarily done by the ryot, a method which had already proved its utility in the other sugar-cane countries of the world. The difficulties experienced in previous trials at raising cane-seedlings were soon overcome—in fact even before the land intended for the station was taken possession of—and we soon had a very large number of seedlings, some of them the much-desired crosses between the thin indigenous North Indian and the thick tropical kinds. But it was not until the February of 1918 that the station was able to send out the first batch of selected seedlings for trial to North Indian farms.

The behaviour of the Coimbatore productions, when introduced into North India, has always been a matter of anxious consideration for the station; but it is fortunate that the first year's results appear to be, on the whole, encouraging. It is thought that the results will not only enable the farmer to take a more intelligent interest in the growing of these seedlings, but also to offer valuable suggestions for future work of the station, which, of necessity, had to be located far away from the area for which the seedlings are intended. The station has now reached a stage when a closer connection with the North Indian farms is needed, and constant reports on the progress of the distributed seedlings will greatly help to shape the future lines of work at the station.

## WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

### The R.M.S.P.

A prospectus was issued on June 3rd offering £900,000 Ordinary Stock at £110 per cent., and £900,000 6½ per cent. Preference Stock at par. It states that the audited accounts of the Company, after providing for depreciation and Excess Profits Duty showed profits for the eight years to December 31st, 1919, as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1912	489,455	4	3
1913	436,470	2	8
1914	98,231	14	7
1915	808,730	18	5
1916	791,096	18	9
1917	764,446	8	6
1918	706,472	5	6
1919	953,600	0	0

The authorised capital of the Company is £25,000,000, of which £5,000,000 has been issued and fully paid.

Presiding at the annual general meeting of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company on May 27th, Sir Owen Philipps, G.C.M.G., M.P., Chairman, referring to the West Indian situation, said that, pending the issue of an invitation for tenders, his Company had continued to maintain a connection by steamer of a smaller type and more economically run than those hitherto engaged on the route, without receiving any subsidy. Owing to the great increase in the price of coal and other expenses since this service was started, he regretted to say it had not been possible to run it without incurring a loss.

The trade and commerce of the West India Islands were not of sufficient magnitude to warrant the maintenance of a service such as the Company furnished in the past, unless the Imperial Government considered that, on national grounds, it was advisable to pay an adequate subsidy to justify this or any other British Company in providing a high-class passenger service. A public company could not be expected to provide a mail service between Great Britain and the West India Islands at a heavy annual loss. During the last twenty years his Company had lost no less than one million sterling in carrying on their West Indian services, as was fully set out in the certified statement in the appendix of the Report of the West Indian Shipping Committee. The trade between the West Indian Colonies and Canada continued to expand, and the Company was maintaining a fortnightly service both out and home, under contract with the Canadian Government, which had recently been extended for another year.

### Naparima Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.

This Company has been formed under the auspices of the Culloden Consolidated Company, with a capital of £200,000 in £1 shares, to win oil on the estates of the Ste. Madeleine Sugar Company, Ltd., covering an area of 16,000 acres in the Naparima district of Trinidad. The purchase consideration for the licence of twenty-one years, which is renewable for a further period of twenty-one years, is £100,000, to be satisfied by the allotment of 100,000 fully-paid £1 shares to the Ste. Madeleine Company. The whole of the proceeds and the balance of 100,000 shares to be subscribed will be available for working capital. Fifty thousand shares of the Company are to be offered to the shareholders of the Ste. Madeleine Company for subscription. The directors are James Douglas Fletcher, Esq., Harold Denison Arbutnot, Esq., John Cross, Esq., Algernon Edward Brise Ind, Esq., and Joseph Kelly, Esq. A.I.M.M., A.R.S.M., F.G.S. (managing director)

### Trinidad Central Oilfields.

The accounts of this Company for the year ended December 31st show, after a provision of £10,788 for depreciation, a net profit of £43,012, against £11,949 for

the preceding year. This brings the balance to credit of revenue account to £52,821, out of which it is proposed to pay a dividend of 10 per cent. upon the 350,000 fully-paid £1 ordinary shares, leaving a balance of £17,821 to be carried forward.

The directors, in their report, complain of the delays in the delivery of casings and drilling tools, both from the United States and England, which will hold up their contemplated drilling programme probably until the autumn. In spite of delays, however, production for 1919 amounted to 169,667 barrels, as against 81,480 for 1918, the number of feet drilled in the two years being 13,523 and 12,132 respectively. The Company has applied to the Trinidad Government for prospecting licences in respect of some 70,000 acres over which it held exploring licences. The authorised capital is £1,350,000, of which £350,000 in fully-paid £1 shares and 123,232 £1 shares on which 5s has been paid, have been issued.

#### Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd.

The prospectus of this Company was issued early last month. The capital is £400,000 in £1 shares. Half of these had already been subscribed, and the remaining were then offered. The Company was formed to take over oil rights over about 763 acres in the Fyzabad district of Trinidad, of which 582 acres adjoin the Leaseholds property. The vendor is Mr. Thomas Geddes Grant. The first directors are Sir John Anderson and Mr. Walter MacLachlan, of the British-Borneo Petroleum Syndicate Ltd. and Mr. George Rennie Airth and Mr. William Henderson Clark, of the Anglo-French Exploration Company.

## INDIA AND IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

It seems likely that India also will be shortly added to those sections of the Empire which have a preferential tariff for goods of Empire origin. The Committee, which was appointed in February to consider and report on the future fiscal policy of India have now presented their report.

They first considered whether the application to the Indian customs tariff of a system of preference in favour of goods of Empire origin would be likely to involve any danger of retaliation by countries outside the Empire, and they are unanimously of opinion that in view of the demand for Indian raw materials there is no danger to be feared on this score.

They then considered to what extent loss or gain would be likely to result from the adoption of a system of preference in the import tariff. They believed that the adoption of a system of Imperial preference would entail the raising of the present import duties against foreign nations. This would presumably result in raising to some extent the prices of imported commodities to the consumer in India, and from this aspect would be likely to be injurious. Looking to the profit side, the number of commodities in our export trade which might be expected to benefit by an increased market within the Empire appeared to the Committee to be limited. Their general conclusion is that India is neither likely to gain nor to lose appreciably on the balance by the adoption of a moderate preference in her import duties.

MR. HERBERT G. DELISSER, C.M.G., of the Jamaica Daily Gleaner, will represent the West Indian Press at the Imperial Conference to be held in Canada, under the presidency of Lord Atholstan, in July next.

## AT WESTMINSTER.

### Sugar for Industrial Purposes.

Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson informed Mr. Doyle that the Government were not prepared to fix the same price for sugar for industrial purposes as for that used for household purposes, as had been done with coal.

### Sugar from Roumania and South Russia.

Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson informed Mr. Chadwick on June 2nd that it was not anticipated any sugar would be available for export from Roumania, and that the South Russian position was uncertain.

### Re-exports of Sugar.

Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson informed Mr. Kiley on May 19th that he was not aware that sugar was being exported from this country at prices varying from 80s. to 100s. per cwt. No Government sugar might be exported, but care had been taken not to interfere with the legitimate *contraband* trade.

In reply to Sir W. Raeburn, Colonel Wilson said the rate of freight British shipowners were being paid for the carriage of sugar from Cuba to the United Kingdom worked out at a fraction under a halfpenny per pound.

### Power Alcohol.

Sir Robert Horne, President of the Board of Trade, informed Viscount Curzon on May 17th that progress was being made in connection with the inquiry by the Fuel Research Board into the production of power alcohol in the British Empire. The Finance Bill now before the House contained a clause providing for the payment of the same allowance in respect of spirits used for making power methylated spirits as was now made in respect of spirits used for making industrial methylated spirits; the clause also gave power to the Commissioners of Customs and Excise to prescribe the denaturants to be used.

### "Dominion" and "Colony."

To Sir C. Kinloch Cooke, who asked the official meaning attaching to these terms, Lieut.-Col. Amery replied: The term "Dominion" was used officially as a convenient abbreviation of the complete designation "self-governing Dominion." The term "Colony" was an abbreviation of the official designation "Colony not possessing responsible Government," and included all such Colonies whether or not they possessed an elective Legislature, but did not include Protectorates or Protected States. It might be convenient to add that the term "Crown Colonies" was properly applicable only to those Colonies in which the Crown retained control of legislation.

### Wireless Station and Oil Depots.

In the Navy Estimates, which were debated in the House of Commons on June 1st, appear as items of expenditure £2,000 and £3,000 for the building and equipment of wireless telegraphic stations in Demerara and Jamaica respectively. Colonel Sir James Craig, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, explained that this was part of a general scheme for wireless telegraphy which was being carried out, partly by private enterprise and partly by the Admiralty staff.

A larger item was the sum of £33,000 for an oil fuel depot in Jamaica. Sir J. Craig said oil fuel depots were consequent, of course, upon the policy of constructing our newer ships with oil-consuming boilers instead of coal. It might be objected that Hong Kong, Jamaica and Portland would not, from the strategical point of view, require these bases for oil fuel, but in future years, when the construction of new shipping had brought us into the position of having more ships under oil than under coal, it would be absolutely necessary to have these large reservoirs in easily accessible positions, and have them even in peace time.



## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the Circular for publication under this heading.

### The Bahamas and Ottawa.

On May 12th the House of Assembly considered the instructions to be given the Speaker, His Honour Mr. Harcourt Malcolm, K.C., who is representing the Colony at the Ottawa Conference. According to the *Nassau Guardian*, the House was unanimously in favour of establishing steamship communication with Canada and prepared to offer a subsidy. The proposal to offer a small preference was not carried; some members preferred waiting until they had heard Canada's proposals, and others were not willing to offer a preference without extending it to other parts of the Empire. It is understood that Mr. F. E. Kip, President of the Salta Textile Manufacturing Co., of America, has acquired the Clifton Estate. Mrs. F. A. Holmes, widow of the late Hon. F. A. Holmes, M.D., Speaker of the House of Assembly, died on May 3rd.

### British Honduras.

The *Clarion* of April 8th gives a verbatim report of the speeches at a meeting of the local Chamber of Commerce, held on Easter Monday, to meet the Secretary of the West India Committee, and generously devotes a page advertisement to an appeal on behalf of the Committee's Endowment Fund; and the following issue contains a report of a meeting at which Mr. Aspinall addressed the British Honduras Contingent Society.

The Colony's exports during March included 2,480,788 feet of mahogany, 320,520 feet of cedar and 800 tons of logwood.

Viscount Sandon, private secretary to Lord Milner, has been visiting the Colony, where he enjoyed great popularity. He visited the interior and made himself fully acquainted with local conditions, and it is generally hoped that his visit may result in greater interest being devoted to this outlying part of the Empire, which is languishing through want of steamer and telegraphic communication, to say nothing of capital.

### Guiana and Canadian Preference.

The acceptance by Captain J. M. Reid, the Controller of Customs, of promotion to the Gold Coast has caused much regret, writes Mr. J. C. McCowan, under date April 12th. The death in Trinidad of Mr. Smart Dalgleish, of Messrs. Geddes Grant, is recorded. He had been connected with British Guiana for a number of years.

Mr. McCowan continues, on April 24th, that at a meeting of the British Guiana Sugar Planters' Association on the 15th, at which Sir Edward Davson, Mr. R. Montgomery Parker, and Mr. J. H. Tinne were present, the question of trade relations with Canada was discussed, and it was agreed to advocate an extension of the existing preferential trade agreement with Canada; and it was held that the agreement should be for ten years, with an option of renewal, and the preference should be 50 per cent. of the import duties, but no greater preference should be given to Canada than to the Mother Country. It was pointed out at the same time that a preferential sugar market in Canada would be of little value to the Colony's sugar industry, which already had a substantial preference from the Mother Country, and the meeting deprecated any attempt to impose direct taxation on the sugar industry, as tending to prevent its expansion.

Mr. Robert Strang has tendered his resignation of the Sugar Planters' Association on leaving the Colony for a

holiday, and Mr. Sherlock was elected Chairman for the balance of the year.

The obituary includes the name of Mr. Benjamin Slim Newsam, who died on April 21st. The ss. *Patrician*, of the Harrison Direct Line, made her first call at Georgetown on April 19th. The newspapers are much intrigued by the self-styled African prince Sam Toby, who left recently for Barbados, whence he was returned to the Colony, as he failed to produce the £5 show-money. "The Prince" speaks five languages, it is said, and claims to have been educated in Germany.

Mr. R. F. Macrorie, the geological expert engaged by Mr. D. E. Alves, arrived on the 15th, and intends to make a thorough survey of the concession granted to his company, with a view to starting oil-boring operations. He was expecting to be joined by Mr. J. A. Bullbrook, also a geologist.

### Sir Francis Watts in St. Kitts.

There are no changes on the unofficial side of the new council, writes Mr. E. J. Shelford under date April 29th, the Hons. Pailfield Mills, A. Moir Reid and Burchell Marshall, and Mr. A. S. Davis, S. B. Parmenter and the writer having been nominated. On the official side, the Hon. E. R. Jones, Treasurer, retired from office on March 31st, after sixteen years of useful and efficient work in the Presidency. His successor has not yet been appointed. An important and rather drastic new export duty on local products was passed at this sitting without any opposition from the unofficial side of the House. Perhaps, should occasion arise, when more particularly the land-owning classes of this community have to ask for any relief from taxation, the Government will remember that both now and throughout the war period any additional tax burdens have always been accepted without any demur on their part.

On the 24th inst. Sir Francis Watts addressed a representative gathering of the St. Kitts A. and Commercial Society. He dealt with three subjects—the mosaic disease of sugar-cane and the necessity for prohibiting the importation of cane cuttings from any infected countries, the Report of the Empire Cotton Committee touching on the importance given to the West India Sea Island cotton industry—its future prospects and the probability of improvements both in yield per acre and quality of lint in the future, and thirdly he spoke at considerable length on the proposed Tropical College of Agriculture. At the close of the meeting a resolution was passed to the effect that the local Government should be asked to contribute a sum towards the establishment of the College. Steady progress is being made with the sugar crop, and yields on the whole are satisfactory. The weather is reasonable, but both cotton cultivation and planting are held up at present for the want of rain—very little fell in March, and to date there has not been any sign of an April shower.

### Trinidad's Million Pound Loan.

Silence is still maintained by the local Government, says Mr. Edgar Tripp, writing on May 4th, with regard to any dispatch from the Secretary of State on the question of the West India Committee Endowment Fund, and this attitude on the part of the authorities is alluded to in the *Port of Spain Gazette*.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council held on April 24th, Mr. Slyne, the Receiver-General, moved the second reading of the Bill authorising a local loan of £1,000,000 at 6 per cent. per annum, for the purpose of railway extension and other public works, with regard to which it is highly essential there should no longer be delay. In a singularly lucid speech the honourable gentleman explained the objects of the measure and the advantages or otherwise of a domestic debt of this character. Having regard to the fact that there is little or no prospect of obtaining a loan from the Old Country under present conditions, and to the urgent necessity of the progress of



the Colony being no further arrested after five years of stagnation owing to the war, it seems highly desirable that this loan should have been introduced and, as has happened, passed through all its stages. Owing to the greatly increased value of our products, and the general prosperity of the planting community, considerable sums of money are now available for investment; and the supply of cash has been far greater than the demand. Whether the absorption of £1,000,000 of this spare capital by the Government will lead to a stringency in the ordinary mortgage market, and work hardship in that direction, remains to be seen. In any case, the experiment of a small colony like this lending itself a sum of this magnitude is very interesting, and probably affords a record in such transactions. Incidentally it may be mentioned that experience has proved that the charges in connection with raising loans locally amount to about one-tenth of 1 per cent., whereas, when obtained through our friends the Crown Agents, the cost is 2½ per cent. In other words, by lending ourselves this £1,000,000 we effect a saving in brokerage of £24,000, a sum which in these hard times is not to be despised. In the course of Mr. Slyne's speech he referred to the abounding prosperity of the Colony, in proof of which he mentioned that the revenue for 1919 was £1,342,884, and the expenditure was £1,309,407; the surplus balance on December 31st was £206,740, being £77,556 more than originally estimated. The imports for 1919 were £6,217,234, and the exports £7,256,594. As the estimated population of the Colony is about 380,000, this gives an average trade per head of £35.

The West India and Panama Telegraph Company have at last secured the services of a repairing steamer, the *Viking*, which arrived here a few days ago, and has proceeded to St. Thomas to ship a quantity of cable, after which she will proceed to "pick up the pieces" of the mutilated cable in the various places at which it has been broken during the past few months. We may hope, therefore, in the course of a month or so to resume once more some sort of telegraphic service with the outside world. Meanwhile the cable ship of the Company remains in our harbour, receiving the kindly attention in the way of repairs which the Trinidad Government dock and workshop have been bestowing upon her during the past eighteen months or so. There are still optimists in the community who believe that this steamer will leave this port in the course of the present year of our Lord. We have been glad again to welcome Sir Edward Davson, who is here for a few days, en route for the United States.

The long-looked-for rain has fallen in some parts of the country, but it has still left other parts severely alone, and the want of it is being very much felt.

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Sailings to West Indies from London, May 26th, per R.M.S.P. *Arzila* (Commander L. W. Bolland):—**

- |                        |                        |                            |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mr. F. J. B. Bennett   | Mr. F. W. Harcourt     | Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Milling |
| Mrs. W. Berry & Infant | Capt. Henderson        | Mr. & Mrs. F. J. Seaforth  |
| Mr. J. M. Blair        | Mr. H. H. Hoadley      | Capt. A. G. Sleep          |
| Miss F. de Boissiere   | Mrs. L. Dolton         | Capt. Sleigh               |
| Miss P. de Boissiere   | Mr. P. C. Hutson       | Mrs. Turner and Infant     |
| Mr. A. E. Bratt        | Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Freya | Mr. John Ward              |
| Mr. R. P. Duggett      | Dr. G. M. Kerry        | Mr. and Mrs. Woolston      |
| Mr. H. Devaux          | Mr. & Mrs. H. Lloyd    | and Family                 |
| Miss M. Devaux         | Mrs. F. Lynch          | Mr. E. Yule                |
| Rev. J. Faith          | Mr. W. E. Moffat       |                            |

**Home arrivals from the West Indies per R.M.S.P. *Quilpué*, London, May 23rd:—**

- |                             |                                      |                                     |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>From Barbados.</i>       |                                      | <i>From Trinidad.</i>               |
| Mr. Rowland Allen           | Mrs. J. M. Richards & Family         | Mr. & Mrs. E. Atkinson              |
| Miss K. Arthur              | Miss Elaine Ridley                   | Mr. B. I. Chaney                    |
| Hishop & Mrs. Heekley       | Mrs. Sismet                          | Mrs. Foster and Family              |
| Mr. F. J. Browne            | Mr. & Mrs. Wilcoxon                  | Miss F. L. Fullager                 |
| Miss N. Browne              | <i>From British Guiana.</i>          | Mr. A. T. Hammond                   |
| Mr. J. Crawford             |                                      | Mr. & Mrs. P. Haynes                |
| Mr. G. S. Evelyn            | Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Cassels           | and Family                          |
| Mr. & Mrs. R. S. D. Goodwin | Miss D. E. Craig                     | Mr. T. F. Hazen                     |
| Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Greg       | Dr. A. Craigen                       | Mrs. A. Miss Homberley              |
| Mr. M. D. Harrel            | Mr. and Mrs. F. Daxer and Family     | Mrs. James Knox and Family          |
| Mr. S. T. Harrison,         | Mr. F. W. Kirby                      | Lieut. Commander and Mrs. Lavington |
| C.M.G., O.B.E.              | Mr. and Mrs. K. E. Murray and Family | Mr. and Mrs. E. H. May and Family   |
| Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Haynes     | Mr. W. M. B. Shioles                 | Mr. E. Pitts                        |
| The Misses Haynes           | Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Smellie           | Mrs. B. Hoskelly and Infant         |
| Miss F. Hazard              | Miss Smellie                         | Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Thomson          |
| Miss St. Hill               | Mr. G. H. Smellie                    | Mr. B. J. Williams                  |
| Miss M. Hutchinson          | Mr. A. G. Stirling                   | Miss M. Willott                     |
| Mr. A. Keyser               | Mr. J. A. Tinnin                     | Mr. A. Wilson                       |
| Mr. Lafitte                 | Mr. E. M. Walcott                    |                                     |
| Miss McPhail                |                                      |                                     |
| Mr. H. G. Murray            |                                      |                                     |

**THE VISITORS LIST.**

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mr. F. C. Archer             | Mr. E. E. C. Hoack              |
| Rev. J. R. Brindley          | Mr. L. Cyril Innes              |
| Mr. James Brown              | Mr. F. G. B. King               |
| Hon. F. C. Buck, M.I.C.E.    | Mr. Theo. Laycock               |
| Mr. E. A. Bugle              | Mr. H. Mason                    |
| Mr. A. Cameron               | Mr. D. T. McEwing               |
| Hon. J. B. Cassels, M.B.E.   | Mrs. McEwan                     |
| Sir W. K. Chandler, K.C.M.G. | Mr. T. Elton Miller             |
| Mr. Robert Craig             | Hon. J. J. Numan, K.C., LL.D.   |
| Rev. Canon Dalton, D.D.      | Mr. C. S. Pitcher               |
| Hon. B. S. Davis             | Mr. B. S. Reid                  |
| Mr. Lionel De Mercado        | Mr. W. F. Saruvala              |
| Mr. G. Farmer                | Mr. V. H. S. Scott              |
| Mrs. M. C. Garnett           | Mr. E. Strang                   |
| Mr. B. P. Gibbes             | Mr. J. E. Stredwick             |
| Mr. H. Gill                  | Mr. E. E. H. Thorne             |
| Mr. I. A. Gomez              | Mr. F. Ulrich, F.R.S., C.M.Z.S. |
| Sir G. Aubrey Goodman        | Mr. A. J. White                 |
| Mr. R. S. D. Goodwin         | Mr. John Wilson                 |
| Mr. J. Hamilton              | Mr. Harold Wright               |
| Mr. Albert Hammond           |                                 |

Mr. F. E. W. G. Aestio, "Compton Manor," near Winchester, Hants.  
 Mr. O. J. Christian, The West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W.  
 Mr. A. E. Craig, c.o. C. B. Hamilton, Esq., C.M.G., "Orbieston," Parsly, Surrey.

Mr. G. S. Evelyn, "Martinhoe," London Road; Norbury, S.W.  
 Mr. J. J. Gilman, 13, Queen's Gate Terrace, S.W. 7.  
 Mr. J. T. Greg, The Grey House, Bear's Hill, Oxford.  
 Hon. S. T. Harrison, C.M.G., c.o. Sir C. E. McGregor, Bart., & Co., 39, Fanton Street, Haymarket, W.

Mr. C. C. Henriques, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.  
 Mr. Thomas W. Innes 3rd, Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James's Park, S.W.  
 Mr. E. B. Jacob, Valentines School, Ilford, Essex.  
 Dr. E. M. Johnson, c.o. Dr. Phillips, "Martinhoe," London Road, Norbury, S.W.

Mr. Archibald Johnston, Ivy Bank, Drasida Avenue, Rutherglen, near Glasgow.

Mr. G. Lafitte, 28, Navern Square, Earls Court, S.W.  
 Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., Knockdown, Toward Argyllshire.  
 Mr. E. K. Lane, 11, Crescent Road, Reckenham, Kent.

Mr. Dudley G. Leacock, Hotel Matropole, Bourne-mouth.  
 Mr. I. C. MacIntyre, 24, Gordon Street, Gordon Square, W.C.  
 Mr. J. Gardner McLean, Elainora, Fahan, Co. Donegal, Ireland.

Mr. W. E. Mandeville, c.o. The Colonial Bank, 29, Gracechurch St., E.C.  
 Mr. W. Maarna, 39, Carlton Place, Aberdeen.  
 Mr. James Miller, 17, Gracechurch Street, E.C.

Mr. T. Gordon Ross, c.o. Col. M. F. Gosset, Dunkirk House, Dunkirk, near Doverham, Kent.

Mr. W. M. B. Bielda, c.o. Messrs. K. K. Davison & Co., 79, Mark Lane, E.C.  
 Hon. Stephen B. Stedman, 28, Finton Gardens, Chiswick, W. 4.

Mr. Athelston Watson, 25, Elm Park, Bedland, Bristol.  
 Hon. G. Williams, c.o. Messrs. S. Dohree & Sons, 7, Moorgate Street, E.C.

**WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.**

**Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.**—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth May 21st, per ss. *Patuca* (Captain Swain):—

- |                      |                      |                              |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Mr. F. T. Bronetorph | Mr. W. McCulloch     | Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Symondson |
| Dr. I. J. Cruchley   | Mr. P. McLeary       | Mr. A. Turnbull              |
| Mr. F. J. Cullen     | Mr. C. Molyneux      | Mr. H. E. Waite              |
| Mr. V. T. Elton      | Capt. A. M. Sberlock | Mr. G. H. Wilson             |
| Mrs. A. L. Keeling   | Capt. W. D. Stuart   |                              |
| Mr. A. Londono       | Mr. D. W. Stuart     |                              |

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, May 28th, per ss. *Camou* (Commander J. H. Scudamore, D.S.C.):—

- |                          |                                 |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Capt. & Mrs. E. E. Adams | Mr. W. J. H. Durlon             | Mr. H. S. Kemp            |
| Mr. J. Allardge          | Mrs. M. M. Chantelli            | Mr. E. Knebler            |
| Mr. & Mrs. C. Bracht     | Mrs. A. W. Clapperton and Child | Mr. J. C. S. Macfery      |
| Mr. C. P. Pracht         | Mr. D. Crawford                 | Mr. F. W. S. McGowan      |
| Mr. E. H. Bracht         | Mr. T. G. Eaton                 | Mr. E. J. Montague        |
| Miss R. Bracht           | Mr. H. P. Elerton               | Mr. T. W. C. North        |
| Miss E. Bracht           | Miss W. M. Fattorini            | Mr. & Mrs. C. P. Readmore |
| Mr. J. R. Brandon        | Mr. J. L. Geddes                | Mr. E. Woods              |



**PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.**

Telephone—4042 Central.  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SPRETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

June 8th, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 7 per cent.—Changed on April 15th from 6 per cent., at which the figure had stood from November 6th, 1919.

Exchange on New York: \$3.89-\$3.90

**SUGAR.** Control prices in the United Kingdom were modified on May 17th, and are now as follows:—

	Wholesale		Retail	
	Per cwt.	Per lb.	Per cwt.	Per lb.
Cubes, Lumps, &c. ...	118 0	1 2½		
W.I. Crystallised (see below) ...	119 0	1 2		
W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups (see below) ...	95 9	1 0		
W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing ...	uncontrolled			
Sugar for domestic prescribing ...	114 0	1 2		

The discount is 1½ per centum.

The maximum "reasonable" price for all "licensed free sugar" (i.e., sugar imported or contracted for before December 28th, 1919, and licensed) from May 17th until June 12th has been fixed at 160s. per cwt., less 1½ per cent., as compared with 150s.

In accordance with the arrangement concluded with the West India Committee (see CIRCULAR 554 of December 25th, 1919), the Royal Commission have fixed the prices of West Indian crystallised and muscovado sugar during June and July as follows:—

	June.	July.
Crystallised ...	142.70s.	146.24s. per cwt.
Muscovado ...	137.84s.	141.32s. "

Mr. Gilbert W. Fox has returned to London from New York, where, since the beginning of February, he has been endeavouring on behalf of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply to bring down the price of sugar. In an interview with a Press representative on his return he stated that the Americans would have sugar, and were prepared to pay any price to get it. He had hoped that the United States Government would resume control; but they had not done so. This sums up the position to a nicety. America's requirements for the present year are estimated at 4,700,000 tons, or 102 lb. per head of the population—thanks to the sweet-tooth resulting from prohibition and American buyers are outbidding all competitors in their determination to get it. Meanwhile Great Britain is being starved in respect of sugar, owing to the folly of her Governments in the past who deliberately neglected the British sugar industry.

Very little "free" crystallised, which has been selling at 147s. to 152s. per cwt., remains available in the United Kingdom. When this is exhausted the demand for good muscovados and syrups should increase.

The current quotation in New York for Cuba 96° sugars is 20.00c. duty paid.

Messrs. Willett and Gray expect that the Cuban crop will be somewhat larger than the 3,700,000 tons estimated by Himely. They place the world's production for 1919-20 at 15,249,330 tons, a reduction of 1,135,607 tons as compared with the preceding campaign.

F. O. Licht reports a large increase in beet sowings in Czecho-Slovakia, a 30 to 40 per cent. increase in Holland, and of 40 to 50 per cent. in Belgium. For the whole of Europe (excepting Russia and the Ukraine) he estimates the increase at 13.1 per cent. over last year.

The West India sugar statistics in London on May 29th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Tons.
Imports ...	24,338	15,609	10,276	
Deliveries ...	14,447	12,432	16,504	
Stock ...	18,027	9,369	4,768	

**RUM** remains quiet, and dealers are still holding off until the effects of the Budget are more clearly defined; 1919 Jamaicas are quoted at 11s., old rums at 13s. to 14s., and Demeraras at 5s. 6d. proof for 1920, or 6s. for 1919 (early distillation).

The stocks in London on May 29th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Pons.
Jamaica ...	7,963	4,183	5,165	
Demerara ...	13,045	13,167	3,251	
Total of all kinds ...	30,592	21,745	13,667	

**CACAO** remains flat, and the business during the last fortnight has been small. There was again practically no demand at the auctions, and the little business done showed a decline in prices. Continental markets have also been falling. Trinidad fine is quoted at 140s., and good middling at 135s. Jamaica fine is quoted at 115s. and Grenada fine and fair, at 116s. and 100s. respectively. Imports of West Indian to May 22nd, 69,000 bags.

The stocks in London on May 29th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Bags.
Trinidad ...	31,747	15,872	13,633	
Grenada ...	25,416	9,019	28,468	
Total of all kinds ...	228,295	107,168	169,434	

**ARROWROOT.** An inquiry from one direction resulted in a fair sale at slightly easier rates. Quotations nominal at 4d. to 7d.

**BALATA.** West Indian sheet slightly easier at 4s. 3½d. c.i.f., and 4s. 6½d. to 4s. 7d. spot.

**COFFEE.** The market is dull. The lack of home trade interest has been caused largely through the poor quality of the parcels offered. There is no material alteration in "future" quotations. Stock in London on June 1st, 19,522 tons.

**COPRA.** The market is flat. West India i.m.s. is quoted at £53 c.i.f. London or Marseilles.

**COTTON.** Sea Island is neglected, and quoted at 87d.-90d. Imports of West Indian in the twenty-three weeks ending June 3rd, 5,514 bales.

**HONEY.** Honey is in quiet demand. A few packages—good palish set to white set Jamaica sold at auction at 100s. to 105s.; but the lower qualities failed to attract attention. Dark brown liquid to good palish amber is quoted at 75s. to 95s. Cuban and San Domingo about 5s. less than Jamaica.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** Lime Oil: Handpressed, scarce but quiet—value unchanged; Distilled, easier, sellers at 7s. 6d., but very little business passing. Lime-juice: Raw, firm tone but business negligible.

**LOGWOOD.** There has been no business to test the market, and the value is about £16 per ton afloat.

**ORANGE OIL.** Sweet is steady with small sales at 32s. 6d. per lb.; Bitter not wanted.

**SPICES.** Pimento still very quiet with sellers at 5½d. but no buyers. Nutmegs and Mace, no auction since last CIRCULAR, and prices remain unchanged.

**OUTWARD STEAMER SAILINGS.**

To	From	Steamer.	Sailing.
West Indies	Liverpool	Novian	June 16
West Indies	London	Navigator	June 16
Jamaica	Avonmouth	Coronado	June 18
Jamaica	Glasgow	Pacnare	June 23
West Indies	Amsterdam	Prins Frederik Hendrik	June 25
West Indies	Glasgow	Muician	June 20
West Indies	Liverpool	Governor	June 29
West Indies	London	Crown of Navarre	June 30
West Indies	New York	Krona	July 1
West Indies	Halifax	Chignecto	July 9
West Indies	Halifax	Caraqueit	July 23

The above dates are only approximate.

# The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXV.

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### The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:  
6642 CENTRAL.

Telegrams:  
CARIB, LONDON.



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

June 24th, 1920.

### The Reclamation of Swamps.

**P**ASSENGERS arriving off Port of Spain in the early morning almost invariably see the city veiled in a mist which lies upon it like a pall, and does not disperse until the sun is well over the horizon. On enquiry, they are told, if their informant is truthful, that this is the miasma from the noxious Caroni and Laventille swamps to the south-eastward, and are amazed that this nuisance, which cannot fail to be prejudicial to the public health, should remain unabated. The question of the reclamation of these swamps has frequently been discussed during the past half a century. Forty years ago negotiations were entered into with the late MR. GREGOR TURNBULL in this connection. During the Governorship of SIR GEORGE LE HUNTE the matter was again brought prominently forward, and in 1913 a concession was granted to MR. A. H. CIPRIANI for the drainage of the Caroni savannah, but at the outbreak of war that gentleman's request that the project might be allowed to remain in abeyance until peace was restored was granted. We are now glad indeed to learn that the proposals have been revived. For some time past work has been proceeding with the reclamation of the swamp to the east of the railway station at Port of Spain by convict labour, but a far larger and more comprehensive scheme is now to be carried out. On May 15th the Legislative Council of Trinidad and

Tobago definitely approved proposals for reclaiming the Caroni and Laventille swamps, which, if satisfactorily carried out, will in a few years' time rid Port of Spain and the neighbourhood of a serious menace to health, open up upwards of 10,000 acres of land for profitable production and reduce the distance by road between the capital and San Fernando and the principal oilfields by no fewer than 10 miles. The work is to be entrusted to a contractor, under an agreement made between the Government and the HON. A. H. CIPRIANI, M. B. E., who has undertaken to carry it out at a cost not exceeding £179,000, against which it is estimated that the reclaimed lands will realise £175,000. If this estimate is eventually justified by results the venture will certainly prove a profitable business proposition; but even if the reclaimed land were not readily sold, the drainage of the swamps would, to our mind, be well worth the expenditure contemplated. SIR JOHN CHANCELLOR, the Governor of Trinidad, in bringing the matter before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, laid most stress on the economic gain which would result from the improvement; but while we appreciate the importance of rendering available a large area for the cultivation of foodstuffs, we warmly sympathise with the views expressed by DR. PRADA, who attached primary importance to the immense benefits the draining of the swamps would confer on the capital, which can justly pride itself on being the cleanest and most sanitary town in the British West Indies. He had always regarded, he said, the existence of the swamps as a disgrace to the Colony, and he believed that their reclamation would not only mean health and happiness for a large number of the inhabitants, but would also indirectly lead to increased vigour among the labouring classes. This consideration alone would, we venture to think, amply justify the carrying out of this much-needed improvement, and when to this is added the economic aspect and the advantage of bringing San Fernando and the oilfields nearer to Port of Spain, the case for immediate action is overwhelming. With regard to the economic side of the question, we notice that the HON. A. G. BELL, Director of Public Works, in one of his reports on the scheme, foreshadows the "wonderful suitability" of the reclaimed lands for rice growing. But rice—except of the "hill" variety, for which the locality would presumably be unsuitable—requires marshy land for successful cultivation, and if the "reclaimed" swamps are to be devoted to rice.



production, it seems improbable that the improvement will have the desired effect from the health standpoint. In this connection it is a recognised fact that in British Guiana, when the front lands of the sugar estates began to be devoted to rice, this development was accompanied by a marked deterioration in the health of the estates. Possibly, however, the idea may be only to grow rice until the land is fit for cane. Port of Spain is not the only West Indian city having pestilential swamps in its neighbourhood. The capital of British Honduras is a like, if not a much greater, sufferer. Behind Belize, which straggles along the sea-front, and up either side of the river of the same name, are reeking mangrove swamps, which extend for miles, and form, as one would imagine, an ideal breeding-place for disease-carrying mosquitoes. If the reclamation scheme in Trinidad holds out good prospects of success, there would appear to be no reason whatever why similar steps should not be taken to isolate Belize from the danger zone by reclamation work. If British Honduras had been an American Colony, these improvements would have been carried out years ago, but in these matters, unfortunately, the British Government lags behind. There is never any money. That is always the complaint, and the Treasury seems to be unwilling to support any development schemes which do not hold out promises of an immediate and direct return, never realising, as business firms do, the ultimate benefits which accrue from following the preacher's advice and casting one's bread upon the waters.

#### The British Cacao Industry.

THE Board of Trade figures, which are given elsewhere in this issue, supply interesting information as to the effect of the war, not only on the consumption of cacao in the form of its various preparations in this country, but also as to the increased value of its markets as distributing centres for this commodity to the world. In 1913 the imports of cacao into the United Kingdom amounted, for the first five months, to 356,423 cwt. For the first five months of the present year they have reached the big total of 1,224,616 cwt. In 1913, for the same period, the amount liberated for consumption was 248,745 cwt. The corresponding figure for the present year is 492,042 cwt., or nearly double that of 1913. The exporting trade shows a still greater expansion. For the five months of 1913 66,528 cwt. were exported. For the same period of this year the export has been 328,553 cwt., or five times that of 1913. There has also been an enormous increase in the amount of the stocks. On May 31st, 1913, 220,000 cwt. of this commodity were on hand. On May 31st of the present year they amounted to 1,232,000 cwt. The figures are also instructive from an Imperial point of view. In 1913 the British colonies supplied about 65 per cent. of the imports. They now contribute over 90 per cent. Examination of the sources of supply show that the expansion of the cacao industry has been progressing at an enormous rate in British West Africa. The imports from that part of the British possessions are nine times as great as they were in 1913. In fact, British West Africa supplies more than

two-thirds of the cacao coming into the United Kingdom. The British West Indies have never been large contributors of cacao to Great Britain, the bulk of their production going to the United States and elsewhere; but these colonies have now increased their sending to this country by over 70 per cent. Everything points to the demand for cacao increasing considerably, especially—as has been already pointed out in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR—in those countries in which the consumption of alcohol is decreasing. The value of cocoa and chocolate—the manufactured forms of cacao—as food products cannot be overestimated. The increasing consumption of chocolate in its various forms is not due so much to its enticing flavour as to the high sustaining power it gives to the system, and the Board of Trade figures go to show what an increasingly valuable asset cacao cultivation is to a British colony.

### CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

The Conference on Trade between Canada and the West Indies, which first met at Ottawa on May 31st, has completed its labours. It is understood that an agreement has been reached on all points, and that the delegates of British Honduras and Jamaica have expressed themselves in favour of their Colonies participating in the arrangements, which provide for a measure of mutual preference far more comprehensive than that provided for under the existing trade agreement, the further development of steamship communication and the adoption of immediate steps in the direction of the amelioration of the telegraphic situation by the laying of certain new cables and the development of wireless. It is expected that the report will be published at an early date.

### THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

#### The Officers for 1920-21.

At a meeting of the Executive of the West Indian Committee, the officers for the ensuing year were elected pursuant to Article 5 of the Royal Charter of Incorporation. On the motion of Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. R. Rutherford was unanimously re-elected Chairman, and Mr. H. A. Trotter having intimated that, in view of his arduous duties as Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England, he would be unable for some little time to attend the meetings, Mr. Cyril Gurney, who expressed his willingness to act on his behalf, was, on the motion of Mr. Rutherford, seconded by Mr. J. H. Scrutton, elected Deputy-Chairman.

Mr. Cyril Gurney is partner in the firm of Messrs. Thomas Hankey & Co., which has large interests in Jamaica, Grenada, and other parts of the West Indies. He is a Director of the Colonial Bank, the St. Madeleine Sugar Company, Limited, the Antigua Sugar Factory, Limited, and the Indemnity Mutual Marine Insurance Company, Limited. On the motion of Mr. J. H. Scrutton, seconded by Mr. M. Garnett, Mr. W. Gillespie and Mr. Thomas Greenwood were elected Hon. Treasurers.

**Progress of the Endowment Fund.**

In due course it is proposed to publish and place on permanent record a complete list of contributors to the West India Committee's Endowment Fund.

Rents in the City of London are leaping upwards, and it has become very evident that the £20,000 which the Executive set out to collect as an Endowment Fund with the object of securing with the interest secretarial assistance and new premises must be regarded as a bare minimum figure. On all sides rent is being put up 300 per cent. and more, while £1 per sq. ft. is being asked and obtained for space in new buildings. This is why the Executive of the West India Committee is forced to continue its "Big Push" for contributions to the Endowment Fund, and why the assistance of every single member is urgently needed. Meanwhile, as an after-effect of the Secretary's visit to the West Indies, donations continue to come forward splendidly. Still, no relaxation of effort will be possible until a sufficient sum is obtained to enable the objects which the Committee have in view to be carried out so that they may effectively develop and extend their work on behalf of the British West Indian colonies. Since we last went to press the following contributions have been received:—

**SEVENTEENTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.**

Amount previously acknowledged £10,194 4 8  
Per the Jamaica Imperial Association (third list):—

W. H. Farquharson, Esq.	£100	0	0
W. N. C. Farquharson, Esq.	25	0	0
Messrs. Hendriks & Co.	25	0	0
T. A. Junior, Esq.	25	0	0
Dr. C. E. Harvey	5	5	0
Messrs. Leyden & Co., Ltd.	5	5	0
W. J. Norton, Esq.	5	5	0
M. T. King, Esq.	2	2	0
M. H. Segre, Esq.	2	2	0
George Sturdy, Esq.	2	2	0
Rev. W. H. Cope	1	1	0
Dr. S. A. Isaacs	1	1	0
		199	3 0
Gilbert W. Fox, Esq.		100	0 0
C. S. Pitcher, Esq.		25	0 0
L. T. Yearwood, Esq.		20	0 0
Messrs. R. D. Gamble & Son		10	10 0
Mrs. J. Seymour-Kane		5	0 0
E. A. H. Haggart, Esq.		2	2 0
E. K. Lane, Esq.		2	2 0
R. E. Brassington, Esq.		2	1 8
J. T. Greg, Esq.		1	1 0
Miss F. L. Hart-Bonnett		1	1 0
G. Kent, Esq.		1	1 0
D. Macgillivray, Esq.		1	1 0
F. Potter, Esq.		1	1 0
A. C. Skent, Esq.		1	0 10
F. L. Carrington, Esq.		1	0 10
J. Gill, Esq.		1	0 10
G. H. Yearwood, Esq.		1	0 10
J. R. Yearwood, Esq.		1	0 0
R. L. Clarke, Esq.			19 0
W. L. N. Haynes, Esq.			10 0
H. A. Dalton, Esq.			5 0
J. L. Bellot, Esq.			

**Fifty-five New Members.**

Following the election of eighty-four new members on April 15th, fifty-five candidates were admitted to the West India Committee at a meeting held on June 17th. The new List of Members has now been posted. Enclosed with each copy is a form of application for membership, which it is hoped will be filled in and returned to the Secretary. If each recipient will glance over the list and invite those of his friends whose names do not appear in it to join the Committee, the membership will rapidly increase and leave the present total of 2,146 far behind.

NAME	PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES.
Major Evelyn Wrench, C.M.G.	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. W. Gillespie.
Mr. A. E. Nash (Canada)	Mr. G. Moody Stuart. Mr. C. B. Sayles.
Messrs. Birch & Co. (British Guiana)	Mr. A. P. G. Austin. Mr. M. Garnett.
Mr. D. J. Ewing-Chow (British Guiana)	Mr. A. P. G. Austin. Mr. M. Garnett.
Mr. H. E. Berry (Country)	Mr. Robert Craig. Hon. S. S. Stedman.
Mr. C. A. Poole (Country)	Hon. S. S. Stedman. Mr. W. Gillespie.
Mr. H. H. Llewellyn, J.P. (Country)	Mr. Robert Craig. Hon. S. S. Stedman.
Mr. V. E. Bryant (British Honduras)	Hon. G. E. Grabham. Mr. A. P. D. Williamson.
Mr. F. W. Ross (British Honduras)	Hon. G. E. Grabham. Mr. A. P. D. Williamson.
Mr. H. McDonald, J.P. (British Honduras)	Hon. G. E. Grabham. Mr. A. P. D. Williamson.
Mr. W. F. C. Foreman (British Honduras)	Hon. G. E. Grabham. Mr. A. P. D. Williamson.
Mr. W. H. D. Foreman (British Honduras)	Hon. G. E. Grabham. Mr. A. P. D. Williamson.
Mr. A. H. Brinton (British Honduras)	Hon. G. E. Grabham. Mr. A. P. D. Williamson.
Mr. Percy George (British Honduras)	Hon. G. E. Grabham. Mr. A. P. D. Williamson.
Mr. R. J. Broburg (British Honduras)	Hon. G. E. Grabham. Mr. A. P. D. Williamson.
Mr. F. A. Vargas (British Honduras)	Hon. G. E. Grabham. Mr. A. P. D. Williamson.
Mr. G. R. Griffiths (British Honduras)	Hon. G. E. Grabham. Mr. A. P. D. Williamson.
Mr. J. K. Adams (British Honduras)	Hon. G. E. Grabham. Mr. A. P. D. Williamson.
Mr. W. Stevenson (British Honduras)	Hon. G. E. Grabham. Mr. A. P. D. Williamson.
Mr. Gerald Smith (British Honduras)	Hon. G. E. Grabham. Mr. A. P. D. Williamson.
Mr. W. A. Raber (British Honduras)	Hon. G. E. Grabham. Mr. A. P. D. Williamson.
Mr. G. F. Mapp (British Honduras)	Hon. G. E. Grabham. Mr. A. P. D. Williamson.
Mr. Guy N. F. Nord (British Honduras)	Hon. G. E. Grabham. Mr. A. P. D. Williamson.
Mr. J. E. Streadwick (Jamaica)	Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., C.B. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. F. F. C. Gill (Barbados)	Hon. T. W. B. O'Neal. Mr. Robert Challenot.
Mr. P. M. H. Allahar (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Mr. Henry Warner.



The East Indian National Congress of Trinidad	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Mr. Henry Warner.
Parmanand Pundit ... (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Mr. Henry Warner.
Mr. H. E. H. Tripp ... (London)	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Mr. W. Gordon Gordon.
Mr. R. Poynter Mackenzie ... (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Mr. W. Gordon Gordon.
Mr. F. Needler ... (Country)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. M. Garnett.
Mr. H. B. Sadler ... (British Guiana)	Mr. W. H. McTurk. Mr. F. U. Tronchin.
Mr. D. R. Gemmill ... (British Guiana)	Hon. R. E. Brassington. Mr. M. Garnett.
Mr. C. A. Dowding ... (Barbados)	Mr. Robert Challenor. Mr. J. H. Wilkinson.
Mr. Sayad Abdul Aziz ... (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Mr. Henry Warner.
Rev. C. D. Lalla ... (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Major Randolph Rust.
Mr. Alfred Bishop ... (London)	Messrs. F. D. and F. Man. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. S. M. Haughton-James ... (Jamaica)	Mr. Cyril Gurney. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. E. P. Haughton-James ... (Jamaica)	Mr. Cyril Gurney. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. J. G. McLean ... (British Guiana)	Mr. A. J. McConnell. Mr. Thomas Greenwood.
Mrs. A. E. Fulcher ... (Country)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc.
Mr. Leonard Powell ... (Country)	Mr. H. F. Pevité. Mr. P. S. M. Arbutnot.
Mr. J. W. Pearl ... (London)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Sir William Trollope, Bart.
Mr. J. P. Auld ... (British Guiana)	Sir Edward Davson. Mr. W. A. Boyd.
Sir Arthur Whinney, K.B.E. ... (London)	Mr. Allan E. Messer. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. W. R. Shilston ... (Barbados)	Mr. J. H. Wilkinson. Mr. J. D. Murray.
Major C. C. Mitchell ... (Ireland)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. A. Spooner.
Mr. G. W. FitzHerbert ... (Country)	Mr. A. Spooner. Mr. W. Baggott Gray.
Mr. A. Monséque ... (Trinidad)	Mr. G. T. MacDougall. Mr. C. T. Singuineau.
Mr. E. Curzon Villa, M.C. ... (Country)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. W. Gillespie.
Mr. J. N. E. Sanderson ... (New York)	Mr. G. R. Macintyre. Mr. C. H. Hobson.
St. Andrew's Agricultural Association (Grenada)	Mr. Cyril Gurney. Mr. W. Gillespie.
Mr. T. W. Clark ... (Grenada)	Mr. C. V. C. Horne. Hon. P. J. Dean.
Rev. H. F. Sharpe ... (Jamaica)	Dr. A. G. Curphey. Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc.
Mr. M. M. Rahaman ... (British Guiana)	Mr. H. B. Gajraj. Mr. A. S. Rohoman.
Capt. J. A. Burnside, M.C. ... (Antigua)	Mr. J. W. A. Maginley. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Searle's Co-operative Factory (Barbados)	Lieut.-Col. George Lane. Mr. R. Rutherford.

COSTERS have done much towards popularising the hazana in this country, and it was appropriate, therefore, that Messrs. Elders and Fyfes should have presented a silver cup to the winner of the Costers' Donkey Marathon at the Richmond Horse Show.

## SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"COCKROACH eber so drunk him no-walk past fowl-yard."

THE value of the 195,874 tons of sugar imported into the United Kingdom in May, 1913, was £2,318,150. That of the 180,830 tons imported in May, 1920, was £9,461,357!

MR. F. HARDY, B.A., formerly lecturer in Agricultural Science at Harrison College, Barbados, leaves for that island at the end of July to take up the appointment of Chemist to the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

SIR EDWARD DAVSON, President of the West Indian Associated Chambers of Commerce, Mr. H. F. Pevité, and Mr. R. Montgomery Parker, all members of the Executive of the West India Committee, have returned to London after an absence of four months in the West Indies.

DR. PARRY, the Archbishop of the West Indies, has arrived in London from British Guiana in order to attend the Lambeth Conference, and will remain in England for about two months. All the West Indian Bishops, with the exception of the Bishop of Trinidad, are also expected to attend.

THE West India Committee has lost the services of Miss I. Porteous, who has been compelled to retire through ill-health. Miss Porteous undoubtedly overtaxed her strength in helping to provide for the welfare of the many West Indians who came over in connection with the war.

DR. L. H. GOUGH, formerly entomologist to the Sugar Planters' Association in Trinidad, has arrived in London from Egypt, where he is now Director of the Entomological Section of the Ministry of Agriculture. It will be recalled that Dr. Gough was engaged in investigating the froghopper pest in 1910.

MR. G. G. AUCKINLECK, who has been appointed a Divisional Agricultural Officer in the Ceylon Agricultural Department, was educated in the West Indies. He left Grenada, where he was Superintendent of Agriculture for five years, in 1914 for Mauritius, where, until his recent transfer to Ceylon, he was Assistant-Director of Agriculture.

NOW that the end of June is near, the CIRCULAR will not incur the charge of being too importunate in urging those members of the West India Committee who have not yet done so to pay their subscriptions, now so long overdue. Punctual payment is more necessary than ever, with working costs still continually mounting, mounting, mounting.

READERS in British Guiana especially will be interested to learn that Miss Ruth Messer, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allan Messer, was married, on June 10th, at Holy Trinity, Sloane-street, to Captain G. A. H. Buxton, 4th Hussars, attached Egyptian Army, son of the late Mr. Robert Buxton Heinekey and of Mrs. Robert Buxton, and grandson of the late Sir James Agnew, K.C.M.G.

MR. W. C. SMITH, superintendent of the Barbados Government Industrial School, in a report published in the local *Official Gazette* of May 20th, shows that in just over six years 259 boys were placed in favourable occupations, including 34 as servants and 82 as agricultural labourers, while 35 were returned to school, and 90 became convicts. He warmly advocates the development of the Labour Bureau principle.

ACCORDING to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it would appear that any ambitious West Indian colony will soon be able to assume the grandiose title of Dominion. Under clause 26 (8) (a) of the Finance Bill the expression "Dominion" is defined as "any British possession, or any territory which is under his Majesty's protection, or in respect of which a mandate is being exercised by the Government of any part of his Majesty's dominions." Thus we might have the Dominion of Barbados, or of St. Vincent, for example.

THE *Sydney Morning Herald* states that the water hyacinth contains a high percentage of potash, which is commercially extractable. A plant has recently, our contemporary goes on to say, been established on the Clarence river, some miles from Grafton, where potash from this source is being produced for fertiliser purposes. This is to form the nucleus of larger works, capable of producing about 2,000 tons per annum. It is computed that the value of the water hyacinth in the locality of the factory is worth at present rates £15,000.

CAPTAIN ALAN HOTHAM, R.N., C.M.G., has been appointed Commodore of the New Zealand Squadron, and will leave for the Antipodes in H.M.S. *Chatham* in the autumn. He will carry with him the good wishes of many West Indian friends, for not only was he in the Caribbean in command of H.M.S. *Aeolus*, but since 1917 he has taken a practical interest in West Indian affairs, having been a member of the West Indian Shipping Committee, and still more recently of the Subcommittee of the Imperial Communications Committee, which has been considering the question of telegraphic communication in the West Indies.

SIR HUGO FITZHERBERT, BART., of Tissington Hall, Derbyshire, was married at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on June 15th, to Miss Diana Isobel Erskine, daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Erskine (a great-grandson of Lord Chancellor Erskine), Consul-General at New Orleans, U.S.A., who died in 1916, and of Mrs. Erskine (daughter of the late General Robert Bruce). Sir Hugo, who is the sixth Baronet, is the owner of Turner's Hall Wood, the last remnant of the old mahogany forest which once covered Barbados. Miss Erskine was attended by Miss Beryl White, daughter of Mr. A. J. White, of British Guiana, as bridesmaid. After the wedding a reception was held at the Savoy Hotel.

GENERAL ROBERT HAYNES (1769-1851), in some notes published for private circulation in 1910 under the date 1793, speaks of the "Brazil" cane, then grown in Barbados, as giving but little return. In May, 1796, he began to plant the Bourbon cane, "having purchased 1,300 plants (only one eye to the plant) for £32 10s. . . which had been brought from the Island of Martinique." "The Bourbon canes were" the General goes on to say, "first imported from Mauritius by order of Louis XVI. to the Cape of Good Hope, and from there to the Botanical Gardens at Cayenne . . . with instructions for them to be disseminated among all the French colonies." The history of the Bourbon cane in Barbados is thus established. The Brazil cane, probably the old purple cane of the British West Indies, began to fail seriously in 1793. In 1796 the substitution of the Bourbon cane for it commenced, and spread rapidly. For a few years afterwards, somewhere between that date and 1804, General Haynes speaks of the prosperity of that island, due to "the great produce of the Bourbon cane." The Bourbon cane gave its last big crop in Barbados in 1890, and its decadence, as in the case of its predecessor, became very rapid. But it lasted 100 years.

## THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

By ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 168.)

Captain Carmichael, of the *Guiana*, is typical of all that is bravest and best in our Mercantile Marine, and it is on record that during the war, not content to remain in the comparatively safe area of the Western Atlantic and Caribbean Sea, he had himself seconded as Chief Officer of a transport for service in the European danger zone. Again, it is told how, in West Indian waters, he once successfully rode out a hurricane, remaining on his bridge for hour after hour, until he had nothing left on him but his collar and his boots.

The *Guiana* left her moorings at four o'clock in the afternoon of February 11th with a full complement of passengers, but—owing to the "tie-up" of traffic by road and rail resulting from the blizzard—very little cargo. The air was crisp but bitterly cold, and the bay was a mass of ice floes which had ground their way down the Hudson from the higher reaches of the river. Yet within twenty-four hours, so great was the change in climate, greatcoats were discarded, and one could sit on one's deck chair in perfect comfort without a rug.

It is a tradition, too often justified by fact, that the weather off Cape Hatteras is tempestuous; but on this voyage, at any rate, no complaints could be made on this score, and, in any case, the *Guiana* showed herself to be a remarkably steady ship, despite the fact that her holds were so light.

Most of my fellow-passengers were on pleasure bent. Americans predominated, but there were also a number of Canadian business men on board, all keen to secure the development of trade between their great Dominion and the British West Indies, which they regard as their tropical land of promise. English commercial travellers were, on the other hand, conspicuous by their absence—and so it must continue to be until direct passenger steamship communication with the mother country is re-established. In the smoking-room we had many discussions as to the destiny of the British West Indian islands. The Americans frankly discredited the suggestion that the United States Government wished to increase its responsibilities in the Caribbean, and the Canadians evinced no enthusiasm regarding the proposals for the political union of Canada and the West Indies which a prominent Newfoundlander is never weary of ventilating, though he has not yet succeeded in inducing his own country to become part of the Dominion. They stated frankly that they did not consider such proposals as being within the realm of practical politics.

My West Indian landfall was St. Thomas, the seat of Government of the "Virgin Islands of the United States." Discovered by Columbus in 1493, this island was first settled in earnest in 1666 by the Danes, in whose possession it remained for just two hundred and fifty-one years, with brief intervals of English rule in 1801 and again from 1807 to 1815. In 1867 the United States made an offer to purchase the Danish West Indian islands for seven and a-half million dollars, but the Senate refused to ratify a treaty



which was concluded on this basis. Another agreement was signed in 1902 for the sale of the group to America, but on this occasion the Danish Parliament got their own back and rejected it. The completion of the Panama Canal greatly enhanced the strategic value of St. Thomas, on which it was known that the Germans had cast covetous eyes, and, consequently, negotiations between the United States and Denmark were reopened in 1916. On January 17th in the following year a treaty was signed at Washington for the purchase of the islands for \$25,000,000, and on March 31st, 1918, the Danish flag was lowered, and they were formally handed over to the United States, to the chagrin of Germany, who had undoubtedly hoped to make them her own.

At daybreak on February 17th, less than six days after leaving the ice and cold of New York, we were sweltering in tropical heat as we slipped past Covell's Battery and through the bottle-necked entrance into the famous harbour of Charlotte Amalia. Before us



"THE MAIN AND THE MIZZEN-TOP."

lay the town which, though named after the Consort of King Christian V. of Denmark, is better known simply as St. Thomas. It is formed of three distinct groups of houses—some white, some red, and all, to outward appearance, scrupulously clean—which straggle down the lower slopes of three spurs of the mountains beyond known to the sailors of old as the fore, the main, and the mizzen top, to the water's edge, where they are blended in one main street.

On one of the three hills is the so-called Blackbeard's castle, resembling an abandoned windmill, which is supposed—quite wrongly, as we were informed—to have been the residence and treasure house of John Teach, otherwise Blackbeard, the notorious pirate immortalised in that best of West Indian classics "Tom Cringle's Log." On another to the right stands the more elaborate Bluebeard's castle, shaped like a band-box, which was certainly never visited by Perrault's wife-killer, whose name it now bears.

The spacious and almost completely landlocked

harbour certainly deserves all the praise which has been lavished upon it, for in its setting of lofty mountains it is eminently picturesque. But it has fallen on evil days. Once the port of transshipment of the Royal Mail Company's steamers, and the headquarters of the Hamburg Amerika Line, it was the Clapham Junction of the West Indies. Then in 1885 it was deserted by the former company for Barbados, and later Trinidad. This was bad enough, but the enforced suspension of the activities of the German company after the outbreak of war was a still greater blow. The coaling business of the port has been seriously affected by the competition of Colon and the neighbouring islands, and the increasing use of oil fuel, so that the immediate outlook is far from bright. Unfortunately, St. Thomas has no agricultural industries to fall back upon, and so ill-suited is her rocky soil for cultivation that even the leaves of the *pimenta acris* for the manufacture of bay rum, her solitary staple, have to be imported from the neighbouring island of St. John.

But under the magic influence of the United States it is regarded as certain that the harbour on which the St. Thomians are almost entirely dependent for their welfare, will regain some measure of its former importance. That it is already becoming a considerable naval station was demonstrated by a squadron of six seaplanes which were resting on its unruffled waters, and by the presence of several small warships—the outposts of a mighty American fleet wintering at Guantanamo in Cuba.

A Congressional Committee, presided over by Senator William Kenyon, of Iowa, was visiting the islands to investigate and report upon the social, political and economic conditions prevailing, and from the reports of its proceedings recorded in the local papers it appeared that one of the burning questions to be decided was whether the naval government should be retained or civil administration substituted for it. Among the people the view prevailed that the terms of the treaty of cession were not being carried out to the letter. By virtue of it they were given one year in which to make up their minds whether they would accept American citizenship or preserve their Danish nationality. The year expired in 1918, on January 17th, thenceforward to be known as "Citizens' Day," which was marked by great rejoicings, those who had not meanwhile renounced their Danish nationality believing that they now automatically became American citizens. Their enthusiasm was subsequently, however, somewhat



modified when they discovered that their status was only that of "citizens of the Virgin Islands of the United States entitled to the protection of the United States"! But I shall be on dangerous ground if I attempt to discuss America's internal affairs too freely.

The *Guiana* was made fast to a wharf immediately opposite to the town, and consternation reigned on board when it was announced that only those passengers "destined to St. Thomas," the master, purser, and doctor of the vessel, were to be allowed to land, the Naval Governor, in his lack of wisdom, having decided to put us in quarantine, owing to the recent prevalence of an influenza epidemic in New York. The idea of a West Indian Island quarantining the United States would have been decidedly humorous if it had not been so exasperating for the *Guiana's* passengers who were eager to explore the beauties of St. Thomas. It was pointed out to the Governor politely but firmly that the transit passengers were less likely to convey infection to the St. Thomians than those intending to remain on the island were. Then wiser counsels prevailed, and after an hour's delay we were permitted to go ashore.

The visitor, on first landing in the tropics, disregards the sun, which he learns to treat with greater respect after a few weeks' experience. Consequently we made our way on foot from the wharf to the town, which is reached by a road skirting the harbour, and passing an abandoned sugar estate now looking very desolate as a pasture, and then many small huts and villas, each embowered in hibiscus and bourgainvillea. Charlotte Amalia is what would be described in a guide-book as "well laid out," having several small parks or piazzas, and a main street of respectable proportions. On either side of this thoroughfare are the various stores, several of which are devoted entirely to the sale of bay rum. To my surprise, however, I soon discovered that one could not purchase a bottle of that excellent toilet preparation without first getting a permit from the police, who now occupy the quaint little castellated fort on the water-front, which, incidentally, looks exactly as if it had been built with a child's box of bricks. It seems that on July 9, 1918, St. Thomas, following the bad example of her adopted mother country, went dry, and that the local authorities were afraid that the St. Thomians, being unable to get a drink otherwise, might turn their attention to bay rum! In the old days visitors who dined overnight too well and not wisely, and got into trouble with the local police, were made to sweep the streets on the following morning. Under the new *régime* the authorities will certainly not get their streets swept for nothing.

St. Thomas is the headquarters of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company in the West Indies, and I found Mr. Petit, the General Superintendent of the Company, whom I next visited, in the depths of despair, his cables being interrupted at so many points that communication with the islands and British Guiana was practically at a standstill. In defence of the Company it was pointed out that the Trinidad Government was not free from blame in the matter, the company's repairing steamer, *Henry Holmes*, which they had undertaken to repair, having been in their hands for over thirteen months already.

(To be continued.)

## THE WEST INDIA REGIMENT.

### Its Glorious History.

Under the above headings the following letter from Mr. T. H. Macdermot, editor of the *Jamaica Times* was published in the *Times* of June 14th:—

It is again rumoured that the West India Regiment is to be disbanded. The rumour may possibly be propaganda. At any rate, it is being used to some extent as propaganda by that evil and active, though small, element which, in the composite population of British West Indies, labours zealously to deepen and embitter racial cleavages. Their point is that such a disbandment would be proof of a resolve not to trust the black man as the protector of law and order. If the rumour is well founded, it is not, of course, at all likely that the fact which it forecasts is due to the above attitude on the part of the Imperial authorities. Far more likely is it that the real reason is the desire of a Government, bestunned by demands for economy and beset by enormous expenditures, to save money wherever it can. Disbanding the West India Regiment would, however, effect a comparatively small saving, and, in view of other results, it would undoubtedly be very false economy in the long run.

The laurel in the crest of the regiment is a due to its beginning, for it speaks of the Carolinas. There, in 1778, was gathered the nucleus ultimately to become the West India Regiment. It was within three years of that midnight hour of England's fortunes, when the surrender at Yorktown of a British army had been emphasised as a disaster by the hurricane of French conquest which swept from our possession in the West Indies all that we had held there excepting Jamaica, Barbados, and St. Lucia. In 1778 the Royalists in the Southern Colonies of North America urged one more effort. To make it there came together, to join the Regular forces, a number of volunteer bands. Some of these, white and black, coalesced into the South Carolina Corps. That was the beginning of the West India Regiment, though it was not until 1795 that the present name of the regiment emerged, and not until 1798 that this name was officially used. I believe it is correctly stated that we have in the West India Regiment the oldest colonial regiment on a Regular Army List that exists anywhere in the world. In the losing years of the American War the South Carolina Corps fought well and truly at Briar Creek, Stone Ferry, and in the bloody fight at Eutaw Springs. Its record of service there, and also in British Honduras, British Guiana, and in West Africa, through nearly a century and a half, has been marked by soldierly fidelity to duty, the display of endurance, gallantry, and discipline under most diversely trying circumstances. In Martinique, Dominica, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia, in hard fighting through most difficult country, it won the praise of the commanding generals. Its steadfastness was tried in the disease-haunted camp at Prahsu, in the catastrophe of the mismanaged attack on the Mellicooric chiefs in 1855, and put to a still more searching test when in Barbados, in 1816, and in Jamaica in 1865, it was called upon to do its duty against a rebellion in which the rebels were friends and kindred. How firmly the regiment did its duty then is on record in the pronouncements made by the islands' Assemblies.

During the late Great War the duties that were assigned to the West India Regiment were fulfilled with its traditional faithfulness and firmness. They were not of the spectacular kind, but they were none the less of service to the Empire. It would be a particularly inopportune time to break this long chain with the past at a time when more than ever in the history of the British West Indies they are drawing together with a feeling of unity and territorial self-consciousness and pride.



## BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

### "Time to Wake Up Nationally."

A great Imperial Exhibition is to be held in London in 1923. The scheme was launched at a meeting held at the Mansion House on June 7th, which was attended by the Lord Mayor, who presided, Lord Milner, and the representatives of the Overseas Dominions and Colonies. The King has been graciously pleased to give his patronage to the exhibition, and the Government is to introduce a Bill which, if passed by Parliament, will enable it to participate in the guarantee fund to the extent of £100,000 provided that £500,000 is forthcoming from other sources. This was announced by the Prince of Wales in a letter which was read by the Lord Mayor, the full text of which will be found in the daily newspapers of June 8th.

Mr. Lloyd George, in a letter regretting his inability to attend, emphasised the great advantage to be gained by those participating in such an exhibition as is proposed, and Lord Milner warmly commended the scheme to the citizens of London, and to the British people generally. It would enable all to see how we could afford mutual help to one another in developing the vast resources of the Empire. Now that we in this country were short of sugar and cotton, not to mention many other raw materials which our overseas possessions were eminently capable of supplying, it was time to wake up nationally. The Dominions and Colonies also had much to learn about recent developments in enterprise, invention, and science in this country. But the Exhibition was not only desirable from the economic side. Anything that attracted the people of the Dominions and Colonies to this country, making them better known to us and to one another; anything that helped us to realise our several capacities and what we could contribute to the common stock, had a social and political value and made for interdependence and unity.

## IMPERIAL SHIPPING COMMITTEE.

The Prime Minister has appointed a Committee, to be known as the Imperial Shipping Committee, with the following terms of reference:—

(1) To inquire into complaints from persons and bodies interested with regard to ocean freights, facilities, and conditions in the inter-Imperial trade, or questions of a similar nature referred to them by any of the nominating authorities, and to report their conclusions to the Governments concerned.

(2) To survey the facilities for maritime transport on such routes as appear to them to be necessary for trade within the Empire, and to make recommendations to the proper authority for the co-ordination and improvement of such facilities with regard to the type, size, and speed of ships, depth of water in docks and channels, construction of harbour works, and similar matters.

The members of the Committee are: Sir Halford J. Mackinder, M.P. (chairman), Sir A. H. D. Ramsay Steel-Maitland, M.P. (nominated by the Secretary of State for the Colonies), Sir W. S. Meyer (nominated by the Secretary of State for India in Council), Sir Hubert Llewellyn Smith (nominated by the Board of Trade), Sir George H. Perley (nominated by the Canadian Government),

Mr. H. B. G. Larkin (nominated by the Australian Government), the High Commissioner for New Zealand (nominated by the New Zealand Government), Captain G. Bowden, M.C. (nominated by the South African Government), Sir Edgar R. Bowring (nominated by the Newfoundland Government), Sir Kenneth Anderson, Sir Alfred Booth, Mr. W. Lionel Hichens, Mr. Kenneth Lee, and Mr. J. W. Murray, with Mr. E. J. Elliot, whose address will be the Board of Trade, Great George-street, S.W. 1

## ROYAL COLONIAL INSTITUTE.

### A Coming Amalgamation.

The Duke of Connaught, in a letter which was read at the annual dinner of the Royal Colonial Institute, which was held on June 11th, commended the Council's proposals for an amalgamation with other patriotic societies. He was referring to the union of the Institute and the Overseas Club and Patriotic League, a scheme for which has been approved by the Councils of the two bodies, and now submitted to the members through the medium of their monthly journals.

The dinner took place at the Connaught Rooms, standing on the site of the old Freemasons' Tavern, which have now become the great banqueting-hall of the London societies since the Northumberland Avenue hotels and the Cecil were commandeered for war work. Sir Godfrey Lagden, the newly-elected Chairman of Council, presided, and among the distinguished guests the West Indies were represented by Sir Gerald Strickland, a former Governor of the Leeward Islands, Brigadier-General Sir William Manning, late of Jamaica, Mr. Frank Cundall, Mr. G. Laffite and his son, Lieut. C. A. Laffite, R.N., Mr. E. W. Lucie-Smith, Miss Lucie-Smith, and Mr. George Williams.

After the loyal toasts, Lord Selborne proposed "Imperial Defence," which was responded to by Lord Jellicoe, who, it will be remembered, is the son of the late Captain Jellicoe, Commodore of the Royal Mail Company's fleet. The Royal Colonial Institute had, he said, done a great deal in promoting unity in the Empire. He could at least say that he found in the Dominions a great realisation of the fact that sea-power was all in all to the British Empire. There was a growing anxiety in the Dominions with regard to the possible diminution of our mercantile marine as compared with that of other countries. No one was more convinced than he was of the importance of organising the naval forces of the Empire, and due regard must be given to the ideas and the convictions of our brethren from the overseas Dominions.

Sir Gilbert Parker, who followed, proposed the toast of the Royal Colonial Institute and, the Chairman having responded, Lord Islington gave "The British Dominions Overseas," whose spokesmen were Mr. Mackenzie and Sir William Manning, who referred specially to the great charm of Jamaica, which he was glad to learn was now so prosperous. The speeches, which were of a high order of excellence, though a trifle on the long side, were interspersed by songs by Miss Stella Murray, a New Zealand contralto, and Mr. Harold Williams, an Australian baritone.

## BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

The Board of Trade Returns for the month of May give the following figures in connection with the staple products of the West Indies:

### Sugar from Poland.

The imports for the month amounted to 150,800 tons, all of which was cane-sugar, with the exception of 850 tons via Germany, which is maintaining a small but steady stream of beet. The bulk of the imports came from Cuba, 141,452 tons having arrived from that source. The British West Indies supplied 18,614 tons. The total imports for the five months of the year have been 679,925 tons. This is about the same as for the corresponding period of last year, when 658,382 tons were imported.

Of the total imports 383,871 tons came from Cuba, 95,433 tons from Mauritius, and 55,510 tons from the British West Indies, and Peru supplied 20,462 tons and Brazil 5,892 tons. The imports from Germany of Polish sugar totalled for the period 5,675 tons of raw sugar, being the only beet sugar entering the United Kingdom, once flooded with it.

The output of the refineries still continues on a scale somewhat lower than the pre-war figure. For the month 85,458 tons were liberated for consumption, making 301,363 tons for the five months. This is at the rate of 722,808 tons. Of the total consumption of the United Kingdom for the five months, only 123,670 tons were of sugar imported directly for the purpose.

The stocks of sugar in the United Kingdom on May 31st amounted to 477,050 tons. Of this 57,800 tons were of "foreign" and "refined," the returns still adhering to the entry of colonial sugar, in this case that of Mauritius, as "foreign" and to plantation white sugar as "refined." The amount of raw sugar on hand was 386,900 tons.

The country was in a better position on May 31st this year than on the same date last year, when the total stocks were 353,800 tons.

### Rum Imports Smaller.

296,938 proof gallons were imported for the month, making 1,976,082 gallons for the five months of the year, as against 4,318,775 gallons for the corresponding period of last year. The stocks on hand in the United Kingdom on May 31st amounted to the high figure of 12,047,000 proof gallons, as against 9,537,000 gallons and 5,920,000 gallons at the same dates of 1919 and 1913 respectively.

### West Africa's Cacao Trade.

331,423 cwts. of cacao were imported for the month, the five months' figures totalling 1,224,616 cwts. as against 1,226,052 cwts. for the corresponding period of last year. Of this year's amount only 169,961 cwts. came from the British West Indies, British West Africa supplying 849,919 cwts. The exports totalled 53,293 cwts. for the month, and 328,553 cwts. for the five months. The bulk of the exports were to Holland, which received 72,616 cwts.

### Coffee from the West Indies.

The total imports for the month were 130,023 cwts., making 396,982 cwts. for the five months

This is considerably less than for the corresponding period of last year, when the imports amounted to 583,219 cwts. The British West Indies only supplied 2,848 cwts. for the five months, Central America and Brazil sending in 80,484 cwts. and 78,162 cwts. respectively; 52,852 cwts. came from British India.

### The Rubber Industry.

12,033,900 lb. were imported for the month, making 92,745,500 lb. for the five months. The Federated Malay States and the Straits Settlements supplied 27,382,300 lb. and 20,400,400 lb. respectively of the latter amount. The exports for the five months totalled 77,488,700 lb., principally to the United States, which took 44,887,200 lb.

### Our Cotton Imports.

105,305,700 lb. were imported for the month, of which 26,648,300 lb. came from British possessions, including 350,700 lb. from the British West Indies. The total imports for the five months were 1,180,514,200 lb., of which 238,779,700 lb. come from British possessions, including 1,913,400 lb. from the British West Indies.

## ALCOHOL AS PETROL SUBSTITUTE.

There have been numerous references recently in the CIRCULAR to the increasing attention now being paid to alcohol for power purposes. Mr George Shaw, the chief engineer of the London General Omnibus Company, has been lately carrying out a series of experiments in connection with motor fuels.

He found, says the *Chemical Age*, that with alcohol and benzol in equal proportions, a fuel was obtained which in efficiency, as compared with petrol, was as 12.5 is to 15. It was tried first in the workshop, with special reference to compression, carburettor, setting, and heating of induction pipes, and the results were highly satisfactory. An interesting point was the analysis of the exhaust gases, which showed no uncombusted carbon monoxide. The mixture was next tested on the road in motor-omnibuses, and many stoppages took place that were traceable to choking of the carburettor jets and the formation of deposits in the induction pipes. Numerous mixtures of the two fuels were tested, with varying results, both in the shops and on the road, and while the 50 per cent. mixture was found to be the most satisfactory, its use somewhat impaired the engine. As to cost, this may be represented by the number of B.T.U.'s per penny produced by petrol (6,050), and by the 50 per cent. mixture (5,000). The cost per mile showed a difference in favour of the former of one-fifth of a penny. The mixture was found to be 12 per cent. more economical than petrol; the difference is 8 per cent. only in cost, petrol being the cheaper to use if the price per gallon of the two is the same. After further investigations and wider use of the benzol-alcohol mixture in equal proportions, results were obtained which showed that the mixture gave 6.05 miles to the gallon, and petrol 7.19, with an economy of 2 per cent. in favour of benzol-alcohol on the B.T.U. basis of comparison. In better weather the mileage was naturally higher.

THE appointment of Mr. William Nowell, Mycologist and Lecturer to the Imperial Department, as Assistant Director of the Trinidad Department of Agriculture has been confirmed.



## WORLD'S SUGAR PRODUCTION.

Mr. F. G. P. O'Grady, general manager of the Atlantic Sugar Refineries, Ltd., has issued an interesting statement regarding the sugar position. He points out that sugar, as one of the most important of the daily requirements of food, and as the medium for preserving fruits of all kinds, as well as being the chief necessity of many of the most important manufacturers, is of constant interest to all classes of people, and for very many years the records show a steadily increasing demand and per capita consumption throughout the world. He goes on to say:—

Production has also been increased from year to year to meet the demand, and up to the season 1913-14, when the world's crop was nearly 19,000,000 tons, there was plenty of sugar. The figures for the world's crop for that season were as follows:—

Cuba	2,600,000	tons (2,240 lb.)
U.S. cane	1,400,000	"
U.S. beet	650,000	"
Balance of Western Hemisphere	1,150,000	"
Java	1,800,000	"
Formosa, Japan, Australasia and Africa	1,000,000	"
British India	2,300,000	"
Europe (beet sugar)—		
Germany	2,700,000	
Czecho-Slovakia	1,700,000	
France	800,000	
Belgium and Holland	450,000	
Russia	1,750,000	
Other European countries	800,000	
	8,200,000	"
Total world production	18,700,000	tons

This was the situation when war was declared in 1914, and the crop of that year in the European countries immediately responded to the conditions and showed a reduction of 600,000 tons from the previous year. Reductions continued in the following years, and in 1919 the European crops are reported as 3,650,000 tons, as compared with 8,200,000 in 1913-14, or a reduction of 4,550,000 tons. This has partly been made up by increased production in other parts of the world, but the total crop for 1919 shows a deficit of 2,800,000 tons, as compared to the world's crop of 1913-14.

Under ordinary conditions, and had there been no war, it is estimated that the probable increase in the world's demand for sugar would have been about 400,000 tons per annum, requiring a total increase in production of about 2,000,000 tons during the last five years, as compared with an actual decrease of 2,350,000 tons.

The figures of the world's crop of 1919 are as follows:—

Cuba	4,000,000	tons (2,240 lb.)
U.S. cane	1,300,000	"
U.S. beet	700,000	"
Balance of Western Hemisphere	1,400,000	"
Java	1,600,000	"
Formosa, Japan, Australasia and Africa	1,400,000	"
British India	2,300,000	"
Europe (beet)—		
Germany	1,400,000	
Czecho-Slovakia	700,000	
France	100,000	
Belgium and Holland	250,000	
Russia	700,000	
Other European countries	500,000	
	3,650,000	"
Total	16,400,000	tons

From these figures it will be seen that, unless European countries increase their production to the pre-war basis, the rest of the world will have to make up the deficit either by increased production or by reducing consumption.

In this connection it may be noted that the per capita consumption of sugar in the United States and Canada

has been increasing rapidly in recent years, largely owing to its increased use by manufacturers of candy, &c.; also the experience of several of the United States under prohibition conditions would seem to indicate that much larger quantities of sugar are used where prohibition is in effect than otherwise. It is claimed that in the absence of liquor the craving for a stimulant is not eradicated, and articles manufactured from it seem to meet the necessary requirements to such an extent that the per capita consumption for 1920 will be about 20 per cent. greater than in 1916 if plentiful supplies are available.

### Conditions in Canada.

With reference to conditions in Canada, it can be stated that no country not producing its own supplies has experienced so little real hardship, and the price of sugar in Canada during the last five years has been less than in any other country, with the exception of the United States, and the difference between these prices is wholly covered by the higher duty, higher freights and higher costs generally, including the cost of New York exchange.

The quantities of sugar used in Canada during the last six years have been as follows:—

1914	314,000	tons (2,240 lb.)
1915	302,000	"
1916	284,000	"
1917	314,000	"
1918	292,000	"
1919	340,000	" Estimated

Manufacturing for export and allowing for a steady increase in population will make for further increases from year to year, but as the capacity of the sugar refineries in Canada is approximately 750,000 gross tons per annum, they are fully capable of supplying any demand that may be made upon them.

## THE FOOD VALUE OF SUGAR.

Sugar was not fetching its present price when Dr Woods Hutchinson wrote *The Doctor in War*; but, if one may judge from that eminent gentleman's eulogy of its dietetic value, it would not be dear at a still higher figure than 1s. 2d. per lb. He writes:—

"The Army ration has given the finishing blow to our ancient nursery superstition about the unwholesomeness of sugar, and the way it makes our teeth decay, and our livers become enlarged, and our joints inflamed with gout and rheumatism, and our kidneys 'Brights.' It is one of the best, most easily digestible and, at present prices, cheapest forms of body fuel we have. Three-quarters of the work of the body is probably done by burning sugar in the cells of our muscles, which latter turn it into alcohol and explode it in much the same way that gasoline vapour is exploded in the cylinders of an automobile—only the cylinders are so innumerable and so tiny that we do not hear any chugging and do not get the familiar smell."

Meanwhile, the testimony of the *Medical Press* goes to show that the world-shortage of sugar is becoming a serious question from a national health aspect. If the Government advance in price to 1s. 2d. a pound is necessary, says our contemporary, this valuable carbohydrate product will, to a large extent, disappear from the national dietary. To the now proverbially "new rich" the price will make but little difference, but to the bulk of the population to whom this term is inapplicable—the middle-class, for example, whose incomes are fixed, and

who depend upon railway and other industrial dividends which demands of labour are now rendering negligible sugar will become a luxury instead of being an essential article of nourishment. In this case we must expect a great increase in the use of the substitute—saccharin. It is needless to note that saccharin is a coal-tar product, and has no value as a food. Again, the fact has to be remembered that if substituted in whole or in part for sugar, saccharin reduces, lowers, and injuriously affects the quality and value of a food product.

### CACAO IN AMERICA.

Half the world's total production of cacao goes to the United States, which country is shown by an American Commerce Report to be the largest consumer of cacao in the world. The imports of cacao into the United States for the year ended June 30th, 1919, were 313,037,419 lb., valued at \$35,953,990, a falling off of 21.6 per cent. in quantity and of 12.9 per cent. in value from the high record of 1918. Of this amount there were re-exported 32,709,845 lb., valued at \$5,683,447, making the apparent consumption of cacao in the United States approximately 280,000,000 lb., as against 386,000,000 lb. in 1918. Notwithstanding this decrease in available supplies of raw material, exports of cacao and chocolate (not including confectionery) rose from about \$6,000,000 in 1918 to \$11,000,000 in 1919. In the report it is stated that there has been since the war a steady movement toward direct importation from the producing countries, resulting in an almost complete elimination of the European middleman. In 1919 less than one-fourth of 1 per cent. of the American imports of cacao came by way of Europe, whereas in 1914 24.5 per cent. was purchased through Europe. Imports from Portugal and the United Kingdom have declined until trade with the former has entirely disappeared, and receipts from the latter reduced to \$84,700.

Cacao from the Gold Coast formerly reached American ports via the United Kingdom. The tremendous increase that has occurred in the direct trade between this African Colony and the United States is disclosed by the figures. The value of imports of this cacao rose from \$888 in 1914 to \$11,681,338 in 1919. Marked declines from 1918 figures are shown in the 1919 imports from the British West Indies, Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela, and the Dutch East Indies, while imports from Central America, the Dominican Republic, the Dutch West Indies, and Haiti show increases.

The effect of the war on the Continental industry is seen in a jump from \$33,485 to \$8,071,347 in the value of Europe's purchases of American-made cacao and chocolate. This great expansion in trade can in a large measure be attributed to the fact that the Netherlands and Switzerland experienced much difficulty in obtaining cacao during the war, and, as a consequence, were obliged to curtail their sales to other countries. Some progress seems to have been made by American cocoa and chocolate manufacturers in invading the markets of South America, Australia and New Zealand, also, since 1914, and exports to Asiatic countries, particularly China and Japan, have increased considerably.

### OUR LIBRARY.

A HANDBOOK OF ST. KITTS-NEVIS: A PRESIDENCY OF THE LEeward ISLANDS COLONY. CONTAINING INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS CONCERNING THE ISLANDS OF ST. CHRISTOPHER, OR ST. KITTS, NEVIS, AND ANGUILLA. By KATHARINE JANET BURDON. Published by Authority of the Government of St. Kitts-Nevis by the Crown Agents for the Colonies. 6½ in. by 4½ in., pp. 248, 14 Illustrations, 6 Maps. LONDON: THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Mrs. Burdon, the wife of the present Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, has done the Presidency of her adoption a good service in compiling this extremely useful handbook. Embellished with many beautiful illustrations reproduced from photographs by Mr. A. M. Losada and Mr. Jose Anjo, and maps specially prepared by her husband, Major J. A. Burdon, C.M.G., the book is certain to find a ready sale among visitors to the Mother Colony of the British West Indies and all interested in the trade and industries of the Presidency, to whom it will be indispensable. To both classes it should make a strong appeal. The historical chapters, like those describing the climate, flora and fauna, or giving information to tourists, bear ample evidence of the great pains which have been taken—and successfully taken to make the work accurate. The book is divided into four parts, which deal respectively with the Presidency as a whole, St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla. A particularly useful feature is the complete list of estates in the several islands, with the names of their present owners and the acreage which has not hitherto been available, in this country at any rate. The maps, which are reduced from those recently published by the War Office, deserve a special word. Major Burdon, when in Dominica, enjoyed a reputation for thoroughness. He personally visited every nook and corner of the island, and it is clear from these maps that he has done the same in the Presidency over which he now holds sway, with the result that the maps of St. Kitts and Nevis are complete in every respect and embody many new features not disclosed by earlier surveys. Mr. Rey's map of Anguilla, though less elaborate, shows very distinctly the main roads of that outlying dependency. Having regard to the stress which they have laid for so many years on the desirability of each West Indian island having its handbook, it is appropriate that the West India Committee should appear as publishers of this handy volume, which reflects the greatest credit on its gifted compiler.

The "Handbook of St. Kitts-Nevis" is obtainable from the West India Committee, 15, Serthing Lane, E.C., post free 5s.

CONTRIBUTIONS towards the West India Committee's Endowment Fund, which are urgently needed, can be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada.



## ENTOMOLOGICAL CONFERENCE.

After a session full of interest to the delegates and the many visitors who attended, the Imperial Entomological Conference came to an end on June 11th. In addition to the representatives mentioned in last CIRCULAR, Mr. C. B. Williams, who is working on Frog-hopper problems in Trinidad, was present at several of the meetings. Mr. W. Patterson represented the Gold Coast; Mr. H. Waterland, Sierra Leon; Mr. G. Auchincloss, Mauritius; Mr. C. C. Gowdy, Uganda. All these are names familiar in the West Indies.

It gave great satisfaction that Sir Daniel Morris was able to preside at the meetings on June 7th the West Indian day. Sir Daniel referred to the different position now occupied by entomology from that in 1899, when he first tried to obtain an entomologist for the staff of the newly-established Department of Agriculture, and again in 1903, when Mr. Lefroy went to India and he was faced with the necessity of finding a successor.

"The Insect Pests of Cotton" formed the title of a paper read by Mr. Ballou, who also introduced the discussion on the resistance of plants to insect attacks, and later spoke on the insect pests of staple crops in the West Indies. Mr. Ulrich read a paper on "Insect Pests of Crops in Trinidad," and introduced the discussion on natural versus artificial control of insect pests, and Mr. Bodkin read a paper on "The Insect Pests of British Guiana."

The insect pests of cotton were shown to be many in all parts of the world, and, while most of them are not of a serious character in most years, some, like the Mexican boll-weevil and the pink bollworm, are most severe and persistent in their attacks in those cotton-growing countries where they occur. They are at present not found in the West Indies.

The cotton worm is the only one of the West Indian cotton pests which is to be controlled by the application of poisons. Others are controlled by more indirect methods, as, for instance, the destruction of old plants and the maintenance of a close season for cotton for controlling the leaf blister mite and scale insects, while these, with the destruction of wild food plants, are also suitable measures to take against the cotton stainers. Planting at the right time to avoid the attacks of the flower-bud maggot is another indirect method of control of a cotton pest.

The value of good agriculture and the production of healthy plants, and maintaining them in a thoroughly healthy and vigorous condition as a safeguard against insect attack, was brought out by Mr. Ballou in the discussion on the resistance of plants to insect attacks, and while it was recognised that many insects require to be dealt with by direct methods, the entomologists present were agreed that much could be done by purely agricultural methods. Mr. Bodkin gave an account of the excellent work being done in British Guiana in controlling pests of sugar-cane on certain estates by hand-collecting, which was illustrated by lantern slides, and Mr. Ulrich, also using lantern slides, described the work being done in Trinidad in the case of frog-hopper and other pests. Legislation to prevent the spread of insect pests by means of imported plants was the subject of discussion at one meeting, and a committee was appointed to draft resolutions in this connection.

In opening the discussion on "The Education of the Economic Entomologist," Professor Lefroy outlined the excellent course of training provided for students in this branch of science at the Imperial College of Science. Reference was made, during the discussion which fol-

lowed, to the part which may be taken by the proposed College of Tropical Agriculture when it is established.

The delegates were given opportunities to visit Rothamstead Experiment Station and Oxford and Cambridge Universities, where the agricultural and entomological work which is being done was explained and the laboratories and museums were visited.

The delegates were unanimous in declaring the Conference an unqualified success. The papers read and the discussions were of the greatest interest, while the opportunities for mutual exchange of experiences and ideas were also of great value, and they all felt that such conferences should be held at regular intervals in the future.

## DR. R. J. CAMPBELL ON JAMAICA.

The Rev. R. J. Campbell has had many interesting comments to make on conditions as he found them in Jamaica, from which he has just returned. In a recent article in the *Church Family Newspaper*, written just before he left, he attacks the question of shipping, and considers that something should be done speedily for Jamaica in this matter. Nothing, in his opinion, is more badly wanted than a British-owned line of steamships, if the present rapidly-growing prosperity of the island is to be maintained.

### Peaceful Penetration.

"We have been hearing echoes on this side," he continues, "of the discussions in England and America relative to selling the British West Indies or some part thereof to the United States in liquidation of a portion of our enormous war debt. That some Americans seem to desire such a transaction is evident, not only from certain of their Press comments, but from what American tourists occasionally say about it quite openly. More than once the observation has been made to me by Americans—never by Jamaicans—that if a referendum were taken on the subject to-morrow in this one colony there would be an overwhelming majority of votes in favour of immediate annexation to the United States. It is an amazing claim without a shred of evidence to support it, and one can only conclude that the wish is father to the thought. I have asked Jamaicans of all degrees and shades of colour whether such a desire exists; in fact, I have been in the habit of putting the question to nearly everyone I meet, and the answer is always and invariably the same: Jamaicans do not wish to transfer their allegiance from Great Britain to any other Power. I do not deny that they might have something to gain materially from such a change, for there is great need of the infusion of some measure of American vigour into affairs here, but the general sentiment of the inhabitants is utterly against the loss of the historic status of this ancient territory which would be involved in placing it under any other flag.

"Yet the American flag is much in evidence, and not only in the mercantile marine. American war vessels are continually in these waters and anchoring in British ports, and one is compelled to wonder why. No sight is commoner than that of companies of American naval men passing along Kingston streets or congregating in public places. The other night I ventured to ask a burly, voluble, good-natured United States naval surgeon what it all meant. He was the cheery centre of a group of merry, laughing young officers with whom I entered into friendly conversation. 'Why do American warships come here so often?' I inquired; 'are you trying to extend the Monroe doctrine, or what?' 'Not at all, sir; no politics. But our own country has gone dry, sir, and we have to come on British soil to get a drink.' 'There may have been some truth in the aforesaid, but if so the tact is little to our national credit.'

## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

### By "Agronomist."

The flowers of the coconut are fertilised by bees carrying pollen from flower to flower, and are thus made more productive of nuts. Every owner of coconut trees should realise this fact, and keep bees. When there are no flowers, bees can be fed with a little sugar.

Attention has been called in the CIRCULAR to the use that might be made of molasses for the manufacture of power alcohol. It is interesting to learn from *Notes about Sugar* that in Hawaii fuel alcohol made from molasses gives more mileage than gasoline, and at less cost. There is a large local demand for it.

The skins of certain fish are manufactured in the United States into leather which is well adapted for certain purposes. Fish scrap rich in oil, fish oil, and sulphur are the materials used for the production of a substance resembling rubber, which can be employed as a substitute in many ways.

Rubber is being produced now on Chinese territory. For two years rubber has been shipped from the island of Hainan to Hong Kong and Singapore. Plantations of rubber trees are being extended all over the island. It is certain that rubber will soon be one of the important exports of South China.

A company composed of American financiers have recently acquired sugar estates in Cuba, giving them a controlling interest in 153,000 acres of sugar land. Plans for development include the erection of a central factory with a capacity of 300,000 bags a year. It is estimated that production will eventually reach 900,000 bags.

The figs exported from Smyrna are grown in the vilayet of Aiden. The orchards are chiefly in the Meander valley, and are owned by Turks. Thirty years ago the yield was 9,000 tons from 10,000 acres, or about a ton an acre. This production had risen to 23,000 tons on 25,000 acres. The confusion during the war led to such neglect that last season only about 10,000 tons were exported.

Angora goats were first introduced from Asia Minor to Cape Colony in 1838, and there have been other importations since then. Angora breeding, the special requirements of these animals, and their diseases have been scientifically investigated and followed up in South Africa. In consequence the size of the flocks and the total yield of hair has gradually increased of late years, so as even to surpass the production in the vilayet of Angora itself. The Turkish trade necessarily ceased during the war, and advantage was taken of this to extend the industry in South Africa. The export value of mohair has already reached £1,000,000.

Finland has a cold climate, and a soil of no great depth. But, nevertheless, it produces large quantities of apples, pears, plums, cherries, currants, strawberries, gooseberries, and raspberries. Even so it is necessary to import more fruit for the needs of the inhabitants. But wild berries are so plentiful that over 10,000,000 lb. of whortleberries, blueberries, and cloudberries were exported annually before the war. According to the Finnish Department of Agriculture, berry raising has great possibilities, and the Department hopes to help to build up a great export of this fruit, wild and cultivated, fresh and dried. Scientific breeding and selection are being used in the production of fruit.

Cotton is grown in Uganda in half-acre, and one and two acre plots by thousands of natives, according to the

Governor, Sir R. T. Coryndon, in a paper read at the Royal Colonial Institute. The crop is harvested and carried to the ginneries by the cultivators. There are at present over forty of these small ginneries, erected wherever they are required, some owned by Europeans, and some by Indians. The quality is somewhat below that of Egyptian, and much higher than that of any African or Indian staple. The length is from  $1\frac{1}{8}$  to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch, and the present price is about four shillings a pound. The industry was started about eleven years ago by Governor Sir Hesketh Bell, so well known in the West Indies. Last year about 35,000 bales of over 400 lb. each were exported, and this year's crop has been estimated to reach a total of 60,000 bales.

There has been a steady decline in the export of cheese from the United States from the year 1881, when the amount exported was 148,000,000 lb. In 1913 the export was only 2,500,000 lb. The United States Department of Agriculture states that the decline was undoubtedly started by the manufacture of "filled" or "oleo" cheese, which began about 1870. A filled cheese is one in which the butter content has been largely replaced by other low-grade fats. This adulterated product was made chiefly from oleo-oil and skimmed milk. The cost of production was about one-fourth the cost of whole-milk cheese. The sale of this product resulted in lasting injury to the industry in the United States by ruining the reputation of all American-made cheese in foreign markets. Great Britain imports more cheese than any other country. The imports from the United States since 1881 have been gradually replaced by exports from Canada and New Zealand.

A Governor of one of the West African French colonies found on his first arrival in the colony lately that the revenues depending on what it could produce from the soil were sadly deficient. The products were from wild plants; harvesting and preparation for the market were of the most primitive type; agriculture was non-existent. He immediately began research. He directed assistants to examine the soil, and determine the physical properties and the chemical character of the chief soil types, and then to investigate their biological character. At the same time he set other assistants to determine and list all the native plants. Then a systematic investigation was to be made of the various properties of the native plants and their economic value. All this research was to serve as a basis for work in improving the extent and quality of the products by careful manipulation and cultivation, and in supplementing them by introduced plants.

The Duke of Bedford's Experimental Fruit Farm was established twenty-five years ago to make researches from both the scientific and practical point of view in matters connected especially with the culture of fruit. It was due to the initiative of Mr. Spencer Pickering, F.R.S., and was managed jointly by the Duke and himself. The methods employed consist in ascertaining by direct trial the true behaviour of the subjects in question under given circumstances, instead of accepting the ordinary beliefs and the rule-of-thumb methods of former generations. The economic conditions caused by the war rendered it impossible to continue the farm on its original basis. But the work done has proved so valuable that the Board of Agriculture, the Development Commissioners, and the Lawes Agricultural Trust have come to the rescue, and the farm is to be continued under the same management. Research work of similar nature is absolutely necessary to investigate problems involved in the cultivation of the sugar-cane. The Imperial Government is ready and anxious to help with the necessary funds, if sugar planters will combine amongst themselves to provide a moiety of the expenditure.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

## AT WESTMINSTER.

## THE JOHN CROW MOUNTAINS.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—In connection with the reference to the crossing of the John Crow Mountains in Jamaica by Inspector Thomas, which appeared in "Agronomist's" interesting notes in the CIRCULAR of June 10th, I write to point out that Inspector Thomas published in Kingston in 1890 an account of his trip, under the title "Untrodden Jamaica," with illustrations by the author.

FRANK CUNDALL

Royal Colonial Institute.  
June 8th, 1920.

[Following the appearance in the *Times* of June 5th of a letter from the Secretary of the West India Committee challenging Mr. Scoresby Routledge's claim to have been the first to cross the John Crow Mountains, Mr. John Watson Taylor very kindly presented to the Library of the Committee a copy of Inspector Herbert T. Thomas's interesting book, "Untrodden Jamaica," which was published by Aston W. Gardner & Co. at Kingston, Jamaica, in 1890. Mr. Routledge, in a letter published in the *Times* of June 10th, stated that he had read this book, in which Mr. Thomas tells in two chapters "How I Didn't Cross the John Crow Mountains" and "How I Did Cross the John Crow Mountains," and leaves the judgment between the rival claims to the Acting Surveyor-General and Mr. E. H. T. Massey, J.P., his ranger, whose views we should be glad to publish.—Ed. W.I.C.C.]

## THE MANUFACTURE OF INDUSTRIAL ALCOHOL.

To the Editor WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I have noticed in the last two issues of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR your allusions to the manufacture of this spirit for power purposes, and maybe it will not be out of place for me to put forward my experience in this line.

In Peru, where I was in charge of a comparatively large distillery making for consumption a 95 per cent. (Gay Lussacs) spirit, I found by experiment that it was quite an easy matter for me to run spirits at 98 per cent. to 99 per cent., which, when cooled down, registered 97 per cent. to 98 per cent., or about, say, 1 per cent. less than the strength it was run at, and this spirit when mixed with about 5 per cent. of its volume with gasoline made quite an efficient power alcohol suitable for internal combustion engines. I also found that if methyl was substituted for gasoline for denaturing, a more suitable power spirit was obtained—the flashpoint of the methylated spirits mixture being apparently more suitable than that of the spirits mixed with gasoline.

From some cause or other the sale of alcohol manufactured from exhausted sugar-cane molasses has gone down very greatly lately in Peru, and some of the distilleries there have had to, if not altogether close down *pro tem.*, reduce their production by 50 per cent. or more, and I put forward at the time a suggestion to the owners (through their Administrator) of the distillery under my charge, for the making of industrial alcohol, but for some reason not known to me no attention was paid to the point.

I place it that an improved Coffey's patent copper still, costing about £7,000, would be capable of producing no less than 1,500 gallons of, say, 95 to 97 per cent. (Gay Lussacs) alcohol in twelve hours. There are, of course, other patent stills on the market capable of producing spirits of an equal strength to this, and the cost of these is about £1,000 or so less than the Coffey's referred to.—Yours truly,

F. J. L. MORE

## Foreign Retail Prices of Sugar.

Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson informed Mr. Davies on June 10th, that he understood that the maximum retail price of sugar in Natal at the end of April was 6d. per lb. The retail price in Japan at the end of April was 1s. 3½d. per English lb. The retail price in Buenos Ayres during May was 1s. 3½d. per lb. The retail price in Cuba during May was 1s. 2d. per lb., and it was expected that it would shortly rise to 1s. 3d. per lb. All these prices had been calculated at normal rates of exchange.

## The Spirit Surtax Again.

Mr. Chamberlain informed Viscount Curzon that methylated spirit imported was liable to the full spirit import duty, but the plain unsweetened foreign spirit, or rum, might be imported for methylation in this country, subject only to payment of the difference between the duty of Customs chargeable thereon and the duty of Excise chargeable on British spirits.

[In other words, while spirit produced and methylated in the United Kingdom is duty free, Colonial spirit imported for methylation has to pay the "surtax" of 5d. per gallon.—Ed.]

## Colonial Preference.

Colonel Wilson, on June 7th, informed Captain Wedgwood Benn that an invitation to consider the practicability of preferential rates for goods of Imperial origin had been addressed to all colonies and protectorates except those which were precluded by existing International agreements from doing so, and a few others in which preference was already in force, or was, from special circumstances, inapplicable. Replies had been received so far from Hong Kong and Sierra Leone, in both of which preference was considered unnecessary; from Cyprus, where legislation on the subject had been passed; and from Mauritius, Trinidad, Jamaica, British Guiana, the Windward and Leeward Islands and British Honduras, in all of which the question was being considered.

## America and British Sugar.

To Mr. Sitch, who asked, on June 10th, whether any attempts had been made by his Majesty's Government to induce the Commonwealth of Australia, and any other exporting country allied to Great Britain by blood, to consider first the requirements of the home country, notwithstanding the higher prices obtained for imported sugar in the United States, Mr. McCurdy replied that the total imports into America of sugar from British colonies during the twelve months ended April 30th, 1920, had been negligible, amounting, in fact, to some 5,172 tons, or an average of 514 tons per month, as compared with a total importation during the same period of approximately 300,000 tons into this country from those sources. The Commonwealth of Australia was itself a sugar-importing country. Under the fiscal arrangements contained in the Budget of 1919, which had been in operation since September, 1919, sugar from British sources enjoyed a rebate of one-sixth of the duty payable on importation into this country.

## The High Price of Sugar.

To Mr. Doyle, who asked the President of the Board of Trade, on June 7th, what was the cause of the increasing price of sugar, if any attempt had been made to corner the supply in the West Indies or elsewhere, and what effort was being made to secure a greater supply of beet sugar from Germany and Austria in part settlement of the indemnity, Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson replied: The increasing price of sugar is mainly due to the world's shortage in supply, brought about by lowered production and increased consumption, particu-

lary in America. I am not quite clear as to the exact meaning attached by the hon. Member to the word "corner"; there is no doubt that an attempt has been made by sugar producers in some parts of the world to obtain as high a price as possible for their produce. As regards the last part of the question, the present price of sugar offers every inducement to producers in Germany to increase their output, but so long as the amount of sugar produced is no greater than the requirements of that country, no export can be expected. Austria is now a sugar-importing country.

#### Disability Pensions for Men of the B.W.I.R.

Sir John Butcher asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, on June 10th, whether he was aware that a totally-disabled man of the British West Indies Regiment was entitled to a maximum pension of only 17s. 6d. per week as compared with 40s. per week to which a totally-disabled man in this country was entitled; and that no provision was made for the wife and children of totally-disabled men of the British West Indies Regiment; and whether, in view of the high cost of living in Jamaica, he would take steps to secure an adequate pension for the disabled men of this regiment and for their wives and children.

To this the Under-Secretary of State replied:—

"The maximum rate of pension payable from Imperial funds to a totally disabled man of the British West Indies Regiment is 14s. a week, or in special cases 17s. 6d. a week, but, with Treasury sanction, higher rates may be given if pre-war earnings exceeded those amounts. Colonies which desired to grant pensions at higher rates from local funds have been authorised to do so. No representations have been received from any colony that there are wives and children of disabled men for whom provision should be made. The Governor of Jamaica will be asked to report whether he considers that the rates of pension have become inadequate owing to the increase in the cost of living."

#### Sugar for Jam Making.

Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson informed Sir W. Rachurn, on June 7th, that the total quantity of sugar allotted for the purpose of domestic jam making in 1919 was 63,000 tons. The quantity actually applied for in the current year was estimated to be not less than 200,000 tons—a quantity far in excess of the supplies available. The allotment of 2 lb. per head amounted to about 21,000 tons, but a further allocation of 1 lb. of sugar for every 8 lb. of fruit was being made to those persons who grew their own fruit, and it was estimated that this will absorb an additional 11,620 tons. The total quantity set aside for domestic preserving was 35,000 tons. A certain quantity of sugar privately imported under arrangements previously in force was still on the market, and permission had been given for this sugar to be sold for the purpose of domestic jam making, free of restriction. The total quantity of sugar for which licences to take delivery had been issued up to the present date was 48,000 tons, but he was unable to say what proportion of this is now available for sale for domestic preserving. The quantity of West Indian yellow crystal sugar available in this country between now and July depended upon the quantity which private importers might decide to ship. To permit the sale of this sugar free of all restriction would conflict with the policy of restricting consumption, which was necessary in consequence of the world shortage and the resulting high prices.

M. DESCHAMPS, the French Under-Secretary for Posts and Telegraphs, foreshadows important developments in wireless communication. A transatlantic service is to be established between Bordeaux and America, and the programme under consideration provides for radio-stations in the French West Indies and America. (*Un venant amnes!*)

## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

#### Manimoth Hotel for the Bahamas.

A company, entitled the Nassau Hotel and Steamship Company, has been registered with a capital of £1,000,000 for building a hotel, "Fort Montague," and establishing a steamer service between Jacksonville, Nassau, and Miami, with accommodation for 150 passengers on each steamer.

#### A Dry Month in Barbados.

Plantations, Limited, have purchased the schooners and business of Mr. Allan Skinner, of Speightstown and Shermans. Last April was the driest since 1864, and the land was parched for want of rain, when the *Agricultural Reporter* of May 1st went to press. Still, the young canes were holding out bravely. The Agricultural Society, on the motion of Professor d'Albuquerque, passed a resolution in favour of the colony co-operating with the rest of the West Indies in bringing the Agricultural College scheme to a successful issue. The Barbados Theatre Company is to be wound up voluntarily. Seven thousand pounds is needed to complete and equip the theatre, towards which eight gentlemen have offered to contribute £500 each. The Barbados Shipping Agency is the name of a new local firm established by Mr. A. C. Kidney, Mr. K. C. Boune, and Mr. A. V. Paravicino. The obituary includes the name of Mr. Josiah Drayton, who was the publisher of the first daily newspaper in the island.

#### Developments in British Guiana Sugar Factories.

Captain J. M. Reid, before taking up his new appointment on the Gold Coast, has gone to Canada to represent the colony at the Ottawa Conference, writes Mr. J. McCowan, on May 15th. Mr. A. P. Sherlock, who was nominated, was unable to leave the colony. The dry weather has at last broken, and it is hoped the rains will continue. Mr. T. Geddes Grant, of Trinidad, has been visiting Demerara. His Excellency the Governor was present at the funeral on May 2nd of Canon Harry Gainer, who died on his estate, Plantation Greenfield, at the age of sixty-three, having been in the colony since 1882. The ceremony was conducted by His Grace the Archbishop. Mr. M. Gonsalves has resigned from the Directorate of the Steamer Service. The British Guiana Sugar Factories, Limited, who, according to the *Argony*, have secured the controlling interest in Plantations Cove and John, on the East Coast, have purchased a new stern-wheel steamer, 150 ft. long, built originally for war work in Mesopotamia, but never delivered. It will be used for towing barges, each having a capacity of 200 tons, with the canes, from Plantation Houston, whose mill is to be dismantled, to the large, up-to-date mill at Wales.

#### British Honduras. The Light and Ice Company.

The prospectus has been issued of the Belize Electric Light and Ice Company, Limited, which has been incorporated with a capital of \$100,000. The Directors are the Colonial Secretary, the Colonial Treasurer, and the Director of Public Works for the time being, the Hon. G. E. Graham, and the Hon. I. R. Grant. Captain John M. Evans, who has been reorganising the Belize fire brigade, reports that its efficiency has been increased 500 per cent.

#### Jamaica and British Cotton.

On May 28th the Bill granting a preference to cotton goods manufactured in the United Kingdom and imported direct was passed. The Jamaica Imperial Association has protested against the proposed appointment of Government fruit inspectors, as likely to prove



damaging to the trade and a tax on the colony. The unusual occurrence of a May hurricane warning was experienced on the 28th. A deputation representing racing interests awaited on the Governor on May 25th to urge the reduction of the Amusement Tax.

#### Dominica's New Administrator.

The Hon. Robert Walter, C.M.G., arrived on April 31st, and was welcomed by Dr. Nicholls, C.M.G. Mr. H. Rolles assumed the government of the Presidency on May 1st. A draft appeal for representative government, which is to be circulated for signature, is published in the *Dominica Chronicle* of the same date. A Dominica Agricultural Society has been inaugurated. Mr. A. K. Agar, of Corlet Estate, who was on active service during the war, has returned to the island and proposes to practise at the Bar.

#### St. Lucia's Prices for Limes.

The Government Lime Juice Factory is offering 4s. 6d. per barrel for sound ripe limes, and 7d. per gallon for pure lime juice, testing 12 oz. per gallon.

A committee, comprising the Treasurer, Mr. Peter and Mr. Barnard, drew up the instructions given to the Hon. H. Ferguson, the colony's representative, at the Ottawa Conference.

The Administrator has presented a silver cup to the Racing Association for competition by common-bred horses.

Miss Marie McHugh, who edited and managed the *Voice* for ten years, has recently retired in favour of Mr. G. S. E. Gordon, who has bought the plant and goodwill of the paper.

#### Tobago and Steamship Communication.

We were much disappointed that Mr. Aspinall found it impossible to pay us a visit, a correspondent writes under date May 11th. He was perhaps doubtful as to Tobago's communications with the outer world, and might well be so. At the present moment the *Helise*, our only steamer, is off for repairs until the end of this month, and there is nothing to replace her satisfactorily. Meanwhile our ever-increasing trade suffers. One looks back regretfully to the time, thirty years ago, when Canadian steamers brought our flour and many other things direct, and when Scruttons and other lines brought our British goods direct. Now these and all our exports have to go through the bottle-neck of St. Vincent Jetty, Port-of-Spain, much to their detriment and our inconvenience and loss. Our total trade, it is said, is greater than that of St. Lucia. It is to be wished we had a title of the shipping facilities enjoyed by that island. The Development Committee have given very careful consideration to Tobago's needs, but the new arrangements proposed all point to a continuance of Port-of-Spain as our only channel of communication with the outside world.

Sugar used in the old days to attract sufficient tonnage. Now most of the old canefields are planted up in coconuts and cocoa. Young coconuts are fast coming into bearing, and will require direct shipment. Transshipment in Port-of-Spain is disastrous to the nuts. Rough handling and hot sun on St. Vincent Jetty convert selects into rejects with fatal facility.

The few sugar estates still in being are doing well. They are all worked on the Melayer system. It is reported there is grave difficulty in getting this product shipped away. A Canadian steamer would be a god-send at the present time. When one considers the amount of tonnage being produced in Canada, it is not unreasonable to hope that before long some of it will come this way. Weather continues dry, but there are signs that rain is near.

#### Trinidad's Plans for the Prince's Visit.

The Annual General Report for Trinidad for the year 1918 was laid before the Legislative Council last

month, writes Mr. Edgar Tripp under date May 10th. It is from the pen of the Hon. H. P. Walcott, and is dated August, 1919, when he was Acting Colonial Secretary. It seems a pity that documents of such importance, which must take up so much time and thought in composition, should be presented so long after the circumstances to which they refer. When one happens to be aware of the results of trade to December 31st, 1919, one loses to a great extent interest in the report of similar matters of one year previously. However, the report in general discloses the all-round satisfactory position in the colony, which, it need hardly now be said, has been enhanced during the intervening period to date.

On the invitation of the Governor, a representative meeting was held in the Legislative Council Chamber to appoint a Committee and generally approve of the programme for the reception of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in September next. An Executive Committee of fourteen, of which the writer has the honour to be a member, with his Excellency as Chairman, was appointed, and the nomination of sub-Committees and all other necessary arrangements will be left in their hands. The programme outlined by the Governor was generally approved, and will probably be adopted altogether. It includes presentation of the colony's address, drives to various points of interest in the country, a garden party and State banquet at Government House, and a public ball, all this to be completed on the first day. When one remembers that September is one of our hottest and most trying months, it will be seen that we place great reliance on the sturdy constitution of the Prince to get through it all. At his Royal Highness's request, the second day will be reserved to be employed according to his own wishes, but in the afternoon a reception is to be held on board the *Roxton*, after which the ship proceeds on her way. The two days will be public holidays. A vote of £5,000 has been taken in the Legislative Council for the Prince's entertainment in the colony.

With regard to the Ottawa Conference, the Committee appointed by the Governor has reported to his Excellency, conveying its recommendations as to the instructions to be given to the delegate from this colony. At the same time it was of opinion that the Conference might perhaps have been more conveniently arranged for September, when the commercial representatives to the Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire would be in Canada, and advantage of their presence could be taken in matters of such vital importance to the colonies represented.

Some time ago it was announced, rather prematurely, that the Trinidad Government dock would shortly be for sale, and that offers were requested. This may be so later on, but so far nothing has been decided except that no offers will be considered unless they proceed from some well-known and substantial firm, who will be under obligation to carry on the dock and workshop as an important work in connection with the progress of this port.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council held yesterday, an important scheme for the reclamation of the Caroni Savannah and part of the Laventille swamp, put forward by Mr. A. H. Cipriani, was adopted. About forty years ago the late Mr. Greor Turnbull proposed to take over these same lands on certain conditions, which were not unfavourable to the Government, and certainly would have been of immense value and importance to the colony, not only from a financial but from a health point of view, as the presence of this enormous swamp to the windward of Port-of-Spain constitutes an ever-present menace to healthy conditions in the town. Unfortunately, the Government did not entertain Mr. Turnbull's offer. Mr. Cipriani is confident that this work of reclamation will be carried out in about three years. It will open up a very large area of waste lands to profitable cultivation, and a new



road will be provided near the sea shore which will shorten the distance to San Fernando by ten miles and relieve the present pressure on the eastern main road. He is to be congratulated upon his enterprise.

**The American Invasion of Turks and Caicos.**

The Direct West India Cable Company.—H.M.S. *Calcutta* arrived recently from Jamaica and remained in the roadstead for about two hours on her way for Nassau. A Mr. Miller has been visiting the islands from New York in order to inspect Cockburn Harbour and the facilities there for shipping. Mr. Cowan, of the West India Development Company, and his local manager, Mr. W. R. Tatem, have since left for Haulover. Other arrivals from New York are Mr. H. B. Stevens and four mechanics. Mr. Stevens is associated with Mr. Hamilton Fish and others of New York who have purchased Parrott Cay, North Caicos. The island is, it is said, to be used more as a holiday resort, with growing cotton as a side line.

Business generally has shown a tendency to brighten up somewhat during the month; there has been a steady shipment of salt. On the 4th instant seven three-masted schooners were awaiting cargoes of salt, and from news to hand several vessels are to follow.

On the 29th instant the new Secondary School at Grand Turk was opened. The school is being conducted by the Rev. T. S. Cannon in the Wesleyan schoolroom. A fair sprinkling of pupils turned up at the opening. It is feared it may not be given the support it deserves.

Cotton.—All reports received are favourable, and the acreage planted out in the Caicos group is coming along nicely. Consignments are daily arriving from the various settlements, and the Commissioner will start to gin as soon as his new gin arrives from England. Despite the dry spell we have had at Grand Turk, a small patch planted out in cotton is coming along fine, and one can almost see it grow. There is no doubt that cotton, and especially the variety now being grown here, is well adapted to this dependency.

Conch Shells.—The industry is still dormant, and several of the engines which arrived here a few weeks ago have not yet been unpacked.

Sponge.—Shipments are being made to Nassau. Quite a quantity has been sent there during the month.

Sisal.—This industry is dead for the present; the low price obtainable on the New York market offers no inducement to the small shippers here.

**Vincentians Emigrate to Cuba.**

Mr. H. A. Bascom, says the *Sentry*, has been appointed Revenue Officer at Soufriere, St. Lucia. The first Order in Council issued under the Sugar (Local Consumption) Ordinance, 1920, takes 15 per cent. of the island's crops for local use, at wholesale prices ranging from 5d. to 6d. Opinion is being canvassed as to the advisability of holding an exhibition of the main industries of the Colony. One hundred and twenty returned soldiers left on May 7th for Cuba.

**WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.**

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Sailings to West Indies, per R.M.S.P. *Quilpie*, from London, June 9th (Commander W. E. Smith, D.S.O., R.D.)—**

- |                           |   |                     |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Mrs. E. A. Alston         | Miss O. Emtage                          | Mr. S. J. Kellman   |
| The Misses Alston (2)     | Mr. Frank Ford                          | Mr. H. F. May       |
| Mr. J. H. Andrew          | Mr. J. A. Frendo                        | Mr. George Mayes    |
| Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Bleack | Miss E. A. Frowin                       | Mrs. E. McMahon     |
| Dr. G. T. O. Boyce        | Bishop C. T. Galton                     | Mr. H. W. Merivale  |
| Miss M. E. Cameron        | Rev. & Mrs. A. Gibson                   | Mr. H. A. Poud      |
| Miss J. M. Cameron        | Miss E. M. Gibson                       | Mr. A. F. Spoon     |
| Mr. B. O. Centerbury      | Master A. H. Gibson                     | Mr. J. W. Waddell   |
| Mr. A. Cockburn           | Mr. E. P. B. Haller                     | Mr. J. F. Ward      |
| Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Dick     | Miss R. Hartley                         | Mr. C. B. Williams  |
| Mr. J. N. Drake           | Capt. and Mrs. A. B. Hawkins and Family | Mrs. O. L. Williams |

**Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, June 16th, per ss. *Bayano*—**

- |                           |                      |                                     |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mr. F. Aichinger          | Major B. C. Hammond, | Miss M. Simmonds                    |
| The Rev. G. A. Bell       | (D.S.O.)             | Mr. and Mrs. F. W. P. Foster-Sutton |
| Mr. H. W. Bowker          | Mr. M. B. Hunter     | Miss A. Tatem                       |
| Miss M. Cuthbert          | Mr. J. V. Kite       | Major & Mrs. Lowie Thomas, O.D.E.   |
| Mr. Thos. Fairley         | Mr. D. D. Mills      | Mr. E. L. E. Thorpelee              |
| Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Forder | Dr. L. M. Moody      | Mrs. A. W. Walker                   |
| Miss M. Gracha            | Mr. Hbt. Morrison    | Mr. B. Ziegelmeier                  |
| Mrs. E. K. Grageby        | Mrs. A. L. Murdoch   |                                     |
| Mrs. H. W. Hey            | Miss M. Prochaska    |                                     |

**Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, June 18th, per ss. *Coronado*—**

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|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Mrs. E. Bond     | Miss H. F. McPherson      | Miss J. Martin   |
| Mr. D. W. Casey  | Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Smith    | Miss M. Weymouth |
| Mrs. J. G. Davis | Mr. and Mr. R. D. Pringle |                  |
| Mr. D. W. Durr   |                           |                  |

**THE WEST INDIAN VISITORS LIST.**

Visitors from the West India are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Rev. J. B. Brindley          | Mrs. E. Haynes                  |
| Mr. James Brown              | Mr. E. K. G. Hoarck             |
| Hon. E. C. Buck, M.I.C.E.    | Mr. F. G. B. King               |
| Mr. E. A. Bugle              | Mr. H. Mason                    |
| Mr. A. Cameron               | Mr. O. C. MacFay                |
| Hon. J. B. Cassels, M.B.E.   | Mr. D. T. McEwing               |
| Hon. J. E. Cassell, K.C.M.G. | Mrs. McEwen                     |
| Sir W. K. Chandler, K.C.M.G. | Mr. T. Elnon Miller             |
| Mr. A. C. Collymore, M.B.E.  | Mr. H. E. Murray                |
| Mr. Robert Craig             | Mr. E. A. Newsum                |
| Rev. Canon Daltou, D.D.      | Mr. C. S. Pitcher               |
| Mr. H. S. Davis              | Mr. B. S. Reid                  |
| Mr. Lionel De Mercado        | Mr. W. F. Samuels               |
| Mr. G. P. Dewar              | Mr. V. H. S. Scott              |
| Mr. G. Farmer                | Mr. E. B. Skeete                |
| Mrs. M. C. Garnett           | Mr. E. L. Skeete                |
| Mr. R. P. Gibbs              | Mr. R. Straug                   |
| Mr. R. Gill                  | Mr. J. E. Streadwick            |
| Mr. J. O. Gillespie          | Mr. E. E. H. Thorou             |
| Mr. L. A. Gomez              | Mr. F. Ulrich, F.R.S., C.M.Z.S. |
| Sir G. Aubrey Goodwin        | Mr. Arthur P. D. Williamson     |
| Mr. R. S. D. Goodwin         | Mr. Harold Wright               |
| Mr. J. Hamilton              |                                 |
| Mr. Albert T. Hammond        |                                 |

Mr. F. E. W. G. Austin, "Compton Manor," near Winchester, Hants.  
Dr. E. Howard Bannister, c/o Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller, 34, Great Tower Street, E.C.

Mr. O. J. Christian, The West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W.  
Mr. A. E. Craig, c/o C. B. Hamill, Esq., C.M.G., "Orbistoun," Purley.  
Mr. O. S. Evelyn, "Martinhoes," London Road, Norbury, S.W.  
Miss F. A. Foreyth, 71, Queensborough Terrace, W. 8.  
Mr. J. J. Gibson, 13, Queen's Gate Terrace, S.W. 7.  
Mr. J. T. Greg, The Grey House, Bear's Hill, Oxford.  
Mr. A. H. Hamol-Smith, West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W. 1.  
Hon. S. T. Harrison, C.M.G., c/o Sir C. R. McOmgor, Bart., & Co., 89, Panton Street, Haymarket, W.  
Mr. C. O. Henriques, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.  
Mr. Thomas W. Innes, 3a, Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James's Park, S.W.  
Dr. E. H. Jago, Valentines School, Ilford, Essex.  
Dr. E. M. Johnson, c/o Dr. Phillips, "Martinhoes," London Road, Norbury, S.W.

Mr. Archibald Johnston, Ivy Bank, Baeaside Avenue, Rutherglen.  
Mr. G. Lattite, 28, Nevens Road, Earls Court, S.W.  
Mr. E. K. Lane, 11, Crescent Road, Beckenham, Kent.  
Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., Knockidow, Toward Argyllshire.  
Mr. J. J. Law, Whitehall Hotel, 18, 20, Montague Street, W.C.  
Mr. Dudley O. Leacock, Kensington Palace Mansions, De Vere Gardens, W.  
Mr. J. C. Macintyre, 24, Gordon Street, Gordon Square, W.C.  
Mr. J. Gardner McLean, Blinmore, Fabau, Co. Donegal, Ireland.  
Mr. W. K. Mandeville, c/o The Colonial Bank, 29, Gracechurch St., E.C.  
Mr. W. Mearns, 39, Carlton Place, Abardeo.  
Mr. James Miller, 17, Gracechurch Street, E.C.  
Mr. H. Pamplonno, Thackeray Hotel, Russell Square, W.C.  
Mr. T. Gordon Rose, c/o Col. E. F. Goseet, Duukirk House, Duukirk, near Faversham, Kent.

Mr. V. D. Rowe, York Court Hotel, Baker Street, W.  
Mr. W. M. B. Shields, c/o Messrs. H. K. Dawson & Co., 79, Mark Lane, E.C.  
Mr. G. P. Skeete, c/o Miss Williams, 5, Tavistock Place, W.C.  
Hon. Stephen S. Stedman, 29, Linden Gardens, Chiswick, W. 4.  
Mr. Athalaton Watson, 25, Elgin Park, Bedlam, Bristol.  
Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, c/o Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller, 34, Great Tower Street, E.C.

Mr. Alfred L. White, c/o The Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates, Ltd., 10, Lloyd's Avenue, E.C. 3.  
Hon. G. Williams, c/o Messrs. S. Dobree & Sons, 7, Moorgate Street, E.C.

**BIRTH.**

The charges for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 8d. for each additional line.  
**PAYNE**—On the 20th May, at Hadlow, Cranleigh, Surrey, the wife of Ralph Lavington Payne, Nigerian Administrative Service of 4 100

**MARRIAGE.**

**HAMEL-SMITH—MURRAY**—At Kingstown, Dublin, on June 16th, A. H. Hamel-Smith (Nolly) to Angela M. Murray, daughter of the late Mr. Christopher Murray, of Dublin



**PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.**

Telephone—6642 Central.  
Telegrams—"Card, London."

15, SEEBING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

June 22nd, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 7 per cent.—Changed on April 16th from 6 per cent., at which the figure had stood from November 6th, 1919.

**EXCHANGE** on New York: \$3.97-\$3.98½.

**SUGAR.** Control prices in the United Kingdom were modified on May 17th, and are now as follows:—

	Wholesale, Per cwt. s. d.	Retail, Per lb. s. d.
Cubes, Lumps, &c. ... ..	116 0	1 2½
W.I. Crystallised (see below) ... ..	112 0	1 3
W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups (see below) ... ..	95 9	7 0
W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing ... ..	uncontrolled	
Sugar for domestic preserving ... ..	114 0	1 2

The discount is 11 per centum.

The maximum "reasonable" price for all "licensed free sugar" (i.e., sugar imported or contracted for before December 28th, 1919, and licensed) from May 17th until June 12th has been fixed at 160s. per cwt., less 1¼ per cent., as compared with 150s.

In accordance with the arrangement concluded with the West India Committee (see CIRCULAR 554 of December 25th, 1919), the Royal Commission have fixed the prices of West Indian crystallised and muscovado sugar during June and July as follows:—

	June.	July.
Crystallised ... ..	142.78s.	146.24s. per cwt.
Muscovado ... ..	137.84s.	141.32s. "

The following letter was published very generally in the Press of the United Kingdom on June 14th:—

Sir,—Consumers do not seem to be aware that the old-fashioned brown West Indian sugar is obtainable at 1s. per lb., a price 2d. and 2½d. per lb. below the price of white granulated and lump sugar respectively; while Demerara sugar can be purchased at 1s. 2d., or 4d. per lb. below the price of lump sugar.

The brown sugar known to the trade as muscovado is the delicious, old-fashioned sugar of our childhood's day, manufactured direct from the sugar-cane, the luscious flavour of which it consequently retains to the fullest extent. It must not be confused with the disagreeable raw black sugar, intended for refining, which was released for consumption during the war. Similarly, West Indian crystallised and Demerara sugar is extremely pure and palatable, each single grain being coated with a thin layer of molasses, to which is attributable its delicious aroma and flavour.

Limited quantities of these two classes of sugar are available in the United Kingdom, and can be obtained by grocers through their suppliers when and where the demand arises.

All therefore that consumers need do is to ask their grocers to make arrangements to include supplies of these sugars in their rations, while the grocers, in their turn, should communicate with the dealers, who can obtain the sugar, while supplies are available, through the usual channels. With sugar at 1s. 2½d. per lb., a saving of 2d. per lb. is surely worth effecting.

Yours obediently,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

It has resulted in the receipt of an overwhelming number of letters, which shows the existence of a public demand for these sugars.

Germany is evidently getting anxious about England's proposed anti-dumping legislation. The *German Sugar Industry* believes that the 4,029 tons of sugar recorded in the Board of Trade Returns as having been imported from Germany must have been Czecho sugar shipped

from Hamburg, and adds that, however that may be, actual conditions do not justify the organ of the British West Indian planters in reiterating its demand for the adoption of special measures against dumping in view of the reappearance of German sugar on the English market. This very anxiety of Germany emphasises the need for anti-dumping legislation. Enquiries made by the West India Committee have now elicited the fact that the sugar imported from Germany this year has been of Polish origin. It is clear that Germany is not yet in a position to export sugar, but there can be no real confidence in the British sugar industry until all possibility of foreign sugar being dumped on the English market below the cost of production is removed by the promised legislation, the adoption of which is so long overdue. The *German Sugar Industry* proceeds to urge that the present unsatisfactory position in respect of the world's supply of sugar can best be met by the re-establishment of the beet sugar industry throughout the world, which could best be effected by private initiative under a *regime* of free sugar.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on June 12th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Tons.
Imports ... ..	29,490	16,668	10,422	
Deliveries ... ..	17,130	14,400	18,006	
Stock ... ..	20,496	8,160	5,057	

**RUM.** The market continues in a stagnant condition. In spite of the increasing diminution of imports, the stocks in the United Kingdom remain practically stationary.

The stocks in London on June 12th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Pons.
Jamaica ... ..	8,343	4,430	5,074	
Demerara ... ..	12,878	13,748	3,163	
Total of all kinds ... ..	21,069	22,531	13,166	

**CACAO** remains very flat, and the prices paid on the very small business done during the past fortnight show a substantial decline. Imports of West Indian, Jan-May, 160,961 cwt.

The stocks in London on June 12th were:

	1920.	1919.	1918.
Trinidad ... ..	37,833	17,750	12,719
Grenada ... ..	24,484	9,523	20,163
Total of all kinds ... ..	244,752	109,121	161,723

**ARROWROOT.** Nothing to report.

**BALATA.** The market shows an easier tendency. West Indian sheet is quoted at 4s. 3½d. c.i.f., and 4s. 6½d. to 4s. 7d. spot. Venezuela block, 3s. 6d. c.i.f.

**COFFEE.** There is very little demand, with no quotable change in values. Imports of West Indian to May 31st, 2,848 cwts.

**COPRA.** The business in this market is very small. West Indian f.m.s. is quoted at £46 c.i.f. London, and £43 c.i.f. Marseilles.

**COTTON.** Sea Island has been quiet. Imports of West Indian in the twenty-five weeks ending June 17th, 5,514 bales.

**HONEY.** This market is quiet, and only a small business has been done at steady to slightly dearer prices. The expectation, however, that the market would have improved in sympathy with the advance in the price of sugar has not been fulfilled.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** Lime Oil: Handpressed, scarce but quiet, value unchanged; Distilled, easier, sellers at 7s. 6d., but very little business passing. Lime Juice: Raw, firm tone, but business negligible.

**LOGWOOD.** Little or nothing doing to London. Value nominally £15 per ton c.i.f. London.

**ORANGE OIL.** Sweet is firmer with small sales at 35s. There is no demand for Bitter.

**SPICES.** Nutmegs and Mace unchanged. Pimento remains dull, and in the absence of business is quoted at 5½d. per lb. nominally.

# The West India Committee Circular

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LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams:  
CARIB, LONDON.

July 8th, 1920.

### A Concession to West India Sugar.

TOWARDS the close of last year, following negotiations between the West India Committee and the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, an arrangement was made for the marketing of West India crystallised and muscovado grocery sugars in the United Kingdom during the coming season. The basis of this arrangement was that these sugars were to be graded by the Cane Sugar Grading Committee as before, and that the Commission would pay for them a premium of 36/34s. per cwt. for crystallised and 31/42s. for muscovado and grocery over the f.o.b. quotation of Cuba 96° raw sugar, this premium being made up of various items, including freight, duty, the full British preferential rate, &c., and a "premium for grocery quality" of \$4 for crystallised and 1/52 for muscovado and grocery syrup sugars. It was understood at the time that these sugars would be allotted, that is to say, distributed among the grocers for sale to their registered customers as a whole or part of their rations; but we regret to state that the Royal Commission have not accepted this interpretation of the agreement. Consequently the sugars have not been allotted, with the result that they have been moving more slowly than was anticipated, the grocers only being supplied with West Indian crystallised and muscovado sugars when they specifically ask for them. Now grocers appear to be a very conservative body and have shown themselves disinclined to go to the trouble of asking their dealers to supply these sugars as part of the ration

quantities, with the result that the anomalous position is created and, though there are ample supplies of crystallised and muscovado sugars on the market, the public have been unable to get them. With the hope of oiling the machinery, the West India Committee accordingly addressed a letter to the leading newspapers, pointing out that consumers could obtain from the grocers with whom they were registered, West Indian crystallised and muscovado sugar at 3d. and 2½d. per lb. respectively below the price of lump sugar, as part or whole of their ration. The result was surprising. From every part of the country came letters from the public complaining that their grocers were unable or unwilling to supply them with these sugars. The reply of one housewife was characteristic. She wrote: "I have enquired at several grocers if they supply the above sugar, and so far have not found one—in fact, for some reason the question seems to annoy them." This discloses a very unfortunate state of affairs, leading, as it does, to the inevitable conclusion that these sugars are being boycotted by the trade, which is either unwilling or unable to differentiate between them and the nasty and black raw refining sugars which were placed on the market for direct consumption in the year of our greatest shortage. What also makes the matter so serious is that, whilst West India crystallised is being held back, dyed imitations are being freely allotted, with the obvious result that the latter is being given a distinct "pull" which will obviously give it a great advantage when it has to compete with the genuine article again. Meanwhile something had to be done to relieve the situation, and negotiations to this end have been reopened with the Royal Commission, who, however, still so far decline to resume the allotment of West India crystallised and muscovado sugar, which would prove the true solution to the difficulty. The Royal Commission have, however, with the concurrence of the FOOD MINISTER, agreed that henceforward West India crystallised and grocery muscovado sugars may be sold as "free" sugar for trade manufacturing purposes or for domestic preserving. That is to say, these sugars may now be sold at the maximum price fixed by the Commission periodically for sugar imported before December 28th and licensed, such price being at the moment 146/24s. and 141/32s. per cwt. respectively for July delivery. To what extent this concession will relieve the situation remains to be seen, but it is very certain that active measures will have to be taken to make it widely known among the manufacturers and the jam-preserving public that they can secure West India crystallised



and muscovado sugar in any quantities, from any dealer or grocer, as the case may be, at the price not exceeding the maximum fixed by the Royal Commission.

### Lest We Forget!

**S**IR JOHN BUTCHER, M.P., will have rendered a valuable service to the British West Indies if the questions which he asked in the House of Commons on June 22nd regarding the scandalous neglect of certain military cemeteries in those colonies awaken public opinion on the subject. As will be noted from another column, he asked the UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES whether the military cemetery on Needham's Point, Barbados, was under the control of the Colonial Government or of the War Office, and whether he was aware that it was in a shocking state of ruin, the rails being broken down, the tombstones overthrown, and the brick graves rilled. COLONEL WILSON, M.P., who replied in the absence of LEUT.-COLONEL L. S. AMERY, M.P., ignored the first part of the question, though one would have imagined that by reference to documents he could easily have ascertained who was responsible for the maintenance of the cemetery in question, but promised to make enquiries as to the present state of naval and military cemeteries in the West Indies. Of the Barbados cemetery we can speak with personal knowledge, and we have no hesitation in stating that its condition is if anything even worse than that suggested in Sir John Butcher's question. On the occasion of a recent visit we found it in a deplorable state, nearly all the memorial crosses and tombstones being broken, many of the bricks of the graves gone, and the whole place infested with land crabs. The latter may be difficult to eradicate, but if the cemetery was once trim and orderly, as it presumably must have been, there is no reason whatever why it should not now be made so again and maintained in a proper condition. It would be better that it were dismantled altogether, paved and planted with palm trees—as was done in the case of the military cemetery behind the Morne in Dominica—rather than be left in its present condition, which would be regarded as a reproach to any community. No doubt we shall hear in due course whether the blame rests at the door of the War Office or at that of the Colonial Government; but even if the War Office proves to be the authority responsible, the Government of Barbados cannot be regarded as free from indictment, for it should most certainly have taken steps to bring the state of the cemetery before the notice of the Army Council. The cemetery on the Morne in St. Lucia is admittedly under the control of the War Office, which should be pressed to provide a more liberal sum for the maintenance in good repair of the graves of the officers and men who laid down their lives in its service. It would indeed be anomalous if the country, while very properly providing for the maintenance of the graves of those who fell in the Great War, were to refuse similar honour to those who gave their lives to their King and country in the West Indies, on the grounds that that was long ago. Let, then, com-

mittees be appointed in the various West Indian colonies, whose care it might be to see that the naval and military cemeteries are respected and maintained in a decent state of repair. There must be many ladies with public spirit who would be only too glad to undertake such a responsibility, and we trust that our suggestion may commend itself to the favourable consideration of the Governments concerned.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

### Progress of the Endowment Fund.

The British Honduras Government heads the eighteenth list of contributions to the West India Committee Endowment Fund, the total of which has now been raised to £16,990. Out of the 2,128 members of the West India Committee, only 544 have so far contributed, and the Executive earnestly hope that the remaining 1,584 will also subscribe, and thus carry the Fund well beyond the minimum total of £20,000, as is absolutely essential if the Committee's full programme of development is to be carried out. With the purchasing value of the pound sterling reduced by nearly half, the cost of the production of the Circular still mounting, and rents being increased by from 200 per cent. to 300 per cent. in the City of London, it is of the greatest importance that every individual member should do his utmost to assist.

#### EIGHTEENTH LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

Contributions already acknowledged	£16,576	4	10
British Honduras Government	100	0	0
Eumoro Estates, Ltd., British Guiana	100	0	0
Ph. "Hope," cum annexis, "	50	0	0
Ph. "Houston," British Guiana	50	0	0
J. A. Jones, Esq.	50	0	0
Per H. N. Leacock, Esq., Barbados—			
A. S. Bryden, Esq.	5	0	0
A. J. Hanschell, Esq.	5	0	0
V. C. Hanschell, Esq.	5	0	0
A. J. Newsam, Esq.	1	1	0
	16	1	0
Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Welch, Ltd.	10	10	0
G. P. Dewar, Esq.	10	0	0
Hon. H. A. L. Simpson, O.B.E.	6	17	0
G. W. FitzHerbert, Esq.	5	0	0
S. H. Taylor, Esq.	5	0	0
Messrs. Withers, Benson, Currie, Williams & Co.	2	2	0
Captain R. S. Cotton, R.N.	2	0	0
J. D'Abadie, Esq.	1	1	0
R. P. Lawson, Esq.	1	1	0
John Macdonald, Esq.	1	1	0
J. A. Uddenberg, Esq.	1	0	10
Hon. A. R. Usher	1	0	0
R. P. Goffe, Esq.	10	6	
Gain on Exchange, Barbados	6	9	

Corrections.—Eighth List: Pott, Cassels and Williamson's contribution should read £25. Lewis Anderson, Esq. £1 Os., and Dr. Mahabir, £1 Os. 10d., were acknowledged twice in error.

Contributions towards the West India Committee Endowment Fund may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or may be forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London.

## SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"CANE no grow like grass."

The Jamaica-Porto Rico cable was repaired on June 20th.

CUBA's exports last year were valued at \$572,910,376, and her imports at \$357,575,522.

The Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, has placed an order for a tank steamer. This is the first Trinidad company to take this important step.

A RETIRED U.S. Army officer has invented an electrically heated teaspoon which will give just the necessary "kick" to soft drinks when stirred with it.

CAPTAIN G. LATHAM, R.E., leaves for Trinidad in August to undertake the topographical survey of that island and Tobago on behalf of the local Government.

We regret to learn that Mr. Paul Cressall, sen., died on June 3rd at the advanced age of eighty-six years. Mr. Cressall was formerly Comptroller of Customs in British Guiana.

SIR FRANCIS WATTS has been awarded the medal of the Royal Society of Arts for his paper on "Tropical Departments of Agriculture, with Special Reference to the West Indies."

CANON DALTON, who had the misfortune to fall while getting off a bus shortly after his arrival from Barbados, and was consequently for two weeks in Westminster Hospital, has, we are glad to learn, completely recovered.

The imports of sugar into Great Britain in 1919 were 27,232 tons, with a bond valuation of £875,538, or £32 19s. per ton. In 1918 the imports amounted to 1,697,369 tons, with a bond valuation of £33,962,420, or £31 16s. per ton.

The business of the Demerara Company, Limited, was transferred on July 1st, 1920, to 3, Cook-street, Liverpool, which will in future be the head office of the Company, only a small office being retained in London for technical purposes.

MR. ALEXANDER J. NASH—one of the two General Managers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—who is retiring on July 1st, after fifty-six years' service, will carry with him into retirement the good wishes of a host of friends in West Indian circles.

MESSRS. ARTHUR L. VAUGHAN and VIVIAN F. GALT (late partner of Messrs. Smith Bros. & Co.) have entered into partnership for the purpose of continuing Mr. Vaughan's dry goods business, formerly carried on in Frederick-street, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

The Government control of the German sugar industry ceases with the commencement of the 1921 crop, and producers expect a rapid development of the industry as the result. The price of beets for the 1920-21 crop has been fixed at 20-22 marks for 100 kilos.

The partnership which has subsisted for many years between Mr. George Macgregor Frame and Mr. Stephen Ewen has been dissolved by mutual consent as from June 30th, and the business of Frame and Company is now being continued under the same name and at the same address—21, Mincing-lane, E.C. 3.

The castor-oil plant has been suggested as a catch crop on rubber estates. The *Agricultural Bulletin* of the F.M.S. is of the opinion that it would scarcely prove profitable, if the price of castor seed falls to former levels. In India the cultivation is carried on by the peasantry, and not on a large scale on estates.

THE banana imports have assumed their pre-war magnitude, 2,733,096 bunches being introduced into the United Kingdom for the first four months of the present year, as against 1,185,448 bunches for the corresponding period of last year. For the first five months of 1913 the imports amounted to 2,575,719 bunches.

A CORRESPONDENT in the *Louisiana Planter*, speaking of British Honduras, states that so fertile is the soil of some parts of the colony and so suitable for cane cultivation, that in one instance, after seventeen years of continuous ratooning, without ploughing, fertilisation, or cultivation other than with the hoe, 20 tons of canes were reaped per acre, giving juice testing 9 deg. Beaume.

APROPOS of sugar, an amusing story is told by Professor Skeat in his work on English Dialects. A gentleman was enlarging to a Winterton lad on the virtues of Spanish juice (liquorice water). "Ah, then, ye'll ha' been to th' mines, wheare thaay gets it!" the boy exclaimed; whereupon the mother broke in with—"A great cauf [calf]! Duz he think 'at thaay dig it oot o' th' grund, saame as thaay do sugar?"

ALTHOUGH there was a decrease in the area under sugar-cane in Formosa for the crop 1919-20 as compared with that of 1918-19, due to the high price of rice then obtaining, there is every prospect of a much larger acreage being reaped for the 1920-21 season. A large number of new companies have been formed, who are offering every inducement to farmers to persuade them to grow sugar instead of rice. Japanese companies are also acquiring sugar properties in Java.

As an illustration of the value of sugar, not only as a food, but as an anti-scorbutic, Wray, writing in 1848, gives an instance of the crew of a ship which was delayed so long by calms and casualties that the stock of provisions gave out and the crew had to subsist on the cargo of sugar. "This," Wray says, "not only sustained the men, but actually quite cured them of the scurvy which had made sad havoc among the crew previous to their being reduced to this."

ANOTHER instance of the serious inconvenience resulting from the breakdown of West Indian cable communication has been brought to the notice of the CIRCULAR. A candidate had been selected for the post of City Engineer for Bridgetown. A cablegram was sent to the Chairman of the St. Michael's Vestry asking for authorisation for his appointment. The message was, as usual, held up, and, as the candidate could not wait indefinitely, negotiations fell through, and a good man was lost to Barbados.

PRINCE ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT formally opened the Empire Timber Exhibition, which has been organised by the Department of Overseas Trade, at Holland Park Rink, on July 5th. The exhibits, which are many and varied, include specimens of timber from British Guiana, British Honduras, and Trinidad, a description of which will be given in next issue. A limited number of tickets for this interesting exhibition, which will remain open until July 17th, can be obtained by members of the West India Committee from the Secretary, 15, Scething-lane, E.C. 3. The Exhibition is certainly well worth a visit.



## THE WEST INDIES AND CANADA.

### The Trade Conference at Ottawa.

The report of the Conference on trade between Canada and the West Indies will, it is now announced, be published on the 4th of next month. Meanwhile, from advices received by mail from Ottawa, it is possible to give some account of the movements of the West Indian delegates whilst they were in Canada, where they appear to have been treated with characteristic hospitality. They stayed at the Château Laurier, the magnificent hotel of the Grand Trunk Railway Company.

The Conference first met at 11 a. m. on May 31st in the Art Gallery at the Victoria Memorial Museum, when the delegates and their advisers were welcomed by His Grace the Duke of Devonshire. The Governor-General referred to the spirit of co-operation shown between various portions of the Empire during the war. Now came the question of making the future secure. One of the strongest methods which could be taken was to make the Empire as self-supporting as possible.

"In this Conference," his Excellency proceeded, "the principal subjects of discussion will be the relations between the West Indies and the Dominion of Canada, and it is not too much, I hope, to ask that the Imperial aspect will be steadily kept in mind as well, and perhaps the after-effect of what is secured in this Conference may be extended still further and another step taken in cementing all portions of the Empire by still closer bonds and closer ties."

Sir Robert Borden, who next spoke, said the Conference was a happy reunion, for many of the delegates were present at the last Conference in Ottawa. The opportunities for trade between the West Indies and Canada were so obvious that we should be derelict in our duty if we did not take advantage of them. Canada could not grow bananas and sugar with any hope of success; on the other hand, Canada produced goods which were needed in the West Indies. The war had shown opportunities for co-operation such as were not dreamed of before 1914. It had shown something of the spirit which prevailed among the various portions of the Empire, and the opportunity for making that spirit of co-operation more effective was more favourable now than ever before.

Lieut.-Colonel L. S. Amery, M.P., Under Secretary for the Colonies, emphasised the desire of the Government of the United Kingdom that the Conference should be a complete success. The welfare of the West Indies lay in the closest association with Canada as well as with the United Kingdom. The welfare of Canada lay not only in her immense resources, but also in the development of her manufactures.

"I hope," Colonel Amery went on, "that the outcome of the Conference may be not only of immediate direct good, both to Canada and to the West Indies, but will mark a further advance in the great movement of Imperial development and further that Imperial preference of which Canada has consistently been a pioneer in the past."

The Hon. E. St. John Branch, Attorney-General for Jamaica, replied for the West Indies. Jamaica, he said, was prepared, consistently with the financial possibilities of her case, to enter whole-heartedly into the great scheme which all had at heart, the scheme

which was once the dream of far-seeing men, but was now a potent factor in the councils of the Empire. The more one saw of Canada, the more one felt there was an evident desire on the part of the Dominion to walk hand-in-hand along the path of Empire consolidation.

### Full List of Delegates.

As already stated, the proceedings of the Conference was held *in camera*, but it is believed that the forecast of the main conclusions and recommendations arrived at which were published in last CIRCULAR will prove to be correct.

The names of the delegates and their advisers were as follows:—

Great Britain—Lieut.-Col. L. S. Amery, M.P., and Capt. E. J. Edwards, of the Department of Overseas Trade.

Canada—Right Hon. Sir George Foster, G.C.M.G., Minister of Trade and Commerce; Hon. Sir Henry Drayton, Minister of Finance; and Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Customs.

Barbados.—Hon. W. L. Phillips, O.B.E., and Mr. H. B. G. Austen.

British Guiana—Capt. J. M. Reid.

British Honduras—Hon. H. E. Phillips and Hon. L. R. Grant.

Jamaica—Hon. E. St. J. Branch, with Mr. R. Johnstone, C.M.G., and Hon. J. H. Phillipps.

Leeward Islands—Hon. Donald McDonald.

Grenada—Hon. H. Ferguson.

Trinidad—Hon. H. B. Walcott, C.M.G.

Bahamas—Hon. Harcourt Malcolm, K.C., O.B.E.

Bermuda—Hon. W. E. Jackson, C.M.G., and Hon. S. S. Spurling, O.B.E., Chairman of the Trade Development Board.

Sir George Foster presided over the first meeting, when committees were appointed to deal with certain specific matters on the agenda, notably telegraphic and steamship communication. The members of the Cable and Wireless Communication Committee were: Lieut.-Colonel Amery, M.P., Hon. M. Burrell, H. B. Walcott, C.M.G., Captain J. M. Reid, Hon. H. E. Phillips, Hon. Harcourt Malcolm, Hon. Donald McDonald, with Rear-Admiral Sir Allan Everett, K.C.M.G., C.B., and Lieut.-Colonel W. Sinclair associated.

The Committee on Transport and Shipping comprised Sir George Foster, Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, Lieut.-Colonel Amery, M.P., Hon. W. E. Jackson, Hon. Donald McDonald, Hon. Herbert Ferguson, W. L. Phillipps, O.B.E., H. B. Walcott, C.M.G., Captain J. M. Reid, J. H. Phillipps, L. R. Grant and Captain E. J. Edwards, and associated with them as experts, Mr. R. B. Teakle, of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, and Mr. A. Johnston, Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

The inclusion of Rear-Admiral Sir Allan Everett in the personnel of the Telegraphic Committee was rendered possible by the arrival of his flagship, H.M.S. *Calcutta*, at Montreal on May 30th.

On the King's Birthday the Conference despatched the following message of congratulation to his Majesty:—

"The members of the Canada-West Indies Conference assembled at Ottawa present their loyal congratulations to his Majesty on the occasion of his birthday. Under the stern test of the world war an inflexible resolution and an unwavering unity of effort inspired the people of the Empire in their defence of British ideals and

British institutions. Facing new problems in times of peace, we assure his Majesty of our conviction that a similar spirit of unity and an equally high resolve will inspire all his Majesty's subjects in their determination to maintain and strengthen those bonds which have so happily joined us together in the past."

On June 3rd the members of the Conference were entertained at a garden party given at Rideau Hall by the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, and other entertainments held in their honour was a delightful moonlight trip down the Ottawa River, organised by the Board of Trade. On this occasion Mr. H. E. Phillips, of British Honduras, was the West Indian spokesman in thanking the Canadian hosts.

A luncheon given by the Canadian Luncheon Club to the delegates, on June 6th, was the occasion of a brilliant speech by Colonel Amery, who emphasised the fact that Imperial development did not mean the development of the Old Country with the resources of the rest of the Empire, but every part of the Empire being drawn together with the fullest development of each through utilisation of each other's resources. The secret of modern development, he said, was in the marriage of the tropical and temperate zones, of which the United States furnished a notable example. He proceeded to say that the conference between the Canadian and West Indies Governments was in the truest sense Imperial development. Canada could use more than all the products which the West Indies could supply, while the latter had need of Canadian capital, enterprise and skill.

In comparison with the development of the United States following the Civil War, Colonel Amery said that the field before the British Empire was far vaster and richer, and more capable of development. The great resources of Canada were only a part of the whole. Each Dominion could supply products to the Old Country, and to each other, and in return receive such products as they needed but could not themselves produce.

He said that the British Empire was as much Canada's Empire as it was the Old Country's, and that it was Canada's right and duty to develop it as much as the remainder of the Empire. The conception of the Empire with the British Isles as a pivot and the other parts merely appertaining to it, he declared, was altogether wrong, and that if it was so each part would pass out of the Empire as their national spirit developed.

"The British Empire is a union of partners, a chain around the world," Colonel Amery declared. "Each member has a right to regard itself as a centre of the whole."

"In the truest sense of Imperial development, the Governments of Canada and the West Indies are meeting together to improve their associations by the bond of common interest and that deeper bond—human intercourse and personal association," said Colonel Amery.

"And this is only a beginning," he continued. "Canada's great expansion will be capable of consuming far more of the products of the West Indies than the West Indies can supply, and there is plenty of room in the West Indies for Canadian capital, enterprise and skill."

Colonel Amery went on to state it was well to note that preference in trade did not mean exclusion—not "a Chinese wall around the British Empire." He also emphasised the value of shipping in develop-

ment. "After all, transportation is civilisation," he said. To illustrate, he said that if the Canadian Pacific Railway could pull up its rails and lay them down again in South America, the railway would still be producing value, but the loss to Canada and the Empire would soon be felt.

The concluding function of ten memorable days was a Government Banquet to the West Indian delegates, over which Sir George Foster, one of the greatest orators of Empire, presided.

"Unless unexpected storms arise," he said, "I think we shall have, as a result of the Conference, an agreement in which we shall all be united an agreement which will open a new and fresh era of progress and development for those parts of the Empire we have represented here to-night."

Sir Robert Borden proposed the health of the West Indian delegates. He spoke of the new problems facing the Empire following the war problems which it had met so successfully. In drawing the various sections of the Empire closer together, he said, the work of the Conference would play no inconsiderable part. If there were no definite results from the Conference whatever, beyond those which came from the interchange of ideas—were there nothing else but that—the Conference would have been worth while. Results of great value had followed the Canada-West Indies Conference of eight years ago, and Sir Robert concluded by wishing the delegates every success in their present efforts.

The Hon. W. E. Jackson, Colonial Secretary of Bermuda, and Hon. Donald McDonald, of the Leeward Islands, responded, expressing the thanks of the West India delegates for the cordiality of their welcome to Canada.

## A NEW JAMAICA CENTRAL.

A contract has been entered into between the Gray's Inn Central Factory Company, Limited, of Jamaica, and Messrs. George Fletcher & Company, of Derby, for the supply and erection of a modern sugar factory and distillery for the 1922 crop. The plant is to produce 10,000 tons of 96 deg. crystals per crop and about 2,500 gallons of rum. The factory is of the very latest type and designed for the highest efficiency, the whole being electrically driven. It is contemplated duplicating the capacity of the plant in the near future, and the whole scheme has been arranged to facilitate this in the most economical way when the ultimate capacity is reached. It is of interest to know that in the old days a muscovado sugar factory existed on the Gray's Inn Estate, the machinery of which was supplied by Messrs. George Fletcher & Company in the year 1862. The cultivation of sugar was abandoned when the prices of sugar dropped to a point when it was not a profitable industry, but the ruins of the old plant remain to this day.

PERE LABAT, the great West Indian Jesuit priest and apostle of agricultural progress in the French colonies of Martinique and Guadeloupe, writing in the seventeenth century, said: "To preserve them (bananas) like figs, raisins and other dried fruits, they are allowed to ripen thoroughly in the house, in which condition the skin is very easily removed; they are then cut lengthwise into four, and dried on a trellis-like stand in the sun or in an oven after the bread has been baked; the fruit becomes covered with a white sugary powder deposited from its own juices. In this condition they will keep for years."



## THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

By ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 185.)

I had intended to mention in the last instalment of this article that by a happy coincidence the first person whom I met on landing at St. Thomas was a member of the West India Committee in the person of Mr. Leroy Nolte. He piloted me to the store of another, Mr. John Lightbourn, whose name was for so many years associated with the "Mail Notes" now published by Mr. George Audain. Mr. Nolte, who started life as a newsboy, as he told the Congressional Committee in his evidence, has, to his credit be it said, risen to an important position in the Colonial Council. He recalled the days when as many as forty sailing ships could be seen lying



A BALCONY ADORNED WITH FLOWERING PLANTS IN ST. CROIX.

snugly at anchor in the now almost deserted harbour. But he does not despair, and there is good reason to believe that St. Thomas will prove no exception to the rule that prosperity follows the Stars and Stripes.

The expeditions most popular among passing visitors who are only able to spend a few hours in St. Thomas are those to Mafolie and "Cha Cha" village. Having chosen the former, I cannot give an account based on personal experience of the village which rejoices in such a peculiar name. It would seem, however, that the "Cha Chas" are the descendants of white settlers from the Dutch and French Caribbee islands, who now eke out a modest livelihood by catching fish and weaving straw hats and baskets. Like the "poor whites" in Barbados, they have maintained their identity through the centuries, never having intermarried with the blacks.

Interesting though the "Cha Cha" village appeared to be, Mafolie offered superior attractions, as

it is on a saddle of the mountain, and so affords a view not only of the harbour, but also of the other side of the island, which I was anxious to see.

St. Thomas has several quite passable hotels. Of these the principal is the "Grand," an old-fashioned colonial building with several airy bedrooms leading off a spacious ball-room fully a hundred feet long by fifty wide—perhaps a rather embarrassing arrangement for some visitors on dance nights! The hotel has a pleasant terrace overlooking a small plaza called Emancipation Park, which commemorates the abolition of slavery, which was effected in 1848, or ten years after the slaves in the British West Indian islands had been freed.

Fortified by an excellent luncheon made up of creole dishes, of which we partook *en plein air* on this terrace, a distinguished artist and entomologist, on his way to join Mr. Beebee's expedition in British Guiana, and the writer set out for Mafolie under a blazing tropical sun. Passing the *dépendance* of the hotel known as "1829" on the hill side and

ascending a steep flight of stone steps, we toiled up a steep and very rugged zig zag path. It soon became apparent why St. Thomas has no agricultural industry. The soil is so rocky and parched that the wonder is that it supports even the existing scanty vegetation, but one would imagine sisal would grow to perfection on the arid mountain slopes. On reaching our destination after an hour's walk we were rewarded by exquisite views. Mafolie is a small property situated on the divide, and the gardens of its bungalow residence, now the property of a venerable Danish lawyer,

command the seas on either side of the island. During the war the proprietor of this charming resort had, perforce, to give place to a detachment of American Marines, who mounted a heavy gun in his garden to protect the harbour below from possible enemy attack. But he had been reinstated in his eyrie, to which he gave us a cordial welcome. He presented a most picturesque appearance. With long white hair and flowing beard, he was attired in a ragged shirt, the nether garment of a pyjama suiting, and a pair of slippers, and was enjoying a game of patience and his pipe of peace. He was possessed of a fund of information about St. Thomas, its history and people, and it is still a matter for regret that our conversation with this most interesting personality was so brief.

The views from his garden were superb. On one side far below us lay the town with its picturesque red-roofed houses nestling among coco-nut and other palm trees, and the harbour beyond embosomed with

bills. At the extremity of one of the promontories protecting this placid sheet of water from all but the fiercest hurricanes was Cowell's battery on the summit of a hill, on the lee side of which lay the floating dock of the St. Thomas Dock and Engineering Company, off the almost deserted wharves which once belonged to the Hamburg-Amerika Line, and off those still owned by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

Far away to leeward was a speck on the water which anyone uninitiated would take for a distant sloop. This was the famous "Sail-" or "Frenchman's" rock, which has misled many mariners.

It is a tradition that during the American War this solitary rock received a severe punishing from a French frigate, whose captain mistook it for an English vessel. The skipper hailed it. His hail was ironically returned by—an echo. He then fired a broadside at the impudent "Englishman," the noise of which reverberated, while some of the shot ricochetting and splashing into the water round his ship convinced him that he had fallen in with an enemy. He consequently kept up a heavy cannonade until the morning, when he discovered to his mortification the ridiculous mistake which he had made.

The view from the other side of the lawyer's house is, if anything, even more striking, embracing as it does Magens Bay, a deserted bay lying parallel with the coast, the water of which runs through the whole gamut of blue, from the palest tints fringing the white sandy beach to the indigo of the deeper water, and a group of fairy-like islands, including Hans Lollik and the Little Tobago in the dim distance, recalling the view of Capri from the Bay of Naples.

But time was pressing, and after feasting our eyes on these glorious views, and taking a cordial farewell of our kindly host, we had to hurry down the rocky path once more to catch the *Guiana*, which was already sounding her siren ominously as we regained the harbour.

From St. Thomas, the voyage "down the islands" is like a yachting cruise. Every day the steamer calls at a different port, remaining long enough to enable the passengers to explore the "sights" in the vicinity.

Leaving the harbour at four o'clock, the *Guiana* dropped anchor in the open roadstead of Frederiksted, the second town of St. Croix, just after sunset. The twinkling lights of the place, the glow from a central sugar factory, and the distant strains of a brass band tempted some of the more adventurous spirits to go ashore overnight. They returned with a roseate account of their experiences; but an inspection of the town on the following morning by those who had remained behind led to the inevitable conclusion that the alleged attractions of the town had been somewhat exaggerated.

When day dawned there lay before us a row of commonplace-looking buildings on the water-front—the police barracks, custom house, and the merchants' offices, one of which is said to have remained structurally unchanged since the days when Alexander Hamilton—the statesman who drafted the Constitution of the United States—who was born in the island of Nevis in 1757—sat upon his high stool in it, adding up the accounts of his employer, Nicholas Cruger.

The town, which is better known as West End, is laid out on a rectangular plan, and has broad, though usually unpaved, streets. The houses are mostly of the characteristic West Indian variety, with the lower part of stone and an upper storey of wood covered with the wooden tiles known as shingles, and balconies adorned with flowering plants and crotons in kerosene tins. One of the most prominent buildings on the main street was occupied by the local "Labour Union," which reminded one that St. Croix has suffered severely in the past from labour troubles. Purchased by Denmark in 1733 from the Knights of Malta, who had acquired it two years before from Louis XIV., it has been the scene of more than one insurrection, the gravest of which occurred in 1848. Early in 1847 a decree was promulgated by King Christian VII. by which all children born in the Danish islands after July 28th in that year would be born free. This did not satisfy the slaves, whose fellows in the neighbouring British islands had enjoyed the advantages of freedom for ten years. They accordingly rose in a body and dominated the island, and the Danish Governor was only able to recover possession of St. Croix by declaring slavery to be completely at an end. A system of apprenticeship was then set up whereby children, vagrants and petty offenders were apprenticed for a term of years to the planters; but this was abused and developed into what was practically forced labour. For a while it served to maintain the prosperity of the island, but, combined with the refusal of the Government to allot lands to free negro settlers, it led to another serious revolt in 1878, which nearly ruined St. Croix. Houses and factories and cane-fields were set on fire, and the greater part of Frederiksted was burnt to the ground.

Sugar and cotton are the staples of St. Croix, and both at the time of my visit were prospering, thanks to the abnormally high prices resulting from the war; but the labourers complained that they were not getting a fair share of the increased profits, and similarly the cane growers had stated that they were not being fairly treated by the three great centrals—Le Grange, St. Croix, and Bethlehem, which take off practically the entire crop of the island. Consequently relations between the factory owners, the growers, and the labourers were decidedly strained.

(To be continued.)

SIR THOMAS SKINNER, Bart., Chairman of the Halifax and Bermuda and the Direct West India Cable Companies, informs us that Mr. Joseph Rippon, the General Manager and Secretary of those Companies, retired from service on June 30th, and that Mr. H. F. Russell has been appointed Secretary, and Mr. G. E. Le Dieu Assistant Secretary, as from July 1st. Mr. J. Rippon, O.B.E., will carry with him into his retirement the good wishes of all West Indians. Apart from his business activities, he has been closely associated with the social side of West Indian life as a member of the Committee of the West India Club since its inception. During the war he was Chairman of the Bermuda Contingent Committee and a member of the West Indian Contingent Committee. A staunch advocate of the establishment of direct cable communication between Canada and the West Indies, he has consistently urged the laying of cables from Bermuda to Barbados and Trinidad—a scheme which seems likely to be adopted at last.



## SIR EDWARD DAVSON'S "AT HOME."

An afternoon reception was given by Sir Edward Davson, President of the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce, at Claridge's Hotel, on July 6th, to which many prominent people connected with the West Indies were invited to meet Lord Milner, Secretary of State for the Colonies. The guests, who numbered about two hundred and fifty, were received by Sir Edward Davson and Lady Emmott, who acted as hostess, and a programme of music was admirably rendered by the Claridge's Orchestra. Among those present were:—

The Archbishop of the West Indies, Earl and Countess Lishburne, Viscount and Viscountess Barrington, Lord and Lady Emmott, Lord Southwark, Lady Sinclair, Hon. Ada St. Clair, Sir Norman Lamont, Sir William and Lady Trollope, Sir Frank and Lady Newnes, the Bishop of British Honduras, Sir David Pain, Sir Thomas and Lady Horridge, Sir Owen Philipps, M.P., and Lady Philipps, General Sir Frederick and Lady Robb, Sir John Norton Griffiths, M.P., and Lady Griffiths, Rear Admiral Sir John Parry, Sir Charles Lucas, Sir George Fiddes, Sir Herbert and Lady Read, Sir Frederick and Lady Hodgson, Sir William and Lady Grey-Wilson, Sir William Manning, Sir Gerald Strickland, Sir Sydney Olivier, Sir Walter and Lady Egerton, Sir William and Lady Clark, Lady Ramsay, Sir George Bettesworth Piggott, Sir Robert and Lady Fulton, Sir Harry Wilson, Sir Charles McLeod, Sir Roper and Lady Parkington, Sir Clement Kinloch Cooke, M.P., and Lady Kinloch Cooke, Sir Thos. and Lady Polson, Sir W. K. and Lady Chandler, Sir Wm. and Lady Alcazar, Sir Henry and Lady Buckingham, Col. Preyanan Newman, M.P., and Mrs. Newman, Captain V. L. Henderson, M.P., Captain Ganzoni, M.P., Mr. and Mrs. G. E. A. Grindle, Hon. C. and Mrs. Clement, Mr. J. W. Dennis, M.P., Don Julio, Madame and Miss de Bittencourt, Mr. and Mrs. R. Rutherford, Mr. and Mrs. Algernon Aspinall, Captain Gilfred Knight, Mrs. and Miss H. R. G. Austin, Mr. and Mrs. D. Elliott Alves, Hon. E. C. and Mrs. Ruck, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Berthon, Mr. E. A. Bogle, Mr. and Mrs. Hyslop Bell, Mr. and Mrs. John Bromley, Dr. E. Howard Bannister, Mr. and Mrs. S. Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Colvin, Mr. J. W. Clark, Hon. J. B. and Mrs. Cassels, Mr. and Mrs. David Clark, Mr. A. Duckham, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. de Pass, Miss de Pass, Rev. Canon and Mrs. Dalton, Mr. and Mrs. Harold de Pass, Mrs. de Runzy, Mrs. Woodroffe, Mr. and Mrs. L. de Mercado, Lieut.-Colonel H. V. de Satge, Mr. G. P. Dewar, Mr. F. Du Buisson, Mr. and Mrs. Neville Dawson, Mrs. and Miss Duncan, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Ewen, Mr. G. S. Evelyn, Mr. Alexander Elder, Mr. and Mrs. G. Macgregor Frame, Mr. William Fawcett, Captain and Mrs. A. R. Fellowes, Prof. J. B. Farmer, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Greenwood, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Garnett and Miss Garnett, Mr. R. S. D. Goodwin, Mr. W. H. Giffard, Mr. and Mrs. B. Gainfort, Captain Alan Hotham, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Hewett, Mr. and Miss Hamilton, Captain A. W. Hill, Mr. W. Scott Heriot, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Hamel-Smith, Mr. E. P. Haughton-James, Dr. R. M. Johnson, Mr. Guy Leacock, Mrs. A. M. Low, Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Leacock, Mr. J. J. Law, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Lindo, Mrs. and Miss Law, Lieut.-Com. and Mrs. Lavinton, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Marks, Mr. and Mrs. G. K. Menzies, Mr. J. Moir Mackenzie, Mr. and Mrs. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Messer, Mr. Ren Morgan, Mr. C. E. Musgrave, Mr. P. C. Messum, Mrs. McConnell, Mr. F. J. and Miss Morris, Mr. G. C. May, Mr. Arthur MacKinnon, Mr. and Mrs. Luxmoore Marshall, Captain and Mrs. Mason, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Nicholls, Mr. H. F. Previté, Mr. H. T. Pooley, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Porter, Mr. Douglas Pile, Mrs. Laurie Pile,

Lieut.-Col. Ivan Davson, Colonel and Mrs. E. J. Previté, Mr. Douglas Previté, Commander and Mrs. Partridge, Mr. and Mrs. J. Rippon, Mr. V. D. Rowe, Mr. J. H. Scrutton, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sharples, Mr. R. Strang, Mr. Stephen S. Stedman, the Bishop of Barbados, Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Sherlock, Mr. Robert and Miss Smith, Prof. and Mrs. Simpson, Mr. E. B. and Miss Skeete, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sealy, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Wolsley, General and Mrs. Warner, Mr. A. J. White, Mr. and Mrs. Whitley, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. E. Alford Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Fitt, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Grant, Dr. Jensen, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. C. H. McClean, Mr. and Mrs. W. Peters, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Robinson, Miss K. Cressall, Mr. A. P. D. Williamson.

## AN IMPERIAL TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.

### Commercial Limitations of Wireless.

The Imperial Wireless Telegraphy Committee, in their report, which was published on June 27th, advocate the establishment of a system of Imperial wireless communication by geographical steps of 2,000 miles each. They propose that the Leaffield (Oxford) Cairo system which is shortly to be operated by the General Post Office on the arc system should be the first link in the Imperial chain, and that all further stations should be on the valve system. They estimate the cost of the requisite new stations in England, Cairo, Poona, Singapore, Hong-kong, Australia, Nairobi, and Windhuk (transformation) at £1,243,000, the annual charges at £425,000, and the revenue during the first years of working at £325,000. The capital expenditure and annual charges and revenue would be divided by the Imperial Government and the Governments of Australia and South Africa, the initial net annual loss to the Imperial Government being estimated at £63,000.

The report deals very fully with the scientific and also the economic position of wireless telegraphy to-day. The Post Office wireless staff, at the request of the Committee, kept 24-hour intercepting watches on the working of the chief European long-range wireless stations. They thus learned the average amount of traffic, chiefly Transatlantic, handled by these stations, the delays and interruptions occurring, the speed of working, and the number of repetitions required to secure correct reception of messages. They disclaim knowledge of the financial results of the existing services, but are of the opinion that no satisfactory commercial wireless service is in operation anywhere to-day over a distance of 2,000 miles.

The West Indies do not fall under the Imperial scheme, but their requirements will be dealt with by the West Indies Sub-Committee of the Imperial Communications Committee, whose report, it is understood, has now been signed and should shortly be available.

### BIRTH.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 8d. for each additional line. LANE.—On the 30th of June, at 11, Crescent-road, Beckenham, the wife of Edward K. Lane, of Antigua, B.W.I., of a daughter.

## SULPHATE OF AMMONIA COMBINE.

Sir Charles Greenway, presiding at the first annual meeting of the shareholders of Scottish Oils, Limited, at Glasgow, on June 24th, disclosed the formation of a sulphate of ammonia combine under the title "Sulphate of Ammonia Federation, Limited." In the course of his remarks he stated that the price obtained for the home trade last year for sulphate of ammonia was that arranged with the Board of Agriculture, licences being granted to the Sulphate of Ammonia Equalisation Committee for the export of any surplus.

"This Committee was set up to pool the export business among makers, thus encouraging sales in the home market. This plan worked well, and there was a feeling that some permanent arrangement on these lines was desirable. This desire is being given effect to by the formation of the Sulphate of Ammonia Federation, Limited. This Federation has just been formed, and at present embraces 44 makers out of a total in this country of 499, and this membership controls 90 per cent. of the total production in the United Kingdom. The production of the Scottish oil companies is about one-sixth of the total output of the United Kingdom, and in virtue of our large interest in this product our representatives have taken a leading part in the formation of the Federation. We are also represented on the Council and Executive Committee.

"As a result of the war, home farmers have come to appreciate the value of sulphate of ammonia as a fertiliser to a greater extent than ever before, and you will realise this when I tell you that in the year before the war only about 50,000 tons were used for agricultural purposes at home, while during the last year of the war the quantity used was about 270,000 tons.

"While it may not be possible to maintain this figure when other forms of nitrogen are again available, we believe that sulphate of ammonia has obtained for itself a permanent place in home agriculture. It is also anticipated that the formation of the federation will lead to substantial benefits in the conduct of the export trade. Hitherto there has been little cohesion amongst the makers so far as marketing was concerned, and the trade suffered from this in meeting the competition of foreign producers. It also created a very weak position, as there were something like 5,000 sellers and only about a dozen export dealers, which resulted in an extremely speculative and fluctuating market. The Federation will now undertake the marketing of the whole production of its members. Competition between makers will cease, and speculative dealings be eliminated. The Federation will keep in close touch with the world's markets, and makers will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are receiving the market value for their product. As already indicated, the Government has for some years been taking a close interest in the disposal of sulphate of ammonia, and, recognising its great value to the nation, especially in these days of shortage of food supplies, has decided to exercise control for a further period.

"Arrangements have been made with the Board of Agriculture whereby farmers here will obtain their supplies at agreed prices, makers being allowed to export any surplus. The prices fixed show a considerable advance over those ruling last year, this being necessary to meet the increased cost of manufacture. There is at present a world-wide shortage of nitrogen products of all kinds, so that we feel sure of a good market for our production of sulphate of ammonia during the next twelve months."

## IS BEET AS GOOD AS CANE?

The question is constantly being asked "Has beet sugar the same sweetening effect as cane sugar?" The reply of the advocates of beet sugar is that it has, and of the upholders of cane sugar that it has not. Paradoxical as it may seem, both are in a way correct. If *pure* sugar be taken, that is to say sugar polarising 100 deg. after deducting the percentage of water present, both kinds are the same sweetening power and sweetening properties. It is, however, when departure is made from purity that a difference arises, and in this connection it is necessary to bear in mind that there is sweetness and sweetens. Thus the sweetness of saccharin is not that of cane or beet sugar, while the sweetness of the natural glucose of the cane juice as found in cane molasses is different from either. Then again there is such a thing as flavour. Flavour in a food product is not what the food is taken for. Meat, for instance, is taken for its protein properties, but it is flavour developed in the course of cooking which enables the process of eating it to be an acceptable one, a flavour which is produced not from the protein, but from flavouring matter already there.

Every natural product intended for food has a flavour, which renders it enticing to the palate and which assists digestion. This has an important bearing in connection with the subject under consideration. Cane juice has a natural rich flavour, beet juice has not, but is raw and insipid. The latter contains no natural glucose or rich flavouring matter, and is dependent for its taste entirely on the sugar it contains, which, as stated above, is chemically and physically the same as that of the cane. It also contains bodies which render a particular description of clarification essential, a process which develops an unpleasant flavour in the raw product.

In the first place, therefore, cane juice starts with sugar plus especially sweetening and flavourable bodies, while beet juice has only sugar plus bodies which are objectionable in themselves, and develop further objectionable properties during clarification.

It follows that whereas raw cane sugar—that is to say, sugar which has not parted with all its cane juice flavouring attributes—has a rich flavour, raw beet sugar has an objectionable one. When these sugars are refined, these special features disappear according to the extent to which the refining has been carried out. As mentioned above, where *purity* is reached, there is no difference in the sugar, but short of this there is to a greater or less extent according to the extent of the refining. But as all refined sugars only contain a trace of these original juice attributes, the influence of the latter, for good or evil, is masked by the sweetness of the sugar proper, although the physiological effect may remain.

With granulated sugars—that is to say, sugars made by a direct process without the use of charcoal the effect is naturally accentuated. Thus granulated beet sugar is *not* so flavourable or so good as a food as cane plantation white crystals.



The mere fact that raw cane sugars, especially those made with a view to direct consumption, are especially nutritious and palatable, while raw beet sugars are very objectionable, supplies the key to the whole problem. If the raw materials are so widely different, the product will differ so long as any original products other than the sugar remain, the difference diminishing until absolute purity is obtained, a point which is only reached in the laboratory of the chemist. The *sweetening* effect of the high-grade commercial product may be the same, but the *flavour* with it will be different, according to the degree to which it descends from purity.

F. I. S.

## THE EMPIRE'S OIL.

In the course of an interesting paper on the Oil Resources of the British Empire, read to the Colonial Section of the Royal Society of Arts on June 4th, Sir John Cadman, K.C.M.G., D.Sc., M.I.C.E., referred to the enormous growth in the use of petrol and petroleum products which seriously threatened to outstep the supply.

The continent of North America produced to-day over 85 per cent. of the world's output of crude oil, the United States in her own territory nearly 70 per cent. of the world's oil output, while if that produced by the U.S.A. in Mexico was added, the total United States control was at least 80 per cent. The British Empire produced only about 2½ per cent. of the world's supply, or, if Persia might be said to be under British influence, about 4½ per cent. of the whole.

Sir John denied there had ever been any attempt to exclude the foreigner from participating in the Empire's 2½ per cent. production, and he instanced the commanding position occupied in Canada by the Imperial Oil Company, a direct and very powerful subsidiary of the Standard Oil Company, and the control exercised in Trinidad by the General Asphalt Company of Philadelphia.

After stating that only an infinitesimal part of the world's surface had yet been thoroughly examined for petroleum, Sir John gave the figures for the Empire's production in 1918 as under, from which it will be seen that the second largest quantity came from Trinidad:—

	Tons.
United Kingdom	250,000
Canada	40,000
Trinidad	300,000
India	1,150,000
Egypt	250,000
Australia	10,000
New Zealand	10,000
Sarawak	80,000
Total British Empire	2,080,000

The total amount of petroleum products imported annually into the United Kingdom at present was approximately 2,700,000 tons, of which the British West India islands contributed 130,000 tons. In the period from 1912 to 1918 consumption in the British Empire had more than doubled itself, increasing from 4,200,000 tons to 9,000,000 tons. Production had not kept pace, increasing only from 1,421,000 tons to 2,078,000 tons in those years. The lecturer expected Trinidad's annual production to reach 500,000 tons before long, and referred also to the prospecting work being carried out in Jamaica, Barbados, and British Guiana. He also mentioned that indications of petroleum were reported in British Honduras, and the Government had been considering the question of carrying out a geological survey.

## AT WESTMINSTER.

### Cost of Sugar.

Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson informed Mr. Swan, on June 17th, that the average cost of the sugar purchased in 1919 by the Royal Commission was approximately 29s. 2d. per cwt. c.i.f. for raw, and 37s. 9d. for white.

### The Confectionery Trade.

To Sir F. Hall, who called attention to the heavy imports of sugar confectionery from the United States, and asked whether the position of British and foreign manufacturers could be equalised, Mr. McCurdy replied that he could not see his way to prohibiting import, and as regards export of confectionery, this was allowed under licence up to 50 per cent. of the 1913 exports.

### Home Crown Sugar, Limited.

In the course of a reply, on June 8th, Sir Arthur Boscawen gave some interesting details as to the constitution of this Company. He said that it was registered on February 13th, 1920, with a nominal capital of £1,000,000. The total number of shares issued by the Company was 500,000, of which 250,000 had been allotted to the Government. The Government had guaranteed a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum up to March, 1930.

### Re-Exportation of West India Sugar.

To Captain Rankin, who asked, on June 16th, whether a quantity of white West Indian crystallised sugar had been landed in London, but under the direction of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply could only be left in bond, or sold to a purchaser outside the United Kingdom, Mr. McCurdy replied that it had been found advisable to restrict consumption in the United Kingdom to approximately 1,100,000 tons per annum. To allow free private importation of sugar in excess of this quantity would be in direct conflict with this policy.

### Grenada Seditious Publications Ordinance.

Colonel Wilson informed Mr. Richardson, on June 22nd, that an Ordinance with the above title had been passed in the Legislative Council of Grenada. This Ordinance would make it an offence punishable with two years' imprisonment and a heavy fine to publish anything with the intention to misrepresent the motives or intentions of the Government, or to excite dislike or discontent; it would give the Governor the power to prohibit the importation of any book or periodical into the island; and also give the power to judges and magistrates, sitting in chambers, to make an *ex parte* order suspending any newspaper published in the island for a period of twelve months. The chief object of the Ordinance was to prevent the introduction of seditious matter into the colony from abroad. The provisions of the Ordinance would be carefully considered before any advice was tendered to His Majesty in regard to it.

### Military Cemeteries in Barbados and St. Lucia.

Sir John Butcher asked, on June 22nd—(1) Whether the military cemetery behind the iron barracks at Needham's Point, Barbados, was under the control of the Colonial Government or the War Office; and whether, although the latest interment in it was only made in the 'sixties, this graveyard was in a shocking state of ruin, the railings being broken down, the tombstones broken and overgrown, and the brick graves tilted; (2) whether the military cemetery on the Morne, at St. Lucia, is under the control of the Colonial Government or the War Office; whether the sum expended on this cemetery yearly is apparently insufficient to keep it in a good state of repair; and whether the Secretary of State will have the whole matter inquired into with a view to enacting a proper and efficient control of this cemetery? Colonel Wilson replied that the Secretary of State was making inquiries as to the present state of cemeteries in the West Indian Colonies containing naval and military graves, and on receipt of the replies he proposed to take action in the matter.

## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

Tobacco is one of the chief industries of Paraguay. The export in 1918 amounted to 7,051,478 kilos, and the production is likely to increase considerably.

The need for research on the sugar-cane is illustrated by the investigations reported in the *Queensland Agricultural Journal*. Different varieties of cane remove varying amounts of the vital elements from the soil. One variety took from the soil 163 lb. of potash, 83 lb. of phosphoric acid, and 96 lb. of nitrogen, while another took 139 lb. of potash, 44 lb. of phosphoric acid, and 107 lb. of nitrogen.

Professor Rorer, who has transferred his services from Trinidad to Ecuador, reports that a vigorous campaign against hookworm is necessary in order to secure a more efficient labour supply. It is said that 95 per cent. of the people living in the agricultural districts of the lowlands of Ecuador are afflicted with this disease. The Rockefeller Health Foundation is sending an expert to conduct a hookworm campaign in that country.

The sugar planters of British Guiana are to be congratulated on having started experiment stations in connection with cane and sugar. They have agreed to be assessed annually for the purpose of providing the necessary funds, and an Ordinance has been passed to give statutory force to the scheme. The amount for the current year is 33 cents per acre. Mr. James Crabtree, M.Sc., F.I.C., has been appointed Superintendent of Experiment Stations.

American makers of agricultural implements are always trying to find, or extend, markets in foreign countries. They adapt themselves to the prejudices and to the pockets of the natives. For instance, they have studied the native plough of China. They realise that the Chinese peasant will not buy a foreign plough if it differs much from their own make. So they have invented one of much the same kind and of about equal cost. But it weighs 10 lb. or 12 lb. less, and embodies several valuable features not possessed by the native plough. They have demonstrated its efficiency to Professors of Agriculture at the Universities.

One reason for ploughing and forking the soil is to form air-spaces so that the roots may obtain air. One kind of mangrove forms asparagus-like shoots springing from the roots and rising out of the water for the special purpose of getting air. Another reason is that air is necessary in the soil to maintain its fertility, which is due to certain bacteria. The *Agricultural News* refers to a paper read by Mr. J. R. Rovell explaining the connection between bacteria and fertility. Bacteria are of the utmost importance in the soil, for it is due to their activity that nitrates are formed. If they cannot live for want of air, there will be a deficiency of material for plant food. This point is also referred to in a leaflet on Draining issued by the St. Andrew's (Grenada) Agricultural Association.

The St. Andrew's Agricultural Association has lately been established by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. M. Malins Smith, well known from his articles on the cacao industry which he contributed to the pages of the CIRCULAR. It is a healthy sign to find such Associations springing up, and to see them publishing useful leaflets like that on Draining. It is difficult without experience to realise what a new interest is taken in agriculture by meetings and discussions, and what a

lasting benefit they are to the district. When planter and peasant discuss agricultural subjects together, the mutual benefit is deeper than appears at first on the surface.

During the year 1913 the German and Alsatian mines yielded 11,600,000 tons of crude potash, 6 per cent. of this being mined in Alsace. The estimated production of crude potash from the Alsatian mines during the current year is 1,132,000 tons, or about 220,000 tons of pure potash. But this amount can be still further increased to such an extent that Alsace alone can supply the world's demands. After extraction, the potash salts are reduced to small particles, varying in richness according to the source. The poorer salts, such as kainit, contain about 15 per cent. pure potash. They are used in agriculture without further preparation. The rich salts, containing as high as 22 per cent. pure potash, undergo transformations for the separation of the potassium chloride from the sodium. These salts are used for the manufacture of pure chloride of potassium, containing 60 per cent. of pure potash. Kainit, on account of its bulk and low price, is generally used where the charges for transport do not add much to the cost. The concentrated chlorides of potassium are generally preferred for shipments to foreign countries.

The Kauripine, a valuable timber tree, is a native of New Zealand. It is usually 80 ft. to 120 ft. high, and 4 ft. to 8 ft. in diameter. The trunk and bark are full of resin. The ground on which the extensive forests are situated is low and swampy. It appears to have been very slowly and gradually sinking from prehistoric times. In consequence there are large deposits of buried forests. The resin forms amber-like lumps, some as big as a man's head. The peat of these swamps is saturated with the oil of the kauri. It is dug like shale, and the process of extracting the oil is similar to the distillation of oil from shale. The remains of the trees are much richer in oil than the peat. Extracting the oil is likely to become a very important industry, as there are thousands of acres of swamp land in the North Auckland Province of New Zealand. The first plant for the extraction of oil began work at the end of last year. It is to turn out 4,500 gallons of oil a week, its fractions being motor spirit, a valuable solvent oil, a turpentine substitute, and paint and varnish oils.

Commercial cheese includes more than 100 kinds. The milk of the cow is the chief source in the manufacture. But the milk of sheep and goats is also used, especially in Italy and Switzerland. Reindeer's milk is made use of in Norway, Lapland, and Iceland. In 1914 Italy produced more cheese than any other country. The output was 560,000,000 lb. More than thirty varieties are made there. The best known are Gorgonzola (from a town near Milan), Parmesan, and Casocavalli. Holland's dairy industry is at least a thousand years old. The exports are larger than from any other country. Edam and Gouda are the common cheeses made. Some of the finest cheeses are made in France, including Roquefort (from sheep's milk) and Camembert. Gruyere is also made in France as well as in Switzerland. Emmentaler cheese, made from unskimmed milk, about the size of a cartwheel, and Schweitzer cheese, made from half-skimmed milk, are exported from Switzerland. The United Kingdom exports a very small quantity. The chief kinds are Stilton, Cheddar, and Cheshire. The name Cheddar is derived from the village in Somerset, and applies now to the process, and not to the village. It is the only kind made in New Zealand, and the most important kind produced in Canada and the United States. With regard to world production it is the most important of all cheeses.



## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

The Government of St. Lucia is inviting subscriptions to £5,000 five per cent. debentures, to be issued at par.

### British Guiana and the Cable Service.

Mr. J. H. Luckhoo, a member of the Colonisation Deputation, has received from the Ahmadiyya Community of the Punjab a letter in which the hope is expressed that they may be enabled to co-operate with the British Guiana Government in any scheme for the encouragement of labour migration to the colony.

It is claimed that asphalt deposits have been discovered in the Mazaruni district. The famous 273 carat diamond found in that district in 1918 and bought in England for £1,200, has been the subject of an action in the Supreme Court, in which the plaintiffs are Messrs. Humphrey & Co., who are suing the original finder of the stone for the balance of advances made.

The Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce have taken exception to the policy by which, in view of the cable breakdown, wireless messages for British Guiana, Trinidad and Barbados were transmitted in equal proportions, and have decided to recommend the chartering of a schooner to take cable messages between the colony and St. Lucia. Mr. J. H. Field, of Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Company, has agreed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Colonial Steamer Service. Dr. W. H. Wharton has been elected a member of the Medical Board in the place of Dr. F. R. Edmonds.

Mr. Wood Davis has brought to the notice of the Chamber of Commerce the opportunities for British Guiana to develop a cotton industry and take advantage of Lancashire's offer to allot £15,000 for the encouragement of Imperial cotton growing.

### "Westies" from Jamaica for Honduras.

According to the *Cleaner*, a detachment of the West India Regiment from Jamaica is to relieve the detachment of the Royal Sussex Regiment at Belize, British Honduras.

A Sub-committee of the Jamaica Legislature, comprising the Acting Attorney-General, Sir John Pringle, the Hon. and Rev. A. A. Barclay, and the hon. members for Kingston, St. James and Clarendon, has been appointed to draft an Address of Welcome to the Prince of Wales.

One Jamaica Scoutmaster and twenty-four Scouts are to participate in the International "Jamboree" in London in August.

The Legislature has under consideration the imposition of a super-tax.

### A Protest Against Prohibition.

Empire Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm throughout Jamaica, notably in the schools. His Excellency the Governor has recommended the construction of an extension of the Jamaica Government Railway, to cost £19,000, in connection with the New Central sugar factory that Mr. Edwin Chailey proposes to erect at Hartlands.

On June 12th Miss Nellie Farquharson was married to Mr. Patrick F. Meaney, of Kingston, the ceremony being performed by the Assistant Bishop.

The reports of the Agricultural Instructors for the month of April agree as to the serious effects of the drought experienced in that month.

Mr. J. Dodd, Engineer of Way and Works, is to act as Director of the Railway on the departure of the Hon. M. Y. Grant, pending the arrival of the latter's successor. The Hon. R. F. Williams has presented to

the Legislative Council a memorial from the Council of the Jamaica Imperial Association, protesting against any policy of Prohibition or State control of liquor, as being detrimental to the island's revenue and on other grounds.

### Trinidad's Million-Pound Loan.

As all arrangements had been made for the Ottawa Conference, and the delegates from the other colonies had already departed, writes Mr. Edgar Tripp, under date June 2nd, the Legislative Council decided to waive their previous resolution on the subject and to appoint Mr. Walcott as the representative of the colony at the Conference, but he will not have the support of a Commercial adviser, as is the case with the other official delegates. In the circumstances there can be little doubt that the decision to take part is a wise one, as it would have been regrettable if Trinidad should have been absent when matters of such vital importance to the future of these colonies were to be considered.

The prayer of the petition protesting against the striking of the Royal College clock has been granted, and the clock has resumed its useful function by night as well as by day.

Applications to the amount of £420,000 have already been received in response to the call for a loan of £1,000,000, to be issued locally. As the time for application does not close until July 31st, it looks very much as if the amount will be over-subscribed. In the meantime it is being urged that the sudden absorption of so much floating capital is likely to result in a stringency in the local financial market and in funds for investment in island securities, and that the interest on these is likely to be appreciably increased. It is admitted that the Government will not be able to use the whole amount of the loan for a considerable time, and the proposal is to invest such portion of it as is not immediately required in English securities through the Crown Agents. It is understood that the opinion of the Secretary of State has been asked in the matter.

As an instance of the strange changes of fortune brought about by the great enhancement in the value of tropical produce, the Catholic Archbishop, as the trustee of his church, has recently benefited to the extent of £30,000. It seems that when Mr. Bert de Lamarre died, he left the Archbishop as the residuary legatee of his estates, which were then subject to mortgages believed to be far in excess of their value. This bequest has now been proved to be worth the above substantial sum.

The Marconi Wireless Company has submitted its comprehensive scheme for communication throughout the Empire, which appears to have many very attractive features, especially in relation to the absence of any request for subsidies, and for the proviso that in a certain number of years the Governments concerned will have the option of acquiring the whole system. The papers in the matter have been referred for the consideration of a Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. Meanwhile it is said that the cable ship, chartered by the West India and Panama Company, is making good progress with the repairs, and we are hoping in the near future to be once more in touch with such civilisation as remains in Europe after the war.

One of the most severe droughts experienced in the colony is still being felt. In some parts of the country there has been actually no rain at all for six or seven weeks, and everything is parched up. There are, however, indications that the rainy season will not be much longer delayed. In the meantime the sufferings in some parts of the island for the want of water have become very acute, bringing home forcibly to one's mind that the question of an efficient water supply is really the most pressing and important in the colony to anyone who knows the real condition of things and the extreme hardship resulting from this yearly shortage of water.

**WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.**

**The Demerara Railway Company.**

For the half-year to December 31st last the gross revenue was £42,599 and gross expenditure £33,480, leaving £9,169. After deducting the amount due to Government account for the Parika extension, £57, and debenture interest £1,400, there remains net revenue, £7,712. After adding the Government subsidy, £6,250; withdrawal from renewal fund for the year, £2,296; and the amount brought in, £1,130, there remains an available total £17,388. After providing for fixed charges, the directors recommend a dividend for half-year at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum on preferred ordinary stock, appropriate to renewal fund £2,296, and carry-forward £4,254.

Certain heavy renewals which were delayed in consequence of the war are now approaching completion. The payment for these in normal conditions would have been made out of the renewal fund, but, owing to the greatly increased cost of all current supplies, the cash position necessitates all available funds being strictly conserved. The directors regret, therefore, notwithstanding the favourable results shown in the accounts, that they are unable to recommend a dividend on the ordinary stock.

The directors are informed by the solicitors to the Crown Agents for the Colonies that the Combined Court of the Colony has passed a resolution in favour of the acquisition of the railway, but that the terms upon which the Colonial Government would be willing to acquire the railway depend upon the whole of the negotiations, and cannot be finally settled until the draft contract has been considered by the Colonial Government. The directors therefore are not yet in a position to inform the shareholders of the proposals of the Government.

**WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.**

**The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Home arrivals from the West Indies, per R.M.S.P. *Quillota*, London, June 23rd—**

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|--|--|---|
| From Barbados.<br>Mr. H. Paisley<br>Rev. & Mrs. Colvert & child<br>Miss M. V. Clarke<br>Mr. & Mrs. Da Costa & family<br>Mr. & Mrs. E. U. Grant<br>Mr. S. Hcald<br>Bishop & Mrs. Hntann and child<br>Miss Pocket<br>Capt. & Mrs. N. M. Portridge<br>Mr. E. Mullet Parrot<br>Hon. & Mrs. W. Peter<br>Mr. Douglas Pile<br>Mrs. L. Pile<br>Mr. & Mrs. C. Sealy<br>Mr. F. F. O. Swann<br>Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Thompson. | Mr. & Mrs. Walker<br>Miss Wrench<br>Miss M. Wolsey<br>From British Guiana<br>Mr. & Mrs. G. Dall-Greene and infant<br>Miss J. Hall Greene<br>Miss M. E. Craig<br>Dr. & Mrs. G. E. Craig<br>Miss K. A. Crewsall<br>Dr. & Mrs. C. J. Gomes and child<br>Dr. & Mrs. J. Harrison and infant<br>Rev. & Mrs. S. E. Watson and family<br>Mrs. Percy Wight and family<br>From Trinidad.<br>Mr. J. Adamson | Sir Henry and Lady Alcock and family<br>Mr. & Mrs. Carmichael and family<br>Mr. & Mrs. Christie<br>Miss Dalgety<br>Mr. & Mrs. S. W. Fitt<br>Mr. T. H. Gittens<br>Mr. F. Gomez<br>Mr. & Mrs. Haacock<br>Mr. O. H. Harley<br>Miss W. Knagga<br>Col. & Mrs. Lambic<br>Miss Lambic<br>Hon. & Mrs. Paterson<br>Mr. E. A. Robinson<br>Mr. C. S. Rogers<br>Mr. & Miss Stodart and family<br>Rev. & Mrs. Sunter<br>Rev. & Mrs. G. A. Tait |
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**Sailings to West Indies from London, June 30th, per R.M.S.P. *Quillota* (Commander, J. B. Muir)—**

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| Mr. S. Boodenough<br>Mr. C. B. Brown<br>Capt. J. A. Burnside, M.C.<br>Rev. Duncan and Mrs. Cameron.<br>Mr. A. H. G. Cochran<br>Mr. & Mrs. Fred Curtis<br>Mrs. K. Davis<br>Miss M. Davis<br>Miss Marie Devaux<br>Mrs. C. M. Fobey<br>Mr. M. A. Goria<br>Mrs. M. E. Grainger | Mr. B. F. King<br>Mrs. L. S. King<br>Mr. W. J. Knight<br>Mr. R. C. Lord<br>Mr. J. W. Maginley<br>Lt. W. H. Morris<br>Mr. G. M. Nightingale<br>Mr. G. T. O'Connor<br>Mr. D. T. O'Connor<br>Mr. and Mrs. H. Pampellone<br>Miss M. Pampellone<br>Mr. G. H. Rednan | Lt. Rednan<br>Mrs. E. Roth<br>Dr. & Mrs. W. A. Slack<br>Miss M. E. Trollope<br>Rev. C. M. Turnbull<br>Mrs. Turnbull<br>Lt. Curzon Villa<br>Mr. E. K. Walcott<br>Mrs. D. E. Wells<br>Miss J. Wells<br>Mr. Chas. Wheatcroft<br>Mrs. M. Will<br>Miss Will |
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**Elders & Fyffes, Ltd. Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, July 1st, per ss. *Montagua*—**

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|---|--|---|
| Mr. W. Borrie<br>Miss E. M. Braudon<br>Mr. B. M. M. Carlisle<br>Mr. R. L. Constantine<br>Miss E. L. Constantino | Mr. G. Cordoba<br>Mr. J. Gamboa<br>Mr. V. St. J. Laing<br>Mr. B. W. O. Lucas | Mr. C. G. Henderson<br>Boa<br>Mr. K. J. Turner<br>Mr. D. Wilkie |
|---|--|---|

**Home arrivals from Jamaica, per ss. *Patuca*, Avonmouth, July 1st, 1920—**

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| Mr. W. T. Beckingham<br>Mr. A. T. Branko<br>Mr. P. J. Bradbury<br>Mr. G. W. Bradley<br>Mr. C. Chamberlain<br>Miss E. D. Colby<br>Mr. F. J. Cullin<br>Mr. D. Curry<br>Mrs. C. J. Dewar<br>Lieut. Doberty<br>Lieut. Dowling<br>Mrs. M. Fraser<br>The Misses Fraser<br>Mr. & Mrs. H. Garraway<br>Miss E. Glover | Mr. and Mrs. A. Halls<br>Lieut. Hedley<br>Mr. & Mrs. W. J. D. Hill<br>The Misses Hill<br>Mr. N. S. Liud<br>Mr. E. D. Moore<br>The Misses Hudson<br>Miss M. Hunter<br>The Bishop of Jamaica<br>Mrs. I. Kemp<br>Mr. E. King<br>Rev. T. R. & Mrs. Noble<br>Lt. Col. D. R. Palmer<br>Mrs. H. Peet<br>The Misses Peet | Rev. & Mrs. T. Redpath<br>Mr. Rogers<br>Miss M. Rogers<br>Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Scott<br>Mr. Showler<br>Mr. A. Solomon<br>Lieut. A. C. Stephens<br>Mrs. Thompson<br>Mr. J. Turner<br>Mr. and Mrs. Verley<br>Mr. C. Verley<br>Mrs. F. Verley<br>Miss L. Verley<br>Miss E. Whitlock |
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**THE WEST INDIAN VISITORS LIST.**

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

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|---|--|
| Sir Henry A. Alcazar, K.U.E.<br>Rev. J. B. Brindley<br>Mr. James Brown<br>Hon. E. C. Ruck, M.I.C.E.<br>Mr. E. A. Rugle<br>Mr. A. Camerou<br>Hon. J. B. Cassels, M.D.F.<br>Sir W. K. Chandler, K.C.M.G.<br>Mr. F. A. C. Cullymore, M.H.K.<br>Mr. Robert Craig<br>Rev. Canon Dalton, D.D.<br>Hon. D. S. Davis<br>Mr. Lionel De Mercado<br>Mr. G. P. Dewar<br>Mr. G. Farmer<br>Mrs. M. C. Garnett<br>Mr. B. P. Gibbs<br>Mr. B. Gill<br>Mr. J. G. Gillespie<br>Dr. C. J. Gomes<br>Sir G. Aubrey Goodman<br>Mr. R. S. D. Goodwin<br>Mr. E. M. Grant<br>Mr. Albert T. Hammoud<br>Mr. E. P. Haughton-James<br>Mrs. F. Haynes<br>Mr. W. Lindsay Haynes<br>Mr. E. E. C. Hoosick<br>Mr. F. C. M. King | Mr. H. Mason<br>Mr. G. C. Mc. P. May<br>Mr. C. H. McClean<br>Mrs. McEwen<br>Mr. D. T. McEwing<br>Mr. R. Melbado<br>Mr. T. Elton Miller<br>M. H. E. Murray<br>Mr. V. A. Newman<br>Mr. Loughry Pila<br>Mr. C. S. Pituber<br>Mr. K. S. Reid<br>Mr. E. A. Robinson<br>Mr. W. F. Samuels<br>Mr. L. H. S. Scott<br>Mr. C. W. Sealy<br>Mr. E. H. Skete<br>Mr. E. L. Skete<br>Miss Small<br>Mr. T. T. Smellie<br>Mr. E. Straug<br>Mr. J. E. Streadwick<br>Mr. E. H. Thorne<br>Mr. P. Ulrich, F.R.S., C.M.Z.S.<br>Mr. S. W. Vander<br>Mr. Arthur F. D. Williamson<br>Mr. Clifford Wright<br>Mr. Harold Wright |
|---|--|

- Mr. F. E. W. G. Austin, "Compton Manor," near Winchester, Hants.  
Dr. F. Wainster, c/o. Wilkinson and Gaviller, 34, Great Tower Street, E.C.  
Mr. G. J. Christian, The West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W.  
Mr. A. E. Craig, c/o. C. B. Hamilton, Esq., C.M.G., "Orbiston," Purley.  
Mr. Frank Caudall, P.O. A., c/o. The Royal Colonial Institute, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.  
Mr. H. S. Evelyn, "Martinho," London Road, Norbury, S.W.  
Miss F. A. Forsyth, 71, Queensborough Terrace, W. 2.  
Mr. J. J. Gibbon, 13, Queen's Gate Terrace, S.W. 7.  
Mr. J. T. Greg, The Grey House, Doar's Hill, Oxford.  
Mr. A. H. Hamel-Smith, West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W. 1.  
Hon. S. T. Harrison, C.M.G., c/o. Sir C. K. McCaughr, Hart., & Co., 30, Pantoon Street, Haymarket, W.  
Mr. C. C. Henriques, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.  
Mr. Thomas W. Innes, 34, Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James's Park, S.W.  
Mr. E. H. Jago, Valentines School, Ilford, Essex.  
Mr. E. M. Johnson, "Martinho," London Road, Norbury, S.W.  
Mr. Archibald Johnston, Ivy Bank, Braxside Avenue, Hutherglen.  
Mr. G. LaBette, 28, Nevron Square, Earl's Court, S.W.  
Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., Knockdown, Toward Argyllshire.  
Mr. E. K. Lano, 11, Crescent Road, Beckenham, Kent.  
Mr. J. J. Law, Whitehall Hotel, 120, Montague Street, W.C.  
Mr. Dudley G. Lancock, Kensington Palace Mansions, De Vere Gardens, W.  
Mr. J. C. Macintyre, 24, Gordon Street, Gordon Square, W.C.  
Mr. J. Gardner McLean, Elanore, Fabbu, Co. Donegal, Ireland.  
Mr. W. K. Mandeville, c/o The Colonial Bank, 29, Gracechurch St., E.C.  
Mr. W. Meares, 39, Carlton Place, Alderney.  
Mr. James Miller, 17, Gracechurch Street, E.C.  
Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Robinson, Berrars Hotel, Berrars Street.  
Mr. P. Gordon Rose, Dunkirk House, Dunkirk, nr. Faversham, Kent.  
Mr. V. D. Lowe, York Court Hotel, Baker Street, W.  
Mr. W. M. D. Shields, c/o Messrs. H. E. Davson & Co., 79, Mark Lane, E.C.  
Mr. G. P. Skete, c/o Miss Williams, 5, Tavistock Place, W.C.  
Major the Hon. Stephen H. Stedman, 25, Lindou Gardens, Chiswick, W. 4.  
Mr. E. E. H. Thorne, Berrars Hotel, Berrars Street, W.  
Mr. Athelston Watson, 25, Elgin Park, Redland, Bristol.  
Mr. Alfred F. White, c/o. The Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates, Ltd., 10, Lloyd's Avenue, E.C. 3.  
Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, c/o. Wilkinson & Gaviller, 34, Great Tower Street.  
Hon. G. Williams, c/o. Messrs. S. Dobree & Sons, 7, Moorgate Street, E.C.



## PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—4442 Central.  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

July 6/8, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 7 per cent., as from April 15th.

**EXCHANGE** on New York: \$3.94-\$3.95½.

**ESTIMATES**.—Mr. Chamberlain has issued revised figures as under:—

Revenue ... ..	£1,029,000,000
Expenditure ... ..	880,900,000
Balance for debt redemption ...	£148,100,000

**SUGAR**. Control prices in the United Kingdom remain as modified on May 17th, as follows:—

	Wholesale.		Retail.	
	Per cwt.	Per lb.	Per cwt.	Per lb.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Cubes, Lumps, &c. ... ..	116 0	1 2½		
W.I. Crystallised (see below) ...	112 0	1 2		
W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups (see below) ...	95 9	1 0		
W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing ...	uncontrolled			
Sugar for domestic preserving ...	114 0	1 2		

The discount is 1½ per centum.

The maximum "reasonable" price for all "licensed free sugar" (i.e., sugar imported or contracted for before December 28th, 1919, and licensed) remains at 160s. per cwt., less 1¼ per cent.

In accordance with the arrangement concluded with the West India Committee (see CIRCULAR 554 of December 25th, 1919), the Royal Commission have fixed the prices of West Indian crystallised and muscovado sugar during July and August as follows:—

	July.	August.
Crystallised ... ..	146.24s.	129.07s. per cwt.
Muscovado ... ..	141.32s.	124.75s. "

Following a deputation to the Royal Commission on June 21st, the West India Committee have received from them the following letter dated June 25th, regarding the sale of West India crystallised and grocery muscovado sugar:—

I am directed to refer to the meeting which was held at these offices on 21st inst. between certain members of your Committee, representatives of the West Indian crystallised trade, and this Commission, relative to the difficulties at present experienced in the distribution of British West Indian grocery crystallised and grocery muscovado sugar against vouchers, and to inform you that the Food Controller has concurred in the suggestion made to him that these two classes of sugar may in future be sold as "free" sugar for manufacturing or domestic preserving purposes.

I am to add that this Commission proposes to include in this concession such parcels of British West India white crystals as may already have been landed, on the grounds that they were originally shipped in good faith owing to an incomplete understanding on the part of the shippers of the arrangement made in December, 1919, between your Committee and this Commission for the shipment and sale of British West Indian grocery crystallised and grocery muscovado.

It is understood that the December agreement will not be applicable to any sales of "free" sugar.

I am to request that you will be good enough to inform those concerned of the contents of this letter, copy of which is being sent to the West India Association of Glasgow.

J. J. RUNGE,  
Secretary.

The upshot is that these sugars can now be sold to manufacturers and the public, whether registered or not, and in any quantity, at the control prices fixed for the month for free sugar. This may relieve the situation, but what is really needed is the allotment

of W.I. crystallised and muscovado. Meanwhile it is too early to say what effect the concession will have, and the market has been quiet.

Messrs. Willett & Gray estimate the world's sugar crop for 1919-20 at 15,217,170 tons, as against 16,413,402 tons in 1918-19, a deficiency of 1,196,232 tons. The cane crops are expected to yield 11,764,919 tons, as against 12,017,302 tons last year, a shortage of 252,383 tons. Shortage occurs in Louisiana, 142,000 tons; Cuba, 320,000 tons; and Formosa, 115,000 tons. On the other hand, Java, which had a shortage of 390,000 tons in 1919, is expected to produce 130,000 tons more in 1920. The total beet crops amount to 3,452,251 tons, as against 4,396,100 tons in 1918-19. The deficiency occurs almost entirely in Europe, the crop of which is 916,000 tons short of last year. Germany is short 650,000 tons and Russia 350,000 tons.

The Royal Commission has, as announced in the Press, purchased the entire Mauritius crop of Vésou sugar at the average price of 90s. f.o.b. It is estimated that the crop will amount to about 200,000 tons.

The West India sugar statistics in London on 26th June were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Tons.
Imports ... ..	31,009	21,254	11,204	
Deliveries ... ..	18,701	16,145	14,248	"
Stock ... ..	20,444	11,301	3,035	"

**RUM** is still very quiet, and sales of Demerara 1919 distillation at 6s. proof make Jamaicans look dear. The local demand in Jamaica appears good, and sales are reported there at much higher figures than dealers here are prepared to pay.

The stocks in London on 26th June were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Pump
Jamaica ... ..	9,474	5,154	4,969	
Demerara ... ..	12,544	14,016	3,706	"
Total of all kinds ...	31,735	23,557	14,389	"

**CACAO**. Very dull, and little demand. Plantation Trinidad nominally 115s. to 120s. on the spot, but offers for forward shipment are being made at lower prices. Grenada nominally 105s. to 114s., Jamaica 100s. to 110s.

The stocks in London on June 26th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Bags
Trinidad ... ..	42,766	19,405	11,396	
Grenada ... ..	23,718	12,628	17,565	"
Total of all kinds ...	253,267	111,363	146,631	"

**ARROWROOT**. There have been small sales at 4d. to 7d.

**BALATA**. The market is rather easier. West India sheets find sellers at 4s. 4d. c.i.f., but few buyers. Spot scarce, 4s. 7½d. nominal. Venezuela block lower, quoted at 3s. 5½d. c.i.f. and 3s. 7½d. spot.

**COPRA** is dull. West Indian f.m.s. is quoted at £47 c.i.f., London or Antwerp.

**HONEY**. The market is still very dull. At auction nearly everything was withdrawn. A small lot of dark liquid Jamaican in cases sold at 80s., and a few casks good pale at 97s. 6d. per cwt.

**LIME PRODUCTS**. **Lime Oil**: Handpressed, quiet but firm. Small sale at 27s. **Distilled**, neglected. Value nominally 7s. 3d. to 7s. 6d. **Raw**, no change.

**LOGWOOD**. There is no change. The market remains steady.

**ORANGE OIL**. No change to report in either **Sweet** or **Bitter**.

**SPICES**. **Pimento** is still lifeless. Some holders are willing to sell at 5d., but buyers uninterested. **Ginger**, Jamaican is in less demand. It is quoted at 170s. to 210s. but in the absence of demand the prices are somewhat nominal.

# The West India Committee Circular

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone:  
6642 CENTRAL.

Telegrams:  
CARIB, LONDON.



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

July 22nd, 1920.

### Si Monumentum Requiris . . . . .

**N**EWs of the death of SURGEON-GENERAL GORGAS in London on June 26th will, we may be certain, have been received with profound regret in every civilised part of the tropical world, which has benefited so much from his great work in stamping out yellow fever and malaria. While the credit for discovering that these diseases were communicated to human beings by mosquitoes is due to FINLAY, REED, CARROLL, LAZEAR, and AGRAMONTE in the case of yellow fever, and to MANSON, ROSS, and LOW in that of malaria, it will never be forgotten that it was GORGAS who gave to the world practical demonstration of the value of these discoveries to mankind. Born in Alabama in 1854, WILLIAM CRAWFORD GORGAS was appointed a Surgeon in the United States Army in 1880, and during the Spanish-American war in 1898 he served with the army in Cuba, taking part in the capture of Havana, then a positive hotbed of fever and disease. He was subsequently appointed chief sanitary officer of Havana, and the story of how he made it the healthy city which it now is reads almost like a fairy-tale. With remarkable, though characteristic, energy, this great American proceeded to carry out the recommendations of the American Commission, which had been appointed to investigate and report upon the health of the city. He issued orders that all receptacles containing water were to be kept mosquito-proof, and by appointing sanitary inspectors to maintain a house-to-house campaign, he saw that they were

carried out. Puddles were treated with oil, receptacles containing larvae emptied and their owners fined, and fever hospitals and their patients screened. The system was drastic and persistent, and the results exceeded all expectations. By 1902 yellow fever had ceased to originate in Havana, and by 1910 Cuba was declared to be free of the disease, and now the island is a recognised health resort. In 1904 GORGAS was transferred as chief sanitary officer to the Panama Canal zone, and the results of his work there were even more dramatic and striking. During the construction of the railroad between Colon and Panama, in the 'fifties, the mortality was appalling, and it was said that each sleeper on the line represented one labourer dead. In DE LESSEPS' day the position was no better, the labourers on the canal dying like flies, for it was not then realised that the problem of constructing the canal was one of sanitation rather than engineering. But when GORGAS arrived on the isthmus and put into force the regulations which had proved so effective in Cuba, a remarkable change came over the situation. The death rate was rapidly reduced from 35 to 10 per thousand, and it is not too much to say that it was GORGAS who rendered the completion of the Panama Canal possible. In the British West Indian islands attempts have been made to follow the splendid example set by GORGAS, but sorry though we are to have to say it, they have lacked the steady and concentrated effort which has contributed so largely to the success of American enterprise in this connection. The local medical staffs are efficient and keen, but they lack the guiding hand of a great organiser and administrator such as GORGAS was, with the result that after nearly three hundred years of colonisation in the West Indies we are far behind America with only twenty-two to her credit! During his life the King marked his appreciation of SURGEON-GENERAL GORGAS' work by appointing him to be a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and the British Government paid to him in death the well-deserved tribute of a public funeral service in St. Paul's Cathedral, with full military honours. If a monument to this distinguished surgeon were required, it would certainly be seen in the island of Cuba and in the Panama Canal zone, which will form a permanent reminder of his life-work.

### The Sugar Outlook.

**T**HE outlook for sugar during the next six months is a serious one for the consumers in this country. The Cuban crop is approaching its finish, and 3,650,000 tons now looked upon as its prob-



able extent is a long way short of the 4,300,000 tons expected at the beginning of the year. The Java crop, which used to be of service in bridging over the gap between the end of the Cuban crop and the beginning of the Continental beet crop will help the situation in some degree, but as there will be no European sugar for export, it will only keep matters going to a small extent. There will be, it is true, the Mauritius crop available, but the 200,000 tons bought by the Government will not go far to meet the 800,000 tons required by this country in the next six months. The island crops in the West Indies are over, and there will not be more than 70,000 tons produced in British Guiana by the end of the year. Some sugar, but not much, will be obtainable from the Argentine and Peru. In the United States the Western beet crop will do something to answer the call of the consumers of that country for sugar, but it will still be short of its maximum, and will not go far at the present rate of consumption in that country. With the solid fact that the 1919-20 crop of the world will be over 1,000,000 tons short of the 1918-19, 2,000,000 tons short of the 1917-18, and 3,400,000 tons short of the pre-war 1913-14 crops, only increasingly high prices can be looked for. The present price, wholesale, of Government sugar is £116, of which £25 16s. 8d. is the duty charge, leaving roughly £90 as the bond value. The Mauritius sugar, which is suitable for direct consumption, has cost the Government £90 f.o.b. per ton, and landed here, duty paid, even at the preferential rate, will cost over the present price of £116. Sugar has been purchased also from non-British countries at £95 per ton f.o.b., polarising 96". This will pay the full duty, and with the freight, charges, cost of refining, and duty, will cost between £130 and £140 per ton. The consumer must therefore look forward to very much higher prices than those which obtain at present, and in doing so must not accuse our Colonial sugar producers of profiteering, but blame past Governments for their antagonistic attitude to those of our sugar colonies which were not in a position to consume their own sugar production, but who had not only to enter into competition with tariff-stimulated sugar of other countries, but were also distinctly penalised by the attitude adopted by Great Britain towards them in the Brussels Convention. Had it been otherwise, the 1,600,000 tons of sugar imported into the United Kingdom last year might have been from British Colonial sources, instead of only 318,000 tons, at a correspondingly lesser cost. The quantity of sugar required to make up the United Kingdom consumption to its pre-war mark is 1,500,000 tons over and above that at present available from British Colonies. From 100 to 150 factories will be required for this additional output, and these will take some years for our sugar machinery engineers to turn out. In the meantime the British consumer will be more or less in the hands of foreign producers until the all-British supply is obtained.

In the first leading article in last issue the premium on grocery crystallised sugar should have been given as 4s. instead of 3d.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

### Endowment Fund Reaches £17,050.

It is the hope of the Executive that every member will show a practical interest in the West India Committee's Endowment Fund, and so help them to carry the total well beyond the minimum of £20,000 originally aimed at, which has become essential if the full programme of development is to be carried out. As much as 30s. per square foot per annum is being asked and obtained for offices here, and as the West India Committee requires at least 1,500 square feet, it will be appreciated that the need for generous support is great.

#### NINETEENTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Amount previously acknowledged	£16,989	15	11
Sir Arthur Whinney, K.B.E.	21	0	0
The Schofield Paper Co., Ltd.	10	0	0
G. Frecheville, Esq.	5	5	0
McDougall Bros., Ltd.	5	5	0
Hon. Lewis Punnett	5	0	0
Hon. G. Grabham	4	0	0
J. E. Lickfold, Esq.	2	2	0
José Anjo, Esq.	2	0	0
M. V. Carmucho, Esq.	1	1	0
J. Gardner McLean, Esq.	1	1	0
Captain E. H. Quinn	1	1	0
Dr. E. C. A. Wilson	1	1	0
E. C. Jackman, Esq.	1	0	10
L. Medford, Esq., M.C.	1	0	0

At a meeting of the Executive on July 8th, the sixteen candidates whose names are given below were admitted to membership.

NAME	PROPOSERS AND SECONDBERS.
Mr. John Dodds (British Guiana)	Mr. C. Algernon Campbell Mr. Evan R. Campbell.
Mr. T. L. Allamby (Barbados)	Mr. Robert Challenor. Mr. E. Martin Haynes.
Mr. D. L. Matthew (Trinidad)	Mr. M. Hamel-Smith. Mr. A. H. Hamel-Smith.
Mr. R. A. Fitzwilliam (Trinidad)	Mr. M. Hamel-Smith. Mr. A. H. Hamel-Smith.
Mr. G. L. A. Snyder (Barbados)	Mr. G. Campbell Arnott. Mr. H. F. Previté.
Mr. George Frecheville (London)	Mr. E. Curzon Villa, M.C. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Dr. R. E. Clarke (London)	Mr. A. H. Hamel-Smith Mr. H. F. Previté.
Mr. S. W. Varder (Trinidad)	Mr. R. G. Vincent. Mr. C. H. McClean.
Mr. Longfield Smith, B.Sc. (St. Croix)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Sir Edward Davson.
Mr. G. N. Wattlely (Trinidad)	Mr. A. L. Inniss. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. F. Dove (West Africa)	Mr. G. J. Christian. Mr. W. Boyd.
Mr. Bruce Austin (West Africa)	Mr. G. J. Christian. Mr. R. Rutherford.
McDougall Bros., Ltd. (Country)	Mr. A. Duckham. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. S. R. Mendes (Antigua)	Mr. José Anjo. Mr. F. A. Joaquim.
Mr. N. F. Mendes (Antigua)	Mr. José Anjo. Mr. F. A. Joaquim.
W. & R. P. Moir & Co. (Country)	Mr. H. Crum Ewing. Mr. R. W. Temlinson.

## SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"Doo nebbler chaw razor."

THE death has occurred of Mr. T. B. C. Mugrave, nephew of Sir Anthony Musgrave, formerly Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands.

THE *West Indian* is inviting subscriptions towards a fund of £2,000 to be raised to send a delegation to England to press for representative Government.

CAPTAIN HARALD LINDBLAD, son-in-law of the senior partner, has been admitted a partner in the firm of Edgar Tropp & Co., of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, as from June 1st last.

MR. FRANCIS ALFRED GREENAWAY has been granted a general power of attorney to act and sign on behalf of Messrs. Frame & Co., with whom he has been associated twenty-seven years.

MR. HENRY D. SPOONER, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, who recently returned via Canada, spent four and a half months in the West Indies, visiting Barbados, Antigua, and St. Kitts.

MISS MARY STRICKLAND, eldest daughter of Sir Gerald Strickland, Governor of the Leeward Islands from 1902 until 1904, and of the late Lady Edeline Strickland, was married at Brompton Oratory on July 7th to Mr. Henry Hornyard.

THE Black Star Line, whose s.s. *Yarmouth* has already made several voyages from America to Jamaica and Colon, now has a second steamer in commission called the *Shalypide*, and hopes shortly to acquire a third. The ships are entirely manned by black and coloured men.

A CONSIGNMENT of cocoa recently sent to Roumania by one of the Relief Committees, without instructions as to its preparation, was mistaken for paint and mixed for painting walls. This confirms the belief that there is room for the development of cocoa consumption in Europe.

"BROWN SUGAR" is the title of a new comedy by Lady Arthur Lever, produced at the Duke of York's Theatre on Wednesday, the 6th inst. The title is used in the allegorical sense, but the moral of the play is that brown sugar, though not refined, is the better of the two products.

SIR WILLIAM BAILLIE HAMILTON, who died in London on July 6th, was appointed Clerk in the Colonial Office in 1864, and was Private Secretary to successive Secretaries of State for the Colonies from 1886 till 1899. Since 1901 he had been Officer of Arms of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

THE Colonial Bank have entered into a contract for the building of new premises for their Georgetown branch, which will embrace fine architectural features of the Doric order, and are expected to be completed in twelve months. Messrs. Stanley Barrett & Driver are the architects, and the work will be carried out by Messrs. S. Pearson & Son.

THE Shell Transport and Trading Company has acquired from the British Government a number of shallow-draught monitors, which will be used to convey oil from Maracaibo, in Venezuela, to the refineries in Curacao. Sir Marcus Samuel, at the general meeting of the Company, expressed the belief that Venezuela would "prove a prolific oil-field."

THE cable position has recently shown some signs of improvement, and communication between Grenada and St. Vincent is now reported to be restored. The cables, however, between St. Vincent and Barbados, and Trinidad and British Guiana, are still broken, and the only way to reach the last named, if the wireless is not working or is congested, is by mail from St. Lucia. Communication with Trinidad was restored on July 17th.

THE Post Office Savings Bank of Trinidad does not lack support, and the depositors in 1919 numbered 28,154, representing an increase of 1,778 over the previous year's figures. The transactions of the East Indian residents were considerable, and the balance to their credit at the end of the year, according to the Postmaster-General's Administration Report, amounted to £144,311, as compared with £115,213 at the end of 1918.

IN the light of the present movement in the direction of the use of alcohol for power purposes, it is interesting to note that the production of alcohol from beets is not new to this country. In the 'seventies beets were grown for the purpose in Oxfordshire, and in 1873 1,600 acres were in cultivation. The experiment lasted for ten years, but was then given up. The cost of the spirit, which was exported to France, was 2s. 6d. a gallon.

FOLLOWING the half-yearly meeting of the West Indian Club, which was held in the club premises at 4, Whitehall-court on July 14th, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Mr. R. Rutherford, Chairman; Mr. A. N. Lubbock and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G., Hon. Treasurers; and Mr. F. F. C. Messum Hon. Secretary. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to the retiring officers, Sir William Goode and Mr. H. F. Previté.

MR. G. MOONY STUART, who was taken ill in St. Kitts shortly before leaving that island for England, has returned to London after an absence of four months, during which he inspected the properties in Trinidad, Antigua and St. Kitts, in which he is interested. Though still working on "half-time" by doctor's orders, he is steadily regaining his health, and hopes, in a few months' time, to be able to resume to the full his many activities.

FOUR hundred and fifty-seven earthquake tremors were recorded by seismograph installed in the Panama Canal zone from 1906 to the end of 1919. None of them, says the *Panama Canal Record*, caused more than trivial damage to any of the canal structures, and the centres of disturbance were all outside the canal zone. It is stated by the Chief Hydrographer that the records do not indicate that Panama is a typical earthquake country, as seismographs all over the world record numbers of tremors not perceived by the population.

MR. V. I. OLIVER, known to many West Indians as the author of the "History of Antigua" and Editor of *Caribbean*, is the Master of the Poulterers' Company this year. In proposing the civic toast at a dinner of the Court and Livery of that ancient City Company on July 1st, he recalled the fact that at the death of Lord Mayor Beckford in 1770, his great-great-grandfather, Thomas Oliver, a West Indian merchant of Mark-lane, was chosen as a candidate for the Aldermanship of the Ward of Billingsgate and for election as M.P. for the City, but during the canvass he caught typhus, or gaol fever, in one of the courts. His cousin and partner, Richard Oliver, then took his place and was elected, and with Lord Mayor Crosby was successful in establishing the freedom of the Press.



## THE PRINCE OF WALES' TOUR.

### Proposed Itinerary now Settled.

Preparations for the reception of the Prince of Wales during his autumn tour in the West Indies are proceeding apace, and the colonies which are to be honoured by a visit from his Royal Highness are vying with one another in their endeavours to do justice to the occasion. The itinerary as at present arranged is as follows:—

September	23-25	Jamaica.
"	27	Grenada
"	28-30	Trinidad.
October	1-2	British Guiana.
"	5	Antigua.
"	8-9	Bermuda.

These dates must, however, necessarily be regarded as approximate only, and are liable to alteration. The programme in the several colonies will probably follow the precedent established when the Prince visited Barbados, and will include an official welcome and presentation of an Address, a garden party, a ball, and an automobile drive. The only possible adverse criticism of the otherwise admirable arrangements made for the Prince's reception in Barbados in March last was that sufficient opportunities were not afforded to the People to show their devotion to his Royal Highness. It is hoped, however, that during his forthcoming tour public meetings may be held on the Savannas or other open spaces where the people are wont to congregate on such occasions, so that all may see their Prince.

It is understood that H.M.S. *Renown* will again be escorted by H.M.S. *Calcutta*, which will presumably take the Prince from Trinidad to British Guiana, as the larger vessel would be unable to negotiate the Georgetown bar. On all sides the Royal visit is looked forward to with the utmost enthusiasm and eagerness.

## THE HOOKWORM CAMPAIGN.

### Remarkable Results in St. Vincent.

What can be done towards the eradication of ankylostomiasis, if adequate support is forthcoming, is demonstrated by the campaign against this disease in St. Vincent, carried on with funds provided by the International Health Board. An account of the results attained is given in the report of the Colonial Surgeon of St. Vincent for 1918-19, which traces the measures taken from the inception of the work in 1915, under Dr. W. P. Jacobs, who was later succeeded by Dr. P. B. Gardner. So successful have been their efforts that out of 12,395 persons (or over 45 per cent. of the population of the districts dealt with), who were found to be infected, 11,577 were treated during this period, and as many as 10,279 were cured.

"In practically all this work," says the report, "the intensive plan of work has been followed. This intensive plan requires that each home in the territory covered be visited by a member of the staff, who takes a complete census of every person living in this territory, obtains a specimen for examination from

as many as possible of the people included in the census, and treats as many as possible of the people who are found to be infected until a cure has been effected."

## DOMINICA'S CHILDREN.

### Infantile Mortality Scandal.

Some disquieting figures are given in the annual report on the Vital Statistics of Dominica for 1919, which show that out of 1,070 deaths in that year, only 477, or less than half the total, reached the age of fourteen years; that 102, or just over 10 per cent, were stillborn, and that 373, or nearly one-third of the children born, and considerably more than one-third of the children born alive, died before attaining the age of five years.

Among the causes for this heavy infantile mortality are—(1) the emigration of able-bodied labourers who ought to be supporting their children, (2) malnutrition of mothers, partly on that account and partly because of the high cost of living, (3) neglect of the children, which is not always wilful, but is in many cases due to the facts that the mothers have to work to support themselves and their offspring, cannot afford to pay a reliable person to look after their children, and have no depot or crèche where the children can be left in good keeping for a reasonable fee, and (4) last, but not least, the insanitary surroundings and diet that sap the vitality of the children and render them an easy prey to disease. The two most significant facts in the Vital Statistics of Dominica are the increasing tendency of the able-bodied labourers and artisans to leave the Presidency and the high rate of mortality among infants, and if these causes continue to act at their present ratio, they will have far reaching effects upon the physical and economic condition of the people.

## HOLLAND TO THE RESCUE!

It is highly satisfactory to learn that Trinidad will continue to be the first outward and the last homeward port of call of the steamers of the Royal Netherlands West India Mail. Beginning with the sailing of the s.s. *Stuyvesant* from Amsterdam on August 12th, the steamers of this line will call regularly at Dover to embark passengers and mails. Subsequent sailings from Dover will be:—

<i>Van Rensselaer</i>	...	September 9th.
<i>Crynsen</i>	...	September 30th.
<i>Stuyvesant</i>	...	October 28th.
<i>Van Rensselaer</i>	...	November 25th.

The fares to Trinidad are £50 first-class and £20 second-class, and children from three to ten years old half fare. The steamer *Oranje Nassau* will also come into this service, on which it is hoped to maintain a regular three-weekly service.

Owing to the large increase in the membership of the West India Committee, and to the many matters requiring attention in connection with the Endowment Fund, the Executive have deemed it advisable to increase the number of treasurers to four. The Hon. Treasurers now comprise Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. T. Greenwood, and Mr. H. F. Previté.



## THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

By ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 204.)

It is not too much to say that the introduction of the automobile has revolutionised life in the tropics. Motor cars now enable the planting attorneys to visit more estates in a day than they could do in a week before, when they were entirely dependent upon riding or driving. They permit planters and their wives, marooned on outlying estates, where they were formerly compelled to live in almost complete isolation, to enjoy social intercourse with their fellow men—and women—which was previously denied to them unless they made a day of it; and they enable town dwellers to "cool out" by those delightful evening spins after office hours, which do so much to restore health and happiness to the jaded worker. To the tourist, too, the car is a wonderful boon, enabling him as it does to travel about with a speed and comfort unknown when he had to depend on the once ubiquitous buggy, which is fast being relegated to the category of the dodo.

Motor cars are now as common as coco-nuts in the West Indies, and even where there are livery stables, or public garages, they can usually be hired without difficulty from private owners. Having, then, exhausted the sights of Frederikstad and beyond the Anglican Church and St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church and schools, now controlled by the American Redemptionist Fathers, who have taken the place of the Belgians, formerly in charge—we secured the loan of a rather rattletrap American automobile, and proceeded across the island to Christianstad, the capital which lies on an inlet on the north-east coast. For the whole distance the road passes through smiling fields of sugar canes, with occasional patches of cotton and ground provisions, relieved here and there by tall cabbage palms. Habitations are few, and we were struck by the sparsity of the population. Very few labourers were working in the fields, and the number of people whom we passed on the road could have been counted on the fingers. The home of Alexander Hamilton's mother was pointed out to us, and of interest also was a sub-station of one of the great sugar centrals where, until last crop, the canes from the surrounding estates were crushed, the resultant juices being then pumped through a lengthy pipe-line to the main factory for treatment.

Christianstad or "Bassin" as it is called locally, is a far more picturesque town than Frederikstad. It has one main street running down the hillside to the harbour edge, where it opens out and forms a small "place," on which the post office, the bank, and the cable company's offices are situated. A pistol-shot from the shore is an exquisite little island—resembling one of those in Lake Maggiore, or the Isola San Giulio on Orta—where lives the pilot, who is certainly a very lucky dog to have such a charming residence. Near by lay the *Vigilant*, an historic schooner which now plies between St. Croix and St. Thomas, with cargo and passengers. Time was when the decks of this now peaceful looking craft were running in blood, for she was once a pirate

schooner, which sailed the Caribbean for many a year under the "Jolly Roger." That was over a century ago, and as is the case with Nelson's flagship at Portsmouth, it is probable that few of her original timbers remain; but for all that, she is the identical vessel which, with her cannonade and brass Long Tom, cut out many a richly laden West Indianman.

By now the sun was high in the heavens, and after inspecting the Anglican Church at the top of the hill, we made a bee-line for Pentheney's Hotel, half way down, where there was, it must be admitted, rather an unseemly scramble for the dining room.

Apart from its excellent "table," to which we did full justice, the hotel is chiefly remarkable for its old mahogany furniture, which would realise a small fortune in a London saleroom. But time was pressing, and after a hurried visit to St. John's Church, at the top of the hill, the order to inspan was given, and we were soon on our way back to Frederikstad.

On the road we were fortunate enough to meet Mr. Longfield Smith, who kindly took me under his wing for the remainder of the day. Mr. Longfield Smith is one of many scientists whose services have been lost to the British West Indies through the unwillingness of those colonies, and the inability of the Imperial Department of Agriculture through lack of funds, to offer them sufficient inducements to remain, others whose names might be mentioned in this connection being Professor Maxwell Jefroy—who saved the country millions by finding a remedy for the rust which was ruining the Australian wheat crop, and Professor Stockdale, Dr. Terpany, Mr. Dash, Dr. Barber, and Mr. Sands. It does indeed seem a shortsighted policy which has permitted these valuable men, who received their early training in the British West Indies, to give other countries the advantages of it.

For twelve years Mr. Longfield Smith was attached to the Imperial Department of Agriculture; but as the Commissioner was not in a position to persuade him to remain, he left Bridgetown nine years ago to assume the position of Agronomist in Charge of the United States Experimental Station in St. Croix, which he has filled with distinction ever since.

His laboratories and experiment plots are situated on the estate named Anna's Hope, and here he showed me some of the results of his labours. Here were patches of seedling canes, cotton, castor oil, maize, and other economic plants, all very distinctly labelled, whose progress it is his joy to watch from day to day. Here there was a plot of Japanese canes, a small but hardy variety, which has a great vogue in Porto Rico, owing to its resistance to leaf mottling disease which is so prevalent in that island. Here again was a field of elephant grass, a fodder plant so prolific in its growth that in the short space of a year and a half no fewer than five acres of it were raised in St. Croix from five small cuttings. Mr. Smith's offices and laboratory were well arranged and orderly, and one learnt that the planters in the island greatly appreciated the work which is being done on their behalf by the Experiment Station, and far from being "jealous of outside interference," an attitude sometimes adopted towards agricultural departments elsewhere, are eager to receive advice and are grateful when they get it.



We sailed from Frederikstad at four o'clock in the afternoon, and at dawn on the following morning we were coasting along under the lee of those lofty and mysterious volcanic mountains, culminating in Mount Misery, which make St. Kitts one of the most beautiful of the Caribbee Islands.

At daybreak the now familiar din of the anchor cable rattling and crashing through the hawse-hole brought us all on deck to get a first glimpse of the mother colony of the West Indies.

We were now lying in the famous anchorage of Basseterre, which Sir Samuel Hood, with consummate skill, captured from de Grasse on January 25th, 1782, a manoeuvre which Captain Mahan described as one of the finest feats in naval warfare, and we were reminded how Hood induced his opponent to leave the anchorage, and, cleverly tacking, brought his fleet to anchor at the precise spot which the French had left. In the distance we could see the solitary mountain cone from the slopes of which a crowd of onlookers witnessed this brilliant episode in our naval history.

From off the shore came wafted on the breeze that delicious aromatic smell, mingled with the scent of burning wood, which is so characteristic of the tropics and so refreshing after a long sea voyage. Before us lay the little town of Basseterre, nestling in the foliage on a plain at the foot of the mountains, and in the growing light we could recognise the public buildings pierced by an arch which leads to the Circus beyond, whose noble cabbage palms with those of the neighbouring Pall Mall Square, formed a conspicuous feature of an exquisite view.

The shore boats were now jostling one another about the *Guiana's* gangway, and one of them brought Mr. E. J. Shelford, the Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee, whom it was a genuine pleasure to meet again. With the unselfishness characteristic of the residents of the West Indies in their attitude to visitors, he devoted his entire day to my entertainment and proved a most helpful guide, philosopher, and friend.

(To be continued.)

OWING to an oversight the name of Sir Leonard Powell was incorrectly described in the last list of newly-elected members. It should have appeared as now given.

THE Uba cane has attracted considerable attention lately on account of its having been adopted as the cane most suitable to the East and West African estates, and theories have been advanced as to its country of origin. At one time it was thought to come from Cuba, but it has recently been identified as coming from Poona, in India, and has consequently been classed as an indigenous Indian cane. There is, however, every reason to believe that India imported it from China, as the China cane described by Wray appears to be identical with it. This cane was received into the Botanic Garden in Calcutta in 1786 direct from China. Wray states from personal experience it was extremely hardy and prolific, for during a hot season "it remained uninjured in every respect, while the others were all either burnt up or eaten out of the ground by the white ants." The spring, Wray states, is wonderful, many roots having no less than thirty shoots. The canes were about 12 ft. in height, but very thin, not more than an inch in diameter, with joints from 6 in. to 8 in. apart. The Chinese claim that sugar was made from it in China 3,000 years ago.

## CACAO IN NIGERIA.

By CYRIL WARREN.

In a previous article\* published in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR I outlined the principal points in connection with cacao growing in Nigeria. I will now devote myself to a critical survey of the present conditions on the Cross River, which is part of that section of Nigeria known as the Eastern Province. This province extends to the border of the Cameroons in fact, higher up the Cross River passes into Cameroons territory. The cultivation of cacao has been half-heartedly encouraged in this area for a number of years, and it is a question of policy whether this encouragement should be continued, as this is essentially an oil-palm area, and if cacao becomes popular, as it did on the Gold Coast, one wonders if it will oust the palm tree here as it did there. If it does so, it will be a national as well as a local disaster.

Let us look at the elemental outline of the country from the Cross River mouth on the coast up the Calabar and Cross Rivers (these both empty themselves by the same mouth). Beyond Calabar, and 20 miles up the Cross River, the banks are one mass of mangrove swamps. After this we get a semi-swamp delta, leading backwards to hills sometimes within a few yards of the bank and at others somewhere near a mile away. On this delta the oil-palm (*Elaeis guineensis*), timber trees, and grass thrive luxuriantly. This delta is planted by the native owners with corn, ochro, yams, and, if the whim takes him, with cacao, with plantains and bananas as temporary shade. This land is some of the most fertile I have ever seen, and with a proper drainage system and forking, would compare favourably with that found in the Caroni delta in Trinidad. The subsoil is a sandy clay, and the surface soil a loamy, sandy clay, with plenty of plant food. The native farmer does not cultivate his cacao. He maintains, "I do not have to cultivate my palms; why the cacao? And if the cacao does not do well there I will plant somewhere else, as there is plenty of land, and no one can prove, or has proved to me, that I can improve that which God has put there;" and it is a fact, as the cacao plots in the Calabar Experimental Station are far from a success; in fact, they form the subject for joking with the natives who are farmers. What is the remedy for this chaos? Some one, supported by the Government, should be allowed to take up an area and make it a commercial undertaking; at present the acquiring of land is much too protracted, that any farm with a go-ahead policy would look at it with misgiving. I know of a case where a small cacao drying site is required. The natives agreed in November, 1919, and, so far, the official lease is not complete (May 23rd). What commercial concern is going to allow its men to sit down that time without anything definite? This example is for about four acres. What time would be taken with a thousand acres?

The native farmer has been receiving nursery-grown cacao plants free for several years from the Government, but it rarely happens that the Agricul-

\* WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, No. 555, JANUARY 8th, p. 4.



tural Officer can get away from the paper palavers to go and see what becomes of these plants. The plants are usually much too loggy, and I myself have proved that sowing at stako is much more preferable.

The native farmer has no idea of letting the water out of his land; in fact, he lets it in. I remember on one occasion when I first came to this part I saw a nicely-cut drain, which looked like a main outlet. After considerable argument with the autocratic quartermaster of the launch I was travelling in, I had it stopped and investigated this advanced farming, and I found it was a drain cut through the high land on the river bank, leading into the lower land behind, to allow the water to pass in to the land there when the tide was high so that the fish which went in could be caught as the tide went out. In that lower ground behind I found cacao fighting for its life, with its roots in standing water.

Numerous diseases are in evidence, but I think that mycologists and entomologists will write a lot of journals before some brainy person realises that what is wanted is a number of soil and cultural experts, and not laboratory theorists; this country is elementary, and we must first tackle the rudimentary points.

## THE CANE-SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The value of a sugar industry to a colony whose soil and climate are suitable is very great—indeed, there is no other industry which can rank with sugar in this respect. On account of the labour necessary, especially in the field, the amount of money spent in wages is very great in proportion to the value of the product. Although some of the field operations may be conducted implementally, the bulk, on account of the nature of the growth and cultivation, has to be done by hand. Then again, as a general rule, considerable manuring has to be carried out. The cultivation of the sugar-cane, also, is one peculiarly adapted to the small farmer, who supplies his own labour, inasmuch as he reaps the value of his crop in from ten to fifteen months, there being no lengthy period of growth before he sees the pecuniary results of his labour, as is the case with cacao, limes and coffee.

It has been estimated that the labour required for a sugar concern in which the cultivation and manufacture are united under one control is not less than one male adult per acre, with a due proportion of women and children, for which there are many light tasks. In addition to this there are mechanics and skilled workmen employed in the factory and railway system. As the yield per acre on the average is between two and three tons of sugar, a sugar estate turning out 10,000 tons of sugar per annum will require a working population of between 3,000 and 6,000, the latter figure being the more general requirement.

In the cultivation it is calculated that at least 50 per cent. of the cost of production goes in manual labour, which affords a good idea of the amount of money disseminated in the district among the agricultural population, while the wages of factory and shipping hands also is a good solid factor in money distribution. But these are not the only items in

which a sugar industry is of use to a colony. Although the bulk of the stores required are imported, the handling of them and the shipping of the sugar gives employment to merchants, clerks and porters, while the very fact of the large amount spent in wages means that stores are maintained for the purpose of supplying such articles as foodstuffs, drink and clothes, the importation of which also gives to the colony a considerable sum in the way of import duties.

The above remarks are based upon sugar industries where the canes are grown by the estates authorities and the whole concern is in the hands of companies or private individuals outside the colony. Where, however, the canes are grown by farmers on their own lands, the benefits of the industry are more marked, and a higher grade of industrial prosperity is reached when the factories are provided from capital coming from outside the colony. In this case the whole of the profits of cane-growing remain and are spent in the colony, and the concern is established on a sound basis of landed proprietorship. The acme of advantage is, however, reached when estates supplying cane have a financial interest in the factory. Thus a portion of the factory profits remains in the colony. But apart from the colony point of view, a colonial sugar industry is of enormous advantage to the Mother Country. Machinery on a large scale is necessitated. As prices are now, a factory outfit to deal with 2,000 tons of canes per diem—to turn out, say, 15,000 tons of sugar in the crop—would probably cost £400,000 f.o.b., and mean a maintenance outlay after the first few years of, say, £10,000 to £15,000 in renewals. This necessitates extensive employment of shipping. As to the latter, also, there is the freight on insurances, stores, agricultural implements, &c., which all go to swell the profits of shipping lines.

It may therefore safely be said that there is no colonial industry of such mutual advantage to the colonies and to the Mother Country as that of sugar growing and manufacture. This is mainly due to the fact that not only does it necessitate constant and intensive agriculture, but also manufacture on the highest factory scale. Both branches of the industry mean the application of the practice of scientific principles to a high extent. With the cultivation there is the constant question of the supply of new variety canes to replace old ones with, the investigation and remedies for insect and fungoid pests, and experiments and observations connected with soils. With the manufacture, not only is there constant scientific control, with its daily routine of many analyses and measurements, but also continual experiments with a view to improvement in manufacture and in the examination of new processes.

The future of sugar is so assured that it is expected that in the British West Indies there will be a revival, as far as land conditions will permit of the old industry of these islands, and that where a century ago sugar was grown to be subsequently abandoned on the abolition of slavery, the bright green cane fields will once more be a prominent feature in the landscape.

CAPTAIN GILFRED N. KNIGHT, Assistant Secretary to the West India Committee, took his M.A. degree at Oxford on July 10th.



## OUR AGRICULTURAL STAFFS.

### Increased Salaries Recommended.

In the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of November 27th, 1919, reference was made to the appointment by the Secretary of State for the Colonies of a Committee, presided over by Sir Herbert J. Read, K.C.M.G., C.B., Assistant Under-Secretary, Colonial Office, to consider the staffing of the Agricultural Departments in the Colonies. It was then pointed out that the inadequacy of payment had lost to the West Indies the services of many of its most brilliant scientists. It is satisfactory, therefore, that in their report, which has just been published, the Committee recommend that all agricultural appointments in the West Indies shall be pensionable, and that the minimum salary—that of an Assistant Agricultural Superintendent—shall be £250 per annum, rising to £350. It is suggested that Agricultural Superintendents shall receive £350, with increments of £15, and that Assistant Directors, Entomologists, Mycologists, Botanists, and Agricultural Chemists shall receive £500, to be increased by increments of £25 to £750. The Committee recommend that the appointment of Director of Agriculture in the larger colonies should be rewarded with a salary of £850—£1,000 per annum, with a house. The salaries of appointments in the Imperial Department of Agriculture are placed on a higher scale than those of other departments, in view of the fact that they are subject to income-tax. It is recommended that there shall be an Entomologist, a Mycologist, a Botanist, and an Agricultural Chemist, the last two being new appointments, the remuneration in each case ranging from £600 to £900. The appointment of an assistant to the Government Chemist and Superintendent of Agriculture who is in charge of the Federal Laboratory in Antigua is also recommended, the salary to commence at £300 per annum. The Committee think that a Department of Agriculture should be formed in the Bahamas, even if only on a small basis at first.

### Training of the Staffs.

The Committee believe in the paramount necessity of securing the right type of man for the kind of work involved, and to do so it is necessary to offer terms and conditions of service such as will attract and retain good men, and thus enable the State to compete with private firms and syndicates. As regards training, in their opinion, the men who are to enter this service must have been educated in a fully-equipped Institution or University, where they will be thoroughly grounded in all the chief branches of science, as well as trained in the special branches directly relating to the particular posts they may desire to fill. With regard to the usefulness of Tropical Colleges in this connection, the Committee think that such colleges would be able to render great service in the training of subordinate staffs, and would also be of great value in enabling young officers entering on their experience abroad rapidly and under very advantageous conditions to place themselves *en rapport* with the actual problems awaiting them in the tropics. The Committee hope that these tropical colleges will soon become avail-

able, with the result that much time will be saved in acquiring the *ad hoc* instruction necessary to adapt general scientific education to particular localities.

They further recommend that the higher officers of the Agricultural staffs should be granted "study leave" at suitable intervals, that candidates should be selected at an earlier age than hitherto, and that after selection they should undergo a further period of training, which should take place in the case of chemists in the United Kingdom, in that of Entomologists in America and the West Indies, in the form of a six months' tour, and in the case of Agriculturists, Botanists and Mycologists in the colony to which they are appointed.

On such lines the Committee believe that adequate Agricultural Departments of the Colonial Service can be built up, resulting in a rich return to individual colonies in the shape of increased revenue, and in the consequent increase of raw materials available which will help to restore the financial position of the Empire as a whole.

## NO EUROPEAN SUGAR YET.

### The Food Controller's Forecast.

There is no prospect of a restoration of the sugar-beet industry in Europe. This was the view expressed by Mr. C. A. McCurdy, M.P., the Food Controller, at the nineteenth Labour Conference at the Ministry of Food on July 10th.

He added that the great sugar-beet estates in Central Europe went out of cultivation during the war, and that it was not so easy to bring them back into cultivation again. He had been bombarded with suggestions from people all over the country that the control of sugar should be ended. It was sad to think how many people believed that the shortage of sugar was due to the Government holding up supplies. There could only be one result from the removal of control. It could not provide Russian and German labourers who were needed and who used to be engaged in the cultivation of beet-sugar in Germany. The removal of control would assist the movement of those speculators who, by "deals" in America, were trying to force up sugar another five cents a pound, and it would throw the people in this country into a scramble for sugar in which the long purse would have the advantage all the time.

In connection with Mr. McCurdy's remarks, it is interesting to note that during the first six months of the present year the imports of sugar into the United Kingdom from Europe amounted to 177,456 cwt. only, as compared with 15,496,705 cwt. for the same period in 1913. The imports this year have come mainly from Poland, by way of Hamburg, and the general impression prevails that it will be a long time before Germany will herself figure among the exporting countries.

"PRACTICALLY the whole of the marketed products of Nigeria are produced by the illiterate African inhabitants without special plant, tools, or machinery, and by methods entirely their own," according to the Comptroller of Customs at Lagos in his Trade Statistical Abstract for 1919.

## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK

### By "Agronomist."

An American vanilla firm has lately opened a depot in Guadeloupe for the purchase of vanilla pods. The firm cures the green vanilla and prepares it for the market.

There appears to be great activity in the diamond trade in British Guiana, and prices of stones are at a high level. Expeditions to the diamond fields have been despatched, and there is a great demand for stones, large and small.

There are six factories in Trinidad making coconut oil, the output of which is about 140,000 gallons a year. If, however, the market price for copra is high as compared with that for coconut oil, more copra is exported and less oil made.

Dairying pays extremely well in New Zealand. Pasture land is worth £20 to £30 and acre if it will carry a cow to 3 acres. If 2 acres only are needed to feed a cow, the land fetches £40 to £50 an acre. If the land is so fertile as to carry a cow to 1 acre, it is worth £100 an acre.

Alfalfa is largely grown in the North Island of New Zealand, as it has proved such an excellent cattle food. The grass is all from English seed, the soil is fertile, there is no winter, no housing is necessary, nor hand-feeding. If winter food is necessary, it is given in the form of root crops and hay scattered through the pastures.

The Taranaki district in the North Island is reported to have the greatest dairy business in the world for its size, and carries more cows for its population than any other district. Labour is expensive, so the dairy farm is run on less of it than in most other countries. A farmer and two boys, with the aid of dairy machinery, can manage a herd of sixty or seventy cows.

In Martinique tractors were introduced two or three years ago, and their use has increased to such an extent that mules are not seen now drawing heavy loads. Tractors are employed instead to haul heavy freights and to do work about the sugar factories. The island is mostly so hilly that cultivation by means of tractors is not practicable.

A model village is to be erected in Trinidad for the work-people employed by the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company and its associated oil companies. The village will be provided with its own waterworks, sewerage, and electric light. A garden plot will be given round each house, and those who wish to cultivate a plot of ground will have the privilege of using an allotment of one-half to one acre.

Shortage of supplies has brought about in England the cultivation of new crops and the starting of new industries. The increased price of sugar has given an immense impetus to the movement for growing beet. The Government is assisting the undertaking, as it is most anxious for the increase of sugar supplies throughout the Empire, whether derived from beet or cane. Another new cultivation is tobacco. The evolution is proceeding of a tobacco that can be grown on light sandy soils.

Again, a number of farmers in England are sowing flax, either for the seed or for fibre. A company has taken over the Government flax factories. The price

and inferiority of many aniline dyes is reviving interest in dyes derived from plants. The blue dye plant, woad, used by the ancient Britons, is being planted. Maize (corn) is being cultivated on a larger scale, and is used principally as a green vegetable. A new industry is being nursed by the Board of Agriculture—namely, the preparation of potato flour.

Efforts are being made by the Department of Agriculture in South Africa to lessen the great losses in cattle during periods of drought. In many places lack of water can be overcome. Everywhere the growing and storing of ensilage crops would enable the farmers to carry stock over dry periods without the severe losses now so common. Compulsory dipping of stock at stated periods is slowly bettering disease conditions, but it is difficult to enforce the law on cattle belonging to natives who range far from the headquarters of the authorities.

A steel that does not rust nor stain has for some time been in use for knives. This steel contains a large percentage of chromium. Chromium renders steel impervious to the action of the oxygen in the air, which, in the presence of moisture, is the cause of rusting. When highly polished, this steel also resists the corrosive action of acids, such as orange juice and vinegar, and is not stained by vegetables. Knives made of it, however, lack a cutting edge, owing to difficulties in hardening and tempering. These difficulties are now being overcome.

A more important difficulty was to produce a rustless steel that could be comparatively easily worked and could be used in the manufacture of domestic utensils. Research work by metallurgists has led to the discovery of the accurate heat treatment at which steel becomes more workable. The production of this steel is being undertaken by steel makers, and rustless cooking utensils will soon be on the market. They are cleaned simply by washing in boiling water, and they retain their burnished appearance. They will not readily scale like iron, and their bottoms will not get thin. Engineers are considering its use for structural purposes, such as for bridges. The necessity for preventing rust in factories, which entails an immense amount of work, would be obviated, and painting structures exposed to atmospheric influences would not be necessary.

The necessity of seed selection on coffee estates is emphasised in a paper read at the Coffee Planters' Conference, Mysore, by Mr. R. D. Anstead, Director of Agriculture, Madras. The starting point for selection work should be the best tree on the estate, or several of the best trees, judged by yield under all circumstances, by the shape of the tree, and by its freedom from diseases. The tree, when in flower, should be covered with mosquito netting. This is to prevent cross-fertilisation with pollen from inferior trees. As soon as the fruit is set, the net may be removed. A nursery should be prepared for the seed. When the berries are as ripe as possible, they should be gathered and pulped by hand. Only the best seed should be chosen for sowing. When the seedlings are ready for planting out, a second selection should be made. This second selection is most important. The next stage is to select the best three or four bushes as soon as they come into bearing, and then repeat the process. Selection over ten to twenty years would cause a great improvement.

THE late Mr. Charles Sandbach Parker, C.B.E., a director of the Demerara Company, and a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, who died on May 9th, left unsettled property of the gross value of £80,223, with net personalty £59,845.



## BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

The Board of Trade Returns for June give the following details as regards the trade in West Indian produce and the United Kingdom for the month and the six months of the current year:—

The amount of sugar imported for the month was 126,822 tons, making 806,437 tons for the six months. Of the month's supply, 68,120 tons came from Cuba, 12,644 tons from Java, 5,670 tons from British India, and 30,290 tons from British Guiana and the British West Indies. Of the six months' supply, 453,940 tons came from Cuba, 85,529 tons from Mauritius, and 85,542 tons from British Guiana and the British West Indies.

The amount liberated from the refineries for home consumption was 385,261 tons for the six months.

The stocks in hand on June 30th were 434,500 tons, of which 54,600 tons were of "foreign" refined, 30,500 tons of home refined, and 349,400 tons of raw.

The imports of rum for the month were 145,192 proof gallons, as compared with 1,183,536 gallons in the corresponding months of last year. For the six months the imports were 2,121,274 proof gallons, as against 5,502,311 proof gallons for the six months of last year. The amount liberated for consumption has been 1,580,856 proof gallons for the six months, an increase in the consumption for the corresponding period of last year, which was 1,134,303 proof gallons. The stock on hand on June 30th was 11,957,000 proof gallons, as against 10,583,000 proof gallons at the same date last year.

The imports of cacao for the month amounted to 263,148 cwt., making for the six months 1,480,994 cwt., of which 583,023 cwt. were liberated for consumption. Of the imports, British West Africa supplied 1,012,437 cwt., Ceylon 22,802 cwt., and the British West Indies 185,910 cwt. The month's exports were 42,954 cwt., making 371,507 cwt. for the six months. The stock on hand on June 30th was 1,352,000 cwt.

The imports of coffee for the month were 94,069 cwt., making 488,101 cwt. for the six months. Of these quantities 332 cwt. came from the British West Indies, making 3,060 cwt. for the six months. The British East Indies contributed 63,218 cwt. for the six months. The stock on hand on June 30th was 1,352,000 cwt. The amount liberated for consumption during the month was 146,357 cwt.

A tax with the old days of Demerara and its sugar industry has been broken by the passing of Mr. John Minty, who died at his residence in Scotland on June 10th at the age of seventy-one. Mr. Minty was manager of Plantation Ultvugt, and subsequently planting attorney of Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co's properties, having succeeded Mr. William Russell in that capacity. He was one of the stalwart band of Scotsmen who were fellow overseers at Plantation Belair in the mid seventies, of whom only Mr. Peter Abel now survives. After leaving Demerara he went to Mauritius to take up an important position in connection with a group of estates there, retiring some years ago to live in his native country.

## AT WESTMINSTER.

### Sale of Chocolate.

Viscount Curzon was informed by Mr. Sherrin, on July 6th, that the Government intended to continue the Regulation under the Defence of the Realm Act, prohibiting the sale of chocolates in theatres.

### The Ottawa Conference.

Lieutenant-Colonel Amery informed Mr. Hurd, on July 5th, that the Conference arrived at an agreement which he trusted would prove completely satisfactory to all parties concerned. It had, however, been arranged that, in order to allow time to the various West Indian Governments to consider the report of their delegates, no public announcement would be made before August 4th.

### Seditious Publications Ordinances.

To Mr. Hayday, who asked, on July 6th, whether legislation similar to the Seditious Publications Ordinance, Grenada, had been introduced or passed in any other of the West Indian colonies, Lieutenant-Colonel Amery replied that the same law had been passed in St. Lucia and St. Vincent, and legislation of a similar character had been passed in Trinidad, the Leeward Islands, and the Bahama Islands.

### British Colonies' War Contributions.

Lieutenant-Colonel Amery, replying to Mr. Hurd on July 8th, stated that a complete list of the contributions made by the oversea Dominions, Colonies and Dependencies in men, money and kind in aid of the Allies in the war was being prepared, and would be presented in Parliament as soon as practicable.

### Personnel of the Sugar Commission.

Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson, in reply to a series of questions on July 8th, stated that licences to take delivery of sugar in this country were granted by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply to private traders only in the following cases:—(1) Contracts made prior to October 31st, 1919, and notified to the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply; (2) British West India Grocery Crystallised and Grocery Muscovado; and (3) Low Grade Sugar polarising 91 degrees or under.

The Royal Commission did not confine its attention to any particular firms. It was appointed under Royal Warrant in August, 1914, and was responsible for maintaining the sugar supply of the United Kingdom. Its members were: Sir Henry W. Primrose, K.C.B., C.S.I. (Chairman, 1914), Lord Bledisloe, Sir Robert Park Lyle, Bart., Sir Joseph White Todd, Bart., Sir George E. Mui, K.B.E., Mr. Claude Liddell, and Mr. Ben Tillett, M.P. One of the Commissioners was a director of a firm of sugar refiners in the United Kingdom. His services were given gratuitously.

### Civil Service Pensions in the British Colonies.

Lieutenant-Colonel Amery, in the course of replies to Mr. Bennett and Lieutenant-Colonel James, on July 7th and July 13th respectively, said that the Secretary of State for the Colonies had invited the Governments of all the colonies and Protectorates to consider the question of a bonus on the pensions of retired civil servants to enable them to meet the increased cost of living. Only four colonies had definitely decided against making any increase of pensions. Increases, of varying rates, had been granted to retired officers of the following colonies and Protectorates, irrespective of the date of retirement:—

British Guiana	Nigeria	Straits Settlements
British Honduras	Gold Coast	Federated Malay States
Windward Islands	Serra Leone	Hong Kong
St. Kitts Novia	Gambia	Bachawaland
Antigua	Falkland Islands	Swaziland
Zanzibar	Mauritius	Basutoland
East Africa	Ceylon	Gibraltar
	Malta	Cyprus

In Nyasaland, Uganda and Somaliland increases of pension had been granted only to those officers who retired while in receipt of war bonus or war allowance.



## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

### Barbados and the Agricultural College.

The House of Assembly on June 15th agreed to present an address to the Governor, expressing the willingness of the House to vote an annual contribution towards the expenses of maintaining the proposed Agricultural College in the West Indies of a sum not exceeding 1 per cent. of the revenue of this colony, provided that the site of the college is in Trinidad, and that the other West Indian colonies interested make contributions towards that object in the same proportion.

The newspapers of June 23rd record two good rain-falls and a few showers during the fortnight. The canes have held out well, in spite of the prolonged dry spell. The *Barbados Advocate*, commenting on the absence of labour trouble in the island, refers to the flow of emigration to Cuba and America, and mentions the fact that Demerara is only attracting few labourers, as the inducements which it offers are not so great as those held out by Cuba.

The Committee appointed to ascertain if there was profiteering in the island has presented its report. Mr. E. B. Skeete and Mr. E. S. Bailey found that there was no profiteering, but Mr. Kelt, in a minority report, found that it prevailed among dealers in dry goods.

The *Advocate* reports that Walker's St. Georges, bought by Mr. Wallace Moore seven years ago for £5,000, has been sold by him since his purchase of Maxwells, Christ Church, to Mr. T. M. McConney for £30,000, and Mr. McConney has also purchased Stepeny from Mr. C. W. W. Greenidge for £80,000. House properties are also fetching very high prices.

Estates continue to change hands in Barbados at prices which would have been incredible six years ago. Thus Ashford St. John, with 197 acres, not all arable, has been sold to Mr. A. G. Farmer for £37,400, or over £200 per acre. Labourers continue to leave for Cuba, to which island they are attracted by favourable reports from those who have already settled there.

### Dominica's Exports of Produce.

A motor launch is being built for service on the Windward coast. Mr. F. Rose, of Bath and Emshall estates, has been elected President, Mr. F. Polter, of Goodwill, Vice-President, Mr. D. W. Doyle Treasurer, and Mr. P. K. Agar Secretary of the Agricultural Society. Exports for January 1st to April 30th included 3,745 cwt. of cacao, 24,383 gallons of concentrated lime-juice, 115,190 gallons of raw lime-juice, and 1,790 gallons of cordial and 326,524 coco-nuts.

On June 2nd his Honour R. Waller, in his first address to the Legislative Council of Dominica in his capacity of Administrator, pointed to the great need for rigid economy in the island's expenditure. Owing to increases of salaries, he doubted whether the surplus at the end of the year would come to the estimated amount of £2,000, and even that sum left a very small margin to deal with such items as Coastal Service, for which as much as £5,000 had been asked. He announced, however, that steps were being taken to obtain tenders for this service from America. His Honour said that the idea of a Government lime factory, run somewhat on the lines of the factory at Lucia, appealed strongly to him, and hoped that it would be possible to obtain the services of an assistant chemist for the Agricultural Department, as unless oil was struck in paying quantities, agriculture seemed destined to be the pivot on which the prosperity of the Presidency would turn. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was lamentably deficient, and, in the Administrator's opinion, a wireless station of some kind appeared to be a necessity, not only from the business

and economic point of view, but from that of many other equally important interests. His Honour also foreshadowed remodelling of the incidence of taxation, codification of the law, and attention to the important question of the island's roads, for which the estimates only provided for £3,000 to be spent this year.

### The Strike in Georgetown.

Dr. Bissenber Ewing-Chow and Dr. Brown have been granted an extension of the time given them for furnishing an explanation of their refusal to proceed to Meamu, which has brought about the Government's decision to suspend them. The Rev. W. G. Burgan, President of the Belladrum Farmers' Association, says that never before had so much land been under rice cultivation, and it is the West Coast farmers' ambition to reap the largest crop ever obtained. The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce has replied to the British Guiana Labour Union, stating its opinion that there is no justification for the statement that the cost of living has increased 300 per cent. during the last year, but the Chamber has recommended an increase of wages to the stevedores, winchmen, wharfingers, &c., if the men on strike return to their work. Meanwhile ss. *Mayaro* and *Chignecto* left port unloaded. Major L. A. Hand-Gingell, M.C., has arrived at Plantation Ogle, where he will superintend Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.'s motor tractors, and seek to improve mechanical tillage. Mr. E. J. Moffat expresses to the *Argosy* the view that now is the time for the colony to increase largely its cultivation of cassava.

### St. Lucia's Coastal Service.

The coastal service is being conducted by the tug *Midge*, pending the completion of a motor boat which is being built for the Government.

### St. Vincent Plantation Sale.

Upper and Lower Diamond estate in St. George's Parish, St. Vincent, have been sold by the Hon. Lewis L. Punnett to Mr. H. A. Lynch, of Barbados, for £12,000.

### Trinidad's Water Supply.

Writing on June 18th, Mr. Tripp reports a further spell of dry weather, and adds that the position is becoming serious indeed. It is believed that at last the authorities are coming round to the conclusion that, of all questions urgently pressing for attention, nothing should take precedence of a sufficient supply of water throughout the colony. It is now pretty generally admitted that the Diego Martin wells are something like the "bois immortel," regarding which Mr. Barrett, the agricultural specialist who visited us some years ago, remarked that "it failed in the dry season when it was most required." It is no use crying over spilt milk, but it is melancholy to think how much money was spent in digging for water nine miles away to pump back and up into the reservoirs overlooking Port-of-Spain, to say nothing of the cost of rebuilding the Red House, the loss of which was due to disturbances over the water question, all of which would go far towards providing a full and sufficient supply by gravitation from the plentiful sources in the surrounding hills. However, the matter will have to be tackled now, and it may be stated that one of the most competent engineers in the colony, occupying a most responsible position, has publicly stated that all the necessary information with regard to levels, &c., is now available, and that the necessity of waiting for a topographical survey does not exist.

The Yellow Book for 1919 has been issued, and it affords most satisfactory reading. Customs increased over 1918 from £357,000 to £416,000, excise from £332,000 to £404,000, railway from £160,000 to £216,000, &c.

The places of Sir Norman Lamont, Mr. Adam Smith, and Mr. Hugh McLelland in the Legislative Council have been filled by the following gentlemen, whose appointments have been confirmed by the Secretary of State—viz.:—Mr. A. H. Cipriani, Mr. Maurice Rostant,



and Mr. E. M. Lazare, and the selection of all of them meets with general approval. I have before spoken of Mr. Cipriani as one whose clear head, active brain, and independence of character will render him an acquisition to the Council. Mr. Maurice Rostant is a well-known planter and member of one of the old French families. He brings long experience of both commercial and planting life, and is one whose views are always sound and reliable. Mr. E. M. Lazare is a solicitor of long standing. Years ago he took a great interest in the Volunteer movement, and was one of the officers selected to represent the colony at the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897. In this connection a characteristic tale may be told. It was on the terrace of Windsor Castle, and the West Indian Contingents were drawn up on parade before the Queen. Her Majesty, who was evidently not so well acquainted with her West Indian possessions as her Royal grandson who now rules over them, called up Lieutenant Lazaro, and put the question to him, "Do they speak English in Trinidad?" to which the Lieutenant happily replied, "We are all English in Trinidad, your Majesty." Mr. Lazare is, I believe, of pure African descent, and he is one of whom his original race may be proud. His sterling worth and ability are fully recognised and appreciated by his fellow subjects of all races in Trinidad, who unite in congratulating him on the honour that has now been conferred.

A very serious fire broke out the other day at Point Fortin, the property of the United British Oilfields. It originated in a gusher which had recently been struck and was yielding about 10,000 barrels per day. Unfortunately, the fire spread to other derricks, of which five or six were destroyed, thus adding to the heavy loss already incurred by the destruction of the oil.

Lady Chancellor decided to travel by the Royal Dutch Mail, a number of whose steamers are again calling at this port, on her return to England, and the Governor has done the same.

#### High Prices in Turks and Caicos.

Reports of cotton received by the Direct West India Cable Company are favourable, and the acreage planted out is said to be making good progress. Quantities are being brought up from the Caicos group to the Government gin. The new gin is expected at any moment, when the work of ginning will be started. The small patch of cotton planted out by the Commissioner is coming along splendidly.

The conch shell industry is still very quiet. Small shipments have been made to the United States during the month. Shipments of sponge are still being made to Nassau. Sisal is still dormant.

The labour question is still causing a great deal of anxiety, and, with an extra number of steamers calling here for labourers, is playing havoc with the salt industry. At the same time the necessities of life during the past six years have gone up from 400 to 600 per cent., while the wages paid to the labourers in the ponds and salt industry are practically the same as before the war. At Salt Cay Mr. Harriott has adopted a bonus scheme. Living during the month has been quite a problem, the merchants importing in such small quantities and of such inferior grades that it has been hard to exist, the prices charged being extremely high. Potatoes and vegetables have been conspicuous by their absence. The small quantity of West India vegetables that have reached here from San Domingo have been readily sold at about 600 per cent. over pre-war prices, and one has been glad to get them at that.

#### Dr. Fretz Leaves St. Kitts.

Mr. E. J. Shelford, writing on June 11th, reported a continuance of the drought, which was general throughout the West Indies. Cotton planting was seriously handicapped. There were a few fairly promising fields planted in February and March to be

seen in the St. John's and Christ Church parishes, but in the other districts the outlook was poor unless good showers soon fall. The average rainfall for the year to date is about 10 in. The proper establishment of the cane crop for 1921 is also seriously handicapped, as dead holes are much in evidence, and the supplies cannot grow under the present dry condition. In order to conserve plants for this purpose the factory grinding season has been extended to June 30th. The Hon. Dr. W. H. Fretz and his wife left St. Kitts by the Canadian steamer on Sunday last for Trinidad, en route for England, after thirty-nine years' service in the Presidency—three years in Nevis and thirty-six in St. Kitts. For several years the Doctor was S.M.O., and a member of both the Legislative and Executive Councils. Both professionally and socially the Doctor has been a leading member of our community for many years, and he will be missed by a large circle of friends.

## COLONIAL REPORTS.

### The Trade of the Bahamas.

The report for the year ended March 31, 1919, shows that the revenue of the Bahamas was £107,478, showing a decrease in revenue from ordinary sources, as compared with last year, of £5,718, and in custom duties a decrease of £10,183. The expenditure was £98,236 as compared with £105,254 in 1917-18. The decrease is mainly accounted for by the cessation of expenditure on the British West Indies Regiment. At the close of the year there was a credit balance of £9,242.

The imports during the year under review were valued at £367,180, a decrease of £126,404 over the previous year. To the difficulty of obtaining goods and their high cost, including greatly increased transportation charges, must be attributed the continued falling off of trade with the Mother Country, which only contributed 5.3 per cent. of the imports, as compared with 81.7 per cent., which came from America. Imports from Canada show slight improvement, but, as has been pointed out before, until direct communication by a line of steamers is effected greater progress can hardly be looked for. Trade increased with other British Possessions, mainly Jamaica, in consequence of the restrictions placed on foodstuffs by the United States Government. Rice, sugar, raw coffee, and rum were the chief imports.

Compared with the figures of 1917, the value of local produce shows a decrease of as much as £120,188, which is due to the small demand for the Colony's staple exports, sponge and sisal.

The following table shows the direction of the export trade for the last two years:—

	1917.		1918.	
	£	p.c.	£	p.c.
United Kingdom	47,796	11.9	17,378	6.2
America	290,450	79.1	230,049	62.7
Canada	11,554	2.9	4,614	1.7
British West Indies	1,117	.3	2,199	.8
Holland	1,827	.5	—	—
France	41,134	10.2	15,620	5.6
Cuba	8,944	1.7	5,849	2.0
Other Countries	1,855	.4	2,662	1.0
	£402,477		£278,171	

The decrease in the value of exports to the United Kingdom of £30,418, or 5.7 per cent., is accounted for by the short shipments of sponge. The only other commodity shipped during the year was 444 lb. of cotton.

As regards the exports to the United States, there was a slight increase in sponges and tomatoes. The chief products shipped were: Sisal or Bahamas hemp, 5,839,201 lb., valued at £128,564; sponges, 974,143 lb., of the value of £74,401; preserved pineapples, 16,095 cases, valued at £5,620; tomatoes, 58,970 bushels, valued at £7,275; canned tomatoes of the value of £5,679; grape fruit valued at £755; conch shells valued at £1,245; and



hides and skins of the value of £140. The export trade to Canada fell off to the extent of 1.2 per cent., the quantity of sponges, preserved pineapples, all showing a decrease. There was a slight increase over the shipments to the British West Indies of 1917. 96,233 bushels of salt were shipped to Jamaica. Small shipments of sponges of the value of £819 were made to Japan. Dried fish to the value of £1,652 went to Haiti. 23,889 bushels of salt of the value of £338, and 567,110 ft. of lumber, valued at £1,561, went to Cuba. The renewal of lumbering operations by the Bahamas-Cuban Corporation should result in the next year in a considerable increase of exports to Cuba.

There has been a marked improvement in agriculture. The cultivations have been largely extended, the seasons good, and the harvest plentiful; but there is still room for considerable agricultural development in the colony, and the lack of quick and frequent inter-consular communication and the restricted transportation facilities to the foreign markets will continue to act as deterrents to the proper development of the agricultural resources.

**Barbados' Prosperity Recently.**

In the Report for 1918-19, which has just made its related appearance, it is stated that the year under review was one of general prosperity, with, however, a marked increase in the cost of living. Further taxation was found to be necessary, but, in view of the enhanced Customs receipts, the Legislature preferred the temporary renewal of the produce tax—now £1 per ton on sugar, and 6s. 8d. per 100 gallons on molasses—to the imposition of an income tax. A special tax on traders, estimated to yield £15,000, was further imposed. It is, however, moderately safe to assume that the imposition of an income tax in Barbados is a measure which cannot be much longer delayed.

The revenue for the year was £347,497, as against £399,969 for the preceding year. The expenditure was £347,817, showing a decrease of £103,486 on the figures for 1917-18. The total value of the imports in 1918 exceeded the figures for 1917 by £700,723, being £2,986,006, of which £597,571 was the value of imports from the United Kingdom (a falling off of 7 per cent.), and £1,118,248 from British Possessions.

The value of exports in 1918, including bunker coal supplied to vessels, was £2,480,546, exceeding the value of the exports for 1917 by £290,532. Of the above amount, £479,346 was the value of the exports to the United Kingdom. The amount of sugar exported in 1918 was 33,207 tons, value £67,453, showing a decrease of 12,753 tons on the preceding year's figures, which was partly due to the relatively greater value of molasses to the planter. Of molasses, 10,683,609 gallons, value £275,396, were exported during the year, as against 9,400,166 gallons, value £513,245 in 1917. There was an increase of 136,059 lb. of cotton exported, the figure for 1918 amounting to 188,363 lb., value £37,673; 45,263 gallons of rum, value £5,659, were exported.

Agricultural land, when any came into the market during 1918, fetched a very high price—an average of £83 per acre. Owing to the very unfortunate weather conditions prevailing during 1919, the sugar crop of 1920 is not likely to be an average one. The Director of Agriculture reports that, owing to the attacks of the root-borer and the brownhatch, the majority of the sugar-cane experiments carried out for the year under review were practically valueless. A Commission has been appointed to advise the best measures to eradicate these pests.

The Trinidad Department of Agriculture estimate that their Experimental Station at River Estate will bring in a revenue of £38,546 during the current year, and that the total expenditure during the same period will be \$31,337.

**WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LIST.**

**Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.**—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, July 13th, per s.s. *Patuca* (Commander F. H. Swain):—

- |   |                                      |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Col. and Mrs. G. G. S. Carey and family | Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Gowdey and family | Capt. P. J. Redhead Major and Mrs. A. R. Wiley |
| Lieut. W. C. Chartot                    | Mr. H. C. Jackson                    | Mr. A. D. DePoez Tranch                        |
| Mr. W. Coghill                          | Lt.-Col. W. A. Jones                 | Mrs. & Miss Wejranch                           |
| Mr. F. Coyne                            | Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Mavor             | Mrs. C. Wilcock                                |
| Mr. E. G. A. Don                        | Mr. J. W. Miller                     | Mrs. L. Wilson and family                      |
| Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Gauntlett            | Mr. and Mrs. A. Page                 |  |

**THE WEST INDIAN VISITORS LIST.**

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Southampton, London, E.C. By doing so they will facilitate the forwarding of their correspondence. Among those at present registered are:—

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Sir Henry A. Alczar, K.B.E.   | Mr. C. H. McClean                |
| Mr. P. A. A. Bartlett   | Mrs. McEwen                      |
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| Sir G. Aubrey Goodman   | Mr. G. P. Skete                  |
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| Mr. W. Lindsay Haynes, 38 Neveru Square, Earl's Court, S.W.   |                                  |
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| Hon. G. Williams, c/o. S. Dobree & Sons, 7, Moorgate Street, E.C.                                       |                                  |



**PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.**

Telephone—6648 Central.  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.  
July 20th, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 7 per cent., as from April 15th.

**EXCHANGE** on New York: \$3'64-93'86.

**SUGAR.** In the revised control prices given below, which came into force on July 12th, there is no change in the prices fixed for sugar for grocery purposes, but the prices for sugar sold wholesale to direct buyers for manufacturing purposes are decreased.

	For Grocery		For Manu- facturing.
	Wholesale per cwt.	Retail per lb.	Wholesale per lb.
Cuba, Loaf Sugar ... ..	110s.	1s. 2½d.	149s.
W.I. Grocery Crystallised (See below)	112s.	1s. 2d.	145s.
W.I. Muscovado, W.I. Grocery Syrups ... .. (See below)	95s. 9d.	1s.	100s.

The discount is 1¼ per cent.

Jellies, lumps and other low grade sugars for manufacturing only are uncontrolled. "Free" sugar for domestic preserving is issued at 145s. per cwt. wholesale, and 1s. 6d. per lb. retail, which are the maximum "reasonable" prices for licensed "free" sugar, as compared with 160s. and 1s. 7½d. respectively.

In accordance with the arrangement concluded with the West India Committee (see CIRCULAR 554, of December 25th, 1919), the Royal Commission have fixed the prices for July and August deliveries of West India grocery sugars as follows:—

	July.	August.
Crystallised ... ..	146'24s.	129'67s. per cwt.
Muscovado ... ..	141'32s.	124'75s. "

It is feared that the value of the concession, announced in last issue, by which the above two classes of sugar may be sold as "free" sugar for manufacturing, will be neutralised by a recent decision to increase the Government ration of sugar for manufacturing from 25 per cent. to 30 per cent., and that these sugars will continue to move slowly, unless the Commission see their way to resume the system of allotment for ration purposes, or allow them to be sold "free" for all purposes, subject to a maximum price.

The West India sugar statistics in London on July 10th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Tons.
Imports ... ..	35,135	24,108	13,222	
Deliveries ... ..	20,406	16,311	20,721	
Stock ... ..	22,865	11,889	3,488	

**CACAO** is flat, and there is practically no business passing. Fine Trinidad nominally 110s. to 115s.; Grenada nominally 105s. to 110s. Mr. Edgar Tripp reports that the shipments of Trinidad Cacao during the month of May, 1920, were as follows:—

Destination.	Weight.
To all countries	4,938,313 lb
Shipped previously	39,569,783 "
Total from January 1st	44,508,096 "
To same date, 1919	31,802,320 "
" " 1918	30,222,214 "
" " 1917	50,656,992 "
" " 1916	32,997,751 "
" " 1915	34,924,114 "

To same date, 1914	49,768,460 lb
" " 1918	39,595,158 "
" " 1912	39,106,914 "
" " 1911	29,685,529 "
" " 1910	32,607,935 "
" " 1909	29,618,547 "
" " 1906	26,642,915 "

The stocks in London on July 10th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.
Trinidad ... ..	44,629	22,178	9,936 Baga
Grenada ... ..	23,569	13,262	16,239 "
Total of all kinds ...	289,863	113,007	130,148 "

**RUM.** There is still nothing doing in this market, trade being restricted through the higher duty, and dealers are merely looking on.

The stocks in London on July 10th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.
Jamaica ... ..	10,523	5,697	6,054 Puna.
Demerara ... ..	12,373	14,349	4,813 "
Total of all kinds ...	32,674	24,531	14,541 "

**ARROWROOT** continues very quiet, with a little hand-to-mouth buying going on at barely steady prices. Some holders of second-hand parcels are "cutting their loss" and interfering with first-hand prices.

**BALATA.** The market is very flat and buyers are holding off. West Indian sheet easier for forward shipment at 4s. 3½d. c.i.f., or 4s. 7d. to 4s 7½d. spot.

**COFFEE.** Demand for export is still absent; only the finest qualities are attracting home trade attention. There has been a small enquiry for fine plantation Jamaica.

**COPRA.** Market steadily quiet, with very small business passing. West Indian f.m.s. nominally 44 c.i.f. London.

**COTTON.** Sea Island is neglected by spinners, and quotations for good quality St. Kitts, &c., show a decline at 7½d. nominal. Imports of West Indian in the twenty-nine weeks ending July 15th, 5,639 bales.

**HONEY.** The market is still dull, though prices are moderate compared with sugar or jam. At the last auctions practically everything was withdrawn.

**LIME PRODUCTS** are all neglected, but no change in values to report.

**LOGWOOD.** No change, and market quiet.

**ORANGE OIL.** Sweet, scarce but quiet, value 35s. per lb. Bitter not wanted.

**MARRIAGE.**

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/8 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

**HAZELL-AIKMAN**—At the Cathedral, St. Vincent, B.W.I., on the 16th June, 1920, by the Ven. Archdeacon Downie, assisted by the Rev. H. V. Armstrong, John Hercules, eldest son of C. Ormond Hazell, Esq., K.C., and Mrs. Hazell, of Montrose, St. Vincent, and Mahel Ruth, youngest daughter of J. H. Aikman, Esq., and Mrs. Aikman, Colonial Bank, St. Vincent.

**OUTWARD STEAMER SAILINGS.**

To	From	Packet.	Sailing
Jamaica	Liverpool	Mancanares	July 30
West Indies	Glasgow	Student	July 31
West Indies	Dover	Stuyvesant	August 1
Jamaica	Bristol	Bayano	August 3
West Indies	London	Quitpue	August 4
West Indies	London	Sargasso	August 11
West Indies	Liverpool	Archillect	August 14
West Indies	Halifax	Chaleur	August 20
West Indies	Halifax	Chignecto	Sept. 3

The above dates are only approximate.

# The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXV.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1920.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

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Telegrams:  
CARIB, LONDON.

Aug. 5th, 1920.

### Canada and the West Indies.

THE trade agreement resulting from the conference between delegates representing the United Kingdom, Canada, and the British West Indies, which was held at Ottawa in June last, marks a distinct advance on the earlier reciprocity arrangement now in force. All true Imperialists will rejoice to learn that British Honduras, Jamaica, and the Bahamas, which have hitherto held aloof, now participate in the movement for closer trade with the Dominion, and that Bermuda is also a signatory of the agreement. The matters under consideration fell under three heads—namely, Imperial Preference, Shipping, and Cable Communication—which were rightly regarded as inseparable, and we believe that the conclusions arrived at, which are embodied in a single agreement, will meet with general approval and support. As regards preferential tariffs, the agreement provides that Canada shall give specific preferences in the duties on sugar, cacao, coffee, limes, arrowroot, coco-nuts, grape-fruit, rum, and onions, and a 50 per cent. preference on all dutiable articles not otherwise specified. Bananas are to remain on the free list. On raw sugar the amount of the preference will be 96 cents on 100 deg. polarisation—a figure intended to be exactly equivalent to the preference in the United Kingdom, but which in practice works out at rather more. It is a matter for regret that the antiquated Dutch Standard is still to be used in grading sugars for duty purposes, the Canadian refiners having maintained their uncompromising opposition

to any change which would admit of West Indian sugar going into direct consumption. A *modus vivendi* was, however, arrived at, and the use of the Standard is to be waived whenever sugar is to go direct to a refinery, which should prevent any "refining sugar" being prejudiced on account of its colour. Coming now to the preference to be given by the West Indies to Canada, it would appear that uniformity was not found possible, some colonies not being able to afford to give as large a measure of preference as others. Consequently, while British Guiana, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados will give Canadian products generally a preference of 50 per cent., British Honduras, and the Leeward and Windward Islands will give one of 33 per cent., Bermuda and Jamaica 25 per cent., and the Bahamas 10 per cent. All of the West Indian colonies, however, will give a preference of 1s. a barrel of 196 lb. of flour, and not less than 2s. 6d. per gallon on spirits. The West Indian delegates, we are glad to learn, expressed themselves in favour of giving equal preferences to the rest of the Empire, though the Canadian representatives did not regard themselves as so committed.

Without efficient steamship communication reciprocity would be of little use, and we are glad indeed to know that provision has been made for material improvement in this respect. As far as the colonies to windward are concerned, a weekly service is to be established, the steamers alternately calling at all the islands and going direct from Bermuda to Barbados, and calling on each voyage at Trinidad and British Guiana. The Canadian representatives undertook to endeavour to arrange such a service within three years, and meanwhile to maintain a service on the present lines, supplementing it as required by freight ships of the Canadian Mercantile Marine. Towards the new service the West Indies will contribute approximately 25 per cent., but in any case a sum not exceeding £27,000. As regards the western group of colonies, it was agreed that Canada should provide, through her mercantile fleet, a fortnightly passenger, freight, and mail service to the Bahamas, Jamaica, British Honduras, and back, the colonies visited contributing 25 per cent. of any loss which may be shown, but not exceeding £13,000 altogether. This service will prove an inestimable boon to the colonies concerned, and especially the Bahamas and British Honduras, which have been too long without British steamer communication. To the last named colony it should bring new life and the promise of development. If trade is to be encouraged, cheap and reliable



telegraphic communication is scarcely less important than the maintenance of steamer services, and it is extremely satisfactory to note that the proposals put forward so frequently and with such emphasis by the West India Committee have been adopted in the form of a declaration, expressing the view that a new cable should be laid from Bermuda to the eastern group of colonies, and that it should be laid without delay and without waiting for the termination of the existing agreement in 1924. It now remains for this new agreement to be considered by the Legislatures of the colonies participating in it. As far as our information goes, it is Canada's desire to bring it into force next spring, and we do not doubt that by then it will have been endorsed by the various West Indian colonies, for it would appear to follow closely on the lines of the instructions given to the delegates. That it will provide a further notable example of the advantages of inter-Imperial trade appears to us to be a foregone conclusion, and it is not too much to hope that when it is in full working order it will result in the investment of Canadian capital in the British West Indies, where there is such ample scope for profitable enterprise.

#### A Prosperous Indian Community.

It is to be hoped that copies of the Administration Report of the Protector of Immigrants in Trinidad and Tobago for the year 1919 will be brought before the notice of the Indian Press, for it furnishes abundant evidence of the prosperity of the East Indian community in that colony. On December 31st last the number of Indians in Trinidad was no less than 129,756, which represents considerably more than one-third of the total population of the colony. Of these, 116,615 were living as free colonists off the estates, and 12,451 on the estates, while only 690 remained under indenture. Since the date of the report we understand that all indentures have been cancelled, and it forms an interesting commentary on the system till recently prevailing, which was quite unjustly described by agitators in India as "slavery," that the last employer of indentured Indian immigrants should himself have been an Indian! Dealing with the occupation of the free Indians, COLONEL A. DE BOISSIERE, the Protector, tersely points out that this is the same as that of the rest of the community. Indians are employed in the Government and Mercantile services, as legal and medical men, as ecclesiastics, mechanics, chauffeurs, &c. &c., while many are large and wealthy proprietors. At the close of the period under review, Indians owned 96,524 acres of land under cultivation, and had a balance of £114,311 to their credit in the Government Savings Bank, and it may be noted that no fewer than 12,370 representatives of this industrious race were earning a livelihood—and probably more—as cane farmers as compared with 8,568 West Indians similarly occupied. COLONEL DE BOISSIERE further remarks that the Indians possess the same political rights as the remainder of the community, and that their general condition is satisfactory, the Wardens throughout the island reporting general prosperity, and adding that the number of defaulters as regards payment of taxes was practically nil. Moreover, there was not a single case of suicide on

an estate employing indentured labour—a fact which we emphasise because it was the excessive mortality from this cause in Fiji which led to the outcry in India against emigration. In Trinidad Indian immigration is thus convincingly shown to have proved to be colonisation in its best and widest sense. Trinidad's need for population is not immediately pressing, like that of our great South American colony; but, in view of future possibilities when the island is further opened up, it would be very desirable if the Indian delegation which is to visit British Guiana as the outcome of the representation of the Colonisation Deputation could be afforded an opportunity of meeting the leading representatives of the prosperous Indian community in that colony.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

### Jamaica Votes £2,000 to Endowment Fund.

It is with very great satisfaction that the CIRCULAR is able to announce that Jamaica has decided to contribute the sum of £2,000 towards the West India Committee Endowment Fund. The following resolution was moved by the Hon H. H. Cousins at a meeting of the Legislative Council of the colony on July 2nd, and adopted unanimously:—

"With reference to the report of the Select Committee dated May 12th, this Council approves of the payment of £2,000 as a contribution by this colony to the Endowment Fund of the West India Committee."

This handsome contribution will, when received, place Jamaica at the head of the contributing colonies, the others being Barbados, £500; British Guiana, £500; British Honduras, £100; and the Bahamas, £50. Trinidad and Tobago, the Leeward Islands and the Windward Islands have not, so far, contributed.

Though the Fund has been open for less than a year, the minimum total of £20,000, which the Executive set out to collect has thus been brought within sight. This should not, however, lead to any relaxation of effort, and it is earnestly hoped that every individual member of the West India Committee will help the Executive to carry the total well beyond the figure originally aimed at, as has now become absolutely essential, owing to the increase in rents of from 200 to 300 per cent in the City of London.

The twentieth list of contributions is published below.

#### TWENTIETH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Contributions already acknowledged	£17,050	12	9
Serge Island Estates, Ltd., Jamaica	100	0	0
John Charley, Esq. ...	50	0	0
The Peter Coaling Company, Ltd., St. Lucia	25	0	0
F. J. Shand, Esq. ...	5	0	0
Dr. the Hon. James Cran, O.B.E.	3	3	0
Hon. H. A. A. Nicholls, C.M.G., M.D. ...	2	2	0
E. C. Stenbridge, Esq. ...	1	1	0
D. B. Evans, Esq. ...	1	0	0

Contributions towards the West India Committee Endowment Fund may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or may be forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers.

## SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"EBRY haul of de net no catch June fish"

MR. CHARLES H. HEWETT, joint general manager of the Colonial Bank, who visited Jamaica last winter, leaves on September 18th for the West Indies, via New York, with the object of visiting the branches of the bank in the Leeward and Windward Islands, Barbados, British Guiana, and Trinidad.

As the result of experiments carried out in the Philippines on the spacing of the sugar-cane, it was found that the greatest yield of canes per acre was realized when the cane plants were 1.64 ft. apart, and the greatest yield in tons of sugar where they were planted in lines 4.92 ft. apart and with 19.68 in. between the plants.

LIEUT.-COL. I. B. DAVSON, with General Seely and Sir John Rolls, were among the entrants for the Aerial Derby. Between them they entered a Sopwith "Snipe," which was flown by Captain W. H. Longton, D.F.C., A.F.C., who brought down sixteen enemy machines and a balloon during the war. The race was won by a Martinsyde "Semi-quaver," whose pace averaged 153 miles an hour.

"It seems safe to predict, as long as one refrains from giving a date, that the manufacturing industries which now centre on coal and oil fields, will be equalled and eventually surpassed by those of tropical countries, which will *grow* their fuel instead of delving and pumping it from the bowels of the earth." So writes a correspondent in the *Times*, dealing with the prospect of obtaining liquid fuel from tropical vegetation by direct distillation, a matter which is now engaging the close attention of the West India Committee.

WE regret to learn of the death of Maurice Anthony, youngest son of the late Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., and of Lady Berkeley, of the White House, Bures, Suffolk, which occurred on July 19th, after less than two hours' illness. Born in 1892, he went to Canada at the age of eighteen, and on the outbreak of war at once joined the first Canadian Contingent. He was then granted a commission and gazetted to the 11th Battalion Rifle Brigade. He was wounded in 1915, and invalided home in 1916, and it is thought that his untimely end was probably due to his having been gassed.

"ALTHOUGH petroleum has been known from time immemorial," said Sir John Cadman, in a recent lecture before the Royal Society of Arts, "it is interesting to note that the modern petroleum industry really had its birth in England. It was in 1847 that natural petroleum was first worked on a commercial scale at the Riddings Colliery in the Midlands, not far from the present zone in which test-drilling was being conducted by the Government. The great oil industry, as we know it to-day, is only some sixty or seventy years of age. Before it came into being, half the world literally lived in darkness and without any conception of means of transport as we know it to-day."

THE Bank of Nova Scotia opened a London office at 55, Old Broad-street, E.C., on August 3rd. The bank is the second oldest bank in the Dominion of Canada, having been incorporated in 1832, and it now ranks as one of the largest, being in possession of total assets exceeding \$230,000,000. The authorized capital is \$15,000,000, of which \$9,700,000 is paid up, and the reserve fund is \$18,000,000. The bank has now over 260 branches

between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Canada, in addition to which there is an extensive chain of branches in Newfoundland and in Jamaica. It is also established in Cuba and Porto Rico, also at Boston, New York and Chicago, and at the present time offices are being opened in Santo Domingo.

M. ROUBAUD, of the Pasteur Institute, has discovered that the malarial mosquito can be destroyed by sprinkling the water where it breeds with powdered formaline. According to Reuter, M. Roubaud points out that his method is only intended for the destruction of the *Anopheles* mosquito. The larvæ of this species feed on the surface of the water. Their nourishment consists of tiny floating particles, which the larvæ draw automatically into their mouths by producing microscopic whirlpools by the aid of a special organ. Sprinkled on the surface of the water so as to form an imperceptible deposit, the powder is swallowed by the larvæ, which, being so minute themselves, are poisoned by the infinitely small quantity of formal given off by the powder. The quantities of powdered formaline used—25 to 50 centigrammes being sufficient for one square metre of water—are so small that other organisms in the water are unharmed. Thus the water can be used for cattle, irrigation, laundry work, and the keeping of fish without any ill results.

## THE WEST INDIAN STEAMER SERVICE.

The following intimation of the discontinuance of the transatlantic service now carried on by the *Arzila*, *Quillota*, and *Quilpae* was communicated to the Press by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company on July 31st:—

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company announce that the mail contract service with the West Indies terminated with the sailing of the *Magdalena* from London on August 25th, 1915. From this time until after the Armistice, an irregular passenger service was carried on without subsidy, for twelve months ending July, 1920.

In July, 1919, the company arranged to carry on a modified passenger service with smaller steamers, also without subsidy, for twelve months ending July, 1920, in order to give the Governments of the West Indian Colonies time to decide upon their course of action, but, as nothing has been settled, the company has reluctantly decided to suspend further sailings.

At the special request, however, of the Imperial Shipping Committee, the Royal Mail Company has arranged to dispatch one more passenger sailing—viz., the *Quilpae*, from London on August 4th, after which all passenger sailings to the West Indies will be suspended until further notice. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's cargo service will be carried on as usual.

This announcement has not unnaturally caused profound indignation among the West Indian visitors now in this country, who will experience the greatest difficulty in returning to their homes unless some arrangement for the re-establishment of a transatlantic passenger service is arrived at. The company warned the West Indian colonies three months ago that it might be necessary to discontinue the service; but the suddenness of their decision in this connection is the subject of much adverse comment, more especially as they were booking passengers for the autumn as recently as last week. It now remains to be seen whether any other British shipping company will be prepared to undertake a service to and from the West Indies, and so relieve the situation.



## KINGSTON HARBOUR.

### The Foreshore Railway Scheme.

Mr. Arthur L. Bell, of the Civil Engineer-in-Chief's Department of the Admiralty, has now presented recommendations to the local Government on the improvement of Kingston Harbour. The salient features of his report, as summarised by the *Jamaica Times*, are as under:—

1. The port should be deepened, to admit ships drawing 33 ft.
2. The present wharves should be improved and connected right down to the R.M.S.P. wharf with the Government Railway.
3. There should be additional wharf construction and a survey of the harbour.
4. The cost is put at £126,000 within the harbour, with £14,000 for additional work outside the harbour. The cost of survey is not included.
5. A channel 500 ft. wide, 40 ft. deep, from the existing ship channel at Fort Augusta to No. 1 pier. The ship channel itself should be widened.
6. Pier No. 1 should be lengthened by 300 ft., and widened on the western side, also made more stable by driving steel sheet piling.
7. Regarding the railway extension, the estimate in 1914 was for £25,000. The same plan would cost £50,000 now.
8. The plan actually recommended will cost about £18,000.
9. It is not thought necessary to provide for taking the linking up beyond the R.M.S.P. wharf, since there are no deep-water wharves east of that.
10. Mr. Bell is of opinion that equal opportunity should be given to all the existing wharves, as this is to the public interest.
11. Regarding additional piers, the neighbourhood of Greek pond is recommended. It can be filled in, and building done as the demands of traffic desire. The great point is not to have anything haphazard.
12. The last survey of the harbour was in 1873, corrected up to 1916.
13. Periodical dredging is recommended, and a survey should be repeated every five years.
14. Mr. Bell points out, from the report of the Royal Commission, that if the expense is too great for this colony alone, the Imperial importance of the harbour warrants the matter being placed before the Imperial Government.

Both the Governor and the Harbour Master expressed the opinion that there is no immediate need to widen and deepen the approaches outside the harbour. There is an alternative channel 60 ft. deep which big vessels could take.

Mr. Bell gives an outline of the history of the proposed foreshore railway, which, it will be recalled, was so warmly advocated by Mr. E. A. de Pass and the West India Committee after the earthquake in 1907, when the construction of a sea-wall and railway would have been an easy matter. It has been discussed on and off for thirty years. In the early part of 1914 the merchants of Kingston put to Sir William Manning that the Government should carry out the scheme, for it was needed for the development of the harbour, and particularly in view of the opening of the Panama Canal. The estimated cost was £25,000. The Governor was of opinion that it should be carried out by the wharf owners. But in June he presented to the Legislature a minute suggesting that the wharf owners should meet the interest and the Government the sinking fund. He was opposed to the package tax of one farthing as likely to be objected to by the public. When the matter had reached this stage war came, and it was put aside. Mr. Bell estimates that the cost would now be £50,000. However, by narrowing the

width required for the railway from 40 ft. to 32 ft., and avoiding demolition of certain buildings, a line costing £12,000 might be established. Mr. Bell points out that the chief object in harbour improvements is that ships will be kept in harbour for a shorter time. The shipping of the port was rising steadily up to the time of the war. He mentions the idea of having all the wharves taken over under control of an harbour authority and managed for the public interest, but he did not think this was within his province to discuss. He added that a number of great British ports have "been developed under such control."

## POWER ALCOHOL.

A Memorandum has been issued by the Fuel Research Board on the subject of fuel for motor transport purposes, with especial reference to the outlook for power alcohol.

It is stated that, while alcohol is produced from fermentable sugars resulting from the action of acids on woody fibre, and synthetically from calcium carbide, or from the ethylene contained in coke oven and coal gas, the quantity of waste wood in this country is negligible, calcium carbide is an impossible source, as it cannot be produced in quantity without cheap power, and the recovery of ethylene from coke-oven and coal gas, and its conversion into alcohol are still in the experimental stage.

The vegetable materials suitable for making alcohol which can be grown in this country are barley, potatoes, and mangolds. The Memorandum states that 250,000,000 gallons of 95 per cent. alcohol are required in the place of the annual consumption of petrol in the United Kingdom, and to produce this quantity, over 4,000,000 tons of barley, representing over 5,500,000 acres of land, or 12,500,000 tons of potatoes, requiring over 2,000,000 acres, or 25,000,000 tons of mangolds, representing 1,500,000 acres, would be wanted. The actual production of these three crops in the United Kingdom last year was 1,288,035 tons, 6,312,000 tons, and 7,769,000 tons respectively, and the areas cultivated, 1,879,087 acres, 1,218,774 acres, and 471,759 acres. The Memorandum points out that under these conditions it is unthinkable that even a fraction of these quantities of raw material could be used for alcohol, when only a "week-end" supply is assured. But even if these materials were available, a gallon of alcohol would cost, for raw material alone, 7s. a gallon from barley, 8s. 6d. from potatoes, and 3s. from mangolds.

The Memorandum goes on to say that as regards production outside the United Kingdom, the raw material which can be converted into alcohol most cheaply is molasses. The production of sugar in the Empire (omitting India) is estimated at 1,000,000 tons for 1920-21, and the molasses from this would only yield from 17,000,000 to 18,000,000 gallons of 95 per cent. alcohol. It is considered, however, that in the tropical parts of the Empire there are great quantities of rapidly-growing vegetation which would afford a practically inexhaustible reservoir of power alcohol, if a cheap and simple chemical or bacteriological process were available and could be applied commercially on a very large scale. But at present no such process exists, although steps have been taken in the direction of research work.



**SUGAR REFINERIES IN CUBA.**

By H. O. NEVILLE.

*During the past season considerable quantities of plantation white sugar have been produced in Trinidad and other parts of the British West Indies. What has been done in this direction in Cuba is set out in the following article which appeared recently in the "Cuba Review."*

The ever increasing production of sugar in the island of Cuba, and the doubts that usually arise with regard to the probability of marketing it in its crude state if European production expands and the production of beet sugar in the United States continues increasing, lend interest to the question of sugar refineries, and the direct production in Cuba's mills of plantation white sugars. In the past only a very limited number of our mills have produced what are known as washed sugars, which have gone into direct consumption in the island. A few mills have established small capacity refineries at which a small percentage of their crude sugars has been purified, this production also going into the local market. But one large refinery has been established, and is in continuous operation, this being the Cuban American Sugar Company's plant at Cardenas. Also smaller plants have been established in connection with chocolate and cracker factories in Havana and others of our larger cities.

But, as we have indicated above, the continued increase in production of crude sugar in our factories, and the knowledge that we must seek other markets than those of the United States for quite a considerable percentage of this production, in connection with the fact that in nearly all other markets, especially those of England and France, the demand for refined sugar has led a number of the leading men of our sugar industry to think seriously of the establishment in Cuba of refineries for purifying and preparing for the markets mentioned above that portion of our crop which it is believed can be disposed of to them. At the present time a refinery of 3,000 barrels daily capacity is being installed in connection with Central "Limones," by Sr. Iezama, the owner of the latter. A plan has also recently been suggested by Sr. Anibal Mesa, to the Association of Hacendados and Colonos, that a pool of \$10,000,000.00 be formed amongst wealthy sugar men of the island for the purpose of establishing at favourable coast points of the island three first-class up-to-date sugar refineries, these to be used as what might be considered a balance wheel for the sugar industry, being operated at times when difficulty in disposing readily of crude sugar occurs, and allowed to stand idle during those periods when the total production of crude sugar in the island meets a ready demand. This proposal was submitted in the form of a letter to Sr. Miguel Arango, the President of the Association, and in his reply he indicated his conformity with the plan suggested and recommended that serious study be given it.

The utility of such refineries can readily be realised by all those who have been familiar with the heavy demand for refined sugars at almost any price that has been received in Cuba from the United States

**THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**

At a meeting of the Executive held on July 29th, twenty-one candidates, whose names and countries of residence are given below, were admitted to membership of the West India Committee, bringing the total number of members elected this year to 275.

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDS.
Mr. E. K. D. Hinkson (Barbados)	Capt. S. C. Thorne. Hon. E. A. Hinkson.
Mr. Dudley S. Parris (Barbados)	Capt. S. C. Thorne. Hon. E. A. Hinkson.
Mr. James Sowray (Dominica)	Mr. F. Woolward. Hon. H. A. Alford Nicholls. C.M.G., M.D.
Mr. H. Blair Banister (Barbados)	Capt. S. C. Thorne. Hon. E. A. Hinkson.
Mr. D'A. C. D. Hinkson (Barbados)	Capt. S. C. Thorne. Hon. E. A. Hinkson.
Mr. H. Ribbons (Country)	Mr. E. Hood. Mr. E. A. Windridge.
Mr. Richard Lync Smith (Country)	Mr. J. J. Law. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Capt. Rafe Rowley-Conwy R.N., C.M.G. (Country)	Capt. R. S. Cotton, R.N. Mr. G. Moody Stuart.
Messrs. Peter Dawson, Ltd. (Glasgow)	Mr. G. Macgregor Frame. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. E. H. Bell (Jamaica)	Mr. A. Spomer. Mr. W. Morrison.
Mr. R. M. Jones (Barbados)	Mr. G. Parrott. Mr. G. Macgregor Frame.
Mr. Ernest W. Sidwell (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Mr. T. Boyd.
Mr. Max de Verteuil (Trinidad)	Mr. J. D'Abadie. Mr. H. F. Pevité.
Mr. A. J. Shepherd (London)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. H. F. Pevité.
Mr. S. F. Stadium (Country)	Dr. C. W. Daly. Lieut.-Col. H. A. Clifton.
Mr. Francis Noel Garnett (San Domingo)	Mr. Dugald McPhail. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. Thomas Ryan (St. Lucia)	Mr. Archibald J. Brooks. Lieut.-Col. H. A. Clifton.
Mr. Ivan J. Scott (Trinidad)	Mr. H. F. Pevité. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Messrs. William Beloe & Co.	Mr. Harold Carey. Mr. E. A. de Pass.
Mr. Charles L. Royce, F.C.S.	Sir Edward Davson. Mr. E. A. de Pass.
Major Edward W. Chapman	Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall. Mr. G. Moody Stuart.

Membership of the West India Committee is, by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, dated August 4th, 1940, confined to British subjects. Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is at present no entrance fee. The Secretary will gladly send specimen copies of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends or members on application. The minimum subscription is £1 1s., or \$5, per annum, and the compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

(Continued from preceding column.)

consumers during November and December of 1919, and to date this year. Millions of pounds of white sugar could readily have been disposed of at very remunerative prices, had these existed in the island.



## TRINIDAD'S OIL INDUSTRY.

### Increased Production Anticipated.

The development of the oil-bearing lands in Trinidad on a far greater scale than in the past is anticipated by Mr. A. P. Catherall, the Acting Inspector of Mines for the colony, in his Administration Report for 1919. Down to the end of March last, progress had been retarded by the difficulty in obtaining delivery of drilling equipment.

Although the number of feet drilled showed a considerable increase over that of 1918, there was a decrease in the production of oil; but Mr. Catherall expects to see this condition of affairs altered in the near future, as wells are being drilled in entirely new districts, and, if oil is found in them, the production of the colony should be considerably increased.

The export of crude oil and its products show an increase over the preceding year, the figures being 49,000,000 imperial gallons during the year under review, against 45,000,000 imperial gallons for 1918. The shipments of crude oil, oil fuel and distillates to the Admiralty continued during the whole of the year, and constituted the largest part of the oil exported from the colony. The bunkering trade continued to make good progress, as a considerable number of ships call to replenish their bunkers with oil fuel. The local and West Indian trade is also increasing.

The following table shows the number of feet drilled and the quantity of oil produced during the period under review compared with the previous year:

	1918.		1919.	
	Feet drilled	Imp. galls.	Feet drilled	Imp. galls.
Crown Lands	47,487	55,609,748	49,122	53,534,295
Private Lands	6,751	17,262,650	18,937	10,902,337
Totals	54,238	72,872,398	68,059	64,436,632

During the year fifty-three new wells were drilled and oil was struck in thirty-six of these, and at the close of the year thirteen companies were engaged in winning oil. The royalty earned during the period was £17,205, as against £18,542 in 1918. Leases accounted for £16,749 and licenses £456.

Mr. KELLAWAY, M.P., speaking at the Crystal Palace on July 26th, said the present was in very truth the oil age. In 1913 we imported 2,000,000 tons of oil. By 1918 war requirements brought the figure up to 5,500,000 tons, 80 per cent. of which came from the United States. The present consumption was at the rate of 3,000,000 tons a year. Every month 70,000 tons of oil were provided at British ports as bunker fuel, and he predicted that in ten years' time 75 per cent. of our ships would be burning oil fuel. There was also the huge land motor transport side of the question to be considered. The number of motor vehicles in the United Kingdom had grown from 425,000 in 1913 to 750,000 in the present year. The British Empire required 6,000,000 tons of oil yearly, and was able to produce under 2,000,000 tons. It was, nevertheless, untrue that there was any general exclusion of foreigners from our Imperial oil undertakings.

THE HON. J. H. PHILLIPS, a member of the Jamaica Legislative Council for St. Thomas, who underwent a severe operation in London on July 21st, is, we are glad to learn, making satisfactory progress towards recovery.

## A PLEA FOR PLAIN CHOCOLATE.

(By a Correspondent.)

Consumers of that delectable sweetmeat chocolate, whether in "stick" or "butter" form, must surely have noticed two facts—that its excessive sweetness and greasiness leave a somewhat sickly after-taste, and that it takes away the appetite for the next regular meal in itself evidence that the food-properties and staying-power claimed for cacao are not without justification.

At odd times during the past quarter of a century the writer, who has long been interested as a seller of raw cacao, has ineffectually endeavoured to induce manufacturers to put on the market a "food" chocolate containing less sweetening-matter and less butter, but without success. As far as he could gather, the manufacturers' objections were as follows:—To begin with, the use of higher grades of ripe and properly fermented cacao would be essential, thus raising costs of production. Then, the expense of advertising an article to which the public would be unaccustomed, and the difficulty of convincing people of the excellence of a food that did not markedly "tickle the palate," would further substantially increase costs. Such costs, compared with those of other food-stuffs, would appear in the retail trade not only too high to encourage demand, but would rather discourage it. Finally, manufacturers might lose much outlet for those common grades (e.g., West African) with which, by means of chemical treatment, they are able to fool the public palate.

The present period of over supply of raw cacao and of powder might not perhaps be the best time for launching a plain chocolate manufacturing proposition, but such a situation naturally suggests an early substantial fall in prices, as occurred in 1894, when, it may be recalled, a public company was started on the basis of powder-contracts in the neighbourhood of 4d. per lb.

A century hence our successors may be taking the bulk of their food in "tabloid" form, as and when required, so not only saving time over meals, but also avoiding interference with other pursuits. Might not such a prospect be in a measure anticipated by a chocolate mixed in proportions that approximate the happy medium, and that can be carried in the pocket with less liability to softening from heat?

## WEST INDIAN COTTON.

In their fifteenth annual report, the British Empire Cotton Growing Association state that during the first seven months of the current season, American consumption of cotton amounted to no less than 61.6 per cent. of the total American crop. This emphasises the importance of cotton cultivation within the Empire. With regard to the West Indies, they state that the 1918-19 crop of Sea Island cotton produced in the West Indian Islands was again taken by His Majesty's Government at prices agreed upon.

The West Indian crop for 1918-19 shows an increase on the previous year, which is doubtless due to the fact that planting was stimulated by the high prices paid by the Government for the cotton which was required for aeronautical purposes. For the twelve months ending September 30th, 1919, the quantity of cotton exported from the West Indies amounted to 2,140,131 lb., as compared with 1,530,109 lb. for the corresponding period of the previous year. In addition, Grenada exported 326,368 lb. and St. Vincent 38,751 lb. of Marie Galante cotton. Barbados also exported 6,413 lb. of Linters, and St. Vincent 3,690 lb., and the Virgin Islands also shipped 4,260 lb. of native cotton.



## THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

By ALGERNON ASPINALI.

(Continued from page 216.)

West Indians are notoriously early risers, and the matron showed no particular surprise when we invaded the Cunningham Hospital between six and seven o'clock in the morning. This institution, which owes its name to Mr. E. T. Cunningham, Lieutenant-Governor of St. Kitts, whose tenure of office from 1839 to 1847 it commemorates, is a large and airy building on the outskirts of Basseterre, having public wards containing seventy-five beds, besides three small private rooms for paying patients. The hospital was scrupulously clean, and its inmates were as happy as circumstances would permit; but it was distressing to notice a number of patients sitting in the courtyard with terrible sores on their legs, the appearance of which was evidence that much still remained to be done before the island could be regarded as free from preventable disease. Much progress has, however, been effected in this direction in recent years, and by the judicious use of kharisivan as an intra-muscular injection, the distressing complaint known as yaws (*Frambesia*) which was once terribly prevalent, has been stamped out in the Sandy Point district. So successful has this effort proved that it is now being extended, with legislative sanction and liberal financial assistance from public funds, throughout the whole island.

Behind the hospital is a small but well equipped maternity ward, which owes its inception to Mrs. Burdon, the wife of the Administrator—himself a stickler where matters of health are concerned—who has had wide experience as a trained nurse, in which capacity she served in France during the War, and has devoted much care and attention to the well-being of the community amid which she now lives. This ward, besides affording direct means of saving infant life, also serves as a training school for midwives and mothers. The need for an institution of the kind has been very marked in St. Kitts, where infantile mortality has for many years been a positive scandal. Incredible though it may seem, the death-rate of infants in this civilised community averages over 260 per 1,000 births in a single year, a state of affairs which Dr. W. H. Fretz—who was administering the government of the presidency at the time of my visit, and has since retired after thirty-nine years' public service—has rightly described as a "prodigious waste of natural resources." Dr. Fretz, who is qualified to speak as an expert on the subject, ascribes this "massacre of the innocents" mainly to ignorance and neglect, and to some extent also to congenital conditions rather than to poverty. He regards education of teachers as to the proper feeding and care of children as fundamentally essential in dealing with this evil, which, unfortunately, is widespread throughout the West Indies, and in this connection the new maternity ward, though established on modest lines, should serve a useful purpose. Apart altogether from the moral aspect of the question, it should be obvious to all employers of labour gifted with any imagina-

tion at all, that in their own interests they would be wise to support financially to the utmost of their ability all baby saving movements of this kind. They should look well ahead, and realise that the infant of to-day is the labourer of to-morrow.

Mrs. Burdon, in her admirable "Handbook of St. Kitts-Nevis," records that Basseterre was almost completely destroyed by fire in 1867, and that after a flood in 1880 the main portion of the town was rebuilt on an "improved scale." One wonders what the place must have been like before these two disasters, for it is still a very primitive town "lighted" by dim oil lamps and with few, if any, buildings of consequence besides the public buildings and the very English-looking church dedicated to St. George. The streets, however, are wide and clean, and the two open spaces, known respectively as the Circus and Pall Mall Square, are quite picturesque. The square in particular is very charming, with its shady trees and cool fountain playing in the centre. How it came by its name is a mystery which West Indian etymologists have not yet succeeded in unravelling; but perhaps in the seventeenth century the gallants played the French ball-game which gave the famous street of clubs in London its present name. On one side of the square are the Court House, the Public Library, the Fire Station, and the Convent School, and on the other private residences. In the matter of hotel accommodation St. Kitts is sadly behind the times. The "Seaside" on the waterfront near the public buildings caters for the passing visitor; but, to be perfectly frank, it is not the sort of place at which a tourist would care to stay for longer than he was obliged, since it is totally lacking in modern sanitary appliances and has not so much as a tennis-court or a croquet-lawn for the amusement of its guests. An endeavour is, however, to be made to remedy this state of affairs, the local Government having granted a concession of ten acres of land in a delightful situation, just outside the town and near the botanic station, to Mr. John Bromley, who hopes to secure upon it the establishment of a really modern tourist hotel on the lines of those in Florida and—to come nearer home—Jamaica, with golf links, tennis courts, and bathing beach, which will, it is hoped, bring winter visitors to the island in their hundreds.

When I first visited St. Kitts there was only one small sugar estate in the island which boasted a vacuum pan and produced crystallised sugar, the bulk of the crop of 12,000 tons being manufactured by innumerable sugar works of the most primitive type scattered all over the lower slopes of the hills. These works, with their picturesque windmills or quaint old beam engines, were the joy of their owners, who showed their simple machinery painted in colours and "picketed" out with red lines, with pride to visitors. The canes were brought in bullock carts to the mill yards, which were liberally bestrewn with megass saturated with juice, which had to be dried in the sun before it could be used as fuel.

Those days have gone, and now there is scarcely a windmill to be seen in St. Kitts. The tayches of the copper walls in the boiling houses have been discarded altogether—except where they are used in making syrup for the Canadian market or to hold



water for the estates' mules—and the old-time planters who were manufacturers as well as agriculturists have now, with few exceptions, become cane farmers pure and simple.

This change in the circumstances of the local sugar industry dates from 1912, when a large central sugar factory established on a co-operative basis in the vicinity of Basseterre was formally opened by Mrs. Moody Stuart, the wife of Mr. George Moody Stuart, to whose initiative its inception was largely due. In the previous year a company called "The St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory, Ltd.," was formed for carrying on this enterprise. The capital cost of the factory, railway, and other appurtenances was £190,318, and the arrangement made with the participating planters was that they were to receive a first payment against cane delivered at the rate of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the price of sugar for each ton of canes, to be increased to 5 per cent. if the export duty were abolished. The investors were similarly



THE BASSETERRE SUGAR FACTORY IN ST. KITTS.

to receive 5 per cent. interest on their capital. When the price to planters did not average 10s. per ton it was to be made up to that figure, if profits permitted. Thereafter the profits were to be divided equally between the planters and the investors. An annual charge was to be made for the repayment of capital within fifteen years, at the end of which period the rate of payment was to be raised to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. plus half the profits, as before.

This arrangement has worked with perfect smoothness and to the mutual satisfaction of planters and investors. The factory has extended its tentacles, in the shape of a light railway with a 2 ft. 6 in. gauge, half-way round the island, both on the north and south sides, and it has five locomotives running on fuel oil from Trinidad, which fuss backwards and forwards, carrying canes to the factory, and the resultant sugar and molasses to the company's jetty at Fort Smith for shipment overseas. Already forty sugar estates avail themselves of the factory, besides

a few suppliers in Nevis, whose canes are landed at the factory pier.

At the time of my visit, the company had had the misfortune to lose two popular managers in succession—Mr. Connacher and Mr. Shannon—and the works were temporarily in charge of Mr. E. Y. Connell, with whom I had the privilege of inspecting the building, from cane carrier to sugar store. It was built originally to take off a crop of 10,000 tons of sugar, but as its promoters were men of imagination who looked well ahead, it can, with comparatively few additions increase its output to 20,000 tons. Erected by the Mirlees Watson Co., it is a factory of the most modern and advanced type, and is not encumbered by the antiquated junk, which, on the principle of new wine in old bottles, hinders progress in so many other West Indian sugar factories. During the reaping season over 400 men are employed in the factory, which can dispose without difficulty of 1,000 tons of cane a day, while in the

off season, regular employment is given to 200 men in repairing and in overhauling machinery, &c. &c., besides the usual routine work of a concern of this kind. Attached to the factory is a mechanics' shop, fitted with up-to-date machine tools, forges, and casting furnaces, besides a store containing every conceivable requirement of a modern sugar factory.

The planters were rather disgruntled at the prices realised by the sugar crop, which had been sold in advance, and regarded it as altogether too low; but, to quote the words

of a leading member of the community, "when the cable announcing the sale was received there was not one of the planters who did not go down on his knees and thank God for it."

MR. REGINALD BERKELEY, the author of "French Leave," a light comedy, which was produced at the Globe Theatre on July 15th, is the third son of Humphrey Berkeley, late of Fountain Estate, St. Kitts, who died in 1912 in Fiji, where he practised as a barrister-at-law. At the beginning of the war Reginald Berkeley was practising as a barrister at Suva, but threw up his practice to come over and fight, and obtained a commission in the Rifle Brigade. He was wounded twice, and awarded the Military Cross for bravery and resource in the field, and at the end of the war he was a Brigade-Major. Since his demobilisation he has been acting as Director of Propaganda for the League of Nations Union. Mr. Reginald Berkeley is also the author of a book called the "Oilskin Packet," which was published in 1917, and written in conjunction with the late Mr. James Dixon, of Fiji.

## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK

### By "Agronomist."

The sugar crops for the present season, 1919-20, in Mauritius and Réunion will amount respectively to 235,000 and 40,000 metric tons.

A sugar estate, complete with factories, in Java, formerly in the hands of Germans, has been purchased by Japanese merchants.

Large plantations of the oil palm have been made in recent years in Sumatra. There are 11,000 acres planted, of which 2,000 are in bearing.

The salt industry Inagua, Bahamas, is about to take a new lease of life. The Inagua Salt Company has started work financed by American capital. The export is expected to be 3,500,000 bushels of salt a year. Motor trucks will take the salt to shipping points. Several light-draught, three-masted schooners will handle the export.

The soil and climate of certain parts of the Philippines are well adapted to the growth of camphor. The Government has received an application for the sale or lease of a large tract of land for a camphor plantation. It is believed that the establishment of one large plantation would greatly aid the local industry.

The manufacture of artificial silk from wood-pulp has already been referred to in the CIRCULAR. The writer has artificial silk thread produced at Spondon, near Derby, which is of beautiful texture and quality. When woven and made into articles of clothing it has the appearance and finish of natural silk. The artificial silk is manufactured by the British Cellulose and Chemical Manufacturing Company, and the factory at Spondon, when fully developed, will turn out 9 tons of artificial silk a day.

Quinine (in the form of sulphate) has almost superseded cinchona bark in the treatment of malaria. Mr. C. A. Hill, in his presidential address to the Pharmaceutical Conference, refers to this, and points out that the results of recent work indicate the value of both. While quinine is useful in the treatment of malignant tertian malaria, it is of small value in eradicating benign malaria. The total alkaloids of cinchona are, however, most effective for the latter purpose. The preparation containing these alkaloids is known as "cinchona febrifuge."

The Springbuck of South Africa is a medium-sized antelope, the shoulder height of the adult male being about 30 in. It is fairly abundant, and the hides appear in the market with cattle hides. It is not difficult to domesticate the springbuck to a certain extent, and a few farmers have raised them experimentally. In the more settled parts of Cape Colony, the Transvaal, and the Orange Free State, the springbuck only exists now within the enclosure of large farms. The periodical migrations still include very large herds. In 1916, in the north of Cape Colony, a herd was seen which was estimated at 500,000 head.

Every West Indian on arrival in the homeland will naturally gravitate to London and pay a visit to the Natural History branch of the British Museum in South Kensington. His attention will probably be directed to large and striking models of the malarial mosquito, and the gnat at rest and flying, also of their eggs, larvæ, and pupæ. The eggs of the gnat remain attached to each other, forming a sort of raft which floats on the surface

of the water. The egg of the mosquito is able to float singly, as it has two air-cells. The larvæ of both gnat and mosquito are obliged to come to the surface at intervals to breathe. Breathing is effected through two tubes in the tail. The mosquito larva lies flat just beneath the surface, with its breathing tubes over the surface, while the gnat larva reposes at an angle, head well down and only its tail at the surface.

A Timber Exhibition has lately been held in London in connection with the British Empire Forestry Conference. Trinidad, British Guiana, and British Honduras had excellent exhibits. The exhibits from Trinidad were specially interesting from an educational point of view. Very few probably of those who play bowls are aware that the heavy black balls are made from the heart-wood of lignum vitae trees, natives of the West Indies. Draught players are probably not aware that the draughtsmen are made from the same wood, the pale yellow-coloured men from the outer sap-wood, and the black from the heart-wood. The wood cannot be split, owing to the diagonal and oblique arrangement of the successive layers of its fibres. It is hard, dense, and durable, excellent for policemen's buttons, of which there were some specimens. Lancelwood also formed part of the exhibit; it is of special value for carriage-shafts. Bows were shown made from this wood.

The British Guiana exhibit included the famous green-heart, most durable of timbers, and useful for piles in sea-water and for shipbuilding purposes. The wood is not absolutely exempt from all marine borers, but is practically so. Tested either by transverse or by tensile strain, it is one of the strongest of all woods. British Honduras exhibited a magnificent piece of Spanish mahogany. Newfoundland and India had very important exhibits, which would require a whole page of the CIRCULAR to describe adequately. Woods, called padouk, from India and the Andaman Islands, were excellently shown off, forming the panelled walls of a small room, and also made into beautiful furniture. Teak from Burma is another handsome and useful timber. Luxurious railway carriages, built of beautifully-grained and coloured woods, and most suitable for the purpose, showed them off to great advantage. The Newfoundland exhibit included huge rolls of wood-pulp paper. Many interesting exhibits were lent by the Cambridge University timber school, with which the well-known expert, Mr. Herbert Stone, is so closely identified.

A new kind of fuel has been invented called "laminated coal." It is produced from coal dust and slack, lignite, peat, or other material, with a binder of pitch. The blocks are formed of a number of layers, and can be made of any size. By combining various types of material, it is stated that a product of any required calorific value can be produced. Waste materials can be utilised to make a good house or industrial coal. The cost is considerably less than ordinary coal. A company—the Laminated Coal Company—has been formed to exploit the invention. Licences to work the process have already been acquired by a number of collieries in Great Britain and France. The Governments of Canada and Victoria are investigating the process with a view to employing it in the utilisation of the native lignite deposits. Lignite occurs in the West Indies, and wherever coal is imported there is sure to be coal-dust, which is at present more or less waste, and might be utilised.

Chemical researches have lately been made into the properties of colloidal clay and its uses in the arts. It is prepared from china clay, found so abundantly in Devon and Cornwall. The most striking and the most



useful of its properties are seen in the manufacture of soap. The lathering and cleansing properties of soap are greatly increased by mixing with it a certain percentage of the clay. The lather is of a firmer nature and more persistent. The mixture is economical, as the amount of colloidal clay soap needed to convert a given quantity of water completely into lather is about 600 per cent. of that required when using soap only. While alkalis are useful in increasing the lathering and cleansing properties of soap, they are harmful to the skin and to textiles. Colloidal clay, on the other hand, is not only harmless to the skin and textiles, but is beneficial to the skin, acting as an emollient and a germicide.

## HOW SUGAR AIDS LONGEVITY.

It is not always possible, says a correspondent in our contemporary *The Confectioners' Union*, to follow scientists in their alleged discoveries of wonderful things in these days to practical conclusions. Recently we alluded to a scientist who claims to have invented a food for hens enabling them to lay eggs that will be self-preserving! In connection, however, with sugar generally, we note that Professor Matchnikoff has been discoursing on a discovery of his that certainly ought to give a great boon to the consumption of confectionery. Stripped of technicalities, this discovery means simply that senility in human beings is the result of certain poisons set up by bacteria, and the effect of these is to injure the liver, brain, and especially the arteries. Now it is contended that none of these poisons can be produced by any kind of sugar, and by the use of large quantities of sugar we understand that life can be very greatly prolonged, other things, of course, being equal. The sugar, it is declared, feeds the healthy bacteria and enables them to destroy those that are deadly.

We remember that some years ago at Salzburg there was a grand conclave of savants on food science, and thereat it was laid down as an ascertained fact that sugar formed the best of all heart foods. It was demonstrated that it gave strength and steadiness to that organ and staved off disease. All along it has been well known, although not often cited so, that the great dietic value of sugar lies not in its force-giving properties alone, but also in its most valuable antiseptic virtues. It is not so very long since sugar was regarded to a great extent as simply a nice heat-giver, but inquiries of a close analytical character have at last demonstrated that sugar is very much more than that, and that is why Army rations of sugar have been very largely increased. Sugar, in a word, has been pronounced a veritable food, and it really is a preservative to the tissues of the consumers, helping to purify the whole system. Decidedly, it adds to natural force, a thing important in these days of strenuous life, and it helps to keep the heart in thorough working order as probably nothing else can do. Now we are assured that it arrests old age—a thing we can quite understand.

No fewer than 20,000 labourers left Jamaica for Cuba in the last six months, but the *Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society* states that hundreds are returning after the crop, and buying back their old cultivations or are planting other lands. This exodus to Cuba will be avoided when Jamaica grows enough sugar to retain the labourers in the island.

## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

### A Chance for Enterprise at Belize.

The Legislative Council has, on the motion of the Hon. A. R. Usher, passed a resolution pledging itself to vote the funds for carrying out any well-considered scheme for combating tuberculosis.—Mr. F. W. Biddle, J.P., who has had a long and successful career in the Civil Service, has been appointed a member of the Council. The Governor, Mr. Eyre Hutson, C.M.G., has addressed a communication to the Chamber of Commerce warmly advocating the construction of an hotel suitable for the reception and entertainment of Canadian and other visitors, and has intimated his intention to move a resolution in the Council offering at a peppercorn rent of, say, \$100 a year, a site for such an hotel on the Fort George reclamation, such hotel to be erected within twelve months on approved plans. The *Clarion* reports that Lieut.-Colonel James Cran, O.B.E., who has been indisposed for some little time, is now better.

### The Jamaica Railway.

The Governor, Sir Leslie Probyn, paid a visit to the Northside at the end of June. Travelling by motor, and accompanied by Lady Probyn, he first inspected the Ulster Spring district of Trelawny.

Dr. L. M. Moody, who has been appointed Government Bacteriologist, is expected to arrive very shortly.

A public meeting held at Guy's Hill on June 28th has strongly endorsed a resolution of the member for St. Mary's approving the expenditure of £19,000 for the construction of a branch railway line from Linstead Station to New Works, which would serve Guy's Hill, Windsor Castle, Gayle, and adjacent districts of St. Catherine, St. Ann and St. Mary, and ultimately have its terminus at the principal shipping port of St. Mary's.

Jamaica is to be represented at the Boy Scouts' Jamboree in London, and a subscription list has been opened to this end. Mr. Duncan McCorkell will be in charge of the boys.

For the year ended March 31st last the earnings of the Jamaica Government Railway amounted to £308,244, against the revised estimate of £300,000, while the actual increase over 1918-1919 was £134,000. The expenditure amounted to £302,959, and the net revenue on the year's transaction was £5,285. Competition for bananas is still satisfactory, and on June 25th the price touched 8s. for 9 hands.

Lord Milner having refused to appoint a Royal Commission, a strong local commission is to be appointed to inquire into the social, economic and financial conditions of the island.

### Success of Trinidad's Loan.

Writing in June, Mr. Tripp reports that the long-deferred rains have fallen, and the whole country has once again resumed its normal bloom. It is to be hoped, however, that the lesson of the drought will not be forgotten.

At the dinner given in Sir John Chancellor's honour by the Savannah Club before he sailed for England, his Excellency delivered a most interesting speech, in the course of which he humorously referred to the difficulties of Governors, especially in relation to Trinidad, and returned to his pet project, a deep-water harbour scheme, in regard to which he seems to have taken to heart the almost unanimous opposition of every one interested in shipping. He also spoke of a probably early connection, via the Orinoco, with Bugota, and of the immense possibilities of increased trade which would result to Trinidad. The writer has been discussing the harbour question and the hinterland of Venezuela for about forty years, and is unable to agree as to the



prospects of the improved trade thus indicated or of the necessity of making further provision for it than is already provided, beyond the building of a few warehouses. In this view the writer is supported by practically every influential commercial man here who has had practical experience of the working of the port.

Last week a most successful athletic meeting was held on the grounds of the Queen's Park Cricket Club, when several thousand people paid for admission at the gates. Additional interest was given by the presence of officers and men of the Royal Sussex Regiment, some of whom took a prominent part in the several events. At the summer meeting of the Trinidad Turf Club a series of most interesting races was run. The weather was beautiful, the turf in excellent condition after the rain, and the attendance most satisfactory.

Writing on July 3rd, Mr. Tripp further says:—The long-looked-for rains have at last fallen in good earnest and the annual water famine for 1920 is at last over.

The subscriptions to the £1,000,000 loan have already reached the handsome proportion of £800,000. Considering that there are still twenty-seven days before the date of the closing for application, there can be no doubt as to the unexampled success of the loan, and the Hon. Denis Slyne, C.B.E., to whom credit is due for his confidence in the financial ability of local capitalists and the absolute security offered by the colony for this large amount, is to be congratulated on the result. Let us hope that its application will be worthy of its inception.

A good deal of comment has arisen by reason of the fact that no public contribution has been made by Trinidad towards the Endowment Fund of the West India Committee, nor has any mention been made of the matter officially, although it is believed that a communication from the Secretary of State was received on the subject. Seeing that Demerara, Jamaica, British Honduras, Barbados, the Bahamas, &c., have all given freely, one wonders the more why the name of Trinidad should be absent from the list. To say the least, the position is one to which the colony is unaccustomed. In such matters we have usually been found rather to the front than lagging behind.

A considerable number of well-known Trinidadians leave to-day for the Old Country by the *Quilpue*, and to-morrow by the *Stuyvesant*. The Dutch steamers are becoming more and more popular, and on this occasion the *Stuyvesant* will take Mr. and Mrs. W. Gordon Gordon and family, Mr. J. D. Sellier, Mr. and Mrs. Aucher Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Poyntz Mackenzie, and others.

Preparations for the reception of the Prince of Wales have already commenced, and if we cannot equal the festivities of the Great Dominions, we shall make it up in the heartiness and loyalty of the reception which will be accorded his Royal Highness.

#### Tobago's Conjugal Rights.

A correspondent in Tobago, writing on June 8th, again calls attention to the insufficiency of transport from which the island is suffering, and at present the position is worse than ever. A sailing vessel, he says, can go from Scarborough to Port-of-Spain in twenty-four hours but it often takes ten days on the return trip. The repairs to the *Belize*, it seems, are taking longer than was expected. Meantime, cargo is waiting and spoiling. Flour is at a premium, and tons of goods from Great Britain and Canada are lying in bond in Port-of-Spain awaiting transit. Under the old arrangements these goods might very well have been delivered here by the ocean steamers on their way to Port-of-Spain. Moreover, much local cargo and passengers could at the same time have been taken from Scarborough to Port-of-Spain, thus greatly lessening the present congestion.

We have for a long time been without a representative in the Legislative Council to call attention to our local needs. His Excellency the Governor has

indeed done Tobago yoman service in many ways, but his Excellency cannot do everything, and as I write he may be on the way home to England. We do not know—we are so completely cut off. Tobago will probably have to enter an action against Trinidad for restitution of conjugal rights.

Last week I paid a visit to Bon Accord Estate, close to Millford. This property belongs to the West Indian Coconuts Estates, Limited, and is under the capable management of Mr. H. J. Kernahan. I went to view a splendid piece of clover drainage work. An area of about 150 acres of splendid soil has been recovered from the sea by dint of engineering and systematic drainage. Being mostly under sea-level, a pump is being erected which will keep the drains clear of water. The main drain is 6 ft. deep. In years gone by it was a weird spot, to which Mark Tapley's Garden of Eden compared favourably. Now it promises to be a specially fertile piece of land. Mr. Kernahan is justly proud, seeing that this work has been done in a few months entirely by local labour.

Considered as an asset to the sanitary well-being of the colony, this work must be held of great value. There are other swamps around the coast which are also being tackled. This is all to the good, and will result in Tobago becoming an ideal sanatorium, and no doubt someone will come along presently and build one or two hotels. I know that this would have been done ere now, but the high cost of materials is the bogey. Why not try Tapia? House-frame of native hardwoods (unsurpassed), walls made of the most tenacious clay in the world, mixed with tough native grass, native board for flooring and roof. Such buildings last over 100 years. The weather continues dry.

#### Dominica Limes for Mobile.

Much satisfaction has been caused by the announcement made by Mr. Joseph Jones that a steamer of the Windward Islands Line would call for 1,300 barrels of fresh limes for Mobile. Hitherto limes for the Southern States have been sent via New York, thus involving heavy freight and carriage charges. On June 23rd sales of green limes were effected at 10s. per barrel, and ripe limes at 7s. 6d., delivered at Bath works.

#### St. Kitts' 10,000-ton Central.

Mr. E. J. Shelford writes under date July 8th:—The factory crop closed on the 1st inst., with 10,036 tons crystals made from 86,731 tons canes, or 8.64 tons canes per ton of sugar. Things ran smoothly right through the crop, except that during the last few weeks grinding was irregular, owing to slow cane deliveries, as planters wished to conserve plants for supplying during the drought. Cane tonnage was lower than was estimated, but the general sucrose content of the cans was high.

Very dry weather still prevails. On the north side in this district we have only registered from 10 in. to 14 in. rain for the year to date—the Basseterre district rather more. There has been a promise of some rains since the commencement of the month, but high winds have prevented it falling, and the clouds have dispersed. There is urgent need for the Government to spend some money to improve the town water supply, to obviate the necessity for locking-off the water and depriving the community of ice. There is a good deal of sickness, and several deaths from measles amongst the children of the poorer classes is reported.

#### St. Vincent's Arrowroot Production.

With seasonable weather planting operations have been proceeding satisfactorily, and an increase of 100 per cent. in the cotton crop is anticipated. Sugar cultivation is also being extended, while that of arrowroot is wisely being decreased, owing to over-production. Mr. Popham Cobb, having been granted six months' extension of leave, Mr. Thomas is continuing to act as Administrator.



## AT WESTMINSTER.

### No German Sugar.

Sir R. Horne informed Mr. Short on July 21st that since the Armistice until May 31st of this year 113,597 cwt. of raw beet-sugar, valued at £240,628, had been imported into the United Kingdom from Germany.

Replying to Lieut.-Col. James on July 29th, Mr. Bridgeman said that the sugar referred to came from Poland.

### Colonial Pensions.

Lieutenant-Colonel Amery informed Brigadier-General Sir H. Child on July 21st that the system adopted by Colonial Governments in increasing the pensions of their retired officers was to grant as an addition a percentage of the original pension. The scales varied in the different colonies and Protectorates, but in every case the smaller the pension the higher was the percentage allowed in calculating the increase.

In reply to Lieut.-Colonel James, on July 19th, Lieut.-Colonel Ainery stated that the four colonies which had definitely decided against granting any increase of pensions to their retired Civil servants to meet the increased cost of living, were Trinidad, Barbados, Bermuda, and the Bahama Islands.

### United Kingdom's Sugar Consumption.

Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson informed Sir F. Bramson, on July 20th, that the total domestic consumption of sugar in the United Kingdom during 1919 was estimated to be 790,000 tons, of which the value (at average retail prices) was approximately £50,000,000.

[As the total quantity of sugar imported into the United Kingdom in 1919 was 1,697,450 tons, there must have been some 707,450 tons used in manufacturing during the year.]

### British Guiana and Trade Unions.

Lieut.-Colonel Amery informed Mr. Spoor, on July 19th, that the draft ordinance submitted for the incorporation of the British Guiana Labour Union had not yet been approved, but that the Secretary of State had approved the introduction of trade union legislation of a general character.

### The Cause of Recent High Sugar Prices.

During the debate on the second reading of the Ministry of Food (Continuance) Bill (which provides for the continuance of the Ministry until September, 1922) on July 23rd, Mr. McCurdy, in the course of his speech, said that in respect of sugar, the world position as regards supplies was unsatisfactory. The producers of cane-sugar had by considerable exertions increased the pre-war production by something like 2,000,000 tons, but, on the other hand, the production of sugar beet was still 5,500,000 tons below the pre-war level, leaving us still on balance something like 3,500,000 tons of sugar short. By a rationing system we secured that such limited supplies of sugar as could be obtained for the people of this country without undue inflation of price should be equitably distributed between all classes, rich and poor alike. By so equitably distributing the supplies we were enabled as a nation to manage with less sugar than would be necessary if no equitable system of distribution were assured, because it was obvious if the rich were allowed to scramble for the supplies of sugar, either the poor people would go without sugar altogether or the consumption as a whole would have to be decreased, if there was to be a substantial surplus left for the needs of the working classes of this country. The cost of the sugar rationing administration amounted to about 2d. per year to every taxpayer. The saving in the consumption of sugar at the present price was 90 million pounds.

Sir William Mitchell-Thomson said that he had been asked by an hon. Member whether we were not selling

sugar at an exceedingly high price, making a large profit, and using that to off-set our losses on other commodities. The answer was twofold. In the first place it was only two months since a select Committee of the House recommended that the price of sugar to the consumer should be raised to the figure at which it stood to-day, and pointed out that if it were not raised, as it was subsequently, the result would be to make sugar a subsidised commodity. In the second place, the accounts of the Sugar Commission were wholly distinct from the accounts of the Ministry of Food, and any losses or gains on sugar did not come into the accounts of the Ministry at all. There were times when the prices of a commodity varied. Sometimes the world's price was above the controlled price and sometimes it was below. The Ministry had taken the point of view that it was in the interests of the consumer as far as possible to cut off the peaks and valleys in the rise and fall of prices and to maintain the price at a more or less level amount.

### Mr. Chamberlain on the "Dry" Policy.

In the discussion on the Finance Bill in Committee, on July 27th, Mr. Chamberlain, rejecting a proposal by Mr. Hogge to reduce the sugar duty to 1d. per lb., said that this would involve a loss of £20,000,000 in a full year. The high price of sugar was due to a shortage of that commodity. The great thing was to increase the production in order to overtake the condition of affairs in Central Europe and Russia, and the immensely increased consumption in the United States of America since that country went "dry." He trusted that no other country would go dry till the production of sugar had very materially increased.

### The Internationalisation of Sugar Supplies.

Asked by Mr. F. Roberts on July 27th whether he would consider the advisability of a scheme for the purchase of sugar on an international basis and the pooling of the world's supply, Mr. McCurdy replied: "Such a scheme was, in fact, in operation during 1918 and 1919. It was, however, brought to an end at the close of 1919 upon the withdrawal from the arrangement of the Government of the United States of America. I have no reason to suppose that it would now be possible to renew it."

## OUTWARD STEAMER SAILINGS.

To	From	Packet.	Sailing
Jamaica	Avonmouth	<i>Coronado</i>	August 10
West Indies	London	<i>Sargasso</i>	August 13
West Indies	Dover	<i>Stuyvesant</i>	August 13
West Indies	Liverpool	<i>Architect</i>	August 14
Jamaica	Avonmouth	<i>Montagna</i>	August 17
Jamaica	Avonmouth	<i>Paluca</i>	August 24
B'dos and T'dad	Liverpool	<i>Oranian</i>	August 26
Jamaica	Avonmouth	<i>Camito</i>	August 31
West Indies	London	<i>Warrior</i>	Sept. 3
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Caraguel</i>	Sept. 17
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chaudrie</i>	Oct. 1

The above dates are only approximate.

The Prince of Wales's itinerary has been altered, his Royal Highness is now expected to reach Jamaica on September 15th.

MANY parents find it desirable to send their children of a certain age home for a few years before, and for, their schooling. To such, the announcement by a lady, which appears in another column, offering board and tuition to a limited number of boys and girls on an old country farm near London should make a strong appeal.



WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S.P. *Arzila*, London, July 8th

- Mr. & Mrs. Daeza & 2 ch. Mrs. M. L. Bailey Mrs. Blair, Miss Blair and 2 children Mr. E. H. Brown Mr. Samuel Brown Miss Deckett Miss G. N. Borell Mrs. B. Donnan & 2 sons Miss M. A. Donnan Mrs. Dumbell & 3 ch. Mrs. Dumoret Mrs. and Misses (2) Edwards Mrs. and Miss Fraga Miss E. B. Evelyn Mrs. A. E. Fletcher Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Fleming Mr. C. Green Mr. J. H. Haigh Miss L. J. Hanson Mr. G. L. Howell Rev. Howell Mr. G. G. Humphrey Miss D. I. Jobustonc Mrs. F. W. Lawrence Mr. & Mrs. McKinnon Mrs. A. M. Meredith Miss Mignon Mr. and Mrs. Moodie Mr. Walter Reace Mrs. A. M. Reace Mr. and Miss Rojas

Sailings from London, July 21st, per R.M.S.P. *Arzila*.

- Mr. and Mrs. Cecil J. Allen Miss M. P. Allen Master P. G. Allen Mr. J. Armstrong Mr. J. W. Brothwhite Cadet J. A. Brigham Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Burgess Master H. D. Burgess Mr. Robert Campbell The Misses Cipriani (3) Mrs. N. Craig Mrs. A. A. Dumoret Miss T. Dumoret Mrs. C. M. Fahey Mrs. E. C. Farrar & 2 ch. Mr. L. G. H. Handscomb Dr. T. Ireland Mr. F. E. W. James Mr. Fazli Karim Khan Mrs. M. E. M. Lea Master C. D. Len Dr. and Mrs. Peter Hay Macdonald Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Mackey Master P. W. A. Mackey Mr. A. G. Martin Mr. Andrew Maczies Mrs. A. F. M. Milling and 2 children Mr. James L. H. Morris Major P. J. Sciller Mr. and Mrs. J. O. W. Stanhope-Lorell and 2 children Captain Noel R. Teit Mr. Germain J. de Tel-lecheu Mrs. E. S. Turner and infant Mrs. G. Whiteman Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Wilson

Sailings to Jamaica, from Avonmouth, per s.s. *Camilla*, July 20th.

- Mr. M. M. Alexander Mr. W. Coughlin Miss V. M. Crooks Mr. F. Gandy Mr. C. P. Gatea Mr. G. Hadybisson Mrs. and the Misses Jenkins (2) Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Kirkham Mr. & Mrs. J. Biuro Mr. C. A. Pooley Mr. and Mrs. W. Scrivener Lea Mr. A. H. A. Simeon Mr. J. E. Streadwich Mr. & Mrs. E. Sutton Mr. & Mrs. G. P. Taylor Mr. G. F. Taylor Mr. and Mrs. J. McL. Thompson Mr. E. H. Turner Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Wall

Sailings to Jamaica, from Liverpool, per s.s. *Changui-nola*, July 23rd.

- Capt. J. T. Calder Mr. C. Duamel Mrs. H. W. Osmond Miss E. Phillips Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Sterkey and 2 ch. Mr. S. Thomas Mr. C. Vaz

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd. —Home arrivals from Jamaica, per s.s. *Dayano*, Avonmouth, July 18th.

- Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Anderson Col. H. Dlegrove, C.B. Miss C. Hennfeld Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Da Costa The Misses Da Costa (2) Mr. & Mrs. A. Delgado The Misses Delgado (2) Miss M. F. Farowell Mr. F. H. Farquharson Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Farquharson Mr. and Mrs. W. M. C. Farquharson Mr. W. A. Gordon Mr. W. R. Gillies Mrs. C. T. Grant Mrs. E. E. Harvey and 3 children Mr. M. E. Harvey Mr. & Mrs. Ansell Hart and child Mr. and Mrs. McCrete-motte and 3 ch. Mr. H. S. Ivey Mr. N. L. Jenks Mr. C. Hope Levy Mr. N. B. Livingstona Mrs. A. P. Loveday and 4 children Sir Anthony McColl Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Middleton Miss M. Mulla Mrs. M. O'Hara Major H. L. Oke Miss P. Poddfield Mr. F. B. Powell Hon. and Mrs. D. B. Rayguda Mr. J. A. Rhind Miss J. M. Robertson Mr. L. A. Sbarp Mr. D. M. Sallas Miss J. Smith Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith and 2 ch. Capt. Spicer Capt. W. O. Stavert Mr. E. L. E. Thornloe Mrs. F. G. Voaper Mrs. J. E. Vine Miss B. Watt

Home arrivals from Jamaica, per s.s. *Coronado*, Avon-mouth, July 27th.

- Mr. and Miss T. N. Aquilar Miss J. S. Anderson Mr. G. A. Bell Mr. E. Bason Mrs. N. O. H. Butler Mr. H. M. Braudon Mr. and Miss Morgan-Brown Lieut. and Mrs. J. A. Coakley and family Lady Elizabeth Coch-rane Mr. C. L. Clemusson Mr. G. G. Dewar Mrs. L. Doyle Mr. L. Franklin Mr. & Mrs. B. Gillies and family Mr. P. S. Griffiths Miss K. J. Howson Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Haworth Mr. & Mrs. S. A. Isaacs and family Mr. C. Johnson Mr. & Mrs. L. A. Lennon Mr. G. V. Lockett Mr. C. E. Leys Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Martlock and family Mr. & Mrs. U. E. Morris Mr. G. M. Mills Mr. and Mrs. J. C. McNaught Miss M. C. MacQuarrie Mr. G. MacPhail Mr. J. A. Miller Mr. and Mrs. D. B. MacKenzie & family Mr. & Miss MacDonal-d Robertson Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Roberts Mr. J. C. Roberts (Jr.) Mr. L. Roberts Mr. and Mrs. N. Boots and family Mr. A. F. Boss Mrs. A. Simmonds Sir James and Lady Alexander Swetten-bain, K.C.M.G. Mr. H. Scipio Mr. E. G. Watson Taylor Mr. A. B. Thomas Mr. D. Tolmie Mr. G. T. Webb Mr. S. M. Whitwell

THE WEST INDIAN VISITORS LIST.

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. By doing so they will facilitate the for-warding of their correspondence. Among those at present registered are:—

- Sir Henry A. Alcazar. Mr. J. W. Arinckle Mr. P. A. A. Bartlett Rev. J. B. Brindley Mr. James Brown Hon. E. C. Buck, M.I.C.E. Mr. E. A. Hugel Mr. A. Cameron Hon. J. B. Caswells, M.B.E. Sir W. K. Chandler, K.C.M.G. Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, M.B.E. Mr. Robert Craig Mr. J. d'Abadio Rev. Canon Dalton, D.D. Hon. B. S. Davis Mr. Lionel De Mercado Mr. G. P. Dewar Mr. G. Farmer Mr. J. M. Fleming Mrs. M. C. Gernott Mr. R. P. Gibbes Mr. M. Gill Mr. J. G. Gillespie Mr. C. J. Gomes Sir. G. Aubrey Goodman Mr. N. S. D. Goodwin Mr. E. H. Grant Mr. Albert T. Hammond Mr. E. P. Houghton James Mrs. E. Haynes Mr. E. E. C. Hosack Mr. S. M. Jacobsen Mr. F. G. B. King Mr. Noel D. Livingston Mr. H. Mason Mr. G. C. Mc. F. May Mr. C. H. McClean Mr. F. E. W. G. Austin, "Compton Manor," near Winchester, Hants. Dr. E. Guuquier, c/o. Withinson and Gaviller, 34, Great Tower Street, E.C. Mr. N. P. Birch, 10, Fremantle Square, Cotham, Bristol Mr. Archibald J. Brooks, "Melrose," The Sands, Swindon, Wilts. Mr. Main Brown, Yeoman House, Haymarket, W. Mr. G. J. Christian, The West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W. Mr. A. R. Craig, c/o. C. B. Hamilton, Esq., C.M.G., "Orbiston," Purley. Mr. Frank Cundall, F.S.A., c/o. The Royal Colonial Institute, Northum-berland Avenue, W.C. Major J. T. Dew, V.D., c/o. Mrs. Le Hutton, 34, Earl's Court, S.W. Dr. E. A. Gaynes Doyle, M.B.C.S., "Westwood," 9, Hawthood Road, Boscombe, Hants. Mr. G. S. Evelyn, "Martinho," London Road, Nurbury, S.W. Miss F. A. Forsyth, 71, Queensborough Terrace, W.1. Mr. J. J. Gibson, 11, Queen's Gate Terrace, S.W.7. Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, Craig Castle, Blythe, nr. Garty, Aberdeenshire. Mr. J. T. Greg, The Grey House, Bosar's Hill, Oxford. Mr. A. H. Hamel-Smith, West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W. 1. Hon. S. T. Harrison, C.M.G., c/o. Sir C. H. Mottrigor, Bart., & Co., 29, Fenton Street, Haymarket, W. Mr. W. Lindsay Haynes, 28 Nevins Square, Earl's Court, S.W. Mr. C. G. Handricks, 22-3, York Place, Portman Square, W. Mr. C. G. Henriques, 11, Queen-Victoria Street, E.C. Mr. Thomas W. Innes, 3a, Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James's Park, S.W. Mr. E. M. Jago, Valoutines School, Hford, Essex. Dr. M. M. Johnson, "Martinho," London Row, Nurbury, S.W. Mr. Archibald Johnston, Ivy Bank, Brae-side Avenue, Butherglu. Mr. G. Luffield, 28, Nevins Square, Earl's Court, S.W. Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., Knocklow, Toward Argyllshire. Mr. E. E. Lane, 11, Crescent Road, Beckenham, Kent. Mr. J. J. Law, Whitehall Hotel, 15-25, Montague Street, W.C. Mr. Dudley G. Leacock, Kensington Palace Mansions, De Vera Gardens, W. Mr. J. C. MacIntyre, 24, Gordon Street, Gordon Square, W.C. Mr. D. H. Mackenzie, c/o. Whitson, 5, Rier Street, Edinburgh. Mr. J. Gardner McLean, Elmore, Fahan, Co. Down, Ireland. Mr. W. E. Mandeville, c/o. The Colonial Bank, 29, Greenchurch St., E.C. Mr. G. S. Manning, Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James Park, S.W. Mr. W. Mearns, 39, Carlton Place, Aberdeen. Mr. James Miller, 17, Gracechurch Street, E.C. Mr. S. S. Robinson, Devereux Hotel, Berners Street. Mr. T. Gordon Ross, Dunkirk House, Dunkirk, nr. Faversham, Kent. Mr. V. D. Rowe, York Court Hotel, Baker Street, W. Mr. W. Sanderson, Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue, W.C. 2. Mr. Ivan J. Scott, 5, Carlton Gardens, Haling, W. Mr. W. M. B. Shields, c/o. H. K. Davson & Co., 79, Mark Lane, E.C. Mr. T. T. Smellie, c/o. H. K. Davson & Co., 79, Mark Lane, E.C. Mr. M. Howard Smith, Yeoman House, Haymarket, W. Mr. E. E. H. Thorne, Berners Hotel, Berners Street, W. Mr. Arthur L. Vaughan, Dryden House, Wimbledon Common, S.W. 19, and c/o. Skelton and Schofield, 29, Martin Lane, E.C. 4. Mr. Atholston Watson, 23, Egna Park, Redland, Bristol. Mr. Alfred F. White, c/o. The Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates, Ltd., 10, Lloyd's Avenue, E.C. 3. Mr. J. H. Withinson, c/o. Wilkinson & Gaviller, 34, Great Tower Street. Hon. G. Williams, c/o. S. Dobree & Sons, 7, Moorgate Street, E.C.

(Continued from preceding column.)

- Mr. C. E. Harvey Mr. F. E. Neworthy Mr. Louis Yeo Miss I. M. May Mrs. A. E. Pethebridge Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Pratt Young and family

(Concluded on next page.)



## PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—Central 0642.  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.  
Aug. 3rd, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 7 per cent., as from April 15th.

**EXCHANGE** on New York, \$371-\$372 (August 1st).

**SUGAR.** Control prices as from July 12th:—

	For Grocery.		For Manu- facturing.
	Wholesale per cwt.	Retail per lb.	Wholesale per lb.
Cubes, Leaf Sugar ... ..	110s.	1 lb. 2½d.	148s.
W.I. Grocery Crystallised (See below)	112s.	1s. 2d.	145s.
W.I. Muscovado, W.I. Grocery Syrups ... .. (See below)	95s. 9d.	1s.	100s.

The discount is ¼ per cent.

Jellies, lumps and other low grade sugars for manufacturing only are uncontrolled. "Free" sugar for domestic preserving is issued at 145s. per cwt. wholesale, and 1s. 6d. per lb. retail, which are now the maximum "reasonable" prices for licensed "free" sugar. In accordance with the arrangement concluded with the West India Committee (see CIRCULAR 554, of December 25th, 1919), the Royal Commission have fixed the prices for July and August deliveries of West India grocery sugars as follows:—

	August.
Crystallised ... ..	129-67s. per cwt.
Muscovado ... ..	124-75s. "

The question of the sale of grocery West Indian and Muscovado sugar is still the subject of discussion between the West India Committee, the Ministry of Food, and the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, and a pronouncement on the subject will probably be made on Monday next.

Mr. F. O. Licht reports favourable progress of the German beet crop, and declares that but for the labour and transport difficulty and the coal crisis, the production of beet sugar in the country would be sufficient to meet the pre-war consumption. Czecho-Slovakia is also suffering from lack of coal, but cultivation has been assisted by favourable weather.

It now appears from a report of the Committee on National Expenditure that the sugar of which a Mr. F. D. Cairns stated that he could import 90,000 tons a year for sale at 8d. polarised as low as 75 deg. to 95 deg. They point out that the amount offered represents only about 1/13th part of our annual consumption, and that it could only be imported fortnightly in very small quantities. It is obvious, therefore, that even if the sugar were of standard quality, it could not materially affect the wholesale price. The report concludes: "We are glad to state, in view of the increased excess of the cost of refining sugar in the United States of America compared with this country, that British refiners have obtained the necessary additional machinery, and that their average weekly output of refined sugar now shows a substantial advance on the output of 1918."

The West India Sugar statistics in London on July 24th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Tons.
Imports ... ..	36,136	25,615	13,612	
Deliveries ... ..	22,521	21,687	22,351	
Stock ... ..	21,761	10,140	2,248	

**CACAO.** There is very little business passing in this market, and there has been a further fall in prices.

Trinidad good middling red 102s. to 105s.; fine to superior 106s. to 110s. Grenada and Jamaica 90s. for fair, and 100s. for fine.

Imports of British West Indian, Jan. to June, 185,910 cwt.

The stocks in London on July 24th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	
Trinidad ... ..	46,495	31,425	9,880	Bags
Grenada ... ..	24,234	15,608	16,403	"
Total of all kinds ...	293,022	136,733	122,943	"

**RUM.** There is practically nothing doing in this market. Jamaicas are quoted at 11s. to 11s. 2d. for good home trade marks of 1919 distillation, and Demeraras (1919) at 8s. 5d.

The stocks in London on July 24th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	
Jamaica ... ..	10,794	6,968	4,958	Pure.
Demerara ... ..	12,323	14,370	5,286	"
Total of all kinds ...	32,900	26,298	14,863	"

**ARROWROOT** is slow of sale. Prices, nominally, 4d. —7d.

**BALATA.** Forward quotations 4s. 3d. c.i.f.; spot 4s. 7d.—4s. 7½d.

**COFFEE** on the spot is quiet but steady. "Futures" are quoted as follows:—September, 73s. (value); December, 71s.; March, 69s.

**COPRA.** Market firm. West Indian f.m.s. spot £48, or £50 c.i.f. London.

**COTTON.** Sea Island is neglected. Quotations nominally 75d.—80d. Imports of West Indian in the thirty weeks ending July 22nd, 6,304 bales.

**HONEY.** The market is unchanged since last auctions. Quotations nominally 70s. to 100s. for Jamaica, and 10s. per cwt. less for Cuba. Buyers are holding off in the hope of a further decline in prices.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** Lime Oil: Handpressed and Distilled, both neglected. Lime Juice: Raw. There have been small sales of fine Jamaicas at 3s. 6d.

**LOGWOOD** is steady, and quoted at £18—£20.

### BIRTH.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line. GOFFE—On July 9th, at 10, High-street, Kingston-on-Thames, to E. G. Leopold Goffe, M.D., B.S.Lond., and Edna M. Goffe, M.B., B.S.Lond. (nee Powell), a son.

### WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

WANTED.—West Indian Nurse to accompany lady with infant sailing from London to Trinidad, middle or end September. Permanent employment if suitable. Apply "W. F. W." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

CARE OF CHILDREN.—A lady, the wife of a Major (formerly an Assistant Master in Winchester College), with three young children of her own, is willing to undertake the complete charge or education of a very limited number of European children from the West Indies. The ages should be from 6 to 10 years, and unimpeachable references are essential. The house is a fine old farm in a beautiful and healthy part, 36 miles from London. Apply, "Danbury," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. 3.

(Continued from last page.)

The Royal Dutch West India Mail. Home arrivals from Trinidad, per s.s. *Stuyvesant*, Havre, July 19th.

Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Baitward and 2 ch	Mr. J. Melian	Mr. L. Sellier
Miss N. Wuhbe	Mr. M. P. Mailhard	Mr. J. de Vertenil
Mr. J. W. Dimstall	Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Messervy	Mr. and Mrs. C. de Verteul
Mr. Fred W. George	Mr. and Mrs. L. A. P. O'Reilly	Mrs. V. Vasconcelles
Mr. & Mrs. W. Gordon	Mr. A. Sutherland	Mr. and Mrs. Aucher
Gordon and 1 child	Mr. J. B. D. Sellier	Warner
Mr. J. Gordon Hare	Miss J. Sellier	
Mr. J. McLelland		



# The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXV.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1920.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone:  
CENTRAL 6642.



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams:  
CARIB, LONDON.

Aug. 19th, 1920.

### God Bless the Prince!

**W**HEN the present CIRCULAR reaches the West Indies the PRINCE OF WALES will be approaching, if he has not already arrived at Jamaica, on his second visit to the West Indies. In order, therefore, to mark this auspicious occasion we present to our readers a characteristic portrait of His Royal Highness, and publish the first instalment of an article from the capable pen of our West Indian historian, MR. FRANK CUNDALL, the Secretary of the Jamaica Institute, on previous royal visits to the West Indies. For weeks past the colonies now to be visited by the PRINCE have been vying with one another in making arrangements for the reception of their royal guest, and we may be sure that nothing will be left undone to give him a favourable impression of the islands included in his Itinerary and of our great mainland colony in South America. The PRINCE's short stay in Barbados on his way to Australia came at an opportune moment, serving as it did to silence effectively the preposterous suggestion, which emanated from a prominent American, and also, we are ashamed to say, a British Peer, that the West Indies might be transferred to the United States in part payment of our war debt to that country, and all who were privileged to hear it will recall his Royal Highness's forceful remark which he made upon that occasion, to the effect that His Majesty's subjects, whether white or otherwise,

were not for sale. That statement, but for the fact that the West Indian cable system was at the time completely broken down, would have been flashed throughout the British West Indies, as it was to the outside world; but a wider West Indian audience will now have the opportunity of hearing from the lips of the heir to the Throne that their colonies and people are indeed valued and appreciated by the Sovereign to whom they give allegiance, and that the irresponsible suggestions for transferring them to another flag will be treated with the contumely which they deserve. West Indians may sometimes like to work under a foreign flag, but they prefer to sleep under the Union Jack. But since the PRINCE's visit to Barbados in March last, the new reciprocal trade agreement has been arrived at, which should have far-reaching effects, and be followed by the investment of British capital in our oldest group of colonies, and this should bring in its wake such prosperity that West Indians will be content to work as well as sleep under the Union Jack. During his visit to Barbados the PRINCE OF WALES, by his charming personality and unflinching tact, endeared himself to all classes of the community. Similarly, we know that he left the Caribbean with the most favourable impressions of the British West Indies, based on his brief experiences in Barbados, and we can confidently predict that this mutual sentiment will be renewed on his Royal Highness's return to those colonies, and that all residents will echo the prayer that God may bless the PRINCE OF WALES.

### The Transatlantic Passenger Service.

**H**AVING already expressed its views regarding the circumstances under which the Transatlantic Passenger Steamer Service has been terminated, the West India Committee, appreciating that no good purpose can be served at this juncture by recriminations, is devoting its energies towards securing the repatriation of the many West Indian visitors now stranded in this country. To this end it has published an announcement in the Press asking those requiring passages to furnish them with information under the following heads: (1) How many passages they require; (2) when they wish to sail; (3) the earliest date on which they can sail, and (4) the latest date on which they can sail; and it would be helpful if readers of this article in the United Kingdom would bring it before the notice of any of their friends who may wish to get back to the West Indies. Meanwhile the Committee is in constant communication with the various Govern-



ment Departments concerned, and all the West Indian Shipping Companies. Already the position has been relieved to some extent by the Royal Mail having consented to the steamer *Quillota* calling at Barbados and Trinidad on her way to Guayaquil, and by the Royal Netherlands Line providing increased accommodation under the poop in several of their outward steamers, the allocation of berths in both instances being entrusted to the Committee, so that the most deserving cases may be dealt with first. As regards the general situation, it has become absolutely clear that a passenger service between the Mother Country and the West Indies cannot be maintained without a subsidy. If a subsidy is necessary for a cargo-cum-passenger service between Canada and the West Indies, still more must one be essential for the maintenance of the Transatlantic connection. That is very obvious. As to the importance of the maintenance of the direct Transatlantic connection there can be no two opinions. The question was fully debated by representatives of all the West Indian Colonies concerned at the Conference of the West Indian Associated Chambers of Commerce at Barbados in February last, when a resolution was passed unanimously calling for the restoration of direct steamer communication between the West Indies and the Mother Country, and we are hopeful that the Imperial Treasury may approach the matter in a liberal spirit so that definite proposals for the restoration of the direct passenger service, which we regard as being of the utmost importance, may be submitted to the colonies. If such a service could be maintained in the days of poverty, surely one can be maintained now when the West Indies are more prosperous than at any other period in their history.

#### Germany's Beet Sugar Industry.

**A**FTER the abolition of the foreign sugar bounties, we repeatedly expressed the view in these columns that in the future the chief competitor of British cane sugar would be foreign cane sugar rather than European beet, for we anticipated the great increase in production of cane sugar which was bound to follow the preference given to Cuba in the duties by the United States. The war gave impetus to the transfer of competition from beet to cane, and whereas in the pre war year the world's production of cane and beet was 10,999,983 and 9,907,504 tons (of 2,000 lb.) respectively, the production of cane sugar has now risen to 13,150,401 tons, whilst that of beet has fallen to 3,928,849 tons. The question which now arises is whether beet will ever regain its former position of relative importance. We do not believe that it will, having regard to the far greater cost of labour, fuel, transport, &c., which Europe has now and will continue for many years to have to face, but at the same time it must not be assumed that beet sugar production will remain for long at its present low level. In order that it might place the position before its members, the West India Committee recently requested the Department of Overseas Trade to furnish them with reports from Europe regarding the position and prospects of the beet sugar industry. From the first of

these, which has now been received, there would appear to be no immediate prospects of the German sugar industry regaining the position which it held in 1913, when surplus production to the value of 260 million gold marks was exported. Apart from the loss of a large area of sugar beet growing territory to Poland, the falling off in production, which has eliminated Germany from the list of sugar exporting countries, is attributed to Government control which has curtailed cultivation. At the present time the area under sugar beet in Germany comprises about 285,000 hectares, which though an increase of 11,000 hectares as compared with last year, is still far below the area under cultivation in 1913. Current crop conditions indicate an average good harvest, and provided that fresh strikes can be averted, and those already in progress promptly settled, it is estimated that the sugar output for the present year will amount to from 1,000,000 to 1,100,000 tons, or from 300,000 to 350,000 tons more than last season. This, however, will merely enable the present reduced domestic ration in Germany to be increased to the war-time quantity, and the country will still be dependent on sugar imports. At the present time the monthly ration is 500 grammes, or 16 ozs. per head, and foreign sugar is being issued at 7 marks 60 per half kilo., or, on the present basis of exchange, 10½d. per lb. Meanwhile it should be noted that the German Government is doing all in its power to stimulate production by fixing the prices of raw sugar. They are guaranteeing the beet farmers 20 to 22 marks per cwt. for their beets, with the result that larger areas are being placed under beet cultivation, and an increased production is looked for during the coming year. A further incentive to increased production is a promise to provide the beet suppliers with 20 lb. of raw sugar for each cwt. of beet delivered, which enables farmers to utilise their fruit and berry crops to the best advantage. The German sugar industry is now rigidly controlled by the Government, and a decision as to the future is momentarily expected. It has been proposed that the control of the industry should be given to a governing body selected from the trade, but the refiners are vigorously opposing this on the grounds that such a new experiment would lead to the establishment of a cartel system. The deduction from the reports now received from Germany is that there is no immediate prospect of that country being in a position to export sugar, but it is evident from the information now to hand that it will require watching most carefully, especially in regard to any artificial encouragement which may be given to the beet growers and manufacturers, through the grants of sugar or regulated prices. This points to the desirability, if not indeed the imperative necessity, of the adoption of anti-dumping regulations in this country without delay if Great Britain is to make herself independent of foreign sources of supply in respect of sugar. The fact that Germany, for the time being, is not likely to be a formidable competitor makes the adoption of precautionary measures against unfair competition not a whit less essential.



Photograph by

[C Vandyk, Ltd., London

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G.



## ROYAL VISITS TO THE WEST INDIES.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

The following brief notes on Royal Visits to the West Indies have been compiled, somewhat hastily, in view of the forthcoming visit of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales to Jamaica and other parts of the West Indies in September. Fuller particulars of Prince William Henry's visit and other royal visits may be found in "Royal Visits to Barbados" (1887), by C. P. Bowen and E. G. Sinckler; from articles in the "Journal of the Institute of Jamaica," entitled "Nelson in the West Indies," by Robert Johnstone, and "The Visits of Prince William Henry to Jamaica," by the present writer. The "Cruise of the *Barchinole*" forms the basis of the notes concerning that visit.

The earliest Royal Visit made to the West Indies, that of Prince Rupert and Prince Maurice, was of a very different nature from its successors. After they had played their part in the Civil War on behalf of their uncle, Charles I., and after a course of piracy against English and Spanish ships alike, in the Mediterranean and off the Azores, the coast of Guinea and the Cape de Verde islands, they reached the West Indies in the summer of 1652, about six months after Ayceus had reduced Barbados to obedience to the Parliament, and captured a few English vessels, but Prince Maurice was lost off the Virgin Islands, with three of their four ships, on the 14th of September. On his return Rupert was well received by Charles II., who sent his own coach to meet him, and made him Master of the Horse; but the pecuniary results of the voyage proved to be as insignificant as the political ones were ineffective.

During the past century and a half there have been ten visits paid by members of the Royal Family to the British West Indies. Of them all the longest and most extended were probably those paid by William IV when he was serving in the Royal Navy. The King, in committing him to the care of Sir Samuel Hood, wrote, "I desire he may be received without the smallest marks of parade. The young man goes as a sailor, and as such, I add again, no marks of distinction are to be shown unto him—they would destroy my whole plan"; and this spirit, which has been maintained whenever subsequent royal princes have been sent to sea, is said to have impressed Langara, who, when he saw the Prince reporting his boat ready, exclaimed, "Well does Great Britain merit the empire of the sea when the humblest stations in her Navy are supported by princes of the blood." Doubts have, however, been cast on the story, on the grounds that a Spanish Admiral would not have been willing to admit Britain's right to rule the sea. Be that as it may, the King made a wise decision. Prince William went to sea in 1799, when fourteen years of age, as a midshipman in the *Prince George* under Admiral Digby, who was appointed Governor to his Royal Highness. In December he was present at Rodney's defeat of Langara off Cape St Vincent; but, on the division of the fleet, the prince went home with Digby, and so lost the opportunity of participation in Rodney's great victory over de Grasse.

In 1783 Prince William was serving as a midship-

man in the West Indies under Lord Hood in the celebrated *Bur fleur*. He was the first prince of the blood royal to put foot on the shore of Jamaica. On February 13th of that year the Assembly presented a congratulatory address to the Governor on his Royal Highness's arrival in the island. The news of the Peace of Versailles reached Jamaica in March, and the Prince, "attended by proper officers, visited Capo Francois and the Havana, and was received with every mark of distinction and politeness." The officers included Nelson.

In 1785 he passed for Lieutenant, and in the next year he was made Commander of the *Pegasus* frigate. He arrived in Carlisle Bay on November 24th, 1786, in command of that frigate. He was received by the Governor, Major David Parry. Three days later a special meeting of the Council was held, at which it was resolved that an address of congratulation should be presented to his Royal Highness, and that the Council should join with the Assembly in making "ample provision for public entertainment, and every honour due to the Prince's high rank." The address alluded to the Prince's naval service as "noble conduct in scorning the elegancies of life, and assiduously attending thus early to the service of Great Britain." A sword of honour, to cost three hundred guineas, was also voted.

The Assembly, as usual, jealous of its rights, pointed out that "all grants of public money should originate in the House," and then, having vindicated its position, cheerfully voted the necessary sums. In his reply, the Prince stated that whenever "I may be called upon to serve in those seas, my attention shall be firmly and steadily devoted to the interests of this island, which from her riches, commerce, and present thriving state and peculiar situation, is of such material consequence to Great Britain." Loyal addresses were also presented by the Assembly, the clergy, the merchants, and "even the Jews." Balls were given in his honour at Government House, and he was "sumptuously entertained by the Legislature at the public expense, despite the pecuniary difficulties of the colony due to the hurricane of 1780."

Socially, we learn from "Royal Visits to Barbados," the Prince appears to have made himself quite at home, and to have elicited the loyalty and affection of all ranks—from his fair partners at balls to Rachael Polegreen, a corpulent old negress who kept a small hotel in Bridgetown, which she afterwards called "The Royal Navy Hotel." This the Prince made his headquarters, visiting the while several of the leading planters. After a dinner with the mess of the 49th Regiment at St. Ann's Garrison, his Royal Highness, on his return with some of the officers, indulged in a "royal frolic," an exhibition of horseplay common in those days and not quite unknown in these, Rachael Polegreen blocking the doorway meanwhile with her great armchair. "In a couple of hours everything was completely demolished—pier-glasses, chandeliers, glass, china, and even beds being destroyed." In answer to reports of damage done, the hostess merely replied that the King's son should be allowed to "muse herself," and even forgave him for upsetting herself and her chair on his exit; but she made him pay for his frolic to the tune of £700. The name of the first street he passed through—Prince William



Henry Street, in Bridgetown—is a lasting memorial of the visit of the Sailor Prince to Barbados.

Early in November the *Pegasus* arrived at English Harbour, Antigua, and came under the command of the senior officer on the station, Captain Nelson, who thus renewed the acquaintance with the Prince which had begun in the visit of both of them to New York Harbour. The Prince honoured Nelson with his warmest friendship, and gave, after the hero's death, the following interesting account of him at this period:—

"I was then a midshipman on board the *Barfleur* (the ship afterwards commanded by Collingwood on 'the glorious First of June'), lying in the narrows off Staten Island, and had the watch on deck, when Captain Nelson, of the *Albemarle*, came in his barge alongside, who appeared to be the merest boy of a Captain I ever beheld; and his dress was worthy of attention. He had on a full-faced uniform; his lank, unpowdered hair was tied in a stiff hessian tail, of an extraordinary length; the old-fashioned flaps of his waistcoat added to the general quaintness of his figure, and produced an appearance which particularly attracted my notice, for I had never seen anything like it before, nor could I imagine who he was, nor what he came about. My doubts were, however, removed when Lord Hood introduced me to him. There was something irresistibly pleasing in his address and conversation, and an enthusiasm, when speaking on professional subjects, that showed he was no common being. Nelson after this went with us to the West Indies, and served under Lord Hood's flag during his indefatigable cruise off Cape François. Throughout the whole of the American War the height of Nelson's ambition was to command a line of battleship; as for prize-money, it never entered his thoughts; he had always in view the character of his maternal uncle. I found him warmly attached to my father, and singularly humane; he had the honour of the King's service and the independence of the British Navy particularly at heart, and his mind glowed with this idea as much when he was simply Captain of the *Albemarle*, and had obtained none of the honours of his country, as when he was afterwards decorated with so much well-earned distinction."

On the other hand, during a cruise from Port Royal to Puerto Cabello, Nelson, writing to Captain Locker on February 25th, gave him the following account of Prince William:—

"My situation in Lord Hood's fleet must be in the highest degree flattering to any young man. He treats me as if I was his son, and will, I am convinced, give me anything I can ask of him; nor is my situation with Prince William less flattering. Lord Hood was so kind as to tell him (indeed I cannot make use of expressions strong enough to describe what I felt) that if he wished to ask questions relative to naval tactics, I could give him as much information as any officer in the Fleet. He will be, I am certain, an ornament to our Service. He is a seaman, which you could hardly suppose. Every other qualification you may expect from him. But he will be a disciplinarian, and a strong one; he says he is determined every person shall serve his time before they shall be provided for, as he is obliged to serve his. A vast deal of notice has been taken of him at Jamaica; he has been addressed by the Council, and the House of Assembly were to address him the day after I sailed. He has his *leaves* at Spanish Town; they are all highly delighted with him. With the best temper and great good sense, he cannot fail of being pleasing to everyone."

On December 12th, off Antigua, Nelson writes of the Prince in the following manner to Mrs. Nisbet:—

"Our young Prince is a gallant man; he is, indeed, volatile, but always with great good nature. There were

two balls during his stay, and some of the old ladies were mortified that his Royal Highness would not dance with them; but he says he is determined to enjoy the privilege of all other men—that of asking any lady he pleased.

"WEDNESDAY.—We arrived here this morning at daylight. His Royal Highness dined with me, and, of course, the Governor. I can tell you a piece of news, which is, that the Prince is fully determined, and has made me promise him, that he shall be at our wedding; and he says he will give you to me. His Royal Highness has not yet been in a private house to visit, and is determined never to do it, except in this instance. You know I will ever strive to bear such a character as may render it no discredit to any man to take notice of me. There is no action in my whole life but what is honourable, and I am the more happy at this time on that account, for I would, if possible, or in my power, have no man near the Prince who can have the smallest impeachment as to character, for as an individual I love him, as a Prince I honour and revere him."

(To be continued.)

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

### United Efforts Still Urgently Needed.

It is proposed to publish a complete list of contributions to the West India Committee's Endowment Fund at an early date, and the Executive would like it to include the name of every member of the Committee. Before the complete policy of development which is in view can be carried out, the collection of a substantial Fund is absolutely essential—in evidence of which it may be mentioned that it has only been possible to secure a continuance of the tenancy of the present Committee Rooms temporarily by payment of *three times the present rent*. It is hoped therefore that all members—whether individuals or firms—will not only contribute themselves, but will do their utmost to assist by interesting others in the fund, and by organising local collections towards it.

The twenty-first list of contributions is published below.

#### TWENTY-FIRST LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Contributions already acknowledged	£17,237 18 0
A. H. Hamel-Smith, Esq. ....	5 5 0
A. J. Shepherd, Esq. ....	5 5 0
Captain R. Rowley-Conwy, R.N., C.M.G. ....	5 0 0
Messrs. Wm. Beloe & Co. ....	1 1 0
Messrs. Peter Dawson, Ltd. ....	1 1 0
A. Maxwell Pawsey, Esq. ....	1 1 0
C. L. Royle, Esq. ....	1 1 0
Allan T. Lang, Esq. ....	1 0 0

In his book "Looking Back," Sir Seymour Fortescue gives us a glimpse of the strenuous time our sailors had in the tropics before wind gave place to steam. He writes: "A sailing cruise round the West Indies sounds extremely like a yachting excursion, but, in absolute fact, a journey performed by a squadron of sailing frigates keeping meticulous station under sail, and sometimes having to make short tacks every five minutes or so, to come into their anchorage, and all this in tropical heat, does not seem to have much of a yacht connected with it."



## SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"HABEE habee no wanty; wanty wanty no habee."

IN 1829 the quantity of rum consumed in the United Kingdom was 3,375,866 imperial proof gallons. The present consumption is about 2,500,000 proof gallons.

MR. WILLIAM FRANCIS, Government Analyst of Cyprus, has been appointed Deputy Government Analyst of British Guiana, whither he hopes to sail at the beginning of next month.

MR. W. GORDON GORDON has taken Craig Castle at Rhynie, in Aberdeenshire, with the shooting for the season. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon and their son left for Scotland at the beginning of August.

MR. ROBERT ANDERSON, of Montreal, in a letter published in the *Gazette* recently, expresses the view that it will take ten years, and probably longer, for production of sugar to reach the pre-war figure. He refutes the charges of profiteering levied against sugar dealers, and quotes an article by Mr. Keller, Editor of *Sugar*, in support of his views as to the outlook.

MR. KELLER writes: "Can anyone fail to realise the critical situation in the world's sugar industry after studying the world's figures? The orich who sticks his head into the sand and imagines the hunter can't see him, because he can't see the hunter, is a wise old bird compared with the agitators who seek the causes of high sugar prices and of the scarcity of sugar in petty profiteering."

RESIDENTS in Jamaica especially will regret to learn of the death of Lady Musgrave, which took place at her residence at East Grimstead, on August 12th, at the advanced age of eighty-six years. Lady Musgrave was the widow of Sir Anthony Musgrave, G.C.M.G., Governor of Jamaica from 1877 to 1880. She was the founder of the Women's Self Help Society, now at the corner of Harbour and Duke Streets in Kingston, which still bears her name, and she will be affectionately remembered in Jamaica for her many good works.

THE CIRCULAR has to record, with deep regret, the death of Vice-Admiral Sir Trevelyan Napier, K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief of the North America and West Indies Station, which occurred at Bermuda on July 30th, after a short illness of typhoid fever. Admiral Napier, who was born in 1867, was the son of Admiral Gerard Napier. He served in the Royal Yacht, and was present at the battle of Jutland. He is succeeded by Vice-Admiral Sir William Pakenham, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., who served in the North Sea throughout the war with distinction.

BERMUDA no doubt received the congratulations of Barbados and the Bahamas on the occasion of the celebration of the tercentenary of her Parliament, which is the oldest in the world next to that of the Mother Country, for the Parliaments which sit at Bridgetown and at Nassau rank next in order of age. It will be recalled how the West India Committee took up the cudgels for the "Three B's," as they were called, when it was found that Bermuda, Barbados and the Bahamas had been described as "Crown Colonies" in the Colonial Regulations, and how the description was amended by Viscount Harcourt.

IN connection with the subject of the sugar-cane in Barbados, Sir Thomas Dalby, writing in 1690, states that in 1650 a "Hollander" arriving from Brazil found good sugar-canes growing, but that the "English knew no other good use for them save to make refreshing drinks."

He accordingly instructed the inhabitants in the art of making sugar. The commencement of the sugar industry in Barbados, however, may be taken as being some years previous to 1650, as Legon, when he landed in Barbados in 1647, found "the great work of sugar-making but newly practised by the inhabitants." There is little doubt, as Schomburgk points out, that the origin of the Barbados sugar industry was due to the Dutch.

BARBADOS came prominently into the limelight on August 5th in consequence of the action of the United States in deciding to prohibit, by force of arms if necessary, the landing of a cable from Barbados to Miami, in Florida. No international complications have arisen, however, as the cable in question is owned by the Western Union Telegraph Company of America, an American concern, which was employing a British cable ship purely as a matter of convenience. Barbados is being used simply as a junction where messages received over a new cable from Pernambuco will be relayed over the cable now in question. The new cables will only be used for commercial purposes in Barbados when the other cables to that island are interrupted. It will be recalled that when the announcement that these new cables were to be laid was made, the CIRCULAR stoutly advocated that the Barbados-America linking might be made via Bermuda, which would have saved the outlay on 1,300 miles of cable, but this suggestion did not appeal to America.

FROM the report of the Committee of that institution, it would appear that the Barbados Lyceum Club is in a prosperous condition. With Mrs. Laurie Pile as President and Mrs. Bridger as Secretary, it continues to progress, and now has a total membership of 101 ladies. Though primarily a social club, it has a "Civic Circle" under the presidency of Lady Carter which, for the last three years, has done admirable work in looking after gardens and open spaces, and otherwise beautifying Bridgetown besides inducing the local Government to bring about such valuable reforms as the institution of a film censorship. It is endeavouring to secure an improved tramway system in the place of the existing mule service, which is little short of a reproach to the community. This Circle, if provided with adequate funds by the local Government or War Office, whichever is responsible—would seem to be just the body which might be invited to take care of the military cemetery at Needham's Point on the lines suggested in the CIRCULAR of July 8th.

AT the recent opening of the Mauritius Council of Government, Sir Hesketh Bell pleaded for better housing conditions for the people. In the last colony of which he administered the Government (the Leeward Islands) he said the conditions under which the poor were housed were as bad, if not worse than in Mauritius. With the cordial approval and support of the Legislature, he designed and erected a model village of workmen's dwellings, which proved a complete success. The cottages were of simple construction, and, though the rents were very low, they sufficed not only to yield a moderate return on capital, but also to build up a small reserve fund to meet the cost of repairs. He trusted that the Council of Government would allow him to make the same experiment in Mauritius, and that the sum of Rs 40,000, which appeared in the draft estimates in that connection, would willingly be voted for the purposes of an initial effort. He begged the Council to consent to a small portion of the colony's wealth—which, for a small colony, was now colossal—for the better health and welfare of the people. The CIRCULAR ventures to add the hope that the Legislatures in the West Indies will similarly show a liberal spirit in this respect.



## CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

### Full Text of Trade Agreement.

We give below the full text of the trade agreement between Canada and the West Indies which was presented to Parliament on August 4th.

AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO THIS EIGHTEENTH DAY OF  
JUNE, 1920,  
BETWEEN

The Right Honourable Sir George Eulas Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Honourable Martin Burrell, Minister of Customs and Inland Revenue, the Honourable Charles Colquhoun Ballantyne, Minister of Marine and Fisheries and Minister of the Naval Service, and the Honourable Sir Henry Lumley Drayton, Minister of Finance, representing the Government of the Dominion of Canada,

AND

The Honourable Harcourt Gladstone Malcolm, Speaker of the House of Assembly, representing the Government of the Bahamas Islands;

The Honourable William Lambert Collyer Phillips, Colonial Treasurer, representing the Government of Barbados;

The Honourable Wilfred Edward Jackson, Colonial Secretary, representing the Government of Bermuda;

Captain John McIntosh Reid, Comptroller of Customs, representing the Government of British Guiana;

The Honourable Harold Ernest Phillips, Acting Colonial Secretary, representing the Government of British Honduras;

The Honourable Charles Ernest St. John Branch, Attorney-General, representing the Government of Jamaica;

The Honourable Donald McDonald, Member of the Legislative Council, representing the Government of the Leeward Islands;

The Honourable Henry Barclay Walcott, Collector of Customs, representing the Government of Trinidad; and

The Honourable Herbert Ferguson, Colonial Secretary, representing the Government of the Windward Islands.

WHEREAS a Conference has been held between the Government of Canada and the Governments of the Colonies above named through their representatives assembled at Ottawa in the present month of June for the purpose of considering the extent to which and the means by which the trade relations between the Dominion and the several Colonies aforesaid can be rendered closer and more intimate, their trade extended and enlarged, and the means of communication between them improved and rendered fully efficient for all purposes; and

WHEREAS the principles upon which the several Governments are enabled to act in the furtherance of this purpose have been fully considered and a determination has been reached;

THEREFORE the Dominion of Canada and the several Colonies aforesaid declare and agree as follows:—

#### TRADE.

I. The Dominion of Canada affirms the principle of granting a preference on all goods being the produce or manufacture of any of the Colonies aforesaid imported into Canada which are now subject to duty or which may be made subject to duty at any future time.

II. Subject to the special provision of Article III., the duties of Customs on all goods (other than tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, and spirituous or alcoholic liquors) being the produce or manufacture of any of the Colonies aforesaid imported into Canada, which are now sub-

ject to duty or which may be made subject to duty at any future time, shall not at any time be more than fifty (50) per cent. of the duties imposed on similar goods when imported from any foreign country.

III. The Dominion of Canada will grant to the articles specified in Schedule "A," being the produce or manufacture of any of the Colonies aforesaid, imported into Canada, the preferential treatment indicated in respect of each such article in the said Schedule "A."

IV. The Colonies aforesaid severally affirm the principle of granting a preference on all goods being the produce or manufacture of Canada imported into such Colonies, which are now subject to duty or which may be made subject to duty at any future time.

V. Subject to the special provisions of Articles VI and VII., the duties of Customs on all goods (other than tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes) being the produce or manufacture of Canada imported into the Colonies aforesaid, which are now subject to duty or which may be made subject to duty at any future time, shall not at any time be

(a) in the case of Barbados, British Guiana, and Trinidad, more than fifty (50) per cent.,

(b) in the case of British Honduras, the Leeward Islands, and the Windward Islands, more than sixty-six and two-thirds (66 $\frac{2}{3}$ ) per cent.,

(c) in the case of Bermuda and Jamaica, more than seventy-five (75) per cent., and

(d) in the case of the Bahamas more than ninety (90) per cent.,

from the duties imposed on similar goods when imported from any foreign country.

VI. The Colonies aforesaid will grant to the articles specified in Schedule "B," being the produce or manufacture of Canada, imported into the said Colonies, the preferential treatment indicated in respect of each such article in the said Schedule "B."

VII. In the case of the Bahamas the provisions of Article V. (d) shall not apply to wines, malt liquors, spirits, spirituous liquors, liquid medicines, and articles containing alcohol.

VIII. The Governments of any of the Colonies aforesaid, on giving six months' notice, may provide that to be entitled to the concessions granted in Articles V. and VI. the products of Canada shall be conveyed by ship direct without transshipment from a Canadian port into the said Colony, or by way of one of the other Colonies entitled to the advantages of this Agreement.

The Government of Canada, on giving six months' notice, may provide that, to be entitled to the concessions granted in Articles II. and III., the products of any of the Colonies aforesaid shall be conveyed by ship direct without transshipment from the said Colony or from one of the other Colonies entitled to the advantages of this Agreement into a Canadian port.

Provided that, should the discretion recognised in this Article be at any time exercised by the Government of Canada, provision shall be made, in all contracts entered into with steamships subsidised by the Dominion and the Colonies aforesaid, and plying between ports in Canada and ports in the said Colonies, for an effective control of rates of freight.

IX. This Agreement shall not interfere with any existing preference or with the granting of any future preference by the Dominion or by any of the Colonies aforesaid to any other part of the British Empire, or with any existing preference or the granting of any future preference by the said Colonies among themselves.

#### STEAMSHIP SERVICES—EASTERN GROUP.

X. The Government of Canada will use its best endeavours to arrange for a mail passenger and freight steam-



ship service to come into effect as soon as possible, and in any case within three years, between Canada, Bermuda, the Leeward Islands, the Windward Islands, Barbados, Trinidad, and British Guiana, on the following lines:—

(1) Steamers shall sail weekly from St. John or Halifax, calling one week on the outward passage at Bermuda, Barbados, Trinidad, and British Guiana, and on the homeward passage at Trinidad, Grenada, St. Vincent, Barbados, St. Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat, Antigua, Nevis, St. Kitts, and Bermuda; on alternate weeks calling on the outward passage at Bermuda, St. Kitts, Nevis, Antigua, Montserrat, Dominica, St. Lucia, Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada, Trinidad, and British Guiana, and on the homeward passage at Trinidad, Barbados, and Bermuda.

(2) The steamers shall be from 5,000 to 6,000 tons gross, capable of maintaining an ocean speed of 12 knots, and providing accommodation for 100 first-class, 30 second-class, and 100 steerage or deck passengers, and shall be provided with 'tween decks.

XI The Government of Canada will stipulate in any contract entered into for such steamship service that:—

(1) There shall be reasonable proportionate allocation of passenger and cargo accommodation between the Colonies mentioned in Article X.

(2) There shall be no unfair differentiation in rates of freight against the smaller Colonies as compared with the rates to larger Colonies situated at a similar distance from St. John or Halifax.

(3) The steamers shall be so constructed that, so far as the traffic warrants, cold storage shall be provided if this can be secured without unreasonable additional cost.

XII. If a subsidised steamship service is arranged for, the Government of Canada will endeavour to secure the co-operation of the owners of such steamship service towards the provision of hotels and bungalows in the Colonies, the Governments of the Colonies being prepared on their part to offer such facilities as may be practicable, both as regards sites and financial assistance.

XIII. The representatives of the Colonies mentioned in Article X undertake to recommend to their Governments that these Governments shall contribute towards such subsidised steamship service, when established, in the following amounts annually:—

Barbados	not less than	£5,000
Bermuda	"	£2,000
British Guiana	"	£7,500
Leeward Islands	"	£2,500
Trinidad	"	£7,500
Windward Islands	"	£2,500

£27,000

XIV Pending the establishment of such service the Government of Canada will use its best endeavours to maintain a fortnightly service on the existing lines, and to supplement it with such additional freight or passenger and freight vessels as the trade may require.

**STEAMSHIP SERVICES—WESTERN GROUP.**

XV. The Government of Canada, subject to the adoption by the Governments concerned of the recommendations embodied in Article XVI, undertakes to provide as soon as possible, and in any case not later than January 1st, 1921, a fortnightly freight, mail and passenger steamship service between Canada, the Bahamas, Jamaica, and British Honduras, on the following lines:—

(1) The steamers shall not be less than 3,500 long tons dead weight, shall have an ocean-going speed

of not less than 10 knots, and shall have accommodation for from 15 to 20 first-class passengers, and shall be provided with 'tween decks, and, so far as the traffic warrants, with cold storage if this can be secured with reasonable cost.

(2) The steamers shall sail from such Canadian ports as freight conditions require, and shall proceed to Belize in British Honduras, calling at Nassau in the Bahamas, and at such port or ports in Jamaica as may be necessary, and shall call on the return voyage at such port or ports in Jamaica as may be necessary, and at Nassau.

XVI. The representatives of the Colonies mentioned in Article XV undertake to recommend to their Governments that these Governments shall, if the service proves unremunerative, contribute twenty-five (25) per cent. of any loss; provided that the amounts contributed shall not exceed, in the case of the Bahamas, the sum of £3,000 per annum, in the case of British Honduras, the sum of £5,000 per annum, and in the case of Jamaica the sum of £5,000 per annum.

XVII. This Agreement shall be subject to the approval of the Parliament of Canada and of the Legislature of each of the Colonies aforesaid, and of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Upon such approval being given, the agreement shall be brought into force at such time as may be agreed upon between the Governments of Canada and of the Colonies aforesaid by Proclamation to be published in the *Canada Gazette* and in the *Official Gazette* of each of the said Colonies.

XVIII. This Agreement shall remain in force for ten years after the Proclamation aforesaid, and thereafter until terminated by twelve months' written notice given either by the Government of Canada, or by the Government of any of the Colonies aforesaid, but in the latter case the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect as to any of the other Colonies which have not given such notice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the representatives of the Government of Canada and of the Governments of the Colonies aforesaid have signed this Agreement.

Done at Ottawa this 18th day of June, 1920, in a single copy, which will be deposited in the Archives of the Government of Canada, and of which authenticated copies will be transmitted by the Government of Canada to the Governments of each of the Colonies aforesaid.

GEORGE E. FOSTER.	W. E. JACKSON.
MARTIN BURRELL.	J. M. REID.
C. C. BALLANTYNE.	H. E. PHILLIPS.
H. L. DRAYTON.	E. St. J. BRANCH.
HARCOURT MALCOLM.	DONALD McDONALD.
W. L. C. PHILLIPS.	H. B. WALCOTT.
(per H. B. G. AUSTIN,	HERBERT FERGUSON
Acting Delegate).	

**Schedule "A."**

The Customs Tariff of Canada shall be amended so as to provide that sugar above number 16 Dutch Standard in colour when imported by a recognised sugar refiner, for refining purposes only, upon evidence satisfactory to the Minister of Customs, shall not be subject to these duties—i.e., the duties on sugar over number 16 Dutch Standard, specified in item 134 of the Canadian Tariff.

The Canadian Government, failing the adoption of the polariscope standard for tariff classification, will use its best endeavours to establish a more stable colour standard than the present Dutch Standard.

Provided that sugar as defined under item 134 shall receive preference of not less than 25 per cent. of the duty charged on foreign sugar.



Canadian Tariff Item No.	Article.	Degree of polarisation		Preference
135	Sugar	Not exceeding 76		Per 100 lbs Cts. 46-080
		Exceeding 76 and not exceeding 77		47-616
		" 77	" 78	49-152
		" 78	" 79	50-688
		" 79	" 80	52-224
		" 80	" 81	53-760
		" 81	" 82	55-296
		" 82	" 88	56-832
		" 83	" 84	58-560
		" 84	" 85	60-288
		" 85	" 86	62-016
		" 86	" 87	63-744
		" 87	" 88	65-664
		" 88	" 89	67-584
		" 89	" 90	69-888
		" 90	" 91	72-192
		" 91	" 92	74-496
		" 92	" 93	76-800
" 93	" 94	79-104		
" 94	" 95	81-408		
" 95	" 96	83-712		
" 96	" 97	86-016		
" 97	" 98	88-820		
" 98	"	— 66		

Cocoa beans, not roasted, crushed or ground (per 100 lb.) ... A preference of \$1.50.  
 Lime juice, raw and concentrated, not refined (per gallon) ... A preference of 10 cents  
 Limos, fresh ... Free, as against general tariff of 15 per cent *ad valorem*.  
 Arrowroot, per lb. ... A preference of 1 cent.  
 Coco-nuts, per 100 (im-ported direct to a Canadian port). Free, as against general tariff of 75 cents.  
 Coco-nuts, n.o.p. ... A preference of 50 cents per 100.  
 Grape fruit ... A preference of 50 cents per 100 lb.  
 Rum ... A preference of 60 cents per gallon of the strength of proof  
 Onions ... Free, as against a general tariff of 30 per cent. *ad valorem*.

**Schedule "B."**

Flour ... Preference of not less than 1s. per barrel or bag of 196 lb.  
 Spirits—i.e., brandy, gin, rum, whisky, unenume-rated, potable, if tested. Preference of not less than 2s. 6d. per gallon of the strength of proof  
 Spirits, perfumed, unenume-rated, potable, if not tested. Preference of not less than 2s. 6d. per liquid gallon.  
 Wine, beer and ale ... Duty not to exceed four-fifths of full rate.

**DECLARATION RESPECTING CABLE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE CANADA-WEST INDIES TRADE AGREEMENT, 1920.**

With a view to the further promotion of the purposes of the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement of even date, the representatives of the Government of Canada and of the Colonies named in the Agreement will recommend for the favourable consideration of their respective Governments and direct British-owned and

British-controlled cables should be laid as soon as possible, without waiting for the termination of the Agreement with the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company, to connect Bermuda with Barbados, Trinidad, British Guiana, the Windward Islands, the Leeward Islands, and Turks Island or Jamaica

The Government of Canada will institute inquiries as soon as practicable as to the possibility of arranging for the laying of such cables, and will communicate the results of these inquiries to the Governments of the Colonies.

GEORGE F. FOSTER.	W F JACKSON.
MARTIN BORRELL.	J M REID.
C. C. BALLANTYNE.	H E PHILLIPS.
H. L. DRAYTON.	F. ST. J BRANCH.
HARCOURT MALCOLM.	DONALD McDONALD
W L C PHILLIPS	H B WALCOTT.
(per H. B. G. AUSTIN, Acting Delegate).	HERBERT FERGUSON.

Ottawa, June 18th, 1920.

**THE IMPERIAL SHIPPING COMMITTEE.**

In view of the references which have been recently made to the Imperial Shipping Committee in connection with the West Indian steamer service, it may be mentioned that this body was set up by the Prime Minister in June last with the following objects:

(i) To enquire into complaints from persons and bodies interested with regard to ocean freights, facilities, and conditions in the Inter-Imperial trade or questions of a similar nature referred to them by any of the nominating authorities, and to report their conclusions to the Governments concerned.

(ii) To survey the facilities for maritime transport on such routes as appear to them to be necessary for trade within the Empire, and to make recommendations to the proper authority for the co-ordination and improvement of such facilities with regard to the type, size, and speed of ships, depth of water in docks and channels, construction of harbour works and similar matters.

The personnel of the Committee is as follows:

Sir Hailford Mackinder, M.P. (Chairman); Sir H. A. D. Ramsay Steel Mailland, Bart., M.P., nominated by the Secretary of State for the Colonies; Sir W. S. Meyer, G.C.L.E., K.C.S.L., nominated by the Secretary of State for India in Council; Sir Hubert Llewellyn Smith, G.C.B., nominated by the Board of Trade; Hon. Sir George H. Perley, K.C.M.G., nominated by the Government of the Dominion of Canada; Mr. H. B. G. Larkin, nominated by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia; the High Commissioner for New Zealand, nominated by the Government of the Dominion of New Zealand; Capt. G. Bowden, M.C., nominated by the Government of the Union of South Africa; Hon. Sir Edgar R. Bowring, nominated by the Government of Newfoundland; and Sir Kenneth Anderson, Bart., K.C.M.G.; Sir Alfred Booth, Bart.; Mr. W. Lionel Hichens; Mr. Kenneth Lee; and Mr. J. W. Murray, being persons experienced in shipping and commerce. The Secretary is Mr. E. J. Elliot, of the Board of Trade, at whose offices the committee meet.

ARCHDEACON DOWNSIE and the Church Council of St. Vincent propose to mark the centenary of St. George's Cathedral by raising, under the auspices of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, the nucleus of a Clergy Endowment Fund, from which the clergy of St. Vincent and their families can be helped in cases of sickness and need. Mr. J. H. Arkman, Colonial Bank, Kingstown, is acting as treasurer.



**WEST INDIA GROCERY SUGAR.**

**Arrangements for Distribution.**

The following communique was issued by the Ministry of Food on August 8th:—

The Food Controller announces that the supplies of sugar now in the hands of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, and purchased for future arrival, have rendered possible an increase in the weekly ration from eight ounces to twelve ounces, which will be authorised as from to-day. In the event of a retailer being unable, owing to transport delays or other circumstances, to meet the increased ration immediately, the arrears should be made up as soon as may be practicable.

There are now available supplies of West Indian grocery sugars (crystallised and "muscovado"), of which the special qualities are highly appreciated by many consumers. In order to assist the restoration of this important industry within the Empire, the Food Controller has given instructions that on and after September 6th these coloured sugars imported from the British West Indies or Demerara may be sold retail without reference to, and in excess of, the authorised ration, to registered or unregistered customers at prices not exceeding those authorised by the Royal Commission for the time being for free sugars. Coloured sugars of grocery quality produced in refineries in Great Britain will be treated on the same footing.

This announcement in so far as it concerns West Indian grocery sugar is the outcome of the recent negotiations between the West India Committee, the Ministry of Food and the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, which culminated in a deputation to Mr. J. W. McCurdy, K.C., M.P., the Food Controller, on August 6th.

After a discussion lasting two hours it was agreed to substitute the following arrangement for that in force: The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply to undertake to allot, during the month of August, 10,000 tons of West Indian crystallised, muscovado, and syrup sugars, which have been passed by the Grading Committee as grocery sugars, the basis of payment to be the August agreed prices for such sugars—namely, 129/67s. per cwt. for crystallised, and 121/75s for muscovado and syrups, it being understood that importers will be free to sell the balance of their sugars at the end of the month for any purposes subject to the maximum "reasonable" price. The announcement regarding the increase in the ration to include a statement to the effect that West Indian grocery sugars (crystallised and muscovado) will now be available, such announcement being of a nature to encourage the demand for these sugars.

The Committee suggested that it would facilitate the arrangements if the 10,000 tons of West Indian sugars to be allotted were confined to sugars graded up to the end of the month of August, and that it should apply only to sugars in first hands.

The members of the deputation comprised Mr. R. Rutherford, Chairman of the West India Committee; Mr. Cyril Gurney, Deputy Chairman; Mr. T. Prentice, Deputy Chairman of the West India Association of Glasgow; Mr. Norman Malcolmson; Mr. C. F. Walters, Chairman of the Cane Sugar Grading Committee; Mr. C. J. Bailey, and Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G., Secretary.

**WAGES IN TRINIDAD.**

A committee was appointed in Trinidad by the Governor in December last to consider and report on the rates of wages paid to labour in the colony and to investigate the economic position of the various classes of workers, with a view to recommending rates of wages suited to present conditions. The Hon. A. G. Bell, C.M.G., was chairman.

The report of this committee has now been published, and the principal recommendations may be summarised as follows:—

(a) That the basic minimum wage of a daily labourer should be 50 cents per day of nine hours, and the index value of living put at 1.

(b) When the index figure has risen, as now, to 21 by the general rise in the cost of living to him, the minimum wage should be 68 cents for a nine-hour day for a daily labouring man, 45 cents for a daily labouring woman; the monetary value of a free house should be put at 4½ cents per diem, free medicines at ½ cent per diem, and a free house plot at 2 cents per diem. The minimum wage and the monetary value of free medicines must be subject to revision from time to time.

(c) In return for the minimum wage there should be given a minimum amount of work.

The Committee add that it will be necessary clearly to define an unskilled labourer, that the minimum wage must be paid to all such between certain ages—say of between eighteen years and sixty years; that it will be illegal to agree to work for, or to employ at, a less wage except in cases of incapacity; that wage means cash or cash and free housing, and/or free medicines, and/or free house plots; and that there must be tribunals to consider cases of exemption from the scales and variations in them, and to deal with questions arising regarding the incidence of tasks generally.

The Committee estimate that the expenditure of a single man per fortnight amounts to \$6.52½, to which they add 93½ cents for comforts and savings, making \$7.46 per fortnight, or slightly under 68 cents a day, if he works eleven days per fortnight.

The cost of living to a family man with a wife and three children, assuming one to be capable of working, they estimate as follows:—

	Now	Pre-war
Food	\$10.51½	\$4.97½
House Rent	.46½	.46½
Clothes	1.99½	.67½
Medicines	.10½	.04½
Tools	.27	.11½
Furniture	.19½	.07½
Fuel, light, &c.	.90	.47
	\$14.44	\$6.82½

With regard to earnings side, if the man works eleven days a fortnight at 68 cents a day and the woman and the child earn between them \$7.50 a fortnight, the joint income would be \$14.98, which would provide savings amounting fortnightly to 54 cents, but little more than half those of the single man.

The Committee are now proceeding to investigate the economic position of semi-skilled and skilled labourers, which will form the subject of a further report at an early date.

MISS DOROTHY WINIFRED HAYNES, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Haynes, of Barbados, was married to Mr. George S. Owen, at St. Mary Abbots Church, on August 5th. After the ceremony a reception was held at 36, Onslow Gardens, the residence of Captain G. Hudson Lyall, M.B.E., and Mrs. Lyall.



## JAMAICA AND THE JAMBOREE.

The party of twenty-five Jamaican Boy-Scouts, under the command of Scoutmaster D. A. McCorkell, who came to this country on July 22nd to participate in the International Jamboree at Olympia, were entertained to tea by the West India Committee in their rooms at Seething-lane on August 11th. They did not bring with them their mascot, the twelve-inches-long baby alligator—which has been consistently referred to by the English Press as a crocodile—as this had already been presented to the Royal Zoological Gardens.

Ample justice was done to the fare provided, and, fortified by some twenty bottles of ginger-beer, the boys sang heartily the contingent songs, including "We'll Never Let Jamaica Fall" and the Jamaica Marching Song, the words of which were written by Mr. T. H. Macdermot, and the stirring music composed by Bandmaster Owen, of the West India Regiment. Mr. A. N. Crosswell, the Kingston District Commissioner, who accompanied the Scouts, and was invested by the Chief Scout at Olympia with the highest Scout Order, that of the Silver Wolf, thanked the Secretary most cordially for the afternoon's entertainment, and gave an interesting account of the doings of the contingent since their arrival. These included forming a guard of honour to Earl Beatty, at Sheffield, the representation at Olympia of an attack on Spanish sailors by Arawak Indians about the time of Columbus, a review by their Majesties the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace, and visits to the Mint, to the Zoo, and to the Crystal Palace. It was also hoped, if possible, to arrange a tour of the French battlefields.

A characteristic Boy-Scout song was then rendered, the words of which were not altogether easy to understand, but it was explained that they meant that the Secretary of the West India Committee was a lion, and more than a lion—in fact a rhinoceros. The afternoon came to an end with the presentation to the contingent of a Jamaica flag, with which the boys marched proudly away.

Those present were: Patrol Leaders H. F. Brownlow, N. Field, and L. C. Judah; Scouts R. E. Burrowes, H. A. Coombs, E. R. Lindsay, L. O. Lindsay, D. P. Girvan, A. J. Fitzgrave, V. L. Scott, S. M. Bramwell, H. P. Allen, A. A. Harty, U. Polack, C. Stephens, E. V. Parke, K. Clark, A. L. M. Smith, O. D. Sanguinetti, B. D. Rinnom, and A. Campbell.

## HAWAIIAN MACHINERY.

The *Sugar News* of the Philippines gives the following details of the machinery in Hawaiian factories, where high extractions in both mill and boiling-house are obtained:—

Juice heaters ...	30 sq. ft.	per ton of canes per hour.
Settling tanks ...	72 cub. ft.	" " "
Filter presses ...	120 sq. ft.	" " "
Evaporators (triple)	215 sq. ft.	" " "
" (quadruple)	300 sq. ft.	" " "
Vacuum pans ...	2.5 sq. ft.	" " "
Crystallizers ...	181 cub. ft.	" " "
Centrifugals—		
for 96 deg. sugar ...	2.5 cub. ft.	per screen area.
for low-grade sugar	5.0 cub. ft.	" " "

The above will be found to differ considerably from West Indian practice.

Mr. F. W. URICE, of Trinidad, has been granted leave by the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, to visit San Thomé to give advice to a company there regarding cacao disease.

## THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

By ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 232.)

In the afternoon came a motor ride round the island in the excellent company of E. J. Shelford and W. P. Michelin, the newly-appointed Puisne Judge of the Leeward Islands.

St. Kitts is encircled by a capital driving road, which dates from the days when the island was jointly occupied by the English and French. Without dipping too deeply into history, it may be recalled that Thomas Warner, who had been interested in the island by an experienced sailor named Painton, and had already visited it two years before, and D'Esnambuc, a privateering sailor from Dieppe, landed at St. Kitts on the very same day in the year of Our Lord 1625, and that what might have been a very complicated situation was amicably adjusted by the English settling in the middle of the island and the French at either end. For some years the two groups of colonists got on admirably together, and stood shoulder to shoulder in the face of their implacable foes, the warlike Caribs and equally truculent Spaniards, who nearly annihilated the settlers in 1629. But when war broke out between France and England, the French at once attacked their neighbours and overran the whole island. Thereafter St. Kitts changed hands between the two nations several times, and it was not until 1783 that it was finally ceded to England.

In passing, it may be noted that after the Treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, the French possessions in the island were publicly sold, and that of the proceeds the sum of £80,000 was appropriated as a marriage portion for Princess Anne on her betrothal to the Prince of Orange—an example of how the Crown bled the colonies in those times, another instance being the 4½ per cent. duty which was levied on all exports from the West Indies, and was not abolished until 1832, by which time it was computed that those colonies had been mulcted in over £6,000,000.

But this is a digression, and we must keep to the road. Beginning and ending at a sign post outside St. George's Church in Oyon street, it passes for almost its entire length through innumerable small estates, all devoted to the cultivation of sugar canes which when in arrow or flowering must resemble waving fields of pampas grass and Sea Island cotton, at its best from an artistic point of view when its yellow flowers are in full bloom—with occasional patches of such food crops as maize, eddoes, yams, cassava, and sweet-potatoes. During and since the war much valuable work has been done by Mr. F. R. Shepherd, the Superintendent of the well kept Agricultural Station near Basseterre, in the direction of increasing the production of ground provisions, so that St. Kitts may be less dependent on imported foodstuffs. Of tobacco, the staple crop of the earliest settlers, there is no longer a trace.

The visitor of a genealogical turn of mind would find a wide field for research in the names of the estates, most of which are based on those of the old-time owners, as, for instance, Otley's, Cranstoun's, Molyneux, Con Phipps, Estridge's, and Lambert's, the two last mentioned perpetuating the memory of



John Estridge and Philip Lambert, who were signatories of an account of the first settlement of the island drawn up in 1675.

Similarly, other names of places such as Basse-terre, Capisterre, La Guérite where some model cottages mark an attempt to improve the housing conditions of the people, which deserves to be carried further--Belle Tete (now Sandy Point), Dieppe Bay, and Dodan (or Des D'Ano), recall the days of French occupation. The estates stretch from the lower slopes of the central mountains down to the water's-edge, and are broken by numerous gullies or guts, which, in the rainy season, carry raging torrents out to sea. How they came to be called "guts" history does not relate.

Our first halt was at Middle Island, a straggling village of mean houses and huts. It was here, in the graveyard of Thomas' Church, that Sir Thomas Warner was laid to rest in March, 1648-9.

Younger son of William Warner, a gentle-yoman of Framlingham and Parham, in Suffolk, Thomas Warner entered the Army at an early age, and became Captain in King James I's bodyguard. It was while he was with Roger North on his expedition to Surinam that he first met Painton, who suggested his forming a settlement in one of the Caribbee Islands. Smitten by the idea, he returned to London to secure financial assistance for the project. There he succeeded in interesting one Ralph Merrifield in his plans. An expedition was equipped by that worthy, and on January 28th, 1623-4, Warner, having rejected Barbados for "the great want of water was then upon it naturally," landed at Old Road and established a settlement which he called "Merwar's Hope," a name obviously made up of the first syllables of his own and of that of his supporter. In 1624 he was made King's Lieutenant for the four islands of "St. Christopher or Merwar's Hope, Nevis [Nevis], Barbados, and Monserate," the patent of his appointment being the first relating to the West Indies which passed the Great Seal.

Warner's tomb, which stands on the right-hand side of the pathway leading up to the church, is now carefully preserved. Some years ago the tombstone was restored, and a tabernacle was erected over it to protect it from the elements. The inscription, first carved two centuries and a-half ago, is still quite legible, but we could find no one who could make good the missing words in the first and last six lines, which have been effaced by the hands of some vandal or by time. The inscription runs:--

An Epitaph vpon The  
Noble & Much Lamented Gent' Sir  
Tho Warner K Lieutenant  
General of ye Carribee  
Island & Govern' of y<sup>e</sup>  
Island of St' Christ  
who departed this  
life the 10 of  
March 1648.

First Read, then weepe when though art hereby taught  
That Warner lyes interr'd here, one that bought  
With losse of Noble blood the Illustrious Name  
Of A Comander Greate in Acts of Fame  
Trayn'd from his youth in Armes his Courage bold  
Attempted braue Exploites and Vncontrold  
By fortunes fiercest frownes, hee still gaue forth  
Large Narratives of Military worth.

Written with his sword's pyunt but what is man  
-midst of his glory and who can  
-this Life A moment since that hee  
-by Sea and Land so longe kept free  
-mortal strokes at length did yeeld  
-acc) to conquering Death the field.  
fine Coronat

While Australia and New Zealand do full justice to the memory of Captain Cook, Newfoundland to that of Sir Humphrey Gilbert, and while England and Canada have statues to Frobisher and Drake, it seems strange that throughout the length and breadth of the West Indies there should be no memorial to the pioneer of English colonisation in the Caribbean beyond this simple slab of stone.

A few miles beyond Middle Island the romantic mass of volcanic rock, known for generations as Brimstone Hill, rises in solitary grandeur to a height of over seven hundred feet from amid acres of sugar-cane on a plain adjoining the sea. It is a tradition--and only a tradition-- that in some remote age it was ejected bodily from the crater of Mount Misery, the majestic volcano which dominates St. Kitts. However that may be, the origin of its name is not far to seek, for as one approaches the hill there is a very perceptible smell of sulphur in the air.

Sir Timothy Thornhill, a Barbadian, who came to the relief of the colonists when they were being harassed by their neighbours the French, was the first to conceive the idea of mounting cannon on the summit of the hill, and this proved such a success that thereafter Brimstone Hill became the principal fortification in the English part of the island. To it the garrison retired in time of stress, and here they withstood for over a month the memorable siege in 1782, which has so often been described.\* Though Governor Shirley and Brigadier-General Thomas Fraser were compelled to capitulate to the magnanimous Marquis de Bouillé, the gallant defence of the "Gibraltar of the West Indies," as Brimstone Hill has been called, rendered possible Rodney's victory over de Grasse in the Battle of the Saints, for if the French Admiral had not been detained in the Bassotterre Roads he might have succeeded in joining the Spanish Fleet off Cuba before Rodney reached the West Indies.

(To be continued.)

MESSRS. THOS AND JAS. HARRISON have renamed the West Indian cargo steamers which they acquired earlier in the year. The old and new names, which will no doubt prove useful for purpose of reference, are given below.

renamed	Collegian.
Crown of Seville	Craftsman.
Crown of Toledo	Centurion.
Crown of Galicia.	Candidate.
Crown of Castile	Chancellor.
Crown of Cadix	Commodore.
Crown of Navarre	Counsellor.
Crown of Granada	Comedian.
Crown of Cordova	Songster.
Spheroid	Scientist.
Sargasso	Specialist.
Santilla	Settler.
Saba	Speaker.
Saran	

\* An account of this memorable siege is given in "West Indian Tales of Old Time" (London: Duckworth); "The Gibraltar of the West Indies," by G. H. King (1881, G. S. & A. M. London); and "A Handbook of St. Kitts Nevis," by R. J. Burdon (London: The West India Committee).



## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

The shortage of sugar in Australia will seriously affect the jam-making industry there. The situation is especially unfortunate, as the fruit crops are heavy. The Government will probably have to purchase more sugar. The shortage has led to a project for the formation of a sugar-beet producing company in Australia.

In the New Zealand dairy industry the strictest attention has been given to scientific and mechanical details of manufacture, coupled with co-operation and financial organisation. This energy and ability has brought about a very great, as well as rapid, development in the industry. The North Island has probably the largest and best-equipped butter and cheese factories in the world, and more separators and milking machines are used by the farmers than elsewhere. Besides butter and cheese, dried milk and casein are turned out.

The old privately owned butter and cheese factories in New Zealand have given way to the co-operative business, in which the farmers are the only shareholders. Some co-operative companies purchase fertilisers, implements, machinery, &c., for their members, and act as agricultural banks. Government instructors advise new farmers in the ways of handling cows, in increasing and improving milk production, and in growing fodder. There is plenty of land waiting to be taken up by immigrants, both farmers and labourers. Many farmers with a good herd and equipment get someone to take charge for them on equal shares of profits. He gets a house, garden, milk, &c., and with big herds he may make from £500 to £700 a year, most of which is clear profit.

The research workers in agriculture scattered over the whole of that continental island, Australia, held a conference sometime ago to take stock of their researches, and to consult together about work in the future. One of their leading members summed up towards the end of the conference their views of the work to be undertaken. With regard to soil—the physical properties of soil-types should be investigated; how it may be possible to modify or control these properties by ordinary farming methods, by the use of cultivation implements, by the rotation of crops, and in other ways. The chemical character of soil-types should also be investigated, and a better measure of the manurial requirements of soils devised than present methods. The biological character of the soil should be studied, especially the exact part taken by the various soil-organisms in making available for plants their food-material.

A soil survey of Australia should be made, including a climatic survey and a statistical survey. The first step should be the collection, co-ordination, and publishing of information in reports, maps, &c. These would form data for starting a systematic soil survey. After reference to research work on animals, research on the plant was considered, and stated to be more important than that on soil or on animals. The modification of the soil may turn out to be impossible in some districts. But it may be possible to find or make the crop that would suit the soil and the climatic conditions. The plant must be altered and improved to suit such environmental conditions as cannot be very materially altered. Work is wanted on insect enemies and fungus pests, and also on weeds—a study of the characters of these in order to find out points of attack is necessary.

The mosaic disease of sugar-cane is one which demands without any further delay the serious atten-

tion of all who are interested in sugar. The sugar output in the infected area in Porto Rico last year was nearly 40 per cent. less than normal, even with increased acreage. In Hawaii, in 1912, the loss varied according to variety of cane up to 34 per cent. Neither fungus nor bacterium has been traced as being in any way the cause of the disease. The evidence seems to point to an infective virus, the existence of which has been proved in the mosaic disease of tobacco and other plants. Probably it is akin to the diseases known as "sereh" and the "curly top" of beet. Swine fever is due to an infective virus. It is surmised that there is a carrier of the disease, and in Porto Rico suspicion has fallen on a leafhopper, a species of *Tettigonia*.

A new sort of building brick has lately begun to be used in England. It is hollow, and this has two advantages. Air is a non-conductor of heat, so that in warm weather the house is cooler, and in cold weather warmer, than if built with ordinary solid walls. The second advantage is that dampness is not so liable to penetrate through the walls. The brick is nearly five times as large as the ordinary brick, but in comparison is much lighter, and is easily handled. As a rule, the brick is made of one part of cement and four parts of sand by simple hand-machinery. Slag or clinkers are as suitable as sand for making bricks. Three men can make enough bricks in a day to build 400 or 500 square feet of wall. Instead of the usual mortar which would fill the air-spaces, the ends and bottom of the brick are only dipped in a thin lime mortar, mixed with a small amount of cement. This manner of laying the bricks is a further economy.

The benefit derived from ramming the soil hard round a newly-planted tree, as if a post were being rammed, has been proved by numerous trials in the Woburn Experimental Fruit Farm. Even if the roots are injured and packed tight, the tree will eventually be larger, with a more extensive root formation and a more abundant crop, than if it had been planted with all its roots carefully laid out, and the soil only "firmed" round them. Growth in the root system originates just above the root tips. New roots break out at any part of the root system, or from the lower part of the stem itself, if buried. The root tips are so delicate that they break off or dry up when a plant is transplanted. If no new rootlets are formed the plant will die. If the formation of roots is delayed the plant is more or less permanently injured. The conditions essential to the formation of these new rootlets are moisture and intimate contact with the soil. The latter condition is secured more effectively by ramming than is possible in any other way, and hence the beneficial effect of ramming.

Attention has already been called to the models of the malarial mosquito in the Natural History Museum. The models of the minute organisms which cause malarial fever are even more striking. These organisms live part of their life in the mosquito and part in man. The germ escapes from the mosquito by way of the proboscis as it is sucking blood, and enters the veins of a human being. The model shows it to be needle-like, but broader in the middle. From the serum of the blood it penetrates into a red-blood corpuscle, the model of which is an inch in diameter. There it becomes a globular mass, and as it absorbs the contents of the corpuscle it grows larger, and undergoes changes, all of which are illustrated by models. The dark spot, or nucleus, the essential part of any living cell, becomes divided into a number of nuclei, which at first are near the centre, and afterwards change their position to the circumference.



## "IT."

The following lines were written by Mr. W. W. C. Dunlop, M.A. (by whose permission they are now reproduced) for recitation at a concert at Codrington College, Barbados, held in aid of the Organ Fund for the S.P.C. Chapel, on November 10th, 1919. No doubt many readers will wish to mark their appreciation of its admirable humour by sending to its author a contribution towards the desirable object in view.

In the mighty British Empire there is many a lovely land,  
From the sunny founts of Africa to India's coral strand;  
But of all the countries I could name, I'm sure you'd  
all admit,  
There is only one—BARBADOS—which is absolutely  
IT.

Think of all the countless blessings that enrich this  
happy soil—  
Manjak and mangoes, sugar, cotton, flying fish and—  
oil (?).  
(That last has got a question mark: but, should digging  
prove a failure,  
We shall get at least a tunnel from Barbados to Aus-  
tralia!)

And then we have a city which is paralleled by none.  
From the horrid Arctic Circle to the torrid tropic sun:  
There is nothing like it anywhere for visitors to view.  
Though some have been heard to murmur, "And a jolly  
good job too."

Then what wonder that the Badian, if abroad he chance  
to roam,  
Is perpetually boasting of the glories of his home;  
That he spends his native eloquence, his talent and his  
wit  
On the proof that his Barbados is pre-eminently IT?

So it was with me, who fancied that in all the world  
around  
Not a continent or island like our island could be found;  
And I still upheld Barbados, wheresoever I chanced to  
fit,  
As perennially, exclusively, intrinsically IT.

But a Demerara tourist who was here a while ago,  
Took me down a peg by stating that this wasn't really  
so.  
He said, "I'll bet I name a thing Barbados can't  
supply!"  
That touched my pride. I asked him, "What?" and  
this was his reply:—

"There is found in Demerara—and in other lands, I  
hear—  
A thing Barbados hasn't got—it's called a "Profiteer."  
It has two legs and twenty hands, its home is in the  
mud,  
Its ways are wrapped in darkness, and it lives by  
sucking blood.

"It is very sly and clever, it is very thick of skin,  
Its forehead is of polished brass, its pockets lined with  
tin,  
It's an interesting creature—guess you haven't got it  
here:  
For the honour of Barbados, please produce a Prof-  
iteer!"

'Twill be thirteen months to-morrow since the Armistice  
was made,  
And through all those months I've hunted in the  
sunshine—in the shade;  
I can only tell of failure—not the littlest, least success;  
And how to find a Profiteer I cannot, cannot guess!

I have walked with Merchant Princes all the length  
of Broad-street down—  
Not a Profiteer, they told me, ever had been seen in  
Town.  
There were plenty in the country. But the Planters,  
all the year,  
Said that nowhere but in Bridgetown would I find a  
Profiteer.

It is true we buy our food and clothes at most un-  
common rates;  
But that's entirely the fault of England—or the States!  
Labour troubles—Reconstruction—"Freights are very  
high, you know!"  
These things every one at once admits—but—Profiteer-  
ing?—NO!

Search from Bridgetown to St. Lucy, seek from Consetts  
to St. James,  
You'll find lots of funny people playing lots of funny  
games;  
You may see some funny sights—some funny stories  
you may hear—  
You may even find some sugar—you'll not find a Prof-  
iteer!

So I'm giving up, despondent; yet I ask before I quit:  
"Must Barbados lose her pride of place and rank no  
more as IT?  
Is a Profiteer among us now? If one there chance to  
be,  
Will he come and stand beside me here, and let the  
people see?"

W. W. C. DUNLOP.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

## CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

To the Editor WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—May I add my congratulations to the West  
Indies on the improved trade agreement with Canada?  
I rejoice with you that those places which have  
hitherto held aloof from the Ottawa, 1912, arrangements  
are now signatories to the extended reciprocity treaty.

You express great hope that it will result in the in-  
vestment of Canadian capital in the British West Indies.  
It surely must to some extent, but neither Canadian  
nor other capital will be fully forthcoming, to develop  
the ample scope for profitable enterprise, until we get  
still closer relations with Canada, and until the Mother-  
land adopts a permanent, satisfactory, safe and secure  
economic policy, with protection against dumping, to  
enable Empire development to go ahead.

There are some "ifs" in connection with the two  
steamship services, especially with regard to cold storage  
space for fruit trade, but it is to be hoped that before  
the three years' limit expires for establishing the  
weekly service, the Canadian Government may see its  
way to a 15-knot service from Demerara to Halifax, to  
join up with the 25-knot Halifax to England boat, and  
bring the former (and West Indies generally) within  
fourteen days of London.

The "declaration" urging that the new cable between  
Bermuda and the Eastern colonies should be laid at  
once, without waiting for termination of existing agree-  
ment in 1924, must be energetically pressed, or trade  
and commerce will continue to be greatly handicapped.

GUY WYATT.

August 6th, 1920.



## WEST INDIAN CHANTIES.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I am anxious to make a collection of West Indian tunes, most of which I believe to be of British origin, probably sea-chanties, and beg your help and interest. If any readers of the CIRCULAR know of or would take down from native singers any such tune, together with the words, I shall be most grateful to receive it. I will acknowledge each one received, and I hope ultimately to publish the collection in book-form.

Modern American ragtime, &c., is not required. Any historical note on the tune sent will be most acceptable, and it is essential to know the particular island or district from which it comes.

Harmonisation of the tune is not necessary, nor, indeed, is it required; I want just the plain tune as correctly and clearly taken down as possible.—Yours faithfully,

H. V. JERVIS-READ.

Late Major B.W.I. Regt.

Garlands, Danbury, Essex, July 31st, 1920

## WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

## Bendals (Antigua) Sugar Factory, Ltd.

The profit of this company (which has a capital of £22,500 and a debenture issue of £10,000) for the year ended October 31st last was £5,948 2s. 8d., making with the balance of £3,552 10s. 4d. brought in, a total of £9,500 13s. The Directors in their report state that the season's results, although showing an improvement on 1918 crop, have fallen very far short of what could have been realised under full cane crops and a shorter reaping season. There were manufactured from about 19,750 tons cane purchased by the factory, 1,912 tons sugar, equal to about one ton of sugar from 10'32 tons cane. The quality of the canes was much below the usual Antigua standard. Mr. A. W. Gordon, the factory manager in Antigua, having recently left Bendals to take up the management of the Basseterre factory in St. Kitts, Mr. J. B. Martin, for many years employed at Bendals, has been appointed factory manager in his place. The chairman, Mr. H. D. Spooner, paid a visit to Antigua in the spring of this year, and is able to report very favourably of the condition of the factory and of the prospects for the present season. The additional amount payable to the original cane contractors was equivalent to a supplementary payment of 6s. 0'3867d. per ton of canes.

## WEST INDIAN STEAMER SAILINGS.

The following outward steamer sailings to the West Indies are advertised:—

To	From	Packet.	Sailing.
West Indies	Glasgow	<i>Comedian</i>	August 21
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Patuca</i>	August 24
West Indies	London	<i>Quillola</i>	August 25
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Chirripo</i>	August 27
B'dos and T'dad	Liverpool	<i>Oranian</i>	August 28
St. Lucia, T'dad and D'ara	Rordeaux	<i>Haiti</i>	August 30
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Camilo</i>	August 31
West Indies	London	<i>Counsellor</i>	Sept. 1
Trinidad	Dover	<i>Van Rensselaer</i>	Sept. 9
St. Lucia, T'dad and D'ara	Saint Nazaire	<i>Péron</i>	Sept. 15
B'dos and T'dad	Liverpool	<i>Spectator</i>	Sept. 25
Trinidad	Dover	<i>Crynsan</i>	Sept. 30
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chanderie</i>	Oct. 1
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chaleur</i>	Oct. 15

The above dates are only approximate.

## WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.

## Medical Officers in the Colonial Service.

In reply to Lieut.-Colonel Freemantle, on August 10th, Lieut.-Colonel Amery agreed there was at present a shortage of medical officers in the Colonial Service. Improvements in the pay of medical officers had already been carried out in the majority of Colonies and Protectorates.

## The Atlantic Passenger Service.

Viscount Curzon asked, on August 10th, why the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company had discontinued their service between England and the West Indies, and thereby isolated these islands except by American or Dutch steamers, and whether any steps were being taken by the Government in the matter. Lieut.-Colonel Amery replied that the reason given by the company was the recent increase in the cost of coal, which rendered it impossible to continue a service already run at a loss. The matter was receiving the serious consideration of his Majesty's Government.

## The World's Sugar Supply.

Mr. McCurdy informed Mr. Clough, on August 9th, that the unprecedented increase in the price of sugar in the world's markets, largely brought about by speculative buying in America some months ago, had since resulted in a contraction of the demand as originally estimated. To this extent therefore there was a slight amelioration in the general position, despite the fact that the world's supplies were still 3,500,000 tons below the pre-war production. The improvement in the position indicated was also due in considerable measure to the saving compulsorily effected by drastic rationing in this country when prices were at their highest. No hope could be held out of an early reduction in price.

## Disability Pensions for Men of the B.W.I.R.

Lieut.-Colonel Amery informed Sir J. Butcher, on August 9th, that proposals for amending the authorised scale of pensions had been received from the Governor of Jamaica and were receiving consideration. Information was not available as to which of the West Indian colonies had already agreed to supplement out of local funds the maximum pension payable from Imperial funds; but when a decision was arrived at in regard to the proposals from Jamaica, the other West Indian colonies would be consulted. The charge for pensions was borne by Imperial funds in the case of Jamaica, that colony having undertaken to make a contribution of £60,000 a year for forty years towards the expenses of the war. Otherwise the full charges for pensions in respect of the British West Indies Regiment were, in general, defrayed from the local funds of the respective colonies.

## Military Cemeteries in Barbados and St. Lucia.

Replying to Sir John Butcher on August 9th, Lieut.-Colonel Amery said that the Governor of Barbados had reported that the military cemetery at Needham's Point was under the control of the Public Works Department, that the condition of the cemetery had already been brought to notice, and that plans for its improvement were being considered by the Colonial Government. No reply had yet been received from the Governor of the Windward Islands regarding the cemetery on the Morne, St. Lucia, but a despatch was no doubt on its way. Despatches had been sent to the other West Indian Colonies on June 26th, but there had not yet been time for answers to be received.

[A leading article was devoted to the deplorable neglect of military cemeteries in the West Indies, with special reference to the one at Needham's Point, Barbados, in the CIRCULAR of July 8th. It is gratifying to learn that the matter is now receiving attention.—Ed. W.I.C.C.]



## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the Circular for publication under this heading.

### Better Weather in Barbados.

A resolution has been introduced in the House of Assembly, enabling the Government to purchase the Commercial Hall for a sum not exceeding altogether £12,500, for use as a post-office. In the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce, the present post-office premises could be enlarged to meet the necessary requirements.

Mr. V. Hanschell, who has been Honorary Representative of the Netherlands Government for thirty years, has been appointed by the Queen of the Netherlands a Knight of the Order of Oranje Nassau.

Whitehall Estate, comprising 182 acres in St. Peter, has been sold by Mr. B. M. Eckstein for £21,000 to Mr. H. A. Pile and Mr. Charles Packer. The stock of rice in the island is perilously small, says the *Standard*, and attention is anxiously directed to British Guiana. The appointment of the Hon. E. A. Hinkson, M.B.E., to be a member of the Legislative Council, has been confirmed by His Majesty the King. Mr. P. W. Browne is acting for the Colonial Treasurer, who has been granted two months' leave, owing to illness. Sergeant H. E. Collins has tendered his resignation as Chief of the Detective Force, and is succeeded by Sergeant Joseph Miller.

The rainfall for June was better than that for last year, which is not saying much, as that was the lowest on record since 1864. A splendid rain fell on the night of July 3rd, amounting to  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. in St. Joseph and St. Andrew, and over  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. in Christchurch. On the 5th there was a general "downpour" throughout the island, and the *Agricultural Reporter* describes the weather for the fortnight ended July 10th as glorious, and the prospects for the 1920-21 crop are now much brighter.

### Trinidad's £1,000,000 Loan.

The £1,000,000 Loan, application for which will be received locally up to the 31st inst., is already oversubscribed by about £200,000, writes Mr. Edgar Tripp, under date July 21st. Those of Mr. Slyne's critics who predicted that the temporary investment of such part of the Loan as is not immediately required will involve a loss to the colony, appear to be sufficiently answered by the interest value of recent issues in London, among which may be mentioned Treasury Bonds, yielding about 7 per cent., and New South Wales 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Inscribed Stock. Among the many strange happenings evolved in the whirligig of recent times, nothing would have been more unexpected six years ago than that the credit of Trinidad, in proportion to its requirements, should have been better than that of the United Kingdom or New South Wales.

The Government has offered a reward of £500 for information leading to the conviction of the miscreant or miscreants who set fire to the Victoria Institute. If ever there was a senseless crime committed, this was one. The Institute was a godsend, especially to those classes of the public who otherwise would never have had the opportunity of gaining the information and educational advantages which were so generously offered there. There does not seem to be any desire to contribute towards the rebuilding of this structure.

The island has had a visit from Sir Francis Watts, who looked over the various sites suggested for the New Agricultural College. I understand he agrees with the generally expressed view that the Government Estate at St. Augustine offers an ideal locality. We have been glad to welcome back Mr. H. B. Walcott after his attendance at the Ottawa Conference and to find that he is so benefited by his change to the Old Country and Canada. Trinidad is very fortunate in having in its

leading official list so many officers who are not only officially, but personally, so deservedly popular in the community, and in this number our Collector of Customs takes no unworthy place. Congratulations are due to Mr. Walcott on his appointment as a member of the Executive Committee, which is now gazetted.

Mr. W. G. Freeman, the new Director of Agriculture, lately delivered a very timely lecture to the Savannah Grande District Agricultural Society on the cane-farming industry, dealing succinctly with the progress of the farming industry since its establishment by Sir Nevile Lubbock, or, as it is sometimes said, by Mr. Peter Abel.

Complaints regarding the Trinidad Government Railway have been voiced for some time, and have lately been pronounced somewhat warmly by the Agricultural Society. The Government are publishing a reply in the shape of a report by Mr. Marwood, the General Manager of Railways, dated August 23rd, 1919. Mr. Marwood, as usual, writes trenchantly and to the point, and had his report been published a year ago, when it was written, much of the blame would probably not have been uttered. The usual delay in the publication of official reports in the colony has often been commented on, and is certainly a matter which should engage the attention of the executive in the ordinary course; but the necessity of making these documents public at an earlier date appears to me the more urgent when the defence of public officials who may have been unjustly attacked is involved.

### Optimism in British Honduras.

Mr. Percy George reports many interesting developments. It is proposed to encourage a canning industry by giving the Tropical Canning Company permission to import empty tin cans (to be filled with local produce) and exported subsequently free of import duty for one year, and thereafter at the reduced duty of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

At a quarterly meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on July 9th, Mr. P. Stanley Woods, who was welcomed on his return to the colony, gave an address in which he spoke of his experiences at the Barbados Conference and in Canada. Much satisfaction was expressed at the announcement that the colony would shortly be linked up with Jamaica, the Bahamas and Canada by a steamer service. The President in his address reported that an order had now been definitely placed for a new bridge to replace the swing bridge which does not swing, and that it was hoped to start work on the new Public Buildings in September or October. Mr. W. R. Dunlop addressed the meeting on the agricultural possibilities of the colony, and advocated the establishment of small co-operative sugar factories, rather than large centrals in the colony, and the development of a syrup industry. Much satisfaction was expressed at the Hon. Eyre Hutson's proposals for the provision of hotel accommodation for visitors. A full report of this long and interesting meeting is given in the *Clarion* of July 15th.

Captain Cavanaugh has received a cordial welcome from the Bench on taking up his duties as Superintendent of Police, and another ex-British West Indies Regiment officer, Colonel Maxwell Smith, has arrived in the colony as Colonial Secretary.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council on July 12th correspondence was read announcing the intention of the United Fruit Company to inaugurate a fortnightly steamer service from Barrios to New Orleans via Belize, with the Suriname type of steamers. The Council agreed to the payment of the Company of \$125 for each call made at Belize for embarking or disembarking passengers.

Quite a new atmosphere has been created by the news of the success of the Ottawa Conference. Despondency is giving place to optimism.

The *Clarion* of July 22nd devotes an interesting article to the prevalence of prædial larceny.



#### Cotton Replaces Sisal in Caicos.

According to a Direct West India Cable Company's message, business in the Turks and Caicos Islands has been somewhat brighter. The demand for salt at present is good. Large quantities of cotton are on hand at the Government warehouse waiting to be ginned. The plantations at Jacksonville, East Caicos, which for a number of years were leased by the East Caicos Company, Ltd., who went in for sisal cultivation, have been leased by a new company for the purpose of cultivating cotton. There have been a number of consignments of conch shells and sponge from East Harbour to New York and Nassau.

#### Take-a-Light's Jockey in Grenada.

The Legislature has under discussion the question of a grant-in-aid for a Technical School in St. George's. Nothing further has been heard of the decision of the Rockefeller Institute to recommence the Ankylostomiasis campaign in the island, in which, apart from Government contribution in supplying free medicines, the Commission has already spent fully £5,700. The jockey Fred Bullen, who was supposed to have been imprisoned in Venezuela on account of his alleged unfair riding of Take-a-Light, has returned to Trinidad, and denies that he ever appeared before the stewards at all. Mr. A. H. Brebner has won the Freeman Lawn Tennis Cup on the Government House lawns.

#### Guiana's Sugar Experiment Station Started.

Considerable loss has been caused to consignees of goods shipped on T.L.S. *Mayara* and I.R.M.S. *Chigageto*, the cargoes of which, owing to the strike of wharf hands, had to be discharged at Trinidad and brought back subsequently to Georgetown, as, in addition to the charges for extra handling, considerable shortages are complained of, for which the steamship companies decline responsibility. The Essequibo Launch Company has been formed with a capital of \$3,000 to provide a service between Wakenaam and the mainland. The directors are Messrs. W. Macaulay, R. R. Chong, I. W. Henry, and J. S. King.

By a decision of the Supreme Court on July 3rd, Mr. H. C. Humphrys was successful in his suit for specific performance against Mrs. Hubbard in connection with certain bauxite lands on the left bank of the Demerara river.

The Combined Court have authorised the payment of \$430 yearly for five years towards the Tropical Diseases Research Fund, in addition to the sum already voted. The opening by the Governor, on June 21st, of the Sugar Planters' Experiment Station marks the successful completion of a project which started thirty-five years ago. On July 13th the Combined Court voted \$390,000 for the sea defences of the east and west coasts of Demerara. H.M.S. *Calliope* arrived at Georgetown in place of H.M.S. *Cambrian*. A Committee consisting of the Hon. J. Hampden King, the Hon. Nelson Cannon, and the Hon. R. E. Brassington, has been formed to fix the details of the arrangements in connection with the Prince's visit in October. Engagements will probably include a drive to the Court of Policy Hall, a review of school children in the Botanic Gardens, a race meeting at Bel Air Park, and a dinner and a ball at Government House.

The death is recorded of Mr. M. A. Pereira, who was born in Berbice sixty years ago, and was for twenty-five years with the firm of J. P. Santos & Co., becoming one of the managing directors on its formation as a limited company. He was also a partner in the firm of Pereira & Gonsalves, of Fenchurch-street, London, by whom, as well as by a large number of friends on both sides, he will be greatly missed.

#### Jamaica's Two Million Revenue.

It is suggested that the much-debated Memorial to

the late Archbishop Nuttall should take the form of an Agricultural College.

The Government estimates that the revenue for the financial year 1920-21 will reach £1,837,244, and expenditure £2,038,973. To cover this it was proposed to impose an export duty on sugar, and also temporary duties on certain other exports. Both these measures were negatived by the elected members, who held that the estimates of revenue were too low, and that receipts would more than cover all expenditures.

The death of Mrs. Fleurette Myers, widow of the late Mr. Fred L. Myers, J.P., of Kingston, took place at Moneague on June 26th. The Hon. L. J. Berham, C.M.G., has retired, and assumed an important position with the Motor Car and Supplies, Ltd., Kingston. Mr. Crawford Gordon has been appointed Manager of the new branch of the Bank of Commerce.

### PLANTATION WHITE SUGARS.

The attention of cane sugar producers is being more and more directed to the production of white granulated sugars. Those commonly produced on estates known as white plantation sugars are made principally by the sulphitation process, while a comparatively small quantity is turned out by the double carbonitiation process. These are distinguished from refined sugars by the fact that they are made directly from the juice, without the remelting and treatment with animal charcoal which is characteristic of refined sugars, and which forms the line of titular demarcation between the two classes of sugar.

The treatment of sugars with animal charcoal involves the use of a large bulk of the latter agent, and some years ago it was proposed that a form of vegetable charcoal prepared in a special manner, and known as decolourising carbon should be employed. This body has intense decolourising properties, and only small quantities of it are required compared with the larger bulk of animal charcoal used in ordinary refining. It is, however, very costly, and one of the difficulties of its use was the revivification for further use, involving the use of acids and alkalis in combination with filter presses.

Experiments with raw juice have not been successful in the past, but the use under new and improved conditions is now coming into force in Louisiana, with, it is said, success. Should, however, there be failure in its recent applications to raw juices, it is particularly adapted to the manufacture of actually refined sugar on estates, and a useful form of applying it is to second sugars from 96° crystal sugars, which involves a comparatively small additional plant.

The process for the revivification of the "Norit" as the particular form of decolourising carbon is termed, has been much simplified and improved, being done by heat only, and, taking everything into consideration, there is every prospect of the use of decolourising carbon being associated with estates sugar production in the near future.

The firm of Messrs. Thomas Boyd & Co., of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, have opened branches in Demerara and in Barbados, in order to cope with the increasing demand for British-manufactured goods in those places.



**THE WEST INDIAN VISITORS LIST.**

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. By doing so they will facilitate the forwarding of their correspondence among those at present registered are:—

- Sir Henry A. Alcazar.
- Mr. J. W. Arbuckle
- Mr. P. A. A. Bartlett
- Mr. G. B. Bodkin
- Mr. M. J. Bovell
- Rev. J. B. Bridley
- Mr. G. S. Browne
- Mr. James Brown
- Hon. R. C. Buch, B.I.C.E.
- Mr. E. A. Bugle
- Mr. A. Cameron
- Hon. J. H. Cassels, M.B.E.
- Sir W. K. Chaudler, K.C.M.G.
- Mr. A. Somers Cocks
- Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, M.R.R.
- Mr. F. A. Corca
- Mr. Robert Craig
- Mr. J. d'Atadio
- Prof. J. P. d'Albuquerque
- Hon. D. S. Davis
- Hon. P. J. Dean
- Mr. J. T. de la Mothe
- Mr. A. L. Delgado
- Mr. Lionel De Merceles
- Mr. Carl De Vorteuil
- Mr. G. G. C. Dewar
- Mr. G. P. Dewar
- Mr. G. Farmer
- Mr. J. M. Fleming
- Dr. W. H. Fretz
- Mrs. M. C. Garrott
- Mr. B. P. Gibbs
- Mr. B. Gill
- Mr. J. G. Gillespie
- Dr. C. J. Gomes
- Sir G. Aubrey Goodman
- Mr. E. H. Grant
- Mr. I. R. Grant
- Mr. Albert T. Hammond
- Mr. Kanaldo I. Harvey
- Mr. P. S. Haughton James
- Mrs. E. Haynes
- Mr. W. G. Hendrick
- Mr. E. E. C. Hosack
- Mr. S. M. Jacobsen
- Hon. W. Coke Kerr
- Mr. F. E. W. G. Austin, "Compton Manor," near Winchester, Hants.
- Dr. E. Bannister, c/o. Wilkinson & Gaviller, 34, Great Tower Street, E.C.
- Mr. N. P. Birch, 10, Fremantle Square, Cotham, Bristol
- Mr. Archibald J. Brooks, "Melrose," The Sands, Swindon, Wilts.
- Mr. Sam Brown, Durrant's Hotel, Manchester Square, W.
- Mr. G. J. Christian, The West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W.
- Mr. A. E. Craig, c/o. C. B. Hamilton, Esq., C.M.G., "Orbiston," Purley.
- Mr. Frank Cudall, F.S.A., c/o. The Royal Colonial Institute, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.
- Major J. T. Dew, V.D., c/o. Mrs. Le Breton, 34, Nevins Sq., Earl's Court, S.W.
- Dr. F. A. Gaynes Doyle, M.R.C.S., "Westwood," 9, Hawkwood Road, Hammersmith, Hants.
- Mr. G. S. Evelyn, "Murtinboe," London Road, Norbury, S.W.
- Mr. W. H. and P. H. Farquharson, South Kensington Hotel, Queen's Gate Terrace, W.
- Miss F. A. Forsyth, 71, Queensborough Terrace, W. 2.
- Mr. R. S. D. Goodwin, c/o. Gillespie Bros. & Co., 82, Fenchurch St., E.C.
- Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, Craig Castle, Rhynie, or Gately, Aberdeenshire.
- Mr. J. T. Greg, The Gray House, Bear's Hill, Oxford.
- Hon. S. T. Hasnason, C.M.G., c/o. Sir C. R. McGrigor, Bart., & Co., 33, Panton Street, Haymarket, W.
- Mr. W. Lindsay Haynes, 28 Nevins Square, Earl's Court, S.W.
- Mr. W. G. Hendricks, 32 3, York Place, Portman Square, W.
- Mr. C. C. Henriques, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.
- Mr. Thomas W. Innes, Jr., Queen Anne's Mansions, St James's Park, S.W.
- Mr. P. B. Jago, Valentines School, Ilford, Essex.
- Dr. E. M. Jobson, "Martinboe," London Road, Norbury, S.W.
- Mr. Archibald Johnston, Ivy Bank, Braeide Avenue, Rutherglen.
- Mr. G. LaSalle, 23, Nevins Square, Earl's Court, S.W.
- Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., Knockdow, Toward Argyllshire.
- Mr. E. K. Lane, 11, Crescent Road, Beckenham, Kent.
- Mr. J. J. Law, Whitehall Hotel, 18-20, Montagu Street, W.C.
- Mr. Dudley G. Leacock, Kensington Palace Mansions, Dr. Vere Gardens, W.
- Mr. J. C. Macintyre, 24, Gordon Street, Gordon Square, W.C.
- Mr. D. R. Mackenzie, 46, Marchmont Road, Edinburgh.
- Mr. W. E. Mandeville, c/o. The Colonial Bank, 29, Gracechurch St., E.C.
- Mr. G. S. Manning, Queen Anne's Mansions, St James's Park, S.W.
- Mr. W. Meares, 39, Carlton Place, Aberdeen.
- Mr. S. S. Robinson, Berners Hotel, Berners Street, W.
- Mr. T. Gordon Rose, Dunkirk House, Dunkirk, nr. Faversham, Kent.
- Mr. V. D. Rowe, York Court Hotel, Baker Street, W.
- Mr. W. Sandersoo, Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue, W.C. 2.
- Mr. Ivan J. Scott, 5, Carlton Gardens, Ealing, W.
- Mr. W. M. B. Shields, c/o. H. K. Dawson & Co., 79, Mark Lane, E.C.
- Mr. T. T. Smellie, c/o. M. K. Dawson & Co., 79, Mark Lane, E.C.
- Mr. M. Howard Smith, Durrant's Hotel, Manchester Square, W.
- Mr. E. E. H. Thorne, Berners Hotel, Berners Street, W.
- Mr. Arthur L. Vaughan, Dryden House, Wimbledon Common, S.W. 19, and c/o. Skelton and Schofield, 29, Martin Lane, E.C. 4.
- Mr. Athelston Watson, 25, Elgin Park, Beddard, Bristol.

Mr. Alfred F. White, c/o. The Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates, Ltd., 10, Lloyd's Avenue, E.C. 3.  
 Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, c/o. Wilkinson & Gaviller, 34, Great Tower Street.  
 Hon. G. Williams, c/o. S. Osborn & Sons, 7, Moorgate Street, E.C.

**WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.**

**Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Sailings to West Indies from London, August 4th, per R.M.S.P. *Quilpu* :—**

- |                              |                       |                          |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Mrs. Laura Berry             | Mr. Stacey Heald      | Mr. Cecil Merrifield     |
| Mr. Blake                    | Mr. J. W. Hedger      | Mr. Ronald Mould         |
| Corpl. R. N. N. Corner       | Mrs. C. M. Coleridge  | Mr. W. W. Neville        |
| Mr. G. C. Dicks              | Mitson                | Mr. T. Norzagaray        |
| Mrs. C. S. Edwards and       | Mr. E. Jones          | Mr. H. C. Orford         |
| Infant                       | Mrs. Ngah Kiow        | Mr. L. D. Peterken       |
| Mr. W. F. Farvar             | Capt. G. H. Latbam    | Mrs. I. Pillai and 3 ch. |
| Mr. J. F. M. Floyd           | Mr. and Mrs. C. A. L. | Mr. J. C. T. Raspas      |
| Capt. Geo. Frechville        | Legge                 | Mr. A. Roberts           |
| Mr. & Mrs. J. Gardoer        | Miss C. J. Legge      | Mr. C. Rogers            |
| McLean                       | Dr. and Mrs. J. M.    | Mr. P. H. Hamaon         |
| Hon. W. Petor                | Lozama                | Mr. and Mrs. A. H.       |
| Hon. J. H. Phillipps         | Miss D. E. Lozama     | Hamel Huntb              |
| Mr. Douglas Pile             | Mrs. M. A. Littlepage | Mrs. Mabel Waterman      |
| Mr. C. S. Pitcher            | The Misses Littlepage | Mr. Arthur Wells         |
| Mr. B. S. Reid               | Mr. T. Macdonald      | Mrs. D. Wilson           |
| Mr. J. Nibeiro               | Mr. Geo. McNab        | Mrs. A. Wisbart          |
| Mr. J. G. M. Robertson       |                       |                          |
| Mr. E. A. Robinson           |                       |                          |
| Mr. C. Paul Rojas            |                       |                          |
| Mr. Alexander Rose           |                       |                          |
| Dr. F. G. Rose               |                       |                          |
| Mr. H. R. Sadler             |                       |                          |
| Mr. W. F. Samuels            |                       |                          |
| Mr. L. H. S. Scott           |                       |                          |
| Mr. M. D. Scudamore          |                       |                          |
| Mr. C. W. Sealy              |                       |                          |
| Mr. J. B. D. Sellier         |                       |                          |
| Mr. E. H. Skeete             |                       |                          |
| Mr. E. L. Skeete             |                       |                          |
| Mr. G. P. Skeete             |                       |                          |
| Miss Small                   |                       |                          |
| Major the Hon. R. S. Stedman |                       |                          |
| Mr. J. H. Stiveu             |                       |                          |
| Mr. S. W. Vardeur            |                       |                          |
| Mr. A. L. Vaughan            |                       |                          |
| Hon. R. A. S. Warner, K.C.   |                       |                          |
| Mr. M. Aubrey Williams       |                       |                          |
| Mr. E. G. Hart Wood          |                       |                          |
| Mr. Clifton Wright           |                       |                          |
| Mr. Harold Wright            |                       |                          |
| Mr. W. H. Yearwood           |                       |                          |

**Home arrivals, per R.M.S.P. *Quillota*, London, August 11th :—**

- |                        |                       |                          |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Mrs. Edith Alder       | Mr. and Mrs. W. J.    | Misses Montague          |
| Mr. I. Arnston         | Fraser                | Mr. and Mrs. C. W.       |
| Mr. W. Ault            | Mrs. M. B. Fraser     | Murray                   |
| Mr. C. H. Dollers      | Mrs. S. H. French     | Mr. & Mrs. J. Naismith   |
| Mr. and Mrs. M. J.     | Dr. and Mrs. W. U.    | Miss I. Naismith         |
| Bovell                 | Fretz                 | Mr. B. A. Northey        |
| Mr. & Mrs. E. Bowen    | Mrs. G. J. Fretz      | Mr. Edwin Norton         |
| Miss O. Bowen          | Miss A. P. A. Fuller  | Miss F. Owen             |
| Mr. F. J. C. Bush      | Mr. and Mrs. W. B.    | Mr. & Mrs. F. J. Perkins |
| Mr. E. F. Cameron      | Gordau                | Mr. M. C. Phillips       |
| Mrs. A. L. Clarke      | Miss E. K. Grell      | Mr. and Mrs. C. U.       |
| Mr. and Mrs. A. Somers | Mr. A. R. Horder      | Picre                    |
| Cocks                  | Mrs. D. G. Howard     | Miss E. P. H. Pierre     |
| Mr. A. H. Somers Cocks | Howard                | Mr. W. H. Pilgrim        |
| Mr. and Mrs. F. A.     | Mr. E. R. H. Hudson   | Mr. D. Hausch            |
| Creza                  | Miss Mary K. V.       | Mr. D. C. Roberts        |
| Mr. J. E. A. Crawford  | Hutchinson            | Mrs. M. A. Rodrigues     |
| Prof. and Mrs. John    | Mr. W. D. Innis       | Miss C. M. Rossitor      |
| P. D. Albuquerque      | Miss I. Jardin        | Miss M. S. Scott         |
| Hon. and Mrs. P. J.    | Mrs. M. U. King       | Miss P. A. Skinner       |
| Dean                   | Mr. M. P. Malden      | Mr. W. J. Smyth          |
| Mr. E. P. Eustice      | Mrs. E. McLurk        | Mrs. L. F. Smyth         |
| Miss I. M. Ford        | Mr. A. Mojus          | Mr. and Mrs. T. C.       |
| Miss E. A. Fraser      | Mr. J. T. de la Mothe | Tonkin                   |

**Elders & Fynes, Ltd.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, August 3rd, per s.s. *Bayano* (Commander, S. H. Simmons, O.B.E.):—**

- |                         |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sir Cyril S. Cobb, M.P. | Mr. G. Irvine           | Mr. A. T. Serrano     |
| Dr. G. W. Coopland      | Mr. and Mrs. D. A.      | Miss E. Seymour       |
| Mrs. R. E. Hops         | Jobson                  | Miss J. C. V. Simmons |
| Falkner and P. ch.      | Capt. and Mrs. D. J.    | Miss E. R. Sharp      |
| Mr. C. S. Fosbery       | Macdonnell              | Miss L. E. Ehard      |
| Capt. and Mrs. C. C. G. | Capt. and Mrs. J. E. S. | Mrs. C. J. Veitch     |
| Gibson                  | Mackay                  | Mrs. C. J. Veitch     |
| Miss A. N. Grant        | Mr. & Mrs. J. Matalon   | Miss E. Veitch        |
| Mr. A. S. Hendrika      | and children            | Miss W. M. Webb       |
| Mr. N. C. Henriques     | Mr. & Mrs. P. T. Patton |                       |

**Home arrivals from Jamaica per s.s. *Motagua*, Avonmouth, August 9th :—**

- |                       |                        |                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Mr. H. Benedicta      | Mrs. E. McBoen         | Miss G. Smith      |
| Mr. R. M. M. Carlisle | Mr. & Mrs. I. Nunes    | Mrs. E. G. Solomon |
| Mr. E. Cortez         | The Misses Nunes (2)   | Miss M. Turner     |
| Dr. and Mrs. R. S.    | Mr. T. R. Pinnock      | Mrs. M. M. Vancy   |
| Hall                  | Mr. J. Phillipps       | Mr. and Mrs. J. M. |
| Mr. M. E. Hoffman     | Mr. & Mrs. W. Rickford | Vaughan            |
| Mr. F. A. Judah       | and family             | The Misses Vaughan |
| Mr. H. MacKay         | Miss C. Ross           | Mr. and Mrs. D. P. |
| Mr. & Mrs. S. Misham  | Miss D. Bove           | Winnifrid          |
| and family            | Mr. C. E. Simpson      |                    |

**WANTS.**

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 3/6 for three lines and 1/- for each additional line.

**CARE OF CHILDREN**—A lady, the wife of a Major (formerly an Assistant Master in Winchester College), with three young children of her own, is willing to undertake the complete charge or education of a very limited number of European children from the West Indies. The ages should be from 6 to 10 years, and unimpeachable references are essential. The house is a fine old farm in a beautiful and healthy part, 36 miles from London. Apply, "Danbury," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. 3.



**PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.**

Telephone—Control 6642.  
Telegrams—"Cairb, London."



15, FLEETBING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.  
Aug. 17th, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 7 per cent., as from April 15th.

**EXCHANGE** on New York, \$3.63 \$3.64.

**SUGAR.** Control prices as from August:—

Culch. Loaf Sugar ...	For Grocery.		For Manu- facturing. Wholesale per cwt.
	Wholesale per cwt.	Retail per lb.	
W.I. Grocery Crystallised (See below)	116s.	1s. 2½d.	144s.
W.I. Muscovado, W.I. Grocery Syrups ...	112s.	1s. 2d.	140s.
	05s. 9d.	1s.	97s.

The discount is 1½ per cent.

Jellies, lumps and other low grade sugars for manufacturing only are uncontrolled. "Free" sugar for domestic preserving is issued at 140s per cwt. wholesale, and 1s. 5½d. per lb. retail, which are now the maximum "reasonable" prices for licensed "free" sugar. The agreement between the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply and the West India Committee for the sale of West Indian grocery sugars (see CIRCULAR, 564, of December 25th, 1919) has been superseded by a fresh arrangement, particulars of which are given elsewhere in the present CIRCULAR. Briefly the Royal Commission will allot 10,000 tons of West Indian grocery sugars during the four weeks August 6th—September 4th, making up the prices to importers to those fixed for August deliveries under the old arrangement—viz., 129.67s. for crystallised and 124.75s. for muscovado. The allotment orders will be divided among the various importers by the Cane Sugar Grading Committee. As from September 6th, West Indian grocery sugars will be "free" for all purposes, subject to the maximum "reasonable" price fixed from time to time.

Willett & Gray give as their first estimate of 1920-21 American beet crop, 850,000 tons of 2,240 lb., which would represent an increased production of 30 per cent. over last year's figures.

The West India Sugar statistics in London on August 7th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Tons.
Imports ...	37,780	27,279	18,105	
Deliveries ...	24,124	24,374	24,073	
Stock ...	21,792	9,097	5,019	

**CACAO.** The business passing is very small, and there is no demand for fine sorts. Trinidad and Grenada are quoted at 95s. nominally.

Mr. Edgar Tripp reports that the shipments of Trinidad cacao during the month of June, 1920, were as follows:—

Destination	Weight.
To all countries ...	3,999,621 lb.
Shipped previously	44,508,096 "
Total from January 1st	48,447,777 "
To same date, 1919	43,908,019 "
" " 1918	36,871,808 "
" " 1917	55,070,098 "
" " 1916	37,662,970 "
" " 1915	39,346,826 "
" " 1914	54,323,616 "
" " 1913	37,161,054 "
" " 1912	55,494,283 "
" " 1911	35,100,943 "
" " 1910	39,277,899 "
" " 1909	34,472,394 "
" " 1908	29,725,362 "

The stocks in London on August 7th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.
Trinidad ...	49,123	37,638	9,066 Bags
Grenada ...	25,566	17,519	14,105 "
Total of all kinds	303,629	151,525	114,634 "

**RUM.** There is still very little doing in this market. Demeraras are worth about 5s. 9d. to 6s. proof (the latter quotation for 1919 distillation). Home trade Jamaicas, 1919, are quoted at 11s. to 11s. 3d. liquid.

The stocks in London on August 7th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.
Jamaica ...	11,284	6,205	4,915 Puns.
Demerara ...	12,239	14,342	6,283 "
Total of all kinds	33,371	25,629	15,768 "

**ARROWROOT.** No change to report.

**BALATA.** The market is quiet by steady. West India sheet 4s. 3d. to 4s. 3½d. c.i.f.; 4s. 7½d. spot.

**COFFEE** is in steady demand. Imports of West Indian to June 30th, 3,060 cwt.

**COPRA** is quiet. West Indian f.m.s. is quoted at £53 10s. c.i.f., European ports.

**COTTON.** West Indian Sea Island is quiet, and quoted at 75d.-85d. Imports of West Indian in the thirty three weeks ending August 12th, 6,304 bales.

**HONEY.** Buyers show very little interest privately, and the nominal quotations given in last CIRCULAR remain unaltered.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** Handpressed and Distilled. Lime Oil, together with Raw lime juice are all quite nominal in the absence of business.

**LOGWOOD.** No change to report and market quiet.

**ORANGE OIL.** Sweet. Value 32s. 6d. per lb. There is no demand for Bitter.

**SPICES.** Pimento is in slow demand; there are sellers of fair on the spot at 4d. per lb. Ginger, very little demand for Jamaica, though last quotations are nominally unchanged. Nutmegs and Mace: Nothing offered lately.

**THE TRINIDAD OILFIELDS.**

**Perseverance Estate Sold for £50,000.**

The Trinidad newspapers of July 22nd, just received as we go to press, give particulars of one of the largest real estate deals ever effected in the colony. It appears that Mr. C. C. Stollmeyer has sold "Perseverance" Estate at La Brea, and his adjoining lands, covering in all approximately 1,100 acres, to the Kern River Oilfields of California, Limited, for the sum of £50,000. Mr. Stollmeyer has also sold the oil rights at a minimum rental of £3,000 a year with a royalty of 95 cents. per ton on all oil won in excess of this rental. It is reported that the Kern River Company have also purchased Silverstream, Mon Desire, and Margretoute estates. The deeds for the sale of Perseverance Estate were prepared by Messrs. J. D. Sellicr & Co., representing the Company, and Mr. L. A. P. O'Reilly, the vendor.



# The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXV.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1920.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone:  
CENTRAL 6612.

Telegram:  
CABIS, LONDON.



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Sept. 2nd, 1920.

\* Special attention is called to the first "Note of Interest" in the second column on page 259 of the present issue.

### The Prince's Tour and Jamaica.

WHILE last CIRCULAR was in the press it was announced that, owing to the outbreak in Jamaica of an epidemic of what was first believed to be chicken-pox, and was afterwards diagnosed as Kaffir cow pox, the visit of the PRINCE OF WALES to that island had been postponed. Active preparations had been in progress for the reception and entertainment of the Royal visitor, and we may be sure that this alteration in the programme of his West Indian tour will be the cause of profound disappointment to the entire community of Jamaica, as it has been to those connected with the island in this country. With his usual tact and solicitude for the welfare of His Majesty's subjects, the PRINCE OF WALES has telegraphed to the Governor of Jamaica expressing his distress at the outbreak of the epidemic, and assuring the people of his warm sympathy and his hope that the disease will be speedily arrested.

### Practical Self Help.

THE Government of Trinidad and Tobago is to be congratulated upon the success which has attended the flotation of their 6 per cent. loan. The amount offered for subscription at par was £1,000,000, and when the lists were closed, this total was over-subscribed by no less than £400,000.

The success of this loan is most encouraging, reflecting as it does the strength of the colony's credit, besides the general prosperity of Trinidad and Tobago, and the patriotism of the inhabitants of those and the neighbouring islands. To the HON. DENIS SLYNE, C.B.E., the Receiver-General, a special word of praise is due, for it was, we believe, through his persistence and enthusiasm that this satisfactory result has been brought about. In another column we give a statement showing the source and amounts of the applications received, from which it will be noted that no less than £847,050 was applied for in Trinidad itself, whilst £588,000 was subscribed by Barbados, £21,300 by St. Vincent, and £15,750 by St. Lucia. This affords a very practical example of the self-help which Mr. FRANK KEEFER, K.C., so constantly exhorted his hearers to practise at the meetings of the Associated Chamber of Commerce at Barbados in February last. We are without details of the intentions of the local Government regarding the expenditure of this loan, no prospectus having reached us; but we assume that it will be devoted towards carrying out those recommendations of the Development Committee which commend themselves to the Legislative Council. The Government have been wise to issue this loan at the present juncture, because it is improbable that they would have succeeded in raising it on such favourable terms later on, if our reading of the portents of the money market are correct. Meanwhile a good bargain is being made, for of the total subscribed, £500,000 has been remitted to this country, pending the time when it will be required, and reinvested in Treasury Bills at an enhanced rate of interest, while Trinidad will also benefit by the gain on exchange. Profiting by Trinidad's experience, British Guiana is now going one better—or one worse from the investors' standpoint—and is inviting subscriptions towards a 5 per cent. loan. The amount offered is, however, only \$132,000, and as the Public Debt of the colony is only about fourteen months' revenue, we do not doubt that it will be placed successfully, the prospectus making, as it will do, a strong appeal to local firms and individuals who like to have their investments under their own eyes.

### The West Indies Lead the Way.

IT is very fit and proper that our West Indian Colonies, having regard to their age and standing, should lead the way in agricultural matters, and we are particularly glad, therefore, to learn that LORD MILNER, after giving full considera-



tion to the report of the Tropical Agricultural College Committee, has favoured its recommendations, and has decided that the West Indian Agricultural College shall be situated in Trinidad. Now that the question of the site has been settled, the colonies concerned can get to grips with the question of the establishment of the Institution, the need for which was so clearly demonstrated by the many distinguished agricultural scientists and others who were invited by the Colonial Office to consider the question last year. Further, we are glad to learn that a suitable position has been selected on the Government Estate of St. Augustine, near St. Joseph, for the College buildings. This estate, which was purchased by the Trinidad Government in 1919, and is administered by the local Board of Agriculture, seems to be ideal for the purpose to which it is to be now put. It has for many years been the local centre for cultivation and manurial experiments. It is readily accessible by the Eastern Main Road, and is conveniently near the railway connecting St. Joseph with the capital only seven miles away, whilst the neighbouring foothills should form an admirable site for the residential buildings, to the healthiness of which SIR FRANCIS WARTS very properly attaches the greatest importance. It is satisfactory to learn that the colonies concerned are approaching the scheme in a broad-minded and public-spirited point of view. It was feared at the outset that some of the colonies might feel aggrieved at not being selected as the headquarters of the new Institution; but we are glad to note that disappointment is not preventing them from supporting a scheme, the fruition of which will undoubtedly prove of very real benefit to the West Indies as a whole, besides setting a splendid example to other tropical colonies. Thus Barbados has already expressed its willingness to vote an annual contribution for the maintenance of the College not exceeding 1 per cent. of its revenue, providing the other West Indian Colonies contribute in equal ratio. Similarly the Windward Islands have agreed to contribute their quota, while the favourable attitude of the Leeward Islands towards the proposal is already well known. Trinidad, as has already been stated, has consented to provide £50,000 by means of a Produce Tax for the initial establishment of the College besides its annual quota for maintenance, and it will be recalled in this connection that Jamaica offered an equally generous contribution if it were made the headquarters of the College, and of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. Unfortunately, owing to difficulties of communication, &c., this proved impracticable, but we sincerely trust that the Legislative Council of Jamaica, who will have the matter under consideration in October next, will approach it in the liberal spirit so characteristic of them, and will contribute substantially towards the maintenance of this pioneer College. In British Guiana, too, the question of a contribution is still to be considered, and though we are aware that the establishment of sugar experimental stations in that colony has recently involved a considerable outlay, we trust that the Combined Court will agree to contribute towards the cost of a movement which should have far-reaching

effects on agriculture in the West Indies generally, British Guiana included. As the Committee pointed out, agricultural colleges have been established successfully in Porto Rico and Hawaii; there is a University in Louisiana, and an unrivalled Sugar School at Audubon Park, New Orleans, and it would be a reproach if the British Empire were to remain behind the United States in this matter. In some quarters there appears to be an impression that the College is to be established in the interests of the sugar industry only. A perusal of the report of the Committee should serve to correct this misapprehension. It is proposed to teach every kind of tropical agriculture besides mycology, entomology, agricultural and organic chemistry, and bacteriology, as well as book-keeping, a special feature being the junior course of instruction in tropical agriculture arranged to meet the requirements of youths leaving the secondary schools of the colonies who intend to follow ordinary agricultural pursuits in the colony from which they come. While a very large proportion of the funds for maintenance of the college will no doubt be willingly provided by the owners of plantations and companies interested in tropical agriculture, it must be kept in view that the benefits which will accrue will be equally shared by the large number of peasant growers and also indirectly by the communities generally. In India MR. and MRS. HOWARD, through their scientific training, were able to save the wheat growers there £5,000,000 per annum by producing a new wheat not liable to rust, and those who benefited were not large plantation owners, but peasant growers. It may be that some day West Indian cultivators large and small, whether of sugar, rice, cacao, or coffee, in the West Indies may similarly need to be saved by scientific help.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

### Barbados Contributes £500.

The Government of Barbados, with a donation of £500, heads the twenty-second list of contributions towards the West India Committee's Endowment Fund, which is given below. It will be recalled that in March last the members of the House of Assembly of Barbados referred back a vote of £250 towards this object so that it might be increased, and that they subsequently voted unanimously the substantial amount of £500.

#### TWENTY-SECOND LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Amount already acknowledged	£17,258	12	0
The Government of Barbados	500	0	0
James A. Dougall, Esq.	100	0	0
Dermot O'Kelly-Lawson, Esq.	100	0	0
R. B. Daly, Esq.	15	0	0
C. M. Calder, Esq.	5	5	0
Young, Hand & Co.	5	5	0
D. J. Ewing Chow, Esq.	5	0	0
H. Rolfe, Esq.	2	2	0
Mrs. E. B. Arthur	1	1	0
H. B. Walcott, Esq.	1	0	0

In the Thirteenth List, "H. H. Barnard, Esq." should read, H. H. Baird, Esq. (Barbados), £10



## SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"Hog run fe him life; dog run fe him character."

MR. HERBERT SUZULIFFE SHREWSBURY, F.I.C., F.C.S., has been appointed Government Analyst of Trinidad.

H.M.S. *Firouzen* has been purchased by the Board of Trade for the use of the Imperial Lighthouse Service in the Bahamas.

A new American syndicate has been formed to produce sugar in San Domingo and Cuba, with a prospective output of 140,000 tons per season.

PROFESSOR BEEBEK, of the New York Zoological Society, is reported to have discovered in British Guiana a bird-lizard, believed to have been extinct for centuries.

LATE estimates of Messrs. Willett & Gray have raised the European 1920-21 beet crop to 3,870,000 tons, of which 1,300,000 tons are credited to Germany and 800,000 tons to Czecho-Slovakia, and 50,000 tons to Austria and Hungary.

THE *Cuba Review* states a considerable area of new land has been planted for the 1920-21 crop, and that the crop prospects are good. Several factories are installing new machinery. Three new ones in Oriente Province are projected to work on the crop after next.

THE fixed capital value of a sugar estate in Demerara of an average size—that is to say, with 400 to 500 acres in cultivation, and with 250 slaves—was, in 1830, £23,760. This, of course, did not include the value of the slaves. The value of the latter at the time was £130 per head.

THE CIRCULAR learns from a Direct West India Cable Company's message that Mr. G. Whitfield Smith, the Commissioner of Turks and Caicos Islands, is engaged to be married to Jessie, youngest daughter of the late Mr. S. T. Rigby, of Grand Turk. The wedding will take place early next year.

MR. ANDREW McLEAN, sole partner in the firm of Flett, Smith & Co., of Georgetown, Demerara, died, we regret to learn, at St. John, New Brunswick, on August 14th, on his way home to join his wife at Edinburgh. Mrs. McLean sailed by the *Quillota* on August 25th to return to British Guiana.

THE Chairman of the Canadian Pacific Ocean Services, Limited, speaking at Govan on the occasion of the launch of the *Empress of Canada*, said that taking a new first-class Atlantic liner as a standard, the operating expenses had risen by no less than 350 per cent., while the rise in passenger fares was only 185 per cent.

MR. W. F. BRIDGES, late Administrator-General of British Guiana, will be the recipient of many expressions of sympathy in the loss which he has sustained through the death of his wife Mrs. Bridges, we regret to state, died at Parkstone, Dorset, after an operation on August 12th, at the age of seventy-four years.

THE Hershey Chocolate Corporation of Philadelphia, which already owns and operates a 400,000 bag central at San Juan Bautista, in Cuba, in order to ensure an ample supply of sugar for its requirements, is proposing to spend \$3,000,000 in the purchase of the *Cia Azucarera del Rosario*, whose central in Cuba turns out about 75,000 bags of sugar every year.

THE irregularity of mail communication has greatly accentuated the difficulty in collecting subscriptions to the West India Committee this year. Now that eight months of the year have elapsed, members still in arrears are earnestly requested to save the Committee the expense of sending (and themselves the annoyance of receiving) repeated applications for payment. Subscriptions (minimum £1 ls., or \$5 00) may be sent direct, or paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank, or the Royal Bank of Canada. The annual subscriptions of individuals may be commuted by a single payment of £10 10s. or \$50 00.

ARCHBISHOP PARRY returned to British Guiana on August 12th, and the Provincial Synod of the West Indies were represented at the World's Conference on Faith and Order, which was opened on that day and lasted until August 19th, by the Right Rev. Edward A. Dunn, Bishop of Honduras. The Bishop, who came over for the Lambeth Conference, will return to Belize by way of Jamaica, availing himself of the new monthly service of steamers which the United Fruit Company recently inaugurated on the route New York, Jamaica, Belize, Tela—in anticipation perhaps of the contemplated Canadian service which will link Jamaica and British Honduras.

THE Jamaica Scouts, who won golden opinions from all with whom they came in contact, returned to Jamaica by the *Patuca*, which left Avonmouth on August 23rd. With the assistance of the West India Committee, who invoked the aid of the Y.M.C.A., the boys visited the Belgian and French battlefields before they left. The Y.M.C.A. made all arrangements, and it need hardly be said that there was not a hitch in them. The itinerary included Boulogne, St. Omer, Hazebrouck, Poperinghe, Armentieres, Ypres, Lille, Douai, Arras, Vimy Ridge, Lens, and Bethune. The Scouts returned to Jamaica under the command of Scoutmaster D. A. McCorkell. Mr. A. Noel Crosswell, the Kingston District Commissioner, will remain in England for a few weeks longer.

THE advantage which sugar producers in Cuba enjoy by the proximity of that island to the continent of America has frequently been the subject of comment in the CIRCULAR. Cuban estates proprietors can now get their machinery conveyed from the manufacturers' works to the estate without breaking of bulk by having it shipped on the train ferry from Key West, and soon they will be in telephonic communication with New York and elsewhere. The Cuban Telephone Company, the Cuban American Telephone and Telegraph Company, and the Porto Rican Telephone Company have, it is announced, given their support to a project for laying telephone lines between the United States and Cuba, Cuba and Porto Rico, and Cuba and South America.

"THE Mary Carleton Narratives," by Ernest Bernbaum, which has been recently published, gives an account of an adventuress who made no little stir in London society during the latter years of the reign of King Charles II. In the guise of a German Princess, this woman imposed upon Pepys' friend Carleton, whom she accepted in marriage. It was then found that the "German Princess" was none other than one Mary Moders, who had been consigned to prison in Dover Castle for plucking £50 out of the pocket of a Barbados captain. After many sensational exploits, she was transported to Jamaica in 1671, but contrived to escape and return to London, where, after a further series of thefts, she was executed (the penalty for this kind of offence) at Tyburn in 1673.



## ROYAL VISITS TO THE WEST INDIES.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

(Continued from p. 242.)

On December 29th, English Harbour, Nelson thus writes of the Prince to his brother William: "You know before this that his Royal Highness Prince William is under my command, and I wish that all the Navy Captains were as attentive to orders as he is," and to Captain Locker on the same day he adds: "I shall endeavour to take care he (the Prince) is not a loser by that circumstance. He has his foibles as well as private men, but they are far overbalanced by his virtues. In his professional line he is superior to near two-thirds, I am sure, of the List; and in attention to orders and respect to his superior officers I know hardly his equal; this is what I have found him. Some others, I have heard, will tell another story. The islanders have made vast entertainments for him. But all this you will see in the English papers."

On January 1st, 1787, he gives the following account of a week's festivities to Mrs. Nisbet:—

"I was in hopes to have remained quiet all this week, but to-day we dine with Sir Thomas Shirley (the Governor); to-morrow the Prince has a party; on Wednesday he gives a dinner at Saint John's to the Regiment; in the evening is a Mulatto ball; on Thursday a cock-fight, and we dine at Colonel Crosbie's brother's, and a ball; on Friday somewhere, but I forget; on Saturday at Mr. Bryan's (the President of the Council at Antigua and Judge of the Admiralty Court)."

From a letter to his brother on February 9th from English Harbour we extract the following:—

"Ifancy the King's servants and the officers of my little squadron will not be sorry to part with me. They think I make them do their duty too strictly, and the West Indians will give a *balle champêtre* upon my departure. They hate me, and they will every officer who does his duty."

"You know I have the honour of having Prince William under my command. In every respect, both as a man and a Prince, I love him. He has honoured me as his confidential friend; in this he shall not be mistaken."

On February 9th the *Boreas* was at English Island, when Nelson wrote to William Locker and continued the letter on February 13th from "Mountserrat," where he had arrived with the *Pegasus* (Captain H. R. H. Prince William) and the *Salebog*, both of which ships had been placed by the Admiralty under the command of Nelson. He said the island had made fine addresses and good dinners, &c., and the next day they were to sail for Nevis and St. Christopher's, where the same fine things would be done again. He said H. R. H. kept up strict discipline in his ship and that, without paying him any compliment, he could say that she was one of the first ordered frigates he had seen.

At Dominica it was said, "Prince William Henry has been at Antigua for some time past repairing his ship, where all ranks are vying with each other in making grand entertainments for their illustrious visitor. The Prince is quite the officer. He has not slept a night out of his ship since his arrival in those seas, until coming into English Harbour, when

the ships leaving down obliged him to be on shore. He shows the most amiable disposition and consideration on every occasion, sees into the detail of the business of the ship, and delivers his own orders with the most minute attention to the duty and discipline of his crew."

After his wedding Nelson wrote: "Prince William did me the honour to stand her Father upon the occasion, and has shown every act of kindness that the most professed friendship could bestow."

Nelson saw much of the Prince in 1787 he wrote him six letters. That he let his loyalty in this matter somewhat overcome his head is evident. The Lieutenants on the *Pegasus* in no way shared Nelson's opinion of their commander, and endeavoured by all means in their power to get out of the ship, where they found his rule intolerable. But that he was popular with civilians is evident. At Antigua it was written of him, "How long he means to honour the island with his presence I cannot with certainty learn it will probably be several months. The people here, I believe, hope and wish it may be for years."

Shortly after, being tired of his station, he sailed home without orders, and was punished for insubordination by being kept at Plymouth until March 1st, 1788, when he commissioned the *Andromeda*, which reached Port Royal, Jamaica on November 15th. At this time he assumed more royal state than had hitherto been allowed to him. On the 25th he held a *levée* on the *Europa*, Commodore Gardner's flagship, the royal standard being hoisted, and when he landed on December 6th he was received "as a prince of the blood." On November 25th, it was resolved *non can* by the Assembly that a Committee should be appointed to prepare an address to the King in order, *inter alia*, to express "esteem and admiration of the virtues of a Prince who, by the most unremitting and exemplary attention to the duties of his profession, has already rendered himself dear to his country." An address of congratulation was also presented to the Governor, Alured Clark, Esquire, on the arrival of the Prince, and an address to the Prince himself. It was further resolved to expend one thousand guineas on an elegant star ornamented with diamonds to be presented to his Highness.

While in Jamaica, Prince William presented to the St. Thomas-in-the-Vale Regiment of Militia a set of colours, and authorised the corps to be designated "Prince William's Own." This led some patriotic Jamaican, at a later date (between 1830 and 1837), to write two verses, preserved in the "Jamaica Omnibus," a manuscript every-day book, in the West India Reference Library in the Institute of Jamaica:

"Come, raise up the banner, the gift of our King,

Each hand and each heart to protect it is ready  
United our firmest allegiance we bring.

Let it float to the breeze free and steady.

The *Troop of the Vale* has good reason to boast.

That to them is entrusted the emblem of worth.

Presented in person while here on our coast

By our much-revered Sovereign, *William the Fourth*.

"Three cheers to its glory by each British heart,

Raise the shout one and all with spontaneous accord  
May its well-governed influence serve to impart

New strength to the arm, and an edge to the sword



The token of friendship our life-blood shall save  
 From a foe's pollution our star of the North.  
 It shall lead on to honour the loyal and brave,  
*The Troop of the Vale and King William the Fourth.*"

In December, 1801, the Assembly of Jamaica voted three thousand guineas for a service of plate, "with such appropriate and ornamental engraving as may be most acceptable, to be presented to the Duke of Clarence as a testimony of the high respect and esteem indelibly impressed on the minds of the loyal inhabitants of Jamaica for his Royal Highness." A medal was struck in his honour by the Royal Military Club, of which he was patron.

The Royal Military Club was founded in 1788 on August 21st, the birthday of its patron, whose initials appear on the reverse. The only copy of the medal known to the writer is of fine gold, and formerly belonged to the late Mr. Robert Day, of Cork. It was recently sold for £14.

His experiences in the West Indies, and perhaps his regard for the planters who had entertained him so lavishly, led the Duke to oppose the emancipation of slaves from his seat in the House of Lords. The West India Committee passed a vote of thanks in 1804 to the Duke of Clarence for the trouble he had taken in presenting the petition of the West India merchants and mortgagees against the Bill for the abolition of the slave trade,\* and the Prince, in thanking them, said he would "at all times be both ready and happy to use my endeavours to support the interests of the West India colonies, and particularly to oppose the abolition of that trade in which the colonies have hitherto been inclined by repeated Acts of Parliament to look for their support." But in his reign the Abolition Act was passed.

The next Royal visitor to the West Indies was Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, the father of Queen Victoria, who, as a Major-General, reached Barbados in 1794, to join the fleet under Sir John Jarvis, which had on board a large number of soldiers under the command of Sir Charles Grey, destined for the reduction of Martinique, which island had been seized by the French Republicans. His visit was so short that no opportunity was given either to the President administering the government or the colonists to testify their loyalty to the Prince. When the frigate on which he was had anchored in the bay, she was boarded by a certain John Adlam, "the Captain of the Ports," who took upon himself to welcome the Prince on behalf of the President, who was at the moment some way out of the capital. Going ashore, Adlam fired a royal salute from Pilgrim. On hearing this the military officer in command hastened to pay his respects to the Prince, but Adlam's maladroit behaviour had put his Royal Highness out of humour, and the Colonel was fairly bowled off the quarter-deck, and the President, Colonel Bishop, had no opportunity of letting the Duke see the true loyalty of Barbados. At St. Lucia the Duke, after a fatiguing march of fourteen hours, planted the English flag on the Morne Fortuné on April 4th, 1794. The stump of the staff was still standing when Prince Albert Victor and Prince George visited the spot on February 14th, 1880.

(To be continued.)

\* See WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, JUNE 20, 1906.

## WEST INDIA TAXATION.

By AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer on June 24th last, replying to a question in the House of Commons, gave some interesting figures, showing the amount of taxation per head per annum in this country and in certain other countries. It will be of interest to add to this list the corresponding figures in respect of the West Indian colonies. Taking all items which make up the tax revenue of the countries concerned, the figures are as under:—

ANNUAL TAXATION PER HEAD OF POPULATION.	
United Kingdom	£22 0 6
United States	10 8 0
France	17 16 6
Italy	5 6 6
Germany	21 14 10
Bahamas	1 0 8
Barbados	1 5 8
British Guiana	2 10 5
British Honduras	4 0 5
Jamaica	1 3 0
Cayman Islands	8 1
Turks and Caicos Islands	£1 2 1
Trinidad	1 9 0
Antigua	2 5 9
Dominica	19 11
Montserrat	1 0 5
St. Kitts	1 2 8
Virgin Islands	8 3
Grenada	1 9 0
St. Lucia	1 2 10
St. Vincent	12 3

The above figures should afford subject for thought to those who periodically suggest that non-resident West Indian proprietors should be subjected to additional taxation.

In the West Indies generally, the main source of revenue is import and excise duties. British Honduras, Jamaica, Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent have an Income Tax, Trinidad and Tobago a War Tax on incomes levied on a similar basis, and Antigua an Income Tax levied upon the salaries and pensions of public officers only. British Guiana and Grenada have Excess Profits Taxes. It will thus be seen that in the matter of taxation there is the same complete lack of uniformity which characterises so many other West Indian matters.

In Jamaica the income tax begins to operate on incomes over £100, beginning at 2½ per cent., with a maximum of 2s. (against 6s. in the £ and super-tax in the United Kingdom). In Dominica the rate begins at 2½ per cent. with a surtax of 10 per cent. on incomes from £50. In St. Lucia the tax begins on £50 at 1d. per £ with a maximum of 3s. 6d. on incomes over £10,000. In St. Vincent, the tax begins on £151 at 1d. per £, with a maximum of 1s. 9s. per £ on £500 and upwards. In Trinidad and Tobago the War Tax is 3d per £ on incomes up to £1,000, rising to a maximum of 6s. per £ on those of £2,000 and upwards, relief from the tax equal to its amount on £500 being granted except in the case of a company.

In British Guiana the Excess Profits Tax is 10 per cent. and in Grenada 40 per cent.

The congratulations of the CIRCULAR are due to Mr. J. M. Laughlin who celebrated his seventieth birthday on August 5th, and who has been connected with the *Port of Spain Gazette* for forty-five years, during which time he has never had three weeks' vacation a record of which few journalists can boast. When Mr. Laughlin took over the *Gazette*, it had a circulation of but sixty, and a shilling was charged for each copy. Mr. Laughlin's gallant young son "Holly" has recently returned from India where he has been on active service.



## THE COST OF BEET CULTIVATION.

### The Actual Figures at Kelham.

The Company registered as Home Grown Beet, Limited, is preparing for an extensive campaign for 1921. The acreage of the Kelham Estate, which it owns, is 2,841 acres, of which 1,866 are being managed as a farm—of this acreage, 835 acres are arable, and it is estimated that the contract prices for beets will show a profit of £10 per acre. This year, according to *Home Grown Sugar*, 20 acres of beet are being grown with seven different classes of foreign seed, and the cost of cultivation per acre, based upon actual experience, has been as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Rent	1	10	0
Rates and taxes	0	7	6
Steam cultivation (in the autumn)	1	15	0
Harrowing (twice)	0	4	0
Dung, 10 tons, including carting and spreading (in winter), charge half to beet crop	2	13	10
Ploughing, early winter (deep)	2	6	0
Artificial manures, including lime, charge two-thirds to beet	5	1	6
Dragging (once)	0	6	0
Harrowing (twice)	0	5	0
Roll (Cambridge)	0	3	0
Harrowing (once)	0	2	6
Roll (plam)	0	2	0
Drilling	0	3	6
Seed	1	4	0
Seed harrow	0	2	0
Roll	0	3	0
Horse hoeing (four times)	1	0	0
Chopping out and singling plant	1	17	6
Hand hoeing (twice)	1	16	0
Horse lifter	0	14	0
Pulling, laying in rows and topping	2	10	0
Loading into carts and carting to hard road	1	5	0
Supervision, per acre	1	0	0
Depreciation, implements, repairs, &c.	0	15	0
Maintenance	0	6	4

Total cost of one acre in the field in 1920 .. £27 12 8

With the above cultivation, 10 tons of washed and topped roots to the acre is regarded by our contemporary as a very conservative estimate. Sixteen tons can be obtained, and a satisfactory crop should not be less than 12 tons of sound washed and topped roots.

Much sympathy will be felt for Mr. and Mrs. John Bromley, of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and 30, Manchester-street, W., in the loss which they have sustained through the death of their only surviving son Thomas Anthony Valentine, which occurred in London on August 14th. Born in London, March 9th, 1901, Anthony Bromley was educated at the Old Malthouse, Langton Matravers, Dorset, Marlborough, where he joined the O.T.C., and University College, Oxford, of which he was an undergraduate when he died. He entered very fully into Oxford life in work and sport, rowing in his College boat. In April he was admitted a student of the Inner Temple. About two months before his death he became seriously ill, and finally an operation was decided on, from the effects of which he never recovered. On August 18th he was buried at Bures, Suffolk.

## THE JAMAICA REGISTRAR'S REPORT.

Mr. David Balfour, Registrar-General for Jamaica, estimates the total population of that island on December 31st last at 893,580. During the year 1919, 23,618 labourers left the island, while only 8,786 arrived. No fewer than 21,573 went to Cuba, and 1,035 to the Canal Zone; and while 6,457 only returned from Cuba, 1,174 came back from the Canal Zone. In view of what has been written and said lately about emigration from Jamaica, the following table showing the movements of labourers from April 1st, 1911, to December 31st last is of particular interest:—

Year.	Departures	Arrivals
1911-1912	13,109	8,984
1912-1913	14,993	8,954
1913-1914	15,006	11,817
1914-1915	6,643	9,978
1915-1916	4,995	5,731
1916 (April to December)	4,378	4,303
1917	7,140	6,771
1918	8,773	5,102
1919	23,618	8,786
	98,745	70,426

Like other West Indian islands, Jamaica suffers from excessive infantile mortality, and in this connection the following comparative table is given:—

Country.	Year.	INFANTILE DEATH-RATE PER 100 BIRTHS.	
		Under 4 Years.	Under 5 Years.
Bermuda	1918	15.1	28.9
British Guiana	1918	22.3	34.1
Grenada	1918	10.9	24.7
Trinidad	1918	13.8	20.9
St. Vincent	1918-19	11.1	26.5
St. Lucia	1917-18	12.9	23.2
England and Wales	1917	9.6	15.7
Jamaica	1919	16.1	25.8

For the year 1919, the death rate of the colony was 22.2 a figure which marks a distinct improvement over the 1918 figure, which was abnormally high, owing to the influenza epidemic. The birth-rate reached the satisfactory figure of 33.5.

## SUGAR IN HAWAII.

The *Sugar News* of the Philippines gives details of the Factory Results obtained in Hawaii for the year 1919. As regards the mill-working, one factory obtained an extraction of 99.5 per cent of the sugar in the canes in the form of juice, while another factory reported an average extraction of 98.99 per cent. Seven factories finished the season with an average extraction of 98 per cent., while 60 per cent. reported over 97 per cent. extraction in this department. High maceration and slow grinding is the rule in Hawaii.

The loss of sugar in the molasses is being steadily reduced, and this has been effected by boiling the last masecut to a high density, about 98 Brix, on an even grain. It is stated that the losses in Hawaiian factories have been reduced in the last ten years about 27 per cent., and this in spite of a steady decrease in the purity of the juices. The molasses are reduced to a purity of 30 per cent., which speaks for itself.

It is uncertain whether the above mill figures are absolute, or are only referred to as a standard of efficiency.



## THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

By ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 249.)

After St. Kitts had been restored to the English by the Treaty of Versailles, in 1783, the fortifications on Brimstone Hill were greatly strengthened, and most of the more elaborate works, including Fort St. George, which crowns the summit, date from this period. Barracks, officers' quarters, and mess rooms, with all the necessary adjuncts of a military camp, were erected and maintained as the headquarters of the local garrison until the time of the Crimean War, when the white troops were withdrawn from the island.

When the last remnant of the garrison had left, this historic fortress was left derelict, and as no attempt whatever was made to preserve them the buildings soon fell into dilapidation, many of their stones and all of their woodwork being carried off and used as building materials by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. The prolific vegetation of the tropics soon obliterates the handwork of man, and within a very few years all that remained of the barracks and fortifications was completely overgrown by dense bush. In this state they remained until the end of last century, when, at the instance of an enterprising Administrator, Sir Robert Bromley, they were cleared and preserved from further decay. Since then Brimstone Hill has been maintained as a National Monument. A small annual vote is provided by the local legislature for its upkeep, and marauders are kept at bay by a custodian under whose supervision the vote is expended.

The fortress is reached by a zig-zag road which can be negotiated without difficulty by automobiles for about a third of the way, and after entering a substantial stone portal, flanked by two cannon, and after paying a small fee to Mr. Rodriguez, the devoted custodian, one can roam about among the ruins of the barracks, bastions and casemates, and enjoy the extensive view from the battlements of the citadel, without interference. It required only a slight stretch of imagination to repeople the hill with its red-coated soldiers and to hear the bugle and words of command which once echoed through its now deserted fortifications.

After leaving Brimstone Hill we sped on to Sandy Point, where we stopped to visit the Hon. J. T. Manchester, for many years one of the foremost politicians in St. Kitts. In the first year of the war, Mr. Manchester was struck down by a serious illness, but though he was still an invalid, it was pleasant to find that his faculties were well-preserved and his memory unimpaired. He could recall events and even speeches of thirty or forty years ago with a precision remarkable in one who had been so ill. Since he entered the political arena, St. Kitts has passed through many vicissitudes, the most notable being the incorporation of the island as a Presidency of the Leeward Islands by the Imperial Leeward Islands Act of 1871, and the amendment of its constitution in 1877, when it was reduced to the status of a Crown Colony. In those days St. Kitts was entirely dependent on a single industry, that of sugar, for its welfare, and in

the closing years of the nineteenth century it was brought to the verge of ruin by the inability of its staple to compete with foreign subsidised beet-sugar in the markets of the world. But Mr. Manchester has lived to see a complete revolution in the fortunes of the Presidency. In 1877 the revenue of St. Kitts was £24,166 and the expenditure £27,052. In the pre-war year, the revenue was £53,880 and the expenditure £55,061, while last year the corresponding figures were £64,491 and £64,081 respectively. If further evidence were needed of the increased prosperity of the island it would be found in the trade returns. In 1877 the Presidency's imports were £134,224 and its exports £147,164. The figures for the pre-war year were £200,036 and £203,626 respectively, while for 1919 the imports were £306,309, and the exports had risen to £344,633.

The improvement effected down to 1914 was attributable to the abolition of the sugar bounties by the Brussels Convention of 1901 and the establishment of the Central Sugar Factory at Basseterre—also to some extent to the introduction of the cultivation of sea island cotton. The wave of prosperity subsequent to 1914 has resulted from the high prices of sugar engendered by the war and the consequent world shortage of that commodity.

Continuing our drive round the island, we next visited a small estate characteristic of others in St. Kitts where "syrup" was being made for the North American market. In Barbados a considerable proportion of the sugar crop has for many years been shipped in the form of molasses and "Fancy Syrup," a commodity which finds much favour in Canada and Newfoundland. Just before the war this syrup met with such a profitable sale while the sugar market was depressed that its manufacture was extended to St. Kitts and Antigua.

Whilst molasses is a by-product, consisting as it does of uncrystallised sugar thrown off from the sugar crystals by centrifugal force in centrifugals, or, on the more old-fashioned estates, drained from it, syrup enjoys the full dignity of a main crop.

The processes of making sugar and syrup are almost identical until the stage of crystallisation is approached. Then comes the parting of the ways. In the manufacture of sugar the sugar-boiler does all that he can to encourage crystallisation, but in that of syrup his whole aim is to restrain crystallisation entirely. To effect this a certain quantity of cane-sugar originally present in the juice has to be changed into invert sugar, or glucose, by an acid. As the use of sulphuric acid is precluded by the American and Canadian Pure Food Laws, sour cane-juice is used in its stead.

Here on this little St. Kitts estate we could see the whole process, from the crushing of the canes by a very primitive mill and the boiling of the frothing and steaming juice, to the heading-up of the puncheons and casks containing the delicious clear syrup which the hardy lumbermen of the North so love to spread on their bread. One would imagine that if it were canned in an attractive manner it would almost meet with a ready sale in this country, where jam is now from 1s. 6d. to 2s. a pound.

It is not until one is half way round the island that Mount Misery is seen in all its grandeur, and our next call was on Mr. Shuttleworth Davis, now an



Hon. Correspondent to the West India Committee, at Belmont Estate, which is the starting point for expeditions to the crater lake of that extinct volcano. One writes "extinct" easily; but can any volcano be regarded as extinct after the manifestations of the Soufrière in St. Vincent and Mont Pelé in Martinique, in 1902? At any rate, Mount Misory has not been in eruption within the memory of man, and one must hope that its record of good behaviour will be maintained indefinitely. Meanwhile, its rocky and jagged cone or peak towering 3,711 ft. above the sea level, and not unlike one of the Aiguilles near Chamonix, is an awe-inspiring spectacle when it deigns to emerge from the clouds.

It was now getting late, and after discussing with Mr. Davis the circumstances of the west end of the island which the railway lines of the central factory have not yet reached, we had to hurry along our road. The windward side of St. Kitts is more rugged and its scenery more romantic than the leeward, this being due no doubt to the action of the prevailing winds, which dash the breakers against its shores. Black Rocks—great masses of lava standing up in the sea in grotesque shapes—kept us for a few minutes in admiration, and when we reached Christ Church gully, which has so far proved an obstacle to the extension of the factory railway, darkness fell upon us with the suddenness characteristic of the tropics. We could now see no more, except the endless road which Mr. Shelford's insatiable car continued to consume until we at length drew up at the doors of the hospitable St. Kitts' Club, which has recently been transferred from the Circus to Pall Mall Square.

Dinner, of which we partook to the crooning music of innumerable frogs and insects, at the board of Major E. R. and Mrs. Branch followed. That gallant officer recounted his many interesting experiences on active service in Europe, from which he had recently returned, and generally we were shown an example of true Kittifonian hospitality. Ten o'clock had now struck, and as the inexorable Captain Carmichael was recalling his charges by stentorian blasts of the syren, we reluctantly picked our way through the dimly-lighted streets to the wharf, and, re-embarking in the *Guiana*, regretfully left the happy and prosperous island of St. Kitts, just as that much over-rated—but by those "down under" dearly loved—constellation the Southern Cross was rising in the southern sky.

Compared with the constellations of the northern hemisphere, the Southern Cross is certainly a very poor affair indeed. To begin with, it is hardly a cross at all. Cygnus and the so-called "False Cross" are far better ones. Then its size is altogether insignificant, though it may look more imposing when it is seen, as it is in the Antipodes, high in the heavens. However that may be, it is certainly not to be compared, for beauty and grandeur, with Orion, which is truly magnificent, and when the British West Indies eventually decide to have their own flag, they might do worse than select the "Hunter" as their emblem, for it will be found that that noble constellation has just the requisite number of stars of magnitude to represent the units of which our oldest group of colonies is comprised.

(To be continued.)

## BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

A further gratifying improvement of the trade of the United Kingdom is shown by the Board of Trade Returns for July. For that month, while imports fell to £163,342,351, the lowest figure reached this year, the British exports rose to £137,451,904 as compared with £65,315,691 for the same month last year.

The returns for the seven months ended July 31st show that during that period 905,862 tons of sugar were imported into the United Kingdom as compared with 1,166,923 tons for the corresponding month in 1913. Of the total for the current year, 106,541 tons were refined and 799,321 unrefined, of which 487,639 tons were from Cuba and 114,224 tons from the British West Indies. The quantity of sugar entered for home consumption this year was 716,511 tons. It is satisfactory to note that importations of that noxious drug saccharin are at last declining, the figure being 328,258 oz. as against 1,070,007 oz. for the same period last year.

Imports of raw cacao amounted to 1,679,076 cwt. against 451,346 cwt. for the same period in 1913, the chief supplier being British West Africa, with no fewer than 1,142,418 cwt., the British West Indies coming second with 229,421 cwt. Of this large total, 639,321 cwt. only were entered for home consumption.

Banana imports totalled 4,274,020 bunches, against 4,151,829 bunches for 1913, but in the case of fruit the country of origin is not given in the official returns, a shortcoming which should certainly be made good. Another improvement which is much overdue is the separation of rum and imitation rum, which now appear as a single item. The imports of the two were 2,506,611 proof gallons, and the entries for home consumption, 1,730,317 proof gallons. Similarly gutta-percha and balata are for some reason or other made one, the imports of the two being given as 6,148,700 lb.

Towards a total import of 523,444 cwt. of coffee, the British West Indies contributed 3,461 cwt. The imports of cotton are now recorded in centals of 100 lb., and towards a total of 13,342,022 centals the British West Indies contributed 22,957.

SIR FRANCIS WATTS recently visited St. Vincent and gave an address on the agricultural outlook to an interested audience at the Court House. He emphasised the advantage which the island enjoys in having several staple industries, and expressed his belief that the manufacture of syrup was better suited to the conditions of the island than that of sugar, which necessitated the expenditure of vast sums on machinery. Still he hoped that enough sugar would be made for local requirements. He thought that the demand for arrowroot would be limited, and advocated the limitation of the cultivation of that crop.

ACTING on behalf of the Permanent Exhibition Committee of Trinidad and Dominica, the West India Committee have taken space for these colonies at the International Exhibition of Tropical Products, to be held at the Royal Agricultural Hall, London, in June, 1921. The Virgin Islands also propose to participate. The decision of the other West Indian Colonies is awaited.



## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

Large numbers of trees yielding chicle gum have been discovered in the interior of British Guiana, and the discoverer has obtained a concessional right over 8,260 square miles of territory.

The Government of Honduras has granted six scholarships to young men to enable them to proceed to Cuba, where they are to study the cultivation and manufacture of tobacco. On their return a school is to be started.

The result of the drilling for oil at Hardstoft, Derbyshire, has proved that commercial oil exists in Great Britain. The well is as productive as the average wells in the United States. The quality of the oil is equal to the highest grade the world has produced.

The essence of bergamot exported from Italy is the product of innumerable small peasant proprietors. In order to keep up a standard, and prevent adulteration, the farmer has to take his essence to a Government station for analysis, and only then, when it is passed by the analyst, is he allowed to sell it for export.

The salt produced in the Cadiz area of Spain by evaporation of sea-water is held in high repute, especially for the curing of fish. The salt harvest for 1919 was estimated at 270,000 long tons. Lagoons, bordered by low tidal lands, connect the Bay of Cadiz and the Atlantic Ocean. At high tide these lands are under water, but drain off at low tide. From May to September no rain falls, and the hot summer sun evaporates the sea-water. The process is helped by the strong land breezes which blow almost continuously throughout this period. The constant ripple is said to be the cause of the fine, large grain of the salt.

The salt farms are put in order as soon as the early rains are over, about the middle of May. The farms consist of a series of canals of different depths and at different levels, all being protected from the sea and the lagoons, and the lower ones from the higher by small dykes. Sea-water is let into the outer canal, which is the largest, highest, and deepest of all. This water, after passing through intermediate canals, is finally run into shallow basins, where the final evaporation takes place. The salt crystals form in sheets at the bottom; they are raked out on the banks, and are thence carried in panniers on donkeys to form large heaps. These heaps remain in the open air until the salt is shipped.

An English company has applied for a contract in Honduras for the privilege of cutting mahogany, cedar, and other woods. The company undertakes to cut and export 50,000 trees in ten years, paying the Government \$15 for each tree exported. Exemption from import duties on materials and supplies is asked. An advance payment of £2,000 will be made when the contract is approved by the National Congress. Nothing is said about planting trees to take the place of those cut down. No Government in the British Empire could be so wanting in foresight as to make a similar contract.

A correspondent in Trinidad sends a pod of *Casia florula*, asking if it is of any value. Messrs. Lewis & Peat, to whom it was submitted by the West India Committee, state that the sample has been of fair quality, but is now so worm-eaten as to be of only nominal value. The pre-war value for pods not wormy was between

15s. and 20s. a cwt. Recently, owing to extreme scarcity, Messrs. Lewis & Peat sold small consignments up to 180s. and 186s. a cwt. It was the early bird of a planter got the worm—and the cash too. Plenty of these pods are now coming into the market, and prices have fallen again.

Last June the CIRCULAR had a note about leather being made from the skins of fish and of other inhabitants of the sea. Mr. Goodwin, of Grand Turk, writes that leather is made there from shark skins. This shows very praiseworthy enterprise on the part of colonists in the Turks Islands. Mr. Goodwin reports that "they go one better than Uncle Sam" in using fish scales to make artificial flowers. He sent a sample of these flowers made by Miss M. Spencer. They exhibit an amount of dexterity and patience worthy of a better cause. It is doubtful, however, whether proper remuneration would be received for all the trouble taken.

In the models of the malarial organisms in the Natural History Museum, the last one described in the previous CIRCULAR, was globular with a number of dark spots or nuclei round the circumference. The next model shows the formation of daughter-germs round the nuclei. All these changes are at the expense of the blood-corpuscle. At length, when the blood-corpuscle is all absorbed, the numerous globular daughter-germs become free in the blood. Each of these has the power of penetrating a fresh corpuscle, and going through the same cycle of change. After this has been repeated two or three times, the globular mass develops into a crescent-shaped body. The crescent enlarges until it has absorbed the whole of the corpuscle, and becomes free. It is in this condition that it is sucked up in the blood by the mosquito, and undergoes further changes in the stomach of the mosquito.

The tendency at this present time of shortage of freight steamers is to convert agricultural products in the country of growth into the very smallest compass before export. In doing so, planters are adopting truly economic methods. The more thoroughly these methods are made use of, the nearer perfection, from a commercial point of view, are the worked-up products. The old plan of exporting coconuts has in most countries given way to the discarding of the shell and fibrous covering, and the drying of the fleshy kernel, the copra. A further economic advance is to erect factories alongside the coconut plantations, where the copra is subjected to processes for expressing the oil. The cake is fed to cattle, and the manure returned to the soil, so that the exported oil is all that is taken out of the country, which benefits by the meat, milk, &c., supplied by the cattle, to say nothing of the wages provided for the labourers.

Logwood is an example of a product which is still being exported in the very crude form of logs of wood. Extract of logwood is also exported, but the manufacture of the extract, and also of hæmatein crystals, are trade secrets unknown to the growers of logwood. All that the growers know is a general chemical outline that the colouring matter can be liberated by fermentation as hæmatoxylin. This is a colourless body. By exposure to air in an alkaline solution hæmatoxylin is oxidised into hæmatein, with the development of a fine purple colour. There are technical papers on these chemical products by Professor W. H. Perkin in the Journal of the Chemical Society, but they do not throw light on the secret processes. The growers, however, have it in their own hands to discover these secrets. They have the raw material, and they can start a Logwood Research Association alongside the plantations. Their chemists, after a period of research, will not fail to make the desired discoveries.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

## MILITARY CEMETERIES IN THE WEST INDIES.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR.—Referring to the leading article in your issue of July 8th on the subject of military cemeteries in the West Indies, and more particularly to your suggestion that the responsibility for their care might be undertaken by ladies, it may interest you to know that for many years past all soldiers' graves in the Bahamas have been cared for by the Daughters of the Empire, the Gordon Chapter making it their special work. Some years ago, when the responsibility was first undertaken by these ladies, the graves were in a much-neglected state, but they were put in thorough repair, and are now kept in good shape. The graves are also decorated on Empire Day by the members of the Gordon Chapter.

I feel sure that if Chapters of the "Daughters of the Empire" were started in the West Indies much useful work of this nature would be undertaken by them. At present I think Bermuda and the Bahamas are the only colonies where branches of the Order exist.

Yours very truly,

MARY MOSELEY.

Nassau, Bahamas

August 5th, 1920

## THE INSCRIPTION ON WARNER'S TOMB.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR, The writer of the article "The West Indies Revisited," in your last issue, states that he could find no one who could complete the mutilated epitaph on the tombstone of Sir Thomas Warner in St. Kitts. With diffidence I submit the following:—

Written with his sword's point, but what is man  
In the midst of his glory and who can  
Prolong this Life A moment since that hee  
Was both by Sea and Land so longe kept free  
And safe from mortal strokes at length did yeeld  
(With gentle grace) to conquering Death the field

Yours obediently,

CAYON.

Shrewsbury

August 24th, 1920.

["Cayon's" completion of the mutilated inscription is most ingenious. It would be interesting to receive suggestions from other readers in this connection. ED. W.I.C.C.]

## WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

## The Amalgamated Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.

This company was registered on August 10th, with a capital of £200,000, in £1 shares, to acquire petroleum lands, &c., and to adopt an agreement with Mr. W. B. Mitford, &c. The first directors are Mr. W. B. Mitford, Mr. C. C. Cragg, Mr. T. Hudson Beare, and Mr. R. S. Bagnall, and the offices are at 13, Cophall-court, E.C.

## Furness, Withy &amp; Co. and West Indies.

Referring to the recent purchase by Furness, Withy & Co. of the *Guiana*, *Parima*, and *Kwara*, and the New York-West Indian Service, Sir Frederick Lewis, presiding at the annual meeting of the Company on August 26th, said that this trade was capable of great development, and that it was their intention to augment the existing tonnage at the earliest opportunity. Their first Bermuda season had been a most successful one. From December to May they had provided two sailings a week between New York and Hamilton.

## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

## New Colonial Secretary at Antigua.

Lieut. Colonel T. R. St. Johnston has taken up his duties as Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands. He and Mrs. St. Johnston have taken Mr. Bryson's house in St. John's for six months, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bryson having returned to England in the *Sala*. Mr. Frederick H. Watkins, F.S.O., who has been Acting Colonial Secretary since 1917, has been appointed Magistrate in Nevis.

## Bahamas' Coming Tourist Season.

The House of Assembly of the Bahamas have authorised the Government to enter into a contract for two years with the Florida East Coast Railway Company to open the Hotel Colonial and the Hotel Victoria, in Nassau, and to run a regular winter service between Nassau and Miami. The Bahamas will enjoy a ten-day service with New York by the Ward Line during the coming season. In addition to these services, a new service between Canada and the Bahamas, Jamaica, and British Honduras, provided for by the Canada West Indies Trade Agreement, is expected to commence before the end of the year. Another service with Jacksonville will be inaugurated as soon as suitable steamships are secured, and there are rumours of smaller services with Florida. The Development Board has invited representatives of the United Fruit Company to visit Nassau, and it is hoped that this or some other steamship company may also be induced to call at the Bahamas, so the prospects of the colony as a winter resort are brighter than ever.

Trade between the United Kingdom and the Bahamas via Jamaica, is rapidly increasing, and freight may now be shipped on through bills of lading by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

Proposals for the erection of a new electric light plant and ice-making machinery are now before the Legislature and the *Nassau Guardian* believes that the contract will be entered into at once for the early erection of the plant at a cost of about £60,000.

## Barbados War Memorial.

The rainfall for the year is still short, though the weather in July was, on the whole, favourable. Several war memorial schemes are on the tapis, the Advisory Committee appointed by the Governor favouring a monument (or cenotaph), to cost £5,000, and the conversion of Queen's College into a Sailors' Club (£5,000), the college being transferred to Grassfield, at a cost, including land and building, of £35,000.

## Schoonord Plantation Changes Hands.

The Government are inviting applications for 132,000 five per cent. Debentures to be issued at par under the Public Loan Ordinance of 1916, the loan being required to meet the cost of carrying out the most urgently-needed sea defence works. Interest will be at 5 per cent. It is noteworthy, in this connection, that Trinidad's recent £1,000,000 Loan, bearing interest at 6 per cent., has been largely over-subscribed. The Rev. W. B. Kimber, acting Rector of St. George's Cathedral, has been nominated to take the place of Canon Row, who has left the colony, on the Poor Law Board.

In the Bill to protect their interests in the colony, the Boy Scouts have a measure all to themselves, providing penalties to the extent of a month's hard labour for those who falsely claim connection with the Association.

At the 110th half-yearly meeting of the Hand-in-Hand Mutual Guarantee Fire Insurance Company, the chairman, the Hon. A. P. Sherlock, reported the largest number of claims since 1913, amounting in all to \$21,212.



To counterbalance this, however, there was a net increase of 129 policies. The Company have lent \$50,000 to the New Amsterdam Town Council towards the latter's scheme for the improvement of the water supply and electric lighting. A dividend of 3 per cent. was paid for the half-year. The Corentyne electors have decided to summon a meeting, at which the Hon. P. N. Browne is to be asked to preside, to discuss the future policy of the Government in relation to irrigation and drainage. The action commenced by Mr. E. B. Walcott against Philomena Pereira, M. G. Henriques, and E. J. de Freitas, relating to the transfer of Le Ressourcenir & Humphrey, Ltd., shares, has been abandoned. Plantation Schoonord, on the west bank of the Demerara River, the property of Mr. Barr Fryer, of London, has, according to the *Argosy*, been acquired by a local syndicate at a purchase price of approximately \$960,000. The estate has an acreage of about 1,000, the greater portion of which is under cultivation. The Sweetenham shooting cup has been won by the Jamaica team with a score of 743 points out of a possible 845. Trinidad, the holders, being the runners' up.

#### The British Honduras Income Tax.

The Income-tax Ordinance, which received the Governor's assent on July 28th, provides for a graduated tax ranging from 5 cents on every 10 dollars of income beyond \$1,000 to 2 dollars on every 10 dollars beyond \$50,000, an Assessment Committee of three public officers to be appointed by the Governor, who, acting in Council, may remit the whole or part of the tax payable by any person, if satisfied that it would be equitable to do so. There is no provision for any other rebate. The Ordinance will come into operation on a day to be fixed by Proclamation.

The *Gazette* notifies the appointment of Messrs. Woodward, Wright & Co. as the Government's Commercial Agents at New Orleans. The Rev. Bernard Abelung has been nominated by the Governor a member of the Board of Education. The colony's revenue up to the end of February this year was £942,763, which represents an increase of £319,111 over the revenue for the same period of the preceding year, and an increase of £306,338 over the estimated figures. The expenditure was £852,558.

#### Sugar Prices in Dominica.

By Proclamation, issued on July 29th of last month, the retail price of white granulated sugar in Dominica has been raised from £s. 0j. 6d. to £s. 2d. per lb.

The Agricultural Department is offering lime seedlings at 5s. per 100, grafted mango plants at 4s. each, and budded citrus plants at 1s. each.

The report of the local women's Self-Help Association, of which Mrs. Woodward is the moving spirit, shows that that body is in a flourishing condition.

#### Mr. P. J. Dean Leaves Grenada.

Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Dean left Grenada for good on July 25th. Mr. Dean was for many years a member of the Legislative Council and Hon. Correspondent to the West India Committee. Mr. Dean was entertained at the St. George's Club on the eve of his departure, and he and his wife will be greatly missed. The business of Martin, Dean & Co., with which he was identified for so long, has been acquired by Messrs. G. & H. Huggins & Co.

The programme for the Prince of Wales's visit will include the reception of His Royal Highness at the wharf by the Governor, the Administrators of St. Lucia and St. Vincent, the Chief Justice, the members of both Councils, the Chairmen of the District Boards, and the clergy. At the Court House, addresses will be read by the Hon. W. S. Comings, C.M.G., Senior Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, Colonel W. Davidson-Houston, C.M.G., and Mr. S. Joyce Thomas, the Administrators of St. Lucia and St. Vincent respectively. The

Prince, having replied, and presentations having been made, will proceed to the Market Square, where school children will sing "God Bless the Prince of Wales." With his Staff he will then drive, via Melville-street, to Sendall Tunnel, Carenage, Tyrrel and Lucas streets to Government House. From there he will drive to the Grand Etang, which King George visited in 1879 with his brother on the occasion of the cruise of H.M.S. *Bacchante*. Luncheon at Government House will be followed by a garden party, and the day will end with a reception on board H.M.S. *Renown*.

The announcement of the termination of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's service was received on July 21st.

The *West Indian* reports that a resolution protesting against the Seditious Publications Ordinance was moved by Mr. Spoor, M.P., seconded by Mr. H. B. Morgan, and carried unanimously, at the twentieth conference of the Labour Party in England recently.

Our contemporary the *West Indian* of July 30th publishes the following editorial note:—"We have not heard whether the members of the Agricultural and Commercial Society are making any effort to send a donation to the West India Committee, London, in aid of their Endowment Fund. In times of anxiety the Committee in London have been appealed to for help, and not once nor twice in this rough island's story have the Committee rendered valuable help. The Committee will certainly help again. It is now our time to help. The Trinidad papers are recommending to the Government the voting of a sum to the West India Committee as has been done in the case of a certain colony. In one way or the other Grenada should be associated with this act of gratitude."

#### Prædial Larceny in Jamaica.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society—"Our People's Parliament," as Sir John Pringle called it—the eternal question of prædial larceny or theft of the growing crops was discussed. The Society made the following recommendations to the Government—(1) A strict enforcement of the vagrancy law to handle habitual idlers. (2) Habitual thieves and vagrants to be sent to land settlements chosen, where cultivation could be done. (3) Flogging at police-stations for the second offence, and thereafter sending them to the land settlements.

It was argued that flogging always reduced prædial larceny among adults, and that thirty-five years ago, when flogging was tried in the Chupelton market, prædial larceny cases dropped from 300 at one Court to ten at the next.

(4) Indenturing younger vagrants to planters under control of the Immigration Department.

(5) Trying armed guards as an experiment.

(6) Generally, trying one experiment after another until an effective method was hit out.

#### St. Lucia's Government Lime Factory.

Mr. E. Bucknire is acting as Agricultural Superintendent in the absence on leave of Mr. Archibald J. Brooks. Owing to the loss of a large quantity of lime-juice in transit to England, the Government factory met with a total deficit of £100 on the working of the 1918-19 crop, which will probably be met from the Reserve Fund.

Mrs. Louis Mallet Paret died on July 8th, at the age of fifty. She was a daughter of the late Mr. Joseph Goodman, one of the foremost planters of the island.

#### Cotton in St. Vincent.

Ideal weather throughout the colony is recorded by the *St. Vincent Times* of July 22nd, which adds that cotton planted in May was flowering on several estates. The acreage under this crop exceeds that of last year.



Cane-cultivation was looking well. The food situation has been causing some anxiety.

#### Trinidad's £1,000,000 6 per Cent. Loan.

Following on the recent statement by Mr. Marwood, the General Manager of the Railway, with special reference to complaints regarding the railway service, there is now published the Administration Report of the railway for the year 1918. It really does seem a waste of time and money to publish a long report in detail, such as this one, nineteen months after the final date to which it refers. We cannot be expected to be interested, for instance, in the progress of works which have been completed over twelve months ago. Another more up to date document is the Administration Report of the Acting Veterinary Surgeon for the year ending December 31st, 1919, which is quite refreshingly recent. The control of disease among animals is a matter of so much importance, especially in a tropical country, that it is very pleasing to read how satisfactory present conditions are. It is noted that 5,679 animals were received more than the total of 1918, notwithstanding the higher cost of freight. Not a single case of anthrax was found in cattle imported from Venezuela, whilst periodical vaccination against this malady continues to be carried out on all estates that have had previous outbreaks, and this disease has not made any further appearance. The colony has also been free from swine fever, due no doubt to the increased attention which has been paid to the sanitation of piggeries. Only one case of glanders and farcy appeared, which was promptly dealt with. Neither rabies nor tuberculosis has been observed for many years now, and the colony has been free from all other contagious diseases among animals. This very satisfactory state of affairs is one upon which Dr. Charles N. Boissière, the acting Government veterinary surgeon, may be congratulated, and reflects much credit upon him. Dr. Boissière has now been acting to the complete satisfaction of the planting and other communities for something like two years, and he has had long practical experience. There is a rumour that he is about to be supplanted by a junior from the Old Country. There is a general feeling amongst all who know this officer's capacity that the best interests of animal life in the colony would be well protected if he is confirmed in the appointment for which he has proved himself so distinctly qualified.

The Royal Mail Company have announced that with the departure of the *Arzila* from England, the regular sailings of their steamships to the West Indies will cease. Simultaneously with this announcement, the Royal Dutch Mail have issued a new time-table covering a three weeks' passenger and cargo service by their fine steamers between here and Amsterdam, calling at Havre and Dover. The steamers of this line have become very popular amongst passengers both ways, but it seems a pity that our very old and pleasant connection with the British Line should cease, and it seems strange that it should be replaced by a foreign company plying in those waters presumably at a profit, when the British Line, with all its connections and facilities, only meets loss.

Our £1,000,000 loan will close to-day. Up to last night it had been over-subscribed by £405,000.

The latest news of the Prince of Wales is that he will arrive here on September 22nd instead of the 29th. Amongst other items forming the programme of welcome will be a special display of Pain's fireworks specially imported with an expert operator for the purpose. The old ugly Prince's Buildings, which was run up in a hurry in 1862, to house Prince Alfred, then a midshipman, who, after all, never came, is being burnished up for the reception of the former sailor Prince's great nephew, will hardly know itself when covered with a new coat of clean paint and whitewash.

Telegraphic communication has at last been restored. All the interrupted portions of the line have been re-

paired by the chartered boat *Viking*. The finishing touches are now being put upon the Company's own boat, the *Henry Holmes*, and she is expected to be turned out ready for immediate work just about the time when there will be nothing for her to do. Complaints have been frequent with regard to shortcomings of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, but a good deal of sympathy is due to them for the long run of misfortune which they have sustained. There can be no doubt that during the long period of interruption they have used their best efforts to improve matters as far as was humanly possible under the conditions which have existed since their own boat was unfortunately placed at Trinidad for repairs.

Mr. Tripp, writing on August 4th, records the promotion of Mr. G. C. Deane from Stipendiary Magistrate of Port-of-Spain to the Second Puisne Judgeship of the Supreme Court, *vice* Mr. Blackwood Wright resigned. The new Judge had a distinguished career both at Harrison's College Barbados, and subsequently at Oxford, and was called to the Bar in 1898. He has acted as Puisne Judge on several occasions, when he has shown marked ability and capacity for the position. The appointment will be welcome both in and out of the profession.

At a special sitting of the Legislative Council held yesterday the report of the Hon. H. B. Wallcott on the Canada-West Indies Trade Conference, together with the agreement signed at Ottawa, was presented. The agreement, on the whole, seems to be mutually satisfactory, although it is to be regretted that we have not yet heard quite the last of the Dutch Colour Standard, for, whilst a concession has been made to the extent that the polariscope test is to be applied to the assessment of sugar duties, the Dutch standard will be retained when the question of preference arises.

The proposed arrangements with regard to the steamship and cable services are excellent, and come forward at a most reasonable period. In connection with the cable service, it is melancholy to record that, before we have had time to get accustomed once more to communication with the outside world, it is announced that the line between Porto Rico and Jamaica is interrupted, cutting off once more our connection with Europe and the United States, except subject to the delay of transmission by foreign lines at considerable extra expense. The latest information regarding the unfortunate cable ship *Henry Holmes* is that the completion of her repairs here will not be effected until September 15th, when she will sail for St. Thomas to take in cable stores, &c.

The subscription list of the Million Pound Loan closed at £1,506,320, of which £659,270 was in the name of outside colonies, &c., amongst whom our wealthy neighbour Barbados figures for £588,000. Trinidad applied for £847,050. Applications up to £2,000 will be allotted in full; over that amount *pro rata*. The following table gives the allocations to the other West Indian colonies:—

Colony.	Amount Applied for.	Amount Allotted
Barbados	£588,000	£387,480
St. Vincent	21,300	16,030
Antigua	8,560	7,770
St. Lucia	15,750	11,770
Demerara	14,700	9,430
St. Kitts	9,700	8,120
Dominica	50	50
Venezuela	1,000	1,000

The weather is still too dry, although not generally unfavourable for cultivation. A serious fact, however, remains that for the first time within memory it is necessary in August to cut off the water supply of Port of Spain for several hours daily. It is needless to say how serious is the position before us.



**THE WEST INDIAN VISITORS LIST.**

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. By doing so they will facilitate the forwarding of their correspondence. Among those at present registered are:—

- Sir Henry A. Alcazar.  
 Mr. J. W. Arbuckle  
 Mr. A. Balderamos  
 Mr. P. A. A. Hartlett  
 Mr. G. B. Bodkin  
 Mr. B. Bonyun  
 Mr. M. J. Howell  
 Rev. J. B. Brindley  
 Mr. G. S. Browne  
 Mr. James Brown  
 Mr. H. Bryson  
 Hon. E. C. Huck, M.I.C.E.  
 Mr. E. A. Bogle  
 Mr. A. Cameron  
 Hon. J. B. Cassels, M.B.E.  
 Sir W. K. Chandler, K.C.M.G.  
 Mr. W. H. Coke  
 Mr. J. A. C. Cullymore, M.B.E.  
 Mr. F. A. Corea  
 Mr. Robert Craig  
 Mr. J. d'Almeida  
 Prof. J. F. d'Albuquerque  
 Hon. B. J. Davis  
 Hon. P. J. Dean  
 Mr. J. T. de la Mothe  
 Mr. A. L. Delgado  
 Mr. Lionel De Mervado  
 Mr. Carl De Verteuil  
 Mr. G. G. C. Dewar  
 Mr. G. P. Dawar  
 Mr. James Dougal  
 Mr. C. G. B. Elvay  
 Mr. G. Farmer  
 Mr. J. M. Fleming  
 Dr. W. H. Fritz  
 Mrs. M. C. Garnett  
 Mr. B. P. Gibbs  
 Mr. B. Gill  
 Mr. J. O. Gillespie  
 Dr. C. J. Gomes  
 Sir G. Aubrey Goodman  
 Mr. E. H. Grant  
 Mr. Albert T. Hammond  
 Mr. Ronald I. Harvey  
 Mr. E. P. Haughton-James  
 Mrs. E. Haynes  
 Mr. W. G. Hendriks  
 Mr. E. E. C. Homsack  
 Mr. S. M. Jacobsen  
 Mr. F. E. W. G. Anstie, "Compton Manor," near Winchester, Hants.  
 Dr. E. Bunnister, c/o. Wilkinson and Gaviller, 34, Great Tower Street, E.C.  
 Mr. N. P. Birch, 10, Fremantle Square, Cotham, Bristol  
 Mr. Archibald J. Brooks, "Melrose," The Noods, Swindon, Wilts.  
 Mr. Nam Browne, Durrant's Hotel, Manchester Square, W.  
 Mr. G. J. Christian, The West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W.  
 Mr. A. Somers Cocks, 61, Queensborough Terrace, W.2.  
 Mr. A. K. Craig, c/o. C. B. Hamilton, Esq., C.M.G., "Orleston," Purley.  
 Mr. Frank Candall, F.S.A., c/o. The Royal Colonial Institute, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.1.  
 Major J. T. Dew, V.D., c/o. Mrs. Le Breton, 34, Nevill Sq., Earl's Court, S.W.  
 Dr. E. A. Gaynes Doyle, M.R.U.S., "Westwood," 9, Hawthood Road, Boscombe, Hants.  
 Mr. G. S. Fealy, "Martinhoe," London Road, Norbury, S.W.  
 Mr. W. H. and F. H. Farquharson, South Kensington Hotel, Queen's Gate Terrace, W.  
 Miss F. A. Forsyth, 71, Queensborough Terrace, W.2.  
 Mr. E. S. D. Goodwin, c/o. Gillespie Street & Co., 82, Fenchurch St., E.C.  
 Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, Craig Castle, Rhynie, nr. Gartly, Aberdeenshire.  
 Hon. L. B. Grant, c/o. B. T. Turnbull and Co., 4, Lloyd's Avenue, E.C.  
 Mr. J. T. Greg, The Grey House, Bear's Hill, Oxford.  
 Hon. S. T. Harrison, C.M.G., c/o. Sir C. H. McGregor, Bart., & Co., 5, Fenton Street, Haymarket, W.  
 Mr. W. Lindsay Haynes, 28, Nevill Square, Earl's Court, S.W.  
 Mr. W. G. Hendricks, 32-3, York Place, Portman Square, W.  
 Mr. C. C. Henriques, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.  
 Mr. Thomas W. Innes, 32, Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James's Park, S.W.  
 Mr. E. B. Jago, Valentines School, Ilford, Essex.  
 Dr. W. M. Johnson, "Martinhoe," London Road, Norbury, S.W.  
 Mr. Archibald Johnston, Ivy Bank, Bressingham Avenue, Rutherglen.  
 Mr. G. Laffite, 23, Nevill Square, Earl's Court, S.W.  
 Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., Knocklow, Toward Arrylshire.  
 Mr. E. K. Lane, 11, Crescent Road, Beckenham, Kent.  
 Mr. J. J. Law, Whitehall Hotel, 18-20, Montague Street, W.C.  
 Mr. Dudley G. Lessock, Kensington Palace Mansions, De Vere Gardens, W.  
 Mr. J. C. Macintyre, 24, Gordon Street, Gordon Square, W.C.  
 Mr. D. E. Mackenzie, 44, Marchmont Road, Edinburgh.  
 Mr. W. E. Mandeville, c/o The Colonial Bank, 29, Gracechurch St., E.C.  
 Mr. G. S. Manning, Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James Park, S.W.  
 Mr. W. Mearns, 39, Carlton Place, Aberdeen.  
 Mr. E. Carroll Pratt, 3, Grand Drive, Leigh-on-Sea.  
 Mr. S. B. Robinson, Berners Hotel, Berners Street.  
 Mr. T. Gordon Ross, Dunkirk House, Dunkirk, nr. Faversham, Kent.  
 Mr. F. D. Rowe, York Court Hotel, Baker Street, W.  
 Mr. W. Sanderson, Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue, W.C. 2.  
 Mr. Ivan J. Scott, 5, Carlton Gardens, Ealing, W.

- Hon. W. Coke Kerr  
 Mr. F. G. B. King  
 Mr. C. Hope Levy  
 Mr. M. Malden  
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 Mr. H. Mason  
 Mr. G. C. Mc. F. May  
 Mr. U. H. McClean  
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 Mr. E. A. Robinson  
 Mr. C. Paul Rojas  
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 Mr. H. D. Sondaniore  
 Mr. C. W. Sealy  
 Mr. J. B. D. Sellier  
 Mr. E. H. Skeete  
 Mr. E. L. Skeete  
 Mr. O. P. Skeete  
 Miss Small  
 Major the Hon. B. S. Stedman  
 Mr. J. B. Stiven  
 Mr. S. W. Varder  
 Mr. A. L. Vaughan  
 Hon. B. A. S. Warner, K.C.  
 Mr. E. G. Hart Wood  
 Mr. Harold Wright  
 Mr. W. H. Yearwood

- Mr. W. M. B. Shields, c/o. H. K. Dawson & Co., 79, Mark Lane, E.C.  
 Mr. T. T. Snellicke, c/o. H. K. Dawson & Co., 79, Mark Lane, E.C.  
 Mr. M. Howard Smith, Durrant's Hotel, Manchester Square, W.  
 Mr. E. E. H. Thorne, Berners Hotel, Berners Street, W.  
 Mr. Arthur L. Vaughan, Dryden House, Wimbledon Common, S.W. 19, and c/o. Shelton and Schofield, 19, Martin Lane, E.C. 4.  
 Mr. Athelston Watson, 25, Elgin Park, Redland, Bristol.  
 Mr. Alfred F. White, c/o. The Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates, Ltd., 10, Lloyd's Avenue, E.C. 3.  
 Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, c/o. Wilkinson & Gaviller, 34, Great Tower Street.  
 Hon. G. Williams, c/o. S. Dobree & Sons, 7, Moorgate Street, E.C.  
 Mr. H. Aubrey Williams, Astor Hotel, Princes Square, Baywater, W.

**WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.**

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, Ltd.—Sailings to West Indies from London, August 25th, per R.M.S.P. *Quillota*:—

- |                                    |                           |  |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Dr. H. M. Alston                   | Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Hobson | Miss H. E. Sanders                     |
| Mr. G. G. Harnard                  | Mr. J. M. Howlett         | Mrs. A. Smith                          |
| Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Hayley & family | Mr. W. D. Iuniga          | Miss A. Smith                          |
| Miss B. M. Bennett                 | Mr. S. Jardine            | Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Stoddart            |
| Capt. J. N. Dentzen                | Mr. G. H. Jones           | Miss K. Stoddart                       |
| Mr. & Mrs. M. Bird                 | Mr. E. C. L. Lewis        | Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Thowson             |
| Mr. S. Ewing Chow                  | Mr. Lewis Lewis           | Mr. and Mrs. J. M. L. Todd             |
| Miss Dorland                       | Miss Dorothy Lewis        | Mr. J. Todd                            |
| Mr. and Mrs. H. Drummond and Son   | Sir Alfred Lucie Smith    | Rev. W. B. Townsend                    |
| Mrs. O. A. Fairbairn               | Mr. A. MacKeuzie          | Mrs. K. H. Tulloch                     |
| Mr. Farajallah Farah               | Mr. J. MacKeuzie          | Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Valladares & family |
| Mr. W. Francis                     | Mrs. Mackinnon & Juff     | Miss E. M. Wakefield                   |
| Mr. W. A. Gaslin                   | Mrs. H. C. L. McLean      | Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Whilly              |
| Mr. J. Gopaljee                    | Mr. H. J. V. Matthews     | Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Wright              |
| Dr. B. L. Gooding                  | Mrs. F. E. Mauro          |  |
| Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Harcourt        | Mr. G. Nettinho           |  |
| Mr. O. Hurley                      | Mr. E. A. Parker          |  |
| Mr. T. D. E. Hill                  | Mr. & Mrs. B. C. Pook     |  |
|                                    | Miss Pook                 |  |
|                                    | Miss Lucretia Bivers      |  |

Royal Netherland West India Mail.—Home arrivals from Trinidad, Havre, August 18th, per s.s. *Van Rensselaer*:—

- |                                     |                          |                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. D. Barhoq and 2 children | Miss A. E. Glendinning   | Mr. A. McDonald      |
| Mr. Stanley de Freitas              | Mr. Harold E. L. Hoestou | Mrs. Marie Poulonais |
| Mrs. M. de la Mothe and child       | Mr. Frank McIntosh       | Mr. John H. Kaysay   |
| Miss Nelly de Verteuil              | and child                | Mrs. Grace Woolworth |
|                                     | Mr. Chas. Nettinho       |                      |

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, August 10th, per s.s. *Coronata* (Commander W. T. Forrester, O.B.E.):—

- |                                       |                         |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mr. T. L. Aitken                      | Mr. E. V. Grace & fam.  | Mr. & Mrs. S. Suprowaki              |
| Miss A. E. Bartlett                   | Master J. Hallam        | The Rt. Hon. Sir John and Lady Simon |
| Capt. & Mrs. Chadleigh and 3 children | Mr. F. W. Harris        | Mr. F. G. Steel                      |
| Mr. A. Cook                           | Mr. G. E. Howlett       | Mr. C. Taylor                        |
| Staff Nurse F. Curphy                 | Mrs. B. E. Lewis & fam. | Mr. F. A. Thomas                     |
| Master A. W. Foot                     | Mr. N. B. Livingston    | Mr. F. Webb                          |
| Mr. V. Forero                         | Mr. W. A. Longmore      | Miss J. Wilson                       |
| Master H. P. Forrester                | Mrs. R. M. Mays         | Mr. & Mrs. B. Wilson                 |
| Mr. & Mrs. W. Gamble                  | Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Owen   |                                      |

Home arrivals from Jamaica, Avonmouth, August 16th, per s.s. *Patuca*:—

- |                             |                            |                         |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Miss E. Bolton              | Mr. W. A. Helme            | Rev. G. E. Purp         |
| Mr. H. Davidson             | Miss I. Hope (maid)        | Lord William Percy      |
| Mrs. J. J. Dietz            | Mr. & Mrs. D. O. Kelly     | Mr. H. J. Phillpotts    |
| Mr. & Mrs. Jna. Dougall     | Lawson                     | Miss M. I. Pike         |
| Miss P. M. Dougall          | Miss F. Kelly-Lawson       | Miss A. E. Purberry     |
| Mr. D. Grant                | Mr. T. D. Kemp             | Miss E. Reid (nurse)    |
| Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Groswell | Mrs. O. Lambert            | Mr. E. M. Sanguinetti   |
| Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Gouset   | Master A. Lambert          | Mr. A. C. Sleep         |
| Mrs. F. W. Harcourt         | Mr. K. McCormack           | Lieut.-Col. H. W. Joynt |
|                             | Mrs. B. O'Toole and infant | Miss G. Joynt           |
|                             |                            | Miss F. Woodroffe       |

Home arrivals from Jamaica, Avonmouth, August 21st, per R.M.S. *Canina*:—

- |                                  |                      |                     |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Miss M. I. Brandy                | Mrs. J. W. Griffin   | Mr. G. Kantariowicz |
| Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Coke and family | Miss C. Hay          | Mr. C. Kynaston     |
| Mr. C. Delgadillo                | Mr. A. Hinkel        | Mr. A. H. Robinson  |
| Mr. J. C. Delgadillo             | Mr. C. L. Hinkel     | Mr. & Mrs. J. Simms |
| Mrs. J. G. Dawar                 | Lt. Col. W. A. Jones | Miss M. Weymouth    |

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, August 24th, per s.s. *Patuca* (Commander F. H. Swain):—

- |                    |  |                                     |
|--------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Mr. S. H. Goodhew  | Scoutmaster D. A. Mc-Corkell & 24 scouts | Hrig. Gen. E. Moulton-Barrett, C.B. |
| Capt. J. L. Gordon |  | Mr. & Mrs. H. Whittles              |
| Mr. J. Magee       | Mr. & Mrs. A. Mejia                      |                                     |



## PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—Central 6642.  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."



15, SKETCHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.  
Sept. 1st, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 7 per cent., as from April 15th.

**EXCHANGE** on New York, \$3.54-\$3.56.

**SUGAR.** Control prices as from August:—

	For Grocery.		For Manu- facturing. Wholesale per cwt.
	Wholesale per cwt.	Retail per lb.	
Culics, Loaf Sugar ... ..	116s.	1s. 2½d.	144s.
W.I. Grocery Crystallised (See below)	112s.	1s. 2d.	140s.
W.I. Muscovado, W.I. Grocery Syrups (See below)	95s. 9d.	1s.	97s.

The discount is 1½ per cent.

Jellies, lumps and other low grade sugars for manufacturing only are uncontrolled. "Free" sugar for domestic preserving is issued at 140s. per cwt. wholesale, and 1s. 5½d. per lb. retail, which are now the maximum "reasonable" prices for licensed "free" sugar.

On September 6th next, pursuant to the arrangement arrived at on August 6th, when a deputation of the West India Committee waited on the Food Minister, West India grocery sugars (crystallised, muscovado, and syrups) will be free for all purposes subject to the maximum "reasonable" price fixed from time to time, and now 140s. per cwt. These West India sugars will have to compete with refiners' "yellow crystals" and pieces.

Meanwhile the Cane Sugar Grading Committee has experienced some difficulty in placing the 10,000 tons of West India sugar, for the disposal of which the Royal Commission made itself responsible under the agreement referred to above. This is attributed to the unwillingness of the grocers to accept numerous small contracts through channels to which they are now accustomed, and to certain refiners circularising their clients as to their intention to offer their "yellow crystals" below the price of white sugar after September 6th.

Early in August the raws in New York remained weak, owing to the poor demand for refined, the market for which Willett & Gray refer to under date August 5th as being in a "badly overbought condition." Speculators have been endeavouring to place on the unresponsive American market odd consignments of white sugar from almost every part of the world.

In Europe, crop conditions are reported to be favourable, but producers are faced with many difficulties in respect especially of fuel and labour. It is announced that Germany has intimated her intention of withdrawing from the Brussels Convention as from September 1st next, which would appear to be a work of super-erogation, as that agreement has long since been regarded as at an end.

The West India Sugar statistics in London on August 21st were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	
Imports ... ..	39,490	84,416	20,669	Tons.
Deliveries ... ..	29,760	28,444	25,635	"
Stock ... ..	17,866	12,164	6,121	"

**CACAO.** The market is still very quiet and prices show a further decline. Trinidad middling red is quoted at 90s. (as compared with 125s. at same date in 1919), and Grenada fair, 80s.

The stocks in London on August 21st were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	
Trinidad ... ..	55,092	40,265	7,782	Bags
Grenada ... ..	29,755	17,049	12,328	"
Total of all kinds ...	306,868	151,836	103,326	"

**RUM.** Unchanged. There have been some small sales of good home trade quality Jamaicas (1919 distillation) at 11s., and 1920 rums of similar character are valued at about 1s. less.

The stocks in London on August 21st were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	
Jamaica ... ..	11,643	6,684	4,886	Tons.
Demerara ... ..	12,884	14,280	6,943	"
Total of all kinds ...	34,438	26,168	16,344	"

**ARROWROOT** continues very dull with an easy tendency. At auction, 150 barrels were bought in, and private business is very small.

**BALATA.** The market shows a little firmer tendency. West India sheet, forward shipment, 4s. 3½d. to 4s. 4d.; spot, 4s. 7½d.

**COFFEE.** Home trade kinds are in fair demand, and full values can be obtained for good qualities. Imports of West Indian to July, 3,461 cwt.

**COPRA** is steadily quiet with a good undertone. West Indian f.m.s. is quoted at £54 10s. c.i.f. London, and £55 c.i.f. Holland.

**COTTON.** West Indian Sea Island is neglected. The nominal quotations are 75d. for medium, and 90d. for fine. Imports in the thirty-five weeks ending August 26th, 6,883 bales.

**HONEY.** The large supplies offered at last auction were neglected. A few casks of Jamaica sold for 80s. to 85s. for good pale.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** Lime Oil: Handpressed and Distilled are quoted nominally at 25s. per lb. and 6s. 6d. per lb. respectively, and Raw lime juice at 3s. to 3s. 6d. per gallon. There is still no enquiry for these articles.

**LOGWOOD.** There is very little business passing; nominal value £19 per ton.

**ORANGE OIL.** Sweet. Value 30s., but very quiet. Bitter is not wanted.

**SPICES.** Nutmegs were pressed for sale at auction and sold at 2d. decline. Sound small nuts went for 7d. 7½d., and large up to 10½d. Mace is rather easier, and there is no demand for Jamaica Ginger. There is a small business in Pimento on the spot at 4d., with sellers at the price.

## WEST INDIAN STEAMER SAILINGS.

The following outward steamer sailings to the West Indies are advertised:—

To	From	Packet.	Sailing.
Jamaica	Bristol	Changuinola	Sept. 7
Trinidad	Dover	Van Rensselaer	Sept. 9
West Indies	London	Settler	Sept. 10
R'dos & T'dad	Liverpool	Antillian	Sept. 11
Jamaica	Bristol	Hayano	Sept. 14
West Indies	St. Nazaire	Péron	Sept. 20
West Indies	Liverpool	Statesman	Sept. 21
Trinidad	Dover	Crynsen	Sept. 30
West Indies	Halifax	Chaudiere	Oct. 1
West Indies	Halifax	Chaleur	Oct. 15

The above dates are only approximate.

Negotiations regarding the West Indian transatlantic passenger steamer service are continuing, and it is hoped that a favourable conclusion may be arrived at in the near future.

## DEATH.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is 3/8 for three lines, and 1/- for each additional line.  
**BROMLEY.**—On August 14th, Thomas Anthony Valentine Berkeley, younger and sole surviving son of John and Anne Bromley, of 20, Manchester-street, W. and Shitwell, St. Kitts, B.W.I.



# The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXV.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1920.

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No. 573.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone:  
CENTRAL 6642.



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams:  
CABIB, LONDON.

Sept. 16th, 1920.

### THE ENDOWMENT FUND AND THE FUTURE.

IT is just a year since Mr. H. A. TROTTER, the then Deputy Chairman, on the occasion of the banquet given to the members of the British Guiana Colonisation Deputation, at the Holborn Restaurant, announced the intention of the West India Committee to raise an Endowment Fund to enable it to extend and develop its work, and to secure better premises. An appeal for contributions, signed by Mr. RUTHERFORD, the Chairman, and other officers of the Committee, was issued two months later, and, with a view to enlisting support in the West Indies, Mr. ASPHALL subsequently visited those colonies. We are now able to announce with very great satisfaction that the minimum total of £20,000 which the Executive set out to collect has been received, and that the total of the Endowment Fund has now reached £22,818, which is being invested in the British 5 per cent War Loan as opportunity offers. We join with the Executive in cordially thanking all who have helped to bring about this eminently

gratifying result, which incidentally may be regarded as a vote of confidence in the West India Committee by the communities for which it is working, inasmuch as many of the West Indian colonies, besides the members of the Committee, figure among the contributors. In this connection, mention must be made of the Governments of the Bahamas, Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras and Jamaica, whose Legislative Council unanimously voted £2,000 towards the Fund. Many private firms and individuals have also contributed generously according to their means, and we endorse the hope which has been expressed that when the list of contributors is published in the near future it will include the names of nearly all, if not all, the members of the West India Committee, and also the Governments of Trinidad and Tobago, and the Leeward and Windward Islands, which have not so far participated. Since the appeal was first issued the cost of living generally has increased to a remarkable degree in the United Kingdom, and, though the Committee have been able to carry out the first part of their programme—the appointment of an Assistant Secretary—they are not yet in a position to secure the improved and more commodious premises which formed the second part, owing to the extraordinary increase in rents in the City of London, which have risen from 300 to 400 per cent. in the last few months. In the circumstances it should be emphasised that the £20,000 for which they appealed was a *minimum* figure, and we must express the hope that the completion of that figure will not preclude those members and others interested who have not already done so from contributing towards the Fund, which will remain open. With regard to the new premises, we have received many interesting and valuable suggestions, and we hope to receive more. All are agreed that the new "Rooms" should be equipped with a very complete West Indian reference library, and a Bureau from which information regarding the West Indies, their industries and openings for settlers and capitalists, and amenities for tourists could be disseminated.



Some suggest that the new premises should have complete duplicate sets of exhibits of West Indian produce, which would enable the West Indies to be represented at exhibitions in this country at short notice. Others suggest the Committee should have "show windows," on the lines of those maintained by various Provinces or States of the Dominions, in some prominent position, where a permanent exhibition of all kinds of West Indian commodities and views of West Indian scenery could be displayed, and though this, under present conditions, with rentals at £1 to £1 5s. per square foot per annum (which is being asked and paid), would involve a very large outlay of money, this attractive suggestion is not one to be dismissed lightly. Certain it is that if any of the West Indian colonies should decide to embark upon a campaign of publicity, the West India Committee, with its organisation already in existence, could carry it out more economically, and, we would venture to add, with greater prospects of success than any other body starting *ab initio* could hope to attain. But all these questions will have to be considered during the ensuing year, and, as far as the Committee is concerned, everything must necessarily depend upon the extent of the financial support which it receives. While, therefore, congratulating the Committee which we represent upon their achievement in raising no less than £22,818 within ten months, we must remind our readers that the Endowment Fund will remain open, and it is our earnest hope that the substantial sum already contributed will eventually prove to be the nucleus of a far larger amount which will enable the Committee to develop and carry on with increasing vigour its work on behalf of the West Indian colonies whose best interests it is its desire to serve.

#### Jamaica's Historian.

**K**NOWN to be a prolific writer, MR. FRANK CUNDALL, the cultured Secretary and Librarian of the Jamaica Institute, has quite outstripped our capacity to keep pace with the output of his facile pen, and we have before us as we write no fewer than three of his publications awaiting the attention which they so well deserve. These are the "Handbook of Jamaica for 1920," "Jamaica in 1920," and "Jamaica Under the Spaniards."\* For the first time MR. CUNDALL appears as sole compiler of the handbook, MR. JOSEPH FORD, who for the previous thirteen years was his co-editor, having dropped out upon his resignation of the post of Superintendent of the Government Printing Office — and, incidentally, we must compliment MR. FORD

upon having been so successfully associated with this standard work for no fewer than twenty-two years. "The Handbook of Jamaica" is so well known that it scarcely calls for any further encomiums, and it will suffice to say that it is by far the most complete and accurate of the many books of the kind published in the West Indian Colonies. Besides the copious information of the kind essential to all having business dealings with the island, the directory of estates, the chronological history, and the record of war services which it contains, to mention a few features only, indicate sufficiently clearly the comprehensive nature of the book, and a close inspection of its pages shows the painstaking care with which it has been compiled. While the handbook will make its strongest appeal to the business man, "Jamaica in 1920" caters more for intending settlers and visitors. Originally published in 1895, it has already reached six editions, which have proved of immense value, and we would venture to assert that it must have induced many to visit or settle in Jamaica. Each book has a capital map of Jamaica, the more elaborate of the two being the one which accompanies the Handbook, the differentiation showing MR. CUNDALL'S accurate sense of proportion and appreciation of the needs of his public, and it is not too much to say that to those who, like the staff of the West India Committee, are constantly being asked enigmatical questions about Jamaica and its amenities, its social life, and its opportunities, these two books will simply be invaluable. "Jamaica in 1920" has an attractive cover in colour, embracing a map of a part of the Western hemisphere with Jamaica as the hub, depicted as "an emerald gem set in a sapphire sea," and British territory shown in red. Incidentally in printing this map, a curious mistake has been made, a part of Nicaragua having been made British as well as British Honduras, which was probably due to our Central American colony having been temporarily misplaced by the geographer, or to the termination of our protectorate over a coast strip having been overlooked. By far the most important of the three works now under review from the literary and historical point of view is "Jamaica Under the Spaniards," which gives us an entirely new chapter of Jamaica history. The records available concerning Jamaica under Spanish rule have hitherto been very scanty; but in 1916 the Governors of the Institute of Jamaica were fortunate enough to secure the services of Miss WRIGHT, the authoress of the "Early History of Cuba," who supervised the transcription of the principal documents having reference to the Spanish occupation of Jamaica in the archives of Seville, and it was on these papers, which were kindly translated by the Chairman of the Board, MR. JOSEPH L. PIETERSZ (who now appears as joint author), that MR. CUNDALL'S narrative is based. To attempt to summarise the interesting information regarding the affairs of Jamaica in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, which are now for the first time made accessible to the public, would be to do the authors an injustice, for no brief extracts could convey adequately to the reader the extent of the valuable research work which has been undertaken. To all readers of the CIRCULAR the name of MR. FRANK CUNDALL, who

\* "Handbook of Jamaica for 1920," by Frank Cundall. London: Edward Stanford. "Jamaica in 1920," by Frank Cundall, F.S.A. Kingston: The Institute of Jamaica. "Jamaica Under the Spaniards," Abstracted from the Archives of Seville, by Frank Cundall, F.S.A., and Joseph Pietersz. Kingston: The Institute of Jamaica.



has been a constant contributor to our columns, will be familiar, and we are glad to learn, from the recent action of the Legislative Council in the matter that the value of the research work which he has done and is doing is receiving increased recognition. Hitherto much of MR. CUNDALL'S time has been taken up by various educational duties in no way connected with his real life-work, which has been the establishment of the Institute of Jamaica, with its wonderful library, on its present footing, and the History Gallery, with its collection of portraits and other features, and the search of West Indian records and the publication of the results in book form, as well as in pamphlets and magazines. It has been truly said that a prophet is not without honour save in his own country, and it must be admitted that in the past, though the name of CUNDALL has been a household word in the world of letters, the real services which the Secretary and Librarian of the Jamaica Institute, like the Institute itself, have rendered to the West Indies, have not been so much appreciated as they deserve to be; but we are glad to know that in future there is a probability of more generous treatment being accorded to one who has done more perhaps than any living man in unravelling the tangled skein of West Indian history, and we confess that we should like to see the Institute for which he has been so loyally working supported not only by Jamaica, but also by the other West Indian colonies which derive so much reflected advantage from it.

### ENDOWMENT FUND.

#### Minimum Total of £20,000 Exceeded.

In less than ten months since the appeal for contributions towards an Endowment Fund for the West India Committee the minimum amount of £20,000, which the Executive set out to raise, has been exceeded. To-day the actual total of the Fund is £22,818, and it is hoped that it will be carried well beyond that figure, having regard to the great increase in rents in the City of London since the appeal was first issued, which renders it impossible as yet for the Committee to secure the more convenient premises which, it will be recalled, was part of their programme of development.

The twenty-third list of contributions, which is given below, is headed by the colony of Jamaica, whose Legislative Council, as already announced, unanimously voted £2,000 towards the Fund, to which the Governments of the Bahamas, Barbados, British Guiana, and British Honduras have also subscribed. A windfall from Trinidad is also included in the form of a contribution of £1,000 from the Trinidad Merchants' and Planters' Contingent Committee. In forwarding this amount to the Secretary, Mr. George F. Huggins, O.B.E., wrote on August 14th:—

"At a meeting of my Contingent Committee yesterday, I was instructed to ask you on behalf of themselves and the entire Trinidadian community to accept an expression of recognition of the valuable services that you and your associates have rendered the West Indian soldiers,

and Trinidadian boys in particular, through the trying period of war, and they would ask you to believe that they are deeply grateful to you and all who helped you in this great work. As a further mark of the recognition of your valuable services rendered to us and our soldiers, the Committee desires me to ask you to accept as a special donation the enclosed cheque of £1,000 to go towards the West India Committee Endowment Fund, and my Committee feel that in contributing to the Fund we will be further creating a bond that will be useful in the days to come."

Other welcome additions are £741 3s., collected by the General Agricultural Society of Barbados, and £67 11s. 2d., forwarded by Mr. J. M. Gray, on behalf of contributors in St. Vincent.

In reply to several enquiries received, it may be stated that all contributions towards the Fund are being invested in the British 5 per cent. War Loan 1920-47.

As already stated, it is proposed to publish at an early date a complete list of contributions, and it is the hope of the Executive that it will include the names of all members of the West India Committee.

#### TWENTY-THIRD LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Amount previously acknowledged	£17,993	5	9
The Government of Jamaica	2,000	0	0
The Trinidad Merchants' Contingent Committee	1,000	0	0
Per the Barbados General Agricultural Society:—			
Hon. G. Laurie Pile, M.L.C.	£100	0	0
Edgecumbe Pln., per Torrance			
Skeete, Esq.	50	0	0
S. S. Robinson	50	0	0
Carrington's Factory	25	0	0
Carrington's Plantation	25	0	0
Sir F. J. Clarke, K.C.M.G.	25	0	0
F. A. C. Collymore, Esq., M.B.E.	25	0	0
S. Browne, Esq.	25	0	0
G. Sebert Evelyn, Esq.	25	0	0
Capt. A. R. F. Fellowes	25	0	0
Hon. Richard Haynes, M.L.C.	25	0	0
Law & Connell	25	0	0
H. A. Pile, Esq.	25	0	0
G. Elliott Sealy, Esq., M.C.P.	25	0	0
M. H. Smith, Esq.	25	0	0
G. C. Edghill, Esq.	20	0	0
R. P. Pile, Esq.	20	0	0
C. G. Sisnett, Esq.	15	0	0
G. Douglas Pile, Esq., M.C.P.	10	10	0
C. Bruce Austin, Esq., M.C.P.	10	0	0
W. H. Bryan, Esq.	10	0	0
Clement F. Cave, Esq.	10	0	0
R. A. Farmer, Esq.	10	0	0
Hon. A. Percy Haynes, M.L.C.	10	0	0
H. E. M. Jackman, Esq.	10	0	0
E. L. Skeete, Esq.	10	0	0
H. A. Williams, Esq.	10	0	0
Dr. C. E. Gooding	5	5	0
F. A. Layne, Esq.	5	5	0
C. M. Austin, Esq.	5	0	0
R. Challenor, Esq.	5	0	0
E. T. Cox, Esq.	5	0	0
Prof. J. P. d'Albuquerque	5	0	0
A. L. Inniss, Esq.	5	0	0
W. A. Kirton, Esq.	5	0	0
Hon. T. W. B. O'Neal, M.L.C.	5	0	0
Wm. G. Watson, Esq.	5	0	0
H. A. Bovell, Esq.	3	2	6
A. D. Gill, Esq.	3	2	6
E. Martin Haynes, Esq.	3	0	0
H. W. Lofty, Esq.	3	0	0



F. W. Mahon, Esq. ... ..	£3 0 0
C. C. Mahon, Esq. ... ..	2 10 0
D. A. Clarke, Esq. ... ..	2 1 8
F. F. C. Gill, Esq. ... ..	2 1 8
F. G. Inniss, Esq. ... ..	2 1 8
D. H. Roach, Esq. ... ..	2 1 8
F. P. Peterkin, Esq. ... ..	2 0 0
John R. Bovell, Esq. ... ..	1 1 0
E. I. Bryan, Esq. ... ..	1 1 0
C. F. Haynes, Esq. ... ..	1 1 0
W. F. H. Mandeville, Esq. ...	1 1 0
Rev. J. R. Nichola ... ..	1 1 0
T. G. Reid, Esq. ... ..	1 1 0
E. R. Springer, Esq. ... ..	1 1 0
Dr. C. W. St. John ... ..	1 1 0
G. R. Hutson, Esq. ... ..	1 0 10
H. H. Inniss, Esq. ... ..	1 0 10
F. G. B. King, Esq. ... ..	1 0 10
E. S. Mason, Esq. ... ..	1 0 10
E. G. H. Wood, Esq. ... ..	1 0 0
W. A. Yearwood, Esq. ... ..	1 0 0
C. O. Armstrong, Esq. ... ..	10 0
-- Hunt, Esq. ... ..	10 0
Capt. L. H. Nourse ... ..	10 0
W. H. A. Puckering, Esq. ...	10 0
D. E. Webster, Esq. ... ..	10 0

£741 3 0

Per J. M. Gray, Esq., J.P., St. Vincent:—

Alex. Smith, Esq., J.P. ... ..	£10 0 0
Claud A. Hadley, Esq., J.P. ...	7 0 0
J. H. Hazell, Song & Co. ... ..	6 0 0
C. J. Simmons, Esq. ... ..	6 0 0
Henry Hayward, Esq. ... ..	5 4 2
J. M. Gray, Esq., J.P. ... ..	5 0 0
Thos. Lawlor & Co. ... ..	5 0 0
Vincent Hadley, Esq. ... ..	2 0 0
J. H. Aikman, Esq. ... ..	1 1 0
E. M. Beach, Esq. ... ..	1 1 0
H. L. Ellis & Co. ... ..	1 1 0
Hon. A. M. Fraser, M.L.C. ... ..	1 1 0
Eliza Moss & Co. ... ..	1 1 0
Richards Bros. ... ..	1 1 0
Lieut. D. Allan Richards ... ..	1 1 0
George Fraser, Esq. ... ..	1 0 10
Hon. Digby Hadley, M.L.C. ...	1 0 10
A. M. Punnett, Esq. ... ..	1 0 10
J. L. Punnett, Esq. ... ..	1 0 10
J. P. Robertson, Esq. ... ..	1 0 10
Hon. J. Elliott Sprott, M.L.C. ...	1 0 10
J. M. Richards, Esq. ... ..	1 0 0
Frank Child, Esq. ... ..	10 0
Dr. H. R. Gregory ... ..	10 0
E. P. Haynes, Esq. ... ..	10 0
H. G. Hazell, Esq. ... ..	10 0
Miss Marie Moss ... ..	10 0
L. E. Murray, Esq. ... ..	10 0
C. Punnett, Esq. ... ..	10 0
J. W. Punnett, Esq. ... ..	10 0
C. Richards, Esq. ... ..	10 0
L. Richards, Esq. ... ..	10 0
George A. Robertson, Esq. ... ..	10 0
P. W. Verrall, Esq. ... ..	10 0
George Wylie, Esq. ... ..	10 0
Herman Sutherland Esq. ... ..	5 0 0

67 11 2

F. W. Biddle, Esq. ... ..	5 0 0
R. Bryson, Esq. ... ..	5 0 0
D. Morris Skinner, Esq. ... ..	5 0 0
George Noel Wattleby, Esq. ...	1 1 0

Contributions towards the West India Committee Endowment Fund may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or may be forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London.

## 319 Members Elected this Year.

No less satisfactory than the manner in which the Endowment Fund is being supported, is the way in which candidates continue to come forward for admission to the West India Committee. At a meeting of the Executive on September 2nd, forty-four new members, whose names and countries of residence are given below, were elected.

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES.
Mr. James Bird, M.I.N.A. (London)	Lt.-Col. Ivan Davson, O.B.E. Mr. A. Duckham
Mr. A. C. Linton (Montserrat)	Mr. A. D. C. Adamson Mr. K. P. Penchoen
Mr. R. G. Tugwood (London)	Mr. W. A. Boyd Mr. H. A. Bligh
Leonora, Ltd. (Liverpool)	Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co. Messrs. The Demerara Co
Mr. Gordon L. Yearwood (Trinidad)	Mr. Carl de Verteuil Mr. W. H. Yearwood
Mr. P. R. Machudo (Jamaica)	Mr. W. Morrison Mr. Archibald Spooner
Mr. Thomas Dunlop (Barbados)	Mr. Henry H. Baird Mr. W. W. Nurse
Mr. R. S. Cunliffe, B.Sc. (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp Mr. Paul Dumoret
Mr. A. F. Levitt (Barbados)	Mr. Henry H. Baird Mr. E. Martin Haynes
Mr. J. Grant McIntosh (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp Mr. Robert S. Reid
Mr. Edwin C. Moseley (Bahamas)	Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E. Capt. E. V. Solomon
The Hon. A. K. Solomon (Bahamas)	Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E. Capt. E. V. Solomon
Mrs. A. C. Robinson (Trinidad)	Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E. Hon. A. C. Robinson
Mr. Alfred W. Gordon (St. Kitts)	Major J. T. Dew, V.D. Mr. Howard Marsh
Mrs. D. A. W. Simpson (Barbados)	Mr. D. G. Simpson, A.M.I.E.E. Mr. A. C. Thomas
Mr. W. Y. Edghill (Barbados)	Mr. George Parrott Mr. G. Macgregor Frame
Mr. R. W. Farnborough (Country)	Hon. Hugh McLelland Captain J. C. McLelland
Mr. E. G. Hart Wood (Barbados)	Mr. H. A. Williams Mr. J. E. A. Crawford
Mr. T. Augustus Toote (Bahamas)	Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E. Mr. J. E. A. Crawford
Mr. André Lange (Trinidad)	Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E. Mr. J. E. A. Crawford
Mr. B. Gainfort (British Guiana)	Hon. J. B. Cassels, M.B.E. Mr. Thomas Greenwood
Mr. W. Francis (British Guiana)	Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C. Mr. W. A. Boyd
Mr. E. W. Bowen (Trinidad)	Mr. Howard Marsh Mr. H. F. Previte
Mr. P. Francis (London)	Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C. Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall
Mr. Lancelot McMillan (Country)	Mr. E. B. Acham Messrs. Jonas, Browne & Son
Mr. Ranald I. Harvey, A.M.I.E.E. (Venezuela)	Dr. C. W. Daly Mr. H. F. Previte
Mr. Francis A. Baddeley (London)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. Cyril Gurney
The British West Indian and General Trading Co (London)	Mr. H. W. Brathwaite Mr. E. B. Acham
Messrs. C. Haynes & Co., Ltd. (Trinidad)	Mrs. E. Haynes Mr. William Gillespie



NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES.
Rev. Wm. H. Townsend (British Guiana)	Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C. Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall
Hon. D. T. Wint, M.L.C. (Jamaica)	Mr. William Gillespie Mr. Harold de Pass
Mr. R. C. G. Lewis ... (Trinidad)	Mr. J. E. A. Crawford Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C.
Mr. J. R. Hamlyn-Nott ... (Country)	Mr. Cyril Gurney Mr. R. Rutherford
Mr. Ernest Dutchman ... (London)	Mr. M. T. Dawe, F.L.S. Mr. R. Rutherford
Mr. R. C. Srivastava, B.Sc. (London)	Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C. Mr. C. A. Campbell
Mr. L. A. P. O'Reilly, K.C. (Trinidad)	Mr. M. Hamel-Smith Mr. H. F. Previt�
Mr. W. R. Redman ... (Barbados)	Mr. Henry H. Baird Mr. W. W. Nurse
Mr. E. T. Cox ... (Barbados)	Mr. Henry H. Baird Mr. W. A. Bovell
Mr. L. W. Clarke ... (Barbados)	Mr. Henry H. Baird Mr. W. A. Bovell
Mr. A. F. A. Clairmonte ... (Barbados)	Mr. Henry H. Baird Mr. W. A. Bovell
The Bermuda and West Atlantic Aviation Co., Ltd. (London)	Lt.-Col. I. B. Davson, O.B.E. Mr. R. Rutherford
Mr. L. S. Smith ... (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp Hon. A. H. Cipriani
Mr. W. McGregor Grant ... (St. Vincent)	Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P. Messrs. H. L. Ellis & Co.
Hon. A. M. Fraser ... (St. Vincent)	Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P. Mr. C. E. F. Richards

The members elected during the present year reside in the places shown:—

Great Britain ... 73	Miscellaneous ... 15	Dominica ... 3
Barbados ... 56	St. Kitts ... 7	Nevis ... 3
Trinidad ... 56	St. Lucia ... 7	St. Vincent ... 3
British Guiana ... 31	Antigua ... 6	Anguilla ... 1
Jamaica ... 30	Grenada ... 4	Montserrat ... 1
British Honduras 20	Bahamas ... 3	

## THE PRINCE OF WALES'S TOUR.

### Revised Programme.

By the time that the present number of the CIRCULAR arrives in the West Indies, the Prince of Wales's stay in Caribbean waters, which has been so greatly looked forward to, will have come to an end.

The programme which was published in the CIRCULAR of July 22nd has had to be revised, the changes being rendered necessary owing to the abandonment of the Jamaica visit. The Prince is due to leave Colon to-day, and the proposed itinerary is as follows:—

September 17-20 ...	Trinidad.
September 21-22 ...	British Guiana.
September 24 ...	Grenada.
September 25 ...	St. Lucia.
September 26 ...	Dominica.
September 27 ...	Montserrat.
September 28 ...	Antigua.

It will be noticed that St. Lucia, Dominica and Montserrat, which were not in the original itinerary, are now included. The Prince will sail for British Guiana on September 20th in a light cruiser, the *Renown* remaining at Trinidad, where His Royal Highness will rejoin her on the evening of September 23rd.

## SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"LIZARD never plant corn, but him hab plenty."

DR. H. W. FRETZ, who recently retired, after forty years' public service in St. Kitts, and came to this country, intends sailing in November for Ceylon on a visit to friends there.

THE colony of Bermuda, though far more remote from the proposed headquarters of the Tropical Agricultural College than any of the West Indian islands and British Guiana, has offered to contribute £100 towards that institution.

MR. AND MRS. LEO HENZELL, on arriving in England recently by the *Saba*, received the sad news of the death of their eighth child, Henry Murray (Munty), in Antigua, from meningitis. They have accordingly decided to return to the West Indies on the first opportunity.

THE question of the denaturing of alcohol for motor spirit has been met in Natal, the use of a petroleum product called Simonsen for the purpose being permitted by the authorities. The alcohol produced from molasses for motor spirit is, for some occult reason, called Natalite by the producers.

THE Hon. Beresford S. Gosset has resigned his appointment as Custos of St. Andrew, Jamaica, and has arrived on a visit to this country. Mr. Gosset who is one of the Honorary Correspondents of the West India Committee for Jamaica, hopes to return to that island in November.

RECENT legislation in Germany has fixed the amount of cacao and sugar to be present in chocolate, which in its pure and simple state must contain either 40 and 50 per cent., 50 and 50 per cent., or 60 and 40 per cent. of cacao and sugar respectively. Chocolates filled with various substances must contain at least 40 per cent. of cacao.

MR. NICHOLAS R. UDAL, youngest son of Mr. John Synonds Udal, late Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, and Mrs. Udal, of 24, Neville-court, London, W., was married on September 4th to Margaret Ruth, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roderic Oliver, of Burnt Oak, Orlestone. Mr. Udal is Assistant-Director of Education to the Sudan Government.

LADY MACDONALD OF EARNSCLIFFE, who died at Eastbourne, on September 5th, at the age of eighty-four, was the daughter of the late Hon. T. J. Barnard, of Jamaica. She was married to Sir John Macdonald, who for twenty years was Prime Minister of Canada, in 1867. Upon his death Lady Macdonald was, at Queen Victoria's express wish, made a Peeress in her own right.

As the CIRCULAR goes to press we learn with deep regret of the death of Lord Murray of Elibank, for many years Chief Liberal Whip, and since 1913 a partner in the firm of S. Pearson & Son. In 1893 Viscount Elibank went to the Leeward Islands as Private Secretary to the Governor. His brother, the Hon. Gideon Murray, M.P., now becomes the heir to Viscount Elibank. The Hon. Gideon Murray, from whose pen a letter appears in the present issue of the CIRCULAR, was Administrator of St. Lucia in 1914, and is the author of "A United West Indies."



A STORY of an incident that happened recently in a Lancashire shop is related by the *Confectionery Journal*. A customer was protesting against the price of sugar, and declared her intention to cease buying. The shopman appealed to a commercial traveller, who remarked that "at Blackburn our paper publishes every Saturday a list of persons who have given up using sugar." "Really, then I should like to be in that list," was the lady's reply. "It's the 'Deaths' column—4s. an inch," was the rejoinder.

A REPORT has been issued by the Hawaiian Planters' Association on the question of the conversion of megass into paper, as against its use as fuel. After reviewing the various processes, the report concludes that there are no technical difficulties which could not well be overcome. From an economic point of view, it is stated that paper manufacture from megass would prove at the present time a sound commercial venture, but a great deal would appear to depend upon the nature of the canes from which the megass comes.

PROSPECTIVE beet growers in the United Kingdom will be interested to learn that another use for exhausted sugar-beet pulp exists than for feeding cattle, in the form of mixture with tobacco for pipe smoking. The process, which has been patented, consists of drying and roasting the pulp, and it is stated that in this condition it cannot be distinguished from tobacco, and has a most agreeable flavour. The inventor claims that the mixture has a great advantage over ordinary tobacco, in that the beet portion of it absorbs part of the nicotine, and so removes some of the ill-effects of smoking ordinary tobacco.

MR. C. HRWITZ, General Manager of the Colonial Bank, who spent three months last winter in visiting the bank's many branches in the West Indies, proposes to make another trip to the Caribbean next month, accompanied by Major J. C. Norworthy, Manager of the Foreign Department of the Bank of Montreal, who intends to make himself more fully acquainted with West Indian conditions as they relate to trade with Canada. It will be recalled that the interests of the Colonial Bank and the Bank of Montreal are closely connected, the latter holding a considerable block of the Colonial Bank's shares.

TRINIDAD readers will no doubt note with more equanimity than has been shown by the British public that the price of petrol in the United Kingdom has been increased by 7d. per gallon. This brings the price of "first quality" to 4s. 7½d., second quality to 4s. 1½d., aviation "special" to 4s. 9½d., and benzol to 4s. 0½d. On the other hand, the success of an experiment with oil fuel on the London and North-Western Railway is a matter for common satisfaction. On a trial run to Birmingham a locomotive using oil fuel consumed only 30 lb. of oil per mile, as compared with 70 lb. of coal, or 700 lb. of oil, instead of one ton of coal.

SEPTEMBER 1st was marked by the introduction of dearer railway fares and goods rates, and an increase in the cost of postage and telegrams. It is evident from this that the tide of the cost of living has not yet turned. Though the price of over 500 newspapers has been increased (in some cases by 200 and in others by 100 per cent.), that of the CIRCULAR still remains at the pre-war figure of £1 1s. per annum to members of the West India Committee. It is still hoped that no change may be necessary, but if it is to be obviated it is absolutely essential that members should pay their dues regularly and without delay. Subscriptions may be paid in at any branch of the Colonial Bank, or to the Royal Bank of Canada.

## ROYAL VISITS TO THE WEST INDIES.

By FRANK CUNDALL

(Continued from p 261.)

The next royal visit to Barbados occurred in 1861, when Prince Alfred, afterwards Duke of Edinburgh, second son of Queen Victoria, visited its shores. This time Barbados had ample opportunity of testifying her appreciation of the honour.

When the Governor, Mr. (afterwards Sir) Francis Hinks, informed the Legislature of the intended visit, an official programme was drawn up, and £2,000 was voted as necessary expenditure. Triumphal arches were erected, both by public and private expense, and decorations were to be seen on all sides; and stands were put up that all the folk might see.

Millinery and even butcher's meat were much in demand and increased in cost. It was decided that the Prince during his stay should be the guest of the colony.

The *St. George*, with his Royal Highness on board, arrived on the evening of February 21st. He landed the following morning amidst scenes of great enthusiasm. Then followed an address from the President on behalf of all classes of the population; a formal procession to Government House; a *levée*, which included the presentation of addresses by the Council, the Assembly, the clergy, and many presentations of civil and military personages; a *dejeuner* at 5 p.m. at Government House, and a display of fireworks.

On the following day, Sunday, the Prince attended Divine service at the Cathedral. On the Monday he went to Hackleton's Cliff and Codrington College, visiting various interesting spots on his journey; this was followed by a ball at Government House. On Tuesday the Prince visited the reservoir of the Bridgetown Waterworks Company and Carrington's, where he saw sugar made by steam machinery. On his return he received a deputation from the West African Mission Board, inspected the troops at the Savannah, and heard "God Save the Queen" sung by 5,000 school-children, with an additional verse written for the occasion by Bishop Parry—

"And while from shore to shore,  
Her wide dominions o'er,  
Her sons are seen;  
As through each clime they speed,  
Nor toil nor danger heed,  
Be Thou their help in need—  
God save the Queen!"

The effect of the spectacle was somewhat marred, first by the collapse of a barrel on which the Inspector of Schools was superintending the singing and his disappearance from view, and, secondly, by the giving way of part of the platform on which the children were seated. In the evening a hard day's work was concluded by a dinner given by the officers of the 1st Fusiliers.

On the Wednesday the Prince, accompanied by the Governor and the Admiral, went in H.M.S. *Styx* to Speightstown, and visited, through gaily-decorated roads, Farley Hill, the residence of Mr (later Sir) T. G. Briggs, where he planted a tree, which is still



shown to visitors. Returning by road to Bridgetown, the day closed with a dinner at Government House and a ball, given by the merchants, at Marshall's Hall, which was said at the time to have been the best of all entertainments given in honour of Prince Alfred in Barbados.

On Thursday the much-entertained Prince was given respite, and took part in a game of cricket on the garrison Savannah with the 21st Fusiliers, followed by a dinner given by the General, Sir A. J. Cloete, at Queen's House, and a ball.

On Friday the Prince departed for St. Vincent, the guns at Rickett's battery "thundering forth a parting royal salute."

During his busy week the Prince dined thirty-one dances. Those who would know the names of his fair partners will find them recorded in "Royal Visits to Barbados." At this time a fire had necessitated the rebuilding of part of Bridgetown, and the occasion was taken to name a street "Prince Alfred Street."  
(To be continued.)

## GUIANA'S COLONISATION.

### Indian Deputation Not to be Sent.

It will be recalled by those who have been following the negotiations which have taken place for the purpose of securing Indian colonists for British Guiana that following upon the visit of the deputation led by Dr. J. J. Numan, K.C., to India last autumn, the Government of that country decided to send representatives to the "Magnificent Province," to report upon its suitability for such a scheme. That the report would have been favourable was looked upon as a foregone conclusion, and many were congratulating themselves that at last British Guiana was to obtain the increase of population which has so long been her special need. So far, in fact, had negotiations proceeded, that the British Guiana Press was able to announce the actual names of the Indian representatives who had been selected by the Government for this mission.

Now, however, the West India Committee is informed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies that "for the present it is not regarded (by the India Office) as practicable to proceed with the proposal to send a deputation." The letter conveying this intimation was acknowledged as follows:—

Sir,—I have the honour, by direction of my Committee, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of September 1st, from which my Executive note that the India Office do not intend, for the present, to proceed with the proposal for sending a deputation from India to British Guiana.

2. My Committee are naturally extremely disappointed that, after the many efforts put forth, both in this country and in the colony on behalf of the colonisation scheme, which seemed destined shortly to be crowned with success, this necessary step in the scheme should not be agreed to.

3. Believing as they do that the future development of British Guiana is inseparable from increased population, they note with great satisfaction that the proposal for attracting colonists from India will be revived as soon as circumstances permit.—I have the honour, &c.,

(Signed) GILFRED N. KNIGHT,

Assistant Secretary, The West India Committee.

## AUGUST TRADE RETURNS.

The improvement noted in the trade of the United Kingdom for July has not been maintained during August. Imports have fallen to £153,254,578, the lowest figure reached this year, whilst exports have fallen to £114,903,335, as compared with £137,451,904 in July and £116,352,350 in June.

Imports of sugar during the month amounted to 55,377 tons, making a total of 952,385 tons during the eight months ending August 31st, of which 808,831 tons were entered for home consumption. Of the total for the current year, 114,683 tons were refined, and 837,702 unrefined, and of the latter 506,325 tons came from Cuba, and 119,201 tons from the British West Indies.

The amount of raw cacao imported during the eight months was 1,845,700 cwt., of which a little over a third was entered for home consumption. The total supplied by the British West Indies was 246,827 cwt., being an increase of 10,000 cwt. on the figures for the same period last year.

The number of banana bunches coming to the United Kingdom totalled 5,161,752, as compared with 2,643,079 last year, and 4,952,091 in 1913. The imports of rum (including imitation rum) appear as 3,034,508 proof gallons, of which 1,906,865 proof gallons were entered for home consumption. The corresponding figures for 1919 were 7,580,466 and 1,568,471 proof gallons respectively.

The British West Indies contributed 4,9804 cwt. of coffee towards the total of 624,423 cwt. imported. Cotton imports amounted to 14,021,441 centals of 100 lb., of which 2,991,545 centals were from British possessions, the contribution of the British West Indies being 25,569 centals.

## THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

At a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, held on September 2nd, the following resolution was proposed by Mr. W. Gillespie, seconded by Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, and carried:—

The Executive of the West India Committee has learnt with satisfaction of the encouraging manner in which the recommendations of the Tropical Agricultural College Committee have been received in the West Indian Colonies generally, and expresses the hope that now that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has decided that the College shall be situated in Trinidad, the scheme will continue to receive whole-hearted support in those colonies, all of which, it is confident, will derive incalculable advantage therefrom. This meeting further hopes that those colonies which have not yet come to a decision as to the extent to which they will support the College will do so as early as possible in order that there may be no further delay in inaugurating the scheme which has been launched under such favourable auspices.

A CHOCOLATE factory is to be started in Ceylon, where chocolate and cocoa will be manufactured both for local consumption and for export.



## AGRICULTURE IN GRENADA.

The Report on the work of the Agricultural Department of Grenada for 1918-19, which has now been issued by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, gives a good account of what has been done in connection with the botanic and experimental stations, the progress of the chief industries and other matters associated with the agriculture of the colony.

From the nurseries at the Botanic Gardens, 9,970 growing plants, of which 8,100 were limes, 12,258 lb. of plant cuttings of sweet potatoes and cassava, 37,358 lb. plant tubers, principally yams, and 17,522 lb. and 327 packets of seeds, were distributed throughout the island. Plot and other experiments were also conducted with yams, beans, sunn hemp, and tomatoes, besides coco-nuts, limes, cotton, and other products.

The scope of the campaign instituted in 1917 for the increase in the production of native crops was enlarged, and an Executive Committee was formed consisting of Messrs. George de Freitas, J. S. de la Mothe, E. Newle Smith, and John Branch, and the Superintendent of Agriculture, the late Mr. J. C. Moore, who was appointed by the Agricultural Society to control the campaign, with local committees in each parish.

An interesting report is given from Mr. H. A. Ballou, the entomologist on the staff of the Imperial Department, on cacao thrips. Incidentally, it may be remarked that crop figures given by Mr. Ballou, show that the cacao crop increased from 37,197 bags in 1890 to 77,275 bags in 1917. The cultivation practised on cacao estates in Grenada is spoken of as being very good. Mr. Ballou's comprehensive report should be read by all interested in the cultivation of cacao. The quantity of cacao shipped in 1918 amounted to 67,668 bags, or 108,752 cwt., and was considered a fair crop. The exports of nutmegs and mace were 1,910,147 lb., an increase over the previous year's production of 371,261 lb. Sugar is an industry confined to the production of muscovado sugar, and rum for local consumption. The crop of 1918 is stated to have been very similar to that of 1917. The Marie Galante cotton crop was fair; 2,157 cwt. of lint and 5,479 cwt. of cotton seed were exported; 175,745 gallons of raw lime juice, 5,810 gallons of concentrated, and 112 gallons of lime oil were also shipped.

As regards the land settlement scheme, out of 317 lots assigned for the purpose 300 have been sold. Twenty-eight lots were forfeited during the year and five purchased by the peasants. The rainfall for the year varied from 38.05 in. to 167.51 in. The legislation in force as regards the importation of plants is given. The prohibitions are of cacao seeds or plants from any place in South America lying to the east or south of the Isthmus of Panama, of banana plants from Central or South America, or from Trinidad or Tobago, and of any soil, package, article, covering or thing packed or in any way associated with the above-mentioned seeds and plants. The importation of all citrus plants from the United States of America is also prohibited.

## CANE V. BEET.

The German Foreign Office has just issued a pamphlet by Dr. T. Zeller, entitled "The Fight Between Beet and Cane Sugar." The author states that if the smaller Germany can bring up its production to its pre-war level, it would be in a position to produce 2,330,000 tons. Dr. Zeller goes on to say: "The depreciated exchange provides a 'ready-made' method of competing with every class of foreign sugar in the world's market. To-day one ton of sugar f.o.b. Cuba costs \$200, or 20,000 marks. The new selling price in Germany is 3,000 marks, a difference of 17,000 marks. The farmer can therefore profit to an extent impossible at home. The German nation would have at its disposal through the export of sugar a large credit abroad. Assuming the production of 2,330,000 tons, and for home consumption 22 kg. per head per annum, or 1,330,000 tons, they should have 1,000,000 for export. For this they should receive 20 milliard of marks, or, in English currency (£1 @ M 340), 59 million pounds sterling.

"No other German industry is in a position to procure so large an amount of foreign credit without help. That their sugar would not find a market is not to be feared, considering the information respecting possibilities of production. If they appeared in the world's market with large quantities their exchange would benefit. But the improvement would not occur at such a rate as to prevent their ultimately reaching their goal. The export of sugar is by far the best way of ensuring purchases abroad. It is necessary, however, to act quickly. They must reach the goal before Russia is in a position to dump large quantities into the world's market. Germany's task in the battle between beet and cane is to be the champion of European beet sugar."

The above shows the trend of German thought in the direction of recovering its old sugar position.

## EXPORT OF FERTILISERS.

The Fertilisers (Temporary Control of Export) Act, which was passed on August 16th, 1920, empowers the prohibition by Order in Council of export from the United Kingdom of the following fertilisers:—

Sulphate of ammonia.	Basic slag.
Superphosphate of lime	Potash manures.
Compound fertilisers containing any of the foregoing substances.	

The Act, which also enacts that orders made under it may provide for licences for the export of the above articles, continues in force until December 31st, 1922.

A CABLEGRAM received from Jamaica as the CIRCULAR goes to press gives the reassuring information that there is no evidence of small-pox in that island, and that the outbreak of Kaffir-pox is not increasing.



## THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

By ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 264.)

Alternatively the British West Indies might take as their emblem the "Great Bear," which also has just the right number of the larger stars to represent the various colonies in the group.

Owing, no doubt, to the remarkable rarity of the atmosphere, the stars in the tropics shine with a brilliancy unknown to us at home, and we remained so long on the boat-deck gazing in wonder at the glories of the heavens, and soothed by the rhythmical throbbing of the engines, that it was late before we sought our cabins. Consequently the sun was already up when I awoke on the following morning to find that we were lying off the bar of the historic harbour of St. John's, Antigua. In the eighteenth century this noble expanse of water would often be a forest of tapering masts and yards, for it was much frequented by merchantmen of every nationality; but its glory departed with the coming of the age of steam, for it is so uniformly shallow that no steamer of any size can enter it. Passengers in the mail steamers wishing to go ashore have therefore to submit to the discomfort of a buffeting—and, as often as not, a ducking as well—in a jerky little motor launch for a distance of three miles or thereabouts. During the regime of Sir William Haynes Smith proposals were put forward for dredging a ship channel up to St. John's, the capital, at the head of the harbour, and a costly dredger was purchased to carry this work out; but then came a period of retrenchment, necessitated by the parlous state of the colony's finances due to the collapse of the sugar industry. The dredger was sold at a sacrifice, and nothing more was done towards making the harbour accessible.

The importance attached to the harbour in former times is still demonstrated by the ancient forts which guard its entrance. On the left, as one looks towards the shore, is Fort James, erected on a piece of land given to Charles II. by one Colonel Vaughan, and first fortified in 1701-5. Away to the right is the equally romantic-looking Goat Hill, which recalls one of the adventures of the dashing Prince Rupert, grandson of James I., the first member of a British Royal Family to visit the West Indies. The Prince, who was described by the Governor of Barbados of the day as a "grand pirate," arrived at Antigua with Sir Robert Holmes in 1652, and finding two of the Parliament's ships in Deep Bay, a piece of water separated from St. John's Harbour by a narrow strip of land ending in Goat Hill and Ship's Stern Point, Sir Robert Holmes landed at night, and, scaling the hill, captured the fort, whose guns he then turned on the enemy. In the morning Prince Rupert appeared at the entrance to the bay, and by this concerted action the Royalists sank one ship and escorted the other in triumph to Montserrat. It was here, too, at Goat Hill, that the French landed in 1666, when they reduced the island; but the fort that one now sees, which is called Fort Barrington, after the famous Admiral of

that name, was not completed until 1779. Standing out to seaward is the small Sandy Island surrounded by dangerous reefs, the existence of which is made apparent by the menacing white breakers which surround it.

Mr. A. E. Collens, the Secretary of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, who kindly came off to welcome me, piloted me ashore in a private launch, and it was very delightful to set foot again on the hospitable island of Antigua after an absence of more years than one cares to record. But one could see at a glance that time has dealt gently with St. John's, for so little has it changed that I might have been away for a few hours instead of years. There were the same streets of primitive white houses with their balconies and green jalousies, the same ugly monument to Bishop Westerby. The revival of prosperity which Antigua is now enjoying has certainly not been reflected as yet in its capital, which no one could describe as being worthy of the seat of Government of the Leeward Islands. Mr. A. P. Cowley, M. B. E., Chairman of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, Honorary Correspondent of the West India Committee, and admittedly doyen of the agricultural and mercantile community, now took me in charge for the day—though he might perhaps consider that it was the other way round, for in my eagerness to see all that one could in a short space of time, I am afraid that I must have worn him completely to a shadow.

The morning was spent in renewing old acquaintances and making many new ones, and in visiting Gunthorpe's sugar factory. Like St. Kitts, Antigua is entirely dependent on the production of sugar and cotton for its prosperity. Pineapples were once also exported from the island; but this industry, which flourished in the southern part, languished owing to transport difficulties, and was then finally stamped out by disease.

The sugar industry, too, was gravely imperilled by its inability to compete with the State-aided beet industries of Europe, and it was not until the Brussels Convention for the abolition of bounties was signed in 1902 that the prospects of Antigua became brighter. In order to enable the planters to tide over the period until that agreement came into force, the Imperial Parliament voted to them a free grant-in-aid of £220,000. In some colonies their share of the grant was distributed *pro rata* among the sugar planters. In the case of Antigua, however, it was applied towards the improvement in methods of manufacture, and as the result the island has now two well-equipped central sugar factories at Bendal's and Gunthorpe's. Owing to the short time at my disposal, it was only possible to visit Gunthorpe's, but Mr. H. D. Spooner, the Chairman of the Company owning Bendal's, who was also visiting the island, kindly furnished me with particulars regarding the history of that concern which it may be of interest to place on record as an example of what can be done in the way of co-operative enterprise in the West Indies.

Bendal's, originally part of the Belvidere Estates, was purchased in 1889 from the liquidator of the Leeward Islands Produce Company, Limited, by



the late Mr. A. Moir Lee and others. For many years the works were run on the old lines, and though crystallised sugar was made, the process was costly, nearly 1,000 tons of coal, besides all the megass, being burnt annually under the boilers. In 1903 the proprietors were given a grant of £3,500 in consideration of their spending about £15,000 on new machinery and purchasing some 22,500 tons of cane every year from the peasants at rates to be fixed by a Cane Board. In practice, nearly £27,000 was spent on improvements, and it is noteworthy that the present cane-mill engine is named "Joe Chamberlain," as a compliment to the great statesman who was Colonial Minister when it was erected. As a result of the new machinery, only between 10 and 12 tons of cane are now necessary to make 1 ton of sugar where 13 to 14 were required before. Since 1913 this factory has been the property of the Bendals (Antigua) Sugar Factory, Limited, and a further sum of £26,000 has been expended on new machinery, the capacity now being 4,000 tons of sugar, a figure which, however, has not yet been reached, owing to the severe droughts from which Antigua suffers, and also shortage of labour.

The factory at Gunthorpe's is a larger proposition altogether. It owes its inception to a group of estates proprietors who, under the guidance of Dr., now Sir, Francis Watts, wisely decided in 1903 to take full advantage of the new condition of things resulting from the abolition of bounties. They realised that, owing to the deficient rainfall and labour difficulties, it was hopeless to expect a profit from sugar made in the old muscovado boiling houses, and they accordingly requested the Government to establish a central sugar factory on modern lines. Mr. Chamberlain would not sanction this, on the grounds that the Government would lose its own and the planters' money as well. He added, however, that if the estates' proprietors and their friends chose to venture their own money, he would approve of pioneer factories receiving grants-in-aid. This offer was readily accepted, and the Antigua Sugar Factory, Limited, was formed to establish a "central" on co-operative lines.

The results achieved have been so remarkable that one may perhaps be pardoned for dealing with them at some length—and they certainly deserve to be placed on record as an example of what can be done by generous and careful management.

To begin with, the Government provided £15,000 and the Company £25,000, making a total of £40,000, for the erection of a factory to make 3,000 tons of sugar in the season. The factory was duly erected, the actual cost being £45,358, or approximately £15 per ton of sugar capacity. It made its first crop in 1905, since which year its capacity has grown to 10,000 tons of sugar, while the total cost to capital account has been £103,229, or £10 6s. per ton. The Government stipulated for fair co-operative terms for the original contracting planters, and that, at the end of fifteen years, shares representing half the value of the factory should be made over to them. These planters have received high prices for their canes, the rate averaging in recent years over 9 per cent. on the f.o.b. price

of sugar without any deduction for cost of bags or export taxes, the factory also bearing the cost of transport of canes from the estates. And they have now received their shares, representing £51,615, transferred to them free of charge, the original contractors having been placed in the position of shareholders in respect of the £15,000 subscribed by the Government. The Government also stipulated for fair rates being given for canes supplied by peasant growers, who have received about double the rates previously ruling.

The subscribers of the £25,000 have not done so badly, having received over the whole period of fifteen years 20 per cent. on their capital, which has now been repaid in full, and they now hold shares to the value of £51,615, representing half the cost of the factory, and they also have £18,000 accumulated to their credit in the form of undivided profits.

It is not surprising that the owners of surrounding plantations besides the original contractors should have "come in," and though these newcomers do not receive shares in the company, they are, now that the capital has been liquidated, getting 5½ per cent. on the price of sugar for their canes besides sharing in half of the profits.

That both the Imperial and local Governments have benefited by this enterprise was clearly shown by Mr. G. Moody Stuart, who, at the last general meeting of the company, pointed out that it had paid £44,476 in British Excess Profits Duty, besides £16,951 in local export duties. The general community in the island has also derived advantages which has raised the tone of living and has provided the labouring population, which was once in great poverty and distress, with work and a fair living wage.

The management of the factory is essentially progressive. It realises that if you want to get the best work out of the labourers you must provide for their comfort and bodily welfare, and in pursuance of this policy it has recently acquired land at Fitch's Creek, on which it proposes to erect model labourers' cottages. But this is not all. It has already adopted a bonus system, which Mr. Leo Henzell, the very competent and enthusiastic manager, assured me had obviated all labour troubles. Under this system every labourer receives an increase of 5 per cent. on his weekly wages on every 50 tons of sugar made over 400 tons. Moreover, at the end of the year each factory hand receives in cash 2½ per cent. on his year's earnings, whilst a further 2½ per cent. is placed to his credit, interest at the rate of 5 per cent. being paid on his accumulated balance. As a further inducement to hard work, the day's labour, which used to begin at 7 a.m. and end at 5.30 p.m., now finishes at 4 p.m., so that the labourers are able to get home and attend to their gardens and amuse themselves whilst it is still daylight.

(To be continued.)

JAMAICANS will be interested to learn that Brigadier-General Sir William H. Manning, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., who was their Governor from 1913 to 1918, is engaged to be married to Olga, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Selton-Jones, of Cadogan-place.



## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

The disease of cacao trees, which threatened the destruction of the industry in Ecuador, appears to be disappearing. Probably the change is due to climatic influences becoming adverse to the development of the disease and favourable to the healthy growth of the tree. It is to be hoped that the disease has been thoroughly investigated, and measures discovered which will prevent its revival and spread in such disastrous fashion at any later period. The crop in some parts is estimated at three pounds a tree.

The growth of grass under trees is distinctly injurious to the trees. The Woburn Experimental Fruit Farm has had plots of fruit trees with and without grass, and the trials have been going on for many years. It appears that the grass does not interfere with the nourishment in the soil. But the trees are incapable of using the nourishment if grass is growing. The grass has some poisonous influence, interfering with the physiological action of the tree, and preventing it from utilising the food which is present.

The Japanese Camphor Monopoly have been making great efforts to increase the production of camphor. During 1919 the yield was about 6,700,000 lb. This is almost double the yield in 1918, but 20 per cent. below that of 1916. The increasing demand in 1916 stimulated production so much that the future supply of camphor was endangered by reckless cutting of the trees. Steps were taken to prevent this. The exports of camphor are controlled by allotting definite amounts to the various foreign countries. The object is to protect the requirements of the rapidly-growing celluloid industry of Japan.

In estimating the values of seedling sugar-canes in Barbados, comparison is made with the White Transparent as the standard cane. Mr. J. R. Bovall, the Superintendent of Agriculture, in his report for 1917-1918 (just to hand) states that the increased yields of the seedling canes over the White Transparent amount to about 5 tons of canes per acre, or about half a ton of dark crystal sugar per acre. If the 35,000 acres under cane had been all planted with the best seedling canes, the increase to the crop of the island would have been about 17,500 tons of dark crystal sugar. The monetary value of the increased yield would not be less than £347,885.

The 1919-20 sugar season in Natal is a record. The production is estimated at 185,000 tons of sugar, against 155,000 in 1918-19. The whole output, except about 12,000 tons for export, will be consumed in South Africa. While the output of sugar has been increasing, the consumption has kept pace with it. During the war the importation of jam, marmalade and sweets was cut off. All over the country jam and sweets factories sprang up, and now a considerable amount of these commodities is exported. Another reason for the increased consumption is that whereas formerly the natives never saw sugar, they became acquainted with it in the towns, and have acquired a great fondness for it.

Sugar and syrup made from the maple tree of Canada and the United States have become of late years of much greater importance. The development of the industry is due to the scarcity and increased price of cane and beet sugar. The price of maple sugar has risen from 3d or 4d a pound before the war to 1s. or 1s. 3d a pound. In Canada there is an organisation known as the Co-operative Society of Pure Maple Sugar and Syrup Makers. Its objects are to distribute information among its members as to the best methods for

obtaining the highest quality of products and to prevent their adulteration. It established sugar-making schools, and started exhibitions and competitions in maple-products. The Department of Agriculture has taken up the subject, and skilled instructors give demonstrations throughout the country.

Leprosy can apparently now be cured. The treatment of forty-eight lepers for nearly a year at the Leprosy Investigation Station in Hawaii resulted in their being discharged as free from disease. They were discharged in October, 1919, and have since remained free from disease. It has been known for some years that the course of the disease appeared to be favourably influenced by treatment with chaulmoogra oil. The treatment, however, was attended with many difficulties, and could not be carried out in all cases. Prof. L. E. Dean, President of the College of Hawaii, became interested in the subject, and has devised means for making the continued administration of the drug feasible. This has been successfully carried out by preparing what is known as an ethyl ester from the chaulmoogra oil. Details concerning the treatment will be published in the near future. Chaulmoogra oil is yielded by hydraulic pressure of the seeds of an Indian tree, named *Gynocardia odorata* R.Br. In India it is a well-known remedy used internally and externally in leprosy, scrofula, syphilis, skin diseases, and chronic rheumatism.

Mr. Aspinall collected in Trinidad some cotton growing in waste ground round some peasants' huts. He submitted it for valuation to Messrs Wolstenholme & Holland. They reply: "The cotton is very white and the staple is 1½ in. long, very silky and fairly strong. It would compete with 1½-in Memphis, and should be worth 60d to 62d, when ginned. Sea Island is now worth 80d. to 90d. according to quality." They write subsequently that "this cotton would find a ready sale, unlike Sea Island, which is often a drug." The cane farmers in Trinidad have done so well for themselves and for the factories that similar co-operation between growers and a cotton factory ought to be easy, and give a handsome income to both sides. The Lancashire cotton mills want this kind of cotton so badly that they are willing to give 5s., and over, a pound for it. There is no doubt that cotton is getting scarce, and, in spite of all endeavours to increase the acreage under cultivation, the demand will exceed the supply for many years to come.

In the last CIRCULAR the models in the Natural History Museum were described, which show the wonderful cycle of changes that the malarial organism undergoes in the blood of man. More marvellous still are the changes which they undergo in a mosquito—these are illustrated by another series of models. The crescent-shaped organisms sucked up with the blood into the stomach of the mosquito become spherical, and are of two kinds. One kind produces a number of needle-shaped bodies which become detached and float about in the blood. The other kind remains spherical, and absorbs any needle-shaped body which is attracted to it. After the union of the two dissimilar bodies, the spherical mass makes its way through the coat of the stomach of the mosquito to the outer surface of the stomach. There it is seen after a short time to have developed a number of minute spheres in the interior. Each of these forms a large number of very minute needle-shaped bodies. These become dispersed through the organs of the mosquito, some getting into the salivary glands and thence into the proboscis. When a mosquito pierces the skin of a human being with her proboscis, some of the needle-shaped bodies pass into the blood and go through all the changes as before.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

### THE ORIGIN OF CANE FARMING.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR.—In Mr. Tripp's letter from Trinidad, a summary of which appeared in our issue of August 18th, Professor Freeman is stated to have attributed the inception of the cane-farming industry of that island to the late Sir Nevile Lubbock, or, "as some say, to Mr. Peter Abel." The actual facts of the case are that Sir Nevile Lubbock entertained and started cane-farming on the estates attached to the Usine St. Madeleine by letting out small areas to peasants, the canes being bought standing by the estates authorities. This did not prove a success, but it led to the present system of outside farming, which contributes so much to the sugar output of Trinidad. This system was developed and supported by Mr. Peter Abel, and it was his treatment of it in its beginning which led to its success, in which he was wholeheartedly supported by the Colonial, afterwards the New Colonial Company, of which Sir Nevile Lubbock was Chairman.

Yours obediently,

F. I. SCARD.

### THE INSCRIPTION ON WARNER'S TOMB.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR.—The mutilated inscription on Sir Thomas Warner's tombstone was printed in "Antigua and the Antiguans" in 1844. In 1899 I published my third volume of the "History of Antigua," giving the complete inscription, which I found in the Davy MSS. of the year 1780 in the British Museum. In 1908 the stone (in three fragments) was sent to England for repairs, and though I did not see it, I inserted a photograph in "Caribbean," Vol. I. My friend Mr. J. S. Udall had at the same time sent over a carefully transcribed copy. I then noticed that some of the words in the Davy MS. did not properly fit the spaces in the photograph, so that obviously Davy's copy was faked. In 1914 I visited St. Kitts, and copied all the inscriptions in the old churches and churchyards. At the Old Road, where my friend Canon Shepherd was then rector, I paid several visits, and carefully measured on the stone the words of Davy's inscription, and we both came to the conclusion that they could not have been the original ones, as they did not fit the spaces, thus confirming my previous opinion. "Cayon's" guesses\* will not do for the same reason. The word "prolong" is incorrect, for the word must end in "re," those letters being visible. Davy gave "secure," but that is too short by itself to fit the space. Mrs. Wigley, of Basseterre, told me that when a child she used to attend service in the old church, and recollected seeing the tombstone in the interior. On the old building being pulled down, it became exposed in the open, as the new church was erected higher up the hill. I noticed traces of the old foundations, which measured 20 paces by 11.

Yours obediently,

V. L. OLIVER, F.S.A.

### THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS AND FEDERATION.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR, I have now had an opportunity of reading the discussions on the closer union of the West Indies which took place at the second triennial meeting of the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce, held in Barbados in February of this year. As has been usual when this subject has been brought up at a West Indian gathering, the discussion produced mongre results, and the resolution that was passed carried the question very little further.

When will the West Indies realise that their power and strength in the Empire lies in a definite form of union? The golden moments of the reconstruction era are slipping by. In the Mother Country, and in other portions of the Empire, these are being utilised to strengthen their constitutions. Should not the West Indies act similarly?

At the Colonial Office we have to-day a Secretary of State and a Political Under-Secretary, both of whom are pre-eminently fitted by their experience and knowledge to deal with constitutional questions. If therefore a representative West Indian *ad hoc* conference were convened and proposals were submitted by it for a scheme of closer union, I feel sure, by the answers that have been given on this subject in the House of Commons, that these would receive sympathetic and helpful consideration by the Colonial Office.

In other respects, may I be permitted, Sir, to congratulate the Associated Chambers of Commerce upon the results of their labours, which should bear good fruit for the West Indies, and fully justify the expenditure of time and trouble on the part of the delegates?

My regret is that, as an honorary member of the Associated Chambers, I was unable to be present at this valuable meeting.

Yours faithfully,

GIDEON MURRAY.

### BOILING LAKE TO FREEZE LAND CRABS.

A correspondent writes:—

"Sulphuretted hydrogen when burnt forms sulphurous acid gas with deposition of sulphur. The sulphurous gas is absorbed by water, and the water and gas is turned into sulphuric acid. The Boiling Lake at Dominica is constantly giving off sulphuretted hydrogen, and probably is actually charged with sulphuric acid water, and so are all the hot springs in the vicinity of the lake. These springs and the lake itself are therefore possibly natural voltaic batteries, and if plates of copper and iron, or copper and zinc, joined together by wires, were immersed in them they would pass currents through the wires. These natural batteries might mean a cheap and constant force for supplying electricity. No machinery or power would be necessary, as no dynamo would have to be formed, and small portable electric batteries could be made on the spot, and sold and supplied wherever necessary. Currents of electricity passed through the earth are most efficient fertilisers, and increase the rate of growth and strength of plants. As there is much sulphur deposited round the boiling lake, all property purchased in the neighbourhood may prove some day very valuable, as sulphur is everywhere needed, and there is no question of mining, as the lake and hot springs give it off naturally. A syndicate purchasing the lake and its surroundings, all of which is Crown land, might prove a good venture, as not only is sulphur found in the earth, but sulphuric acid water in the lake and hot springs, and sulphuretted hydrogen itself or the sulphurous gas formed by burning it would travel of themselves through pipes to great distances, and convey themselves to all parts of the island by their own pressure, aided by the heat of the sun, and no pumping would be required.

"All this is, of course, pure conjecture, but it looks possible. Sulphuretted hydrogen and sulphurous acid gas together, and sulphuretted hydrogen alone, are usefully employed for the destruction of rats, and might therefore be employed for the destruction of land crabs, turtles, &c., and as sulphurous acid gas when compressed and then allowed to expand forms a good refrigerant, it might be used for freezing land crabs, the flesh of turtles and sharks' fins, all of which could be exported frozen. There may be also deposits of asphalt near the boiling lake."

\* See CIRCULAR No. 572 of September 2nd, page 266.



**WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.**

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Home arrivals from West Indies, per R.M.S.P. *Arzila*, London, August 31st:—

From Demerara.	Dr. F. W. Evans	From Barbados.
Mr. F. J. De Freitas	Mr. and Mrs. M. Fernandez	Dr. & Mrs. Bleock
Mr. J. C. Gibson	Mr. P. H. Ferris	Fairy Carter and son
Master K. D. Gibson	Mr. D. Fiddlay	Mr. B. Challeour
Dr. C. P. Kennard	Mr. W. O. Freeman	Mrs. G. L. Gould and 2 children
Mr. F. M. Kerry	Master Freeman	Mr. F. N. Gramum
Mrs. S. Macnie	Miss M. Gilchrist	Mr. & Mrs. Hamilton
Mr. & Mrs. C. Martin	Miss E. Mczieis	Miss K. D. Hollinsed
Sperry and family	Misses L. & M. Pataraon	Misses M. S. & B. Lunniss
Colonel & Mrs. C. May	Miss David	Miss Johnson
Mr. J. A. Pacheco	Mr. & Mrs. Reid	Mrs. E. L. Peskett and 7 children
Miss D. Seedorf	Mr. & Mrs. G. A. Slack	Captain Richardson
Miss O. Seedorf	Miss Slack	Miss Rt. Aubyn
From Trinidad.	Mr. & Mrs. C. Willaas	Mrs. D. Swaby
Mr. T. C. Cotherrill		Misses M. & H. Swaby
Miss Diade		
Mr. A. Miss De Silva		

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd. —Home arrivals from Jamaica, per R.M.S. *Changuinola*, Avonmouth August 30th:—

Mr. C. G. Haber	Mr. D. K. Davidson	Mr. W. T. Jack
Mr. B. Barnes	Mr. E. Hart	Mr. and Mrs. A. Page
Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Chamberlin and son	Mr. A. K. Hart	Mr. J. F. Powell
Mr. K. Dendridge	Mr. C. Hart	Mr. C. Sylvester
Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Doubleday	Mr. S. L. Hart	Dr. J. A. Thorne
	Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Milne	Miss E. L. Colt-Williams

Home arrivals from Jamaica, per R.M.S. *Bayana*, Avonmouth, September 5th:—

Mrs. F. W. Hull	Master J. A. Gerdes	Mr. I. H. Sicard and three sons
Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Charley	Major and Mrs. C. W. Lowther	Mr. A. M. A. Siscox
Mrs. M. M. Charley	Miss J. C. MacGregor	Mrs. M. Thompson-Evans
Miss K. Charley	Miss H. K. MacGregor	Mr. Q. Tulloch
Sir Cyril S. Cobb	Major T. H. Nicholson	
Mr. J. E. Flaher		

Sailings to Jamaica, from Avonmouth, per s.s. *Camito*, August 31st (Commander S. H. Simmons, O.B.E.):—

Mr. S. P. Ballance	Mrs. C. E. Grossett & son	Mr. K. I. Orrantia
Mr. J. M. Bateson	Mr. S. H. Hammond & son	Miss A. P. Orrantia
Mr. & Mrs. F. Hooker	Mrs. F. M. Harrison	Mr. W. J. Papps
Miss D. Brass	Mr. F. A. Jeram	Mr. H. E. G. Penny
Mr. and Mrs. N. O. E. Butler	Rev. F. G. Jolly	Mr. P. M. Penney
Miss M. Cantlay	Dr. G. A. Leoo	Miss M. Kitchin
Mr. G. Carrill	Mr. J. H. Letcher	Mr. E. E. Rogers
Mr. E. B. Carhog	Mrs. A. P. Luff	Miss M. I. Rogers
Mrs. C. K. Carswell	Mr. & Mrs. F. C. N. Madan	Mr. E. H. Ryan
Rev. W. H. D. Carter	Mr. C. R. Marsden	Mr. & Mrs. J. da Silva
Miss M. Collier	Miss K. M. Miller	Mr. and Mrs. A. Sim
Mr. B. W. Davidson	Mr. C. S. Morrison	Mr. J. E. Sullivan
Mr. G. C. E. Foster	Miss F. Nnale	Rev. and Mrs. F. G. Toose
Sir William Fry, D.I.	Col. & Mrs. A. E. Norton	Miss M. C. Twigg
Mr. L. Fullord	Mr. D. Orrantia	Mrs. M. G. Vere Stead
Mr. E. W. Garrett	Mrs. P. de Orrantia	Mr. O. Woodgate
Mr. H. G. Garrett		

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, per s.s. *Changuinola*, September 7th:—

Miss L. Abbott	Miss D. O. Mowl	Miss P. Padfield
Mr. M. Matar	Master A. E. Notman	Miss G. Smith
Mrs. Merhige & child		

Royal Dutch West India Mail.—Sailings to West Indies from Dover, per s.s. *Van Rensselaer*, September 9th:—

Mrs. D. Bernardo	Mrs. F. Gordon	Mr. F. T. Overmann
Mr. & Mrs. G. E. Hodkin	Mr. G. W. Harvey	Mr. C. Pagan
Miss M. Bower	Capt. S. H. Henderson	Mr. H. Parker
Mr. F. Chinn	Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Humberg & family	Mr. E. B. Pitta
Mr. and Mrs. F. A. C. Collrmoie	Mr. F. L. Latour	Mr. A. H. Pluke
Mr. P. S. Danzell	Mr. L. W. B. Lewis	Mr. E. Badcliffe-Clarke
Mr. A. A. Findlay	Mr. E. D. Morcton	Miss D. Shipwright
Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Fuller & family	Mr. N. L. Morcton	Mr. E. E. Stull
	Mr. E. B. Newton	Miss E. L. O. Webb
	Mr. H. E. Osbourne	Mr. M. H. M. White
		Mr. G. Williams

**WEST INDIAN STEAMER SAILINGS.**

To	From	Packet.	Sailing.
West Indies	St. Nazaire	<i>Pérou</i>	Sept. 20
B'nos & T'dad	Liverpool	<i>Statesman</i>	Sept. 21
West Indies	London	<i>Counsellor</i>	Sept. 22
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Molagua</i>	Sept. 28
Trinidad	Dover	<i>Crynssen</i>	Sept. 30
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Baranca</i>	Oct. 1
West Indies	Glasgow	<i>Musician</i>	Oct. 2
West Indies	New York	<i>Krona</i>	Oct. 9
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chaleur</i>	Oct. 15

The above dates are only approximate.

**WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.**

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

**The Bahamas Ratify Ottawa Agreement.**

The Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement has been ratified by the Bahamas House of Assembly, and the preference offered by the colony increased to 25 per cent. It is claimed that this is the earliest ratification of the Agreement on the part of any West Indian colony.

The Bahamas Legislature has voted £25,000 for the erection of a new public building on the square facing Parliament-street. The ground floor will be used as a post-office, and new Legislative Council and House of Assombly Chambers will probably be provided for on the upper floor. The Speaker of the Bahamas House of Assembly has accepted the invitation of the Bermuda House to attend the Tercentenary celebrations during the visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales to Bermuda.

**Barbados Minus Cocktails.**

Mr. W. L. C. Phillips and Mr. H. G. Austin, who represented the colony at the Ottawa Conference, have returned to the island, writes Mr. H. H. Baird under date August 5th. Unfortunately Mr. Phillips, who had a very serious illness while in the North, has not yet recovered, and has been granted an extension of leave for a further two months.

Some months ago the Legislature passed an Act making it compulsory for landowners to plant a certain proportion of their land in vegetables. Incorporated in the Act were penal clauses, providing for the flogging of men and cropping the hair of females convicted of stealing growing crops. In the present session the Bill was reintroduced and the penalties modified, the hair-cutting being eliminated, and the flogging being left to the discretion of the Courts. It is the small land-owners who suffer most from praedial larceny, and it was at their request and at the instance of the Agricultural Society that the clauses in question were introduced.

The island has been suffering from an ice famine for about a week. One large dealer has had to bury in the sea over 200 lb. of meat which had gone wrong in consequence. It is expected that the factories will be working again in a day or two. Meanwhile cocktails are "off."

The weather continues very dry, and the crops are suffering severely. Unless some good heavy rains come along soon, the crop for next year will be a very poor one.

**British Guiana.**

Showers have fallen during the last week, writes Mr. J. C. McCowan under date August 3rd. The average rainfall for the colony in June works out at 10.14 in., as compared with 5.19 in. in May. The average for Demerara was 11.19, for Berbice 6.38, and Essequibo 12.71. Captain Henry Daley has arrived in the colony, accompanied by Mr. J. N. McCall, who for the past seven years was geologist to the Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited. They intend making geological investigations on behalf of the Transvaal Oil Shale Syndicate.

S.s. *Sulej*, which left on July 17th for Calcutta, took away 853 adults, who had with them jewellery to the value of \$18,783 and remittances to the extent of \$112,701. S.s. *Chenal* was expected at the end of the month to take a further batch of immigrants back to India. Mr. J. A. Viapree, the new president of the East Indian Association, addressed a meeting of the Association on July 29th on the subject of education for East Indian girls, and a resolution was carried calling on the Government to enforce the provisions of the Education Ordinance relating to non-attendance.



The *Argosy* contains a eulogy by Mr. J. Graham Cruickshank of Mr. Rodway's historical work, and gives illustrations of his zest for original research. Mr. Rodway, now in his seventy-third year, is seeing through the press a new book, "The Story of Georgetown," which is being published through the enterprise of the Municipality.

The labour troubles in Georgetown are now at an end, the men having returned to work. At the thirtieth annual meeting of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, held on July 23rd, Mr. C. Martin Sperry, who presided, referred to the advisability of appointing a salaried Secretary-Treasurer. He also advocated the holding of an impartial inquiry into the conditions of labour and wages in the colony.

The Hon. E. G. Woolford, the Mayor of Georgetown, has had the honour of being appointed a King's Counsel. Many congratulations have been received by Mr. R. G. Brassington on the celebration of his Golden Wedding on July 30th. The deaths are recorded of Mr. S. S. Percival, manager of the Minnehaha Company, and Mr. J. F. Rose, retired Inspector of Schools, Georgetown.

Captain Lionel Denis Peterkin has accepted the appointment of Senior Master of Queen's College.

#### Departure of British Honduras' Governor.

On the occasion of the departure of the Governor for England, the *Clarion*, in its issue of August 5th, takes the opportunity to pay a glowing tribute to the energy and zeal of his Excellency's administration since he assumed office in March, 1919. In his address to the Legislative Council, the Governor foreshadowed the undertaking of some of the following important public works:—The filling up of the swamp area behind Newtown Barracks, the provision of a water supply for Belize, and the completion of the Belize-Cayo road. It would be necessary, however, to increase the loan to at least \$1,000,000. Debentures are accordingly to be issued on October 1st, the rate of interest offered being 6 per cent. The Royal Bank of Canada has intimated that it is prepared to take up \$300,000 of these at par.

An address on the commercial union of the colony with Canada was delivered to the Legislative Council on the 11th inst. by the Hon. F. W. Biddle in reply to the Governor's opening speech as regards the Budget.

The fifteenth report of the Belize Permanent Building Society shows a net profit of \$1,075 for the half-year, and a dividend of 3½ per cent. is recommended. Mr. Percy George has been appointed to act as a director temporarily. On August 6th a meeting, principally of coconut planters, was held in the room of the Chamber of Commerce, as the outcome of which the British Honduras Products Association was formed for the purpose of protecting the sale of the colony's products, and in particular to secure a better market than at present exists for the sale of coconuts. Mr. Cornelius Hummel, the forestry expert sent by the Home Government, has arrived at Belize. His appointment is the result of the recent British Empire Forestry Conference. The Governor left for England on August 21st by *s.s. Ellis*, via the United States.

Canon G. H. Hogbin, D.D., has taken the place of Mr. J. P. Usher as a member of the Board of Education.

A recent Ordinance regulates prospecting for crude oil within the colony. Licences to do so will only be granted to British subjects and British companies.

#### Grenada.

The Legislative Council on July 28th passed the Excess Profits Amendment Ordinance. The *West Indian* favours a contribution by the colony to the Tropical Agricultural College to be established in Trinidad. September 19th, two days before the expected arrival of the Prince of Wales, is the fifth anniversary of the departure of the first Grenada Contingent for service in His Majesty's Forces, but in view of the approaching festivities, the event is not to be especially commemorated.

#### The Jamaica Strikes.

At the annual meeting of the Jamaica League this month, writes Mr. F. Cummins on August 17th, there were many interesting features, including two addresses on Education, one by Archdeacon Simms on "Secondary Education" and the other by Mr. J. H. Duff, M.A., recently appointed head of the Mico Training College, the subject being "Elementary Education in our Island Schools." It was a matter of disappointment that the meetings did not receive the attendance they deserved.

Much interest has recently centred round the trade agreement made at Ottawa, and to-day Jamaicans are more interested in the future status of the Big Dominion than they were a month or two ago. Some dissatisfaction has occurred in certain quarters as to the steamers that are to ply between Canada, Bermuda, British Honduras and Jamaica. These are to be smaller vessels than those to run between Canada, Barbados, Trinidad, British Guiana, &c. However, at present Jamaica is provided with a fairly good steamship service to many ports, and therefore the position is not a bad one. Weekly sailings take place between New York and Jamaica and England and Jamaica, and *vice versa*, while vessels call here weekly on their way to Colombian ports and on their way back. There is occasional communication with Havre and Rotterdam, while we are provided with a good coastal service.

Major Thomas, the new head of the Jamaica Government Railway, promises to be the right man, and one likely to introduce plenty of new ideas into our railway here. Recently he has been confronted with two distinct strikes in his department. One was started by the locomotive workmen and firemen. With certain alterations the men's demands were met, but Major Thomas laid down this wholesome principle, that where local brains could be obtained local men would be employed, otherwise the man for the job must be got from outside the island. The other strike commenced yesterday, August 16th. This is among the conductors and motormen. Their grievance is that they refuse to work under a certain train inspector, as being incompetent, and they decline to render him assistance. The Director has refused to remove him, and points out that any man who is not inclined to work under him "can leave the service at once."

A strike among the subordinates in the police force for increased pay occurred on Monday, the 16th inst., and up to the present no agreement has been reached. At present privates in the Force receive as a minimum 5s. per day. They want a minimum pay for all policemen of 10s. per day. Another grievance is that they are fined excessively by Inspectors for trivial offences. Attempts by the Inspector-General and Deputy-Inspector-General to reason with the men, and to suggest that they lay their grievances before the Government in writing, proved of no avail yesterday. Special constables and a detachment of the Royal Sussex Regiment did patrolling last night.

The *Jamaica Times* is anxious about the fate of Headquarters House, Kingston, which for nearly fifty years has accommodated the office of the Home Secretary, and is one of the few remaining specimens of a style of residence common in the eighteenth century. It owed its existence to the famous wager made between Jasper Hall Thomas Hibbert, and John Bull. The Government has been recently advised that the building is unsafe for continuance in its present use, and it is feared that demolition may follow.

The appointments are announced by the *Gleaner* of Mr. H. K. M. Sienett and Mr. F. C. Wells Durrant to fill the posts of Puisne Judge and Judge of the Supreme Court respectively. Mr. Sienett was educated at Harrison College, Barbados, in which island he practised at the Bar in 1897, from the next year until 1903 practising in Jamaica. In 1907 he became Registrar-General of British Honduras, and in 1913 accepted the post of



Stipendiary Magistrate of British Guiana, where, in the absence of Dr J. J. Nunan, he has been acting Attorney-General.

It is announced that His Excellency the Governor intends to appoint a committee to report on the cost of living as it affects the artisan class. Another Commission, the members of which are the Hon. Robert Johnston, Chairman, Mr. Baggett-Gray, Mr. A. H. Da Costa, Mr. R. S. Gamble, and Mr. L. de Cordova, has been appointed to consider the question of a fusion of the Mayor and Council and the Kingston General Commissioners. At the monthly meeting of the Jamaica Tourist Association, on August 18th, it was stated that from the large amount of correspondence received, chiefly from Great Britain, it was anticipated that there would be a heavy influx of visitors from December onwards. The *Gleaner*, in its issue of August 19th, publishes an interview with the Attorney-General (the Hon. E. St. John Branch), in which the latter expresses his view that the abolition of the Dutch Sugar Standard is in no way vital, and believes that the other sugar-producing colonies are content with the preference given by the Ottawa Agreement to sugars not above 16 Dutch standard.

#### St. Kitts.

Mr. George Cunyghame Johnson has been appointed Treasurer and Controller of Customs of the Presidency. The *Gazette* contains a notification of the resignation of Mr. C. W. W. Greenidge of his appointment as Magistrate of District "D". The rainfall for July was 6.93 in., making a total for the first seven months of the year of 36.53 in.

#### St. Vincent.

An Ordinance to prevent profiteering was passed by the Legislature on July 30th, making it illegal for any merchant or shopkeeper to withhold from sale articles declared to be in common use by the public, or to impose, or even attempt to impose, any condition thereon relating to the purchase of any other article, whether such article be a declared article or otherwise. The Ordinance contains further restrictions, and the full penalty is one hundred pounds, or in default six months' imprisonment without hard labour.

The weather has been favourable, and the crops were looking extremely well. Ginning operations at the Government Central Cotton Factory were completed on August 2nd. The crop was estimated at 2,000 bales.

#### Trinidad's Water Supply.

By a recent Ordinance, an Industrial Court is set up, consisting of representatives of employers and workmen appointed by the Governor, to settle industrial disputes and advise the Governor on economic questions referred to it. Major J. W. Wilson, M.C., V.D., has been appointed Deputy Inspector-General of Constabulary. Mr. G. C. Deane becomes a Puisne Judge of the Colony on the retirement of Mr. Blackwood Wright.

The water question remains the outstanding matter for consideration, writes Mr. Edgar Tripp under date August 19th. Notwithstanding fairly heavy rainfall in the hills, the supply continues to be cut off daily for several hours. Such a condition of things cannot be much longer endured in a city of the wealth and importance of Port-of-Spain. A considerable sum of money will be required to effect a remedy, but the situation must be faced sooner or later, and the sooner the better, especially when it is remembered that the colony was never in its history so prosperous as to-day. An interesting and valuable contribution to the subject has been afforded by a report to the Landowners' Committee by Mr. T. H. Scott, formerly the Town Engineer of the City Council, and now a director of Messrs. Gordon Grant & Company, Limited. Mr. Scott has given many proofs of his undoubted ability and of his capacity to speak on engineering subjects, and he

strongly supports views that have been for many years expressed by practical men in the colony. Mr. Scott says that there is, in his view, an ample water supply for all practical purposes in Trinidad, and the only points in this connection requiring immediate attention are conservation and distribution. He adds: "It cannot be too strongly urged that the problems involved are largely of a pure engineering nature, and are quite capable of practical solution." This remark may possibly have reference to the statements made on the best authority that the geological conditions of the colony might render the construction of a huge central storage reservoir impracticable. Mr. Scott concludes with a statement that will meet with universal approbation. He says that in the course of his investigations he has become more than ever convinced of the urgent necessity for a *comprehensive* scheme for water supply, and that unless practical steps are taken in this direction at an early date there is no doubt in his mind that the best interests of the colony will be prejudiced.

Nevertheless we should not forget that a great deal of very useful work has been done by the authorities to relieve the hardship in the country districts during the past few years. Very few people, I think, who condemn the powers that be so freely have taken the trouble to inquire what steps have been taken to ameliorate matters. In fairness, for instance, to our able Director of Public Works, Mr. Bell, it should be remembered that so far back as 1912, failing the possibility of the necessary funds being forthcoming for a comprehensive scheme, he submitted to the Legislative Council a proposal to provide fair permanent supplies of potable water in those country districts which were in most urgent need of it. This report—No. 194 of 1912—gave evidence of the most careful inquiry into the existing sources of supply in the districts referred to, and must have entailed a considerable amount of labour in preparation. The report was accompanied by a map of Trinidad showing the places and localities to be supplied. No undue expenditure was proposed or resulted. The scheme was merely to utilise the springs, &c., so that they might be available for the people to take water themselves and without the necessity of imposing water rates, which might have pressed hardly on the peasantry. The only cost to the Government was to maintain the works in a proper manner and see that proper use was made of the wells. Up to December 31st, 1916, about forty of these sources of supply, which proved an incalculable blessing to the nearby residents, had been provided at a total expenditure of about £4,000. No further official report of progress has been issued to date, but the good work has steadily proceeded, not only in completion of the original plan, but in the sinking of a number of additional wells not in the original scheme.

At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce yesterday, Mr. Walcott's report of the Canada-West Indies Trade Conference was submitted and approved with an expression of the Chamber's thanks to Mr. Walcott for the able manner in which he had represented the best interests of the colony on the occasion. At the same time a protest was entered for communication to the Government against the continued application in Canada of the Dutch Standard of Colour in connection with the preference to be given on sugar.

Mr. George Huggins, O.B.E., the Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G., and the writer are to be the West Indian representatives at the forthcoming meeting of the Imperial Chamber of Commerce at Toronto.

MR. H. F. WILBY, who returned to St. Kitts in R.M.S. *Quillota* at the end of August, was married earlier in that month to Vera, fifth daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Verner, of Paignton, Devon.



## PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephones—Central 6642.  
Telegrams—"Curib, London."



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.  
Sept. 14th, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 7 per cent., as from April 15th.

**EXCHANGE** on New York, \$348-93-51.

**SUGAR.** Starting with September 6th, British West India grocery sugars have been free from control, subject to the maximum "reasonable" price, which for the period September 6th until October 2nd has been fixed at 120s. Business has been done at 95-102s. (with a few bags at 105s.). Refiners' crystals are selling at 102s. For the purpose of comparison, it may be useful to give the control prices, which are for loaf sugar 116s. per cwt. (retail, 1s. 2d. per lb.), and for granulated, dry white sugar, and white pieces, 112s. per cwt. (retail, 1s. 2d. per lb.).

The period during which the Royal Commission undertook to distribute 10,000 tons of West India sugars came to an end on September 4th, when 9,500 tons had been allotted, of which about 5,000 tons have been rejected by buyers to whom it was sent. It remains to be seen in what way the Royal Commission will dispose of this balance.

The Royal Commission have declined to sanction the sale to manufacturers of West Indian sugars that have failed to pass the grocery test, and these sugars must therefore be exported or offered to the Commission for refining purposes as hitherto. It is announced by the Food Controller that in the event of a coal strike the ration per head will be reduced from 12 oz. to 6 oz.

The slump in America continues, and it is believed that a sympathetic tendency will assert itself on this side.

The West India Sugar statistics in London on September 4th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	
Imports	34,751	36,052	25,042	Tons.
Deliveries	53,662	31,286	27,184	"
Stock	27,047	10,953	9,745	"

**CACAO.** The market is still very dull. At public auction held on August 31st about 29,000 bags were catalogued, but there was a complete absence of demand. The only sound cacao sold was 120 bags good plantation Trinidad at 89s., and a few bags of good middling red Ceylon at 145s.; the remainder was bought in. Mr. Edgar Tripp reports that the exports from Trinidad during July were 4,931,431 lb., making a total for the year of 53,379,208 lb. The exports for the same period for the past seven years were as follows:—

1919	51,369,624	lb
1918	41,813,394	"
1917	63,759,928	"
1916	44,017,362	"
1915	42,877,872	"
1914	57,606,311	"
1913	41,194,685	"

The stocks in London on September 4th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	
Trinidad	54,209	40,342	6,724	Bags
Grenada	31,184	16,756	11,390	"
Total of all kinds	303,532	142,158	131,954	"

**RUM.** The market is still very dull with only a small enquiry. A few parcels of Jamaicas—1919 distillation—have been sold at 11s.

The stocks in London on September 4th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	
Jamaica	11,902	7,185	4,799	Puns.
Demerara	13,628	14,649	7,859	"
Total of all kinds	35,448	26,872	17,305	"

**ARROWROOT.** There is no change to report. Market still dull.

**BALATA.** West Indian sheet is steady; forward 4s. 3d. c.i.f., spot 4s. 6d.

**COCONUTS.** Mr. Edgar Tripp reports exports from Trinidad to July 31st, 14,410,889 nuts.

**COFFEE.** Fair supplies have been offered at auction during the past fortnight; suitable Home Trade parcels were partly sold at about steady prices, but there is no improvement in the position of export coffees.

**COPRA** is firm. West India f.m.s. is quoted at £55 c.i.f. United Kingdom or Holland.

**COTTON.** West Indian Sea Island very quiet; nominal quotation 70d. to 75d. Imports in the thirty-seven weeks ending September 7th, 7,370 bales.

**HONEY** remains very quiet with only a small business passing. Jamaica fair to fine is quoted at 65s. to 90s., and dark Cuban at 55s.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** The quotations for Handpressed and Distilled Lime Oil, and Raw Lime Juice are unchanged; buyers still show no interest.

**LOGWOOD.** There is no business to report.

**OIL.** 21,564,786 gallons were exported from Trinidad during the first seven months of the year.

**ORANGE OIL.** Sweet. Jamaica offering on spot at 28s., but no orders. Bitter is not wanted.

**SPICES.** Nutmegs at last auction were sold at a further decline of 2d. A fair quantity of 40's sold at 10d., and 110's at 7d. Mace is easier; fair to good is worth 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. Pimento is quiet, but steady. A very small business has been done at 4d. on the spot.

### WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 3/6 for three lines and 1/- for each additional line.

**NURSE.** Service of nurse available in return for her passage to Trinidad. Good with children—"H. H." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3.

**COPIES OF "THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR."** No. 571, are much wanted. The Manager will gladly pay 6d. per copy for unsoiled copies delivered at 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3.

**LADY** with West Indian nurse, highly trustworthy and experienced in care of children, would like to hear from lady requiring nurse, and who will pay passage only in exchange for services—Reply "Y," 55, Manchester Street, W. 1.

**MANAGER** for the CENTRAL SUGAR FACTORY REQUIRED by the GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA. Salary £2,000 per annum with house, or £200 per annum in lieu. Candidates, not over 35 years of age, must have had recent experience in managing a modern sugar factory having English machinery, with an output of not less than 5,000 tons, and must show that their previous management was successful financially and otherwise. Apply at once, giving age and brief details of experience, to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, London, S.W. 1, quoting M/Jamaica 10,146. Applicants must be British subjects, and have served in some branch of His Majesty's Forces during the late war, unless satisfactory reasons for not having done so can be furnished.



# The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXV.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1920.

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone:  
CENTRAL 6642.

Telegrams:  
CARIB, LONDON.



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.  
Sept. 30th, 1920

### The Merits of West Indian Sugar.

IT is refreshing to notice the reappearance of West Indian crystallised and muscovado sugar in the stores and grocers' shop windows throughout the country. Since September 6th these sugars, provided they are passed as being of grocery standard by the Grading Committee, have been "free." That is to say, they may be freely sold for all purposes, subject to the maximum price fixed for that time (which is at present 120s. per cwt.), not being exceeded. It will, we hope, be remembered that the decontrol of these sugars has been entirely due to the persistent representations of the West India Committee, who eventually took the case of the producers to the supreme arbiter in such matters, the Food Controller himself. It will be recalled that the Committee and the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply did not see eye to eye regarding the interpretation of an agreement entered into in December last regarding the disposal of these sugars, and that a serious situation arose. Upwards of 20,000 tons of West Indian crystallised and muscovado sugar lay in this country unsaleable owing to the refusal of the Commission to allot it, and the unwillingness of the growers to handle other sugar than that supplied to them through the Commission's channels. Mr. C. A. McCURDY, M.P., the Food Controller, and his Parliamentary Under-Secretary, SIR WILLIAM MITCHELL-THOMSON, M.P., met the Com-

mittee in true statesmanlike spirit, and a compromise was soon agreed to. The Commission undertook to allot, or otherwise make themselves responsible for the disposal of, 10,000 tons of these sugars on the basis of the prices fixed for August, and as from September 6th sugars of grocery quality, other than white, were to be freed from control, subject only to a maximum price not being exceeded. The Food Controller further proffered a free advertisement for West Indian sugars in his announcement to the Press. This *réclame* was in effect much whittled down, but otherwise the new agreement is being faithfully observed. During the allotment period the grocers resented part of their deliveries being made in West Indian sugars, and this was attributed in some quarters to the Public demand for crystallised and muscovado being dead. We never shared that view. The number of letters received by the West India Committee from people all over the country complaining that the grocers would not or could not supply them with these sugars clearly showed that the demand was still alive, and investigation showed that the trouble arose through the grocers being—perhaps not unnaturally—unwilling to receive numerous small contracts through channels to which they had become unaccustomed, and to the difficulty which they experienced in inducing those of their customers who did not want "brown" sugar to accept it as part of their ration. Now, however, the situation has undergone a remarkable change. Attracted by the lower prices at which they are being offered, the Public is again buying West Indian crystallised and muscovado, while some large purchasers are buying these sugars in preference to their "allotment" of white sugars. As a result, the stocks of crystallised are now moving off rapidly, and there is good reason to hope that the muscovado will also be absorbed. Both classes of sugar are faced by competitors, the canary-coloured "yellow crystals," dyed originally in imitation of "Demerara," and refiners' "pieces" having also been "freed;" but we feel confident that as far as quality is concerned these competitors need not be regarded seriously, provided that the Public are made to realise that beauty (?) is only skin deep and that an aniline or coal-tar dye cannot impart to white crystals the delicate flavour and aroma of true West Indian crystallised sugars. Similarly refiners' pieces, which until recently were made almost entirely from foreign beet, whose obnoxious earthy aroma and taste they retained, cannot compete for flavour with the real muscovado



manufactured direct from the sugar-cane, whose delicious taste it embodies to a marked degree. During the war the Public demand for West Indian sugars was jeopardised by the action of the Royal Commission in distributing for direct consumption sugars from the Philippines and elsewhere, which were not fit and were never intended to reach the breakfast table. It was further prejudiced by the withholding of supplies when a better profit could be made by selling it to manufacturers. In spite of this, however, the Public, as events are now showing, is still alive to the merits of West Indian sugars, which with judicious advertisement will to our minds be successfully marketed as a speciality for many years to come.

## THE PRINCE IN THE WEST INDIES.

In due course the CIRCULAR hopes to publish detailed accounts of the Prince of Wales' visit to the British West Indies, which will have been brought to a close by the time these lines are in print.

Meanwhile it will be of interest to record the Prince's movements as briefly chronicled in the cabled messages received from H.M.S. *Renown*.

The *Renown*, escorted by H.M.S. *Calcutta*, reached Trinidad on September 17th, and the Prince of Wales landed in the forenoon at Port of Spain, where he was given an enthusiastic welcome by the crowds lining the "prosperous streets," which were decorated with "sugar-cane stalks, cocoa-pods, and coconuts." He was presented with addresses of Welcome at the Red House and Town Hall, and in the afternoon took a drive, during which he visited the former capital, St. Joseph, where he received another address. On returning to Port of Spain, he visited the Savannah, where upwards of 5,000 children were assembled, and then attended a garden party at Government House which was followed by an official dinner and by a ball at Prince's Building.

In reply to the toast of his health at the dinner the Prince of Wales said:—

I saw a suggestion before I left England, that the British Empire might be willing to part with one or more British West Indian Islands to a foreign Power, and I should like to say here again what I said in March, that British subjects are not for sale. I can assure you that the King and all of us in the Old Country have very much at heart the welfare of Trinidad and all the British West Indies, as of all other British possessions.

On Saturday, the 18th, the Prince held a reception, and later a dance was given on board the *Renown*. Sunday was kept free from engagements, and in the evening the Prince embarked in the *Calcutta* and sailed for Georgetown, British Guiana, where he landed on Wednesday, the 22nd. Here again he received an enthusiastic welcome from all classes of the community, including many returned soldiers of the British West Indies Regiment, with whom he shook hands. At the Town Hall he was presented with an address, which was read by the senior elected member of the Combined Court, and he then drove in procession through the streets to the Botanical Gardens, where he was cheered by an

immense gathering of school children and others. After lunching at Government House, the Prince visited the races and a busy day was brought to a close by a State dinner and a ball.

The *Renown*, which the Prince joined again at Port of Spain on Thursday, the 23rd, arrived the next day at Grenada, where another most enthusiastic reception awaited him. Replying to an address read in the "Old French Court House," the Prince said that the strength and spirit of the British Commonwealth could not be fully grasped by anyone who had not seen the British Dominions and Colonies at first hand.

"The more I see of the King's world-wide possessions," he added, "the more deeply impressed I am by the strength of the sentiment which binds them to the Empire and the Throne."

## WEST INDIAN STEAMER SERVICE.

It will no doubt be reassuring to those visitors from the West Indies who are at present stranded in this country owing to the suspension of the trans-atlantic steamer service to know that the matter is continuing to engage the constant attention of the West India Committee. On September 22nd the Committee addressed the following letter to Viscount Milner on the subject:—

MY LORD,—We desire to call your attention to the serious inconvenience which is resulting from the suspension of the direct passenger steamer service recently carried on by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company between this country and the British West Indies.

2. Since the announcement of the decision of the Company to terminate the service was made at the beginning of August last we have done the utmost in our power to provide passages by alternative routes for those desirous of returning to their homes in the West Indies, and others wishing to proceed to those colonies on business or to take up appointments, but we still have on our list the names of upwards of 250 passengers for whom accommodation cannot be obtained. All assure us that it is imperative for various reasons that they should reach the West Indies before the end of the year.

3. Apart altogether from the immediate necessities of the case, we regard it as in the highest degree undesirable that there should be no direct passenger communication between the Mother Country and her colonies in the Caribbean, especially having regard to the endeavour which is being made to develop trade between the West Indies and the United Kingdom, following the adoption by his Majesty's Government of the principle of Imperial Preference.

4. In the circumstances, we beg respectfully to urge that his Majesty's Treasury may be requested to provide such financial assistance by way of a guarantee or grant as will enable arrangements to be made for a resumption of sailings temporarily, in order to relieve the present inconvenience, pending the consideration of a more comprehensive scheme for direct communication on the lines suggested by the West Indian Shipping Committee, as to the need of which we still attach the utmost importance.

We have the honour to be, &c.,

R. RUTHERFORD,

Chairman.

ALGERNON ARPINALL,

Secretary.

[An important development in this connection is recorded on page 297 of this issue.]



## SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"LITTLE crab hole spoil big racehorse."

It is with deep regret that we have to announce that Mr. W. Burslem, the late Principal of Queen's College, Trinidad, died at Bay Cottage in Barbados in August last. A memoir of Mr. Burslem will be published in next CIRCULAR.

Mr. J. H. ROBINSON leaves England by s.s. *Crysmen* to-day to take up the post of Lecturer in Natural and Agricultural Science, Barbados, to which he has just been appointed. Mr. Robinson, after graduating at Cambridge University, was for many years chief Science Master at Brighton College.

THE CIRCULAR regrets to learn of the death at Denmark Hill, from pneumonia, of Dr. A. A. McKinnon, for many years in the Government Medical Service of British Guiana. Much sympathy will be felt with the widow, who intends to return at the earliest opportunity to the West Indies, and with her children, who are at present in Barbados.

On the occasion of the launch of a 13,000-ton Donaldson cargo vessel at Barrow on September 14th Sir James McKechnie stated that while a pennyworth of coal would carry 6 lb. of meat from South America to this country, 10 lb. could be carried for the same distance for a pennyworth of fuel oil. He hoped the day was not far distant when boilers would be dispensed with in ships of the size of that now being launched.

As we go to press, we learn that Messrs. Furness Withy & Co., Limited, have acquired the business and steamers of the Trinidad Shipping and Trading Company, which ply between New York and Grenada and Trinidad with an extension to Demerara in the winter months. It will be recalled that Messrs. Furness Withy & Co. acquired the Quebec Steamship Company earlier in the year, and interesting developments in these services may be expected.

Mr. J. H. Rapsey, who, it will be recalled, has been actively interested with Hon. A. H. Cipriani, M.B.E., in an endeavour to establish an airplane service in the West Indies, has shown his confidence in flying by visiting Paris by Handley Page aeroplane. The journey each way took under 2½ hours, and Mr. Rapsey is now more enthusiastic than ever as to the possibilities of aerial communication in the West Indies, though negotiations in this connection have not so far materialised.

THE National Council for Combating Venereal Disease is sending a Commission to the West Indies to investigate the prevalence of venereal disease and organise arrangements for its prevention and cure. It is much to be hoped that the delegates will receive the fullest support and co-operation of the communities in whose interests this measure is being adopted. To this end Sir James Yoxall, M.P., General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers in Great Britain, has been invoking the aid of the local education authorities.

UNDER the heading of "Rent Profiteering" a West Indian contemporary tells of two instances of "heartless" profiteers who have increased rents by 50 per cent. and 75 per cent. respectively. What must it think of conditions in the City of London, where rents generally are being increased by anything from 200 per cent. to 300 per cent.? The West India Committee has only secured an extension of its lease—pending its removal to new premises—on payment of *three times its recent rent*. This fact makes it more imperative than ever that

members should pay their subscriptions punctually, and it is earnestly hoped that the few still in arrears will pay their subscriptions at any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or will forward them direct without delay.

THE assistance of Dutch cocoa producers is to be invoked by Hartley & Moore, Limited, which issued a prospectus on September 2nd inviting applications for 48,699 10 per cent. preference shares of £1 each and 50,000 10 per cent. short term £10 debentures. This concern, which was incorporated as a private company as recently as in November, 1918, has now been registered as a public one, with a capital of £75,000, to manufacture cocoa, chocolates, confectionery, &c. The prospectus states that it has entered into negotiations with Sir William Ingram, Bart., Chairman of the Trinidad Land and Finance Company, Limited, to secure the whole of the output of "the extensive cacao and coconut plantation of approximately 4,000 acres, known as the Macqueripe Estate," in Trinidad.

At the request of the Bishop and Synod of the Church of England in Jamaica, Mr. Frank Cundall recently undertook to write the life of the late Archbishop Nuttall. During his visit to England, which terminated on September 21st, Mr. Cundall took the opportunity of visiting the scenes of the Archbishop's boyhood days and obtaining what information was available regarding his early life. He is anxious to obtain any letters or documents which may assist him in this work, and will be grateful if any old friends or correspondents of the late Archbishop will be willing to lend him any such material in their possession as may be useful for the compilation of the biography. Any original documents will be carefully preserved and returned after use. They should be sent to Frank Cundall, Esq., F.S.A., The Institute of Jamaica, Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I.

MANY indications point to the demand for copra and coconut oil increasing before long to an extent far exceeding the pre-war scale of production. The United States now use enormous quantities of copra and coconut oil, and their imports have risen from 24,880 tons of copra and 33,210 tons of coconut oil in the year 1913-14 to 141,225 tons of copra and 144,760 tons of oil in the year 1918-19. Germany was formerly the largest importer of copra, and may be expected to resume this trade as soon as conditions enable her to do so. Russia also imported copra more largely than any other oil nut. Meanwhile, as the "Times" Trade Supplement points out, the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana (in which colony about 24,000 acres are planted with coconut palms, as against 35,000 in Jamaica, 27,000 in Trinidad, and 9,000 in Tobago) considers that it has been conclusively proved that coconuts are suitable for cultivation over large areas in the lowlands of the colony, that local varieties will yield heavy crops of medium-sized nuts on relatively heavy clay soils on the coastal lands, whilst on lighter lands similar varieties produce much larger nuts.

**RICH FLYING FISH SOUP.**—Take the skin off twelve highly-seasoned flying fish, shred them fine, put into a saucepan with 3 pints of water, five tomatoes without skin or seeds, 1 lb. of chopped onion, 1 lb. of stewed fesh pumpkin, six boiled and crushed white eddoes, six stewed ochres crushed, ½ lb. of minced and boiled salt pork, two or three cloves, black pepper and mace all pounded fine, bunch of thyme, a ripe bonnet pepper cut fine, and a dessert spoonful of cassaripe. When boiled add a dessert-spoonful of good salt butter and a glass of wine. If too thick, thin it with boiling water, and it must remain on the fire some time after this is added. (Mrs. W. C. Clarke.)



## ROYAL VISITS TO THE WEST INDIES.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

(Continued from page 277.)

The next Royal visit to the West Indies was that of the Princes Albert Victor and George Frederick (his present Majesty) in the *Bacchante*, during their education tour round the world, a full account of which is given in "The Cruise of Her Majesty's Ship *Bacchante*, 1879-1882, compiled from the private letters and notebooks of Prince Albert Victor and Prince George of Wales, with additions by John N. Dalton" (1886).

When the *Bacchante* reached Carlisle Bay, on Christmas Day, 1879, the Barbadians had had some three months' notice, and would have been ready with a true Barbadian welcome but for the fact that the powers that then were decided that the visit should not be treated as official; so there were no addresses or other formal presentations. The Princes landed quietly and visited the Governor, Major G. Strachan, and General Gamble, the Commander of the Forces. The next day they played tennis at Government House. On the 27th they visited the General at Queen's House. The 28th was spent on board ship. On the evening of the 29th a ball was given at Government House. On the 30th they dined at Government House. On the 31st a subscription ball was given by the Bachelors at the recently erected Marine Hotel; but, unfortunately, the Princes were unable to attend, as they were tired by much travelling in the country during the day on a picnic to Codrington College, where they planted palm trees, on which occasion the populace of the neighbourhood mistook some midshipmen for the royal visitors, and spent the first ardour of their welcome on them instead of on "Queen Victoria's picanninies." One imagines that their tutor, the Rev. John Dalton, had a voice in the matter of their not attending the ball. Prince Albert Victor attended a cricket match on New Year's Day between the "Wanderers" Eleven of the colony and a team from the *Bacchante* captained by Lord Charles Scott.

On January 2nd the Prince visited "Farley Hill," which, as we have seen, had been formerly visited by their royal uncle; in the evening there was a ball, given by the merchants of Bridgetown, at the Marine Hotel. On the 3rd the Princes lunched with Bishop Mitchinson, and visited Cole's Cave. The 4th was spent on board ship, and on the 5th they sailed.

On the morning of January 7th Trinidad was reached, and in the evening the princes dined with the Governor, Sir Henry Irving, at Government House, and then attended a ball given by Mr. Leon Agostini, at which "everyone wished Eddy many happy returns of his birthday." On the 8th the Princes were rated as midshipmen: hitherto they had been only naval cadets. On the 9th they played lawn tennis at Government House. On the 10th they visited the Blue Basin; the 11th was spent on board ship; on the 12th they visited the High Woods and saw a balata tree pierced, spending the

night on shore at Government House. On the 13th they visited the Maracas Fall; on the 14th Arima and a cacao plantation; on the 15th up the Maraville Valley and over the Saddle; the 16th was "very wet," and was spent in the Botanical Gardens; the 17th to San Josef and sugar works, and then back to the *Bacchante*, after a five days' visit to the Governor. The 18th was spent on board ship, and on the 19th there was a ball given on board. On the 20th the *Bacchante* went to La Brea, and the princes visited the pitch lake. On the 21st they visited the Usine St. Madeleine and the mission village of Monkey Town, which "is to be called from this day forward Princes Town," where the Princes planted two trees.

On the 22nd the *Bacchante* returned to Port-of-Spain, and "at 3 p.m. bade farewell to all our visitors in the pouring rain."

Sailing north they passed St. Lucia, to Grenada, which was reached on the 26th about midday. In the afternoon the Princes called at Government House; the 27th was spent on board ship; on the 28th they played tennis at Government House; on the 29th they formed part of a riding party into the hills to the Grand Etang. On February 2nd the ship left for Carriacou, which was reached the following day. On the 4th the Princes had a "good scamper" on shore. St. Vincent was reached on the 7th. On the 9th they inspected part of the island under the guidance of Mr. Cowie, and they attended a dance given by the Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Dundas. The 10th and 11th were given up to riding in the country. On the 12th the ship went to Chateaubelair, and then Soufrière was visited by some of the officers. On the 14th they landed at St. Lucia and rode up Morne Fortuné. On the 16th the Soufrière was visited in a steam pinnace. On the 18th the *Bacchante* went back to Barbados with a sick seaman, who was landed there on the 20th. After visiting the Governor at King's House, the Princes left for Martinique, which was reached in the evening. The Princes landed the following day and saw the sights of St. Pierre; and on the 23rd they rode up the Morne Rouge; and on the 24th to the baths of the Prêcheur, and at 5 p.m. the *Bacchante* weighed anchor. The following afternoon Roseau was reached, and on the 26th the Princes rode with the President, Mr. Eldridge, through part of the country. On the 28th they were conducted by Dr. Nicholls up the Laudat Valley and to the top of Morne Diablotin. On March 2nd the Princes made another visit on shore and rode out to Belle Vue and on to Champs Elysées; and on the 4th they rode up the Laudat Valley to the sulphur spring. On the 5th the *Bacchante* sailed past Montserrat, St. Kitts, Nevis, St. Croix, to St. Thomas, which was reached on the 7th. They spent the day on the Danish corvette *Dagmar*, but did not land. On the 8th the *Bacchante* sailed, past Porto Rico and Hispaniola to Jamaica, which was reached on March 12th. On the 13th the Princes called on Mr. Newton, who was then Acting-Governor, and dined at the Commodore's (Hon. W. S. Ward) in the evening. On the 15th they got away from coaling by spending the time on the *Urgent*, Port Royal's last guardship. On the 17th they went to the King's House.

(To be concluded.)



## THE OUTLOOK FOR CACAO PRICES.

Cacao beans have experienced a steady decline from war-time values, uninterrupted for many months. In this produce, writes Mr. John Clarke in the "Tea and Coffee Trade Journal," scarcity and high prices for sugar would alone have influenced a halting consumption, even without the added handicap of disorganised transportation; when there are added to these obstacles heavy arrivals of beans, virtual extinction of export demand, and finally very real financial stringency, there can be only one trend in values, a progressive decline in all grades and markets.

In more nearly normal times such a decline would have been naturally and inevitably marked by periodic reactions; the pendulum would have swung back at intervals, however feebly, or strongly or temporarily, between the high of 1919 and the present low. Indeed in every normal timepiece the pendulum may be always counted on to swing both ways—except when somebody or something "moves the clock," or lays it flat on its back, or "queers the works." The "cacao clock" is out of order, and the time for its approximate restoration to reliable action is not just yet.

It is true that our American harvests promise yields now seen to be far beyond the spring estimates, and that conditions in transportation, railways, mining labour, and coal are distinctly improved. But this very prospect carries with it an increased use for money, and the American banking policy must necessarily operate to restrict most operations leading to concentration or higher prices in any imported food products this year.

And with full crops of cacao at primary sources, crippled European absorption facilities, liberal supplies here and afloat, and the chief standing factor in values confined to current needs of manufacturers, it seems reasonable to look for prices which, though perhaps not likely to yield very much further, can at least hardly be counted upon to register really important recoveries under any governing conditions now visible.

Cacao beans and cacao products experienced a violent expansion of demand here in 1918 and 1919 because we had to supply not only a large European demand, but our own suddenly concentrated and expanded needs as well. The European factors have been largely eliminated. Central Europe cannot import large totals because it cannot pay for them. It will not be able to do so for a long while to come.

It is often a comparatively insignificant surplus or deficit of supply as against demand that makes or breaks a commodity market. The balance of the last few months has been all and always on the breaking side. It is unlikely to change materially until a different balance of supply and demand eventuates, and that is not now within the realm of reasonable expectation.

In food products this would seem no time for unusual emphasis of opinion or urgency of action, either for depression or expansion of values. Recoveries must necessarily be gradual, when they occur, and that means a restricted and unsettled market for some time to come.

Mr. Droste, a Dutch cocoa manufacturer, who recently visited Chicago, takes on the other hand a brighter view of the future.

"The prospects for cacao in the United States look brighter to me than in any other country I have visited recently," he stated to a representative of the same journal.

Before he came to the United States, Mr. Droste made an extensive trip through China, Japan, India, and other Asian countries. Though he found trade there in

fairly good condition, he believes America is in a far better situation as to demand and supply.

"Commercial conditions in Holland, as well as in other European countries, have been much upset on account of the war, and are still far from settled," said Mr. Droste. "The United States has not felt the results of the war as much as even the neutral countries of Europe. European products have been off the American market for some time, and only this year were we able to resume our exports in a regular way.

"I am pleased to state that I find here a fine opportunity to introduce high grade cacao products. There seems to be an increasing demand for better quality cocoa and chocolate. In my visit to the Pacific Coast States I received the same encouraging impression. The general tendency of the American market of pre-war times toward cheap products, regardless often of quality, seems to have changed considerably."

## GRENADA AND THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The Legislative Council of Grenada, on the motion of the Colonial Secretary, seconded by Mr. F. H. Copland, adopted the following resolution in August, pledging their support to the proposals for establishing a Tropical Agricultural College for the West Indies at Trinidad:—

Whereas the proposals for the establishment of a Tropical Agricultural College in the West Indies embodied in a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies dated January 27th, 1920, forwarding the report of the Committee appointed by the Secretary of State to consider the question, has received the careful attention of this Government;

And whereas it is the opinion of this Council that Grenada should join with other colonies in supporting the scheme set forth in the report of the Committee, on the condition, however, that the College is established in Trinidad;

Be it therefore hereby resolved that this Council gives its hearty support to the Scheme on the condition above mentioned, and will be prepared to vote a sum annually for the support of the College to an amount not exceeding one half of 1 per cent. of the colony's revenue.

## OBITUARY.

### HON. GEORGE FITZPATRICK.

We regret to announce the death of the Hon. George Fitzpatrick in Trinidad.

Mr. George Fitzpatrick was a prominent member of the large and prosperous East Indian community in Trinidad. Himself the son of an Indian immigrant, he ever evinced a keen interest in the welfare of his fellow colonists. He was born in Trinidad, and, after receiving his early education, he came to London to study law, and, after being called to the Bar as a member of Gray's Inn, he returned to the island and took up practice before the local courts. In 1909 he again came to England, having been selected by the East Indian community to give evidence before the Committee on Emigration from India to the Crown Colonies and Protectorates, of which Lord Saunderson was chairman. Three years later he was nominated a member of the Legislative Council, an appointment which gave very general satisfaction. Mr. Fitzpatrick had been a member of the West India Committee since 1909, and was present at the dinner given to the Secretary at Port-of-Spain on March 18th last, on which occasion he spoke in feeling terms of the value of the work of that body.



**OUR LIBRARY.**

**COCOA AND CHOCOLATE. THEIR HISTORY FROM PLANTATION TO CONSUMER.** By A. W. KNAPP, B.Sc., (B'ham), F.I.C., B.Sc. (Lond.). 8½ in. by 5½ in., pp. 202, 97 Illustrations. LONDON: CHAPMAN & HALL, LTD.

This is essentially a popular work, Mr. Knapp having decided to generalise rather than compile a scientific treatise. The result is eminently satisfac-



THE WORLD'S CACAO PRODUCTION.

(Mean of five years, 1914-1918. Average world's production, 295,600 tons per annum.) Diagram showing relative amounts produced by various countries. The shaded parts show production of British Possessions.

tory, and if the book is widely distributed among the public libraries and similar institutions throughout this country, it should help materially to popularise the foodstuff and comforting beverage with which it deals. The author begins with a sketch of the history of cacao and chocolate, which he traces back to the year 1500, when the Mexicans called the tree which produces the "golden bean" "cacahuatl"—a name which, "when spoken by Europeans, is apt to sound like the howl of a dog." This historical sketch is illustrated by several interesting reproductions of old engravings, from which we gather that the equipment of the American Indian was not complete unless it included a chocolate pot and whisk—a weapon closely resembling the familiar swizzle-stick. Passing on to cacao and its cultivation, the author describes briefly the several varieties of the tree and bean, and demonstrates, by the illustration produced on this page from Bontekoe's works, that the idea that cacao needs shade is a very ancient one. He leaves it, however, to the reader to answer the much-discussed question, "Shade or no shade?" tritely remarking, after Shaw, that "the golden rule is that there is

no golden rule." Harvesting and preparation is next dealt with, but what will probably interest the West Indian reader most are the chapters devoted in part to "sale" and to the manufacture of cocoa—as distinct from cacao—and chocolate. The economic pages, too, will appeal, giving, as they do, very clearly figures as well as diagrams regarding the world's production, from which it appears that the British West Indies now contribute towards the total 13.6 per cent. as against British West Africa's 28.3 per cent. Mr. Knapp is certainly to be congratulated on having produced a most readable book, not the least valuable part of which is a bibliography arranged according to the centuries from the eighteenth to the twentieth.

**ALCOHOL: ITS PRODUCTION, PROPERTIES, CHEMISTRY AND INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS.** By CHARLES SIMMONDS, B.Sc., pp. 558. LONDON: MACMILLAN & Co. 21s. net

At the present moment, when the shortage of petrol brings prominently forward the question of the use of alcohol as a substitute for it for motor purposes, the publication of a work on alcohol is most opportune. As Mr. Simmonds says in his preface, the degree of production of alcohol promises to be an index of national prosperity. The ground covered by the work is very extensive. The history of alcohol is traced from "time immemorial" to the present day; the means of which alcohol is produced as the product of bio-chemical agents from various bodies is dealt with, and the chemistry of the various alcohols described, with an account of the various potable beverages into which ordinary alcohol enters. But the chapter which deals with



COPY OF AN OLD ENGRAVING SHOWING THE CACAO TREE AND A TREE SHADING IT.

industrial alcohol is disappointing. This is complete as regards details as to legislation, denaturing,



&c., but is quite lacking in information as to modern stills for the manufacture of strong spirit. The rest of the work is excellent, but the whole is marred by this omission. Mr. Simmonds has catered for the chemist rather than the distiller, and to the former "Alcohol" will be of the greatest value. Perhaps Mr. Simmonds will later on publish a work on the manufacture of industrial alcohol only, which would make good the omission.

**PYROMETRY. A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON THE MEASUREMENT OF HIGH TEMPERATURES.** By CHAS. R. DARLING. 2nd Edition, 224 pp., 67 illustrations. E. & F. N. SPOON, LTD., 57, HAYMARKET, S.W. 1. 12s. 6d. net.

The exact measurement of high temperatures—that is to say, of temperatures above that of the boiling point of mercury—is a matter of the highest importance in modern industrial operations in general, and in sugar manufacture in particular, where the knowledge of furnace and flue conditions in this respect is obligatory for economy of fuel. The author gives in the opening chapter the history of the subject, and points out the great advance made in recent years in the perfecting of apparatus for the measurement of high temperatures. Chapters are respectively devoted to thermo electric resistance, radiation, optical, calorimetric and fusion pyrometers, the concluding chapter containing descriptions of miscellaneous appliances in this connection. The work is freely illustrated, and we cannot recommend it more highly than by saying that it should be in the hands of all engineers and managers connected with sugar factories, and would give them just the information they require as to the description of apparatus suitable for their wants.

## AGRICULTURE IN BRITISH GUIANA.

The *Journal* of the Board of Agriculture of British Guiana for July, 1920, contains an interesting article by Mr. L. D. Cleave, jun., on the annual loss caused through insects in that colony. As regards sugar, the author states that in 1917 there were 77,832 acres in cultivation, which produced 108,181 tons of sugar and 3,956,938 gallons of rum, the total value of the produce for that year being £15,257,275. The estimated value of the sugar and rum lost from insect pests is estimated at \$3,814,318. The rice crop of the colony for that year gave paddy representing 42,040 tons of rice from 64,804 acres, and its value is estimated at \$4,077,880. The loss in this case is estimated at \$203,894. With coconuts, from 29,710 acres in cultivation in 1918, 14,217,400 nuts were obtained, with 72,100 gallons of coconut oil and 5,250 cwt. of copra, the total value of the produce being \$388,655. The loss is estimated at \$58,297. With cacao, from the 2,000 acres in cultivation, the loss is estimated at \$2,955 on a calculated crop value of \$59,100. In the case of coffee, the loss on the 14,850 cwt. produced is estimated at \$8,315. With limes, on a crop valued at \$33,427, the value of the loss from insects is put down at \$1,671. The loss on provisions crops is heavy, the crop from the 18,250 acres in cultivation being subjected to a loss of \$91,201, while on miscellaneous articles the loss is estimated at \$100,000. The loss from insect and other pests in 1917 is therefore calculated to be \$4,280,702.

The *Journal* states that the total area under cultivation in the colony in 1903 was 117,805 acres, consisting of 78,000 acres under sugar-cane, 17,503 acres under rice, and 21,442 acres under other products. In 1918 the total area had extended to 197,887 acres, of which 73,565 acres consisted of sugar, 60,432 acres of rice, and 63,890 acres of other products. These figures show the great increase in the agricultural products other than sugar in the colony in the fifteen years.

## THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

By ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 280.)

Of Antigua's annual output of sugar averaging 15,000 tons, Bental's and Gunthorpe's centrals are responsible for nearly two-thirds. The remaining third is produced by numerous small sugar works, the continued existence of which seems almost an anachronism when one is reminded of the great centrals in Cuba, many producing individually in a single season considerably more than the total crop of Antigua—the "Delicias," for example, yielding 90,000 tons of sugar. But the planters are taking to heart the lesson of Bental's and Gunthorpe's, and it is probable that further developments in the direction of the modernisation of the local sugar industry will take place in the near future. In this connection one thing is certain, and that is that those proprietors who fail to take the opportunity afforded by high prices of putting their houses in order will receive scant sympathy if they get into difficulties when the inevitable day of lower values comes round again.

The renewed prosperity of the sugar industry has naturally had a reflex action on the finances of the presidency, and it is satisfactory to note that the revenue of Antigua has risen from £42,822 in 1899, to £63,528. On the other hand, the expenditure has similarly increased from £51,959 to £66,188, and it would appear to be almost a tradition that the expenditure should exceed the revenue in Antigua, which can hardly be regarded as a healthy state of affairs. Unsatisfactory, too, is the decline in the population, the total of which, according to the census figures of those years, fell from 36,119 in 1891 to 31,394 in 1911.

When embarking upon the compilation of this series of articles, I realised with some degree of apprehension that it would be difficult to avoid incurring the charge of sounding the personal note too much, and I determined to endeavour to combat any such tendency. It would, however, be unbecomingly not to refer from time to time to the generous hospitality lavished upon me, though at the outset I will attempt to disarm criticism by resorting to the well-known subterfuge of principal guests at public banquets, and regard the compliment as being paid to the West India Committee rather than to an individual.

In justice, then, no less to my kindly hosts than to the West India Committee, it must be recorded that after visiting Gunthorpe's factory, I became the guest of the Antigua Agricultural and Commercial Society at a luncheon given at the Defence Force Club. This function was remarkable by reason of the fact that it was organised at only a few hours' notice, and altogether enjoyable because of the thorough good-fellowship which prevailed, no less than the excellence of the menu, to which it is now no secret that the ladies of the company present generously contributed from their private kitchens, one supplying the jellies, another the cheese straws



and so on. It should be mentioned that the Antigua Agricultural and Commercial Society anticipated the consummation of the fight for women's rights by admitting ladies to membership, and it is not too much to say that the members of the fair sex are the life and soul of the body.

Mr. Cowley presided, and the first opportunity was afforded to the guest of explaining the objects of his mission, which were to keep his Committee in closer touch with the trend of public opinion regarding various matters affecting the welfare of the West Indian Colonies, and to secure contributions towards an Endowment Fund, which would enable the Committee to provide assistance for the greatly over-worked secretary, and also more convenient premises for the members and staff.

Luncheon over, we adjourned—with our chairs—to the rooms of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, where a further meeting was held in support of the objects of my visit. Mr. Cowley, with his usual eloquence, voiced the cause of the Committee, and subsequent speakers, included my old friend, the Hon. J. J. Canache, who instanced the benefits which had accrued to the West Indies through the work of that body, and the Rev. J. W. Christopher, who was similarly complimentary. Mr. W. M. Wigley, Acting Administrator of St. Kitts Nevis, and Mr. Oscar Webber, Acting-Commissioner of Montserrat, were present at the meeting, but Sir Edward Merewether was unable to attend owing to ill health, and as he was lying down when I subsequently called at Government House, I did not have the privilege of discussing various matters with him as I had hoped to do.

After the meeting had terminated, I had the pleasure of taking tea with the Dean and Mrs. Shepherd, calling on the way on Mr. José Anjo, who further exemplified Antiguan hospitality by presenting me with fully a gross of picture post-cards of the island, reproduced from his own photographs.

As in St. Kitts, a determined effort is now being made in Antigua to provide for infant welfare. The need for this will be very apparent when it is stated 20·28 of the deaths in the island were those of infants under one year of age. This deplorable condition of things is due to well-recognised causes, the principal being ignorance, neglect, and illegitimacy, and it is a sad reflection on the religious bodies and educational authorities in Antigua that of the total births in the island in 1918, for example, 74·76 per cent. should have been illegitimate. A step in the right direction has, however, been taken by the establishment of the St. John's Day Nursery, and after tea we were taken by Mrs. R. Bryson to visit this institution, of which she is Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. The nursery, which owes its inception to Mr. T. A. V. Best, formerly Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands, who administered the Government of the colony for the greater part of the war, caters for the welfare of infants of respectable labouring women. It is supported by a meagre grant of £100 a year from the Legislature, which is supplemented by private contributions, and modest fees of 1d. a day for each child which is paid by the mothers. Here, at daybreak, the mothers

hand over their infants to a matron and four assistants, who look after them and provide for the bodily comfort of their little charges until the day's work is over. The tiny black tots were at tea when we arrived, and as we entered the room there were twenty five of them seated at a table, appropriately less than a foot in height. Each wore a little red tunic, each held in one hand a mug, and in the other a slice of bread. Twenty-five little black faces turned round to see who was disturbing their meal, twenty-five little hands went up in salutation, and twenty-five little voices ejaculated in unison, "Marnin' sah!" A prettier scene it would be difficult to imagine. In the next room was a row of bassinets, each with its little mosquito net, in several of which were more infants enjoying a siesta. Apart from the immediate good resulting to the children enjoying the advantages of the nursery, the value of the example afforded by the work of this admirable institution must be incalculable, for the infants were as fat as butter, and their condition generally was in marked contrast to that of those not enjoying the hospitality of the nursery, which, it should be added, is admirably managed by a Committee of ladies, of which Lady Merewether is President and Mrs. Shepherd the Vice President.

There being still a few hours of daylight left, I induced the ever-willing Mr. Cowley to pilot me to English Harbour, which, on account of its historic association—and it was there that Nelson refitted his ships during his memorable pursuit of Villeneuve to the West Indies and back—should be the Mecca of every British visitor to Antigua. By motor car the harbour can be reached in about an hour from St. John's, and as we sped along one reflected on the endurance of travellers who were condemned to take themselves and their luggage to the harbour in buggies and carts in the days when the inter colonial mail steamers used it as their port of call. In Antigua as elsewhere in the West Indies, the automobile is all-conquering, and archaic vehicles of the type of the "four-post bedstead" as the carriage of a former Chief Justice used to be called on account of its peculiarly-shaped hood, have long since been relegated to limbo. Incidentally another vehicle which has been scrapped is Mr. J. T. Thibou's bath chair, and it was very pleasant to find the late proprietor of the now defunct "Antigua Standard," who twenty years ago could not walk, on his feet again!

The road from St. John's to English Harbour has often been described. The author of "Antigua and the Antiguans" calls it "dull and uninteresting"; but no West Indian road could be called that whilst there is so much life and character to be studied on them. For miles it runs through acre upon acre of sugar-cane, and it is not until it enters the mountainous part of the island to the south that it affords scenery beyond the commonplace. Here it passes at the foot of a mountain of great grandeur known as Monk's Hill, and through Falmouth, and after skirting a mournful swamp at the head of Falmouth Harbour, reaches the dockyard gates. In the eighteenth century there was a considerable town at English Harbour, with prosperous stores and taverns, whose proprietors waxed rich under the



patronage of the sailors visiting the port; but it had an evil reputation for yellow fever, and as if a curse lay upon it, scarcely a shack remains standing. But if you peer into the bush alongside the road you will see the stone foundations of the buildings which were deserted even before the dockyard and harbour were finally abandoned.

(To be continued.)

## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

Botanic Gardens, says the "Agricultural News" in a leading article on the subject, should not be considered unnecessary luxuries, nor should the public grudge the expense required to maintain them efficiently. They should be looked upon as of the greatest value socially, educationally, and scientifically.

Castor-oil seeds and cotton are grown in Jamaica for local use, according to the journal of the Agricultural Society. There is often a shortage of castor oil in the drug shops, and sometimes it is not possible to get kerosene oil for lighting. With castor oil for lamp use, and with wicks made from native cotton, householders are not altogether dependent on kerosene.

The use of fruits in the diet of children as well as adults is important chiefly on account of the vitamins contained in them. The orange, for instance, contains a large proportion of the vitamins known as antineuritic vitamin. It is said that the potency of orange-juice in this vitamin is comparable, volume for volume, with that of cow's milk. This must not be understood to apply to the nutrients as sources of energy, but only to the content of vitamin.

Infusion of eucalyptus leaves has been recommended from time to time for the treatment of diabetes. The "Pharmaceutical Journal" has a note on the subject from a paper by Dr. Trabut ("Bull. Gen. de Therap.") He has himself prescribed it with favourable results. The late Dr. Perez, of Teneriffe, well known in the West Indies for his horticultural and botanical work, stated in a communication to Dr. Trabut that complete success had been obtained by its use in Teneriffe, and he did not think that there were any more cases of diabetes in the island. A decoction of 10 to 15 gms. of leaves in 500 c.c. of water is employed. A liquid extract would probably be a more convenient preparation.

A big scheme for increasing the output of sugar in India is considered in a leading article in "Tropical Life" for August. It states that the scheme is put forward by the Tatas of Bombay, and is called the Sugar Corporation of India, with Mr. R. D. Tata as chairman, and Sir Alfred Chatterton and Sir Sassoon David among the directors. They are asking for £5,000,000 altogether, of which £200,000 was offered in May and subscribed for seven times over.

The ample financial resources at the disposal of the Corporation will enable it to command the services of the most competent experts in all branches of the industry, while everything in connection with the planting and manufacture will be efficient and up to date. A large increase in the crop of cane per acre is expected. Irrigation works will be installed where necessary. The best machinery will be employed, and all the latest improvements will be applied to the manufacture of gur and sugar. Youths will be trained as

agriculturists, as sugar factory engineers, and as experts in the factory routine.

It is intended to establish gur or jaggery factories in tracts where from 500 to 1,000 acres of cane are available, and to erect mills for the manufacture of sugar where at least 2,000 acres of cane can be grown. These will form central factories in the various districts. "Tropical Life" asks why the sugar estates in the West Indies should not try to work under one head—say Sir Edward Davson. The answer to this is that Sir E. Davson has lately become the chairman of the British Empire Sugar Research Association, which aims at conducting researches for the sugar industry throughout the British Empire. He will appeal before long for the support of all those interested in sugar, and no doubt the sugar planters of the West Indies will be the first to rally round him.

Forests act as a sponge in holding up rainfall, preventing the wash of soil from higher levels to the watercourses and rivers, conserving the fertile soil for the use of agricultural crops, and sending the bulk of the rainfall into underground stores to reappear as springs at lower levels. Although forests may not have a direct effect on the rainfall of surrounding districts, there is a considerable deposition of moisture in the forest itself, independent of actual rainfall. This would not occur if there were no forest, and the destruction of the forest, whether it took place in a short or protracted period, would mean the loss to the country of that water in springs, streams, and rivers. The country would more or less dry up.

At the British Empire Forestry Conference it was agreed to submit a report to each of the Governments of the Empire, showing how important it is to lay down a definite forest policy to be administered by a properly constituted and adequate forest service. For it was necessary in the interests of each Government to produce a yield year by year of all classes of timber, to encourage the most economical utilisation of timber, and to maintain and improve climatic conditions in the interests of agriculture and water supply. Another recommendation is that there should be a survey of Empire resources. The foundation of a stable forest policy for the Empire and for its component parts must be the collection, co-ordination, and dissemination of facts as to the existing state of the forests, and the current and prospective demands on them. This has already been done for the West Indies, but Trinidad is the only island in the group that has a Forest Department.

Some time ago a note in the CIRCULAR pointed out that the "Times" had published a claim by Mr. Scoresby Routledge to have been the first to cross the John Crow range of mountains in Jamaica, although it was well known that Inspector Thomas had done so in 1890. Mr. Routledge now produces in the "Times" a letter from the Surveyor-General of Jamaica to support his claim. The Surveyor-General "concedes" that Inspector Thomas "ascended to the highest point of the John Crow mountains, and that he traversed the range from south to north." But he cannot allow that he "crossed" the mountains, "a feat which it was reserved to you (Mr. Scoresby Routledge) to accomplish, as you actually crossed them from west to east." It is passing strange that if one goes over a range of mountains which "lies in a north-westerly direction" from south-west to north-east it is only traversing; if one goes the shortest way, from west to east, it is crossing. Mr. Routledge has done such good exploring work already that it is a pity he should try to bolster up his claim by such a sorry quibble.



## AGRICULTURAL CREDIT SOCIETIES

### Encouraging Figures from Trinidad.

At a joint meeting of the Agricultural Societies of the St. Madeleine Company's Group of Estates on August 1st, at which His Excellency the Acting Governor of Trinidad presided, Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.Sc., Director of Agriculture and Registrar of Agricultural Credit Societies, gave some encouraging details regarding the progress and usefulness of these associations recently.

He said that last year there were twelve societies in Trinidad and six in Tobago. To-day there were twenty-four, and six more formed but not yet registered, an increase from eighteen to thirty in the year. The following figures indicate the growing strength of these Credit Societies:—

Year.	No of members.	Amount of loans.
1916-17	74	\$1,810 00
1917-18	159	2,436 00
1918-19	901	21,685 00
1919-20	1,418	60,854 00

Mr. Freeman pointed out that all the money borrowed had been lent by the Colonial Bank, which was sufficiently satisfied with the stability of the societies to lend a still larger sum this year. Another satisfactory feature was the growth of the reserve funds. The St. Madeleine Group had now a total reserve fund of \$1,819.

Referring to the advantages of co-operation, Mr. Freeman said that in Trinidad, as in other parts of the tropics, many small cultivators did not get as good returns from their land as they should. Sometimes this was largely their own fault, because they did not work hard enough or did not adopt better methods even when a great deal of trouble was taken by agricultural officers in giving them good advice and showing them practically what to do. In this colony work of this character was largely done by means of prize competitions, and they had Mr. Roach, one of the agricultural advisers, working among them in that district. Now the St. Madeleine Company had its own agricultural officer, Mr. G. A. Jones, Superintendent of Cane Farmers, and the Company was also holding prize competitions and maintaining demonstration plots. At the presentation of prizes won in the St. Madeleine competitions recently it was found that there were farmers who had obtained an average of 25 tons and 26 tons of cane per acre (plants, first and second ratoons), and that one who after farming the same piece of land for forty-one years, could still win fourth prize in the competition.

Yet the general average of the cane farmers of the colony was very low, about 10 tons to 12 tons per acre, instead of at least 15 tons to 20 tons which could be obtained by more thorough work and the adoption of better methods. Some also required financial assistance in order to make improvements, to bring a larger area into cultivation, to purchase agricultural implements—e.g., horse hoe—to buy stock, or to better the conditions under which they lived. Provided that they did not borrow more than could be put to profitable use, and that they made good use of the money and worked honestly to repay it from the extra profit earned, there was nothing wrong in their borrowing, any more than in the large proprietor, the big business firm, or the Government itself borrowing when they wanted money to effect improvements. The farmers had found the Credit Society more convenient in some respects than the ordinary system of estate advances, as they could get the money at an earlier season and for a greater variety of uses, and in doing so they were receiving a valuable training in managing their own affairs and in accepting responsibility both for themselves and their neighbours.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

### PÈRE LABAT.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—Père Labat was not a "great West Indian Jesuit" (Circular, No. 568, p. 201), but a great West Indian Dominican. As he is *par excellence* the literary glory of the Islands, please let his brethren (who still labour there as of old) have the credit of him. The fullest account of him is to be found in Lafcadio Hearn's book on the French West Indies.—Yours truly,

A MODERN DOMINICAN.

St. Dominic's Priory,  
London, N.W. 5.

### THE INSCRIPTION ON WARNER'S TOMB.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—With reference to the correspondence in your columns on this subject, I suggest that it would be of interest if you were to publish the wording of the epitaph as it appears in the Davy MSS. to which Mr. Oliver calls attention. Yours faithfully,

OLD ROAD.

[The inscription in the Davy MSS, which is reproduced by Mr. V. L. Oliver in his standard work "The History of Antigua," runs as follows (the italics are ours):—

"Written with his sword's point, but what is man  
In the midst of his glory, and who can  
Secure this Life A moment since that hee  
Both by Sea and Land, so long kept free  
at Mortal Strokes at length did yeeld  
grace) to conquering Death the field.  
fini Coronat.

After examining the photograph of the tombstone reproduced in "Caribbeana," Vol. 1, page 164, we are forced to admit that neither Davy's nor Cayon's interpretation meets the case. It may be noted that Davy gives the concluding line as "fini Coronat," while the words on the stone are very clearly "fine Coronat."—Ed. W.I.C.C.]

### THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS AND FEDERATION.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—In your last issue you published a letter from Mr. Gideon Murray in reference to West Indian Federation. Mr. Murray, whose continued interest in this subject is much appreciated in the West Indies, was in a sense correct in saying that its discussion at the recent meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce was attended with meagre results, and I may add that the resolution adopted reflected clearly the feeling of those present.

I do not think, however, that there is any cause for despondency in the fact that the Conference was not prepared to advocate any definite scheme of federation. My impression was that the delegates were unanimous in their realisation of the benefits accruing from co-operation among the several colonies, and their belief in the greater benefits to be derived in the future from the yet closer union of these colonies.

The fact that they were not prepared to endorse any definite scheme of federation goes to show, not that they were apathetic on the subject, but rather that no scheme has yet been produced which appeals to them as providing a satisfactory solution of the problem. When this appears I do not think that the West Indian people will require much stimulus—for they are fully alive to their own interests—and it is possible that it may be on different lines to those so far presented to them. Indeed, I am hopeful that some such scheme may emerge in the not far distant future.—Yours faithfully,

EDWARD DAVSON.



**THE ORIGIN OF CANE FARMING.**

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I am very glad to see Mr. Scard's letter in the last issue of the CIRCULAR, as I am frankly jealous for my husband's reputation as the originator of the cane-farming industry in Trinidad. Mr. Peter Abel deserves all credit for his perseverance and loyalty in continuing to develop the system, under many difficulties and discouragements, but the originator of the idea was undoubtedly Sir Neville Lubbock.

It was on our way out to the West Indies in 1882 that he first spoke of the plan to me, and I have a very vivid recollection of a little scene in the compound of Les Efforts, at San Fernando, where we were staying with Mr. (now Sir Townsend) Fenwick. At Sir Neville's request, Mr. Abel had brought a small deputation of likely men to let the "Usine Massa" explain the scheme to them. The discussion was carried on on their side in the quaint semi-French patois of the Trinidad peasant, Mr. Abel and Mr. Fenwick often having to act as interpreters, and the episode has remained impressed on my memory as a typical bit of West Indian life.

The proposition then made to the men was, as far as I can recollect, that they should be lent a few acres apiece of land belonging to the factory, as near as possible to their own homes, on condition that they should grow canes thereon for the factory. The plants were to be supplied free, and during the two years before the canes matured they were at liberty to grow their own vegetables between the plants. The ripe canes were to be cut and carried by the factory and a fair price given for them.

The result of this meeting was that a certain number of labourers took up plots near St. Madelaine village, and the scheme under Mr. Abel's fostering worked well for some years, till it was killed by Sir John Gorry's unwise handling.

My husband has often remarked that there is hardly any question in economics or industrial science which is not illustrated in the sugar industry, and this one—of establishing the labourer on the land and giving him a direct interest in production—is a case in point. It was characteristic of Sir Neville Lubbock that his outlook went far beyond the need of the moment, and that he foresaw not only the advantage to the factory of a steady supply of labour, but the desirability for the colony of establishing a contented and prosperous agricultural population settled on the land.

It was a great disappointment to him when the development of the cane-farming industry was checked by Sir J. Gorry's vote-catching policy; but happily it has now recovered, and provides a most interesting example which would be worth more attention than it has received from our politicians at home—Yours faithfully,

CONSTANCE A. LUBBOCK.

**WEST INDIAN STEAMER SERVICE.****Thos. and Jas. Harrison's Welcome Action.**

It is with great satisfaction that the West India Committee is able to announce that Messrs. Thos. & Jas. Harrison, have consented to sent the passenger steamer *Intaba* from London to the West Indies. The s.s. *Intaba* (4,835 tons), which has accommodation for about 80 passengers, will leave London on about November 20th, and will call at Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad and British Guiana. The fare will be £50. This welcome action on the part of Messrs. Thos. & Jas. Harrison will no doubt be much appreciated in the West Indies, as it is by the West Indian community at home.

**WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.**

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

**Antigua.**

The long drought has broken and heavy rain is proving very beneficial to cultivation.

**Hotel Enterprise in the Bahamas.**

It is notified that Major H. E. S. Cordeaux, C.B., C.M.G., the Governor-designate, will assume the administration of the colony about the middle of November. The salary of the Chief Medical Officer has been increased from £400 to £600. The annual session of the Bahamas Legislature, which was convened on February 3rd, was prorogued on August 26th. In his speech on this occasion the Administrator referred to the considerable legislative activity which had marked the session. Among other important measures passed was an Act reducing the import duties on articles other than spirit, benefiting consumer and importer alike at the expense of the revenue, which is in a satisfactory condition. Great attention is being paid in Government circles to the question of restoring the pre-war popularity of Nassau as a winter resort. The efforts made to induce the Florida East Coast Company to arrange for the opening of their hotels for the season 1919-20 were fruitless. The Government accordingly entertained favourably the proposals of the Alison Corporation (now the Nassau Hotel and Steamship Company, Limited) for the erection of an hotel on the Waterloo site at Fort Montagu and the establishment of a Southern Steamship Service with the United States. The negotiations have now reached a point where the conclusion of an agreement is in sight. Negotiations with the Florida East Coast Company have recently taken a more favourable turn, and it is expected that it will be possible to arrange a contract for the opening of the hotels Colonial and Victoria during the coming and the following season.

Mr. G. K. Macintyre, the New York agent of the Colonial Bank, has been paying a visit to Nassau to ascertain whether there would be room there for the opening of a branch of the bank he represents. For several years, says the "Nassau Guardian," there has been only one bank in the Bahamas—the Royal Bank of Canada—and while that institution, which has proved of inestimable value to the colony since it commenced operations here in 1908, has been sufficient for its requirements in the past few years, the steadily increasing trade which has recently developed has made the appearance of another bank on the scene almost inevitable.

**Better Weather in Barbados.**

August opened well with a good soaking rain, causing the dry and parched appearance of the countryside to give place to a pleasant green. There is still a scarcity of local foodstuffs.

It is proposed, says the "Advocate," to grant Mr. W. L. C. Phillips, O.B.E., the Colonial Treasurer, the sum of £300 in recognition of his services as representative of the colony at the Ottawa Conference. A Committee, of which Mr. R. G. Cave and Mr. H. J. Jones were members, has reported in favour of expending £20,000 on improvements and extension to the Public Market. William Scott, the watchman at Plumtree plantation, who has been in arrest since February on a charge of murdering Mr. Howard Dowding, has been discharged.

The Hon. E. T. Grannum, C.M.G., has resigned his seat in the Legislative Council, after forty years' prominent association with the political affairs of the Island. The Governor expressed his regret, and the Acting President of the Council, the Hon. R. Haynes, paid a warm tribute to Mr. Grannum's services at the meeting of the Council on August 4th.



#### Search for Oil in British Guiana.

Mr. J. C. McCowan, writing on August 20th, records occasional showers with seasonably hot weather. Capt. J. M. Reid has issued his report on the Ottawa Trade Conference, at which he represented the colony, and in it he advocates as far as possible uniformity among the various West Indian colonies in the reciprocity regulations under the agreement. Captain Reid and the representative of Barbados found themselves the only delegates with instructions not to pledge their colonies to pay any portion of a subsidy for steamship communication between Canada and the West Indies and British Guiana, but he now strongly recommends the granting of a contribution from the colony. He was much impressed during his stay in Canada with a visit to the Niagara Falls, and states that the Canadian engineers expressed surprise that none of the vast water-power resources of British Guiana had as yet been harnessed for industrial use. At the general meeting of the Sugar Planters' Association on July 12th Mr. K. E. Brassington was elected chairman for the ensuing year.

The question of telegraphic communication was discussed on August 6th at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, presided over by Mr. C. Farrar, and the provision of a commercial wireless station at Georgetown or some other suitable point, such as Mahaicony, was recommended.

The "Argosy" states that the contemplated dismantling of the sugar factory at Plantation Houston, which was recently acquired by the British Guiana Sugar Factories, Limited, will not be undertaken this year, but next year it is hoped that the canes grown on this estate will be ground at Plantation Wales. Mr. B. F. Macrorie and Mr. J. A. Bullbrook, the geologists who are representing the British Controlled Oilfields Company in the search for oil in the colony, have returned to Georgetown, having travelled 2,600 miles in the Pomeroun, Kaieteur, Malalli and Berbice districts since April.

#### British Honduras and Canada.

Mr. A. D. P. Williamson has returned to the colony and resigned his duties as Consul for Norway and Vice-Consul for Spain, also as a member of the Roads and Rivers Board. The Belize "Independent" announces the appointment of Mr. C. Blogg as Aide-de-Camp to his Excellency the Acting Governor, to whom Mr. J. Hunter will act as Private Secretary. On August 31st Mr. Percy George delivered a lecture at the Debating Club on "Federation of Canada and the West Indies," in which he advocated such a development.

#### A Coastal Service for Dominica.

The Government is inviting tenders for the performance of a coastal service either weekly or bi-weekly. Mr. A. K. Agar has been appointed a member of the Committee set up to report upon the cost of living and to make recommendations as to what additional salaries or bonuses should be granted to Government officers.

#### Grenada's Police Force.

News of the death of Mrs. H. A. Berkeley in Canada has been received with the deepest regret throughout the community. The wife of Mr. H. A. Berkeley, O.B.E., of Mount Horne, Mrs. Berkeley enjoyed wide popularity, and devoted much of her time to good works.

The Committee appointed in January, 1919, to enquire into the administration of the Police Force of the island, submitted an *interim* report last November, and have now presented their final report. This is signed by the Chairman, Sir Thomas Haycraft (Chief Justice of Grenada), and by the Hon. N. J. Paterson, Mr. F. Copland, Mr. C. F. P. Renwick, Mr. C. H. Lucas, and Mr. D. A. McIntyre, and recommends an increase in the number of police and in their pay. The Committee find that though its defects are generally exaggerated, there seems to be no doubt that the present Police Force is

wanting in efficiency and discipline. Other recommendations include the simplification of the duties at present allotted to the police, and greater attention being paid to the training of recruits. Individual reports are also submitted by the Hon. J. T. de la Mothe and Hon. E. B. Laborda.

#### The Archbishop Nuttall Memorial in Jamaica.

The Hon. G. W. Muirhead was sworn in on September 2nd on his appointment as Custos for the parish of Clarendon. Sir John Simon, K.C., and Lady Simon left Kingston on September 1st on s.s. *Mt. Agua*, bound for Avonmouth. A correspondent in the "Gleaner" complains of the lack of attention given in Jamaica to the affairs of the Cayman Islands, which still possess neither a telephone service nor wireless telegraphy, nor a regular mail and passenger service. The Commission which is holding an inquiry into the medical service of the colony still continues. Evidence has been given by Dr. J. A. L. Calder and Dr. F. A. Ritchie, District Medical Officers of Santa Cruz and Richmond respectively.

There were about 300 cases of Kaffir pox at Rumper Hall, Kingston, at the beginning of the month. Cases were being reported also daily in the country districts, but it was believed the outbreak was not spreading to any extent. At a meeting of the Mayor and Council of Kingston on August 31st, the question of closing down Lower Maiden Lane was discussed, on the application of the United Fruit Company, who proposed to improve the Myrtle Bank Hotel, and planned to erect a building to cost £40,000 as offices, and the matter was referred to a committee.

The Archbishop Nuttall Memorial Gates, which were dedicated by the Bishop of Jamaica on May 12th, have been erected at the entrance of the side chapels of the Cathedral Church in Spanish Town, whilst tablets of bronze inscribed with letters of brass have been placed on the walls of the arches.

The Jamaica Fruit and Shipping Company have been appointed agents in Jamaica for the Canadian Mercantile Marine, Limited, whose steamers maintain a general freight service, touching regularly at Havana, *en route* for Jamaica. The railway receipts for the last financial year totalled over £300,000, as compared with an original estimate of only £214,000. The net revenue on the year's transactions amounted to £5,285. This year the receipts are even better, but a great deal of this is undoubtedly due to the increased rates now in force. Logwood, however, shows a considerable improvement, and sugar, rum, bananas, and general merchandise are among the items showing increases. Oranges and coconuts fell off somewhat.

The 25 per cent. bonus to Civil Servants has been approved by the Secretary of State, and will be retrospective to April 1st. Further increases are also being considered.

#### St. Lucia's Need of a Coastal Steamer.

At a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society on August 5th, the question of the shortage of ground provisions was discussed, and it was decided to write to the Administration recommending, *inter alia*, a coastal steamer service and the introduction of a Vagrancy Ordinance as steps towards remedying this state of affairs.

#### Arrowroot and the Income-Tax in St. Vincent.

The "Sentry" reports that Dr. S. C. Harland, late Assistant Agricultural Superintendent and Science Master of the Grammar School, has been appointed Director of the Botanical Section of the British Cotton Industry Association, which will keep him in England for at least three years. On August 23rd, the Income-tax (Arrowroot) Tax Ordinance, 1920, was introduced into the Legislative Council, read the first time, carried through the Committee stage, and, after being slightly amended, was unanimously passed. By this measure £2 ss. per barrel is declared a reasonable value to be



placed on unsold arrowroot for the purpose of assessing income-tax, the above amount to be over and above all expenses of and incidental to the cultivation, reaping and manufacture, purchase or shipment; and arrowroot is now to be assessable to income-tax as if the whole had been sold.

**Trinidad: Cacao Claying to be Prohibited.**

Damage to the extent of \$20,000 was caused on August 21st, when one of the large steel tanks of the New England Oil Refining Company was struck by lightning.

The Government has issued the draft of a Bill amending the Sale of Produce Ordinance, 1917, and has invited an expression of the views of persons interested. Under this Bill it is proposed to exclude coconuts and limes from the definition of licensable produce; allowance is to be made in checking licensable produce for the shrinkage of cacao and balata gum; the keeping of red clay on licensed premises and estates and its use by any person prohibited; and manufacturers of chocolate or cocoa are to be relieved from the necessity of taking out a produce licence, but must take out a manufacturer's licence.

A cablegram reports that Mr. Horace E. Rapsey, eldest son of the late John Alfred Rapsey, was married on September 15th to Miss Elsie Lawrie. Another local wedding which should have been recorded is that of Mr. George Rochford to Miss Evelyn Mary Bushe, daughter of Mrs. Gordon Gordon, solemnised on June 12th last.

**Turks and Caicos Sponges for Nassau.**

The weather recently, according to the latest report of the Direct West India Cable Company, has been very oppressive, and everywhere presents a parched appearance. On July 8th Mr. F. D. Astwood arrived from New York on s.s. *Iroquois*, in connection with the New Santo Domingo Consolidated Sugar and Tobacco Company. The death is recorded of Mrs. Clara Darrell, widow of the late Mr. Alfred Darrell.

Business generally has shown a tendency to brighten; Cotton reports continue to be favourable. The Commissioner's new gin has arrived in Grand Turk. Small consignments of selected conch shells are being made, and a revival of the industry is looked for in the near future. Sisal is still dormant, but shipments of sponge are being made to Nassau. Emigration to New York, where employment is readily found, continues to be brisk. The outlook for labour in the Caicos group was never better.

**WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.**

**The Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd.**

The directors in their report for the year ended June 30th, 1920 (which was adopted at the annual general meeting on September 16th), stated that the net result of the year's working was a credit balance of £17,748 6s. 10d., as compared with £14,073 14s. 10d. for the previous year. The balance to credit of revenue account brought forward from last year was £94,145 2s. 6d., and with the above £17,748 6s. 10d. made a total of £111,493 9s. 4d. Deducting £1,856 1s. 10d. expended on repairs, £15,000 special interim dividend of £1 5s. per share capitalised in September, 1919 (making the shares fully paid), and £1,800 interim dividend of 3 per cent. free of income-tax, paid in March last, there remained to be dealt with £93,237 7s. 6d. Of this sum a further dividend of 3 per cent., free of income-tax, was recommended, making the total distribution for the year £1 11s. per share. This would absorb £1,800, leaving to be carried forward £91,437 7s. 6d. subject to Excess Profits Duty. The Company's cable was interrupted for a few days near Jamaica, otherwise the cables have worked efficiently during the year. The insulation of the Bermuda-Turks Island section remains very low.

**WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.**

**Royal Dutch West India Mail.—Home arrivals from Trinidad, September 5th, per s.s. *Crynaer*, Havre:—**

- |                       |                        |                         |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mrs. Mary E. Agoatini | Miss Elsie Henderson   | Mrs. Nelly Dupe Ross    |
| Mr. Walter S. Newton  | Mrs. Laura Liddell     | Mr. Douglas H. Ross     |
| Claro                 | The Misses Liddell (2) | Miss Dorothy H. Ross    |
| Mr. Karl M. Hobbs     | Mr. Louis M. P.        | Mr. Percival Stevens    |
| Mr. John Howard       | Maillard               | Mr. Arid. E. Vaucrosson |

**Eiders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Home arrivals from Jamaica, Avonmouth, September 11th, per R.M.S. *Coronado*:—**

- |                        |                           |                               |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Miss L. Angus          | Master J. Hallam          | Mr. A. Sinclair               |
| Mr. E. Braddock        | Mr. J. E. Jackson         | The Misses E. & A. Steel      |
| Mr. & Mrs. J. Charley  | Mrs. and Miss J. Daly     | Mr. F. G. Steel               |
| Master A. W. Foott     | Lowie                     | Mr. and Mrs. J. E. A. Stewart |
| Master R. P. Forrester | Mr. and Miss C. de Lisser | Mr. F. A. Thomas              |
| Rev. F. W. Gibson      | Miss W. Richards          | Mrs. M. Thompson              |
| Mr. L. O. H. Gibson    |                           |                               |
| Mrs. L. A. Gould       |                           |                               |

**Home arrivals from Jamaica, Avonmouth, September 18th, per R.M.S. *Metagua*:—**

- |                 |                       |                    |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Mr. J. C. Brown | Colonel J. Horskins   | Miss E. Smith      |
| Mr. J. D. Evans | Sir John & Lady Simon | Miss D. Whitbourne |

**Home arrivals from Jamaica, Avonmouth, September 25th, per s.s. *Paluca*:—**

- |                      |                        |                    |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Mr. J. A. Correa     | Mrs. E. Hope-Falkner   | Mrs. P. Michel     |
| Mr. J. T. Culverwell | Miss D. Hope-Falkner   | Mr. H. de Paes     |
| Mr. L. J. Culverwell | Master M. Hope-Falkner | Captain T. Bedhead |
| Captain J. L. Gordon | Mr. L. Lindo           | Mr. R. Scott       |

**Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, September 14th, per s.s. *Rayano*:—**

- |                            |                             |                                  |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Mr. P. Faithfull Bagg      | Miss Henningsen             | Mr. D. J. Murphy                 |
| Mr. J. D. Dowstead         | Miss K. I. Howson           | Mr. S. J. N. Newton              |
| Miss C. Calder             | Mr. J. Hudson               | Mr. & Mrs. L. Nunes              |
| Mr. D. K. Davidson         | Mrs. M. Jackson             | The Misses Nunes (2)             |
| Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Dewar   | Mr. S. M. Jacobsen          | Mr. W. M. Palmer                 |
| Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Drayton | Mrs. M. L. Jacobsen         | Mrs. J. de Pasa                  |
| Mr. E. H. Escobine         | Miss F. M. E. Jacobsen      | Mr. C. E. Relf                   |
| Dr. L. Fairfield           | Mr. E. Jope                 | Mr. R. L. J. Rice                |
| Miss A. C. Feiling         | Mr. W. Kennedy              | Mr. H. G. Rix                    |
| Mr. & Mrs. A. Fielding     | Mr. P. Lindo                | Mr. and Miss Sewell              |
| Mr. A. D. Ford             | The Misses Lindo (3)        | Miss F. M. Small                 |
| Mr. D. P. G. Foskey        | Mr. C. G. MacGregor and son | Mr. G. M. Sallas                 |
| Mr. H. J. Franks           | Mr. A. G. E. Macleod        | Mr. S. S. Stedman                |
| Mrs. E. Gear               | Mr. & Mrs. M. Macleod       | Mr. Stephen D. Sturton           |
| Mrs. L. G. Gott            | The Misses Malabro (2)      | Mr. J. H. Turner                 |
| Mrs. and Miss Heath        | Miss C. Marsh               | Mr. G. E. Tustin                 |
| Mr. J. A. S. Hendricks     | Mr. J. A. Miller            | Mrs. E. A. E. Weston             |
| Mr. W. G. Hendriks         | The Misses Mills (2)        | Mr. D. P. Wilson                 |
| Mr. and Mrs. J. Hennigeun  | Mr. T. E. Monkman           | Dr. A. F. Wright                 |
|                            | Mrs. S. B. Monkman          | Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Young and son |
|                            | Mr. A. Mortimer             |                                  |

**Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, September 21st, per R.M.S. *Coronado*:—**

- |                                      |                              |                               |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mr. A. Bell                          | The Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Dunn | Mr. W. A. Showler             |
| Mrs. C. D. Bell                      | Mrs. E. Ehrenstein and sons  | Miss Bainbridge Smith         |
| Miss H. A. de Boinville              | Miss G. Gardner              | Mr. H. W. Smith               |
| Mr. H. W. Bolton                     | Mr. W. E. Gillies            | Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Smith        |
| Mrs. K. H. Dourne                    | Mr. A. W. Gordon             | The Misses M. Smith (2)       |
| Mr. G. W. Bradley                    | Mr. E. Hart                  | Mr. H. D. Soltan              |
| Mr. A. St. J. T. Branch              | Mr. E. B. Hoare              | Miss M. Spens                 |
| Mrs. A. I. Branch                    | Mr. F. A. Judah              | Mr. and Mrs. H. Stansbury     |
| Master Branch                        | Mr. A. C. Kenrick            | Miss Steinhann                |
| Mr. & Miss G. E. Brown               | Mr. G. C. Kenrick            | Mr. E. Sumsiou                |
| Hon. P. C. Cork, C.M.G.              | Miss A. V. East              | Mr. & Mrs. L. Somerville      |
| Mr. and Mrs. E. Craig                | Capt. and Mrs. G. Lindsay    | Miss A. Tompler               |
| Mr. A. N. Crosswell                  | Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Murphy    | Mr. & Mrs. V. Verley          |
| Mr. & Mrs. F. Cundall                | Mr. J. E. Murphy             | Miss L. Verley                |
| Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Currie and family | Miss T. S. Pawsey            | Hon. & Mrs. W. A. S. Thibault |
| Mr. & Mrs. M. Cuthbert               | Mr. & Mrs. N. Hoops          | Mr. & Mrs. T. Watson          |
| Mrs. Cuthbert                        | Mr. H. D. Seidamore          | Mr. E. W. J. Wright           |
| Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Davis               |                              |                               |
| Mr. T. N. S. Dickson                 |                              |                               |
| The Misses Dunn (2)                  |                              |                               |

The "Visitors List," which is unavoidably held over owing to exigencies of space, will be published again in next issue. The following recent arrivals may be noted:—

- |  |                   |                      |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. T. B. Hull   | Mr. C. H. A. Iver | Mr. C. Murtin-Sperry |
| Rev. J. H. Bridley, c/o W.M.M.S., 24, Disbopagate, N.C.                |                   |                      |
| Mr. R. Brown, 24, Lewis Crescent, Kemptown, SHARPS                     |                   |                      |
| Mr. James Dougal, c/o Thomson, Hankey, and Co., 7, Minclug Lane, E.C.  |                   |                      |
| Mr. W. G. Frooman, B8c., 75, Paisley Road, W. Southbourne, Bournemouth |                   |                      |
| Mr. L. A. P. O'Malley, K.C., Common Room, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.          |                   |                      |



**PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.**

Telephone—Central 6642  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.  
Sept. 28th, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 7 per cent., as from April 15th.  
**EXCHANGE** on New York, \$3.48-\$3.49.

**SUGAR.** The maximum wholesale price for West India grocery sugars which, since September 6th, have been "free," remains at 120s. per cwt., against the control price of 116s. per cwt. for loaf sugar, and 112s. for granulated.

The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply have issued a statement contradicting the rumour that the retail price of sugar may soon be reduced to 5d. per lb., and that the effect of the recent fall in prices in America cannot be felt in this country for some months. "Owing to the purchases of the Sugar Commission at the high rates prevailing until recently."

They point out that, although there has recently been a substantial fall in the price of sugar in the American market, which may be said to be the governing market for a world-price of sugar, yet the level to which prices have fallen is even now higher than the price of 1s. 2d. per pound at which Commission sugar is being sold in this country. The present f.o.b. price in New York of American granulated is about 13s. per pound (9d. at present rate of exchange), and at that price such sugar could not be sold here at 1s. 2d. per pound retail to cover costs, duty and reasonable trade profits, except under specially favourable conditions. Present indications do not suggest that the prices to be fixed for the next four-weekly period beginning October 4th will be lower than those of the current period.

Czarnikow Rienda report under date September 3rd:—The Cubans, having held about 140,000 tons out of the remainder of the crop since the recent decline started, naturally are not now willing to sell at prices that would result in a heavy loss to most of them by reason of their having liquidated with the Colonos their cane ground during April-May-June at much higher prices than those now ruling. These losses on the last portion of this year's sugar production, though quite large, are not equally divided amongst all planters (for many of them sold out before the decline), and are not serious enough to force Cuban holders to meet this low level.

The West Indian Sugar statistics in London on September 18th were:—

	1920.	1919	1918	Tons
Imports ... ..	55,921	41,766	28,496	
Deliveries ... ..	40,642	34,642	28,264	"
Stock ... ..	23,515	18,416	11,219	"

**CACAO.** The market for fine kinds remains very quiet; any change of price that has taken place has been in the downward direction through sellers accepting reasonable bids. Trinidad good is quoted at 78s. to 83s., Grenada at 78s. to 80s.

Mr. Edgar Tripp reports that the exports from Trinidad during August were 4,206,515 lb., making a total for the year of 57,585,723 lb. The exports for the same period for the past seven years were as follows:—

1919 ... ..	64,937,634	lb.
1918 ... ..	44,373,021	"
1917 ... ..	65,009,986	"
1916 ... ..	47,991,067	"
1915 ... ..	43,834,541	"
1914 ... ..	59,317,076	"
1913 ... ..	43,776,161	"

The stocks in London on September 18th were:—

	1920.	1919	1918.	Bags
Trinidad ... ..	52,078	36,486	6,096	
Grenada ... ..	31,519	16,663	10,407	"
Total of all kinds ...	296,642	185,017	136,686	"

**RUM.** There is no change to report, market still very dull.

The stocks in London on September 18th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Puns
Jamaica ... ..	11,686	7,809	4,709	
Demerara ... ..	11,591	14,403	8,080	"
Total of all kinds ...	33,143	27,354	17,816	"

**ARROWROOT** continues dull with an easy tendency. Sales are very small.

**BALATA.** The market for block balata is again firmer, but sheet shows an easy tendency. West Indian sheet is quoted at 4s. 7d. to 4s. 7½d. spot, and for forward shipment 4s. 3d. to 4s. 3½d. c.i.f.

**COCONUTS.** Mr. Edgar Tripp reports exports from Trinidad to August 31st, 15,834,599 nuts.

**COFFEE.** No change to report.

**COPRA** is firm. West Indian f.m.s. is quoted at £58 c.i.f. London, and £58 10s. c.i.f. Holland.

**COTTON.** Sea Island is neglected; the nominal quotation for West Indian is 75d. to 80d. Imports in the thirty-nine weeks ending September 23rd, 7,393 bales.

**HONEY.** Market quiet with a better undertone. A small business has been done in dark Jamaicas at 62s. 6d. Fair to fine is quoted at 70s. to 90s.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** Lime Oil. There are sellers of Handpressed and Distilled at 25s. and 5s. 6d. respectively, but no business is reported. No enquiry for Raw Lime Juice.

**LOGWOOD.** Steady but quiet; enquiries at unchanged rates—£18-£20 per ton.

**OIL.** The export from Trinidad for the first eight months of the year was 24,952,961 gallons.

**ORANGE OIL.** Sweet is very dull with sellers on the spot at 25s. per lb. Bitter is not wanted.

**SPICES.** The prices and conditions reported in last CIRCULAR for Nutmegs and Mace are unchanged. Pimento is quiet but steady; a small business is being done at 4d. per lb. on the spot.

**WEST INDIAN STEAMER SAILINGS.**

To	From	Packet.	Sailing.
Jamaica	Bristol	Patuca	Oct. 5
West Indies	London	Songster	Oct. 7
West Indies	New York	Korona	Oct. 9
B'dos & T'dad	Liverpool	Nerislan	Oct. 9
Jamaica	Liverpool	Chiripo	Oct. 11
Jamaica	Bristol	Camilo	Oct. 12
West Indies	Halifax	Chaleur	Oct. 15
Jamaica	Liverpool	Actor	Oct. 16
West Indies	New York	Parima	Oct. 16
Jamaica	Bristol	Changuinola	Oct. 19
B'dos & T'dad	Liverpool	Asian	Oct. 23
West Indies	New York	Gwiana	Oct. 23
West Indies	St. Nazaire	La Navarre	Oct. 27
Jamaica	Liverpool	Bolivian	Oct. 30
Trinidad	Dover	Smyvesant	Oct. 30
West Indies	London	Intaba	Nov. 20

The above dates are only approximate.

**WANTS.**

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 3/6 for three lines and 1/- for each additional line.

WANTED for India, Agriculturist with tropical experience of sugar-cane cultivation. Apply to the Sugar Corporation of India, Limited, 5, Wallace-street, Fort, Bombay, India, stating qualifications.

WANTED—Factory Superintendent for Sugar Estate, situated in Spanish America. Write giving full particulars of qualifications and salary required, to "Sugar," c/o Abbotts, 32, Eastcheap, London, E.C. 3.

SUGAR Factory Chemist desires position as Chemist or work-manager. White sugar or raw. Twelve years' experience England and India. Good testimonials. Apply T. H. F., c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3.



# The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXV.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1920.

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Single Copies 2s. Published fortnightly

No. 575.

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Membership of the West India Committee is, by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, confined to British subjects. Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is at present no entrance fee. The Secretary will gladly send specimen copies of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application. The minimum subscription is £1 1s., or 5s. per annum, and the compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50 40). The subscriptions of members elected during the last three months of the year are held *in account of* the year commencing on the following 1st of January. Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

### The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:  
CENTRAL 6642.

Telegrams:  
CARIB, LONDON.



15, SEETHING LANE,

LONDON, E.C. 3.

Oct. 14th, 1920.

### "Marraines" for France.

**D**URING last summer many visitors from the West Indies no doubt took the opportunity of inspecting the battlefields in France and Belgium. Those who have done so cannot fail to have been struck by the fact that pictures do not adequately represent the appalling state of ruin which still prevails in the devastated districts. Such pictures are not sufficiently comprehensive to embrace the immense areas which have been laid waste through the ruthless action of our recent foe. The scene is one of complete desolation, the only oases being the peaceful cemeteries in which those who so gallantly fought that others might live now lie. Nearly two years after the signing of the Armistice factories remain hopelessly wrecked, while countless villages and towns are mere heaps of bricks without a single house standing, their aspect being infinitely worse than that which was presented by Kingston after the earthquake or one of the West Indian islands after a hurricane. The glorious woods which once graced the Somme area have disappeared, what is left of the trees being blasted and withered by constant shell fire. In the midst of this scene of

devastation the brave French peasants are pluckily endeavouring to carry out their vocations, and it is pathetic indeed to see them camping out in their rude tin shelters in what were once smiling villages with picturesque churches snuggling among orchards and wheat fields. We in England used to think that we were feeling the war when we sustained, sometimes almost nightly, terrifying bombardments from the air, and were otherwise put to inconvenience and loss; but this was nothing compared with what the peasants and the people of France suffered and are still suffering. Surely we should, then, do all in our power to help these stricken people and stand beside them in peace as we did in war. We are glad to learn that many municipalities in England are showing their practical sympathy by "adopting" towns in France. Already twenty-seven towns or villages have been actually adopted in this way. Thus Birkenhead has adopted Cambrai; Birmingham, Albert; Newcastle-on-Tyne, Arras; and Bristol, Bethune; and the movement is not confined to England, for we are informed that Sydney has now adopted Poilcourt; Melbourne, Courcelles; South Africa, Longeval; and Mauritius, Landifrai on the Marne. Further, the French West Indian Islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique have become "marraines" or godmothers to Neuville and Etin on the Meuse respectively. We hope that it may be possible before long to add the British West Indies to this list. The war has brought to those colonies generally a period of remarkable prosperity, and, thanks entirely to the British Navy and Mercantile Marine (and we say this without and disrespect to the Local Defence Forces, which alone would have been powerless to prevent invasion), not a town was wrecked and not a factory was destroyed in the West Indies. Elsewhere we reproduce a photograph of one of the one hundred and fifty seven sugar factories in France which were wrecked, and would ask our friends in the West Indies to consider what their position would now have been if they had had the misfortune to come within the active operations of war, and, as a thank-offering for their deliverance, to show active sympathy with those who did suffer from the horrors of the four years' strife. During the war there were many organisations in the West Indies which collected funds for the Red Cross and other war charities, and it would, we venture to think, be a graceful as it would a helpful act if those colonies would now extend practical aid to direct villages in France by becoming "marraines" to one or more of them. To colonies like Trinidad, Dominica, and St. Lucia especially, with a very large French element in the population, this suggestion should make a strong



appeal, and we hope that it will also receive favourable consideration in the other colonies in the group. The system is simple. The colony gets into touch with one of the towns or villages in a list of some hundreds awaiting relief, and ascertains from the Maire what its chief requirements are; these it endeavours to fulfil, and when an opportunity is afforded, an exchange of visits takes place. The moral effect of this is great. The peasants feel that there are good friends watching their welfare and the Entente is strengthened. Should this suggestion commend itself, as we hope it may do, to the British West Indies, many of whose gallant sons rest among the poppies in France, where their graves are so carefully tended by the people, the West India Committee will, we may be sure, be glad to take the matter in hand on their behalf through the British League of Help, the organisation which is directing the movement.

#### "Salus Populi Suprema Lex."

**D**URING his visit to England in 1919, Dr. E. P. MINETT, the Government Medical Officer of Health for British Guiana, took up with the Royal Sanitary Institute the question of the training of Sanitary Engineers and Inspectors of Nuisances for the West Indies. As a result, the Institute has now appointed a Board of Examiners for the British West Indies, and has arranged that examinations shall be held once a year in those colonies, the centre being Trinidad, Barbados, and British Guiana in succession, so that one will be held every three years in each colony. The examinations will be on the same lines as those conducted in Great Britain, with the addition of any special items of local importance which may call for special consideration. Thus, candidates will be expected to show a general knowledge of the Public Health Acts, and Infectious Diseases Acts, and a thorough knowledge of laws and by-laws relating to sanitation, infectious diseases, and the milk trade in force in the colony in which the examination is held. They will further be required to show a knowledge of sanitation as applied to estates and villages in the tropics and of mosquito prophylaxis, and a general knowledge of insects, mosquitoes, and flies which convey disease, together with their life cycle and habits. Candidates may also be required to make an inspection and write a report on some premises selected by the examiners. Further, the Local Board will arrange courses of lectures and demonstrations preparatory to the examinations, and will generally endeavour to promote increasing interest in sanitation throughout the West Indian colonies. The Secretary of the Board is, appropriately, Dr. MINETT, to whose enthusiasm and enterprise this new development is mainly due, and, provided interest in it is kept alive, we can confidently predict a long and useful career before this new body. Much has been done in recent years to rid the West Indies of disease-carrying mosquitoes and flies, but that much more still remains to be done in this connection is very obvious to all visitors to those colonies. It is too much, perhaps, to hope that the mosquito can be exterminated entirely, but with our knowledge of its breeding-places and habits, it might easily be made a negligible factor. Scientists

have laid bare the life history of these noxious pests, and it remains for the sanitary experts to put to practical use the knowledge now at their disposal, and to carry on a relentless campaign against disease. Apart altogether from the practical value of the arrangements now made for the dissemination of knowledge of sanitation, a further and most valuable example is now shown of co-operation in the West Indies, and we hope that eventually arrangements may be made for the inclusion of Jamaica, the Windward and Leeward Islands, and British Honduras within the scope of the operations of the Board, so that the West Indies as a whole may be embraced in the scheme.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

### The Endowment Fund's Progress.

Since the last list was published, contributions amounting to £750 towards the West India Committee's Endowment Fund have been received. Owing to a typographical error, the total of the Fund was incorrectly given in the last list. Meanwhile many congratulations have been received upon the completion of the first £20,000 of the Fund, which, as already stated, will remain open. An alphabetical list of contributors is now in course of preparation, and will shortly be published. The twenty-fourth list of contributions is given below.

#### TWENTY-FOURTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Amount previously acknowledged...	£21,518	0	11
Messrs Furness, Withy & Co., Ltd.	500	0	0
The Bank of Nova Scotia	100	0	0
A. J. Camacho's Estates	25	0	0
Hon. J. J. Camacho	25	0	0
The St Vincent Arrowroot Growers' and Exporters' Association	25	0	0
Neville Dawson, Esq.	10	10	0
John S. Nash, Esq.	10	10	0
E. P. Haughton-James, Esq.	5	5	0
L. A. P. O'Reilly, Esq., K.C.	5	5	0
C. J. P. Cave, Esq., J.P.	5	0	0
E. S. Dolisle, Esq.	5	0	0
T. Edward Whitelocke, Esq.	5	0	0
E. Radcliffe Clarke, Esq.	3	10	0
Francis A. Baddeley, Esq.	2	2	0
W. B. O'Maley Berridge, Esq.	2	1	8
J. W. Thurston, Esq.	2	1	8
M. M. Rahaman, Esq.	2	0	0
J. R. Hamlyn-Nott, Esq.	1	1	0
L. G. Jones, Esq.	1	1	0
Ven Archdeacon Josa	1	1	0
Major the Hon. J. A. Hurdon, C.M.G.	1	0	10
J. A. Connell, Esq.	1	0	10
Cyril H. Malone, Esq.	1	0	10
Walter F. Malone, Esq.	1	0	10
Hon. J. T. Manchester	1	0	10
Hon. E. Marshall	1	0	10
His Honour Mr. Justice W. P. Micholin	1	0	10
E. Pereira, Esq.	1	0	10
A. M. Reid, Esq.	1	0	10
E. W. Sidnall, Esq.	1	0	10
Captain J. A. Burnside, M.C.	1	0	0
J. E. Corbin, Esq.	1	0	0
L. Smith, Esq.	1	0	0
G. L. Snyder, Esq.	1	0	0



Contributions towards the West India Committee Endowment Fund may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or may be forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London.

**Many New Members Elected.**

The number of new members elected to the West India Committee during the present year already exceeds the total membership of twenty years ago, and if each member will make it his object to nominate at least one candidate during the next two and a half months the capacity of the Committee for benefiting the British West Indies would be greatly increased. In this connection it may be noted that there is at present no entrance fee, and that the minimum subscription of £1 ls., or \$5.00, when paid by members elected during the last three months of the year will not be renewable until January 1st, 1922. At a meeting of the Executive held on October 7th, the following 39 new members were admitted, bringing the total membership to 2,200:—

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDBERS.
Mr. Joseph Rippon, O.B.E. (Country)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. E. A. de Pass
Mr. E. H. Matthew-Lannowe (California)	Messrs. Boddington & Co. Mr. M. Garnett
Mr. G. G. C. Dewar (Jamaica)	Mr. G. P. Dewar Mr. W. Gillespie
Mr. Hugh A. Field (Barbados)	Mr. F. Martin Haynes Mr. G. Challenor
Mr. Julian C. Field (Barbados)	Mr. E. Martin Haynes Mr. Henry H. Baird
Mr. J. L. Clarke (Barbados)	Mr. E. Martin Haynes Mr. G. Challenor
Mr. R. Clayton Taylor (Barbados)	Mr. Henry H. Baird Mr. W. W. Nurse
Mr. R. Henry Taylor (Barbados)	Mr. Henry H. Baird Mr. W. W. Nurse
Mr. L. T. A. McVane (St. Lucia)	Hon. G. Barnard Messrs. Barnard Sons & Co.
Mr. Joseph Connell (Country)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. J. H. Wilkinson
Messrs. Cargill, Cargill & Dunn (Jamaica)	Mr. E. Morris Mr. E. A. de Pass
Mr. Clement C. Bynoe (Barbados)	Mr. J. H. Wilkinson Mr. J. W. Pearl
Mrs. A. G. Farnum (Trinidad)	Mr. M. Hamel-Smith Mr. J. R. Falconer
Mr. Walter J. Alcock (Country)	Mr. A. K. Agar Mr. H. H. V. Whitechurch
Mr. George Adhar (Trinidad)	Hon. and Rev. C. D. Lalla Mr. Edgar Tripp
Mr. John F. Armoogum (Trinidad)	Rev. C. D. Lalla Mr. Edgar Tripp
Messrs. Young, Hand & Co. (Trinidad)	Mr. W. Gordon Gordon Mr. George Parrott
Mr. E. L. Fosbrooke (Jamaica)	Capt. A. G. Cuppley, M.C. Mr. L. de Mercado
Mr. Ernest D. Dew (Antigua)	Hon. R. A. L. Warneford Rev. P. K. F. Bolton
Mr. John E. Govia (Trinidad)	Mr. C. R. Smith Mr. J. B. Traverso
Mr. Frank Agostini (Trinidad)	Mr. W. Gillespie Mr. H. Smith
Mr. F. R. Harford (Grenada)	Mr. W. Gillespie Mr. H. Smith
Mr. R. H. Shepherd (Trinidad)	Mr. M. Hamel-Smith Mr. A. Johnston
Mr. William A. E. Tryham (Barbados)	Mr. W. F. Mandeville Mr. G. C. Edghill

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDBERS.
Mr. William R. Poleon (Jamaica)	Mr. M. T. Dawo Mr. E. Dutchman
Mr. Charles S. Wilson (London)	Mr. N. Malcolmson Col. H. A. Clifton
Mr. Cecil A. de Lisser (Jamaica)	Messrs. E. A. de Pass & Co. Mr. W. Gillespie
Mr. J. M. Ironside (Trinidad)	Mr. J. D'Abadie Mr. H. B. Sadler
Sir H. A. Bovell	Mr. James J. Law Mr. R. Rutherford
Mr. John H. Robinson (Country)	Prof. J. D. Albuquerque, F.I.C. Mr. J. H. Wilkinson
Major H. V. Jervis-Read (Country)	Mr. Llewellyn Jones Mr. M. Garnett
Messrs. S. Pearson & Son (Contracting Dept.), Ltd. (London)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. M. Garnett
Mr. Wynne Sayer, B.A. (India)	Mr. Llewellyn Jones Mr. M. Garnett
Rt. Rev. E. A. Dunn, Bishop of British Honduras	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. W. Gillespie
Canon William J. Moody (British Guiana)	Sir Edward Davson Mr. H. B. Sadler
The St. Thomas Planters' Association (Jamaica)	Mr. Archibald Spooner Mr. W. Morrison
Mr. Godfrey B. R. Pease	Sir George R. Le Huille G.C.M.G. Mr. R. Rutherford
Messrs. Chalmers, Guthrie & Co., Ltd.	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. W. Gillespie
Rt. Rev. A. Berkeley, Bishop of Barbados and the Windward Islands	Mr. J. H. Wilkinson Mr. R. Rutherford

**WEST INDIAN STEAMER SERVICE.**

The following reply has been received to the representations addressed by the West India Committee to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of whose letter was published in last issue of the CIRCULAR:—

SIR,—I am directed by Viscount Milner to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of September 22nd and to inform you that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have agreed to provide three-quarters of the expenditure which will be required to re-establish a temporary steamship service between this country and the West Indian Colonies of Barbados, Trinidad and British Guiana, provided that the colonies mentioned will accept responsibility for one-fourth of the expenditure. The total expenditure involved is estimated to be at the rate of £120,000 a year, but it is not proposed that any arrangement for the provisional service should last for more than three months without further consideration.

2 Lord Milner is now in communication with the colonies of Trinidad, British Guiana and Barbados as to their providing their shares of the remaining sum of £30,000 a year.

I am, Sir, &c.,  
(Signed) G. GRINDLE.

October 2nd, 1920

As we go to press we learn with deep regret that the Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G., Mayor of Port of Spain, Trinidad, died at Montreal, in Canada, on October 3rd. Mr. Smith had been representing the West Indian Associated Chamber of Commerce at the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire. The memoir of this distinguished colonist will be published in next issue.



## SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"FISHERMAN never say him fish 'tink."

SIR DODDAS YOUNG, K.B.E., C.M.G., formerly Administrator of Dominica, and lately Governor of the Falkland Islands, has retired, and now resides at Canterbury, and has taken a house called "The Wilderness."

LORD MILNER has appointed Mr. A. O. C. Parkinson, O.B.E., of the Colonial Office, to be his Private Secretary, in succession to Mr. H. C. Thornton, C.M.G., C.V.O., who has been appointed a Crown Agent for the Colonies.

THE Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company's latest oil well in Lot 4 of the Forest Reserve Area came in two weeks ago with a production of 110,000 barrels inside a week, and is still flowing at the rate of 1,000 barrels (142 tons) a day.

MR. F. C. WELLS-DURRANT, K.C., leaves for Jamaica on November 16th to take up the appointment of senior Puisne Judge in that colony. Mr. Wells-Durrant, who was formerly in the Civil Service in St. Lucia, was for ten years Attorney-General of the Bahamas.

MR. T. E. WARD, F.I.S.A., of the Island Oil and Transport Corporation of New York, and a member of the West India Committee, was married on September 15th to Miss Edith Nevill Smythe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Nevill Smythe, of Philadelphia.

AN interruption of the West India and Panama Company's cable between Jamaica and Porto Rico on October 3rd necessitates the despatch of messages for the West Indies beyond Jamaica by way of Santiago and the French Cables, at 3s 10d per word. It is high time that the new Bermuda-Barbados cable was laid.

NEW rates of pay are announced for non-European warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the West India Regiment, varying from 5s. 6d a day for a Company Sergeant-Major to 1s. 9d a day for a private on enlistment. These new rates are in substitution for pay, bonus, working pay, &c., but deferred pay will remain issuable as heretofore.

THE Rev. R. J. Campbell, D.D., who recently visited Jamaica, gave an address at the reception which was held by the Jamaica Church Aid Association at the Church House, Westminster, on the afternoon of October 12th, to meet the Bishop of Jamaica. It is the aim of the Association to make the annual meeting an occasion for a social gathering of all those interested in Jamaica.

AMONG the visitors to the Committee Rooms during the last fortnight have been Hon. Eyre Hutson, C.M.G., Governor of British Honduras, the Right Rev. Bishop of Barbados, Canon W. Moody, Sir Henry A. Bovell, Hon. F. C. Wells Durrant, K.C., Mr. W. H. Farquharson, Mr. G. P. Skeete, Mr. M. J. Bovell, Mr. S. R. Cargill, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. W. Sanderson, Mr. M. Hamel-Smith, Mr. J. d'Abadie, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Prof. J. P. d'Albuquerque.

IT is understood that the Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd., has acquired the business of Messrs Alex. Duckham & Co., Ltd. The latter firm was registered as a public company on January 13th last to acquire a private business of manufacturers and dealers in petroleum products carried on by a company of the same

name at Millwall, the directors of which were Mr. S. E. Bowrey, Mr. A. Duckham, Sir Arthur M. Duckham, K.C.B., Mrs. V. E. Duckham, Mr. P. N. Hooper, and Mr. R. H. Read.

A COMMITTEE has been sitting at the Colonial Office, with Sir Herbert Read as Chairman, to consider whether, in view of the improvement in the health conditions in West Africa, the leave regulations for European officers serving there should be revised. The generous leave now given to European civil servants in West Africa is based on the "sickness of the climate" in the old days, when the death-rate was in some parts over 75 per 1,000. In 1918 it fell as low as 5.6 (excluding deaths from the influenza epidemic), and the Committee, having regard to the great improvement in health conditions, advocate the extension of the normal "tour" from twelve to between eighteen and twenty-four months. They further recommend that officers should qualify for vacation leave at the rate of one week for each calendar month's service in West Africa, but they should only take as much of the leave for which they are eligible as they may desire to take.

THE Committee further recommends that married officers should be encouraged to take their wives out to West Africa with them as suitable housing accommodation becomes available, and to consider themselves domiciled in that country, and visitors only to the United Kingdom rather than the other way about. To this end it is proposed that the Government shall pay half the outward fare of wives of European officials, a privilege which is certain to be greatly appreciated. Finally, they consider that instead of the present system whereby a man may retire after eighteen years' service in West Africa, no officer should be granted a pension on voluntary retirement unless he has attained the age of fifty.

REV. C. D. LALLA has been offered and has accepted a seat on the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago, rendered vacant by the lamented death of the Hon. George Fitzpatrick. Like his predecessor, Mr. Lalla is a prominent member of the East Indian Community, having been the founder and first President of the East Indian National Congress. He is a Minister of the Presbyterian Church, Canadian Mission Section, and the first man in Holy Orders to sit on the Legislative Council. The appointment will, no doubt, be received with general approval, especially among the members of the prosperous East Indian community in San Fernando. Mr. Lalla was associated with the Church's ceremony on the occasion of the funeral of his predecessor and acted as Chaplain for the Masonic Fraternity as well. The funeral was one of the largest ever witnessed in San Fernando, and was a fitting testimony to the good will and popular esteem in which Mr. Fitzpatrick was held, and at their last meetings the San Fernando Borough Council, the East Indian National Congress, and the Legislative Council paid fitting tributes to the memory of their late colleague.

TURTLE STEAKS.—Parboil 6 lb of turtle, keep 3 gills of water in which it was parboiled; stew the turtle, and fry in lard or salt butter; prepare sauce and seasoning combined—viz., 4 chopped onions, thyme, a bunch of leeks, or eschalots, cut fine, 3 blades of pounded mace, grated rind of 2 lemons, 1 tablespoonful of salt butter, a dessert-spoonful of chopped peppers. Mix all these together, and stew well with 2 tablespoonfuls of butter; add the 3 gills of water that you have reserved, salt to taste and the turtle steaks; simmer until thoroughly cooked; then add the beaten yolks of 2 eggs, 1 wine-glass of brandy, and a large tablespoonful of butter; stir well, dish and serve hot.—Mrs. Fodringham.



## THE PRINCE IN THE WEST INDIES.

At a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on October 7th, the following resolution was moved by Mr. R. Rutherford, seconded by Mr. Cyril Gurney, and carried unanimously:—

That the Executive of the West India Committee, Incorporated by Royal Charter, in meeting this day assembled desire respectfully to express to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales their sense of appreciation of his having been graciously pleased to include the ancient and loyal colonies of the British West Indies and British Guiana in the itinerary of his recent and memorable tour, which cannot fail to maintain and strengthen the bonds linking his Majesty's West Indian possessions with the Mother Country and other parts of the British Empire; and, further, to extend to his Royal Highness their loyal congratulations on the occasion of his return to England after so long an absence.

In continuation of the summary of cabled messages regarding the Royal visit to the West Indies given in last issue of the Circular, it may be recorded that from Grenada the Prince of Wales proceeded in H.M.S. *Renown* to St. Lucia, where he arrived on September 25th, accompanied by Sir George Haddon Smith, Governor of the Windward Islands. He landed at Castries, where he was welcomed by the Administrator, Lt.-Col. Davidson-Houston, the Chief Justice, and the Members of the Legislative Council. From there he proceeded under an arch of coal to Columbus-square, where a thousand school-children were assembled. The Prince then ascended the *Morne Fortuné*, and saw the spot where his great great grandfather, the Duke of Kent, hoisted the British Colours on April 4th, 1874. A popular reception at Government House followed.

The *Renown* left for Dominica that night and anchored in the roadstead off Roseau, Dominica, where she was joined by H.M.S. *Calcutta* and H.M.S. *Cambria* on the following morning. At Roseau he was welcomed on landing by "the entire community of the island" (31,913 souls at last census) headed by Sir Edward Merewether, Governor of the Leeward Islands, and Mr. Robert Walter. He then went with his staff in procession through the decorated streets, in which there were "masses of cheerful Dominicans and their women," to the beautiful Botanical Gardens and afterwards to Government House, returning to the *Renown* at sunset.

On September 30th the Prince landed at Montserrat, where he was received by Mr. Cudell, the

Commissioner, and other leading inhabitants amid the cheers of "crowds of coloured folk, who still retain in their broken English a distinct brogue inherited from one side of their ancestry, which dates back to the Irish immigrants who accompanied Sir Thomas Warner in 1632."

The West Indian tour was brought to a close at Antigua, where the Prince went ashore on September 29th, and was received by the Governor of the Leeward Islands, and also by the Executive and Legislative councillors, Chief Justice Griffin, and all the Government officials. The Prince landed in the Royal barge, which steamed through a flag-bedecked avenue of sailing craft. His Royal Highness pro-



A WRECKED FACTORY IN FRANCE.

The condition of this sugar factory near Cambrai, in the devastated region of France, shows what might have happened in the West Indies but for the bulwark of the Royal Navy. Further reference is made to this subject in a leading article on page 301.

ceeded to the Court House, where an address was delivered by the Chief Justice, who recalled that Nelson refitted the Fleet in the English Harbour of Antigua. He expressed the appreciation of Antiguans for the security conferred on them by the Royal Navy in the Great War. Replying, the Prince expressed his gratification at visiting the West Indies, and hoped to repeat his visit at a future date. After an inspection of the school children on the cricket ground, the Prince was entertained by the Governor at luncheon in Government House, which was followed by a garden party, and in the evening the *Renown* left for Bermuda, her last port of call before arriving at Portsmouth.



Bermuda was reached on October 1st, and here, on the quarter-deck of H.M.S. *Calcutta*, which had been his Royal Highness's escort throughout the West Indian tour, the Prince bade a reluctant farewell to the Royal West Indian Squadron, and conferred the K.C.V.O. on Admiral Everott and the C.V.O. upon Captain Noble.

The *Renown* was berthed at Portsmouth on October 11th, and the Prince of Wales was accorded the magnificent reception due to him after his tour on returning to London, where he proceeded to Buckingham Palace through streets densely packed with cheering multitudes.

## WEST INDIAN CURRENCY REFORM.

By Lieut.-Col. Ivan Davson, O.B.E.

Perplexity in their money transactions has assailed many travellers, not to mention residents, in the West Indies and British Guiana. For, with one or two exceptions, these colonies entrust themselves to none of the established money systems, but contrive to manage with a *mélange* of two.

Thus they use sterling coins, but account for them in dollars; the pounds, shillings, and pence are translated into dollars, and cents are entered as such in the accounts, the dollar being rated for this purpose at the fixed par of 50d., so that a halfpenny equals a cent. So, in practice, an article worth 3s. 6d. is priced at 84 cents, and the dollar figures prominently in everyday life, although you have to muster at least four coins to assemble one.

In British Guiana a third unit of calculation presents itself in the "bit," the value of which is fixed at 8 cents. This coin, which has been demonetised elsewhere in the West Indies, is now being minted specially for that colony. Its origin has been frequently attributed to the Dutch (who held the colony over one hundred years ago), but the writer can find no evidence to support this idea, nor any reason to doubt that it came from the Southern States of America, where it formerly had a small and varying value. But the "bit" is not as insignificant in British Guiana as its name implies; for in the provision markets it is almost the standard unit of calculation, and even on the estates and plantations labour is priced and wages are reckoned in it, notwithstanding the fractions entailed. Thus British Guiana has no less than three main standards of value—the bit for the workpeople, the dollar for trade, and the sovereign for English firms and capitalists—and their anything but happy relationship is indicated by the following comparative table:—

12½ bits make 1 dollar.  
4 4-5 dollars make 1 pound.

In actual practice a labourer may be told that his pay amounts to 52½ bits; the wizard at the payable then hands him out 17 shillings and 7 pence in sterling, while the wages account is charged with \$4.22.

To sum up: the West Indies generally have failed to make a choice so far between the decimal cur-

rency system used in America and the sterling system of the Mother Country. The people have to think in both; the bigger commercial houses are obliged to keep their accounts in both. With their growing importance and wealth, the handicap of this mongrel system may become serious. It calls for reform like many things in the present period of reconstruction. Furthermore, the West Indies have now a sufficiently important commerce to justify their making any change that may be required to end the present anomalous position.

The course which most readily suggests itself, in the peculiar circumstances, lies in the adoption in its entirety of one of the two established systems that are already partially in use. Should neither appear satisfactory, an alternative may be found in modifying one or the other of them in such a manner as the particular needs of the West Indies may dictate.

Of the two it is perhaps the dollar system which more generally underlies the popular notion of value. Its selection, however, to the exclusion of the other, would involve the abandonment of the pound sterling. This would be unfortunate, not only from the sentimental point of view, but also on account of the unique position that the sovereign holds in the commercial world. Furthermore, its abandonment would greatly inconvenience English firms and shipping-lines trading in the West Indies.

A means of associating the dollar system with the pound sterling may be found in fixing the dollar at the par of 4s., so that five dollars would equal a pound; but it would alter the existing connection between the two currencies (whereby a halfpenny equals a cent), and thus would probably be found impracticable.

In the event of the adoption either of the standard dollar system or of the variation just mentioned, moreover, the community would be forced to discard every coin with which custom had familiarised it and to receive instead a completely strange coinage. The length of time that this process would occupy, and the protracted confusion that must accompany it, would probably constitute a paramount objection to either scheme.

Even if it did not do so, consideration must be claimed for the existing obligation that rests upon relatively small communities, or those without a mint, to provide for the fluctuations of their trade by having a currency the major portion of which is negotiable elsewhere in times of depression. This would scarcely be achieved unless the coinage were made legal tender in Canada, where, in the one case, more or less identical coins would be in use. In this case expediency would probably dictate that the new coins should be minted at Ottawa.

The foregoing is perhaps sufficient to justify the conclusion that the adoption of the dollar system in the West Indies is a formidable, if not insuperable, proposition. We pass therefore to the consideration of the other system in use—viz., sterling or of any possible modification.

The outstanding defect in the existing sterling system is that it introduces compound arithmetic into accounts, and the complications entailed in shillings and pence calculations

(To be concluded.)



## ROYAL VISITS.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

(Continued from page 290 and concluded)

On the 18th there was a garden party; on the 19th the Princes went to Spanish Town and Bog Walk. On the 20th they rode up to Flamstead, then occupied by the Governor, the Commodore having Flamstead Cottage. After breakfast they walked to Belle Vue and called on Dr Steele. On the 21st they returned to the *Bacchante*, which sailed for Bermuda on the following afternoon.

In June, 1883, Lord Derby issued a circular despatch to the various Colonial Governors informing them that H. R. H. Prince George of Wales had been appointed to H. M. S. *Canada* (Captain Durrant, R. N.), and that the Prince might, with the concurrence of Captain Durrant and Vice-Admiral Sir J. E. Commerell, receive at Government House such addresses as the Governor of the colony might consider desirable.

Prince George visited Barbados, for a second time, in January, 1884; the North American and West Indian Squadron steamed into Carlisle Bay on the 25th. The Prince landed and departed in a quiet, unceremonious manner, and merely participated as an officer of the fleet in the usual balls, dinner-parties, tennis and cricket meetings which were held in honour of the fleet's visit. On the 27th the Prince spent the day with Sir T. G. Briggs at Farley Hill.

On February 2nd the fleet left Barbados; the *Canada* (with Prince George on board), with two other ships, going to Demerara.

On January 24th, 1891, the North American and West Indian Squadron, under the command of Admiral Watson, of H. M. S. *Bellerophon*, steamed into Kingston Harbour. H. R. H. Prince George of Wales, who, on behalf of his father, the Prince of Wales, was to open the Jamaica International Exhibition, was in command of the *Thrush*, one of the vessels of the squadron.

Three days later the Exhibition was formally opened by the Prince, who, accompanied by Admiral Watson and other officers of the squadron, landed at the Market Wharf, where he was met by the Governor, Sir Henry Blake, and his staff, and a large number of naval and military officers, the heads of the civil departments, and others. The streets were lined by Regular troops and the Volunteers. At the Town Hall an address of welcome was offered by the Mayor, Dr. Ogilvie, and Council. Then the Prince went to King's House, and at one o'clock returned and opened the Exhibition. It was stated at the time that the ceremony was particularly brilliant, and had perhaps never been equalled in the history of Jamaica. The day closed with a display of fireworks. On the next day a State ball was given at King's House.

In March, 1913, H. M. S. *Cumberland* visited Jamaica, with H. R. H. Prince Albert on board, and he took part in the festivities which were held at that time. He landed and visited the recently-arrived Governor, Sir W. H. Manning, and was received by the Mayor of Kingston. He also visited Barbados.

In the same year Princess Marie Louise visited

Jamaica and Barbados. The Princess distributed the prizes at Queen's College on Speech day.

One has only to read the accounts of the visits which the Prince of Wales has already paid to portions of the British Empire oversea to realise how well such royal visits add fresh fuel to the fire of loyalty which is ever burning where the Union Jack is seen.

## AVIATION IN THE WEST INDIES.

The Bermuda and West Atlantic Aviation Company has established an air base in Bermuda, and is now successfully running air tours for the benefit of the American tourist. This Company is representative of several of the leading firms in the British aircraft industry—namely, Messrs. William Beardmore, Ltd., Messrs. A. V. Roe & Co., Limited, and the Supermarine Aviation Works, Limited; while it is interesting to note that Messrs. Furness, Withy & Co. are also interested in the Company and have a representative on the board.

The Company started operations in Bermuda in order to take advantage of the present "boom" that this island is enjoying in the tourist business. The main object, however, is to establish eventually air services linking up Canada with South America via the West Indies, and therefore the Company proposes to start a base at Trinidad, with sub-bases in the other islands of the West Indies, with also a base at Nassau in the Bahamas. As soon as these bases are established it is proposed to run local mail and passenger services, thereby considerably improving the inter-island communication.

It is stated that the air services in Bermuda are proving very popular with the American tourist, and among the many people who have enjoyed the unique opportunity of seeing Bermuda from the air may be mentioned General Sir James Willcocks, the Governor of Bermuda, and the late Vice-Admiral Sir Trevelyan Napier, who was Commander-in-Chief of the West Atlantic Squadron, while Sir Thomas Wadson, the Speaker of the House, and many other prominent Bermudians have also enjoyed air flights.

Having firmly established their base in Bermuda, the Company is now seriously turning its attention to the establishment of its other bases. It is understood that the Company is working in the closest co-operation with the Imperial Government, and therefore its future operations should be watched with interest.

SINCE 1898, when Porto Rico was ceded to the United States, the sugar industry of that island has made remarkable progress, as is shown by the following table of sugar exports for the past twenty-two seasons:—

1898-99	53,826	1909-10	284,522
1899-1900	35,000	1910-11	322,919
1900-01	68,909	1911-12	367,145
1901-02	91,912	1912-13	355,359
1902-03	113,106	1913-14	325,021
1903-04	129,647	1914-15	303,178
1904-05	135,663	1915-16	431,335
1905-06	205,277	1916-17	443,667
1906-07	204,079	1917-18	413,958
1907-08	234,607	1918-19	362,618
1908-09	244,257	1919-20 (est'd)	426,631



## SUGAR IN MAURITIUS.

The "Mauritius Handbook and Commercial Almanack" for 1920 gives interesting statistics as regards the sugar industry of that colony. It states that the area in canes in 1918 amounted to 175,923 acres, as against 166,016 acres in 1914, and although the year's increment has been small, it has been progressively steady. The crop of 1919 was 244,938 tons, the current crop being estimated at 228,000 tons. Although there has been an increase in the acreage planted in canes, as will be seen by figures given further on, the output shows no improvement on some of the figures of previous years. In 1910, 246,560 tons were exported; in 1915, the crop was 270,629 tons. The number of factories at work in 1918 was fifty-four, of which thirty-one were capable of producing over 4,500 tons in the crop season, a material increase since 1914, when only sixteen exceeded this figure.

Extremely interesting as illustrating the progress of manufacture in the cane-sugar industry are the figures showing the amount of sugar extracted from the canes during the last 100 years. In the decade 1811-20 only 5.00 per cent. was obtained. In 1841-50, the quantity had risen to 7.10 per cent., in 1901-10 to 9.96 per cent. In 1918-19 no less than 10.90 per cent. was extracted in the form of commercial sugar. Unfortunately, however, as mentioned above, the return of sugar per acre shows no improvement, in spite of this substantial increase in extraction, and the conclusion is inevitable that the yield of canes has retrograded.

As regards the nature of the machinery on the estates, valuable information is afforded. It would appear that multitubular boilers were those preferred by the Mauritius planter, as only two water-tube boilers were in use at the end of 1918. The total number of mills in operation was 172, with eighteen "crushers." Unfortunately, the returns do not say whether the fifty-four factories had 172 milling plants or whether the 172 mills referred to the number of units employed. In connection with the milling department, an extremely useful bit of information is that no less than 147 mill rolls were grooved on the Meschaert system, a tribute to the value of this invention.

The total number of filter presses in the factories was 281, containing 4,961 plates. Here again the information is deficient, as nothing is said as to the size of the plates employed.

As regards evaporation, fourteen factories had one triple effect, twenty-four factories one quadruple effect, four factories one triple and one quadruple effect, nine factories a double effect, eleven factories had barometric condensers. The total number of vacuum pans was 223, and of crystallisers 754. There were 672 centrifugals of the Cail-type and 332 of the Weston.

The export returns showed that in 1918, 74,021 tons went to the United Kingdom, 86,585 tons to India, British East Africa, South Africa, the Seychelles, St. Helena, Sierra Leone, Zanzibar, Egypt, Mesopotamia, Portuguese East Africa, and Australia receiving small quantities.

There is, unfortunately, little opportunity of any considerable extension of cultivation in Mauritius. Of the 29.1 per cent. of uncultivated lands, 9.6 per cent. are in industrial or residential occupation, and probably there is little worth cultivating in the 19.5 per cent. residue. As regards the sugar industry, it looks very much that unless some improvement is obtained in the yield of canes per acre, there may be a falling off in crops in the future. Indeed, Mauritius seems to be about to pass through a condition of things as regards their cane similar to what Java and the West Indies have already experienced, and that the future depends upon the cultivation of new varieties of canes.

## THE HOUSE-FLY MENACE.

Professor Maxwell Lefroy, in the course of a lecture on "Insect Enemies of Man," which he delivered before the members of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association in conference at Margate recently dealt with the grave danger of the common house-fly.

This insect, was, he said, the one remaining link between the disease organisms found in excreta and filth and the food of man; modern sanitation had swept away the others. The adult fly, hatching out in a manure heap or near human excreta, was fouled by this matter, which it retained on its hairy body and the pads of its feet. These pads would carry infective material in an active condition for some hours, and as the fly subsequently walked upon food or domestic articles it deposited the infected stuff. The fly was in the habit of filling its capacious crop with liquid in which disease germs remained alive and multiplied, and should it find a more suitable food, such as milk, it could eject this into the milk, so as to feed on the more attractive food.

It had been shown that typhoid germs might retain their activity in the fly for twenty-eight days, and might at any time be deposited in the manner described. Further, for twenty-three days after feeding on material containing typhoid germs the fly's excreta was infective. It was only because flies were small and people were accustomed to them that they permitted this continual fouling of their food, their homes, and their persons. There was direct proof that such diseases as summer diarrhoea in infants, enteric typhoid and paratyphoid, dysentery, cholera, and ophthalmia were transmitted by flies. Probably also such disease as intestinal tuberculosis was so carried, and as knowledge grew so would the rôle of the fly as a disease carrier be more and more emphasised. These diseases did not all affect us in this country. In England the indictment of the fly depended mainly on its transmission of the summer diarrhoea of infants. So long as it flourished so long would thousands of young children perish.

The pre-eminent means of keeping down the fly were by sanitation, the proper treatment of stable manure, the destruction of refuse, the use of water in household sanitation, and, where water was impossible, of the dark, dry earth privy. He hoped the day would come when the man who kept pigs, who had a filthy stable-yard or cowshed, would be proceeded against. The fact that the motor was displacing the horse would help greatly near towns, and stricter regulation of the fly's breeding-places and stricter enforcement of ordinary precaution should eliminate the house-fly as an insect disease-carrier.



**CANE FARMING IN TRINIDAD.**

Through the courtesy of Mr Edgar Tripp, the CIRCULAR is able to publish the statistics regarding

sugar-cane farming and the local sugar crop for the years 1913-1920, which he has prepared for the local Agricultural Society. Figures for the years 1898-1912 will be found on page 389 of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of October 5th, 1916.

Estate.	Total sugar made. Tons	Tons of sugar made from estate cane.	Tons of estate cane ground	Tons of cane purchased	Amount paid for cane.	No. of farmers.	
						East Indian	West Indian
Brechin Castle	3,700	2,570	29,989	13,801	\$129,333	479	280
Bronté	3,170	1,457	16,116	21,250	153,001	740	248
Caroui	6,300	*2,778	33,337	82,650	293,860	1,500	980
Craignish	970	310	3,587	8,126	63,721	1,050	1,153
Espanza	2,366	1,000	11,998	16,390	150,965	607	380
Forras Park	2,301	1,869	16,267	12,147	107,634	550	194
Golden Grove †	500	60	1,080	6,581	48,430	120	185
Hindustan	1,043	212	2,809	8,758	69,363	304	368
La Florisante ‡	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malgretante §	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reform	900	—	—	10,760	91,274	*500	*400
Tacarigua Factory	4,005	1,709	18,568	27,074	276,273	1,192	1,114
La Fortune	4,046	*2,720	27,486	14,763	106,293	*404	*371
Usine Ste. Madeleine	17,510	9,321	93,494	86,344	614,489	4,393	2,778
Waterloo	9,195	*3,718	42,148	61,940	607,088	1,836	1,983
Woodford Lodge	3,411	1,729	22,592	23,622	212,692	741	440
	58,416	28,953	319,421	344,226	\$2,924,404	14,536	10,824
Return for 1919	47,860	21,658	275,451	270,324	\$1,210,155	12,370	8,568
" " 1918	45,266	22,544	252,783	266,144	812,247	12,158	8,244
" " 1917	70,891	36,102	378,999	384,650	1,098,770	12,056	8,984
" " 1916	84,281	35,653	426,106	426,106	1,008,885	14,014	8,212
" " 1915	59,882	34,376	426,262	325,071	869,790	9,202	7,078
" " 1914	55,488	35,890	407,797	201,799	466,630	7,450	5,253
" " 1913	42,331	31,095	346,912	136,724	330,364	6,942	5,513

\* Estimated. † No returns furnished—all estimated. ‡ Crop of 710 tons cane sold to Tacarigua Factory § Included in Ste. Madeleine returns.

**MACHINERY AND PROGRESS.**

The value of machinery imported into a producing country is in a large measure an index of its prosperity, and the following table which gives the value of such imports into the West Indies during the years of the war is of especial interest, showing as it does that the tide of West Indian production, which had turned before 1913, has continued to flow steadily since that date. Of the total value of £2,596,837 in the table below, the United States supplied £1,416,282, and the United Kingdom £1,069,941:—

	1914.	1915.	1916	1917	1918.
Jamaica	£101,062	57,735	84,357	85,885	85,586
British Guiana	46,778	104,566	149,434	262,870	238,586
Trinidad	149,181	143,318	169,202	232,865	216,768
Barbados	18,520	20,560	63,475	133,169	73,293
Leeward Islands	22,753	17,664	18,833	39,834	—
Grenada	8,772	2,410	1,563	2,812	2,711
St Vincent	3,260	835	1,499	2,908	—
St. Lucia	2,584	2,824	4,322	4,088	—
	354,860	349,932	492,785	784,921	614,843

Commenting on these figures in the *Weekly Bulletin*, Mr. E. H. S. Flood, the Trade Commissioner for the West Indies, says that all the sugar and other heavy machinery, and a substantial share in the lighter kinds, came from the United Kingdom.

After the advance in the price of sugar in 1914, a large quantity of sugar machinery and other equipment for the sugar factories began to be imported. Of the total import of machinery into British Guiana for the five-year period, valuing £840,201, £529,624 was for the sugar factories. In the Leeward Islands, though all are not sugar islands, the import of sugar machinery for that period was in about the same proportion to the whole. In Barbados, however, a much greater proportion of the machinery imported was for sugar, as, out of a total of £308,963, £277,602 was sugar machinery. The statistics in Jamaica do not definitely indicate that "agricultural steam machinery" is for the sugar factories alone, but as the island is increasing its area in sugar cane, and giving increased attention to the industry, it is probable that a large quantity of sugar machinery is now included in the summarised import. Out of a total of £412,625, £229,843 was "agricultural steam machinery." No separate classification is given in the customs returns in Trinidad for the different kinds of machinery. A large increase in that colony is taking place in the import of machinery, and it is to be noted that there is also an appreciable increase in the quantity of sugar manufactured.



## THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

By ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 295.)

Picture a large lake, with many indentations, surrounded by hills, wooded to the water's edge, with lofty mountains beyond, and, on an artificial brick-paved promontory jutting out into this expanse of water, an irregular group of yellow, two-storeyed buildings—mostly oblong in shape—with red roofs; and, on the hillside opposite, a neat white country house with its outbuildings. You may then get a rough idea of English Harbour.

The red-roofed buildings are the old naval barracks in which the bluejackets lived while their ships were being careened and refitted, sail-lofts, capstan houses, store houses and repair shops—all intimately associated with the memory of Nelson, who spent many months in this "vile hole," as he described it. It was here that the little captain had his memorable dispute with Moutray, the Commissioner of the Dockyard, as to which of the two was in command, and settled the matter in a trice by striking the Commissioner's broad pennant which that officer, as Commodore, had hoisted in H.M.S. *Latona*, lying alongside the wharf. Here, again, at a later date the arrogant and swashbuckling Lord Camelford had a similar quarrel with Lieutenant Peterson, whom he shot dead on a spot still marked by a huge anchor, for refusing to obey his orders.\*

In those days English Harbour must really have been a "vile spot," for it was positively reeking with yellow fever, and Captain Thomson, in one of his "Sailor's Letters," described it as "one of the most infernal places on the face of the globe," adding that, officiating as chaplain, he buried "eight a morning." One can imagine the state of affairs which must have existed during the hurricane months when the harbour was packed with shipping, and the barracks crammed to suffocation with sailors quite indifferent, as they used to be in those days, to the most elementary laws of hygiene. The mortality from fever alone in this Devil's Punch Bowl during the Eighteenth Century was simply appalling, and it is recorded that H.M.S. *Experiment*, on arriving at the mouth of the harbour during the sickly season in 1793, had lost such a large proportion of her men from Yellow Jack that it became necessary to send out a boat's crew from the *Solebay* to warp her in. Every single man of that crew died, the contagion was communicated to their own vessel, and no fewer than two hundred men of the ship's company perished.

It was no doubt owing to the unhealthiness of the harbour that the country house on the hillside opposite was built for Prince William Henry—afterwards King William IV.—when, as a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, he was appointed to the Leeward Islands Station. This attractive residence, which is now used as a country seat for the Governor of the Leeward Islands, was erected by English stonemasons, who were brought out to Antigua for the

purpose, and is still known as Clarence House after its first royal inmate. The house has the reputation of being haunted by a shadowy figure wearing a cocked hat; but time did not permit of our crossing the harbour and attempting to lay the ghost.

The dockyard was finally abandoned in 1889, and was transferred by the Admiralty in 1906 to the Colonial Government, which is now supposed to be looking after it. But the buildings are already falling into a sad state of disrepair, and it is to be feared that unless a more liberal grant is voted for their maintenance they will share the fate of the once prosperous little town which formerly stood at the dockyard gates.

When the British West Indian Islands are developed as winter resorts, English Harbour will prove a valuable asset; but, apart from that consideration, it surely deserves to be properly maintained as a national monument on account of its associations with the glorious deeds of our Navy in the stormy days of the Eighteenth Century.

The drive back to St. John's in the cool of the evening was delightful, and it was very pleasant on reaching the capital to renew the acquaintance of several old friends, including Mr. F. H. Watkins, I.S.O., who emerged from premature retirement during the war and was acting as Colonial Secretary with his usual tact and ability, at the hospitable New Club, at that time of day when all self-respecting people in the West Indies partake of their swizzle or rum punch.

Night had set in when we eventually left the wharf, and as we picked our way down the harbour towards the mass of twinkling lights, indicating our good ship *Guiana* lying out at sea, under the beeting crags of Rat Island, which lies a couple of hundred yards or so from the shore, we could not help comparing our happy lot with that of the inmates of that island fastness. Once the headquarters of the local garrison, this tiny island, which is connected with the mainland by a narrow causeway, is now a leper asylum, and one could well imagine what the feelings of its unfortunate inhabitants, doomed to lifelong internment, must be when they see the launches passing backwards and forwards with their healthy and care-free passengers.

We sailed at eight o'clock, and dropped anchor off Pointe-à-Pitre, the chief commercial port of Guadeloupe, on the following morning. Guadeloupe, the largest of France's possessions in the West Indies, is usually spoken of as a single island. It is really two islands, Basse-Terre (Guadeloupe *proprement dite*) and Grande-Terre, which are separated from one another by the Rivière Salée, a narrow strait about four miles in length, linking Grand Cul-de-Sac, an immense bay on the north, with Petit Cul-de-Sac, which is not much smaller, on the south. While Basse-Terre is a rumpled mass of mountains tossed into every conceivable shape by volcanic action in a bygone age, Grande-Terre is comparatively flat, but the *tout ensemble* of its chief town and harbour, (which is an inner basin of the bay of Petit Cul-de-Sac), is very charming.

The steamer picks her way to the anchorage through a group of fairy-like islets dotted with picturesque little villas nestling among coconut

\* A detailed account of these episodes is given in "West Indian Tales of Old." London: Duckworth & Co.



palms, and the view is enhanced by the majestic mountains of Guadeloupe *proprement dite* in the distance.

The harbour of Pointe-à-Pitre, like every other harbour in the Caribbean, has been described as "the finest in the West Indies." However that may be, the French are determined that it shall live up to its reputation and have consequently decided to give effect to the recommendations of a Commission which, in 1913, reported in favour of dredging the harbour to a depth of 30 feet, the construction of a sea wall or wharf along the foreshore, the establishment of a wireless station, and the adoption of a modern system of sanitation. That the latter is a crying need, every visitor to the town must agree, for the sanitary arrangements in it generally are so primitive as to be absolutely disgusting—a failing which, unfortunately, is not confined to this French West Indian Island. Another much needed improvement is the draining of the noxious swamp which half encircles the town, and must render life in it almost unbearable. But, in spite of these disadvantages, Pointe-à-Pitre is essentially gay, the picturesque houses—many with the mansard roofs so characteristic of France—are painted every colour of the rainbow, and the inhabitants, whether white or black, appear to the passing visitor to be infected with the *joie de vivre*.

Pointe-à-Pitre is quite unlike any British West Indian town. It has a character of its own, and more closely resembles a small provincial town in France, with its open-air cafés and its *magasins* with quite the French *cachet*. Its principal street is the Rue D'Arbaud, at one end of which are the wharves of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, and at the other incidentally—the offices of the Station Agronomique de la Guadeloupe, where we were fortunate in running to ground Mr. J. Sydney Dash, formerly of Barbados, and now Director of that institution, who proved an invaluable guide during a busy day's sightseeing. Like Mr. Stockdale, in St. Croix, Mr. Dash is one of those capable agricultural scientists whose services have been lost to the British Empire by its unwillingness to compete with foreign countries in the matter of salaries.

Like all well-regulated French towns, Pointe-à-Pitre has its "place" where the populace gathers in the cool of the evening and on fête days. Originally the Place Sartine, Pointe-à-Pitre's pleasure, is now called Place de la Victoire, in commemoration of a victory gained by the French, under Victor Hugues, over the English on this spot on July 2nd, 1794. When the English became masters of the island in 1810, it was unromantically renamed Place Skinner, after General Skinner, who succeeded Admiral Cochrane as Governor of Guadeloupe.

This place is surrounded by venerable specimens of sandbox tree (*Hura crepitans*)—that tree whose fruit burst with a loud report scattering seed in every direction to the astonishment of newcomers—which were planted by the order of Victor Hugues himself, and must therefore be well over a hundred years old. Hugues, an intimate friend of Robespierre, was sent out to Guadeloupe as the Commissary of the Convention in the days of the French Revolution, and

was responsible for the risings in Grenada, St. Vincent, and Dominica which so nearly lost us those colonies—risings which were only suppressed finally by the firm hand of Sir Ralph Abercrombie. In the French islands of Martinique, St. Lucia and Guadeloupe the scenes which were being enacted in Paris were reproduced, and the scaffold was erected in the centre of this peaceful square which we were now visiting. Here on a single day—October 6th, 1794—twenty-seven colonists who had expressed Royalist sympathies were guillotined.

The island at this period was in a turmoil. The small body of Royalists and their loyal slaves had been rounded up at Camp Berville, and 1,429 of them had been taken prisoners. Twenty-two of the principal inhabitants were permitted to embark with General Graham, on board the *Bayne*, twenty-seven were taken to Pointe-à-Pitre, and the remainder with the exception of 335, who succeeded in escaping to the woods of Rivière Salée, were taken to Morne Savon, a small eminence on a promontory jutting out into the harbour, and here they were lined up before a ditch which they themselves had been made to dig. While the heads of the twenty-seven prisoners sent to Pointe-à-Pitre fell into the fatal basket, a discharge of musketry shook the town. The people rushed to the quays and saw a dense smoke rising from the side of the Morne. With one fusillade, the Chef de Bataillon Charideau had, on the instructions of Victor Hugues, killed no fewer than 875 prisoners, whose bodies fell back into the ditch, which was then hurriedly filled in, and now serves as their tomb.

(To be continued.)

## SUGAR IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

Before the war the output of raw sugar in the country which is now Czecho-Slovakia averaged about 1,200,000 tons per annum. In 1919 the crop only amounted to 520,000 tons, of which about 220,000 tons were exported. The 1920 acreage under beet, according to a report obtained for the West India Committee by the Department of Overseas Trade, is approximately 195,000 hectares, or 10,000 hectares more than in 1919, and the sugar production is estimated at 700,000 tons, of which 300,000 tons will be available for export. As regards Hungary, the yield from the coming harvest is estimated at 360,000 tons of sugar, or about half the pre-war consumption of the present Hungary.

Owing to the present state of unrest in Poland, it is difficult to obtain any reliable information regarding the sugar industry in that country; but when, however, conditions are more settled, the British Commercial Commissioner at Warsaw will be requested to furnish a report on the subject.

In Belgium seventy-eight sugar refineries are now actually working, and their production for September, 1919, to May, 1920, was 65,005,264 kilos of raw sugar, and 72,341,512 kilos of crystallised sugar. The production for the year 1920 is estimated at 160,000 tons of sugar, the sowings having been increased by 40 per cent.



## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

### By "Agronomist."

The beetroot factory in Norfolk has been purchased by a Liverpool firm, who will work it as a sugar refinery. It is intended to refine not only beet-sugar, but also cane-sugars.

Mr. K. W. Earle has been appointed Government Geologist for the Windward and Leeward Islands. His chief duties will be to examine into the mineral resources of those colonies. Mr. C. Hummel has been appointed Forest Officer in British Honduras.

Dr. S. C. Harland, who was engaged in cotton research with the Imperial Department of Agriculture in the West Indies, has been appointed Acting Head of the Botanical Department of the British Cotton Industrial Research Association, whose headquarters are in Manchester. Important articles by him on this special subject have been published in the "West India Bulletin."

Argentina imports almost all its supply of paper from other countries. There are a few local paper mills that import pulp and waste products. The paper-making industry, however, promises to become an important one. A tree has been discovered in the forests of the north-west that is said to be very well suited for paper pulp. More than 700 varieties of trees have been counted in the forests, but the paper-pulp tree is very abundant. There are adequate means of water transport.

The prickly pear (*Opuntia*) is a native of the West Indies and tropical America, and is now found in most tropical countries. It has an erect stem, and jointed branches of oval form with clusters of spines. The flowers are succeeded by pear-shaped fleshy fruits, 2 in. or 3 in. long. The plant is used for hedges. In Sicily the chief value of the stems is as fodder for cattle. In Cyprus successful experiments have been made by the Agricultural Department in mixing the juice of the stems with lime for giving brilliance and permanence to ordinary whitewash, says the "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute." The sweet, juicy fruits are often eaten.

Tobacco cultivation is stated in the same article to be in many ways well suited to Cyprus. A great part of the cultivation, as well as the gathering, may be done by women and children. Its introduction broadens the basis of cultivation. It provides a revenue from land that would otherwise lie fallow, and is therefore a useful element in any system of rotation. Careful preparation and thorough cultivation of the soil are necessary in tobacco culture. Consequently it has a great educational influence on the natives of Cyprus, who are prone to slovenly, primitive husbandry. Corn crops following tobacco have frequently given a larger and more uniform yield.

Jamaica is composed largely of limestone, and this occurs in extraordinary forms, like irregular honeycombs on a gigantic scale. A writer in the "Gleaner," of Jamaica, describes the limestone formation, and especially the caves. Some caves are small, others have a series of intercommunicating chambers, others contain streams or rivers running at considerable depths. For instance, the Cave and Yankee Rivers sink at Greenock estate, run underground for upwards of 13 miles, and emerge near Stewart Town on the Rio Bueno. Innumerable hosts of bats inhabit these caves, and their number in a single large cave has been estimated at 10,000 to 15,000 individuals. Great piles of guano are deposited by these bats. The deposits are sometimes 15 ft. to 20 ft. thick, and are valuable as manure. The

bats themselves are considered of more value than the guano, as they feed on mosquitoes and other insects. Some species, however, are fruit-eaters.

Guango pods have already been referred to in the CIRCULAR as excellent food for cattle. But there is danger in their use unless certain common-sense precautions are taken. The Director of Agriculture in the journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society emphasises the necessary care that should be practised in giving this food. His opinion is that guango pods are dangerous if eaten in excess, if eaten with silage, if eaten after the pods have fermented, or if crushed and allowed to ferment. When silage is used this should be fed alone in the morning, and not more than 20 lb. of guango pods given in the afternoon. If the pods get wet, the sugary contents ferment and become poisonous. If guango pods are crushed the beans easily ferment, and are besides astringent. Unless the crushed pods are eaten fresh, irritation ensues in the intestines, and sometimes the result is the death of the animal. It is better not to crush them.

When Mesopotamia is ready to turn again to agricultural pursuits, the plans that have been formed for growing cotton there may materialise. It is comparatively a small country, and even if Sir W. Willcocks' irrigation scheme is carried out, it could not grow more than a million bales, whereas before the war India averaged four million, and Egypt one and a half million bales. The Agricultural Department in Mesopotamia has already been carrying out experiments with a view to finding out which variety of cotton is best suited to the country. The result goes to show that Mesopotamia can produce cotton equal to the best that Egypt or America can produce. The British Cotton Growers' Association have taken great interest in the matter, and they sent out two representatives a year ago to co-operate and assist the Government in their experiments.

The possibilities of Mesopotamia for cotton-growing are considerable. The rainfall is so small that the summer cultivation of the country must depend entirely upon irrigation. Sir W. Willcocks states that Mesopotamia is the home of perennial irrigation, but at no period in its history has the whole country been under irrigation at one time. He thinks that not more than three million acres would ever be available for cotton. Cotton is a summer crop, and if the rotation adopted is one year's cotton in three, that would mean about one million acres under cotton. The British Cotton Growers' Association have arranged with the Agricultural Department of Mesopotamia to grow cotton commercially on a 2,000-acre tract. Six Egyptian fellahcen cultivators were imported last January and distributed among estate owners. There seems to be little doubt that the Arab will make a really good and painstaking intensive cultivator.

Of the sugar manufactured in Jamaica 8 per cent. has been voluntarily surrendered for local consumption by the sugar-cane planters and manufacturers at one-third the price of sugar in the open market. This means an excise duty placed on themselves out of profits of a total amount of about £200,000. Besides this voluntary contribution an excise duty was levied by the Government in 1916 as a temporary revenue measure, and has been retained ever since. It is now stated that the Government intend to impose an additional excise duty on sugar, and an export tax on bananas. The Jamaica Imperial Association voice the general opinion of planters and merchants that it would be unwise to single out one or two industries for special heavy taxation, particularly as there is no reason to suppose that the Government will be faced with any deficit at the end of the current year.



## BRITISH HONDURAS PROSPECTS.

### The Governor and the West India Committee.

The Hon. L. Eyre Hutson, C.M.G., Governor of British Honduras, attended a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on October 7th, at 15, Seething-lane. In welcoming him, Mr. Robert Rutherford, who presided, hoped the Committee would in the future be able to do more for British Honduras than had been done in the past, and expressed appreciation of the reception accorded the Secretary during his recent visit to the colony, and of the colony's generous contribution to the Endowment Fund.

"For many years," he continued, "British Honduras has been sadly off the beaten track, and we rejoice to learn that, as the outcome of the recent Conference at Ottawa, it is now to be linked by a steamer service with Jamaica and Canada, and we hope that this may be the beginning of a period of great prosperity for our Central American Colony."

His Excellency, in reply, said that he was a West Indian, born, bred and educated. When he arrived first in British Honduras he found the colony suffering from great depression and despondency, which was partly due to the war, but principally to the fact that the only connection with the outer world was via New Orleans. The country was a large one, comprising some 8,590 square miles, but it lacked population, and there were parts of it which were quite unknown except to aboriginal Indians. Mr. Eyre Hutson mentioned that the demand which had sprung up for the colony's famous product—its mahogany—during the war had not abated with the Armistice. Unfortunately, the only timber at present commercially workable was timber that would float down the rivers, necessitating a seasonal industry. There had been more than one attempt to start a railway beyond the 25 miles of line now existing; but, as these undertakings always entailed concessions in the matter of Crown lands, they had come to nothing. At present there were two applications being dealt with to construct a railway through to Guatemala.

Continuing, he said that the once flourishing banana industry in the colony had been ruined by the Panama disease, and unless some other industry arose to take its place it was doubtful if even the 25 miles of railway in the colony could be kept going. Recently both Sir Francis Watts and Mr. Dunlop, the Government Agricultural Adviser, had been much impressed with the possibilities of sugar growing in the colony, and strongly advocated the erection of a Government mill. There were over 61,000 acres of suitable land, most of which was owned by either the Western Syndicate, the British Honduras Syndicate, or the United Fruit Company; but some was Crown land, selling at one to three dollars an acre. The Government would probably be prepared to grant a free site for the factory and to guarantee bonds up to a certain limit. The speaker asked whether it was too much to expect any capital from the Old Country, or whether they must look to Canada for support for any scheme of development, now that they were to expect a direct steamer service with the Dominion. He mentioned that a Forestry Officer had been appointed to recommend what steps should be taken in the matter of afforestation in the colony, and that the Colonial Office had approved the appointment of a geological survey to test the presence of oil. It had been found in the neighbouring countries north and south, and the speaker was convinced it existed in British Honduras.

A vote of thanks to Sir Eyre Hutson for addressing the meeting was moved by Mr. Cyril Gurney,

seconded by Sir Edward Davson, and cordially agreed to.

### Entertained by West Indian Club

In the evening Mr. Eyre Hutson was the guest of the members of the West Indian Club at a dinner at 4, Whitehall Court, at which Captain G. Hudson Lyell, M.B.E., presided. The health of the guest was proposed by the Chairman. Replying to the toast, which was enthusiastically honoured, Mr. Eyre Hutson said that the colony which he represented was far more healthy for Europeans than usually imagined. It was prospering now, and, given encouragement, was sure of a successful future. Mr. S. T. Harrison, C.M.G., proposed the health of the Chairman.

The company present included Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G., Mr. Bruce Austin, Mr. Frank G. Austin, Brig.-Gen. J. Gardiner Austin, Mr. Bernard Boyun, Mr. Leon Colvon, Sir Edward Davson, Mr. J. T. Dew, Mr. F. Bourke Ellis, Mr. G. F. A. Grindle, C.B., C.M.G., Mr. G. E. L. Guppy, Mr. M. Hamel-Smith, Mr. W. T. O. B. Hewett, Capt. Gilfred Knight, Dr. G. B. Mason, Mr. Allan Messer, Capt. F. F. E. Messum, Mr. S. J. Milton, Mr. F. J. Morris, Baron A. Pollenitz, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. A. Scoffe, Mr. Ernest Sturridge, D.D.S., Sir William Trollope, Bart., Mr. Guy Wyatt.

## OBITUARY.

### MR. W. BURSLEM.

As briefly announced in last CIRCULAR, Mr. W. Burslem, M.A., died in Barbados on August 24th last.

The news of Mr. Burslem's death will have been received with deep regret by a wide circle of friends, and all past and present students of Queen's Royal College in Trinidad, of which he was for many years Principal. Mr. Burslem, who was an M.A. of Pembroke College, Oxford, went out to Barbados in the early 'eighties as assistant-master (Mathematical) at Harrison College, and he collaborated with the Principal, Mr. Horace Deighton, in the compilation of Deighton's "Euclid." After an interval, during which he was an assistant master at Queen's Royal College in Trinidad, he was appointed headmaster of the Lodge School in Barbados in 1894-5, and in 1896 he returned to Trinidad as headmaster of Queen's Royal College, which position he filled until May last, when he retired on account of ill-health. His last years were sadly clouded by nervous tension and overwork, but until the end the welfare of his school and family was a matter of constant concern and interest. After retiring he went to Barbados, where the end must have been sudden, for after his death a letter from him was received in London in which he said that he was at last beginning to feel better. Mr. Burslem was a man of unflinching integrity and honesty of purpose, and he will be much missed.

### FRANK ODEY ROOKS.

To the West Indian Roll of Honour must now be added the name of Second Lieutenant Frank Odey Rooks, who died in Trinidad on August 29th of illness resulting from injuries received while flying on active service in France.

Frank Rooks, who was the son of the late Lieut.-Colonel C. J. Rooks, of the Colonial Secretariat, was one of the first in Trinidad to answer the call after the outbreak of war. He left Trinidad in October, 1915, as a member of



the first Merchants' Contingent, and on arriving in England joined the O.T.C. Early in 1916 he received his commission and was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. In 1917 he was transferred to the Royal Air Force, and it was while returning from a flight as an observer over the enemy lines in France that he received the injuries which led to his fatal illness. The under-carriage of the aeroplane was blown off by shell-fire, and on reaching the landing-ground the pilot was unable to avoid a crash. Lieutenant Rooks was thrown out and jammed against the machine gun. He remained in hospital for three months, after which he received Colonial leave and visited Trinidad, to which island he returned a year ago, resuming his duties as third clerk in the Mines Department. Frank Rooks was a young man of charming disposition and great integrity, who had a promising career before him. He was very properly accorded a military funeral, which was attended by representatives of the Merchants' Contingent and a host of friends.

## WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

Shareholders in the United British Oilfields of Trinidad will be offered at an early date 250,000 shares at par, in the proportion of one new share for every five held.

### The Colonial Bank.

The directors have declared a dividend of 5 per cent. for the half-year to June 30th, subject to tax, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. The accounts for the half-year ended June 30th last show a gross profit of £355,215 13s. 1d. Expenses in London and at branches and agencies absorbed £228,636 15s. 8d., leaving a net profit of £126,578 17s. 5d., as compared with £67,437 4s. 2d. at the same date in 1919. Out of the balance the directors recommend that £25,000 be carried to the Reserve Fund and £10,000 to the Staff Pension Fund, and that there be written off bank premises £10,000, leaving after payment of the dividend for the half-year (£45,000) £36,578 17s. 5d. to be carried forward. Since the date of the balance-sheet branches have been opened at Linstead and Port Morant, Jamaica, and at Sangre Grande, Trinidad.

### The Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates, Ltd.

The accounts for the year ended December 31st show a profit of £14,017 14s., and after deducting the London office expenses there remains a balance of £8,097 15s. 3d., or, with the balance from 1918, £9,010 16s. 6d., which the directors recommend should be carried forward. The small profit is attributed to the prolonged drought in the early months of the year, which resulted in the complete failure of the spring expeditions, combined with shortage of labour and increased cost. The total turnover of balata amounted to 691,268 lb., as against 891,844 lb. for 1918, and 1,088,489 lb. for 1917.

DR. AND MRS. E. GRAHAM PILGRIM of Porters, Barbados, have been spending the season at the Cairn Hydro, Harrogate, where they remain until the end of the month.

In the first leading article in last CIRCULAR, the word "growers" in the fifth line from the bottom of the first column should read "grocers." The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply state that they have never distributed Philippine sugars. It would be interesting to know how it came about that at one period during the War 96° sugar, quite unfit for direct consumption, found its way into the grocers' shops.

## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

### Grenada Excess Profits Ordinance.

In moving the second reading of the Bill for the Excess Profits (Amendment) Ordinance on August 6th, the Colonial Secretary explained its objects. Section 7, he said, gave power to the Assessment Committee to require the production of books, &c., and section 8 empowered them to enter premises and make examinations. Section 3 was a new provision by which the interpretation of the expression "husbandry" was made to exclude rum and sugar when made from locally-grown canes. Section 5 granted relief to those who had to pay the tax, by allowing the amount of tax assessed to be paid in four annual instalments. Section 6 was of great importance, as it provided for the sharing of excess profits paid by the firms whose head office was in the United Kingdom, and who paid duties to the Imperial Exchequer. It avoided double taxation. The allocation of the duty between the United Kingdom and the colony would be according to the amount of profit made from the business in each place. The Bill was passed without amendment.

### Guiana's Tribute to Mr. Rodway.

Mr. W. D. Cleary, Supervisor of the Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates, has left the colony on the termination of his employment. The question of cotton growing was considered at a meeting of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, presided over by Mr. C. Farrar on August 20th. The Committee which had been appointed to report on the matter recommended that cotton growing in the colony be encouraged by all possible means, that a Government ginney and purchasing agencies be set up, and that a supply of suitable cotton seeds be obtained for free distribution. They point out that in 1826 no less than 2,801,164 lb. of cotton produced in various parts of British Guiana were exported to the United Kingdom.

A new company, the Schoonord Sugar Estates, Limited, has been incorporated with a capital of \$2,500,000, to take possession of Plantations Schoonord, Meer-Dorg, Goed Fortuin, La Harmonie, Westminster and Onder-neming. The Hon. P. N. Browne, K.C., Hon. F. Dias, Mr. J. Fernandes, Mr. D. J. Ewing Chow, and Mr. F. Larrouy will be the directors, but a chairman has not been selected. The recent strike at Plantation Diamond the "Argosy" announces, is over, the strikers having resumed work at the old rate of wages.

The "Argosy" is raising a fund as a tribute to Mr. Rodway, in recognition of his fifty years of public service in the colony. The rice situation is still giving anxiety, and there is criticism of the Government's policy on the part of some of the merchants, who declare that there are ample stocks available, but that the present prices fixed do not admit of the rice being sold at a profit. Lady Constance Stewart Richardson, the famous dancer, has been paying a few days' holiday visit to the colony.

### A "Central" for Seven Rivers in Jamaica.

Hon. H. A. Lascelve Simpson, O.B.E., has been appointed J.P.

A eulogy of Mr. Maxwell Hall, "one of the most learned men in the West Indies, and an active astronomer, jurist and meteorologist," who, it will be recalled, died at Montego Bay on February 20th last, by one of the foremost American meteorologists, is published in the "Gleaner" of September 8th.

A company has been formed to erect a 4,000-ton sugar factory at Seven Rivers in St. James, and machinery for a new factory to be erected by Dr. Grinan, at Sevens in Clarendon, has arrived in the s.s. *Helikon*, which has also brought new rolling stock for the railway from the United States.



The prevailing epidemic of "cow pox" is running its course, and the number of cases under treatment is now declining.

Among the visitors to the island, says the "Gleaner," is Dr. W. J. MacCallum, of the Hopkins University, U.S.A., who has come to make a special study for the American authorities of Kaffir cow-pox. On September 13th there were 326 cases of this epidemic in Bumper Hall Isolation Hospital.

**Tobago and the Prince of Wales.**

The sudden decision by the R.M.S.P. Co. to cancel sailings caused some consternation, writes Mr. Robert S. Reid on September 14th, on his return to the colony. The general impression is that trade as well as passengers requires a regular service of steamers, which will necessitate a subsidy, contributed by the Home Government and the West Indies. That expensive bogey of the past the Intercolonial Service may now be eliminated, as the islands are amply connected by the Canadian steamers and others. In this connection it is to be hoped that Tobago will not be left out in the cold. In a year or two our exports may prove attractive enough to get a call from ocean steamers, and meantime we hope that Trinidad will provide a more frequent service.

On landing at Scarborough from my home trip I heard many complaints of abnormal weather since April, but the country looked green, and grass and weeds and trees were vigorously growing. The cacao crop is setting well, but is undoubtedly late, and, so far as can be seen, there will only be light pickings until December or January. The heat was very trying after the cold summer in the Homeland, but some heavy showers in the last two days have cooled the air to some extent. There is quite a scarcity of local foodstuffs, and labourers are more plentiful than usual, everyone finding a waiting job in this district, and planters are quite cheerful on the subject. A big crop of corn has been planted this year, and next month there will be ample food for man and beast.

By this week's *Belize* quite a number of planters and others are going to Trinidad to pay their respects to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. We can hardly expect H.M.S. *Renown* to call in at Scarborough, but I hear that a telegram is to be sent with expressions of loyalty to the Prince, and asking that the *Renown* may pass as close as possible to Tobago to give some of the inhabitants at least the chance of seeing his temporary ocean home.

**Trinidad.**

Building lots on Lady Chancellor's road are being offered for sale by auction on leasehold titles of 199 years. This road, which is being driven into the mountains behind Government House, is being constructed by convict labour. It commands magnificent views of the gulf, and is already a favourite evening drive. Purchasers may only construct dwelling-houses each of at least £800 value on each lot, which vary in size from 19,540 sq. ft., with the upset price of \$781.60, and 30,450 sq. ft. (\$1,218.00).

The report of Mr. Thomas I. Potter, Acting Superintendent of Crown Lands for Trinidad and Tobago, for 1919, shows that the revenue derived by the colony from asphalt during the year, in export duties and royalties, was £29,820 11s 3d. The complete land sales for the year comprise 2,536 acres only, as against 7,009 acres in the preceding year, the decrease being contributed to the fact that in the preceding year the Crown lands released by the oil companies were eagerly taken up, and also to the land available for sale diminishing so rapidly, but new tracts are being laid out in new and fertile areas hitherto inaccessible.

The prospectus of the Trinidad Drilling and Contracting Company, Limited, which has been formed with a capital of \$1,000,000, with the object of carrying on the business of oil-well drillers, engineers, draughtsmen and technical advisers, is published. The directors are Mr.

A. W. Ibbett, Mr. E. T. Newton-Clare, D.S.O., the Trinidad National Petroleum Company, the Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields, the General Petroleum Company, the Trinidad Friendship Petroleum Company, and Mr. Hugh Donnon.

Dr. Adolf Ulrich, the well-known sugar chemist, who died on September 11th, was buried next day at St. Anns. Another death recorded is that of Mr. David G. Millar, Attorney of the Trinidad Shipping and Trading Company, which took place on September 10th. Mr. Millar, who was born in Scotland fifty-six years ago came to Trinidad in 1882. The draft is published of a Bill to provide for the control of pollution of land or water by oil mining operations and for the issue of licences for the abstraction of water from watercourses for industrial purposes. It is proposed to introduce this Bill in the Legislative Council.

November 1st was the date fixed for the first sitting of the new West Indian Appeal Court, which was to sit at the Court House, Port of Spain. The Chief Justices of Trinidad, Barbados, and British Guiana were expected to attend.

**WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.**

**The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Home arrivals from West Indies, Plymouth, September 26th, per R.M.S.P. *Quilpie* :—**

- |                                |  |                                    |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Miss L. Alexis                 | Mr. H. Knwthorn                        | Mrs. L. Pozzi                      |
| Mr. E. Anderson                | Mr. I. O. Jagessar                     | Mrs. M. Rae and four children      |
| Mrs. A. F. Clark               | Miss G. Julien                         | Mr. W. H. Eorner                   |
| Dr., Mrs. and Miss Conyara     | Mr. A. Lai Kew                         | Mrs. Kenwick & child               |
| Mr. Cos                        | Mr. D. Larrouy                         | Mr. H. G. Scalford                 |
| Lieut.-Col. O'Dowd Egan        | Mr. P. Macleod                         | Miss D. Shepherd                   |
| Miss O'Dowd Egan               | Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Manning and family  | Hon. A. P. Sherlock                |
| Mrs. E. C. Fairar and two sons | Mr. G. Mayes                           | Mr. A. Stewart                     |
| Mrs. Caminond                  | Mr. & Mrs. McDonald and three children | Mr. and Mrs. Stallmeyer and family |
| Mr. A. A. Gibbons              | Miss D. Macleod                        | Miss M. F. Tringham                |
| Mr. H. Gordon                  | Mr. H. St. L. Nicholson                | Mr. J. U. Waddell                  |
| Miss E. Hall                   | Mr. D. T. O'Connor                     | Mr. B. Wade                        |
| Mrs. E. Hall                   | Mr. W. T. O'Connor                     | Messrs. K. & J. Walcott            |
| Mrs. E. A. Hare                | Mrs. W. M. Pavitt                      | Miss B. Walcott                    |
| Mrs. F. A. Humphrey and son    | Mr. J. Phillips                        | Miss E. Whartoo                    |
|                                | Mrs. E. K. Piggott and two children    |                                    |

**Elders & Fyfes, Ltd.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, September 28th, per R.M.S. *Volagua* :—**

- |                       |                                     |                                 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Miss E. N. Anwyll     | Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Harvey and son   | Mr. R. B. Luke                  |
| Mr. R. H. Arnwell     | The Lady Herbert Hervey             | Dr. & Mrs. H. Paine             |
| Mr. & Mrs. Brookes    | Mr. and Mrs. Heygate Vernon         | Mr. C. A. Sannell               |
| Mr. & Mrs. H. Bushell | Mr. and Mrs. H. Hood Daniel and son | Capt. and Mrs. Y. Sorenson      |
| Miss M. D. Bushell    |                                     | Mr. & Mrs. E. Westlake and sons |
| Rev. & Mrs. H. Cooke  |                                     | Mr. C. Whiting                  |
| Mrs. E. C. Cooke      |                                     |                                 |
| Mr. A. M. Groce       |                                     |                                 |
| Mr. H. Harris         |                                     |                                 |

**Home arrivals from Jamaica, Avonmouth, October 2nd, per s.s. *Camilo* :—**

- |                       |                        |                       |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mr. James Baird       | Mr. E. W. Garnett      | Mr. C. B. Price       |
| Dr. H. E. Bond        | Mr. R. T. Harrison     | Mrs. E. Noncaglia     |
| Mr. B. F. Cheater     | Mr. C. J. Hodges       | Mr. A. H. Stafford    |
| Mr. J. J. Cruchley    | Mrs. D. E. Hawker      | Mr. S. H. Taylor      |
| Mr. F. H. N. Cruchley | Mrs. E. A. Jenkins     | Mr. & Mrs. W. Tipping |
| Sir William Fry       | The Misses Jenkins (2) | Mr. F. E. Woodward    |
| Mr. H. G. Garnett     | Mr. & Mrs. J. F. Mayo  | Mrs. & Miss Weyrauch  |

**Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, October 5th, per R.M.S. *Paruca* :—**

- |                                |                              |                                 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. S. F. Asbby and son | Mrs. A. D. Cook              | Miss W. M. Lovem                |
| Mr. P. J. O'L. Bradbury        | Miss D. I. Cook              | Mr. M. Malcolm                  |
| Mr. F. C. Brumbleby            | Mr. J. C. E. Davidson        | Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Malm and son |
| Mr. F. G. Brickenden           | Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Douel       | Mr. & Mrs. H. Naylor            |
| Mr. H. N. Brooke               | Miss G. E. Dunning           | Miss F. N. Nick-Is              |
| Mr. H. E. Brooke               | Mr. P. Gordon                | Mrs. H. F. Shand and family     |
| Mr. F. J. Brown                | Mr. C. T. Grant              | Miss F. E. Sharp                |
| Mrs. L. S. Calcutt             | Mr. D. Grant                 | Mr. A. E. Stenden               |
| Miss G. A. Coke                | Miss K. E. Hadley            | Mr. S. Taunton                  |
| Mr. and Mrs. W. Coke-Kerr      | Mr. & Mrs. Ansell Hart       | Mr. G. T. Webb                  |
| Miss G. M. Coke-Kerr           | Mrs. G. Hart                 | Mr. A. Williams                 |
|                                | Miss G. Jones                | Mr. H. A. C. Williams           |
|                                | Mr. and Mrs. C. A. de Lisser |                                 |

**Royal Netherland West India Mail.—Home arrivals from Trinidad, Havre, October 5th, per s.s. *Stuyvesant*.**

- |                      |                           |                      |
|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. M. Alfounder    | Mr. Walter H. Blackie     | Mr. Lewis Lewis      |
| Miss P. Alfounder    | Miss O. M. Emtage         | Miss Agnes J. Portal |
| Mr. James Alfounder  | Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Gooday | Mr. Harold A. Pound  |
| Mr. Robert Alfounder |                           | Mr. L. J. Riley      |
| Mr. Harcler          |                           | Mr. Clive Williams   |
| Mr. John L. Baird    | Mr. & Mrs. V. C. Illing   |                      |



**PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.**

Telephone—Central 0642.  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3  
Oct. 12th, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 7 per cent., as from April 15th.

**EXCHANGE** on New York, 83-19½-83-50½.

**THE PRODUCE MARKETS** generally have been very sorry for themselves during the past fortnight, and the slump in sugar in America, which culminated in a run on the banks in Cuba, has had its repercussion here, with the result that markets are quite lifeless. After one Cuban bank had "gone," President Menocal decreed a moratorium until December, which has eased the situation. Similar trouble has occurred in Java.

**SUGAR.** The maximum wholesale price for West India grocery sugars which, since September 6th, have been "free," remains at 120s. per cwt., against the control price of 116s. per cwt. for loaf sugar, and 112s. for granulated.

West Indian grocery crystallised has been readily selling from 98s. to 102s., according to quality, but there has been no great demand for muscovado. Some Barbados muscovado has changed hands at 74s., and there have been a few orders for Demerara syrups at 65s. for export.

Importers of West Indian crystallised and muscovado sugar have good cause for complaint against the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, which, by its Fabian policy in respect of the agreement arrived at in December last, has lost them the best of their market.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on October 2nd were:—

	1920.	1919	1918.	Tons.
Imports	57,584	41,858	—	
Deliveries	45,664	38,327	—	
Stock	50,790	37,441	151,945	

Stocks of raw sugar in Canada have shown a large increase during the last seven months. On January 1st they amounted to 170,835 cwt., and on July 31st to 788,202 cwt.

The position in America is somewhat obscure. On the one hand it is claimed that consumers are overloaded with sugar which they purchased at panic prices earlier in the year. On the other, some allege that the refiners' stocks are much lower than they claim them to be, and it remains to be seen whether they can afford to hold aloof until the new Cuban crop comes forward. We doubt if they can.

Louisiana is the only sugar country in the tropical belt which has suffered from a "blow" of hurricane violence, but though some canes have been laid, the damage is not serious. Willet and Gray estimate the European beet crop for 1920-21 at 3,870,000 tons against 2,676,049 tons for 1919-20, but we incline to the belief that their estimate of 1,300,000 tons for Germany is on the high side, having regard to the known difficulties which that country has to face. Their latest estimates place the total world's sugar crop for 1919-20 at 15,157,304 tons, against 16,389,322 tons for 1918-19.

**CACAO.** The market is still dull; fine Grenada is quoted at 75s., and the prices for Trinidad kinds remain as quoted in last CIRCULAR.

As a result of the slump in prices, one London firm of cacao merchants has been compelled to call its creditors together, being no longer able to carry 70,000 to 80,000 bags of cacao, but further trouble is not anticipated.

The stocks in London on October 2nd were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.
Trinidad	49,529	35,212	6,913 Bags
Grenada	31,480	16,723	9,066 "
Total of all kinds	284,600	129,616	152,425 "

**RUM.** The market is still very quiet; nominal value Jamaica, 1918, 12s. 6d.; 1919, about 11s. Proof sorts 3d. lower; Early 1920 Demerara has sold at 5s. 9d. proof.

The stocks in London on October 2nd were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.
Jamaica	11,999	8,051	4,653 Puns.
Demerara	15,027	14,359	7,938 "
Total of all kinds	36,353	28,201	18,337 "

**ARROWROOT.** No change.

**BALATA.** Market quiet but firm. West India sheet is quoted at 4s. 7d. spot, and for forward shipment 4s. 3½d. (near position).

**COFFEE** is quiet and easier. Good to fine ordinary Jamaica is quoted at 85s. to 90s.

**COPRA** is quiet and prices are easier. West Indian f.m.s. is quoted at £57 10s. London, and £58 Holland.

**COTTON.** Sea Island is neglected; the nominal quotations for West Indian given in last CIRCULAR remain unchanged. Imports in the forty-one weeks ending October 7th, 7,393 bales.

**HONEY.** No auctions were held in September. Dark liquid Jamaica has sold privately at 57s. 6d. to 62s. 6d., and finest white at about 90s. to 92s. 6d.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** Handpressed. More enquiry and business anticipated, but somewhat at lower prices than those last quoted. Distilled. Some sales at last down to 4s. 10½d. per lb. Lime Juice: Raw. Some enquiry, but no business.

**LOGWOOD.** No change; market quiet

**ORANGE OIL.** Sweet. Lower prices still are being indicated in the hope of attracting buyers who still hold off. Bitter is not wanted.

**SPICES.** Pimento. A small business doing at 4d. Jamaica Ginger. Sales in retail quantity at 175s. to 210s. for common to fine. Nutmegs, steady; 110s. to 80s. 7d. to 10d. per lb. Mace, steady; reddish to good pale 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d. per lb.

**WEST INDIAN STEAMER SAILINGS.**

To	From	Packet.	Sailing.
West Indies	London	<i>Arzila</i>	Oct. 16
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Changuinola</i>	Oct. 19
R'dos & T'dad	Liverpool	<i>Asian</i>	Oct. 23
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Bayana</i>	Oct. 26
West Indies	St. Nazaire	<i>La Navarre</i>	Oct. 27
West Indies	London	<i>Chancellor</i>	Oct. 27
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chignecto</i>	Oct. 29
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Rolirian</i>	Oct. 30
Trinidad	Dover	<i>Stuyvesant</i>	Oct. 30
West Indies	Glasgow	<i>Speaker</i>	Oct. 30
R'dos & T'dad	Liverpool	<i>Patrician</i>	Nov. 6
West Indies	New York	<i>Fox Victoria</i>	Nov. 6
West Indies	New York	<i>Korona</i>	Nov. 17
West Indies	London	<i>Intaba</i>	Nov. 20

The above dates are only approximate.

**WANTS.**

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 3/6 for three lines and 1/- for each additional line.  
COPIES OF "THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR," No. 574 of September 30th are much wanted. The Manager will gladly pay 6d. per copy for unsoiled copies delivered at 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3.



# The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXV.

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Membership of the West India Committee is, by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, confined to British subjects. Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is at present no entrance fee. The Secretary will gladly send specimen copies of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application. The minimum subscription is £1 ls., or 4s. per annum, and the compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 15s. (1850.40). The subscriptions of members are elected during the last three months of the year and held in an account of the year commencing on the following 1st of January. Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

### The West India Committee Rooms,

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CARIB, LONDON.



Oct. 28th, 1920.

### The West Indian Tropical Agricultural College.

**R**UMOURS continue to reach us with regard to proposals being set on foot for the establishment of a Tropical Agricultural College in the East. It is therefore with peculiar satisfaction that we have learnt that LORD MILNER has invited the Tropical Agricultural College Committee to resume its labours, and that that body, at a meeting held at the Colonial Office on October 19th, over which CAPTAIN ARTHUR W. HILL, Assistant-Director of Kew, presided (in the absence of SIR ARTHUR SHIPLEY and LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR DAVID PRAIN), unanimously decided that the promises and prospects of support by the Legislatures of the various West Indian colonies were sufficient to justify them in proceeding with the necessary steps towards the establishment of the College. The colonies which have so far participated in the scheme are Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and the Leeward Islands, whilst Bermuda, with true neighbourly feeling, has made an offer of an annual contribution, and it is hoped that the Combined Court of British Guiana and the Legislative

Councils of Jamaica and British Honduras will, when the matter is brought before them officially, approach it in a broad-minded way and show to the world at large that in matters of common interest, the British West Indies are united. It is known that the PRINCE OF WALES has shown a characteristically keen interest in the scheme, and we would suggest that His Royal Highness might be invited to become Patron of the College when it is actually incorporated, as it is likely to be in the very near future; but in considering the matter, the PRINCE would no doubt be favourably influenced if it could be shown to him that the College would represent the united efforts of the West Indian colonies to provide agricultural and scientific training for their own people as well as for the graduates of the Universities, and to give facilities for the prosecution of valuable research work in tropical agriculture. As has been already announced, LORD MILNER has definitely decided that, in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee, the College shall be established in Trinidad. Since then further progress has been made by the selection of the actual position on which the College is to be erected. The site chosen is on the Government land at St. Augustine, about six miles out of Port of Spain, at the junction of the main lines of the railway, and close to St. Joseph, the old capital of the colony. It is on the Eastern Main Road, and on the railway, there being a station, at the very spot. The Agricultural College will stand on a spacious pasture of about sixty acres in extent. Within one-third of a mile of the College site are one of the Experimental stations and the Government farms of the Trinidad Department of Agriculture. At the former about 150 acres are reserved for experimental work, some 61 acres being already used for large-scale plots of sugar-cane (including new seedlings), cassava, root crops, corn, cacao, coconuts, rubber, camphor, cotton and rice. The farm has some 300-400 head of stock, imported stallions and donkeys, cattle, pigs, and poultry. The station is also equipped with corn kiln driers and mills, cotton gins, large storage bins, a small bin for the testing of sugar-cane and silos. The Trinidad Department can also place at the disposal of the College the resources of its cacao estates at River, some 1,600 acres, under cacao, limes, coffee, &c., where valuable experiment work, principally on cacao, has been carried out on a large scale for many years, whilst in Port of Spain are the Royal Botanic Gardens, over 100 years old, and St. Clair Experiment Station, containing economic and other plants from all parts of the world. The College will thus be



in a position to start immediately, under very favourable conditions, practical work and demonstrations of value for the educational training of local and other students, as well as the active prosecution of research on the principal West Indian crops. Within less than a mile of the position selected for the College is an admirable site for residences on the lower hills of the northern mountain range, higher up on which the Sanatorium of the Benedictine Monastery and Settlement is situated, and as this land also belongs to the Trinidad Department of Agriculture, no difficulties regarding acquisition will be involved. The next step will presumably be to nominate a provisional governing body and to incorporate the College, and, provided that no time is lost, it would now appear to be reasonably certain that the British West Indies will be ahead of Ceylon and other eastern colonies in establishing the Tropical Agricultural College, which has given rise to so much discussion in recent years.

#### The Future of British Honduras.

THE HON. EYRE HURSON, C.M.G., Governor of British Honduras, during his well-earned leave of absence, is allowing no stone to be left unturned in calling attention to the colony over whose destinies he now presides, and the openings which it offers for the investment of capital. He has already delivered two important speeches on the subject, one before the members of the West India Committee, and the other at a dinner given in his honour by the West Indian Club, and it was satisfactory to notice from the references to his address to the Committee in the Press the awakening interest in our hitherto little developed territory in Central America. In one respect His Excellency was, unfortunately, misreported, for whereas he spoke with enthusiasm of the prospects of the banana cultivation in the colony generally, he was made to suggest that it had been ruined by the Panama disease, and it should be pointed out that his references in this connection were to the Stann Creek Valley only. Moreover, as regards that district, he stated very clearly that there had been an abatement of the disease, and that there was good reason to hope that it would be permanently checked. The total area of British Honduras is 8,950 square miles, and it cannot be too widely known that there are large coastal districts immediately available for banana cultivation, which so far have not been touched, and many areas on the banks of the numerous rivers with magnificent banana lands, some of which are already under cultivation, and entirely free from the dread Panama disease. Mr. Hurson further made it clear that, provided the necessary precautions are taken, there is no reason whatever why that disease should spread from Stann Creek to other districts fifty miles or more away. In view of these facts, it is not to be wondered at that the banana industry in the colony is valued very highly by the United Fruit Company of America, whose steamers should have no difficulty whatever in lifting full loads of "straight" bunches, provided a sufficiently attractive price is offered to the planters, that hitherto paid being regarded as too small in view of the large profits known to be derived from

the sale of the fruit in America and Canada. But banana cultivation is not the only industry of British Honduras, and it was satisfactory to learn from Mr. Hurson that the demand for mahogany, for which the colony is famous, is still great, the expectation that it might fall off after the war, when it was used so largely in connection with the manufacture of aeroplane propellers, having fortunately not been justified; but as Mr. Hurson pointed out, the development of the timber industry of the colony is, owing to the absence of railways, necessarily confined to those timbers which float down the rivers, the industry thus being a seasonal one; but he indicated that at present two applications were under consideration for the construction of a railway direct to Guatemala. Other satisfactory items of news which he gave to his audience were that the SECRETARY OF STATE had approved of the establishment of an Agricultural Department in the colony, and that it had been decided to have a geological survey of British Honduras made. The establishment of the Agricultural Department is the corollary to the visit paid to the colony by Mr. W. R. DUNLOP, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and this decision leads to the hope that such agricultural industries as sugar, for which many districts are particularly well suited, may be developed, and that British Honduras will eventually fall into line with the other West Indian colonies and find it convenient to participate in the Tropical Agricultural College scheme, against which they have not yet closed the door, having decided to reconsider their decision not to contribute towards the maintenance of such an institution when adequate steamship communication is established, and information as to details is received. The coming geological survey of the colony awakens the hope that British Honduras may one day be included among the oilfields of the British Empire, and in view of the fact that oil has been proved to exist in the neighbouring countries, it is not unreasonable to suppose that it will be found also in British Honduras. We rejoice to learn that the Bahamas, Jamaica, and British Honduras have already ratified the Canadian Trade Agreement which will bring these three British colonies into closer touch with one another (and incidentally it is interesting to note that the first colonies to ratify were those which held aloof from the earlier agreement) by means of the new line of steamships which will be running between Canada and British Honduras via the Bahamas and Jamaica. It is not too much to foreshadow that the results of this will be far-reaching in the case of a British colony which has hitherto been dependent upon communication with the British Empire by way of America and in American ships. We are aware of the keen interest which Mr. Hurson has taken in securing this much-needed all-red link and congratulate him upon the success of his efforts. The absence of British means of communication was, as we pointed out again and again, a grave reproach, and now that this has been removed, we may confidently look to Canada to take a prominent share in the development of a tropical territory conveniently near her doors which alone could supply her with most of the commodities she needs. Provided Mr. Hurson's scheme for find-



ing at Belize accommodation for visitors—which is at present conspicuous by its absence—materialises, a considerable influx of Canadian visitors may be expected, and our experience has been that where visitors go development follows, and we may be certain that the efforts which Mr. HURSON has made to bring prominently forward the prospects of British Honduras in this country also will not be without its beneficial effects.

### SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"NEBER make goat trustee fe bread-nut tree."

MR. HAROLD DE PASS, a director of Messrs. E. A. De Pass & Company, has been appointed a member of the Executive of the West India Committee. Mr. De Pass visited Jamaica and Cuba last winter.

MISS MAVIS LYNE-SMITH, only daughter of the late Captain W. J. Lyne-Smith, Superintendent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in Barbados, and of Mrs. Lyne-Smith, was married to Mr. Kenneth Gordon at Gipsy Hill, on October 2nd.

THE engagement is announced between Lieut-Commander Sir J. M. Alleyne, Bart., D.S.O., D.S.C., R.N., one of the heroes of Zeebrugge, and Violet, younger daughter of the late James Campbell and of Mrs. Campbell, of 12, Cornwall-gardens, S.W.

MR. W. A. BOYD, who has acquired the title of an intrepid explorer, contributed to an August number of the "Indiarubber Journal" a stirring account of an expedition which he undertook to the Rio Branco District of Brazil, which has resulted in the opening up of a new balata yielding territory.

MAJOR K. E. POYSER, D.S.O., has been appointed a Puisne Judge of the Leeward Islands, and sailed for Antigua on October 13th. Major Poyser, who was educated at Shrewsbury and Merton College, Oxford, and was called to the Bar in 1906, went on Active Service in 1914, being only recently demobilized.

THE emigration of agricultural labourers from Luzon to Hawaii is causing some concern in the Philippine Islands. It is realised by the more intelligent employers that the only way to keep the labourers on the plantations is to improve their conditions of life, and meetings are being held to emphasise this point.

THE HON. E. C. BUCK, M.I.C.E., Director of Public Works in British Guiana, who has been very ill since last April, was successfully operated upon on the 13th instant, and it is now hoped that he is on the high road to complete recovery. Mr. Buck has applied for an extension of leave to May 13th next in view of his continued illness.

WATER-COLOUR paintings of Jamaica and Panama have been on view at an exhibition at the Brook-street Art Gallery, 14, Brook-street, New Bond-street, from October 15th till to-day. To the artists, Miss Evelyn Howard and Miss Lilian Sheldon, the beautiful "Island of Springs" evidently made a strong appeal, and they are to be congratulated upon the way they have reproduced on their canvases the rich colouring of the tropics.

MR. LUKE M. HILL suggests that Professor Beebe's discovery of a bird-lizard mentioned on page 259 of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of September 2nd,

was merely a re-discovery. He writes: "The late Michael McTurk, C.M.G., spoke of having found such a lizard-like animal in the bush in British Guiana, but which he thought more like a bat than a bird."

MAJOR CORDEAUX, the newly-appointed Governor of the Bahamas, while serving in Somaliland, discovered an edible nut which was largely eaten by the population there. On specimens of it being sent to England for investigation, it proved to be an entirely new plant, which was described at Kew and named in commemoration of the discoverer "Cordeauxia edulis."

THERE is quite a West Indian colony at Bournemouth just now. Sir Daniel and Lady Morris and Mr. and Mrs. William A. Millier reside there, whilst the visitors include Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Freeman and family from Trinidad, Sir Bickham Sweet-Escott and Mr. and Mrs. Archibald J. Brooks of St. Lucia. Mr. Miller, after serving in Jamaica, was for some years Colonial Engineer in Dominica, where he was President of the Local Defence Reserve in 1905.

SPEAKING at the annual dinner of the London School of Tropical Medicine on October 12th, the Dean, Sir Havelock Charles, said that the school would have sixty students next session. It was proposed that each senior appointment to the staff should be duplicated so that the school would be in a better position to send out research expeditions to the colonies. The new premises at Endsleigh Gardens would, he hoped, be opened by the Duke of York.

IT will be recalled that in July last the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies stated that there were only four colonies which had definitely decided against granting any increase of pensions to their retired Civil servants—namely, Trinidad, Barbados, Bermuda, and the Bahama Islands. It is satisfactory to learn that Trinidad has since sanctioned a bonus of 20 per cent. in the case of pensions not exceeding £50 and 10 per cent. on those up to £200.

A FURTHER list of contributions towards the West India Committee's Endowment Fund—the total of which has now reached £22,601 8s. 7d.—will be published in next issue. A complete list of contributions will shortly be published. Contributions towards the Fund, which are still greatly needed, may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or of the Royal Bank of Canada, or forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, the West India Committee, 15 Beetham-lane, London, E.C. 3.

MR. H. D. SPOONER, having severed his business connection with the West Indies, has resigned his membership of the Executive of the West India Committee. On the occasion of his retirement he was the recipient of a resolution of thanks for his past services from his former colleagues. Bandal's Sugar Factory, and the Belvidere Estates in Antigua, with which he was connected have been sold to Mr. H. Jason Jones, of Messrs. Leacock & Co., Barbados, who has also entered into arrangements to purchase the estates of the principal contracting planters.

PLANTAIN JELLY.—Make 2 pints of rich lemonade with 1oz. of gelatine. Have ready some slices of very ripe plantain, sliced thin and simmered in a gill of white wine and sugar enough to nearly candy them, and that have been left in this syrup until cold. Put some of the jelly in a wet mould and ice; when hard, lay on it some of the slices of plantain, and continue to ice and fill in in layers until the mould is full. Serve with whipped cream.—Mrs. B. Graham Yearwood



## THE CANADIAN TRADE AGREEMENT.

It is noteworthy that the three West Indian colonies which did not participate in the earlier agreement—namely, the Bahamas, British Honduras and Jamaica—should have been the first to ratify the Canada-West Indies Trade agreement of June 18th, 1920.

The retention of the Dutch Standard for classifying sugar for duty purposes evoked some opposition in Jamaica. It may be recalled in this connection that the object in retaining this test is to protect the Canadian refiners by preventing the importation of grocery sugars which are subject to a prohibitive rate of duty. The objections to the use of the Dutch Standard in the past were that it varied from year to year, and that refining sugars near the borderline of colour were occasionally penalised through being too light in hue. This will be obviated by the amendment of the Canadian Customs Tariff, so that sugar above No. 16 Dutch Standard in colour when imported by a recognised sugar refiner for refining purposes only shall not be subject to the extra duties. This is laid down definitely in Schedule A of the agreement.

In announcing the ratification of the agreement, the Governor of Jamaica is reported to have said that it opened the way for West Indian federation.

The Bahamas, influenced no doubt by the report of their delegate, the Hon. Harcourt Malcolm, O.B.E., K.C., Speaker of the House of Assembly, have increased the preference in the duties to be given to Canada from 10 per cent. to 25 per cent. Mr. Harcourt Malcolm's report, like those of the Hon. Lambert Phillipps of Barbados, and the Hon. H. B. Walcott of Trinidad, copies of which the CIRCULAR desires to acknowledge, is an able document. In the course of it Mr. Malcolm wrote: "It is quite beyond my powers to describe adequately the extraordinary spirit of Imperialism which pervaded the atmosphere of this historic conference. None but those who were present can ever fully realise what it meant. While it might appear invidious to refer especially to anyone at a Conference where everyone gave so generously of his best, I cannot resist placing upon record my humble and respectful appreciation of the magnificent services of Sir George Foster. And I would also like to make known as widely as possible what an unconquerable champion the West Indies have in Lieutenant-Colonel Amery, who proved indeed a golden link between the Mother Country and the Dominion and the West Indian colonies."

## INDIAN EMIGRATION.

### Mr. Gandhi's *Volte Face*.

It cannot be said that the prospects of the immediate resumption of negotiations in respect of emigration from India to British Guiana are bright. If one may judge from references in the Indian Press, it would appear that conditions in Fiji are again reacting prejudicially on British Guiana, and the Indian people do not yet appear to realise that in British Guiana and Trinidad Indians enjoy full political rights and privileges, in the fullest possible

sense, which are denied to them in Fiji, and it is hoped that the appointment of the Rev. C. D. Lalla to the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago, will be made known throughout India in proof of this.

The Bombay advices report that the secretary of the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association has addressed a communication to Sir George Barnes regarding recent disturbances in Fiji, and urging that if the Government should decide to send out a Commission to enquire into labour conditions in the colony, it should be asked to investigate the circumstances attending the Fiji disturbances also.

Meanwhile from Calcutta comes the news that Mr. Gandhi, interviewed on the question of Indians overseas, said that he disapproved of sending out a Commission to that colony unless it was "armed with power to investigate cases of terrorism there," and added that he would oppose any attempt to encourage emigration to Fiji. He further stated that he was not in favour of a single Indian labourer going to British Guiana. This is in direct contradiction of earlier statements, when he was understood to have expressed himself in favour of the principle of free Indian colonisation in British Guiana.

## A NEW CANE-CUTTER.

A new cane-cutter invented by Mr. John A. Paine, of the United Fruit Company's factory at Preston, Cuba, has recently been tested in Cuba with, it is said, satisfactory results.

The machine is of a large tractor type, weighing between 5 and 6 tons, and is propelled by gasoline-driven motor. It is capable of maintaining a speed of 6 miles per hour under favourable conditions. The inventor claims for it a capacity of cutting and handling 60 tons of cane per hour. The cutting is done by a 24-in. circular saw, fitted to a revolving shaft at the head of the machine and driven by a motor which is controlled by one man, who can adjust the position of the saw to high or low, to suit cutting conditions as desired. The harvesting arrangement provides for a series of grips which automatically catch the cane as it is being cut and remove the leaves by a stripping process, thence dropping the stalks of cut and trimmed cane to a conveyer which carries them back and drops them to trailer cars following and drawn by the tractor. The automatic grips will work along the side of an extension and ahead of the cutter and following one row of cane, but in this first test of the machine these parts were not fitted, nor was the conveyer, so this article will not attempt to deal with the possibilities of these added harvesting improvements.

When it is considered a good day's work for one man to cut cane at the rate of 3 to 4 tons per day, it will be obvious, says the "Cuba Review" (to which the CIRCULAR is indebted for this information), that the economy and added production secured by this two-man cutter and harvester will be enormous if it is finally proven to be the success now expected of it. The cutting principle is regarded as sound, and it was demonstrated without question that the saw will cut the cane at the level of the ground.



## SEPTEMBER TRADE RETURNS.

A further falling off is recorded in the value of imports into the United Kingdom, which for September was £152,092,339, the lowest figure reached this year. British exports rose to £117,455,913 as compared with £66,500,628 for the same month in 1919, and £42,425,474 in 1913.

The returns for the nine months ended September 30th show that during the period 1,033,862 tons of sugar were imported into the United Kingdom as compared with 1,440,335 tons for the corresponding period in 1913. Of the total for the current year, 116,569 tons were refined, and 917,293 unrefined, of which 508,570 tons were from Cuba and 121,337 from the British West Indies. The quantity of sugar entered for home consumption this year was 903,138 tons. There was no sugar imported from Europe during September.

Imports of cacao amounted to 1,940,701 cwt., as against 552,062 cwt. for the same period in 1913, the largest supplies being British West Africa with 1,359,580 cwt., the British West Indies coming next with 247,389 cwt. Only 778,355 cwt. of the total were entered for home consumption.

Banana imports totalled 6,038,182 bunches, compared with 5,821,611 bunches in 1913. The amount of rum (including imitation rum) imported is shown as 3,320,148 proof gallons, of which 2,108,728 proof gallons were entered for home consumption.

Towards a total import of 647,288 cwt. of coffee, the British West Indies contributed 5,616 cwt. Cotton imports amounted to 14,722,687 centals of 100 lb., of which 3,130,197 centals were from British Possessions, the contribution of the British West Indies being 25,859 centals. Gutta percha and balata are also now reckoned in centals, the combined imports being 77,642 centals.

## THE TRINIDAD LINE.

The Trinidad Shipping and Trading Company, Limited, in announcing the transfer to Messrs. Furness, Withy & Co., Limited, of the Trinidad line of steamers from Grenada, Trinidad and British Guiana, state that for the present the business will be conducted from the present address, 29, Broadway, New York, but will eventually be transferred to Furness House in that city. The direct service between Trinidad and New York will be maintained as heretofore, and, as the announcement states, the control of the services of the Quebec Steamship Company and Trinidad Line now being in the same hands, should serve to the mutual advantages of both the lines and their respective patrons.

The Trinidad Line will remain under the same management as before, Mr. A. M. Barclay continuing in charge of all freight matters and Mr. J. F. Butler remaining in charge of the operating of the steamers. The fares from New York to Trinidad and Grenada will be \$125 first class, and \$80 second class, and between New York and Demerara \$140 and \$100 respectively.

## TO FIGHT A DREAD SCOURGE.

### Venereal Commission in the West Indies.

A Commission has been appointed by the National Council for Combating Venereal Disease to visit the British West Indies to investigate the prevalence of that terrible scourge, and to inaugurate an active propaganda for its prevention. Its members are Mr. A. F. Wright, M.C., M.B., late County Venereal Disease Officer for Staffordshire, Miss Letitia Fairfield, C.B.E., M.D., Assistant Medical Officer in the Public Health Department of London, and Miss Feilding, Clerk to the Commission.

The Commission left for Jamaica on September 14th, in the s.s. *Buyano*, and were scheduled to proceed to Trinidad on October 25th. The remainder of their itinerary will include the Bahamas, the Leeward Islands, Barbados, Grenada, British Guiana and Bermuda, and it is hoped that the members of the West India Committee in those colonies will take this notification as an introduction, and will do all in their power to assist the work of the Commission, which should be productive of an immense amount of good. It should be added that the Commission has the full support and confidence of the Colonial Office.

The Commission will remain at each colony visited about ten days, during which the medical expert will hold demonstration classes and a course of lectures, to be attended by members of the medical profession in the colony, and thus render the medical services of these colonies conversant with the latest methods of diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases.

Concurrently with this, the woman member of the Commission, where necessary, supported by the medical expert, will confer with the Legislative Council, Educational Authorities, the Civil Administration, various branches of which come into contact with the venereal diseases problem, will hold meetings of the women residents and secure their sympathy and support in an educational campaign in which parents and others could participate, and will consider with the educationists the most suitable form of popular propaganda adapted to the various needs of each colony.

A certain number of joint meetings for men and women will probably be held at each place and addressed by both members of the Commission on the lines that have proved useful and effective in the Dominions and in Great Britain. It has further been suggested that it would be advantageous if sufficient medical and a simple educational equipment were left in each colony for the use of the medical and educational authorities.

THE Hon. Eyre Hutson, C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Honduras, had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace on October 14th.

COMMODORE ALAN HOTHAM, R.N., and the officers of H.M.S. *Chatham* were entertained at a farewell reception at the Hotel Victoria on October 15th, prior to their departure for New Zealand. The *Chatham*, which is to become the flagship of the New Zealand squadron, was commissioned on October 1st, when Captain Hotham hoisted his broad pendant as Commodore. Commodore Hotham before the war was in command of H.M.S. *Folus* in the West Indies, and his many friends in those colonies will join with the CIRCULAR in wishing him bon voyage. H.M.S. *Chatham* sailed for New Zealand on Trafalgar Day via Panama, and it is understood that she will visit Trinidad en route.



## CACAO IN NIGERIA.

The Director of Agriculture in Nigeria has issued a timely warning to the planters there as to the serious effect which the shipment of inferior cacao is likely to have on the industry, pointing out that when prices fall, as they have now done, it is the best cacao which will be most readily saleable.

The poor quality of much of the cacao produced in Nigeria was, he said, largely due to the trees being planted too closely together and to the poor soil in which they are growing. One often saw trees planted 6 ft or 7 ft apart, whereas they needed more than twice this space to develop properly indeed, a space of 15 ft. should be left between mature trees. Where the trees were planted too closely both the branches and the roots of adjacent trees became interlaced—growth was checked through starvation, light was excluded from the principal fruit-bearing branches, and fruit production was reduced in quantity and its quality was inferior.

Trees also suffered through the soil in which they were planted becoming impoverished or worn out. In the cultivation of food crops such as yams, maize, cassava and beans the land was abundant after it had been cultivated for a few seasons, because it had been found that unless this practice was followed, it was not profitable to plant crops on it, but that after it had rested for a few years food crops could again be grown on it successfully.

Now compare the conditions under which cacao was grown. Various food crops were cultivated among the cacao trees until the latter had grown large enough to shade the ground, which, of course, then made the cultivation of inter-crops impracticable. According to the ordinary native system of farming, the time had arrived to abandon the farm in order to allow the soil to become rich again; in other words, the cacao tree was expected to grow well in land which was generally considered to be too poor for food crops. Unless some plant foods were applied to the soil it must become poorer each year that a cacao crop was harvested. It was not surprising that poor crops were obtained: the trees became weakly and suffered from diseases of various kinds, and many died, for the cacao tree grew best in good fertile land. Well-cultivated cacao trees would thrive and produce good crops for many years. He knew of cacao trees that were about thirty years old which last year yielded 7½ lb. of cacao per tree.

### MANURING.

"To maintain the soil of a cacao farm in a fertile condition it is necessary to apply to it some material which will replace the plant foods which have been taken away from it by the crop grown thereon. Materials applied for this purpose are known as manures or fertilisers. The principal materials that are employed in this manner are chemicals and animal and vegetable substances and the 'droppings' of animals and birds. Chemical manures are both expensive and difficult to obtain at the present time. Vegetable matter and 'droppings' of animals and birds are obtainable on every farm. Manure of this kind can be made at little cost by collecting grass, weeds, leaves from the bush, cacao pods, shells, wood ashes, refuse from the kitchen such as yam and cassava peelings, feathers and bones and the 'droppings' of animals and poultry. If these are all mixed together with soil and piled in heaps until they decay, valuable material for manuring or fertilising cacao trees is obtained.

### MULCHING.

"The soil in a cacao farm can also be greatly improved by spreading grass, weeds and leaves on the ground between the cacao trees. This process is known as 'mulching'; it is most beneficial at this season of the year because it helps to keep the ground cool

and moist, and the trees are not so liable to suffer through drought. As the 'mulch' decays it adds valuable plant foods to the soil. The soil in new cacao farms may also be improved by planting strong-growing beans between the trees and cutting them down before the pods form and spreading the green material thus obtained around the trees as 'mulch.' When this decays it also adds plant foods to the soil. You have probably noticed that there are five or six different kinds of cacao trees in your farms. Some of these bear larger pods and beans and much larger crops than others. Much improvement would soon be shown if seeds for planting were only taken from such trees."

## ALCOHOL FROM OVERSEAS.

### Distillers' Company and Guiana

That of alternative fuels for motor transport was the chief matter discussed at the Imperial Motor Conference, which was held at Olympia, London, from October 20th to 28th.

Sir Gorge Boilby, who presided, said that the recent developments in prices, not only of coal, but of all the oil and lighter products, had made them think more deeply of how they could get the greatest good out of the fuel they possessed. While they must not relax their efforts to produce more motor spirit, and as cheaply as possible, they must remember that motor spirit could be only a very small fraction of the fuel which would be available for the great purposes of the world. Therefore many were turning their attention to coal and other sources of fuel, as these might be made adaptable for purposes of motor transport.

Mr. E. S. Shrapnell-Smith stated that the Committee appointed to investigate the matter had arrived at the unanimous opinion that power alcohol had the first claim on public attention, in order that a solution of the motor fuel problem might be provided within the Empire. Large-scale production overseas must be conducted in strict correlation with arrangements for storage and shipping.

American requirements of petrol for motor cars furnished one of the main explanations of the present world-shortage of this fuel. While the number of motor cars in the United States in 1911 was 700,000, it was officially estimated that in 1922 it would reach twelve millions. Reliance should not be placed upon supplies from petroliferous sources alone. Acceleration of production in this category could not be such as to give us that measure of independence without which the control of the motor fuel situation must remain outside the Empire. This shale industry contributed four to four-and-a-half million gallons of motor spirit per annum.

Sir F. Nathan, Power Alcohol Investigation Officer to the Government, said it had been stated that the Fuel Research Board took perhaps too pessimistic a view of the possibilities of power alcohol. The ordinary sources of alcohol were materials which were found in food stuffs, of which there was at present a shortage. They could only be used to make alcohol if they were produced in quantities far in excess of food requirements. The whole question of production overseas was receiving attention. A questionnaire had been sent to the colonies, and he was receiving a series of replies which would provide a basis for consideration of the problem. Science might be able to devise some simple and cheap process for dealing with waste materials for the purpose of obtaining power alcohol. Rice straw existed in large quantities in India and Burma, and was a hopeful material for the production of alcohol.

On the following day Dr. W. R. Ormandy read a paper entitled "Why Power Alcohol is not yet on the Market." The answer to the question, he said, de-



pended on many factors, one of which was that agricultural production must be on a large scale to justify the erection of distilling plants. A system of co-operation between the agriculturist and the distiller was desirable. He did not agree that the development of power alcohol should be Government subsidised. If the Government provided any money they were likely to insist on a degree of control, which would inevitably produce the crippling effect which attached to all Governmental interference.

It had been widely stated, said Dr. Ormandy, that power alcohol could not be produced from food products. This might be true in this country, but in our colonies and dependencies there were huge areas of land not at present under cultivation which could be devoted to the growth of products such as maize, bananas, and other tropical starch-bearing plants, where it would not pay to move the products in the form that they were produced to the coast. In such conditions there was every reason why starch products should be grown for producing alcohol. There was one area in British East Africa, the size of Kent, which, if planted with the right sort of crops, would produce enough alcohol to displace the petrol used throughout the British Isles.

Mr. W. H. Ross, managing director of the Distillers' Company, said that the Company had already sent representatives to British Guiana to find out whether the material could be produced for alcohol at an economical figure. This week other representatives were being dispatched to other parts of the world, including British East Africa.

In connection with the above announcement, it may be mentioned that a representative deputation of the West India Committee recently had several interviews with Sir Frederick Nathan regarding the possibility of producing power alcohol in the West Indies, and that at the last of these conferences Mr. Ross was present.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

### Membership now 2,247.

At a meeting of the Executive on October 22nd, fourteen candidates, whose names are given below, were admitted to the West India Committee, making a total of 374 new members during the current year, and bringing the membership of the Committee up to 2,247.

NAME	PROPOSERS AND SECONDBRS.
General J. A. Bell-Smythe (Trinidad)	Mr. G. Macgregor Frame Mr. Carl de Verteuil
Mr. Joseph Jones, B.A. (Dominica)	Hon. H. A. Alford Nicholls C.M.G., M.D. Mr. F. Woolward
Mr. F. J. de Verteuil (India)	Mr. G. Macgregor Frame Mr. Carl de Verteuil
The Rev. D. C. Howell (Barbados)	Mr. G. Douglas Pile Mr. C. W. M. Sealy
Mr. J. A. Scott (London)	Mr. S. R. Cargill Mr. Cyril Gurney
His Excellency the Hon. L. Eyre Hutson, C.M.G. (British Honduras)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. Cyril Gurney
Mr. P. E. N. Mortimer (Trinidad)	Mr. R. V. Butt Mr. C. B. Sayles
Mr. Richard P. Pile (Barbados)	Mr. G. B. Evelyn Mr. F. G. B. King
Mr. Bruce Stephens	Mr. G. Macgregor Frame Mr. R. Rutherford
Mr. A. Seton Milne (British Guiana)	Mr. Robert Strang Mr. George Risien

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDBRS.
Mr. T. Hewitt Skinner (London)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. H. F. Previté
Mrs. E. M. Scully (London)	Mr. Llewellyn Jones Mr. H. F. Previté
The Rev. W. A. Bryan (Country)	Mr. Llewellyn Jones Lieut.-Col. T. B. Davson O.R.E.
Major G. N. Kingsford, D.S.O., M.C. (London)	Mr. Llewellyn Jones Mr. H. F. Previté

## THE GOVERNOR OF THE BAHAMAS.

Major H. E. S. Cordeaux, C.B., C.M.G., Governor-elect of the Bahamas, attended a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Trafalgar Day, October 21st.

In introducing Major Cordeaux to the meeting, Mr. R. Rutherford said that it had for some time past been the practice of the Committee to invite newly-appointed Governors to attend their meetings, so that the members might have the pleasure of welcoming them, and the opportunity of an exchange of views thus afforded had always proved of great value to the Executive in its constant efforts to promote the prosperity of the British West Indies. Major Cordeaux, who would shortly proceed to Nassau to take up the Administration of the Government of the Bahamas, would, he thought, find those colonies very different from St. Helena, of which island he had been recently Governor; but it was satisfactory to know that he had had tropical experience in India and Africa, where he had served with distinction.

Hitherto the West India Committee had not been in such close touch with the Bahamas as it had been with the other West Indian colonies, but it was hoped that this might be remedied. Recently Miss Moseley had been appointed an additional Hon. Correspondent at Nassau. Meanwhile the Committee were fully alive to the importance of securing the development of the sponge, sisal and coconut industries on British lines, and were paying close attention to the valuable tourist traffic to which New Providence owed so much of its prosperity. He could hardly expect Major Cordeaux to refer to the problems of the colony with which he was as yet personally unacquainted, but the Committee would be glad to hear from him in due course in what way they could assist him in carrying out in the best interests of the Bahamas (which, as he would remind him, had enjoyed representative institutions since 1728), that he had been now called upon to perform.

Major Cordeaux, who was received with applause, then addressed the meeting, and a discussion took place regarding such matters as the development of local industries, communication with Canada and the Mother Country, airplane services and the tourist traffic, in which the Chairman, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Colonel Davson, Mr. William Gillespie, and Mr. H. F. Previté took part. With regard to the tourist business, Mr. Aspinall pointed out that the Committee were now in touch with the Development Board regarding the advertising and propaganda which it (the Committee) could efficiently undertake.

We regret that owing to the word "colony" having been substituted for "Stann Creek Valley" in the report of Mr. Eyre Hutson's speech before the West India Committee on page 313 of last Circular, His Excellency was made to suggest that the banana industry of the colony had been ruined, whilst actually he was only referring to banana cultivation in the Stann Creek district.



## WEST INDIAN CURRENCY REFORM.

By Lieut.-Col. Ivan Davson, O.B.E.

(Continued from page 306.)

In a recent article (1) the writer has stated his opinion that the ideal solution would be a decimal system based on the pound sterling, and utilising existing British coins. The sterling currency itself invited this proposal inasmuch as a florin is one-tenth of a pound. One-tenth of a florin would be 2·4 pence, and to represent this value would require a new coin. This in turn would be subdivided into tenths, each tenth thus representing the thousandth part of a pound. Currency reformers since the Royal Commission of 1856 appear to be agreed that the coin of that value should be called a "mil" (2). The term generally suggested for the larger coin (representing the hundredth part of a pound) is "cent"; but its adoption in the West Indies is impracticable for obvious reasons, and it would presumably be known as the "ten-mil piece" until a colloquial name became associated with it.

The scheme outlined forms the basis of a Bill introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Southwark in 1918, which crystallised the various proposals for founding a decimal currency over the last hundred years. It has also lately received support in a proposal emanating from British Guiana (3).

The recent Royal Commission, whose findings opposed the making of any change in this direction in the United Kingdom, was influenced very largely—if not chiefly—by the stupendous work which such a change would involve in a country where figures run into many millions, and by the physical difficulty of minting the quantity of new coins in a reasonable time (4). These objections do not apply in the West Indies.

We have then the following table:—

1 Pound	equals	10 florins.
1 Florin	"	10 ten mil pieces.
1 Ten-mil piece (24d)	"	10 mils.

The notation is important. In a decimal system it naturally takes the form of an integer figure followed by decimals; but the number of decimal places is open to argument. West Indian opinion seems to favour limiting them to two (as in the dollars and cents system) on the ground that three would tend to be confusing. The florin would thus become the integer, and the mils would fill the decimal places. One florin would be written F1·00, a florin and a half F1·50. F10·00 (or simply F10) would represent a pound.

An incidental inducement to make the florin the integer arises in that in value it is very nearly equal to half a dollar, and consequently prices and values in the new system would be approximately the double of those in the old. This should make comparison very easy in the early days of the change. For instance, \$1·00 is approximately F2·00. On the

same scale 20 cents become 40 mils, and the bit of 8 cents becomes 16 mils.

The sovereign and half-sovereign would be retained in the currency and also the shilling (or half-florin). The four-shilling piece would be revived to take its place as the double florin.

The coinage would then be as follows:—

Name.	Notation.	Composition.
Pound	F10·00	Gold
Half-pound	F5·00	"
Double-florin	F2·00	Silver
Florin	F1·00	"
Shilling or half-florin	·50m.	"
20-mil piece	·20m.	Nickel
10-mil piece	·10m.	"
5-mil piece	·05m.	Mixed metal
Mil	·01m.	"

In the above table it is only the lesser subsidiary coins that are not negotiable elsewhere; it otherwise consists entirely of British currency at its proper value. The lesser coins would be minted especially, and provision might be made whereby the seigniorage on these as well as on the other coins used should accrue to the benefit of the West Indies.

The authorised paper issues would presumably be continued in the nearest sterling denomination. A limit, however, might well be placed on the expansion of notes under the value of ten shillings, for the circulation of cheap paper money among the mixed communities of the tropics carries certain obvious disadvantages. Its employment became inevitable owing to the rise in the price of silver during the war; but this factor has recently been dealt with by legislation (5), and with silver below specie point the retention of cheap paper notes should be unnecessary in British colonies.

Comparison with American and Canadian currency would occasion no difficulty in calculation, inasmuch as the system involved would all be on a decimal basis. The quotation of exchange by percentage (6) would probably give place to a quotation of the florin in terms of the dollar. For example: if the New York exchange be quoted at \$3·75 to the pound sterling, a florin, being one-tenth of a pound, would be worth \$375, or 37½ cents. The above example assumes the maintenance of West Indian parity with London, but this is equally assumed—and, further, is essential—in the existing dual arrangement.

Relations with the currencies of the Mother Country are greatly facilitated, inasmuch as pounds and florins are common to both currencies. Shillings and half-florins, sixpences are worth 25 mils, and it is assumed that odd pence would be convertible at 4 mils each.

The florin would correspond with the value of the raised rupee in India and in the dominion of Kenya—a point which should facilitate any negotiations in connection with the importation of East Indian labour. Incidentally the subsidiary coinage suggested above would correspond almost completely with that in Ceylon once the raised value of the rupee has been established.

The method to be adopted for the introduction of the new subsidiary coinage and the withdrawal of

(1) Vide the "Commercial Review," Vol. 11, No. 9, 1920.

(2) The thousandth part of a pound sterling. Under metric system nomenclature this would be called the "millipound."

(3) Hon. C. Clement in British Guiana Combined Court. No. 21 of 1919.

(4) Report of the Royal Commission, 1920 (Cmd. 628). The net issue of bronze coins from the mint, after allowing for withdrawals, amounts to over 2,200 millions.

(5) The Coinage Act, 1920.

(6) The American and Canadian dollars are at present fluctuating at from 15 to 40 per cent. premium. Their par value is about 1·4 per cent. discount.



the old calls for consideration, for people must understand the value of the new coins when they receive them. The following course might be found best:—As a preparatory step let the circulation of four-shilling pieces (now seldom seen) be increased; these as double florins would continue to represent the dollar value, thus furnishing a familiar standard of value for those that needed it. This should be accompanied by the gradual withdrawal of the threepenny bit and the "bit," in the case of neither of which is the circulation very great. There would then be left only the sixpence and the copper coins to be replaced, and as soon as the alteration was proclaimed arrangements would be made to redeem these over a suitable period—the sixpence at 25 mils, the penny and halfpenny at 4 mils and 2 mils respectively. There would be a very slight margin of error against the holder of copper coins—equal to, in the case of the penny, one-sixth of a farthing. As sixpence and multiples would be exchanged at their correct value, this would only apply to amounts under sixpence. Nobody therefore should lose as much as a farthing altogether, and it is difficult to imagine that the change could involve any hardship.

The alteration of stamps could proceed simultaneously, or even a little in advance of the above, and presents little difficulty.

The West Indies would have then taken to themselves a system of currency and money of account, uniform, worked by simple arithmetic, and tending to combine the advantages of two existing systems and not their disadvantages.

### THE COLONIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

By arrangement with the Colonial Office the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR will in future publish once a month a list of appointments to, and transfers and promotions in the Colonial Civil Service affecting the West Indies.

#### Appointment.

MAJOR K. E. POYSEB, Second Puisne Judge, Leeward Islands.

#### Transfers and Promotions.

- MR. C. J. GRIFFIN (Chief Justice, Leeward Islands), Chief Justice, Uganda.
- MR. F. C. WELLS-DUBBANT, K.C. (Attorney-General, Bahamas), Puisne Judge, Jamaica.
- MR. H. K. M. SISNEIT (Stipendiary Magistrate, British Guiana), Puisne Judge, Jamaica.
- MR. R. J. MANNING (District Inspector of Police, British Guiana), Magistrate, Tanganyika Territory.
- MR. J. J. PHILLIPS (Crown Prosecutor, St. Helena), Magistrate, St. Kitts.
- MR. C. G. H. DAVIS (Deputy Treasurer, British Guiana), Auditor-General, Jamaica.
- MR. E. J. WORTLEY, M.B.E. (Director of Agriculture, Bermuda), Director of Agriculture, Nyasaland.
- MR. R. J. PATR. (Inspector of Constabulary, Trinidad), Superintendent of Police, Nyasaland.
- MR. R. TEMPLETON-GALT (Staff Surveyor, St. Lucia), Surveyor, Jamaica.

On the occasion of his retirement, after thirty years association with the Halifax and Bermudas and the Direct West India Cable Companies, Mr. Joseph Rippon, O.B.E., has been the recipient of a letter marking the directors' and shareholders' appreciation of his services.

### IDEAL WINTER CRUISES.

The International Mercantile Marine Company is arranging a series of eight cruises—six from New York and two from New Orleans—by the White Star Line's s.s. *Megantic*, and the American Line's s.s. *New York* and *St. Paul*, during the coming winter. The first sailing will be that of the s.s. *New York* from the American capital on January 12th, and the islands visited will include St. Thomas, Antigua, Dominica, St. Vincent, Trinidad, Grenada, Barbados, Martinique, St. Kitts, and Porto Rico. The *New York* will repeat this tour with sailings from New Orleans on February 12th and March 12th. The second sailing will be by the s.s. *St. Paul*, leaving New Orleans on January 21st for the Panama Canal and Cuba, and the s.s. *Megantic* will sail from New York on the following day for Havana, Kingston, Jamaica, the Panama Canal, La Guaira, Trinidad, Barbados, Martinique and San Juan, Porto Rico. This third cruise will be the opportunity for English tourists, for they will be able to cross the Atlantic in the *Megantic*, which will leave Liverpool on January 8th, arriving at New York on the 16th.

### WHEN CHINA TAKES TO SUGAR.

#### 400,000,000 Potential Consumers.

When China develops the sweet tooth there will be no fear of over-production of sugar in the world. Placing the local production of sugar in China to-day at, say, 350,000 tons, and the imports from foreign sources at 450,000 tons, apparently only 800,000 tons are consumed annually by 400,000,000 people. Mr. Geo. H. Fairchild, in an entertaining article in our contemporary, the "Sugar News," of the Philippines, which we have to congratulate on its first birthday, compares this situation with that prevailing in Japan. From 65,000,000 to 75,000,000 Japanese consume 500,000 tons of sugar a year. Undoubtedly there are a great many of the inhabitants of China who have never used sugar except in very small quantities.

Even admitting that many Chinese satisfy their demands for sweets through syrups made from sorghum, and other sources, such as honey, the low per capita consumption (4lb per annum) shows what fascinating possibilities there are for development.

### SUGAR IN ANTIGUA AND HAWAII.

Mr. Robert Catton has kindly submitted to the CIRCULAR the following table to show how the results achieved by the Antigua Sugar Factory in 1919 compare with those of plantations in Hawaii, being one of the larger plantations and one of the smaller. In taking the figures of the Antigua factory, Mr. Catton has converted the English tons into tons of 2,000 lb:—

	Antigua	Hawaii A.	Hawaii B.
Tons (of 2,000 lb.) cane	101,008	411,909	108,066
Tons " " sugar	10,907	57,760	11,363
Tons cane per ton of sugar	9.26	7.13	8.22
Sucrose in cane	% 12.3	14.99	11.83
Sucrose in bagasse	% 2.77	1.53	1.66
Purity of juice	% 83.08	89.3	83.04
Recovery of sucrose in cane	% 84.34	89.98	84.46
Yield of sugar from cane	% 10.8	14.02	10.51
Tons cane per acre, average	6	81.97	64.39
Tons sugar per acre " "	6	8.68	6.98



## TROPICAL MEDICINE.

In connection with the appeal for funds for the London School of Tropical Medicine, to which reference was made in these columns earlier in the year, Lord Milner recently sent a personal letter to every member of the West India Committee inviting contributions. Accompanying the letter was the following statement regarding the aims and objects of the school:—

### The London School of Tropical Medicine.

The London School of Tropical Medicine owes its inception to the Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, who invited the Committee of Management of the Seamen's Hospital Society to establish it in connection with their hospitals. This they very readily did.

The School was accordingly opened at the Albert Dock Hospital in 1899, prior to which year there was no centre where tropical diseases could be studied, and from which experts could be sent out to the colonies. From the outset the School proved a great success, and it attracted so many students that, immediately before the war, no fewer than 108 men were receiving their training in its laboratories and schoolrooms.

The School has sent expeditions to the British West Indies, Christmas Island, Uganda, West Africa, the Roman Campagna, Sudan, East Africa, Fiji, Bagdad, Aleppo, Ceylon, Lagos and S. Nigeria, Malta, the Far East, Egypt, and the Western Pacific for the study of malaria, sleeping-sickness, beri-beri, sprue, Oriental sores, &c., and it will be recalled that Dr. G. C. Low visited Barbados on behalf of the School, where he investigated filarial and other tropical diseases with very valuable results.

The need for securing increased accommodation has proved very pressing, and it has accordingly been found necessary to transfer the School from the Albert Dock to commodious premises at Endsleigh Gardens. The Hospital for Tropical Diseases, containing fifty beds together with its School, is thus situated in the heart of London in close contact with other institutions of medical research. Through the kindness of the Right Honourables the Secretary of State for India and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, all invalids sent by the medical boards are treated in the hospital. This salutary decision benefits both the patient and the student of tropical medicine, since it may be said that nowhere else in Europe can such a varied mass of clinical material for instruction in diseases contracted in the Tropics be found as in this hospital.

In view of the important work which lies before it in the direction of rendering the tropical world comparatively healthy for Europeans, and of combating the many diseases which have at present such a debilitating effect on the health of the native members of the communities, it may be safely said that the School is only in its infancy, and that it has a career of still greater usefulness before it. In this connection it may be mentioned that the School is about to found a Chair of Tropical Hygiene, and that the teaching of this branch will be concerned with the preservation of health in all tropical countries. It is, moreover, the intention that each Professor of the School shall have an understudy, so that it may be possible from time to time to send out expeditions to various parts of the Tropics without interfering with the every-day usefulness of the School as a teaching and research institution.

In conclusion, it may be added that the School attracts to its laboratories men from every part of the world, and that Medical Officers, before proceeding to take up appointments in the tropical colonies, now pass through a tropical course in its laboratories.

R. HAVELOCK CHARLES, M.D., *Dean.*

The response to Lord Milner's appeal has been already most gratifying, and the following members of the West India Committee now appear on the list of contributors:—

Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., Ltd.	£5,000	0	0
Messrs. The East Asiatic Co., Ltd.	2,000	0	0
The Colonial Bank	1,000	0	0
Messrs. Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.	1,000	0	0
Messrs. Furness, Withy & Co., Ltd.	1,000	0	0
Messrs. Miller's, Ltd.	1,000	0	0
The Royal Bank of Canada	1,000	0	0
Messrs. F. & A. Swanzy, Ltd.	1,000	0	0
The Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation	500	0	0
Messrs. Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.	500	0	0
The Whitehall Petroleum Corporation, Ltd.	500	0	0
Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.	250	0	0
Messrs. Thomson, Hankey & Co.	250	0	0
Messrs. E. A. De Pass & Co., Ltd.	200	0	0
Messrs. Frame & Co.	105	0	0
Messrs. Rowett, Leakey & Co.	105	0	0
Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada	100	0	0
The Belize Estate and Produce Co., Ltd.	50	0	0
C. J. P. Cave, Esq.	10	0	0
Messrs. Abraham's Brothers	3	3	0
Sir James S. Hay, K.C.M.G.	3	3	0
E. W. Lucie-Smith, Esq.	2	2	0
G. C. May, Esq.	2	2	0
C. A. Barbor, Esq., C.I.E.	1	1	0
Major C. Wood Hill, D.S.O.	1	1	0
G. H. Pairaudeau, Esq.	1	1	0
C. Guy Wyatt, Esq.	1	0	0

## IN PRAISE OF RUM.

Mr. George Saintsbury, in his "Notes on a Cellar-Book" (Macmillan & Company), gives an entertaining account of various wines and spirits that have come under his notice during a long experience of brands and vintages. He tells the story—possibly an apocryphal one—of the West Indian prelate who related his experience with some too hospitable members of his flock. "They gave me," he said, "some wine—very nice wine; and then some cigars—very nice cigars. I think that, later, we had some rum—very nice rum. But do you know"—and one can imagine the innocence of the pontifical smile—"that afterwards I was positively ill." Of rum, however, Mr. Saintsbury has much to say which is decidedly to the point, as the following extract will show:—

"It was most pleasant, during the late war, to read the unvarying testimony of all qualified and unprejudiced authorities to the invaluable services of the rum ration, which, in defiance of fanaticism and in compliance with common sense and experience, was issued to our men. The merits, virtues and interests of rum are very great and unusually various. That it is 'good for de tomac,' as it (under a false name, to be sure) was of yore asserted to be on a famous occasion, may be unhesitatingly asserted and countersigned. It is certainly the most carminative and comforting of all spirits. Everybody knows that hot rum and water is sovereign for a cold, but perhaps everybody does not know exactly how the remedy should be applied. This is the *probatum*. You must take it in bed; premature consumption merely wastes the good creature. It should be made, in a large rummer-glass, as hot as you can drink it (hence the advice of the rummer—for a mere tumbler may burn your hands), not too sweet, but so strong that you sink back at once on the pillow, resigning the glass to the ready hands of a sympathising bedside attendant,



preferably feminine. If you do not wake the next morning, possibly with a slight headache but otherwise restored, there must be something really the matter with you. And it must never be forgotten that without rum that glorious liquor called punch—that liquor 'nowhere spoken against in the Scriptures'—that wine of midnight—cannot really exist. Brandy punch (though in perfect punch there should be brandy), whisky punch, gin punch are all misnomers. 'No bishop, no king' is a wise maxim; but (for there have been kingdoms which were not Christian) it is not such an eternal verity as, 'No rum, no punch.'

"The most remarkable rum I ever possessed was some white or rather pale straw-coloured spirit, which I bought at a sale in Edinburgh; which had belonged to Wallace of Kelly, a somewhat 'lengended' laird of the earlier nineteenth century; and which was said to have been cellared in or before 1845, my own birth-year (I had a little brandy of the same date once, but sacrificed all save a thimbleful of it to pious purposes under stress of Dora the Detestable). It was still excellent with hot water, but was perhaps best as a liqueur, though it may have been rather too tarry for some tastes. Precious, too, was some Wedderburn of 1870 which I used to get from my friends Messrs. Harvey, and which was not the less agreeable because 1870 itself was the first year in which I ever abode, for more than a few hours, by the forge of the Avon. But I cannot help regretting the darker rums of older days: nearly all rum is pale now. The dark rum certainly looked better when diluted: and the eyes have a right to be pleased as well as the palate. I think its flavour was fuller too, and allied itself better with that of its constant friend the lemon. It is asserted, with what truth I know not, that the methods of distillation have altered. But it is still famously good; we could repair much of our long injustice to the West Indies by drinking more of it; it is quite free from the hypocritical but colourable objection—that the making of it wastes foodstuffs—indeed, the more rum the more sugar—and if we ever get fair taxation and uncontrolled trade again it might be quite cheap. I have often wished to drink Java and Queensland rum, but have never been able to get hold of either; though I have seen some good-looking dark Australian stuff in the tantalus-case of an Exhibition."

### THE PRINCE OF WALES.

The Executive of the West India Committee have received the following acknowledgment of their loyal resolution, a copy of which was published on page 305 of last CIRCULAR:—

St. James's Palace, S.W.  
October 15th, 1920.

SIR,—I am desired by the Prince of Wales to ask you to express to the Executive of the West India Committee His Royal Highness's deep appreciation of the resolution which they passed on Thursday, October 7th, and which you were good enough to forward with your letter of the 8th instant.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

GODFREY THOMAS,  
Private Secretary.

A. Aspinall, Esq., C.M.G.

\*The feeble-minded or hypocritical may substitute "sal volatile punch"—i.e., hartshorn, hot water, lemon and sugar. It is not bad, but far inferior to rum.

The recipe above intended for real punch is as follows: Three parts of rum, two of brandy ("Ensign O'Doherty" substitutes arrack), one of lemon-juice, and six of hot water, the quantity of sugar being a matter quite of taste. I never knew this mixture found fault with by respectable persons of any age, sex or condition, from undergraduates to old ladies, at any hour between sunset and sunrise.

## THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

By ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 311.)

The recital of the romantic story of the Morne à Savon awakened in us a strong desire to visit that historic spot, more especially as it was said that the graves of the unfortunate Royalists were still to be seen there. The problem was how to reach the place; but this was soon solved by M. Questel, a prominent resident of Pointe-à-Pitre, who kindly placed his motor boat at our disposal and took us under his wing. Within about half an hour, we had crossed the harbour, and were scrambling up the hillside, through a tangle of dense undergrowth and bush, and were being bitten by myriads of sand-flies and mosquitoes, which seemed to have got wind of our expedition. The discomfort was considerable; but we had the satisfaction of accomplishing our purpose, for just over the brow of the hill we came across the shattered masonry of a very large tomb, which, according to local tradition, contained the mortal remains of twenty-seven of the victims of Victor Hugue's ferocity.

The old route between Pointe-à-Pitre and Basse Terre lay across the Morne à Savon, to and from which those using it were conveyed by a big boat called "la gabarre," and it was not until 1906 that the two islands were linked by a bridge over the Rivière Salée. It was not surprising to learn from an inscription on the Pont l'Union, as it is called, that *La Guadeloupe* was *reconnaissante* to the Governor and Deputies, who were responsible for this improvement, for the story is told of how a party of civic dignitaries with their ladies, dressed in their best evening gowns, when endeavouring to reach Basse Terre in a sloop on the occasion of an official ball, were driven out sea by adverse winds, and were eventually landed at St. Thomas, after a tempestuous voyage of five days.

The road over the Pont de l'Union passes for several kilometres through the dismal and reeking mangrove swamp, which, as we have seen, half encircles Pointe-à-Pitre, before it reaches the open country of Guadeloupe *proprement dite*, and we followed it as far as La Jaille, where we spent an hour or more with Mr. Dash, inspecting the experiments plots of the Station Agronomique de la Guadeloupe, over which he so ably presides.

Sugar is the staple industry of Guadeloupe, where the cultivation of sugar-cane and the manufacture of sugar were stimulated in the closing years of the Seventeenth Century by the famous Dominican missionary Père Labat—the historian of the Lesser Antilles—whose sugar works are still pointed out. The planters in this French island realised before their *confrères* in the British West Indian islands did that the future of the sugar industry lay in co-operation, and the development of manufacture on a large scale, and were the first to adopt the central factory system which, with judicious advances against the crops (*prêts sur cession de la récolte*) proved their salvation.

There are now about fourteen central usines in the island, and of these the largest and most important



is the Usine d'Arbussier, which stands on the shore of the harbour a little to the south-east of the Place de la Victoire. Constructed by that eminent engineer M. Cail (whose bust is over the office door), it now turns out 10,000 tons of sugar and 650,000 gallons of rum in a season.

Following the coast road beyond the Usine for about three kilometres, we next visited the ruins of Fort Fleur d'Épée, which stand on a cliff dominating Grande Baie. During the wars of the Eighteenth and early Nineteenth Century this old fort was the scene of much terrible fighting. Captured at the point of the bayonet by the English troops commanded by Major-General Dundas, who subsequently died of yellow fever, and a landing party of seamen under Captain Robert Faulknor, of immortal memory, on April 12th, 1794, it was retaken on June 6th in the same year by Victor Hugues, despite a gallant sortie by Lieut. Colonel Drummond, which ended disastrously; the French Royalists, who constituted more than one half of his little force, being seized with panic and fleeing incontinently when they first sighted a picket of the enemy. The fort again changed hands on January 27th, 1810, when General Ernouf surrendered to Admiral Cochrane, who had landed at Gosier, a small bay to the south east under shelter of an island of the same name. From that date until March 30th, 1814, when Guadeloupe was restored to France, it remained in the hands of the English, who again occupied it during the Hundred Days.

The battlements of this ancient fort, whose weather-beaten fabric, considering its age and history, is still in a fair state of preservation, command a glorious view of Guadeloupe's sentinel dependencies of Marie Galante and the Saintes, which, in the hands of the English, proved for so many years a thorn in the side of their mother island.

It was from under the guns of Fort Fleur d'Épée that Faulknor enticed the French frigate *Pique* engaging her in the memorable action in which he lost his life, but won undying glory. Never before had any single ship action so greatly struck the imagination of England as that of the *Blanche* and the *Pique*, which formed the subject of an interlude at Covent Garden Theatre, of poetry, and of a commemorative painting by Stothert, engravings of which must be familiar to every reader, while Parliament voted a sum of money for the erection of the elaborate monument to "The Undaunted"—as Faulknor was called—which now stands in the north transept of St. Paul's Cathedral. It was indeed a privilege to see for oneself the waters on which this famous engagement was fought.

Returning to Pointe-à-Pitre, we sampled the cooking of the chef of the Hotel Moderno at a dinner given in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Dash, by some American fellow-passengers. Without attempting to describe the excellence of French creole cookery, one may perhaps be pardoned for interpolating here the recipes of two famous Guadeloupe dishes for which he is indebted to Mr. F. H. Watkins, I.S.O.:

*Bon d'Arbussier*.—A famous way of cooking fish, the Red Snapper being most used. The fish is cooked to the point where it begins to boil, and then the cooking must at once cease, hence the derivation of the word *bnillir*, to boil, and *bnasse*, to stop. Take 3 lb. of Red Snapper, cut them

into large slices and fry the whole lightly in olive oil then add two tomatoes, an onion, carrot and two limes all sliced together, with a bay leaf, a little parsley and a pinch of saffron. If the flavour is not objected to, add a clove of garlic. Stir the whole carefully for ten minutes, adding a cup or more of strong stock and a glass of white wine. Simmer for a quarter of an hour more and add a few croûtons. This may be served together or the fish may be arranged on a dish and the soup served separately.

*Courbouillon*.—Slice 3 lb. of Red Snapper into six fine clear-cut pieces. Make a white roux of 1½ tablespoonfuls each of butter and flour, and throw in a large onion minced fine, allspice and other seasoning to taste, then add six large tomatoes or half a tin of tomatoes. Pour in a glass of claret and one quart of water and let it boil well. Then add salt and cayenne, and when this has boiled five minutes add the fish slice by slice. Add the juice of two limes and let all boil about ten minutes. Serve with fried or mashed potatoes or with potato croquettes.

The evening ended in a somewhat uproarious fashion reminiscent of the days of "Tom Cringle," a staid official of a U.S. Government Department performing a *pas de cafard* to the strains of a gramophone and killing at each wild stop one of the numerous lucifugising black-beetles which were racing across the floor—and so to sea again.

(To be continued.)

## OBITUARY.

### HON. ADAM SMITH, O.M.C.

As briefly announced in last CIRCULAR, the Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G., died at Montreal on October 3rd.

Mr. Adam Smith, the news of whose death in Canada will have been the subject of general regret throughout the West Indies, was born in 1854 in Arbroath, Forfarshire, where his father was Rector of the Academy. At the age of sixteen he went out to Barbados, where he spent five years in the office of Mr. James Smith, of Messrs. James Smith & Co. Returning to Scotland at the end of that period, he acquired further business experience in Glasgow, and in 1879 he proceeded to Trinidad and entered the office of Messrs. A. Cumming & Co. On the death of Mr. Cumming he, with Mr. William Robertson, took over the business, which has since been carried on as Messrs. Smith, Robertson & Co. Mr. Adam Smith was a man of many activities, and he was prominently associated with public and municipal affairs. For fifteen years he was a member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago, and formerly Chairman of the old Town Board. He was at the time of his death Mayor of Port-of-Spain. He filled with ability for many years the arduous post of Hon. Secretary of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, and it will be recalled that he represented that body at the triennial conference of the West Indian Associated Chamber of Commerce in February last. It was on behalf of the last-named body that he recently visited Toronto and attended the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire, and it was whilst enjoying a short holiday in Montreal that he contracted a chill which ended fatally. Possessed of a happy disposition and an endearing personality, Mr. Adam Smith made friends wherever he went, and his death will mean a great loss to the colony in which he resided for so many years. He leaves a widow, two daughters, and his eldest son to mourn his loss. Both sons served in the war, and the second son, who was a Captain in the R.A.M.C., died of wounds in Palestine in 1917.



## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

The waterfalls at Terni, near Rome, are capable of generating 150,000-horse power, and a concession has lately been granted to use 800-horse-power of the falls for the purpose of manufacturing synthetic ammonia. It is estimated that, instead of importing nitrates from Chile, it will be possible to supply them by this means to the Italian farmer at one-half the cost.

Stainless steel is now being largely employed in the manufacture of garden tools, pump rods, valve spindles, valves, and other parts which are exposed to contact with water, steam, and other corrosives. The manufacturers' output is, however, retarded by scarcity of labour and failure to anticipate the necessary equipment for the change from ordinary steels to stainless steels. Many manufacturers have two years' orders on their books.

The area under cotton in Mexico is rapidly increasing. Last year there was a surplus over from 1918, and for the first time cotton was exported to England. The stock in Mexico was 180,000 bales, half of which was utilised by Mexican manufacturers of cotton goods, and half exported. The normal production was 120,000 bales, and the largest crop known was 125,000 bales. A crop of 200,000 bales is expected this year.

A "fast" green dye, alizarin cyanine green, was discovered in Germany in 1894. The exact chemical details for its manufacture were jealously guarded. No information was given to chemical associations, nor allowed to appear in German technical journals. The characteristic of the dye is that when wool is dyed with it, fine green shades are produced which remain "fast." Before the war it was made exclusively in Germany, and since the war English chemists have failed till lately in producing green shades of similar fastness. The British Dyestuffs Corporation have had their research chemists at work in their Huddersfield laboratories for two years, and are at length rewarded by discovering the secret of manufacturing alizarin cyanine green dye on a commercial scale.

The area under sugar-cane in Peru is about 100,000 acres. It is estimated that the 1920 crop will be about 2,500,000 tons of cane, or 325,000 tons of sugar. The cane grows, and may be cut, during the entire year. The yield on good land, well cultivated, is about twice as much as in Cuba. Irrigation is the rule. Where the rivers flow with little fall, pumps are used. The pumping is done from the river, the lift varying from 5 ft. to 8 ft. Internal combustion fuel-oil engines are being imported for this purpose. It is probable that the present output of the sugar estates could be doubled by the use of modern machinery and methods. The law requires an allotment from each mill for the benefit of the local market. This amounts to about 40,000 tons a year. Chile takes about a third of the remainder.

The Imperial Motor Transport Conference in London discussed the question of alternative fuels for motor transport. Mr. Wells, formerly Inspector-General of Mines and Director of Fuel Research to the Egyptian Government, read a paper on "Fuel from Waste Vegetation." He looked upon the solution of the problem of transport from the point of view of developing local resources of fuel on the one hand, and, on the other, to the development of more suitable means of transport

than was at present employed. There is no doubt that the extensive use of solid fuel will largely replace the use of liquid fuel for heavy transport. The development and cultivation of areas on estates to ensure a local supply of fuel needs the earnest attention of landholders. In many instances estates could provide their own motive power as well as domestic fuel. Probably not more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the cultivated area of the estate would be necessary to provide fuel supply, assuming that, in addition, the waste vegetation could be suitably utilised.

Dr. Ormandy, in a paper on Power Alcohol, referred to the statement that power alcohol should not be produced from food products. This might be true in Great Britain, but in our Colonies and Dependencies there were huge areas of land not at present under cultivation which could be devoted to the growth of products such as bananas, cassava, maize, where it would not pay to move the products in the form that they were produced, to the coast. In such conditions there was every reason why starch products should be grown for producing alcohol. Dr. Ormandy declared that there was an area in British East Africa the size of Kent, which, if planted with the right sort of crops, would produce an amount of alcohol that would displace the petrol used throughout the British Isles. Mr. H. W. Ross, of the Distillers' Company, said that they had already sent representatives to British Guiana to consider conditions there as to whether the material could be produced for alcohol at an economical figure.

The Panama disease of bananas is due to a fungus which propagates itself by means of exceedingly minute germs (spores), which can be carried for long distances by the wind, by streams and rivers, or on the clothes and tools of those working amongst infected plants. The soil becomes infested with the spores, which can live for an indefinite period. Various experiments have been tried to get rid of the disease, but with no success so far. There is, however, one method which has been successful in other plants, and is now being tried in Porto Rico with bananas—that is, to raise banana plants immune to the disease, which cannot be infected with the germ. An occasional plant is noticed in badly infested places which resists disease. The progeny of this plant are put out in places artificially inoculated as heavily as possible. The progeny of any plants that survive are treated in the same way. Any that are now immune are regarded as permanently immune strains.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies appointed a committee in 1917 to study the development of the resources of the Dependencies of the Falkland Islands. The report was issued lately, and has reference to St. Georgia, South Shetland Islands, Graham Land, South Orkneys, and South Sandwich Islands. Investigation of the geology is recommended in order to try to discover coal. Sheep and rabbits will not thrive, but the committee recommends that efforts should be made to introduce reindeer. The whaling industry is all-important. More than a million square miles of sea are readily accessible. The whaling-field within the Dependencies is of greater importance than all the others in the world combined. The committee considers that the industry should be carefully watched, lest overfishing bring on it the fate of the practically extinct whale fisheries of Northern waters. Investigations should be made into the migrations and breeding habits of the whales with a view of ascertaining the localities and times of year when the institution of closed seasons would be most efficacious. It seems probable that the whales migrate northward to warm water, chiefly off the coast of Africa, for breeding purposes, and return to Antarctic waters in pursuit of the abundance of food to be found there.



## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

### Rain Showers in Barbados.

The island is experiencing extremely hot weather just now, write Messrs. Wilkinson & Haynes on September 30th. There have been some good showers, but more rain is still needed, as although the cane crops are very green, they are very backward in growth.

### How British Guiana Welcomed the Prince.

The work of draining and levelling the Thomas lands situated between the Thomas road and the sea wall has been begun by the Public Works Department. The "Argosy" learns that other breeding-places of mosquitoes are similarly to be attacked, the sum of \$12,750 having been voted by the Combined Court for the purpose; but this sum will not be sufficient. On September 9th a deputation from the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, consisting of Mr. C. Farrar, President, Mr. Paul Cressall, and Mr. C. Wheatting, conferred with the Governor on the rice situation. His Excellency thought that larger quantities of rice were being offered, and was not prepared to allow the price to be raised to 7 cents per pint. There is a movement on foot to start a Rice Growers' Association.

At a meeting of the East Indians at Helena, Mahaica, on September 12th, the rice situation was further considered. Mr. Luckoo said the merchants stood by the Indians on the question, and had fostered an industry which the Government should not destroy. In his opinion the present policy of restriction of price operated most unfairly on the growers, large and small. It was decided that a deputation of rice-growers should approach the Governor and endeavour to obtain a declaration of his policy before the November crop. Mr. C. G. H. Davis, who entered the Colonial service in 1887, and since 1910 has been chief Clerk of the Audit Office, has been promoted to the position of Auditor-General of Jamaica. Mr. J. W. Slack, manager of the local branch of Messrs. Geddes Grant is also leaving for Jamaica, where he will establish another branch in connection with the firm.

The whole colony was *en fête* on September 21st, according to the "Daily Chronicle," in honour of the Prince's arrival. The *Calcutta* had arrived in Georgetown Harbour the night before, and was berthed alongside one of Messrs. Bookers' wharves. At 9.45 a.m. on the Tuesday His Excellency Sir Wilfred Collet, K.C.M.G., attended by Captain C. Sherlock, M.C., A.D.C., and accompanied by His Honour Lt. C. Dalton, M.A., Acting Chief Justice, Hon. J. Hampden King, Acting Colonial Secretary, and Major C. Hampden King, Acting Inspector-General of Police, arrived on the wharf, being accompanied by a guard of honour comprising 100 policemen under the command of Captain R. G. Craig, M.C., and Captain P. E. F. Cressall, M.C. The guard of honour, which was led by the B.G. Militia Band, under Sergt.-Major E. A. Carter, Acting Bandmaster, lined up on the southern side of the wharf, while His Excellency, attended by his A.D.C., boarded the *Calcutta*. A couple of minutes after 10 o'clock his Royal Highness landed, and having acknowledged the salute, proceeded along the wharf, accompanied by his Staff, and after being introduced to the members of the Governor's party, reviewed the guard of honour. His Royal Highness took a keen interest in those policemen who had served at the Front, and chatted with Captain Craig and Captain Cressall. The review over, the Royal party proceeded to the entrance of the wharf, where the Prince's appearance was greeted with prolonged cheering.

The Royal *entourage* then proceeded to the Public Buildings, where the loyal address was presented to him by the Hon. A. B. Brown, the Senior Elective Member of the Court of Policy. Here were stationed a guard of honour composed of the Artillery and Militia Companies, under Captain Walton and Lieut. C. H. King, with Lieut. M. B. Laing carrying the King's Colour. At the conclusion of the ceremony the Prince drove to the Botanic Garden, stopping to congratulate Mr. Sconce, the Commissioner of Education, on the turn-out and singing of the school children, for whom he obtained the promise of an extra week's holiday. Attendance at the Autumn Race Meeting at Bel Air Park Club, at which the Prince backed several of the winning horses, luncheon with the Governor, at which the toast of "The King" was proposed by the Hon. N. Cannon, and that of "The Royal Guest" by His Excellency, and finally a Municipal Dance in the Assembly Room, where the Prince was received by the Hon. E. G. Woolford, K.C., the Mayor of Georgetown, and danced twice with the Mayoress, completed the arrangements, and after a strenuous but most successful tour, the Prince left the colony on the morning of September 22nd.

### A Cane Syrup Industry in British Honduras.

The "Clarion" is publishing a most useful series of catechisms on common tropical complaints, the author being Dr. Davis. A general meeting of the new British Honduras Products Association took place on September 16th, with Major H. S. Schnarr in the chair. In the absence of Mr. Perry George, through illness, Mr. Robert Ross acted as Secretary. The rules which had been framed for the Association were agreed to. It is suggested that it shall be supported by entrance fees, subscriptions, and a charge of 2 per cent. on the gross amounts realised by the sale of members' coconuts. The 122nd anniversary of the battle of St. George's Cay was enthusiastically celebrated in Belize on Sept. 9.

On September 17th Mr. W. R. Dunlop, Agricultural Adviser to the Government, delivered an important address in Belize, under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce, on the possibilities of establishing a cane syrup industry in British Honduras. At present some 1,500 to 2,000 tons per annum of sugar are produced. A few new small mills are being erected, and next year the colony should be practically self-supporting. The principal sugar-cane growing areas in this colony at present are: Corozal and Orange Walk, 1,500 acres; Toledo Settlement, 500 acres; the lower banks of the Belize, Sibun, Manatee and Northern Rivers, 200 acres; and Stann Creek, 100 acres. Sugar-cane grows vigorously in this country, and can be ratooned satisfactorily for at least ten years. There are very large areas of fine virgin land available awaiting development. Mr. Dunlop advocates the development of an organised syrup industry, to include the establishment of a small central factory in Stann Creek, and of a much larger central at the Toledo Settlement. For such a scheme about \$120,000 would be required, which, Mr. Dunlop thinks, might be secured from British Imperial funds, from the Government funds of the colony, from local capitalists, and by means of advances from syrup dealers in Canada or the United States.

### The Prince in Dominica.

*Roseau* was gaily decorated on Sunday, September 29th, in honour of the Royal visit. On the route to be traversed were several triumphal arches, notably one ingeniously adorned with the different products of the island, cacao, coconuts, green and yellow limes, &c., being used to form the motto, "God Bless the Prince of Wales." At 9.30 a.m. the *Roseau*, escorted by the *Calcutta* and the *Cambria*, anchored at Woodbridge Bay, and lone before 2 p.m. when the Prince landed, the wharf was thronged with cheering crowds. His Royal Highness, who was received on the jetty by his Excellency the Governor, his Honour the



Administrator, the Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, the heads of the several public departments, the members of the Town Boards, members of the Clergy and the Press, warmly shook hands with everyone and had a kindly word with many. Mr. Rawle, Acting Chairman of the Roseau Town Board, read an appropriate address in the name of the people of Dominica. The address was then enclosed in a handsome little casket, made of native wood, and handed to the Prince.

At the shore-end of the jetty the Prince inspected the guard of honour formed by the Dominica Defence Force, under the command of Lieut. Burton. Subsequently all the Service men (with the addition of two Red Cross Nurses) approached the Heir to the Throne and shook hands with him, the latter having a sympathetic word to say to two or three cripple men from among the returned soldiers. A deputation of the Caribs, headed by their chief wearing his official dress, sash and staff of office, were then presented to his Royal Highness.

Finally, the Prince and his suite entered the motor-cars, which were held in readiness, and drove through the town according to the arrangements of the programme. Ideal weather prevailed throughout the day.

His Royal Highness spent the afternoon at Government House, and re-embarked at 5.30. His visit, remarks the "Dominica Chronicle," to which the above account is due, will long be remembered in Dominica.

Mr. M. V. Camacho, a barrister of Antigua, has been appointed, says the "Guardian," to act as Attorney-General of Dominica. The price of ripe limes in the island, as paid by the manufacturers, has gone down 6d. per barrel, and lime juice 1d. per gallon, the prices offered now being 5s. 6d. and 8d.

#### Mosaic Cane Disease in Jamaica.

The latest report of Mr. Robert Simmons, deputy chemist, contains an account of the examination of a number of so-called Scotch whiskeys in bottles bearing labels with fictitious trade names and very laudatory descriptions of the contents. On analysis they were found to be manufactured either wholly or in part of rum.

At a special sitting of the Supreme Court on September 16th before Mr. Justice Halman Beard, Mr. Sydney L. Scott was admitted to practise as a solicitor in the island. The Hon. J. H. W. Park, the Food Controller, has announced his intention of calling upon various owners of property to plant definite areas of food crops not later than March, 1921.

The Governor has declared mosaic disease of sugar to be an infective plant disease, within the meaning of the Plant Disease Law. The "Gleaner" learns that Mr. C. A. Squire, the Traffic Superintendent of the Railway, has decided to retire. The new premises of the Y.M.C.A., on the site lately occupied by the Jamaica Hotel at the corner of Hanover and Sutton streets, Kingston, were opened on September 15th by His Excellency Sir Leslie Probyn. On September 28th the Governor presented Colours to the West India Regiment, and to the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, and 11th Battalions of the British West Indies Regiment.

A branch of the Colonial Bank has been opened at Golden Grove.

#### Cotton at Grand Turk.

The weather has recently been very oppressive, says the latest report of the Direct West India Cable Company. Business generally has been fair. Favourable cotton reports continue to arrive, and ginning commenced last month. The conch shell industry is quiet at present, but, from news to hand, will brighten up shortly. Sponge and sisal are quiet. A new shipping pier has just been completed by the Government in Grand Turk, and should greatly assist in the shipment of salt.

#### Good Cotton Prospects in Nevis.

The prospect of the cotton crop up to the present is decidedly good, writes Mr. E. Williams under date September 18th, and a much larger area is under cultivation this season than last, despite the alluring price of sugar. The cane crop, owing to the rains being so late in coming, is very backward.

#### New Appointments in St. Lucia.

Mr. Archibald J. Brooks, writing from Bournemouth on October 18th, mentions various changes in the personnel of the Colony Civil Service. Mr. Ryan left St. Lucia on August 30th with Mrs. Ryan to take up his new appointment as Keeper of Prisons, Mombasa, Gold Coast. Mrs. Pordage, M.B.E., Nurse Matron at the Victoria Hospital, Castries, left for leave in England by the same opportunity. Dr. A. Kidd, the popular house surgeon—whose salary was recently substantially increased to retain his services in the colony—is to be transferred to Ceylon in January or thereabouts. Dr. King, the Health Officer for Castries, left for England in August, on leave. The new Attorney-General has arrived from St. Vincent, six months after the date of his appointment. Mr. Beauchamp, headmaster of the Grammar School, Dominica, who has been appointed Inspector of Schools, St. Lucia, arrived in the island with his wife and family in September. Mr. Sard, B.Sc., has left England to take up his new appointment as headmaster of St. Mary's College, Castries. The Rev. Father Dugast, Vicar-General of Castries, and Rector of St. Mary's College, is now on leave in France.

#### Breadfruit Popular in St. Vincent.

Owing to the prevalence of whooping-cough in the island, it was considered desirable to omit St. Vincent from the Prince of Wales' West Indian itinerary. The first weeks of September were squally and wet, but the rain was followed by ideal weather, benefiting the cotton crop, which has, however, suffered from an unusual amount of boll shedding, due either to the wet weather after a drought or to cotton-stainers. The local "Times" reports that breadfruit—which, it will be recalled, was introduced into the West Indies as the result of the exertions of the West India Committee in the eighteenth century—is relieving the food situation among the poorer inhabitants. The cane and arrowroot crops are said to be progressing favourably, and the agricultural outlook is bright.

A movement is on foot for establishing a St. Vincent Self-Help and Minor Industries Association to the south of the Carnegie Library.

#### The Prince Plays Golf and Tennis in Trinidad.

The arrangements for the Prince of Wales's visit to Trinidad on September 17th proved a complete success. Prior to his landing, His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Major S. Bowen, Captain R. S. Sugden, and Hon. T. A. V. Best, Hon. A. G. Bell, Hon. H. B. Walcott, Hon. D. Slyne, Hon. L. H. Elphinstone, and Hon. C. Pantin went on board the *Calcutta* to pay an official welcome. At 10.30 a.m. the Prince arrived on shore, when he inspected the guard of honour furnished by the Royal Sussex Regiment, and heartily shook hands with men of the Merchants' Contingent drawn up on the southern side of the square. The presentation of colours to the colony on behalf of the 1st, 8th, and 12th Battalions of the B.W.I. Regiment followed. Amid cheers, Lieut. K. Smith and Lieut. Vernon Maingot received from His Royal Highness the Colours of the 8th and 12th Battalions. The Prince then proceeded to the Red House, where the Governor tendered the official address of welcome, to which the Prince replied. His Excellency thereupon presented the members of the Legislative Council. The Prince expressed his pleasure at meeting Hon. E. M. Lazare, who had represented the colony at the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Next the Prince unveiled the scroll containing the names of the Trinidad



men who fell during the war. At 11.40, the Prince arrived at the Town Hall, where a large and cheering crowd was assembled. Major Randolph Rust delivered an address of welcome on behalf of the city, and after the reply Mrs. Rust presented the Prince with a basket of flowers.

On leaving the Town Hall, the Royal party motored into the country, the Prince asking interested questions concerning the burnt-out Victoria Institute. Before Caroni was reached, the beautiful skies of the early morning had given place to a downpour of rain. The cars proceeded through Tacarigua and Tunapuna, the route being bravely decorated, and the inhabitants everywhere providing the warmest of welcomes. At St. Joseph the Prince alighted and shook hands with Dr. Perez, and presentations of fruit and flowers were made by children on behalf of the residents. In the afternoon there was a largely attended garden party at Government House, and in the evening a banquet, at which the Prince's health was proposed by His Excellency. A ball at the Prince's Building followed, and great crowds came to the Savannah to enjoy the illuminations and the firework display, which, despite the unfavourable weather, was most successful.

The following morning the Prince spent at golf and in planting five palms in front of the Government House terrace, at which were present Mr. W. Nowell, Acting Director of Agriculture, and Mr. J. F. Waby, acting Curator. In the afternoon he engaged Lieut.-Colonel Grigg in a game of tennis.

## WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

### The Colonial Bank.

Mr. Charles F. Wood, the chairman, presiding at the 165th meeting of the Colonial Bank, on October 14th, sounded a serious note of warning against the dangers of inflation. "The West Indies have," he said, "during the period under review, been enjoying great prosperity. Unprecedented prices have been paid for land, and, in Barbados, we read of estates having been sold at over £200 per arable acre. In the face of such exaggerated values as these, I feel it my duty, even at the risk of being wearisome, to repeat my warning uttered last April that the time has come, especially for anyone connected with sugar, to take in a reef or two and look out for squalls."

Referring to the Trade Agreement between the West Indies and Canada, Mr. Wood reminded the meeting that an agreement was made in 1912, but Jamaica, Bermuda, the Bahamas and British Honduras, all of which were now included, did not participate. It was much less ambitious in its scope than the new agreement, but it had undoubtedly justified itself, and there was every hope that the present draft would be ratified by all concerned, and that it would lead to increased trade between Canada, with its northern foodstuffs and products for export, and the West Indies, with a large surplus of tropical products, each supplying the other's needs. Thanks to the very close working arrangements which the Bank had with the Bank of Montreal, it was in a position to handle Canadian business as effectively as though it had a network of its own branches in Canada, while at the same time the Bank of Montreal, with its branches from the Atlantic to the Pacific, would be able to send through the Colonial Bank a large proportion of the increased Canadian business which he hoped there would be with the West Indies. It was interesting to note that the returns of some of the Bank's West Indian branches already point to the expansion of Canadian trade.

Perhaps the most important light in which to regard the Canada-West Indies Agreement was its Imperial aspect. The great Ambassador of the British Empire,

the Prince of Wales, had just returned from another of his history-making trips, which this time included a visit to some of our most important colonies in the West, and he had brought back with him the loyalty and affection of millions of our fellow-subjects across the seas. As an ardent Imperialist himself, he, the speaker, rejoiced to see such an Agreement as this, which would support the great work of his Royal Highness in helping to unite still more closely the different branches of our great family of nations.

The meeting would be interested to hear that their Joint General Manager, Mr. C. H. Hewett, sailed last month for the West Indies. This time he would visit Barbados, Trinidad, Demerara, and possibly some of the smaller islands in the Leeward and Windward groups. A great deal of work was accomplished during these visits and it was of great value for the general managers to refresh their local knowledge and to see for themselves any new conditions which had arisen since their previous visits.

Since the last meeting there had been a time of consolidation, and there had not been so many new branches opened as usual. The Bank had, however, opened branches in Jamaica at Linstead and Port Morant, and in Trinidad at Sangre Grande, while they hoped to open in the near future additional branches in West Africa, for which premises were being prepared. The alterations to the London premises were now completed, and No. 30, Gracechurch-street was now fully occupied by the Bank. On the ground floor this provided a commodious banking hall for the business of the London branch, whilst on the upper floors the increased accommodation has proved invaluable. After referring to conditions in West Africa, Mr. Wood moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Cyril Gurney, Deputy Chairman, seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried; and the proposed dividend of 5 per cent., subject to income-tax, for the half-year ended June 30th last, payable on and after the 14th inst., was also approved. Votes of thanks were accorded to the Chairman and directors, the managers and staff. Mr. F. Hyslop Bell (Joint General Manager), in acknowledging the vote, said that the total staff now numbered 404 as compared with 114 in 1914.

### The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The Court of Directors announce an interim dividend of 2½ per cent. (less income tax) on the Preference Stock and an interim dividend of 2½ per cent. (less income tax) on the Ordinary Stock.

## WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.

### Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Home arrivals from Jamaica, Avonmouth, October 10th, per s.s. *Changuinola* :—

Mr. O. Courtney-Luck	Mrs. L. Graham and infant	Mr. L. R. O'Hanlon
Major and Mrs. F. del Castillo and family	Capt. and Mrs. R. M. Hall	Mrs. G. Pulles
Mr. E. G. A. Don		Miss E. Richards
		Mr. T. Woche
		Mr. E. H. Wood

### Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, October 12th per R.M.S. *Camilo* :—

Mr. T. N. Aguilar	Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Farquharson	Mr. H. S. Lee
Mr. and Mrs. L. Asbeuheim	Mr. P. H. Farquharson	Miss B. Jackson
Mr. and Mrs. E. Ayoub	Miss L. M. Farquharson	Miss G. Johnson
Miss N. Ayoub	Mr. J. Few	Miss Lothian
Mr. P. Azur	Miss E. O. Fisher	Mr. and Mrs. L. de Mercedo & family
Mr. P. Bennett	Miss C. M. Fisher	Mrs. S. H. Morris
Miss C. Bennett	Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Gerooy	Mr. and Mrs. E. Morris
Mr. R. Bolton	Mr. and Mrs. R. Gillies	Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Price
Miss E. Broadbent	The Misses Gillies (2)	Mr. W. H. P. Saunders
Mrs. A. C. Dryan	Mr. E. A. Glanville	Miss H. Scott Walker
Mr. & Mrs. S. H. Carrail	Mrs. T. L. Harvey	Mr. & Mrs. H. Thompson
Mrs. E. E. Clark	Miss M. H. Harvey	Mr. T. J. Thoresby
Miss Clarke	Mr. and Mrs. J. Henderson	Miss D. S. R. Thornton
Mrs. and Miss C. de Cordova	Mr. N. W. Hillcoat	Miss H. G. Wells
Mrs. C. M. da Costa	Bishop of Honduras	Mrs. E. Wilson
Mr. A. L. Delgado	Mrs. Dunn	Master G. D. Wilson
Miss V. M. Delgado	Mr. and Mrs. B. Hone and family	Rev. C. W. Winch
Mr. Gordon Dewar		Miss E. J. Wragge
Mr. T. M. Duke		



**The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.- Sailings to West Indies, from London, October 13th, per R.M.S.P. *Quitque*:-**

Rev. F. L. P. Abern	Miss F. E. Gregory	Mrs. H. J. McKinnon
Miss M. Alves	Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Hammond	Mr. H. C. Murray
Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Baeza and son	Mr. S. T. Harrison, C.M.G., O.B.E.	Mrs. E. Phillips
Mrs. E. J. Baeza	Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Haynes	Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Robinson
Mr. J. J. Bullen	Miss A. G. Haynes	Miss I. A. Howse
Sir W. K. and Lady Chandler	Mrs. E. E. Haynes	Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Sadler
Miss Chandler	Miss K. Haynes	Miss H. Scholar
Mr. & Mrs. D. Clark	Mr. & Mrs. A. H. Hill	Mr. and Mrs. I. H. S. Scott
Mrs. A. Clarke	Mrs. A. G. Homberley	Miss M. I. Scott
Dr. W. F. Cleaver	Miss P. M. Horsford	Miss B. J. Shakespeare
Miss C. Cleaver	Mr. J. M. Ironside	Mr. E. L. Skete
Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Darrell	Mr. and Mrs. P. H. N. Jones	Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Steeta
Mrs. M. M. G. Dickinson	Miss H. Looch	Miss M. Skeels
Miss M. S. Drayton	Mr. & Mrs. G. Lafitte	Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Stirling and family
The Misses Edwards (2)	Mr. E. K. Laoe	Mrs. C. I. Teitt
Mr. & Miss G. S. Evelyn	Mr. W. A. Lawton	Mr. B. T. O. Tanks
Mr. J. A. Fernandes	Rev. I. M. Loughlin	Mrs. A. M. Towers
Mrs. D. Fernandes	Mrs. V. L. Low	Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Wilcoxon
Miss O. Fernandes	The Misses Low (2)	Mr. R. H. W. Wright
Miss M. Francis	Rev. F. MacAuliffe	
Mr. and Mrs. M. Gordon and family	Rev. and Mrs. J. W. MacGill	

Mr. L. W. Chureber	Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Meyer and family	Rev. & C. W. Townsend
Mrs. R. D. Davis and two children	Miss S. Blodiate	Mr. and Mrs. H. E. D. Vialcombe and son
Mr. Edgill & infant	Mrs. J. C. Morton	Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Williams
Mrs. M. Foster	Miss I. M. Patterson	Mr. T. Wiekia
Miss K. Foster	Mr. C. H. Prodzars	Mr. B. G. Wraok
Master N. Foster		

**Royal Netherland West India Mail.-Sailings to Trinidad from Dover, October 14th, per s.s. *Oranje Nassau*:-**

Mr. C. Bay-tee	Mr. C. H. Fletcher	Mr. J. M. Pibel
Mrs. A. Blackman	Mr. E. Gomez	Mr. R. W. Ramsey
Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Brown and son	Mr. W. E. Graham	Mr. and Mrs. B. Han
Miss D. J. Browne	Dr. and Mrs. E. F. Gordon and family	Jell-Setecous
Mr. A. S. Bull	Miss K. Hall	Mr. C. E. Shepherd
Mrs. A. M. Butt and daughter	Mr. A. C. Jelt	Miss N. M. Thaveout
Mr. B. Campbell	Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Teacock and son	Mr. C. A. Turpio
Mr. A. R. Crawford	Mr. P. H. Lightfoot	Mr. A. J. Vokes
Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Davies	Mr. J. Mooney	Mr. T. P. Wall
Mr. S. W. Fitt	Mr. and Mrs. K. E. Poyser	Mr. C. T. Williams
		Mr. A. L. Wilson
		Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Wilson and daughter

**Elders and Fyfes, Ltd.-Home arrivals from Jamaica, Avonmouth, October 16th, per s.s. *Bayano*:-**

Miss R. F. Bolton	Mr. & Mrs. A. Fielding	Miss F. M. Sturdy
Mr. W. W. Brown	Dr. & Mrs. M. McLeod	Mr. S. D. Sturton
Mr. C. Faithfull-Begg	Capt. M. Seeley	

**Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, October 19th, per s.s. *Changuinola*:-**

Mr. J. E. Alexander	The Misses Moller (2)	Mr. W. R. Polson
Miss A. B. Blackley	Miss M. D. Hudson	Mrs. E. Sinclair
Mrs. G. Cooper	Mr. T. J. W. Hudson	Dr. & Mrs. F. Thomas
Mr. L. A. S. Dawca	Mrs. T. N. Hudson	Mr. E. G. Watson Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. E. Good	Mrs. E. I. A. Mumby	Mr. E. C. Williams
Mrs. E. Haider	Mr. P. P. Olley	
Mr. J. W. Hill		

**Sailings to Jamaica from Liverpool, October 18th, per s.s. *Chirripo*:-**

Mr. G. G. Euzam	Mrs. A. McInnes and two children	Mrs. V. Norralla and family
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**EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.**

The figures published below, showing the exports of produce from the British West Indies during the current year to various dates, have been kindly supplied to the West India Committee by the respective Governments.

	Anti-gua To Aug. 31	Bar-bados To Aug. 31	British Guiana To Sept. 2	British Honduras To Aug. 31	Dominica To Aug. 31	Grenada.	Jamaica.	Montserrat.	St. Lucia To Aug. 31	St. Kitts Nevis To Aug. 31	St. Vincent To Aug. 31	Trinidad To July 31
Arrowroot ... .. lbs.											2,535,405	56,869 4,181
Asphalt ... .. tons			279,078	429,422	1,362							42,859
Bailets ... .. lbs.												53,863,608
Bananas ... .. bchs.												
Bitters ... .. galls.			23,241	1,043	500,304				£01,920		129,178 279,921	
Cacao ... .. lbs.									221,938			14,310,489 72,355
Casava Starch ... .. tcs.			2,501,164	2,951,412	424,669 696				16,352			1,053,610
Coco-nuts ... .. lbs.			209,112	50,409								
Coffee ... .. lbs.			23,240									
Copra ... .. lbs.												
Cotton, M. Gelante ... .. lbs.	319 bales	104,984								668,742 434,320	475,650 8,187	
Cotton, Sea Island ... .. lbs.												8
Cott n Seed ... .. carats			15,140									
Diamonds ... .. tons												
Dyewoods ... .. lbs.			6,633									
Ginger ... .. cns.									12,556	6	7,026	16,214 2,757
Gold ... .. lbs.												
Ground Nuts ... .. bgs. & bris.												
Honey ... .. lbs.					216,944				10,419 549			
Lime Juice (raw) ... .. galls.	2,040				45,173							
" (concd.) ... .. "	1,080				313,600							
" oil ... .. lbs.			33,049						962			1,111s.
Lime (citrate of) ... .. tons				800								
Logwood ... .. feet			177,322									165
Lumber ... .. "				4,377,627		No figures yet supplied.	No figures yet supplied.	No figures yet supplied.				465,347 624,820
Mahogany ... .. tons		68										
Manjak ... .. cels.	115,960	6313,474	100		14,046				192,313	62,500	166,720	
Molasses ... .. lbs.		1 brl.			40,761							24,277,843
Oranges ... .. lbs.												
Essential Oils ... .. galls.												
Petroleum ... .. lbs.												16,685 29,163
Pimento ... .. lbs.			18,109,201 15,093								4	
Rice ... .. lbs.			1,172,956	323								
Rubber ... .. galls.		22,510	1,404,250						3,921	10,651		45,180 36,862
Rum ... .. lbs.			48,443									
Shingles ... .. tons	12,262	32,961	54,826									
Sugar ... .. cns. & feet												
Timber ... .. "												

It is proposed to publish the above figures once a month. The figures can be read easily with the items to which they relate by laying a sheet of paper below them across the page.



## PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—Central 6842.  
Telegrams—"Com", London."



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Oct. 26th, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 7 per cent., as from April 15th.

**EXCHANGE** on New York, \$3.47.

**THE COAL STRIKE.** The long foretold miners' strike in the United Kingdom began on October 18th, but at the time of writing no other Trade Unions are involved, and the prospects of a settlement are on the whole, favourable.

**SUGAR.** In consequence of the National Emergency, the sugar ration in the United Kingdom has been reduced to 8 ozs. per head per week, and the sale of coloured sugars has been recontrolled to the extent that, for the moment, they can only be sold to consumers as part of their ration. Two refineries have stopped work as a result of shortage of coal, and others are expected to follow unless favourable developments take place. The control prices of lump and granulated remain at 120s. and 112s. respectively, but a reduction of 2d. per lb. next month is anticipated. Crystallised is quoted at 99s. to 110s.

As regards the future, the outstanding feature is that the world's shortage of sugar amounts to 3,500,000 tons as compared with pre-war figures, so that any increase in consumption is likely to have a favourable effect on prices. As an example of how consumption has declined, it may be noted that in the United Kingdom last month it was only 94,468 tons as against 141,720 tons for the same month last year.

The Board of Commerce in Canada issued an Order on October 13th, fixing the retail price of sugar at 21c. in order to protect the refiners against cheap American sugar, which the public was buying in preference to the Canadian product. This Order raised such a storm of protests that it was suspended on October 15th pending a Government inquiry. Meanwhile the Canadian refiners issued a statement declaring that, as a direct result of the continuous control of the industry by the Government, they are left with commitments amounting to \$60,000,000 for sugar which they were forced to acquire, accumulate, and hold under the Government orders, and now are unable to sell except at a loss involving the practical destruction of the industry. It is further stated that four refineries have been closed and 2,500 men are idle.

The Cuban situation is easier, the American banks having agreed on terms to support Cuba financially.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on October 16th were:—

	1920.	1919	1918	Tons.
Imports	58,658	42,122	32,226	
Deliveries	48,667	40,111	31,310	
Stock	18,227	8,203	11,903	

**CACAO.** The general depression in markets and financial stringency seem to have been specially felt in this market, which has remained extremely dull for the past few months. France is as dull as London, and New York only a little better.

Trinidad is quoted at 78s. to 80s for fair plantation; fine Grenada, Jamaica, and St. Lucia, 72s.; and ordinary Jamaica 65s.

The stocks in London on October 16th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Bags
Trinidad	47,708	34,288	10,056	
Grenada	31,185	16,689	7,957	
Total of all kinds	278,064	183,528	149,181	

**RUM.** There is still practically nothing doing in this market. During the past fortnight there has been a slight demand for Demeraras and Jamaicas, which have sold at 5s. 9d. and 12s. 6d. respectively (1919 distillation).

The stocks in London on October 16th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Puns.
Jamaica	11,288	8,206	4,452	
Demerara	15,473	14,656	9,710	
Total of all kinds	36,673	22,862	19,688	

**ARROWROOT.** No change.

**BALATA.** Market quiet but steady. West Indian sheet is quoted at 4s. 2d. to 4s. 3d. c.i.f., and 4s. 7d. spot.

**COFFEE.** No improvement to report; trade continues to be extremely quiet. Some Jamaica parcels of fine and finest qualities were offered at auction in Liverpool, and both fetched reasonable prices, but inferior lots failed to find buyers and were withdrawn.

Imports from British West Indies to September 30th, 5,616 cwt.

**COPRA** is firm with a good demand. Nominal value West India f.m.s. £57, London, and £58 10s., Holland.

**COTTON.** The nominal quotations for West Indian Sea Island are reduced 300 points; current prices 62d. to 77d. nominal. Imports in the forty-three weeks ending October 21st, 7,422 bales.

**HONEY.** No auctions have been held since August. Privately there has been more demand for dark Jamaica, and business has been done at the prices given in last CIRCULAR. Cuban is quoted 2s. 6d. to 5s. less than Jamaica.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** Lime Oil. Handpressed. No business yet to report. Distilled, lower with small sales down to 4s. 4½d. per lb. Lime Juice. Raw. No change to report.

**LOGWOOD.** Market flat owing to abnormal conditions.

**ORANGE OIL.** Nothing to report in Sweet or Bitter.

**SPICES.** Jamaica Ginger in slow demand at 175s. to 210s. for good common to bold bright. Pimento. A small business doing at 4d., but demand very restricted. Prices for Nutmegs and Mace unchanged from those quoted in last CIRCULAR.

### BIRTH.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is 3/6 for three lines, and 1/- for each additional line.

**PEARCE.**—At Belize, British Honduras, on 13th October, the wife of H. Wilbur Pearce (née Frances Guthbert) of a son.

### DEATH.

**BERESFORD.**—On October 18th, at 29, Stonor-road, West Kensington, after much suffering, Margery, wife of M. H. Delapour Beresford, C.M.G., I.S.O., and daughter of the late Reverend John Connell.

### WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 3/8 for three lines and 1/- for each additional line.

**COPIES OF "THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR."** No. 575 of October 14th are much wanted. The Manager will gladly pay 6d. per copy for unsoiled copies delivered at 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

### FOR SALE.

**BOUND VOLUMES OF "THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR."** for years 1904, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1913, 1915, and 1918. Price 30s. each—Apply Manager, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.



# The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXV.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1920.

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Single Copies 2s. Published fortnightly

No. 577.

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Membership of the West India Committee is, by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, confined to British subjects. Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is at present no entrance fee. The Secretary will gladly send specimen copies of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application. The minimum subscription is £1 1s., or \$5 per annum, and the compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50 40). The subscriptions of members elected during the last three months of the year are held as an account of the year commencing on the following 1st of January. Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone:  
CENTRAL 6642.



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams:  
CARIB, LONDON.

Nov. 11th, 1920.

### Sugar and the Anti-Dumping Bill.

THE announcement that a new Anti-Dumping Bill is shortly to be introduced into the House of Commons awakens the hope that the provisions of this measure will be broader in their application than were those of the Imports and Exports Regulation Bill, which was brought forward last year, and subsequently dropped because it failed to meet with the approval of any political party. It will be recalled that the old Bill gave powers to the Government to prohibit, by Order in Council, the importation of goods produced or manufactured outside the United Kingdom which were being systematically imported in substantial quantities, and were being sold in this country at prices below foreign values, if thereby production or manufacture of similar goods in the United Kingdom was, or was likely to be, adversely affected. Alternatively, the Government was empowered to impose countervailing duties corresponding with the difference between the foreign value of the goods and the import price. These proposals, if they had been adopted, would presumably have protected the refiners in this country against bounty-fed refined sugar; but would they have given similar security to British sugar producers overseas from competition with sub-

sidised raw sugar in the English market? Inasmuch as the sale of raw foreign sugar at a price below that ruling in the country of origin would undoubtedly have adversely affected the production or manufacture of white beet-sugar in the United Kingdom, the reply is probably in the affirmative. The position would, however, be altogether more satisfactory if the Government were to take powers in the new Bill to safeguard British industries generally, and not only those of the United Kingdom, in the markets of this country against unfair competition. This would be far more effective than leaving the colonial sugar industry dependent on the home boot industry, which can hardly as yet be said to have any real or substantial existence. It must not be forgotten that now that the Brussels Convention has been annulled, it is once more open to any country to re-establish the iniquitous system of bounties and cartels, which reduced the British Colonial sugar industry to a state bordering on atrophy, and would have largely aggravated the sugar shortage at the outbreak of hostilities, had it not been for the survival of the West Indian and Mauritian sugar industries. It is perfectly true that such a contingency as the re-establishment of the bounty system is unlikely to arise immediately, but at the same time to be forewarned is to be forearmed, and confidence in the British sugar industry will never be completely restored until those concerned with it can be satisfied that there is no remote chance of the British Government allowing a resumption of the deplorable state of affairs which existed before the abolition of bounties. The Government have shown their desire to build up the British sugar industry by giving substantial preference in the duties on British sugar entering the United Kingdom, for which the sugar-growing colonies should be duly grateful; but to make the preference of real and lasting value it is very essential that producers should also have an assurance that it will not be undercut by foreign countries being freely allowed to dump their sugar here below the cost of production. It is satisfactory to note that in the House of Commons on November 3rd Mr. BONAR LAW, replying to a question put to him by Mr. JESSON, M.P., stated that the importance of the British sugar industry was fully recognised, and that it was certainly the intention of the Government to continue the very valuable preference now being given to Empire-grown sugar, which on 96° test sugar amounts to nearly £4 per ton. We must not forget, however, that the foreign sugar bounties at one time actually exceeded that figure.



### Jamaica's Annus Mirabilis.

IT is obvious that to be of real value agricultural reports should be published within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the period to which they refer, and our congratulations are due to the Hon. H. H. Cousins, Director of Agriculture in Jamaica, for so quickly producing his annual report for the year ended March 31st, 1920. This promptitude is the more refreshing when contrasted with the dilatory methods of another West Indian colony, whose Agricultural Report for 1918—now little more than a matter of mere historical interest—is only just to hand. Since agricultural reports were first issued, Jamaica can have had no more satisfactory or encouraging record than that now presented. In summarising its chief features, we would point out at the outset that Mr. Cousins has been compelled by circumstances to revise considerably his own previous estimates of the maximum sugar production of the island. It will be recalled that in 1914, at the invitation of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, the various Colonial Governments furnished figures showing the actual acreage suitable and available for cane-sugar cultivation, and the approximate amount of sugar which could be produced with the existing labour supply. Mr. Cousins, to whom the matter was referred in Jamaica, then gave it as his opinion that, after supplying the local requirements, an average export of 20,000 tons of sugar per annum was the maximum that could be regarded as possible of attainment in that island, under the most favourable conditions for development that could be accepted as within reasonable range of realisation. In his present report Mr. Cousins now says: "Sugar has made marked progress, with an export of 38,000 tons, valued at one and one-third million sterling, while the rum crop raised the total exports of the sugar industry for 1919 to a total of two and one-quarter million pounds in value. This record is expected to be exceeded by a wide margin in the current year." He goes on to say that the sugar industry of the island is now being rapidly developed to a standard of 100,000 tons per annum, or five times his estimate of six years ago. We are sure that no one is more pleased than Mr. Cousins himself at this unforeseen development. It is satisfactory to note that these signs of prosperity by no means apply only to sugar planting, and that the high prices that have been obtained for cane have not operated to the disadvantage of other products. The banana industry has made a welcome recovery, and a crop of nearly ten million bunches was exported during the year. With the advent of trade competition in the buying of bananas, the prices have been raised to a fairer standard and the growers consequently have been encouraged to cultivate their fruit. It is interesting to note that 20,000 boxes of evaporated bananas appear among items of export, showing the strides being made in the progress of a comparatively new industry. The coconut crop shows a progressive recovery from the effects of the cyclone of 1917, and Mr. Cousins comments on the fact that at no period in its history as a coconut country has Jamaica been so free from coconut disease. Again, logwood and its extracts have, contrary to expectations, enjoyed

a revival of prosperity under post war conditions, and an improvement in their value of £60,000 over last year's figures is recorded. During the period dealt with by Mr. Cousins, cacao was as yet unaffected by the weak markets that have since developed, and the planters enjoyed a prosperous year with prices 90 per cent. higher than in 1919. Coffee has similarly gained about two-thirds in gross values, and present prices justify the resurrection of the old staple which was formerly one of the leading products of the island. Jamaica is not usually associated with cotton, but it appears from an interesting paragraph in the report that a small cultivation of the Sea Island variety in Vere resulted in a handsome profit to the enterprising grower, whilst Cauto cotton, grown in St. Elizabeth, was sold for three shillings per lb. Pimento was in good demand during the year, and the large sum of £184,000 was received for this product. Experiments are being carried out to test the commercial possibilities of pimento leaf oil, the ultimate object being its conversion on a commercial scale into "vanillin." If these experiments are successful, Mr. Cousins thinks that a new industry should result, whereby Jamaica would command the world's market for "vanillin." Another young industry now emerging into a position of importance is that of the sisal fibre. There is a widespread belief, which has been demonstrated to be untrue in Jamaica, that this plant will only grow and produce good fibre under conditions of aridity and poor soil. Private enterprise continues to develop the industry on satisfactory lines, and it is predicted that in the Max Pen district alone there will be no less than 10,000 acres under sisal cultivation, and an output of 5,000 tons of fibre per annum. After reading Mr. Cousins' report, it is apparent that Jamaica has had one of the most prosperous years in her history. Nor would it be easy to be anything but optimistic as to the continued success and expansion of her agricultural industries.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

### The Endowment Fund's Progress.

The first complete list of contributions towards the West India Committee Endowment Fund, the total of which is now £22,647 18s. 3d., is in the printer's hands, and all donations received within the next few weeks will be included in it. As will be noted from the list given below, the Fund continues to make satisfactory headway; but only 25 per cent. of the members of the Committee have so far given their support to it. If the remaining 75 per cent. would also contribute, the Fund would make rapid progress. The twenty-fifth list of contributions is given below.

#### TWENTY-FIFTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Amount previously acknowledged	£22,568 17 7
S. Pearson & Son (Contracting Department), Limited	10 10 0
W. J. Alcock, Esq.	10 0 0
A. S. Kernahan, Esq.	10 0 0
Sir Henry A. Rovell	5 5 0
R. M. Ewen, Esq.	5 5 0



Rev. Herbert F. Sharpe	£5	5	0
Anonymous	5	0	0
George Grant, Esq.	5	0	0
Frank P. Rudder, Esq.	5	0	0
G. B. R. Pease, Esq.	3	3	0
R. S. Cunliffe, Esq., B.Sc.	2	2	0
E. W. C. Dunlop, Esq.	2	2	0
T. Hewitt Skinner, Esq.	2	2	0
W. Jewellyn Wall, Esq.	2	2	0
Rev. B. C. Howell	1	1	0
A. Wellesley Lewis, Esq., K.C.	1	1	0
The Rev. Canon W. J. Moody	1	1	0
W. M. Ross, Esq.	1	0	10
Wilfrid M. Wigley, Esq.	1	0	10
Hon. B. S. Davis	1	0	0

Contributions towards the West India Committee Endowment Fund may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or may be forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London.

### SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"No ebery ting you yerry good fe talk."

MR. FRANK P. RUDDER AND MRS. RUDDER left in the *s.s. Stuyvesant* on October 28th for the West Indies, where Mr. Rudder will visit the factories of Messrs. Herckell du Buisson & Co.

THE United Fruit Company have set a good example by deciding to waive the irritating charge for deck-chairs, which will in future be granted to passengers without payment.

MR. D. ELWIN has been appointed headmaster of the Dominica Grammar School, and Inspector of Schools in the island. In addition to being a schoolmaster, Mr. Elwin is a solicitor.

MR. HAROLD J. FREEMAN has been elected a member of the Executive of the West India Committee. Mr. Freeman is a partner in the firm of Jonas Browne & Son, West India merchants.

WITH the restoration of cable communication with St. Kitts and Antigua, on October 28th, communication between the Mother Country and the West Indies was again reported to be normal.

AT the Annual Meeting of the West India Association of Liverpool, held on October 28th, Mr. S. Cameron was re-elected Chairman, and Mr. J. A. Tinoo was appointed Deputy Chairman.

MR. NORMAN MALCOLMSON, O.B.E., a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, was on October 26th presented with the Freedom of the City of London in recognition of his services as Special Constable during the war.

"TRINIDAD is an island bubbling with oil," said Mr. William Ivey presiding at the General Meeting of the Kern River Oilfields (of California), Limited. The company now held, he added, 3,000 acres of freehold in the island. This includes the Boodosingh property.

A MARRIAGE of West Indian interest was that of Mr. J. A. Barbour James and Miss Goring, which was solemnised at St. Dunstan's, Acton, on Tuesday, October 19th, in the presence of Chief Oluwa, of Lagos. Mr. Barbour James was formerly in the Civil Service in British Guiana.

An interesting article on beliefs and legends connected with the practice of Obeah is to appear in the Christmas Number of the "Ladies' Field," of which the CIRCULAR has been privileged to see an advance copy. It is from the pen of Miss G. L. Hamilton, who visited Jamaica in the year 1907.

MR. SCORSEBY ROUTLEDGE, whose claim to have been the first to have crossed the John Crow Mountain was the subject of some comment in the London and Jamaica Press, intends shortly to revisit Jamaica on his way to the South Seas, where he will be engaged for the next three years on scientific research.

AMONG those who took their degrees of Bachelors of Arts at Oxford on October 28th was Miss Katherine Mary Leys, of Lady Margaret Hall, who is granddaughter of the late Mr. Francis Spencer Wigley, of St. Kitts, and eldest daughter of Captain J. F. Leys, M.C., United States Navy, and Mrs. Leys, now living at Newport, Rhode Island, U.S.A.

THE delegation of the Chilean Nitrate Committee which has now been established for just over a year at 63, South Quay, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, under the presidency of Mr. R. S. Cunliffe, B.Sc., is making progress. Mr. Cunliffe was well known for some years before the war throughout the West Indies as an authority on the manuring of tropical crops, and his experience should prove very useful to planters, as he is always willing to give gratuitous information to any who may care to ask for it. The work is essentially in the nature of propaganda, and though, naturally, special attention is given to proving the value of nitrate of soda, questions of general fertilising form a part of the work. At the present time numerous demonstrations on a practical scale are being carried out upon sugar, cocoa, lime, and vegetables.

THERE are few who realise the enormous amount of work done every year by the Government Laboratory in British Guiana, under the immediate control of Professor Harrison with a staff normally on the low side, and especially so during the year 1918 owing to the war and other causes. In spite of these difficulties, no less than 4,531 samples of various descriptions were examined during that year. These included poisons, articles of food and drink, petroleum and other oils, drugs, oils, coconuts, tobacco, sugars and molasses, sugar-canes, waters, malt and aerated drinks, hydrometers for verification, manures, wines, bitters, methylated spirit, rocks, balata, rubber, and opium. The value of the work from a planting point of view is shown by the fact that 771 sugar-canes were subjected to analysis, with 273 samples of sugar and molasses. The fines for food adulterations amounted to \$4,600, which shows the value of the work done in connection with the health of the community.

CAPUZELUM—Put into a saucepan a layer of sliced English potato or yam, which has been already boiled. one layer of boiled and flaked salt fish, one layer of sliced and fried tomatoes, and onions, sprinkle cayenne pepper, pour over it half a tablespoonful of melted butter, ditto of lard, ditto of sweet-oil, one gill of milk, let oil boil, turn out in dish and garnish with parsley.

—Mrs. J. Bovell



## THE WORLD'S SUGAR SUPPLY.

### An Official Report from Cuba.

Mr. Hannibal J. de Mesa recently made a world tour on behalf of the Government of Cuba with a view to investigating and reporting on the position and prospects of the sugar industry in various parts of the world. THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, having been furnished with a copy of Mr. de Mesa's report to the Cuban Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, now publishes the following extracts from it.

I have personally investigated the European situation more especially in Poland, Russia and Czechoslovakia, and also in Germany, Austria-Hungary, and France, and have gathered various statistics referring to the number and importance of the present sugar factories and refineries, in those countries. On those data this report is based.

The war has affected the sugar industry in two ways: Production has decreased. Consumption has increased. As is well known, the production of European beetroot sugar has decreased from 8,189,291 tons in the last crop preceding the war (that is the 1913-14 crop), to 3,654,000 tons, the estimated quantity for the 1918-19 crop, which shows a diminution of 4,500,000 tons, or a percentage of 55 loss. This shortage is chiefly due to five causes, namely:—

1. Impoverishment of the soil due to the lack of nitrates and cultivation.
2. The increase of the area planted in cereals in preference to beetroot owing to the greater necessity for the former foodstuffs, and more especially to the more attractive profits derived from grain which are proportionately greater than those obtained from sugar because of the restrictions maintaining the price of sugar at a lower rate in comparison with that fixed for grain products.
3. The conscription of labourers for the war and their separation from field and factory.
4. The destruction of factories and fields in the war zones.
5. The increase of wages in general.

All of these causes will continue to affect the industry more or less for some time to come in proportion to its more or less transitory nature.

The impoverishment of the soil for want of fertilisers is shown by the decrease in the production of beetroot per hectare throughout Austria-Hungary from 28 tons in 1912-13 to 15 tons in 1917-18, a decrease which will be increased in 1919-20, which means practically a reduction of 50 per cent. These areas of Central Europe which have been, as has been proved, greatly impoverished owing to the want of fertilisers, cannot be restored to the former condition of fertility they possessed before the war without long years of intensive cultivation, and until they are supplied with the necessary fertilisers. Even were these areas to receive during the first year all the fertilisers they require, they could not show at once, as in former days, the same power of production. The land will require years of assimilation with the fertilisers and intense cultivation before attaining the conditions of production prior to the war. As almost all nitrates come from Chili, it is very problematical when the recuperation of these impoverished lands will commence if one considers the

want of facilities for marine transport and the rates of exchange, which are prohibitive to their purchase on a large scale and on conditions of economic possibilities.

One of the principal materials required for the reconstruction of sugar factories is copper, but as Germany, in whatever foreign country she advanced during the war, seized the copper in every form it was found, the result has been that Europe is practically without copper. In consequence of this and the great increase of all materials used in the construction of machinery and of wages, and more especially owing to the purchase of copper being affected by the high rates of exchange, the construction of new and the reconstruction of old factories will be the work of many years. This increase in the prices of materials will be greatly aggravated by the present prohibitive rates of exchange of foreign money, which will add to the cost.

Another important factor is the complete disorganisation of railway traffic, not only in the actual war zones, but also in Germany and other countries, which is due to the following causes:—

1. Deterioration of the lines for want of labour and material necessary for their proper preservation.
2. Destruction and deterioration of the rolling stock, both locomotives and cars.
3. Shortage of the number of competent employees.
4. Great demands for means of transport for the reorganisation of the so-called Peace industries.
5. Extreme scarcity of coal for the production of motive power and the excessive cost of that product.
6. In some countries the railway shortage is almost total. Germany, before evacuating Poland, left that country practically without rolling stock.

The disorganisation of railway transport will cause great delay in the re-establishing of the beetroot-sugar industries, because the profitable working of the factories depends absolutely upon the regular and efficient supply of beetroots. In a large factory this supply can be assured solely by efficient railway service, and this cannot at present be obtained in any part of Europe.

The scarcity of coal throughout Europe is *very great*. In Poland, Germany, and France the suffering from want of coal during the coming autumn and winter will be greater than in any period during the war, and its necessity for industries and transport will be greater than ever. The scarcity and higher prices of coal are serious obstacles to the working of beetroot-sugar factories, which depend entirely upon this product for motive power and for the operations in the evaporation of the liquor. Owing to the coal situation, the European sugar crops, more especially those of Germany and Poland, will not realise the estimates formed by the statisticians.

The question of labour is, and will continue to be, very serious for the beetroot-sugar industry. It was only by a supply of cheap labour that beetroot-sugar was able in the past to compete with cane-sugar. So many labourers are required and so few are obtainable, and these at high rates of wages, that it is inconceivable that beetroot can compete with cane in the future with the same prospects of success as in the past.

The war has greatly increased the knowledge of the value of sugar as food, and has stimulated the crav-



ing of the masses for it, and the necessity for restricting the consumption of sugar by issuing food tickets in Europe during the war has been one of the most effective measures of increasing the consumption. Seeing that sugar was one of the articles the consumption of which was restricted by tickets, many persons who previously did not use sugar naturally took this foodstuff as a part of their extremely small food rations. All these persons have acquired a taste for sugar, and their constitutions now feel its necessity. On the other hand, those who had to eat less sugar than they were accustomed to consume feel to-day the necessity to return to the quantity they formerly consumed. We have also to take into consideration that the majority of the soldiers of the different armies before the war did not consume the quantity which they used through its duration, when sugar formed an important factor in their rations. The armies at their demobilisation have sensibly swollen the number of sugar consumers, and have become one of the best means of introducing its use to their families.

In contradistinction to wheat, which from time immemorial has been considered as an essential article of food, sugar has only within the last half century left the list of articles regarded as luxuries to take its proper place as the queen of all foodstuffs, since it is more nutritive and contains in proportion, pound for pound, more calories and is more readily assimilated by its chemical action on digestion than any other ordinary article of food. Fats, such as olive-oil, butter, margarine, &c., contain pound for pound double the quantity of calories in sugar, but they cost five or ten times more than sugar. No meats, fish, vegetables or fruits can approach sugar in its caloric value pound for pound, and still less in its value if their cost is taken into consideration. Wheaten bread contains 1,245 calories as compared to the 1,860 calories contained in crystal sugar, or in the approximate ratio of 2 to 3.

In order to show the rapidity with which the same facts are being more and more appreciated throughout the world, the following statistics may be given—

**THE WORLD'S PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF SUGAR.**

1890	...	...	5,860,000 tons of 2,240 lb.
1914	...	...	18,667,000 " " "

An increase in 24 years of 350 per cent.

**INCREASE IN CONSUMPTION IN THE UNITED STATES.**

1887	...	Per head 53 lb.; total 1,392,909 tons
1913	...	" " 85 lb.; " 3,743,139 "

Average increase a year 3.6 per cent and an increase in 26 years of 225 per cent

Although it would not be wise to assert that this increase will continue at the same rate, and that in 1930 the consumption will be 65,000,000 tons, we must take into account that the East will increase its consumption during the next fourteen years at a much greater rate than the average world increase during the period 1890-1914, because the East is now appreciating the value of sugar, and is acquiring a taste for it, while the United States, in particular, will increase its consumption (if sugar can be obtained) 50 per cent.

(To be continued.)

**TRANSATLANTIC STEAMER SERVICE.**

**Imperial Government's Offer of £90,000.**

For purpose of record, we publish below the full text of the cablegram sent by Lord Milner on September 27th to the Governments of Barbados, British Guiana and Trinidad, inviting their co-operation towards the establishment of a temporary transatlantic passenger steamer service, pending arrangements for a resumption of regular sailings under contract for a period of years.

His Majesty's Government have had under consideration situation created by withdrawal of Transatlantic steamer service and offer by R.M.S.P. Company to provide provisional passenger service to West Indies, provided Company is guaranteed against loss on each round voyage up to an average of £7,000 per voyage. As time available for arranging provisional service short, His Majesty's Government will be prepared in special circumstances to guarantee three-fourths—say, at rate of £90,000 per annum for three-weekly service, which will be presumably performed by *Quilpuc*, *Quillota*, *Arzila*, calling at Barbados, Trinidad, British Guiana—provided colonies will guarantee remaining quarter. Before details of service are discussed with Company, would be glad to learn whether colony would be prepared to guarantee expenditure at rate of £17,000 (Trinidad) per annum for such service. British Guiana and Barbados being asked to guarantee £8,000 and £5,000 respectively. Question of calling for tenders contract for term of years is being considered independently, and proposals made in the telegram are for purely provisional service three months only in first instance. His Majesty's Government set a high value on the economic and personal ties which have long existed between this country and the West Indies, and are most anxious to preserve and extend them. They are endeavouring to do their part by providing ample assistance at a time when taxation in the United Kingdom is very severe. They trust that the people and Legislatures of the colonies concerned will share their feeling in the matter and will co-operate in the same spirit.

It has now been ascertained that both Barbados and Trinidad have rejected the proposals for a temporary service, and the whole question, therefore, still remains in the melting-pot. The attitude of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce towards the proposed temporary service by the *Quilpuc*, *Quillota*, and *Arzila* is recorded in a resolution carried *nem con* on October 13th, in which they state that they are unable to accept the proposal, the steamers mentioned being, in their opinion, totally unsuited to the colonies' requirements. Meanwhile the immediate situation will be further relieved by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company having arranged for the s.s. *Agadir* (a sister ship of the *Arzila*), sailing from London on December 7th, to call at Barbados and Trinidad on her way to the Pacific.

At a recent meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

That the Committee desires to express its thanks to Messrs. Thos and Jas Harrison for having consented to send the s.s. *Intaka* with accommodation for eighty passengers to the West Indies at the present time, thus relieving the situation arising out of the suspension of direct passenger steamer communication between the West Indies and the Mother Country.



## THE COLOUR OF CANE-JUICE.

Experiments conducted by the Louisiana Experiment Station, and recorded by Mr. F. W. Zerban, in the "Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry," regarding the relative importance of colouring matters in cane juices and syrups have yielded some interesting results.

Mr. Zerban shows that in clarified juices and syrups made under normal conditions by the methods of clarification generally practised in Louisiana, very little colour is due to decomposition products of glucose by heat in the presence of amides and amino acids, and even where lime is added to slight alkalinity in clarification their effect on the colour is still slight. The iron-greening tannin of the cane, however, evidently has a pronounced effect in producing colour, especially in the presence of ferric salts. But the tannin mentioned is not alone responsible for the colour of the clarified juices and syrups. The oxidation products of this tannin by oxidases as well as the anthocyanins of the rind, and the saccharetin of the fibre evidently also play an important part. It has been mentioned above that red canes give darker products than light-coloured ones, and that juices from which the finely-divided fibre or bagacillo has been but imperfectly removed likewise give rise to inferior products. Both anthocyanin and saccharetin belonging to the polyphenols, it appears very probable that the pronounced increase in colour occurring in the factory between clarified juice and syrup, and which he did not find to occur in artificial juices containing only the constituents used so far is due to the substances mentioned above.

Some very important practical deductions may be drawn from the results obtained so far. Factory experiments of last year have clearly demonstrated that in the presence of polyphenol compounds and their derivatives, and at the same time of iron salts, the chemical methods of juice purification practised in Louisiana, even sulphitation with high final acidity, produce clarified juices which are not lighter, but often even appreciably darker than the raw juices from which they are obtained. It follows that from the standpoint of the manufacture of high-grade products, methods of purification in vogue in Louisiana do not bring about an improvement, but rather a decrease in the quality of the juice, and do not effect what, according to Prinsen-Geerligns, is the principal object of clarification—namely, the removal of colouring matter and other colloidal impurities. It is becoming more and more clear that the solution of the problem will have to be sought along the lines of colloid chemistry, as pointed out by Peck and by others. It is true that the precipitates produced by the chemical methods now in vogue in Louisiana tend to carry down some of the coarser dispersoids of cane-juice, but they are very inefficient in this respect.

As to the question of removing not only coarse dispersoids, but colloids as well, it seems certain that what is done so imperfectly now by the precipitate produced through the addition of chemicals to the juices can probably be accomplished much better by physical absorption. It is known that certain forms of carbon, especially the so-called decolourising carbons, are under certain conditions very effective in removing colloids. There may be yet other ways, based on principles of colloid chemistry, which might lead to success. The feasibility of the use of decolourising carbons for the purpose in hand has already been amply demonstrated, but the economical side of the problem still remains to be worked out in detail.

Mr. Zerban summarises the position as follows:—It has been found by a study of artificial juices, resembling

cane-juice, that in the methods of clarification generally practised in Louisiana the dark colour actually found in our factory products appears to be almost entirely due to several polyphenol derivatives occurring in cane-juice. When ferric salts are also present, as is always the case in the factory, the colour is three times as dark as with the polyphenols alone. The iron-greening tannin isolated by us from cane-juice is not alone responsible for the colour, but other polyphenol derivatives—viz., anthocyanin and the saccharetin of the cane fibre, also seem to play an important part.

## "DEMERARA" AND YELLOW CRYSTALS.

The present position of "Demerara" sugar and "yellow crystals" as free sugars purchasable to any extent by the public, only limited by the quantities available, brings again forward the relative merits of these two sugars. Some years ago, when "Demerara" sugar held a unique position in the markets of the United Kingdom, a firm of refiners, then working up beet sugar only, conceived the idea of imitating these sugars by colouring the crystallised and washed beet with an aniline dye, or rather a mixture of two dyes, producing at the same time the "clinging" character of good Demerara sugar by means of a coating of syrup. The public recognised the different values of the real and imitation products, "yellow crystals" being sold at a lower price than the corresponding Demerara sugar.

The yellow crystals now in the market are free, it is true, from the taint of beet, but those who have followed in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR the articles which from time to time have been put forward regarding the relative dietetic values of raw grocery sugars and refiners' products will recognise the fact that, although a pound of "yellow crystals" may contain the same amount of pure cane sugar as a pound of Demerara yellow sugar, it does not possess the same flavour or nutritious qualities. It is the bodies *other* than pure sugar or Demerara yellow sugar which give it its value, bodies which are represented in the yellow crystals by a dyed syrup. If the food value of yellow crystals were equal to the food value of Demerara sugar, why are the former dyed to imitate the latter? The colour of Demerara sugar is derived from the cane-juice itself, that of yellow crystals from coal-tar, the exquisite flavour of the cane-juice bodies present in the former by a flavourless syrup in the latter, and it is only fair that the public should know what they are really consuming when they use yellow crystals under the impression that they are equal to Demerara sugar as a food product.

According to the report of the American Vice-Consul at Santo Domingo, 175,730 tons of sugar were manufactured for the season 1919-20 by the fifteen factories which comprise its sugar industry. The yield of cane per acre varied from 17 to 20 tons; an average of 11.3 per cent. of commercial sugar was obtained from them. One of the largest plants in the West Indies is being erected by the Barahonga Company of New York, and several thousand acres of canes have been planted to supply it. The capacity of the Los Romana factory is being increased, and the output was expected to reach 30,000 tons.



## THE ARGENTINE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The Argentine sugar industry played a valuable part as one of the smaller sources of the United Kingdom's sugar supply during the war, and Mr. P. S. Smith, the U.S.A. Trade Commissioner in the Argentine Republic, gives an interesting account of the state of the industry as regards manufacture and cultivation.

The yield of sugar from the canes is only 7.6 per cent. The usual milling practice is to employ a crusher and nine or twelve rolls. The percentage of sugar in the cane is very low, due to the sub-tropical condition under which it is grown, and to the production of white sugar under old-fashioned methods. The mill which handled the biggest tonnage of canes in 1919 ground 286,567 metric tons, produced 19,558 metric tons of sugar, and, in addition to the meguss, used 50,000 tons of wood. The latter is an exceedingly heavy fuel consumption, and is explained to some extent by the remarks which Mr. Smith made to the effect that the boiling house, evaporating and crystallising equipment do not differ materially from those used twenty years ago.

The actual number of mill units is 119, with 250 vacuum pans, 80 triple effects, 281 crystallisers, 755 centrifugals, and 417 boilers. The centrifugals are mainly belt-driven, but there are a considerable number in which the motive power is hydraulic, with a few driven by electricity. The sugar bags, to hold 70 kilos, are all made in the country from imported thread or twine.

As regards the cultivation, modern methods of tillage have been adopted in many instances, but primitive methods exist on most of the estates. It is interesting to note that small tractors using alcohol as fuel have been for some time in use. These are of American origin, and their use is increasing.

There is an Agricultural Experimental Station in Tucuman, the principal cane centre, which is responsible for the introduction of these motors and other modern methods of cultivation, which, it is stated, saved the industry when the crop of native cane died out three years ago.

No chemical fertilisers are used, as it has been found that the crops did not respond financially to their employment. Fallowing, rotation of crops, and irrigation are used to keep the soil in good order.

The consumption is about 212,000 metric tons, which of recent years has permitted of the exportation of 50,000 tons or so of sugar.

The serious obstruction to the success of the industry is the sub-tropical climate, and Mr. Smith states that some of the larger plantations are experimenting with crops of other descriptions, with a view to their substitution for sugar.

REUTER'S Kingston correspondent reports that, owing to the slump in sugar, and fears of a revolution at the coming Presidential elections, thousands of Jamaicans in Santiago de Cuba are anxious to return home. The Governor has announced in the Legislature that adequate arrangements for the repatriation of Jamaicans have been made, and that ships would be sent to fetch them and free passages granted.

## MONTSERRAT BAY RUM.

### A Possible New Industry.

It would appear from the interesting report of Mr. W. Robson, the Curator of the Botanic and Experiment Station of Montserrat, on the work of the local Agricultural Department for 1918-19 just published, that a bay oil industry could be profitably established in the colony. And if bay oil, why not bay rum? British bay rum would enjoy a preference in the duties in the United Kingdom of 2s. 6d. per gallon, which should enable it—if produced—to compete successfully with the foreign article now so popular in the barbers' shops.

Bay trees (*pimenta acris*) flourish in the Montserrat Botanic Station. A plot of one acre planted in 1908 with 800 plants, showed the following results in 1917. The expenses were:—

	£ s. d.
Cultivation of plot	15 0
Cost of reaping leaves (estimated)	5 4 0
Cost of distillation	2 12 2
Repairs to still	1 15 0
Freight on oil to London	1 6 0
Insurance of oil in transit	15 0

£12 7 2

The estimated total value of the oil obtained from the plot in 1917 was £46, and a profit of £33 was therefore shown from the acre cultivated.

Mr. Robson deals very fully with the results of distillation experiments, and the remainder of his report, which, this year, is of unusual interest, records the progress of cotton and lime industries and the efforts made by his department on their behalf. The decline in the latter crop is indicated by a table which shows that while from 1909 to 1912 the average annual output of juice was 222,025 gallons, it fell to 146,702 gallons for 1913-18.

## OBITUARY.

We regret to have to announce that Mr. W. Lindsay Haynes died at sea on October 17th.

Mr. Lindsay Haynes had been ill for some months. He came over from Barbados in the *Quilque* with his family in May last, and it was in the same ship that he died on his way home. Son of the late Mr. Robert Haynes, Mr. Lindsay Haynes had been Registrar of the Supreme Court in Barbados since 1901, and Registrar in Admiralty since 1903. He was for many years a member of the West India Committee, and general sympathy will be felt with his widow, who is a daughter of the late Mr. J. T. Haynes.

"AMERICAN motor-cars and lorries," writes H.M. Trade Commissioner Pavitt in an interesting report on conditions in Trinidad, published in the "Board of Trade Journal," continue to arrive in large numbers, and it is difficult to understand why British manufacturers neglect the West Indian market. No British cars were imported in 1919, and only one so far this year." The reason why American cars are preferred is probably because spare parts for them are readily obtainable throughout the islands, while spares for British cars are not. The British motor-car trade would do well to realise that they have a wide field for activity in the West Indies if only they will arrange for spare parts for their cars to be widely distributed.



WEST INDIAN PLEASURE CRUISES

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

The Hotel and Store Keeper's Opportunity.

As announced in last CIRCULAR, the International Mercantile Marine Company is arranging eight pleasure cruises from American ports by the s.s.'s *Megantic*, *New York*, and *St. Paul* during the coming winter season.

In order that the hotel and store keeper, garages, &c., in the West Indian islands may know when to expect their visitors, the itinerary of the several cruises, with dates of arrival at the various ports, is given below:—

CRUISES FROM NEW YORK PER S.S. *New York*.

Leave New York—	Jan. 12th.	Feb. 10th.	Mar. 12th.	Approx. Hours Stay.
	Arrive.	Arrive.	Arrive.	
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
St. Thomas	Mon. 17	Thu. 17	Thu. 17	5
Antigua	Tue. 18	Fri. 18	Fri. 18	6
Dominica	Wed. 19	Sat. 19	Sat. 19	10
St. Vincent	Thu. 20	Sun. 20	Sun. 20	9
La Guaira	Sat. 22	Tue. 22	Tue. 22	12
Trinidad	Mon. 24	Thu. 24	Thu. 24	34
Grenada	Wed. 26	Sat. 26	Sat. 26	9
Barbados	Thu. 27	Sun. 27	Sun. 27	9
Martinique	Fri. 28	Mon. 28	Mon. 28	9
		Mar.		
St. Kitts	Sat. 29	Tue. 1	Tue. 20	8
San Juan	Sun. 30	Wed. 2	Wed. 30	26
	Feb.		Apr.	
New York	Sat. 5	Thu. 8	Tue. 5	—

CRUISES FROM NEW YORK PER S.S. *Megantic*.

Leave New York—	Jan. 22.	Feb. 21	Mar. 23.	Approx. Hours Stay.
	Arrive.	Arrive	Arrive.	
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
Havana	Wed. 26	Fri. 25	Sun. 27	33
Haiti	—	—	Thu. 31	4
		Mar.	Apr.	
Kingston	Sun. 30	Tue. 1	Fri. 1	32
	Feb.			
Panama Canal	Wed. 2	Fri. 4	Mon. 4	10
La Guaira	Sat. 5	Mon. 7	Thu. 7	11
Trinidad	Sun. 6	Tue. 8	Fri. 8	46
Barbados	Wed. 9	Fri. 11	Mon. 11	11
Martinique	Thu. 10	Sat. 12	Tue. 12	11
St. Thomas	Fri. 11	Sun. 13	Wed. 13	9
San Juan	Sat. 12	Mon. 14	Thu. 14	9
New York	Wed. 16	Fri. 18	Mon. 18	—

The s.s. *St. Paul*, leaving New Orleans on January 21st, will spend ten hours at Jamaica on January 29th, after visiting the Panama Canal, and on her second voyage, leaving New Orleans on February 10th, she will reach Kingston on Friday, 18th, and after remaining there will return by way of St. Thomas (February 22nd), San Juan (23rd), and Havana (28th).

The Trinidad Drilling and Contracting Co., Ltd.

The Company has been incorporated in Trinidad with a capital of \$1,000,000, divided into 10,000 preference and 10,000 ordinary shares of \$10 each. Its objects are to carry on the work of oil-well drillers, engineers, technical advisers, and it has agreements with the Trinidad National Petroleum Company, Ltd., Consolidated Oil-fields, Ltd., General Petroleum Company, Ltd., and Friendship Petroleum Company, Ltd. which are represented on the board, other directors being Arthur William Ibbett, E. T. Newton-Clare, D.S.O., A.M.I.C.E., and Hugh Dennon. The prospectus is published in the Trinidad newspapers for the first weeks in September.

By ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 328.)

During the night we passed over the waters on which Rodney gained his signal victory over Count de Grasse on April 12th, 1782. It seems strange that the anniversary of this memorable day should go by year after year without the slightest recognition in the West Indies, for it is an admitted fact that if it had been de Grasse and not Rodney who had won the action, the history of the British West Indian colonies would have been very different from what it is to day. It must be remembered that Yorktown had fallen, Cornwallis having surrendered to Washington and Rochambeau, and the fortunes of England were at their lowest ebb. Island after island in the West Indies had slipped from our grasp, and it was known that de Grasse had aboard his ships a powerful army and a full train of artillery for the reduction of Jamaica, which would inevitably have shared the fate of our other West Indian colonies if Rodney, by his decisive action, had not redeemed the situation.

Let us recall very briefly the circumstances of the action. Sir George Rodney arrived at Barbados in February, 1782, and proceeded to Gros Net Bay, St. Lucia, where he was kept informed by a chain of frigates and look-outs on Pigeon Island of the movements of de Grasse, whose ships lay in the Bay of Fort Royal, Martinique. On April 8th a preliminary engagement took place between Sir Samuel Hood and the French Admiral. Four days later one of de Grasse's vessels, which had lost her foremast and bowsprit, was being towed to Guadeloupe by a frigate, when Rodney gave chase. De Grasse immediately formed line of battle, and Rodney, recalling his chasing ships, followed suit. At 7 a.m. an engagement became general, and four hours later, the breeze freshening, Rodney closed up with the enemy's van. The ships of the two fleets were now in parallel line, and sailing in opposite directions, when Rodney, seizing his opportunity, executed the brilliant manœuvre, which afterwards became so famous, of breaking the enemy's line. Having thus divided the French fleet into two divisions, he made for de Grasse's flagship, *Ville de Paris*—a magnificent three-decker of 110 guns, presented by the City of Paris to Louis XV.—sinking the *Dindéme* with a single broadside on the way; but, before he could reach the flagship, she had already struck her colours to the *Barfleur*, at 6.30 p.m. During this battle the English lost 261 killed and 837 wounded, whilst of the French no fewer than 14,000 men were either killed or wounded. To the English this memorable sea-fight has always been known as the "Battle of the Saints," after the islands near which it was fought, but the French prefer to call it the "Battle of Dominica."

After his brilliant victory Rodney, with his prizes, proceeded to Jamaica, where he received an ovation, the populace being overjoyed at their deliverance from the French. The *Ville de Paris* and five other prizes were sent to England, escorted by three

\* A detailed account of the "Battle of the Saints" is given in "West Indian Tales of Old" London: Duckworth & Co.



British ships, under the command of Admiral Graves, but, unfortunately, she and the *Glorieux* went down with all hands during a hurricane, and probably all that remains of her is a sentry's wooden clock which is preserved in the Museum of the Royal United Service Institution in London.

Rodney reached England in September, 1782, and was rewarded by a peerage and an additional pension of £2,000 a year, and upon his death in 1792 a noble monument was raised to his memory at the Nation's expense in St. Paul's Cathedral, whilst Jamaica showed appreciation of her deliverer by erecting the statue by Bacon which now stands on the north side of the square at Spanish Town.

But Jamaica is a far cry from Dominica, which we were now approaching at daybreak on a Sabbath morning. The appearance of the island from the sea is truly magnificent. "A dark irregular mass of lofty mountains rises abruptly from the ocean, as if suddenly upheaved from the deep by some mighty convulsion of Nature. The rugged grandeur of the island is softened on a nearer approach by the mantle of green that everywhere covers its surface, from the sea margin to the tops of the highest mountains. In sailing along the coast, the smiling valleys, deep ravines with overhanging cliffs and lofty mountains form a succession of views of exceeding beauty and magnificence. The coast of the island, for the most part bold and rocky, is here and there indented by deep bays. The European visitor is struck with the luxuriance of vegetation that everywhere meets his eye. Not only are the precipices fringed with trees and shrubs, but along the face of the cliffs are seen growing many different kinds of plants; and even trees are observed shooting, as it were, from the bare rock, and sending out their roots in all directions in search of rents and crevices, into which they dive for the purpose of finding nourishment. Wherever, indeed, the smallest portion of soil can collect, there some form of vegetable life is met with."

So little has the face of this wonderful island been changed by the hand of man, that this description, penned by Dr. Imray in 1840, still conveys an accurate impression of the beauty of the scene as one approaches Roseau.

Dr. the Hon. John Imray is one of the outstanding figures in Dominica's history, for he was the *deus ex machina* who, when the island had been brought to the verge of bankruptcy and ruin by the failure of the coffee industry, successfully introduced the cultivation of limes.

Just over a century and a half ago, Dominica enjoyed great prosperity, the exports of coffee, which was then her principal product, amounting to from four to five million pounds weight in a year. But this prosperity did not last long. The closing years of the eighteenth century were marked by acute political disturbances, resulting from the animosity of the French residents towards the English planters, which led to many serious outbreaks; while depredation by runaway slaves caused many planters to quit the island and abandon their estates or leave them in the hands of attorneys who mismanaged them. Then came an insect blight which played havoc with the

coffee plantations. Finally a severe hurricane in 1834 completed the disaster, and the estates seemed so irremediably ruined that many were abandoned others being cut up and devoted to the cultivation of cassava, arrowroot, bananas, yams, and other kinds of "ground provisions" by peasant proprietors.

The planters who survived these vicissitudes turned their attention to the sugar-cane, but sugar cultivation never prospered like the former staple, and the total quantity of sugar exported from Dominica never exceeded 3,000 or 4,000 tons in any one year.

Meanwhile Dr. Imray, at his estate St. Arment on the slopes to the north-east of the Roseau Valley, had been cultivating many economic plants which he had received from time to time from the Royal Gardens at Kew, and, following experiments on his own property, he established with success the production of Liberian coffee. But it is in connection with the lime industry—Dominica's present staple—that he will be chiefly remembered. The cultivation of limes was started in Montserrat by a Mr. Burke in the year 1852, and it is probable that it was from that island that Dr. Imray secured the plants which were to be the ancestors of the many thousands which now grow so prolifically on the numerous estates in Dominica. At the 1862 Exhibition in London he showed a bottle of concentrated lime-juice, and by 1891 the lime industry had reached such dimensions that several witnesses who gave evidence before the Royal Commission, which enquired into the affairs of Dominica in that year, expressed a fear that the supply of limes might exceed the demand, which led the Commissioner, Sir Robert Hamilton, to say prophetically: "When it is borne in mind that there are three distinct articles produced from the lime—citric acid, lime juice, and essential oil of limes—I do not think there is any cause for alarm that the production of limes of the quality grown in Dominica, which is the best in the world, will ever cease to be a remunerative industry."

It is interesting to note that the products of the lime tree are now shipped in eight different forms—namely, concentrated lime-juice, raw lime juice, raw juice cordial, green limes, pickled limes, citrate of lime, essential oil of limes and otto of limes.

Incidentally it is obvious that this is a great advantage to the planters. If, for example, the demand for green (or fresh) limes, which are marketed in America, falls off, they can pickle their fruit in brine for New England or manufacture citrate of lime for Manchester—and so on.

Dominica is now by far the largest exporter of lime products in the world. In 1917 her total lime crop, expressed in barrels of fruit, reached the record figure of 396,000 barrels\* valued at £204,899. So the Dominicans have good reason to be grateful to Dr. Imray, who, while attending to the physical well-being of the people under his care—and he was for many years Senior Medical Officer—conferred such a lasting benefit on the community.

(To be continued.)

\* The capacity of a barrel of limes is 456 cubic feet, and the basis of calculation in reducing the various products to terms of fruit are 1 ton citrate=286 barrels; 50 gallons concentrated=75 barrels of fruit; and 7½ gallons raw juice=1 barrel of fruit.



**WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.****Publicity for Colonial Produce.**

The British Empire Exhibition (Guarantee) Bill, under which the Government proposes to guarantee £100,000 towards the British Empire Exhibition to be held in London in 1923 if private guarantees for £500,000 are forthcoming, passed its second reading in the House of Commons on November 1st by 205 to 30.

In moving the second reading, Mr. Kellaway, Secretary of the Overseas Trade Department, said that it was proposed to hold in London in 1923 an exhibition representative of the industries and resources of the British Empire. The objects were to foster inter-Imperial interests, both from a commercial and political standpoint, and to demonstrate the natural resources of the territories of the Empire and the inventive and manufacturing genius of its people. The exhibition would be privately organised, but had received official recognition and support. The King had given it his patronage, and the Prince of Wales was to be President of the General Committee. As a condition of the guarantee, the Board of Trade was to approve the manager of the exhibition, the Executive Committee, and the general conditions under which the exhibition would be run, so that the Government would be in a position to secure that the exhibition was conducted with proper regard to economy and on lines which would ensure a success worthy of the great object in view.

The exhibition was intended to convey to different parts of the Empire and to the people at home how great were our resources and our possibilities. It was a form of Imperial Preference which raised no controversy. The possibilities for British trade within the Empire had not yet been sufficiently realised. It was regrettable that before the war the percentage of trade done with our overseas Empire was limited, but there had been an improvement since the Armistice. In 1913 our exports to the Empire overseas amounted to £208,900,000, or 32.9 per cent. of the total bulk of our exports. In 1919 the figures were £215,300,000—and there was no comparison possible between the figures of 1913 because of the fall in the value of money or 22.4 per cent. The figures for the first six months of this year were much more satisfactory—£236,700,000, or 20.6 per cent. That was a gratifying improvement, but we were dealing with an Empire population of, roughly, 450,000,000, and the possibilities of Empire trade were enormous. The exhibition would enable much more to be done in increasing that trade. The Committee of Management was very representative and strong, and the Guarantee Committee, which was going to secure the guarantee of £500,000 from private sources, contained some of the best-known men in the City. He hoped members interested would assist in making the exhibition a success.

[Particulars regarding this exhibition were forwarded by the West India Committee to the various Permanent Exhibition Committees in the West Indies earlier in the year.]

**Empire Sugar and Industrial Alcohol.**

To Mr. Jesson, who asked on November 3rd for an assurance that adequate preference would be given in the future for Empire-grown sugars as against foreign sugars that were subsidised by bounties or in any other way, and that the Government was aware of the importance not only of the direct product, but of the available by-products of sugar-manufacturing, especially in the matter of power alcohol, Mr. Bonar Law replied that it was certainly the intention of the Government to continue the very valuable preference now being given to Empire-grown sugar. The importance of sugar and of its by-products was fully recognised.

**THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.****Luncheon to Major Cordeaux.**

His Excellency Major H. E. S. Cordeaux, C.B., C.M.G., the newly-appointed Governor of the Bahamas, was the guest of the West Indian Club at a luncheon at which Mr. H. F. Previté presided, on November 3rd.

The Chairman, proposing the health of the guest, said that the Club hoped in the future to forge a stronger link with the Bahamas than had perhaps existed in the past. Personally, under the uncomfortable conditions produced by the war, he had felt that the one person to be envied was the Governor of a snug little island like St. Helena. Now, more than ever, their guest ought to be the object of envy, as he was going out to preside over the destinies of one of the very few countries in the world whose revenue appeared to double its expenditure. In the latter connection he felt almost tempted to couple the toast with that of "Dry America."

Replying to the toast, which was cordially honoured, Major Cordeaux said that in trying to talk to his present audience about the West Indies he felt like a new boy going to school for the first time who was made to sing a song. West Indian hospitality and good fellowship were, however, proverbial, and that day's welcome to him could be taken as an earnest of what might be expected on the other side.

Mr. Justice F. C. Wells Durrant, who, until his recent appointment as a Puisne Judge of Jamaica, was Attorney-General of the Bahamas, in proposing the toast of "The Chairman," described the Bahamas as having possibly the finest climate in the world—finer even than that of Barbados. (Laughter)

The company present included Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G., Mr. B. Bonyun, Sir Edward Davson, Lieut.-Col. I. B. Davson, O.B.E., Mr. P. M. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. C. W. Duncan, Mr. G. E. H. Grindell, C.B., C.M.G., Mr. G. Letchmere Guppy, Mr. W. F. Hebron, Lieut.-Col. V. V. Hooley, C.B.E., Capt. Gilfred Knight, Mr. W. Lind, Mr. Howard Marsh, Dr. G. B. Mason, Mr. L. T. Miller, Mr. F. J. Morris, Mr. G. Parrott, Mr. C. K. Pile, Mr. D. Pile, Mr. J. H. Rapsey, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. Howard Smith, Mr. Mark Moody Stuart, and Capt. F. F. C. Messum (Hon. Secretary).

**WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.****The Kern River and Trinidad.**

Presiding at the general meeting of the Kern River Oilfields of California, Limited, on October 27th, Mr. William Ivey, the Chairman, said that Trinidad was justifying, in his opinion, the title he had given it of the "Isle of Oil." It was bubbling with oil. They had secured three very good properties, in each of which oil was proved beyond a doubt. They were determined not to take any undue risk, and they had properties galore offered to them in London. They did not take much notice of that, but made up their minds as the companies in Trinidad seemed to be prosperous, and as there seemed to be rich oil there, they would send out a man—a kind of "adventurer," using the term in a kindly sense—and with him a geologist in whom the utmost reliance could be placed. Both of those men had succeeded in their respective departments very well indeed. Those men had been able to report on the land before the directors attempted to buy it, and they had secured an option on it, so that no one could step in and reap the advantage of their exploration. The Board came to the conclusion that at least three of the properties must be acquired, and they accordingly acquired them. Those properties were now paid for, and the Directors were quite satisfied that they had made good purchases.



## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

Sugar has been exported this year for the first time from the Republic of Panama. Venezuela also is rousing itself to increase her very small production in view of the needs of the world and the high prices ruling.

The banana crop is by far the most important product of the Canary Islands. During the war many acres of the plantations were cut down, and food crops for local consumption substituted. Since the Armistice the land has been rapidly returned to bananas, the cultivation of which is considered the most profitable form of agriculture. It is estimated that there are about 7,500 acres under bananas, with an annual yield of 4,000,000 bunches.

The British Medical Research Committee has published a report dealing with the destruction of bacteria in milk by electricity. Milk can be rendered free from *B. coli* and *B. tuberculosis* by the new electrical method without raising the temperature higher than 63 deg. or 64 deg. C. This temperature effect in itself is not the principal factor in the destruction of the bacteria. Though the milk is not sterilised in the strict sense of the word, yet the percentage reduction of the bacteria is 99.9%. The keeping-power of the milk is considerably increased. The taste and properties are not altered.

The average export of vanilla from Guadeloupe for the last three years was 50,000 lb. Vanilla is cultivated in this French West Indian island by large as well as small growers. The uncured green beans were brought at prices ranging during the season from 6 to 11 francs the kilo (2½ lb.). The larger shippers of vanilla cure beans themselves, but they also purchase beans already cured from both large and small growers. The latter sell a considerable quantity of cured beans, as it is a common custom to cure them in their homes. The cured vanilla was sold locally at various prices up to 40 francs a kilo. Some was even sold at 60 francs. Vanilla is a product which might well be recommended throughout the West Indies for culture by small growers.

A revival of the indigo industry is taking place in Bengal. The chief difficulty in the past has been the want of co-operation among planters. Lately an Indigo Planters' Co-operation Association has been established in Calcutta. Its aim is to effect the necessary centralisation of the final stages of manufacture, so that in future cake indigo of varying composition will no longer be offered for sale. The indigo research chemist thinks that the decline in fertility of the indigo estates, as well as the outbreak of disease, is chiefly due to the lack of phosphate in the soil. During the last two or three years much has been learnt in regard to the effect of different conditions of growth on the percentage of colouring matter in the plant, and also in regard to the extraction process.

It is the custom in New Mexico and Texas to burn the spines off the flat joints of *Opuntias* (prickly pear), and feed the singed stems to stock when other feed is scarce. When the stems are analysed, they show a very large percentage of water and ash, and a very small percentage of organic matter of any kind. It is a poor feed, but would serve to tide over a short period of scarcity. It is universally recognised, however, that the plant has a decided tendency to increase the flow of milk, and more or less definite quantities are fed to cattle all through the year for this special purpose. It is used as a sup-

plementary ration to a more concentrated feed. They form an important item in the husbandry of South Italy, cows being regularly fed upon them, and stony or bad land utilised for their culture. The usual species grown is the less spinescent one, the so-called Indian fig (*Opuntia humifera*). A cross between the Holstein and Jersey cow manages even to eat prickly pear without their mouths becoming inflamed.

A note appeared in the last CIRCULAR with reference to evolving a race of bananas immune to the Panama disease. News has just arrived of the publication in the Jamaica "Gazette" of dispatches received from the Colonial Office enclosing letters on the same subject from the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture and the Director of Kew Gardens. Sir F. Watts advises making a collection of all the varieties of bananas obtainable that may possibly possess commercial merit. These varieties should be cultivated in some central station to supply material for experimental cultivation on an infected area such as the Stann Creek district in British Honduras. An immune variety would in this way be discovered. Another line of investigation would be to try by cross-pollination to obtain seeds, and thus raise seedling bananas. Some of these might prove immune, and at the same time be commercially valuable. Sir D. Prain recommends that the plan mentioned in last CIRCULAR should be tried as well as the methods recommended by the Imperial Commissioner.

The Imperial Government encourages manufacturers to form research associations, and makes an annual grant equal to the annual income derived from membership of the association. The Sheffield cutlers have formed the British Cutlery Research Association, and provide the income on the basis of a subscription of 5s for every £100 paid in wages. Firms subscribing to the association will have the privilege of recommending questions for research which, if found suitable, will be inquired into without expense to them; of using any secret or patent process resulting from research without payment, or with only a nominal payment as compared with those outside the organisation; and of having specific researches undertaken for their sole benefit at cost price. It is hoped that the British Empire Sugar Research Association, under the chairmanship of Sir Edward Davson, will soon be able to publish a detailed scheme for the working of the association with an appeal for annual subscriptions from all those interested in the sugar industry.

Sir Harry Johnston, the well-known African explorer, called attention some time ago to the danger to civilisation if the forests of the temperate zones disappeared—as experts say they will—in twenty-five years under the demand for wood pulp for making paper. He suggests that the well-nigh inexhaustible supply of grasses, reeds, and rushes of tropical Africa might be utilised. The cellulose expert to the Government of India, Mr. W. Raitt, has been engaged for more than twenty-five years in searching for new paper-making materials. He can see no solution except in the waste annual growths of tropical and subtropical forests. Much research work has been done on Indian grasses by the Forest Research Institute of India with the view of utilising them for paper-making. But there are certain practical difficulties, and complete success has not yet been achieved. At present the field for a new source of supply is held by bamboo. There remain no practical difficulties in transforming bamboo into pulp. There is here the promise of a large supply under conditions which, compared with a material like wood, are permanent. For, while wood takes from thirty to fifty years to grow, bamboo renews itself annually.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

## WEST INDIAN CURRENCY REFORM.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—Colonel Davson's articles on "West Indian Currency Reform" in the last two numbers of the CIRCULAR are valuable in calling attention to the merits of a decimal coinage.

Incidentally, his reference to the word "bit" is of interest. There is no doubt that he is quite correct in denying that the "bit" owes its origin to the Dutch. The word is certainly English, and is often met with in literature, signifying a small coin. We talk of a four-penny bit and a sixpenny bit. In the Western United States they speak of a "short bit" = 10 cents, and of a "long bit" = 15 cents. The labouring class in Jamaica have denominations, including the bit, for several small sums. These names recall a former currency in the island, and possibly there were coins to correspond to some of them. Thus, a "gill" = 3 farthings, a "tup" or a "quattic" = 3 halfpence (this coin was in use at least as late as 1890), a "fippence" = 3 pence (coin still in use), a "bit" = fourpence halfpenny, a "tenpence" = sixpence (coin in use), a "bit and fippence" = seven pence halfpenny, a "macaroni" = one shilling (coin in use), a "mac. and fippence" = one shilling and threepence, "four bits" = one shilling and sixpence, "four bits, fippence and tup" = one shilling and tenpence halfpenny, "dollar" = four shillings. All these denominations are still in common use by the labouring class in Jamaica.

It is not easy for the "man in the street" to appreciate the reasons given by the Committee for rejecting decimal coinage. The decimal system has been in use for many years in science, and it is regrettable that it has not been adopted throughout the Empire in coinage and weights and measures. That there should be two systems of currency in use in British Guiana and part of the West Indies is anomalous, and surely scarcely necessary. However desirable it would be to adopt the decimal coinage in the West Indies, it would be necessary to retain British currency until the decimal system was in use in Great Britain. It would be well therefore to get rid of the dollar system first.

Yours faithfully,

W. FAWCETT.

November 3rd, 1920.

A "CORRESPONDENT" writes:—It is evident that the writer of the article under the heading of "West Indian Currency Reform," published in your issue of October 14th, can have had only a temporary acquaintance with the currency of the West Indies, or he would not have found the position so difficult as he describes. First, with regard to the difficulty about the "bit," the value of which is fixed at 8 cents or 4d. It is quite true that this coin, which has been demonetised elsewhere in the West Indies, is now being minted specially for British Guiana, but it is not a fact that its origin was the Southern States of America. It is really and truly the quarter guilder, the old Dutch coin, which was long current in the colony, of the value of 1s 4d. There was also minted the half guilder, value 8d. These coins were similar to, in appearance, though, of course, heavier than, the 1s. and 6d. pieces, with the exception that there was no milling round the edges. The bit does not enter into commerce in any way whatsoever, but it is a long-standing custom to calculate the estates' wages by bits, and the labourers apparently do not wish any change in that; but this is purely a matter for the sugar estates. The above refers only to British Guiana. It is true that in the West Indian Islands the negroes frequently use the term "bit" as descriptive of a small sum, usually 3d. or 4d., according to locality, but it never enters into accounts.

With regard to the sterling money and dollar accounts, in British Guiana, Barbados, Trinidad, the Leeward and Windward Islands, in fact all the West Indian colonies, with the single exception of Jamaica, accounts are kept exactly as if a decimal currency was in being. In the two first-named colonies the Governments also keep their accounts in the same manner, while in all the colonies except Jamaica, and to some extent Antigua and Grenada, the mercantile community are practically at one in keeping dollar accounts. The basis is the half-penny, which is called 1 cent, 100 cents therefore making the dollar 4s 2d. Prices of goods are generally marked in dollars and cents, and in practice amongst all classes it has been found easy to be in a way bilingual in expressing prices either in sterling or dollars. Any negro labourer will as readily speak of 1s. as 24 cents, or 2s. 6d. as 60 cents, and so on. The pound sterling on this basis is 4.80, which approximates closely to the American par of 4.86 per £. The banks keep their accounts on the decimal system with immense saving of labour, as is very soon realised by a travelling auditor when working at Jamaica after leaving the other colonies. The only purely dollar currency which exists is the Bank Note Circulation. The banks issue notes of \$5 and upwards, the \$5, of course, being exchangeable into sterling currency at £1 0s 10d.

One would gather from the writer on the subject of "West Indian Currency Reform" that there is a perpetual complication through the use of sterling coins and dollar accounts. To a very limited number of individuals, such as new arrivals in the colony and Government officials from home, who have been accustomed only to sterling accounts, there is at first a little inconvenience in adjusting their ideas to conformity with the system which has so ingeniously adapted sterling to a decimal currency, but the inconvenience is very temporary to any person of average intelligence, and can only be permanent to those who refuse to adjust themselves to unaccustomed conditions.

It would, of course, be very convenient if there were coins representing the decimal currency, but in actual practice amongst residents the inconvenience is not felt, and until the Home Country agrees upon a decimal standard, West Indians generally prefer to be left as they are, using the home coinage which they have been accustomed to.

In any case, the whole matter is purely one of speculative interest at the present time, since even granting the remedies proposed by the writer of the thesis would be beneficial, and that the florin could be made the unit of value, involving, as he suggests, a coinage of double florins as a near equivalent to the dollar of account, in practice it would be found that there would be no possibility of obtaining these coins from the Mint, at all events for a considerable period. It would seem to be expedient, pending the adoption by the Mother Country of a decimal coinage, which nearly every thinking person is hoping for, to leave as an interesting object-lesson the West Indian dollar of account carried on with present sterling coins. Far from behind the times, the West Indies appear to have led the way towards a practical solution of the decimal currency question.

The newly-discovered parasite of the leafhopper, recently brought by Mr. F. A. G. Muir from Queensland, is expected to do great things as regards the extermination of that pest of the sugar-cane. The parasite in question is a small beetle named *Cyrtoschinus mundulus*. It belongs to the same large group as the leafhopper, and its mouth's parts are constructed on similar lines. But instead of puncturing the leaves and feeding on the plant juices it pierces the eggs of the leafhopper and feeds on their contents.



## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the Circular for publication under this heading.

### The Prince in Antigua.

His Royal Highness landed in Antigua at 11 a.m. on September 28th, and was welcomed on the jetty by Sir Edward Merewether, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., Governor of the Leeward Islands, the Chief Justice, the Colonial Secretary, and the Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils. A guard of honour formed by members of the local Defence Force was inspected, and then, as in the other islands, the Prince shook hands and conversed with returned soldiers of the B.W.I. Regiment. The Prince's party then drove by way of High and East streets, which were thronged with cheering crowds, to Government House, and returned by the same route to the Court House, where he was presented with an illuminated address of welcome. In his reply, the Prince referred to Nelson refitting at English Harbour before the Trafalgar Campaign. An inspection of 1,500 school children on the savannah, luncheon, and a reception at Government House followed, after which the Prince rode on horseback on a tour of inspection of the island.

### September's "Magic Touch" in Barbados.

The Barbados House of Assembly has, by nine votes to four, agreed to vote the necessary funds, not exceeding £1,000, to enable the Permanent Exhibition Committee to take part in the British Empire Exhibition in 1921.

The month of September has closed with a rainfall which was regular and continuous, particularly in the red-soil area and in the parish of St. Andrew. According to the "Agricultural Reporter" of October 2nd, the cane crop was continuing to do well, the rainfall having added "another magic touch" to the cane. In St. Lucy, however, and the black-soil districts generally, rain is still greatly needed. Owing to the scarcity of slips for planting, the statutory area under potatoes has not been wholly planted.

Several factories are being extended and additional and more powerful mills are being installed on some estates.

Mr. W. H. Smith, for many years manager of Drax Hall Estate, and Attorney for many others, died on September 18th. A sound planter and a staunch friend, he will be greatly missed.

The Highway Commissioners for St. Michael's have decided to invite Mr. H. O. Jones, Deputy Borough Engineer of Folkestone, to come out to Barbados for three months, to make a report on the conditions of the roads in the parish, and suggest improvements. Mr. G. E. Sealy, senior representative for the parish of St. John in the Legislature, has notified his intention of not standing for election for the ensuing sessions.

The coaling industry of Barbados is again on the up grade. Last year 344 steamers took in 109,658 tons of coal at Bridgetown as compared with 193 taking 39,945 tons in 1918. The growth of the trade of the port is shown by the fact that the number of lighters and their size constantly increase, while wharf berths are being wanted more and more, says Mr. A. Browne, the Harbour Master, in his annual report.

Prior to the adjournment of the House of Assembly on September 14th, the Hon. C. P. Clarke outlined the legislation which it was proposed to introduce next session for providing sugar for the population. The Sugar Committee of 1920 had recommended that it would be advisable to purchase 5,000 tons of dark crystals and/or muscovado sugar to be retained for

local consumption in 1921-22, and for the Government to resell the same to traders. Some of the firms who held sugar at the Government's request this year had intimated that they would be unable to continue that arrangement. The legislation to be introduced would authorise the Government to obtain the sugar *pro rata* from all plantation owners, these only manufacturing syrup to make arrangements to supply sugar, this procedure being, he believed, on the lines of that followed in British Guiana and Trinidad, the price to be paid being fixed by the Legislature. He did not think that the policy of the Government in this connection could be too widely ventilated.

### British Guiana Approves Canadian Pact.

Mr. J. C. McCowan, writing on October 1st, reports that the weather is much too dry. The Ottawa Trade Agreement was approved at a meeting of the Combined Court on September 30th. At a meeting of the Council of the Sugar Planters' Association, of which Mr. R. Strang has been appointed a member, the rate of assessment for the Sugar Planters' Experiment Station for the ensuing year was fixed at \$1 per acre. It was agreed that the Association would join with the Chamber of Commerce in any resolution that was passed regarding a Transatlantic Steamship Service.

### British Honduras: Cane-Planting at Corozal.

The proposals for the development of a cane-syrup industry in the colony are being widely discussed. On September 27th, Mr. W. R. Dunlop, the Government Agricultural Adviser, addressing a meeting of the principal sugar planters at Corozal, pointed out that, although up-to-date methods, such as disc ploughing, caterpillar traction, double crushers and vacuum pans were being or had been adopted at Corozal, owing to the smallness of the mills themselves, it took most of the factories about five months to grind less than 100 acres of cane. The solution that appealed to Mr. Dunlop was the erection of a central factory in the district to deal with 1,000 to 2,000 acres of cane. Before this could be done various obstacles would have to be faced, notably questions of finance, land tenure, labour, water supply, and the cost of machinery.

### Massacre of the Innocents in Jamaica.

Brigadier-General Moulton Barrett, C.B., has resigned the post of Commandant of the Jamaica Corps of Scouts. Hon. Horace V. Myers, M.B.F., takes Mr. Arthur George's place as a member of the Railway Advisory Board. On the occasion of his return to the Island, after his trip to England, Hon. S. S. Stedman was on October 2nd presented with an address of welcome by his constituents at Buff Bay. The infantile mortality figures given in the Report of the Health Officer for Kingston for 1919 show an improvement on those for the previous year, but still throw a sad light on the toll taken of child-life in the city; 375 infants under one year of age died during 1919. Of these 268 were illegitimate. The rate of infantile mortality is therefore 205 deaths out of every 1,000 registered births.

"The Gleaner" sees no indications of any decrease at present in the outbreak of the complaint which was thought to be Kaffir-pox, and is now known to be Alastrim, and Bumper Hall, the emergency hospital for Kingston, still has normally over two hundred cases, while isolation hospitals have been fitted up in the country districts. His Excellency the Governor presided at a public meeting on October 4th, at the Institute of Jamaica, which was addressed by Dr. A. F. Wright and Dr. Letitia Fairfield, the Medical Commissioners who have arrived from England to investigate the problem of venereal disease in the Island.



### St. Kitts' New Central Factory.

Writing on October 8th, Mr. E. J. Shelford says that, owing to the abnormally small rainfall to date for the year (several estates have not yet registered 20 in.), crop prospects for the Basseterre Sugar Factory for 1921 are very poor indeed—in the Sandypoint district conditions are rather more hopeful, as the estates in that locality have had more rain, although considerably below the usual average. A central factory, 5,000 tons capacity is at last fairly under weigh for the Northern district of the Island, a company—the St. Kitts (Capisterre) Co-operative Factory, Limited—having been formed for the purpose. That this step has finally been taken is largely due to the energies of Mr. C. W. W. Greenidge, of Barbados, who bought Brotherson's estate last year.

It was very disappointing to us that the visit of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales to St. Kitts had to be abandoned.

### The Prince and St. Lucia's Local Forces.

Lieutenant-Colonel Deane, O.B.E., addressing a meeting of local Volunteers on September 27th, referred to the congratulatory manner in which the Prince of Wales had spoken of the local forces during his recent stay in the Island.

### St. Vincent's Trade with England.

It is refreshing to note from Mr. W. C. Hutchinson's recent report on the local Treasury Department that the bulk of St. Vincent's trade is with the United Kingdom. Thus towards total imports valued at £185,128 in 1919 the United Kingdom contributed £58,121, the United States next with £54,750, and Canada third with £54,123. Similarly of the total exports valued at £149,749 the United Kingdom took produce to the value of £87,523, the neighbouring islands coming next with £40,493, and Canada third (£13,068).

The motion approving of the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement was carried in the Legislative Council on October 14th by 22 votes to 1, the solitary dissentient being Hon. J. A. G. Smith. On the same day the Council unanimously agreed to a motion conveying to the King their heartfelt congratulations upon the safe arrival home of the Prince of Wales, and expressing renewed regret at his Royal Highness having been unable to include Jamaica in his recent itinerary, and the fervent hope that he might be permitted to pay the island a special visit at no distant date.

### Good Cacao Crop Prospects in Tobago.

The September rainfall at King's Bay was 9.13 inches, a fair average, writes Mr. Robert S. Reid under date October 7th. Over 2 inches have since been recorded. Thunder and boisterous squalls seem to indicate good rainfall ahead, which may make good the shortage in the earlier months. Light gatherings of cacao are being made. The trees are heavily laden with flowers and young fruit, giving promise of a heavy crop in the dry season, unless the weather plays havoc meantime. Corn is ripe at last, and although root vegetables are scarce, there will be now lots of nourishing food which will make us less dependent on imported stuff, which steadily rises in price regardless of cable reports of "slumps" in the exporting markets.

### Trinidad's Water Pollution Act.

Earlier in the year a Bill to deal with the question of the pollution of land and water by oil operations failed to meet with the approval of the agricultural community, the members of which were loud in their protests against this measure, which was accordingly dropped. A new Bill has now been introduced into the Legislature, entitled Oil Pollution and Water Ordinance, 1920, which appears to have the support of the agriculturists and Press. Its terms were carefully considered at a meeting of the Agricultural Society, which was attended by the Governor and

the Acting Attorney General, on October 1st, and on the motion of Mr. T. H. Scott, a resolution urging the proposed Bill to be set up should consist of four officials and four unofficials, but otherwise approving of the Bill, was passed without dissent.

Mr. George R. Airth, of the Anglo-French Exploration Company, and Mr. Walter MacLachlan, Chairman of the British Borneo Petroleum Syndicate, Directors of the Apex Oilfields, Limited, have arrived in Trinidad in connection with the work of that company.

### Progress in the Virgin Islands.

Under the wise administration of Major W. H. Peebles, D.S.O. (who, it will be recalled, was formerly A.D.C. to Sir Bickham Sweet Escott and private secretary to Sir Hesketh Bell) the British Virgin Islands are making splendid progress. At the beginning of the financial year 1920-21 the Presidency had a surplus of over £6,500, as compared with a deficit of £600 at the beginning of the preceding year. Her exports and imports are going up by leaps and bounds. The surplus revenue now is over £8,000, and there is now no debt. During the last sixteen months considerable improvements and developments have taken place. A recreation ground of 5 acres has been laid out, a 15-ton motor boat has been built for the Government, a hospital is in course of erection, street lamps have been inaugurated, and a firm tone of prosperity is to be met with on all sides. The cotton industry, the mainstay of the Presidency, shows sign of considerable development. It is hoped to ship 300 to 400 bales of Sea Island lint this year. White settlers are gradually arriving and taking up holdings and getting good return on capital outlay.

## MOSAIC DISEASE OF CANES.

The "Journal of Agricultural Research" gives an account of some interesting experiments in connection with the subject of the transmissibility of the mosaic disease of canes by infection. In one series of experiments seed pieces from diseased parent stock were received from time to time during 1918 and 1919 and planted in the greenhouse, which was screened with physician's cloth, so that insects could not escape. Cuttings of *Latrasia* cane were secured from plants showing absolutely no signs of mosaic complaint, and were planted in another greenhouse. The canes from the diseased parents produced, without exception, mottled sprouts, and all the healthy cane cuttings, healthy plants with leaves of a uniform dark green colour.

Canes from the healthy stock were then planted in the quarantine greenhouse, but in such a manner that the leaves did not come into contact with those of the diseased canes. The corn aphid and red spiders were present in the greenhouse.

In another experiment, fifty adult individuals of the sharp-headed grain leafhopper, collected two days previously, from mosaic diseased canes were placed in a cage with five healthy cane plants. The leafhoppers immediately began feeding on the healthy cane, but no infection was evident after two months.

Various other experiments of the same description were carried out. The conclusion arrived at was that the sugar-cane virus is highly infectious only when exacting demands in the matter of favourable conditions are satisfied, and that the disease can be transmitted by certain sucking insects.



WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.

THE WEST INDIAN VISITORS LIST.

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, October 23rd, per s.s. Bayano:—

- Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Anderson
Mrs. and Mrs. David Ralnor
Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Benjamin
Major M. B. Blake
Rear Admiral E. G. Bourke
Mr. L. G. Carvalho
Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Charley
Mr. & Mrs. M. Clarke
Miss P. Clarke
Mr. W. F. M. Copeland
Mr. D. Carr
Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Doubleday
Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Douglass and child
Miss C. Escala
Mrs. B. Escala
Mrs. W. Eason
Miss F. de O. Evans
Mr. J. D. Evans
Mr. L. H. Facey
Capt. and Mrs. F. D. Field and child
Capt. and Mrs. J. H. Goodhillo
The Misses Haden (two)
Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hazlehurst and two children
Mr. J. T. Horskins
Mr. and Mrs. C. H. A. Iyer
The Misses Iyer (two)
The Bishop of Jamaica
Mr. E. Johnston
Col. H. C. Lamb
Mr. C. Hope Levy
Lt. Col. A. P. Lud

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, October 29th, per R.M.S. Coronado:—

- Dr. E. Bronstorff
Mr. & Mrs. J. Cherley
Miss V. M. Colthurst
Miss M. E. Crain Ewing
Miss E. E. Daly
Capt. E. Davis
Mrs. C. J. Dewar
Rev. and Mrs. W. J. Driver
Miss M. E. A. Fletcher
Miss J. French
Dr. and Mrs. J. Geoghegan
Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Greaves
Mrs. S. M. Gordon
Mr. H. Green
Mrs. U. V. G. Goombridge and son
Mr. G. S. Harries
Mrs. & Miss Haughton
Mrs. I. M. Hobbs
Miss B. Hopley
Mr. and Mrs. E. E. C. Hosack
Miss J. Jackson
Mrs. E. E. Jeffery
Mrs. and Miss Jones William
Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Kelly Lawson
Miss E. B. Kelly-Lawson
Mr. T. Kemp
Dr. C. Levy
Mr. E. W. Lucie Smith
Mr. and Mrs. H. E. H. Lynch
Mr. and Mrs. E. H. E. MacLvortry
Mr. T. W. C. Mason
Mjr. J. B. McCrindle
Mr. E. N. M. Moore
Mrs. C. S. Morrisson
Capt. and Mrs. A. R. Mozay
Mr. M. P. Naylor
Mrs. E. P. Nicoll
Miss M. O. M. Pearman
Mr. W. K. Pomeroy
Mr. & Mrs. F. C. Pratt
Miss J. E. Reckitt
Mrs. & Miss Naber's
Mrs. C. M. Shaw-Allen
Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Simpson
Mr. C. Synn
Mrs. F. Tracey
Miss B. P. Watson
Miss A. F. Whitehouse
Mrs. Wilmot Mitchell

Home arrivals from Jamaica, Avonmouth, October 31st, per s.s. Motagua:—

- Mr. and Mrs. E. Armstrong
Mr. & Mrs. M. Bolton
Miss S. D. Bowring
Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Brookes
Mr. H. E. Gilbert

Royal Netherland West India Mail.—Sailings to Trinidad from Dover, October 29th, per s.s. Sluysveant:—

- Mr. F. E. W. G. Austin
Mr. D. M. Brown
Mr. A. F. Craig
Mr. B. Duff
Mr. A. W. Duncan
Mr. & Mrs. J. d'Abadio
Mrs. M. E. Pitt
Mr. J. G. Gillespie
Mr. P. E. Gittens
Mr. S. Haines
Mrs. A. C. Kirtton
Mrs. A. S. Kernahan
Mr. A. W. Kerr
Mr. H. C. Ley
Mr. J. McGhee
Mr. A. Nind
Miss H. M. Parkin
Mr. J. A. Peterkin
Miss L. H. Phillips
Mr. and Mrs. J. Ribeiro
Mr. E. A. Robinson
Mr. C. P. Rojas
Miss M. M. Rojas
Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Euller
Mr. M. B. Shepherd
Mr. W. D. Slater
Mrs. V. P. Vaseon-ocloa
Mr. A. F. Vincent

Home arrivals from Trinidad, Havre, October 31st, per s.s. Van Rensselaer:—

- Mr. H. S. Barnes
Capt. P. F. Croswell
Mrs. W. Ellis
Miss Ellis
Mr. B. M. Fletcher
Mr. F. J. G. Foote
Mr. E. Grassano
Mr. W. M. Hesketh
Mr. and Mrs. C. A. I. Lopez
Dr. J. E. Lezama
Mrs. Lezama
Mr. H. C. Lezama
Mrs. E. Lines
Mr. M. A. Lucas
Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Mye
Prof. and Mrs. W. L. Watts
Miss H. Watts

Thos. & Jas. Harrison.—Advanced bookings from London for West Indies, about November 20th, per s.s. Inaba:—

- Mr. Abbott
Mrs. Athinson
Miss E. Austin and child
Mrs. H. B. Austin and child
Miss S. Bannister
Miss Belle
Capt. Down
Mrs. Bowen
Sir Henry and Lady Bovell
Mr. du Meison
Mr. H. Chalonner
Mrs. R. Dalton & child
Mrs. Denny
Mr. & Miss Evans
Mr. Fibley
Mr. Freeman
Miss Gittens
Mr. L. Gloag
Mr. G. O. Goad
Mrs. Gordon & child
Mr. Halsall
Miss J. B. Herbert
Mr. Howell
Mr. Hoyte
Miss Humby
Mr. King
Lady Knogga and three daughters
Mr. Lane
Mr. La Salle
Mr. & Mrs. Law
Miss Law
Mr. Maulers
Hon. de la Mothe
Mr. Martin Moulder
Miss F. Murray
Col. Nourse
Mr. & Mrs. Perkins
Miss Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. D. Pile
Dr. and Mrs. Pilgrim
Mr. & Mrs. Sealy
Mr. & Mrs. Shaukland
Mr. & Mrs. Slack
Mr. & Mrs. Slinger
Mrs. Slinger
Mrs. Webber and two children
Mr. York Wilkin
Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson and family
Mr. Harold Wright.

- Sir Honry A. Alcuza, K.C.
Mr. A. Balderamos
Mr. E. W. Hnaw
Mr. G. S. Brown
Mr. James Brown
Hon. F. C. Buck, M.L.C.E.
Mr. E. C. Bugle (C.M.G.)
H.F. Major H. E. S. Cordeaux, C.B.
Mr. W. W. Crab
Prof. J. P. d'Albuquerque, F.I.C.
Hon. D. S. Davis
Mr. P. J. Deau
Hon. J. T. de la Mothe
Mr. Max. De Varteuil
His Hon. Mr. Justice F. C. Wells Durrant
Mr. A. F. Q. Ellis
Mr. G. Faemar
Mrs. A. G. Farrum
Mr. J. M. Fleming
Dr. W. H. Fretz
Sir O. Aubrey Goodman
Mr. P. L. Guppy
Mr. E. P. Haughton-James
Rev. J. B. Brindley, c.o. W.M.M.S., 24, Bishopsgate, E.C.
Mr. Archibald J. Brooks, Avenue House, Avenue Road, Hounslow.
Mr. Sam Browne, Durrant's Hotel, Manchester Square, W.
Mr. R. Bryson, 26, Lewes Crescent, Kemptown, Sussex.
Mr. G. J. Christian, The West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W.
Mr. A. Somers Cocks, 61, Queensborough Terrace, W. 2.
Mr. W. H. Cohe, 79A, Elizabeth Street, Latou Square, S.W.
Dr. E. A. Coyne Doyle, M.B.C.S., "Westwood," 9, Hawthwood Road, Boscombe, Hants.
Mr. C. G. Sandford Elvey, "Grandison," Wellsway, Bath.
Miss F. A. Forsyth, 71, Queensborough Terrace, W. 2.
Mr. D. S. Gossel, 68, Shooters Hill Road, Blackheath, S.E. 3.
Hon. L. N. Grant, c.o. E. T. Turnbull and Co., 4, Lloyd's Avenue, E.C.
Mr. J. T. Greg, The Grey House, Honar's Hill, Oxford.
Mr. Harold I. Harvey, 5, Lower Camden, Chislehurst, Kent.
Mr. T. D. Hull, 37, Bedford Place, W.C.
Mr. J. C. MacIntyre, 24, Gordon Street, Gordon Square, W.C.
Mr. T. Orde, Clifton Lodge, Alnmouth, Northumberland.
Mr. G. S. Seton Brown, c.o. Thomson Hankey & Co., 7, Mincing Lane, E.C.
Mr. M. Hamel Smith, The West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W.
Mr. M. Howard Smith, Durrant's Hotel, Manchester Square, W.
Mr. C. C. Stollmeyer, 52, Royal Parade, Eastbourne.
Mr. S. H. Taylor, c.o. D. Haes and Co., 3, Jewin Street, E.C.
Mr. Arthur L. Vaughan, c.o. Skelton and Schofield, 29, Martin Lane, E.C. 4.
Mr. Alfred F. White, c.o. The Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates, Ltd., 10, Lloyd's Avenue, E.C. 3.
Mr. H. Aubrey Williams, Astor Hotel, Princes Square, Mayswater, W.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Table with columns: Div., Description, Price, and Date. Includes entries for Antigua, Barbados, British Guiana, Grenada, Jamaica, and Trinidad, along with various bank and railway securities.



**PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.**

Telephone—Central 6682.  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."



15, BERTHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.  
Nov. 9th, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 7 per cent., as from April 15th.

**EXCHANGE** on New York, \$3 34-\$3 35.

**SUGAR.** With the termination of the miners' strike, the sugar ration in the United Kingdom has been restored to 12 oz. per head per week with the prospect of soon being increased to 1 lb., and West Indian grocery sugars have again been decontrolled, subject to a maximum "reasonable" price, which for the period November 1st-27th, has been fixed at 96s. per cwt. (wholesale). The maximum "reasonable" retail price for November 1st-14th is 1s. 3d., and from November 15th-27th, 1s. per lb., as against the controlled prices of 1s. 3d. and 1s. for those periods respectively in the case of granulated. West Indian crystallised is selling at 78s. to 85s. per cwt., and Muscovado at 64s., but there is an absence of demand.

Timely gives the final figures of the Cuban 1919-20 crop as 3,728,975 tons. The situation in Cuba has been relieved by a group of American banks, headed by Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co., having arranged to issue a loan of from \$75,000,000 to \$100,000,000 for the Cuban Government to enable them to finance the coming crop.

Latest New York quotations (by cable) are:—  
December, 6'39c.; January, 6'34c.; March, 6'35c.; May, 6'40c.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on October 30th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Tons.
Imports ...	58,729	42,683	34,292	
Deliveries ...	50,859	42,813	33,020	"
Stock ...	16,006	6,262	11,654	"

**CACAO.** The market is still inactive. Ordinary plantation Trinidad is quoted at 81s., and fine at 85s. Grenada is quoted at 65s. to 71s. for fair and fine respectively. Exports of Trinidad for the current year to August 31st amounted to 57,590,423 lb.

Messrs. Edgar Tripp & Co., of Port of Spain, report that the shipments of Trinidad cacao during month of September, 1920, were as follows:—

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
To all countries ...	3,384,075 "
Shipped previously ...	57,585,723 "
Total from January 1st ...	60,969,798 "
To same date, 1919 ...	56,591,767 "
" " 1918 ...	49,459,565 "
" " 1917 ...	66,298,332 "
" " 1916 ...	49,718,564 "
" " 1915 ...	43,884,913 "
" " 1914 ...	59,870,569 "
" " 1913 ...	44,915,936 "
" " 1912 ...	39,063,198 "
" " 1911 ...	41,523,273 "
" " 1910 ...	47,555,713 "

The stocks in London on October 30th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	
Trinidad ...	38,656	33,469	9,941	Bags
Grenada ...	27,000	16,567	7,749	"
Total of all kinds ...	249,788	119,513	139,290	"

**RUM.** There has been a fair demand for export qualities, but the market generally is still dull. Home trade Jamaica, 1919 distillation is valued at 11s., and Demerara at 5s. 9d. proof.

The stocks in London on October 30th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Puns.
Jamaica ...	10,985	8,217	4,296	
Demerara ...	15,838	14,958	10,350	"
Total of all kinds ...	36,691	28,789	20,261	"

**ARROWROOT** continues very dull. Nominal quotations are 3½d. and 7d.

**BALATA.** West Indian sheet is steady, and quoted at 4s. 4½d. to 4s. 5d. for forward shipment, and 4s. 7d. to 4s. 7½d. spot.

**COFFEE.** The market is still very quiet. The nominal quotation for good ordinary Jamaica is 80s. to 85s. Blue Mountain 160s.-165s. nominal. Imports of coffee from British West Indies to September 30th, 5,616 cwt.

**COPRA** is dull. Value West India f.m.s. £56 London (November-December shipment).

**COTTON.** The nominal quotations for West Indian Sea Island are further reduced by 300 points; current prices 56d. to 70d. nominal. Imports in the forty-five weeks ending November 4th, 7,422 bales.

**HONEY.** No sales of Jamaica are reported, but dark Cuban has been selling slowly at 55s. per cwt.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** There is no demand for Hand-pressed. Holders of Distilled are asking 5s., but there is very little enquiry. There is no change to report in Raw Lime-juice.

**LOGWOOD.** Only a small business passing; value still about £18.

**ORANGE OIL.** Sweet. These are sellers at 14s., but no business reported. Bitter is not wanted.

**PETROLEUM.** Total shipments of oil from Trinidad from January 1st to September 30th, 28,340,056 gallons, as compared with 38,046,307 gallons, 30,691,939 gallons, and 34,232,214 gallons to the same date in the years 1919, 1918, and 1917 respectively.

**SPICES.** Pimento. A small business doing at 4d. and a few sales reported at fractionally less than this figure. Nutmegs, 110's to 80's—7d. to 10d. per lb. Mace, reddish to good pale, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d. per lb.

**WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.**

(Continued from page 349.)

**Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.**—Home arrivals from Jamaica, Avonmouth, November 6th, per s.s. *Paluca*:—

Mr. & Mrs. A. Gregory	Mr. D. Oliphant	The Misses Pateman (2)
Mrs. G. Leyden	Lieut. and Mrs. G. H. Pateman	Mrs. E. J. Selman
Mr. H. Saylor		Miss Selman
Mrs. H. Saylor		

**WEST INDIAN STEAMER SAILINGS.**

To	From	Packet.	Sailing.
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Barranca</i>	Nov. 15
West Indies	Glasgow	<i>Speaker</i>	Nov. 15
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Paluca</i>	Nov. 16
		<i>Van Rensselaer</i>	Nov. 20
B'dos & T'dal	Liverpool	<i>Oranian</i>	Nov. 20
West Indies	St. Nazaire	<i>Macoris</i>	Nov. 24
West Indies	London	<i>Intaba</i>	Nov. 24
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Centurion</i>	Nov. 27
B'dos, T'dal & Jamaica	London	<i>Agadir</i>	Dec. 6
West Indies	New York	<i>Guiana</i>	Dec. 2
West Indies	New York	<i>Korona</i>	Dec. 24

The above dates are only approximate.

**WANTS.**

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 3/6 for three lines and 1/- for each additional line.

WANTED for India, Agriculturists with tropical experience of Sugar-cane cultivation. Apply to the Sugar Corporation of India, Limited, 5, Wallace-street, Port, Bombay, India, stating qualifications.

**FOR SALE.**

BOUND VOLUMES OF "THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR." For years 1904, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1913, 1915, and 1916. Price 30s. each—Apply Manager, 15, Berthing Lane, E.C. 3.



# The West India Committee Circular

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### The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone:  
CENTRAL 6042.

Telegrams:  
CARIB, LONDON.



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Nov. 25/20, 1920.

### Oil and Agriculture in Trinidad.

INTEREST in the Trinidad oil industry, already alive, has been greatly stimulated during the last fortnight by the receipt of a cablegram in London announcing the occurrence of a gusher in the Fyzabad district, which yielded no fewer than 100,000 barrels of oil in eighteen hours. Unfortunately this was accompanied by the bad news that a dam had given way, resulting in the loss of 50,000 barrels of oil from the sump, whilst, to make matters worse, the gas from the well having been ignited by the fire under the boilers towards which it was blown by the wind, a conflagration had ensued which did damage to agriculture to the estimated value of £15,000—or perhaps £80,000—for it is hardly necessary to say that the cablegram arrived in a mutilated condition. The shares of the Company concerned, after a momentary fall, rose 10s., the market view being that the monetary loss was nothing compared with the gain from the definite proof which the gusher afforded of the existence of oil in generous quantities under the particular area of the Fyzabad district concerned. The well subsequently became blocked, which points to the difficulty due to the wells becoming sanded up not having been altogether overcome. Still this gusher, following so closely upon the news that a well in Lot 4 of the Forest Reserve area of the Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company had "come in" with a production of 110,000 barrels within a week, will serve a valuable purpose in emphasising the actual

and potential value of Trinidad as a British source of oil supply. Since the first shipment of oil from the island was made by the Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company in April, 1911, the industry has made rapid progress, and MAJOR RANDOLPH RUST, who is admittedly its pioneer—and it will be recalled how, despite snubs and ridicule, he adhered to his view that Trinidad possessed oil in paying quantities—must indeed be a proud man when he looks around him and sees the feverish activity with which many companies are now winning oil, and the eagerness which the principal oil groups that have not yet secured a footing in the island are hastening to do so at the earliest possible moment. At the outset MAJOR RUST and the first pioneer companies to operate in the island had many obstacles to face, not the least being the thinly-disguised endeavour of one of the leading oil groups to belittle on every possible occasion the prospects of Trinidad as an oil-producing island. Not desirous of developing the field themselves, they pursued a dog-in-the-manger policy, and did their best to prevent others from coming in. Their attempts in this direction, however, signally failed, and Trinidad has now taken her place among the other oil producing countries of the world. From 5,900 gallons in 1908, and 9,255,710 in 1911 (the year when the first shipment was made), her production rose to 61,436,632 gallons last year, following an output of 72,827,393 gallons in 1918. By far the largest part of the oil produced is exported to order of the Admiralty, under contract, and we have the authority of MR. CATHERALL, the Acting Inspector of the Mines Department, whose annual report furnishes a valuable epitome of work done, for stating that the bunkering trade continues to make good progress, a considerable number of ships now calling at Trinidad to replenish their bunkers with fuel oil. With freights for tankers from Gulf ports ruling at 240s., the question of shipping the oil is one of some difficulty; but the announcement which we made recently that the Trinidad Central Oilfields were building a tanker, coupled with the intimation that monitors are being converted into tanks for the conveyance of crude petroleum from Maracaibo to the refinery at Curaçoa shows what can be done, and points to the freight situation becoming eventually easier. Another difficulty which is now being overcome is that of securing supplies of drilling machinery and material generally, which was acute during and immediately after the war. It was inevitable that agriculturists should view with some concern the development of this great new industry, which would compete with them in the labour



markets, and possibly pollute their lands and water. We believe, however, that in practice oil will prove an advantage to the island as a whole, providing the scales between the agriculturist and oil producers are evenly balanced, for it will lead to the opening up of the island by roads, and should eventually relieve very materially the burden of taxation which agriculture has to bear. It will, too, undoubtedly lead to an influx of immigrants, for where there is prosperity population follows—as we have seen in Cuba, into which island there is a steady flow of labour from the Canary Islands and Spain, to say nothing of the neighbouring West Indian islands. It is much to be hoped then that the two industries of agriculture and oil will settle down side by side without recriminations and without jealousy, and it is particularly satisfactory to learn that the difference of opinion over the question of pollution and oil rights is in a fair way towards being settled by the Oil Pollution and Water Ordinance, the terms of which have been approved by the Agricultural Society and Chamber of Commerce, whom the Governor in his wisdom consulted on the subject.

#### The Lifeless Produce Markets.

**A** FORTNIGHT has brought no improvement in the Produce Markets, which remain in the lifeless condition which has characterised them for some weeks past. A variety of causes has contributed towards the slump which has occurred, principal among them being, perhaps, the inability of Europe to make good her normal requirements of tropical products owing to adverse exchanges and the chaotic state of Russia. Manufacturers who use tropical products have found themselves caught with stocks bought at high prices, and it would appear to be their endeavour to liquidate these before re-entering the market on the fresh basis of values, and the possibility of prices still going lower is probably contributing towards their reluctance to purchase fresh supplies. So far as sugar is concerned, the reasons for the slump are not far to seek. Over-speculation in Cuba and exaggerated ideas of values could only have one end, and this has been hastened by the reduced consumption throughout the world, due in some countries to control, and in others to the abnormally high prices which the public are unwilling or unable to pay. The over-optimistic estimates of increased consumption due to the adoption of prohibition were falsified, and with considerable quantities of sugar which had been sent over to Europe and failed to find buyers being thrown back on the market, a slump commenced, which rapidly led to panic when those who were holding sugar at 24 cents realised that they would have difficulty in disposing of it at even a quarter of that figure. A run on the banks in Cuba occurred, and was only checked by the decree of a moratorium by PRESIDENT MEXICAL, originally intended to end on December 1st, but now extended owing to the breakdown in negotiations with American banks for financing the Cuban crop. With a commodity like sugar it is difficult to prophesy, but we should be inclined to say that the bottom has now been reached, and if sugar is decontrolled it is reasonable, in view of the world's statistics, which still show a falling off of over three

million tons of sugar in the world's production, as compared with that of the pre-war year, that some recovery will take place next year, though it is most improbable that there will be anything approaching the sensational rise in values which occurred last year. In support of this view, it may be mentioned that the Cuban producers (who must not be confused with the speculators) declare that they will not reap their crop if the price of sugar falls below 5 cents, which they state is below the cost of production. A sensational rise is certainly not to be desired, for we think that it will now be generally recognised that phenomenal prices only lead to over-speculation, and to the side of estates at absurd values, and to consequent collapse. The position with regard to cacao resembles to some extent that of sugar. Manufacturers hold stocks at greatly higher prices than those prevailing to-day, and the public which had money to burn during the halcyon period when war gratuities were being disbursed is inclined to think twice before purchasing in any quantity chocolates, with the full knowledge which is being constantly drummed into them by the Press that wholesale prices are falling. For the time being cacao is practically unsaleable, the nominal price of West African being only 45s. to 60s. per cwt., or actually below the figure at which it stood prior to the outbreak of war. In the pre-war year the production of cacao in West Africa was 50,000 tons. Last year it rose to 179,000 tons. For the first nine months of this year it was 89,000, so it will be realised how serious the position for the producers on the Gold Coast has become. It is notorious that the small proprietors there pay little attention to cultivation, finding it easy to burn off the scrub and plant fresh areas on the rich virgin soil, rather than attend to such matters as combating insect pests, applying fertilisers, &c., and with prices down to their present level they will be less able to afford to meet such expenses as weeding, &c., than they have been hitherto, and it is not improbable that this may lead to some set-back in the industry; though on the other hand it must be remembered that very efficient Agricultural Departments in West Africa are now doing all in their power to encourage more careful cultivation. In their proximity to the American markets the West Indies are particularly fortunate. Canada can at present take only a negligible quantity of West Indian cacao, compared with the West Indian output, amounting to about 80,000,000 lb., but when America begins to buy again, producers will benefit from the premium on exchange (at present amounting to about 40 per cent.), which is not likely to right itself just yet, if financial experts are to be believed. West Indian producers will also be in a better position to face hard times than the small proprietors in West Africa are able to do, and the best advice one can give to our friends in the West Indies at the present time is to do all in their power to improve still further the quality of their produce rather than allow it to go back as they might feel inclined to do by saving labour, fertilisers, &c. The present depression is only a passing phase, which was inevitable after the phenomenal prices and speculation of the early post-war period, and it must be remembered that at times like these it is the fittest who survive.



## SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"ONE time nebber done."

LORD SYDENHAM OF COMBE has been elected President of the British Empire Producers' Organisation.

MR. R. PARKINSON GOPPE, Barrister-at-Law, was admitted to the Nova Scotia Bar on October 19th.

A FURTHER list of contributions towards the West India Committee's Endowment Fund will be published in next issue. The present total of the Fund is £22,647.

His many friends will be glad to learn that the Hon. W. V. Degazon, of St. Lucia, has made a good recovery after a severe illness and very serious operation.

COLONEL CLAUDE FRANCIS, who was for many years connected with the Demerara constabulary, has undergone an operation for cataract, and is reported to be progressing favourably.

In order that they may keep in closer touch with their clients overseas, Alexander Cross & Sons, Limited, have opened an office at 81, Gracechurch street, London, under the management of Mr. A. W. Thomson.

SIR DAVID PRATT, C.M.G., C.I.E., who, it will be recalled, is Deputy-Chairman of the Tropical Agricultural College Committee, has been recommended for election as Treasurer of the Royal Society.

OUR enterprising contemporary the "Canadian Gazette" has decided to issue a fortnightly supplement dealing with the British West Indies, their object being to promote closer trade relations with the British West Indies and the Empire.

THE West Indian Produce Association, of 14 Creech-Jane, E.C., include in their Christmas price-list a number of West Indian commodities such as cassava cakes, guava jelly, hot sauce and pimento dram, which were unobtainable during the war.

IN anticipation of the regular service between Canada, the Bahamas, Jamaica and British Honduras, which, it is understood, will begin in January next, the Canadian Government Merchant Marine has decided to send a steamer direct from St. John to Nassau and Jamaica next month.

THE Court of Directors have agreed to recommend to the Proprietors in March next the re-election of Mr. Henry Alexander Trotter as Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England. It will be recalled that Mr. Trotter was Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee from May, 1918, to June, 1920.

MESSRS. JAMES NOURSE, of 71 King William-street, E.C. 4, have agreed to carry passengers on s.s. *Hughli* (ex s.s. *Valencia*), which is expected to sail from Barry (South Wales) for Barbados and Trinidad early in December. There are only about thirty first-class berths, the fare for which is £50 apiece.

WE much regret to announce that Mr. George Cushman Banson, father of Mrs. Bamford, of British Guiana, died in London on October 13th. Miss May Bamford had the honour of dancing twice with the

Prince of Wales at the Government House Ball, on the occasion of his Royal Highness's recent visit to British Guiana.

THE total number of newspapers and periodicals which have increased their prices this year is now 649. The price of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, however, remains at the pre-war price of £1 1s. per annum to members, who will, it is hoped, signify their appreciation by paying their annual subscription punctually. Will those few members still in arrears for 1920 kindly note?

THE attempted flight by one U.S. Army and two Naval planes from Cristobal to Washington via Jamaica last month failed owing to climatic conditions. The naval planes were warned of the storm, and returned after going about 200 miles, but the Army plane, which had no wireless, ran right into it. The pilot tried to force his way through, but had to give up the attempt and return to Cristobal.

A CORRESPONDENT who was in close touch with the meetings of the recent Conference at Ottawa, writes that the desire and intention of all the delegates that the Old Country should share equally with Canada and other British possessions in the benefits under the Agreement, was pronounced and unmistakable, though he was not at all sure that it was equally agreeable to all the Canadian Ministers.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged, and will take place at Colombo, Ceylon, early next year, between Edward Oswald, second son of the late Charles O. Mackwood and Mrs. Mackwood, of Colombo, and Leila Virginie, elder daughter of Sir Edward J. Cameron, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Gambia, West Africa, and Lady Cameron, 31, South Eaton-place, S.W. 1. Sir Edward and Lady Cameron will shortly be leaving for Ceylon to attend the ceremony.

ON the third day out from Calcutta, an Indian stowaway was found on board the s.s. *Sulej*, of the Nourse Line, on her voyage to the West Indies. He proved to be an emigrant who had returned to India in the same ship last December, and was desirous of returning to the West Indies. Advices from Calcutta point to there being a great number of emigrants there who are anxious to return to the West Indies, and it is believed that the stowaway question will therefore become a serious one.

THE case of "Ansaldi v. Lee Lum" (involving the question of an important right-of-way) will be noteworthy not only in Trinidad, but also in West Indian judicial records, as being the first cause to be tried by the newly-established West Indian Court of Appeal. Mr. C. A. Child and Mr. H. Wells (with them Mr. L. A. P. O'Reilly, K.C.), instructed by Messrs. M. Hamel-Smith & Co., conducted the case for Ansaldi, the appellant, while Sir Henry Alcazar, K.C., and Mr. N. Savary, instructed by Messrs. O. F. A. William & Co., appeared on behalf of the respondent. The appeal was allowed with costs.

PEPPER POT.—An ox tail (or calf's head), 3 lb of fresh pork. Cut up all this into pieces about 1½ in square, and put them into a large conical, fully cover it with water and put it on to boil. When half done, add 4 bonnet peppers tied up in a muslin bag, a large bunch of thyme, 1 lb. of sliced onions, 2 large tablespoonfuls of brown sugar (or more to taste), 14 gill of cassarepe, the sauce should be fairly thick after the first two days. It should be warmed every day or it will go sour. Any cold meat can be put into it, provided it is not seasoned meat, as this also will turn it acid—Mrs. H. Graham Yearwood.



## TREND OF WEST INDIAN TRADE.

## Canadian and American Capital.

In a valuable report which he has presented to the Department of Overseas Trade, H.M. Trade Commissioner Mr. A. J. Pavitt gives the following statement of the total trade of the different colonies last year in order to show their relative commercial importance.

Colony	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
Trinidad and Tobago	5,254,126	6,293,480	11,547,606 (a)
Jamaica	5,085,515	5,627,328	10,712,843
British Guiana	3,275,380	3,925,400	7,200,780 (b)
Barbados	3,893,458	3,305,382	7,198,840
British Honduras	978,170	926,835	1,905,005
Grenada	438,110	637,360	1,075,470
Habamas	530,242	382,140	921,382
St. Lucia	322,769	470,192	792,961
St. Kitts-Nevis	300,000 (c)	785,000 (c)	685,000 (c)
Antigua	310,000 (c)	344,338	654,338 (c)
Dominica	203,360	256,789	460,149
St. Vincent	185,128	153,892	339,020
Montserrat	68,795	102,057	170,852
Virgin Islands	19,709	13,360	33,069
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20,873,762</b>	<b>22,763,562</b>	<b>43,637,324</b>

(a) Excluding goods in transit, the value of which was £963,105.

(b) Excluding goods in transit, the value of which was £315,432.

(c) These figures are estimates only, the final statistics of these colonies not being available.

Dealing with the question of Canadian and American competition, Mr. Pavitt points out that the factors which influenced external trade were—

(1) The depreciation of sterling as compared with United States currency, and to a lesser degree with Canadian currency;

(2) The difficulty, which in some cases amounted to an impossibility, of obtaining machinery and materials for local industries;

(3) The high price of all imported goods; and

(4) Labour conditions.

The West Indian market is one to which Canada has looked as a natural outlet for her products and her capital, and as a source from which to obtain the tropical products she requires. The Canadian bid for the export and import trade of the West Indian colonies is a serious one, but the nature of her trade is such that her competition is more with the United States of America than with the United Kingdom.

The United States of America at the cessation of hostilities found themselves in a strong position in the West Indies. During the war the export of commodities from the United Kingdom had been seriously affected by the various restrictions of trade and also by the shortage of shipping. West Indian merchants were thereby compelled to go to the United States for their merchandise. By the middle of 1919, trade restrictions had almost entirely been removed, and by the end of the year shipping facilities were rapidly returning to a normal state. But American traders had meanwhile taken steps to establish themselves in the favourable position which they so easily obtained during the war. American commercial travellers have been coming to these colonies in large numbers, many new commission agency arrangements have been made, and catalogues and price lists arrive by

every mail in vast quantities from the United States of America. It is doubtful, however, whether all these efforts to hold the West Indian market would have been so successful as they have been, in face of the adverse exchange rate, if it had not been for the fact that supplies in sufficient quantities were altogether unobtainable from the Mother Country. Importers during the last year, states Mr. Pavitt, had the greatest difficulty in stocking the stores adequately, and they therefore gave orders wherever it appeared possible that they could expect delivery without paying much regard to price and other considerations. There is a very general desire to trade with the United Kingdom, a desire which is further encouraged by the granting of Imperial Preference, and now that cargo facilities are back to pre-war conditions, exporters in the United Kingdom may be assured of success where they are willing to quote prices to compete with American lines.

The following figures show the percentages of the total import trade of the principal colonies of the British West Indies obtained by the United Kingdom, the Dominion of Canada and the United States of America during 1913, the last complete pre-war year, 1917, the last complete year under war conditions, and 1919, the first complete year after the cessation of hostilities:—

	JAMAICA.		
	1913	1917	1919
United Kingdom	Per cent. 38.35	Per cent. 18.92	Per cent. 19.91
Canada	8.76	6.77	10.42
United States	46.76	70.64	66.17
	TRINIDAD.		
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
United Kingdom	31.56	20.56	16.68
Canada	9.06	18.08	20.49
United States	28.76	38.18	39.08
	BRITISH GUIANA.		
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
United Kingdom	56.23	32.70	33.56
Canada	6.94	15.75	21.97
United States	23.40	42.37	37.70
	BARBADOS.		
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
United Kingdom	38.33	26.58	19.00
Canada	14.23	15.24	18.65
United States	28.18	36.20	39.84

To put the situation briefly, the United Kingdom has lost half its former trade to the benefit of Canada and the United States, principally the latter. It will, however, be observed that whereas Canada has gained steadily each year America lost a little ground during 1919 in Jamaica and British Guiana. A further point of interest lies in the fact that Canada's advance is more noticeable in Trinidad, British Guiana and Barbados than in Jamaica, which was not a party to the Canadian pact of 1912.



**THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**

**SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE**

**Four Hundred Members Elected this Year.**

With the election on November 18th of the twenty-seven candidates whose names are given below, the number admitted during the present year to membership of the West India Committee now totals 401—

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDBERR
H E Major H. E. S Mr R. Rutherford Cordeaux, C.B., C.M.G. Mr. Cyril Gurney (Bahamas)	
Mr Albert Nind (Trinidad)	Mr. M. Hamel-Smith Mr H. F. Previté
Trinidad Esmeralda Estate, Ltd. (London)	Mr. M. Hamel-Smith Mr H. F. Previté
Mr W. M. Phillips (Cuba)	Mrs. H. H. Sealy Mr. G. H. Arthur
Mr. A. D. Macgillivray (Venezuela)	Mr. D. Macgillivray Mr. R. B. Archibald, J.P.
Dr. A. A. Hearne (British Honduras)	Mr. P. Stanley Woods The Hon. F. W. Hiddle, J.P.
Mr A. W. Rogers (London)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. Cyril Gurney
Mr S. B. Gooding (Barbados)	The Hon. J. R. Phillips Messrs Evelyn Roach & Co.
Mr. Brenton Lopez (Jamaica)	Mr. Manly Lopez Mr. E. A. de Pass
Captain Albert Farley (London)	Mr M. Hamel-Smith Mr A. H. Hamel-Smith
Uroz Oilfields, Ltd., (London)	Mr M. Hamel-Smith Mr. H. F. Previté
Mr. W. N. Sands (Malay States)	Mr. William Gillespie Mr. H. F. Previté
Mr. Harold J. J. Freeman (London)	Mr. Cyril Gurney Mr. William Gillespie
Messrs W. Tanner Boxwell, Son & Co. (Liverpool)	The Hon. B. Gosset Mr. William Gillespie
Mr Charles McK. Pringle (Jamaica)	Mr. William Gillespie Mr. H. F. Previté
Mr. T. D. Westcott (London)	Sir John Dimsdale, Bart. Mr. H. F. Previté
Kern River Oil Fields of California, Ltd. (London)	Mr. H. F. Previté Mr. William Gillespie
Mr. Frank A. Dixon (London)	Mr. James B. Steven Mr. R. Rutherford
Miss Emily Murray (British Guiana)	Mr. David Gibson Mr. R. Rutherford
Major A. G. Kent-Johnson (Country)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. J. W. Pearl
Mr. C. V. Newton (Tobago)	Messrs. Jonas Browne & Son Mr. Cyril Gurney
Mr. W. D. Elwin (Dominica)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. J. W. Pearl
The Royal Bank of Canada (Port-of-Spain)	Mr. T. R. Whitley Mr. J. Mackie
Mr. Ivor C. Daniels (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp Mr. Paul Dumoret
Mr Henry A. Evelyn (Jamaica)	Mr. A. St. G. Spooner Mr. E. Lummoore Marshall
Mr W. S. Maynard (Nevis)	Hon. F. H. Watkins, I.S.O. Mr. Paitfield Mills
Mrs Eileen Centeno (London)	Dr. P. L. Giuseppe Mr. H. F. Previté

**Duke of York and the New Premises.**

A distinguished gathering of members of the medical profession assembled on November 11th at Endsleigh Gardens on the occasion of the formal opening of the new premises of the London School of Tropical Medicine and the Hospital for Tropical Diseases by the Duke of York, among those present being Sir Havelock Charles, Dean of the School; Sir Patrick Manson, Sir James Cantlie, Dr. Sambor, Dr. C. G. Low, and Professor Simpson, whilst the Colonial Office was represented by Lord Milner, Sir Herbert Reid and Mr. A. C. Parkinson, and the West India Committee by its Secretary.

Lord Milner, welcoming the Duke, said that the institution represented one of the greatest achievements of private munificence that he remembered. It originated during the Colonial Secretaryship of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, a time which saw the beginning of a new era of progress and of hope for the tropical possessions of the Crown. At the close of the war it was found desirable that the school should be transferred from Poplar to new premises. Through the generosity of the Red Cross Society they received £100,000 for the purchase of the new buildings, and it became necessary to raise an additional sum of £150,000. Of this they had collected over £100,000.

The Duke of York said: I have great pleasure in declaring this building open for the purposes of a school of tropical medicine and a hospital for the care and treatment of persons suffering from tropical diseases. In doing so I cannot too strongly commend the work that is being done in the interests of those who have helped to build up the great tropical dependencies of this Empire. (Cheers.) We stand under a deep debt of gratitude to all those who have aided in bringing to such a successful issue an undertaking so beneficial, not only to those scientific men who have devoted their lives to the cause, but to those who have contributed and assisted in raising the necessary funds. (Cheers.) To the successive Secretaries of State for the Colonies we owe much, and now we have the able assistance in this direction of Lord Milner, the present Secretary of State. We also record our gratitude to the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. To the students who are beginning this forthcoming session, many of whom, I understand, are officers who have been appointed to the medical departments of the colonies and India, I wish every success in their vital and interesting studies. There is no need for me to emphasise to them the importance of their Imperial task. It is the first duty of a civilised community to provide the conditions of a healthy life, to sweep away the plague spots, to take measures against infection, and, possibly most important of all, to instruct the public as to habits of life which make for health. The School of Tropical Medicine holds a watching brief for the health of the outposts of our wide Empire, and it is here that schemes may be initiated such as have made what was once known as the "White Man's Grave" a land where to-day work and effort may be advanced without the toll of death and suffering which formerly attended life in those regions. I hope that still further funds may be forthcoming to carry on this great work, and especially to advance research. (Cheers.)

At the conclusion of his speech, the Duke having unveiled a tablet recording the munificent gift of the British Red Cross Society, and the Society of St. John of Jerusalem, Mr. P. J. Michelli, C.M.G., presented the Teachers and Staff of the School to his Royal Highness.

As we go to press we have learnt with deep regret that Lord Glenconner died at his residence, 34, Queen Anne's-gate, Westminster, on Sunday, November 21st, of heart failure following an operation. A special memoir of this distinguished Peer, who was closely identified with the West Indies, will be published in our next issue.



## GOLD COAST CACAO INDUSTRY.

Mr. Ruete contributes to our valued contemporary "West Africa" an article dealing with the phenomenal growth of the Gold Coast cacao industry, written, however, before the recent slump in prices. He points out that the wonderful speed with which this trade has grown up bears within it, however, a grave danger. Many Africans are liable to imagine that all they have to do is to plant cacao trees, sit down and wait for them to bear, then gather and pack the beans with as little expenditure of energy as possible, and grow rich. The temptation is strong to think that any sort of cacao will do—if perhaps he should not get the highest price, at any rate, a richly remunerative one will be certain to reward the grower.

"Nothing," says Mr. Ruete, "could be a greater mistake. There are, in fact, but few products in which the difference between good and inferior sorts is so strongly marked, and valued accordingly, as cacao. Just now the demand for this product is good, for the world's consumption of cacao has enormously increased during the last six years, and, after all, there is a limit to the supplies. West Africa's success, however, coupled with the present high prices, assuredly will have brought forth a host of competitors in the growing of this bean.

"Nor yet do we know who and where they are. Be sure of this, however, they are waiting for their trees to start bearing to be disclosed, and to challenge Africa's supremacy by flooding the markets with their beans. It always has been so; why not again?"

"Only by proper cultivation of the plantations and careful, consistent preparation of the cacao beans can the West Coast hope for that continued demand for her finished produce that will encourage her people still to follow, and even to increase, the growing of cacao. Naturally, when offers of good quality are plentiful, buyers will not look at inferior kinds, except at prices disheartening to the grower. Slackened efforts will then become still more slack, cacao-producing cease in many districts, and exports rapidly decline. Much of cacao's value depends upon proper fermentation, which considerably reduces the naturally bitter taste of the raw beans, besides effecting other changes in them that improve the quality of the product.

"In season and out of season the Forestry and Agricultural Departments of the West Coast Governments should continue to preach the gospel of proper fermentation—by pamphlets, lectures, and demonstrations. There is a much greater need for zeal in, and ceaseless prosecution of such a campaign in West Africa than in other cacao-producing countries. The West Coast is comparatively new to the growing of cacao, which is raised almost entirely by the African farmers and proprietors, large and small. In older cacao-growing lands the nearly always large estates are indeed worked by natives, but are owned and managed by Europeans, who, understanding the importance of it, have reduced this fermentation process to a science. Much can be done with even a poor cacao by proper fermentation.

"Some years ago the writer was employed by one of the huge corporations trading to the West Coast. He found the factory buying a little of the scrub-

biest, poor-looking, bitter-tasting cacao, and persuaded the agent to let him try buying the pods instead, and fermenting the cacao on their own beach, under his direction. A price commensurate with the changed conditions of buying was fixed, and everything in pods offered was bought. Of course, all sorts of stuff came in; no knowledge of the different kinds, and there are many, could be had, nor from what sort of trees the beans came—just everything was bought and mixed up in the sweat-houses. Gradually the beginnings of a little trade grew up, and the experimenter had the proud reward of hearing from his home firm that the cacao he was sending home was far and away the best they had received from the West Coast.

"It lies largely within the power of our merchants on the Coast to keep West Africa to the front in cacao-production. Let them encourage the African by every means in their power to bring only superior produce, properly fermented and thoroughly dried, to the factories, and discourage, or even refuse, inferior stuff. Shrewd men will say: 'Oh, but that is not business; what I do not buy, another will, and I can't afford to lose trade like that.' Such an argument is specious sounding, truly, yet it is false.

"In the end it would repay traders well not to touch unfermented cacao, for which there is but the poorest demand, anyway, even to-day. Combinations for purer, better produce can be, have been, made ere now, and cacao should be included in such a one, if it is desired to see the West Coast continue to hold its present proud and profitable position in this trade.

## OCTOBER'S TRADE RETURNS.

The value of imports into the United Kingdom during October was £149,889,227, the lowest figure recorded this year. British exports during the month were valued at £112,295,474, which, in spite of the coal strike, does not represent an appreciable falling off on the figures for the previous month.

The return for the ten months ended October 31st show that during the period, 1,116,836 tons of sugar were imported into the United Kingdom, as compared with 1,558,235 tons for the corresponding period in 1913. Of the total for the current year, 116,690 tons were refined and 1,000,146 unrefined, of the latter 506,600 tons coming from Cuba and 121,619 from the British West Indies. The quantity of sugar entered for home consumption this year was 984,016 tons.

Imports of cacao amounted to 1,991,995 cwt. as against 582,150 cwt. for the same period in 1913, the largest suppliers being British West Africa, 1,407,643 cwt., the British West Indies coming second with 244,423 cwt. The size of the entrepôt trade in this commodity may be judged from the fact that less than half of the total above was entered for home consumption.

Banana imports totalled 6,701,550 bunches, compared with 6,540,767 in 1913. The amount of rum (including imitation rum) imported is shown as 3,487,349 proof gallons, of which 2,351,260 proof gallons were entered for home consumption.

Towards a total import of 705,978 cwt. of coffee,



of which just over one-third was for home consumption, the British West Indies contributed 6,250 cwt. Raw cotton imports amounted to 15,430,474 centals of 100 lb., of which 3,287,372 centals came from British possessions, the contribution of the British West Indies being 25,915 centals. Balata is still included with gutta percha. The combined imports were 81,273 centals.

## THE COLONIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

A list of appointments and transfers for the month of October affecting the West Indian Colonial Civil Service is given below:—

### Appointments.

- LIEUTENANT H. B. SHEPHEARD, Staff Officer, Local Forces, Barbados  
 MR. J. H. ROBINSON, Science Lecturer, Barbados  
 MISS F. PARKINSON, Divisional Nurse, Georgetown Hospital, British Guiana  
 MR. H. DENK, Registrar-General, British Honduras  
 CAPTAIN J. P. COGHELAN, Legal Assistant to Attorney-General, Grenada  
 DR. J. GEOURGAN, District Medical Officer, Falmouth, Jamaica  
 MR. E. DOWNES, Assistant Superintendent of Public Gardens, Jamaica  
 CAPTAIN E. H. WAINWRIGHT, Assistant Locomotives Carriage and Wagon Superintendent, Trinidad  
 MR. J. M. MCGHEE, Inspector of Ways and Works, Government Railway, Trinidad  
 CAPTAIN J. O. CUTTERIDGE, Lecturer in Pedagogy, Trinidad  
 CAPTAIN H. V. M. METIVIER, O.B.E., Veterinary Surgeon, Trinidad  
 DR. E. F. GORDON, Supernumerary Medical Officer (District D., Dominica), Leeward Islands

### Transfers and Promotions.

- MR. J. H. W. PARK, O.B.E., Director of Public Works, Jamaica, Colonial Engineer, Straits Settlements  
 MR. N. C. REEGLER (Attorney-General, St. Vincent), Spondiary Magistrate, British Guiana  
 MR. C. H. KING (Deputy Inspector-General of Police, British Guiana), Commissioner of Police, Sierra Leone  
 MR. R. T. JOHNSON (District Inspector of Police, British Guiana), Assistant Commissioner of Police, Northern Provinces, Nigeria  
 DR. ALAN KIDD (House Surgeon, Victoria Hospital, Bacteriologist and Medical Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum, St. Lucia), Medical Superintendent, General Hospital, Colombo

## MR. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN.

In moving that a monument be erected within the precincts of the Palace of Westminster to the memory of the late Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, the Prime Minister paid a tribute to that great statesman's achievements on behalf of the Empire, remarking that "he aroused the national spirit and awoke the national intelligence to the value and to the imperative need of strengthening the bonds of fraternity between the various parts of the Empire, and the notable part which the Dominions took in the Great War was attributable in no small degree to what he did in arousing that sense of partnership and collaboration."

It is noteworthy that the proposer of the motion, the seconder (Mr. Asquith), and Mr. Clynes, who supported it on behalf of the Labour Party, had all been Mr. Chamberlain's opponents during his lifetime.

## THE WORLD'S SUGAR SUPPLY.

(Continued from page 349.)

In short, while the war lasted everyone in Europe learned to consume sugar, the soldiers through their rations, the civilians through the food tickets.

The general European situation may be summed up as follows:—

Poland. The productive capacity of the areas cultivated in sugar which by the Treaty of Versailles will form part of the Republic of Poland, can be characterised in the following manner. In the Poland of the present day there existed before the war 105 to 110 sugar factories, responsible for a cultivated area of about 200,000 hectares, producing a crop of 5,482,200 tons (2,240 lb.) of beetroot, with a yield of raw sugar of 859,000 tons.

During the war the sugar industry suffered terribly in all parts of Poland, especially in the Kingdom of Poland and Galicia. In Poland during the battles fought in 1914-15, fifteen sugar factories were completely destroyed and many materially damaged. Those which did not suffer, lost during the German and Austrian occupation most valuable copper machinery, which was carried off to Germany. In consequence of the destruction of a considerable number of sugar factories, the removal of copper and machinery, the shortage of nitrates, and the lack of cultivation of beetroot in Poland, the crops materially decreased, with a consequent diminished production of sugar. In 1918-19 in Poland only thirty-four factories continued in operation, with a cultivated area of only 25,000 hectares, while the crop of beetroot amounted to 390,000 tons, with a yield of sugar of 56,100 tons. The sugar industry in Poland thus suffered considerably during the war, both in quality and quantity, for the number of factories at work fell 33 per cent., the area of cultivation 75 per cent. to 80 per cent., and the production of sugar 65 per cent. to 70 per cent.

In Galicia the only two factories were destroyed, so that in the district formerly belonging to Austria only one factory at present is standing in Silesia (Teschen). With regard to the portion of Poland formerly held by Germany, none of the factories suffered damage, because this country was never subject to invasion by hostile armies, with the exception of Eastern Prussia, where the factory Roxenberg was damaged. However, the sugar industry in this part of Poland has suffered owing to the shortage of nitrates and of labour. The area of beetroot under cultivation was enormously reduced. In 1918-19 the area of cultivation in all parts of Prussian Poland (in the Grand Duchy of Posen, East Prussia, and Upper Silesia) has decreased 50 per cent. in comparison with the area in cultivation prior to the war, while the crop has fallen 60 per cent. to 70 per cent., with the result that the production of sugar in the factories of Prussian Poland has diminished 50 per cent. to 55 per cent. The sugar industry in all parts of Poland is passing at present through a severe crisis. With regard to the production of sugar in Polish countries, it will take a long



period of time before the quantity of pre-war days can be produced. The reconstruction of sugar factories destroyed in Poland and Galicia will take years. Almost all the factories in Poland will have to be provided with new installations of machinery entirely different to those in operation before the war. Almost all its factories at present in existence are of a medium type (size) in which the daily yield is relatively low, only 400 tons of beetroot being dealt with in a day. Dealing with present conditions, the daily quantity of beetroot should be double that quantity, or 800 to 1,000 tons of beetroot. The process of reconstruction in Poland will be a very great difficulty in consequence of the high prices now prevailing for the cost of machinery, the high rates of exchange, and the high wages.

The most serious problem in the reorganisation of the sugar industry in these parts will be improvement in the cultivation of beet for sugar. Before the war the areas cultivated in beet in Poland were notorious for the small yield of beetroots per hectare. In the period from 1904-5 to 1913-14 inclusive, a hectare gave only 19-20 tons of beetroots for sugar; in German Poland, 27-90 tons; in Germany, 28-80 tons; in Austria, 24-10 tons; and in Russia, 15-5 tons.

Taking into consideration the yield of sugar, we find that a hectare (2½ acres) in Poland produced 4-34 tons; in German Poland, 4-64 tons; in Austria Hungary, 3-1 tons; and in Russia, 2-32 tons. A sugar factory in Poland produced, per hectare, 1-5 tons of raw sugar less than a factory in German Poland; 1-8 tons less than in Germany; 0-55 tons less than in Austria-Hungary; and 0-5 more than in Russia.

It is evident that the increase in the yield of beetroot in Poland and also the improvement of the yield in order to equal that of Germany and Austria as produced to-day, will require a good supply of labour, considerable capital, and a long period of time. These remarks apply equally to Galicia. Otherwise the sugar industry in German Poland, from the standpoint of the quality of the beetroot and the yield of sugar must follow the same development of the present German industry, and has all the requisites to be able to compete in the open markets of the world. The factories in German Poland are capable of a large output, being able to deal with a daily average of 1,000 to 1,200 tons of beetroot.

Germany.—The productive capacity has, owing to the want of fertilisers and of adequate cultivation, been reduced from 2,721,000 tons in 1913-14 to 1,400,000 tons in 1918-19, more than 46 per cent. From this fact Germany will be able only to supply her own needs, and will remain excluded from the list of the great exporting sugar nations for many years to come. Although her factories and lands were not devastated in the war, many of them in Eastern Prussia will now be included in the new Republic of Poland. Germany, after this crop, will have to import 200,000 tons of sugar a year.

Austria-Hungary.—The dual empire has ceased to exist. Practically all the sugar properties are now included in the new State of Czecho-Slovakia.

(To be continued.)

## The Glorious Dead.

The country has been deeply moved by the scenes which accompanied the unveiling of the permanent Cenotaph in Whitehall by the King, and the burial of the "Unknown Warrior" in Westminster Abbey on Armistice Day. The West Indian colonies were represented on this solemn occasion by Sir George Le Hunte, G.C.M.G., late Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, who placed a wreath at the base of the monument on their behalf. The West India Committee also furnished a wreath composed of laurels with a spray of cycas palm leaves and a red, white, and blue sash bearing the inscription:—

TO THE GLORIOUS MEMORY  
OF THE  
OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND MEN  
OF THE  
THE BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT  
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES TO  
THEIR KING AND EMPIRE.

Mr and Mrs. Goodwin, on behalf of a few Antigua friends, deposited a beautiful wreath of palm leaves and arbutus berries, "In proud and grateful remembrance of those from Antigua, British West Indies, who willingly made the Great Sacrifice, 1914-1918, and September 22nd, 1920"—the latter being the date of the death of Flying Officer Ian McDonald, M.C., D.F.C., to which reference is made immediately below—" 'Tis not to die to live in the hearts of those we loved.'"

## THE ROLL OF HONOUR.

### Flying Officer Ian McDonald, M.C., D.F.C.

Yet another name has to be added to the West Indian Roll of Honour—that of Flying Officer Ian McDonald, M.C., D.F.C., Royal Air Force, of Antigua, who has lost his life while on Active Service in Mesopotamia, under peculiarly tragic circumstances. It appears that the machine in which this very gallant young officer was flying was seen to fall in the river at Samawah on September 22nd, having apparently been shot down whilst its occupant was engaged in dropping food on the defence vessel *Greenfly*, which had stranded. Flying Officer McDonald was seen to wade ashore and was taken prisoner; and from a subsequent report he is known to have been killed at Dangatora. Such is the first official report of the end of this gallant young flying officer to reach the Air Council.

Flying Officer McDonald was the only son of the Hon. Donald McDonald, member of the Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands, and of Mrs. McDonald, of Antigua. He was at school in England when the war broke out, and in the year 1916, when only seventeen years of age, he joined the Royal Flying Corps. He went out to France in the following year, and within six months had been promoted to the rank of Captain and had received the Military Cross and the Distinguished Flying Cross after having accounted for no fewer than twenty enemy planes. Shortly before the Armistice, he was found to be suffering from eyestrain, and being consequently granted long leave he proceeded to his home in Antigua, where he received a well-merited public welcome. Early in 1919 he returned to England, and, receiving a permanent commission, he was specially



selected to act as Flying Instructor at Cranwell Flying College. But the comparatively hum-drum life of a soldier at home was not to his taste, and he therefore volunteered for Russia. Failing to get out there, he was on the point of sending in his papers with a view to going out to Antigua again to join his father's business, when he received an offer to go to Mesopotamia on active service, which he eagerly accepted. He arrived there early in August, and in the following month, as stated above, his brief but brilliant career was brought to a close. A boy of great integrity and charm, he endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact.

## FISH OF THE ANTILLES.

It is generally considered that fishes are more abundant in the colder seas than in those that are tropical and sub-tropical. In the "Report on the Fishes of the Colonies,"\* prepared by Mr. C. Tate Regan, F.R.S., which has now been published, it is stated that the real difference, a very important one for the fisheries, is that in the warmer seas there are many more different kinds of fishes, and probably fewer individuals of any one species than in the colder waters. Moreover, with the exception of the China Sea, in the tropics there are no large areas of comparatively shallow water, such as form the principal trawling grounds in northern seas.

Some trawling grounds of limited extent are known in the tropics, and others may be discovered, but it is certain that a large part of the sea near the coasts of tropical countries, when of suitable depth for trawling, has the bottom uneven and rocky. From these and other considerations, such as the difficulty of preserving the fish or of selling a high-grade product, except in remote markets, it is evident that the development of fisheries in many parts of the tropics will not be easy.

In the Antillean region of the Tropical Atlantic, stretching from Bermuda to Brazil, there are no members of the Cod or Flat-fish groups of any importance. The varieties of fish found Mr. Regan distinguishes as follows:—

*Elopidae*.—The Tarpon (*Megalops atlanticus*), and its smaller relative the Pony-Fish (*Elops saurus*), are important to sportsmen, but are little value as food.

*Albulidae*.—*Albula vulpes*. On sandy coasts reaches 3 ft. in length. Said to be esteemed as a food-fish at Key West.

*Clupeidae*.—*Sardinella aurita*. Abundant and esteemed as a food-fish in the West Indies. I am unable to distinguish it from the Mediterranean "Alluone," which is the object of an important fishery in North Africa. It is very similar to the Sardine (*Sardina pilchardus sardina*) in size, appearance and habits, but is not reckoned quite so good a fish. *Brevortia tyrannus*. The Menhaden is abundant on the Gulf coast of the United States, but it seems unlikely that a fishery for this important fish could be conducted from the Bahamas or Jamaica.

*Engraulis borealis*. This is the most abundant of the West Indian species of Anchovies. Length, 4 in. to 6 in.

*Congeridae*. The Conger Eel (*Conger conger*) ranges from Cape Cod to Brazil, but another species (*C. roudilimbatus*) seems to be more abundant in the West Indies, where it is used as food.

*Anguillidae*. The American Eel (*Anguilla chrysa*),

which is almost identical with the European Eel, is found in Dominica, and in the islands northwards.

*Balonidae*. Species of *Balona* reach a large size, and are abundant and valued as food in the West Indies.

*Mugilidae*. *Mugil brasiliensis* and *M. curema* appear to be the most abundant species of Gray Mullet—they are said to be common in the markets of Cuba and Porto Rico. The freshwater Mullet (*Agonostomus monticola*) is common in streams throughout the West Indies, and is used as food.

*Sphyraenidae*. The Barracuda (*Sphyraena barracuda*) is a large and voracious fish, common in the West Indies. It has some value as a food-fish, but has sometimes proved poisonous. The reason for this needs investigation. There are also some smaller species of *Sphyraena*.

*Polynemidae*. *Polynemus virginicus* is an abundant and useful food-fish. Length about 12 in. Valued in Porto Rico. On sandy shores and in estuaries like a Gray Mullet, but with long pectoral filaments.

*Pomatomidae*. The Blue Fish (*Pomatomus saltator*) is a migratory pelagic carnivorous species, averaging 3 lb. to 5 lb., on the Florida coast. A most excellent food-fish, it is found throughout the Caribbean Sea.

*Centropomidae* ("Robalos"). Fishes of sandy shores and estuaries. *C. undecimalis* often attains a length of 2 ft. *C. parallelus* is a smaller species. Both are esteemed as food at Porto Rico.

*Serranidae* (Sea-Perches). One of the largest and most important families in the tropics. Nearly all carnivorous bottom-fishes, many in shallow water near the coast, the larger often in deeper water—to about 50 fathoms. *Epinopelus*—Groupers. Many species, of which the most important as food are:—*E. cruentatus*. Coqui. A small species, common about the reefs. *E. ascensionis*. Rock-hind. Reaches 18 in. *E. striatus*. Nassau Grouper. Reaches 3 ft. *E. drummond-hayi*. Speckled-hind. Reaches 3 ft. Abundant on Snapper Banks in Gulf of Mexico. *E. morio*. Red-Grouper. Reaches 3 ft. and about 40 lb. Taken with Red Snapper on the Snapper Banks. Very tenacious of life, and bears crowding in live wells of smacks, so the Key-West fishermen prefer it for the Cuban market. *E. itaiara*. Spotted Jew fish. A very large species, to 6 ft. *E. aser*. A small species, common at Porto Rico. *E. fabatus*. "Becalao," to 2 ft. or 3 ft. An important food-fish at Havana. *E. venenosus*. Is said to be poisonous.

*Lobotidae*.—*Lobotes surinamensis*. A large Percoid Fish not uncommon at Porto Rico.

*Lutjanidae* (Snappers).—Active carnivorous bottom-fishes of tropical coasts, nearly all valued as food. *Lutjanus griseus*. Gray Snapper or Mangrove Snapper. In waters of varying depth, often close to shore.

*L. apodus*. "Schoolmaster." Common at Porto Rico. *L. aya*. Red Snapper. Reaches 3 ft. and 35 lb. The object of an important American fishery in the Gulf of Mexico on the "Snapper Banks," off Florida, Campeche and Yucatan, at depths of 15 to 50 fathoms. The bottom is irregular and rocky, and they are caught by a baited hook sunk by a heavy lead. *L. analis*. Mutton Fish, to 25 lb. In shallower water, to about 20 fathoms, than *L. aya*. An important food-fish in Cuba and Porto Rico, caught in fish-traps, or in shallow water with hand-seines. *L. synagris*. A small species; a popular food-fish at Havana. *L. chrysurus*. Yellow-tail, to 2 ft. Common at Porto Rico.

*Pomadasidae*.—*Haemulon*. Grunts. Small species (to 12 in. or 18 in.); several kinds common in markets of Cuba and Porto Rico. Caught with traps, hand-seine, or hook and line.

*Sparidae* (Sea-breams).—A few small species are caught for local markets.

(To be concluded.)



## JAMES RODWAY, F.L.S.

By J. GRAHAM CRUICKSHANK

Mr. James Rodway, F.L.S., the Librarian and Honorary Curator of the museum of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana, completed the fiftieth year of his life in Demerara on the 26th September, 1920.

Mr. Rodway—who was born at Trowbridge, Wiltshire, on the 27th February, 1848, came out to Demerara as an assistant to Joseph Klein, druggist, Water-street, Georgetown, in 1870. In 1887, on the failure of its proprietor, he bought the "Apothecaries' Hall," also in Water-street, and set up his own business. On February 1st, 1888—partly on the strength of a bibliography of Guiana contributed to the "Argosy," recently started by Mr. James Thomson—he was appointed librarian of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society, in succession to Mr. Charles Crompton. In 1903, on the resignation of Dr. Evans, he took charge also of the Museum.

Mr. Rodway's botanical, historical and literary work during half a century would make a formidable article to catalogue in detail. His chief works may be briefly indicated. They fall naturally under two headings—namely, historical and botanical.

The bibliography of Guiana, already mentioned, may be said to have been the first of the historical writings, albeit it remains buried in the dusty files of the "Argosy." It merits exhumation. In 1888 Mr. Rodway, in collaboration with Mr. Thomas Watt, proprietor of the "Royal Gazette," began the publication, in sixpenny parts, of a selection from the scattered materials for a history of Guiana. This was an ambitious work, which was intended to include State papers, proclamations and all the authentic important facts of the past of the three Guianas, wherever found, in twelve or more volumes. Six parts of about forty-eight pages each would make up a volume. The six parts of Volume I., in light green paper covers, duly came out, and two parts of Volume II. Then Mr. Watt failed, and the project had to be abandoned. Mr. Rodway supplied all the published material; Mr. Watt was to have provided the later facts from his newspaper files. Events were brought down to the year 1712. The "Annals of Guiana" are quite out of print, any floating copies being eagerly sought after by students and collectors of South America.

Mr. Rodway, who had become interested in the past of the land of his adoption, then turned his attention to a history. Two histories of British Guiana already existed, Dalton (1855), in two volumes, and Bennett (1866). Dalton's is much the more important of the two works, but is inadequate and on many points wrong, being based on already published books rather than on a personal study of documents themselves. Mr. Rodway was to remedy this. He went to the records of the colony. For the most part these lay higgledy-piggledy, in unsorted heaps, on the floor of an outhouse of the public buildings in Georgetown. Few people knew about them, or cared to know. Mr. N. Darnell Davis,

and one or two more, were interested in them; but the average official looked on them as "rubbish," and would gladly have burned them all to make room for the more lively memorabilia of his own day. Their disturbance suggested to him nothing short of an immediate outbreak of cholera or yellow fever. Mr. Rodway obtained easy access to the dusty, unvisited room, and began his great work of sorting and arranging the papers preparatory to binding. Then he borrowed the records—the most precious of which were the minutes of the Court of Policy of Demerara and Essequibo—volume by volume, and, with the help of a translator for the ones in Dutch, went through them on two or three evenings a week, during several years, until all had been sapped or in parts translated in detail. Gradually a real picture of the colony began to emerge from those buried pages of the past. Then Mr. James Thomson—the foster-father of the local pentman—came in, and the first volume of Rodway's "History of British Guiana" was published by the "Argosy" Press. This was in 1891. Second and third volumes followed in 1893 and 1894. Neither Mr. Thomson nor Mr. Rodway got anything out of the History, save a reputation for rare public spirit. To author and publisher alike it was a labour of love, the value of which will be more justly appraised as time goes on. The work is and is likely to remain the standard history of British Guiana.

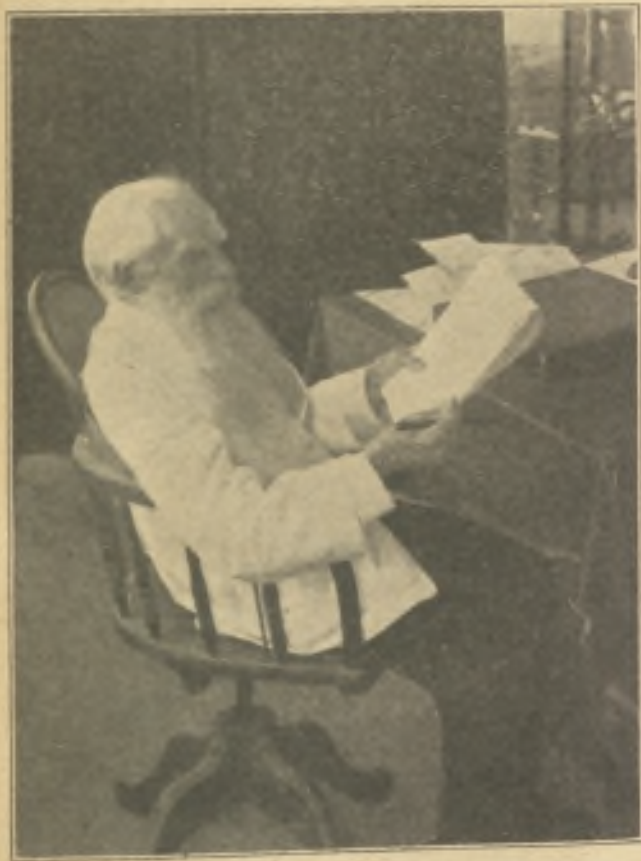
In 1896 Mr. Rodway wrote "The West Indies and the Spanish Main" for Mr. T. Fisher Unwin's "Story of the Nations" series. In 1912 Mr. Unwin published from Mr. Rodway's pen "Guiana: British, Dutch, and French"—a volume of upwards of three hundred pages—as one of his South American series.

This year Mr. Rodway has seen through the "Argosy" Press a reprint in book form of articles contributed to the "Argosy" in 1903 under the title "The Story of Georgetown." The book is published by the municipality.

Coming now to botany, Mr. Rodway had been a botanist before coming to Demerara, and brought out as part of his impedimenta a British herbarium which, during the years when the botanist was temporarily eclipsed by the historian, was destroyed by vermin. He was to find his great inspiration in the tropical forest. Telling of the first bush trip—re-calling the lazy paddling of the bateau on the dark waters of the Madewini creek, below a canopy of trees and creepers and a thousand forms of tropical vegetation—Mr. Rodway has said: "The forest was a revelation, the grandest sight I ever saw in my life." In a recent article the veteran botanist wrote: "My heart glows to-day as I think of the first peep into the forest forty-nine years ago." Mr. Rodway's first Nature-writing to attract outside attention was a paper, "The Struggle for Life in the Forest," contributed to "Timchri" (the Journal of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society) in 1891. This was noticed in the "Review of Reviews" by Mr. Stead, who said: "It gives a more vivid picture of the struggle for existence, so far as trees and plants are concerned, in the tropical forest than anything I have come across. Mr. Rodway can write." The paper was reprinted in the Smithsonian



"Collections." A companion sketch, "The Struggle for Life in the Swamp," appeared in the next number of "Timbri." This was also noticed in the "Reviews of Reviews" as "a very interesting paper giving a wonderful account of the way in which plants strife each other in the swamps." Mr. Rodway was encouraged to go on. In his descriptions of the great forests and swamps and the muddy sea-shore of Guiana he had found himself. He had the eye to see and the pen to put what he saw graphically on paper. Arrangements were made with Mr. Fisher Unwin to publish a book on the lines of the papers in "Timbri." The year 1894 saw the publication of "In the Guiana Forest: Studies of Nature in Relation to the Struggle for



JAMES RODWAY, F.L.S.

Life" (Unwin, London). Mr. Rodway's name was made. The book was received with a chorus of praise by the reviewers. The "Athenæum" said: "This book is no ephemeral publication, but one which is worthy of a place in the library by the side of the works of the great trio of writers on tropical America—Wallace, Bates, and Belt." Mr. Edward Clodd in the "Academy" said: "Mr. Rodway maintains the high standard of . . . Humboldt, Waterton, Bates and Hudson." The "Pall Mall Gazette" called the author "A Jeffries of the Tropics."

(To be concluded.)

## THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

By ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 343.)

To-day Dominica has in the Hon. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., the living counterpart of Dr. John Murray. The points of resemblance between the two are remarkable. Dr. Nicholls was for some years associated with Dr. Murray in his practice and eventually succeeded him as Medical Officer. Like his predecessor, he is an eminent agriculturist, his Text Book on Tropical Agriculture being a classic, which should be used in every West Indian school. He is, too, the owner of the historic St. Arment Estate, and maintains the correspondence with the Royal Gardens at Kew which was originated by Dr. Murray. In the medical as well as in the agricultural field Dr. Nicholls has gained distinction, and to this circumstance may perhaps be attributed the—alleged—fact that when he was given the C.M.G. for his work in connection with yaws, he was credited with having written a treatise on yaws! I therefore considered myself particularly fortunate when, on reaching the roadstead of Roseau, I learned that Dr. Nicholls, who at the time was administering the Government of the Presidency, was sending off his boat to take me ashore, and that I was to have the privilege of spending the day with him.

Now for the first time the Clerk of the Weather failed us. Clouds which had been gathering round the summits of the mountains rolled rapidly down the valleys, blotting out the landscape, and the smooth surface of the sea was ruffled by the rain which came nearer and nearer until it enveloped our ship, and we knew that we were in for a wet day. This did not, however, damp our spirits in the least, for we were not unprepared, having been told that it always rains *somewhere* in Dominica on three hundred and sixty-five days in every year.

On landing, we received a cordial welcome from Dr. Nicholls and his charming family at his residence, Kingsland House, where he preferred to remain rather than move to Government House. Breakfast over, the worthy Doctor proposed an expedition up the famous—or, as some planters declare, infamous—Imperial Road, of which so much has been written. Mr. Peter Noble, the Colonial engineer, who enjoys the reputation of being able to drive a car on a tight-rope, was pressed into the service, and we were soon spinning along the coast road to the north of Roseau in his automobile.

The question of roads in Dominica has been a burning one for many years. Early maps show a perfect network of roads and bridle-paths all over the island, but most of these highways and byways, which were made by the French, now exist in the imagination only. During the Governorship of Sir William Haynes-Smith, whilst Mr. (now Sir) George Le Hunt was Commissioner, an elaborate scheme for the development of communications was formulated, and £40,000 was raised by loan for carrying it out. Owing, however, to bickerings between the Road Board and the Engineer and to unforeseen difficulties of construction, there was little to show for it beyond the improvement of existing roads and the erection of



bridges, and one of the principal proposals, which was to drive a road to Layou—thus opening up for settlement the fertile district known as the Layou Flats—and thence to the Windward Coast, was shelved.

The Layou Flats had long been regarded as Dominica's "Promised Land." They had attracted the eagle eye of Dr. Inray, and had formed the subject of a special report by his successor, my present host; but it was not until 1898 that definite steps were made towards opening them up. In that year, during the Administration of Mr. (now Sir) Hesketh Bell, with the help of the sum of £15,000 voted by the House of Commons, work was begun on the road now rejoicing in the name "Imperial," as a compliment to the Imperial Parliament. Many young settlers were induced to take up grants of land on either side of the road as its construction progressed, and embarked on the cultivation of citrus fruits and cacao. Unfortunately, however, the picture put before these enthusiasts was too highly coloured, and the capital required for such enterprise was placed altogether too low a figure, with the result that many of them were frozen out—if one may be pardoned for using that expression in connection with a tropical isle—whilst the fittest who survived found that this Imperial Road was quite inadequate for heavy-wheeled traffic, and consequently for getting their produce to market. In a word, it was a failure.

Still, to the visitor the road is a delight. From the coast it strikes into the interior at a point near Canefield, an estate growing limes and sugar-canes, now owned by Mr. Green, an enterprising American, who has spared neither money nor energy in bringing it as near to perfection as a West Indian estate can be. Particularly noticeable are the estate's buildings, which would not look out of place on a model farm in England. The road ascends rapidly, sometimes on the straight, sometimes by zigzags, with sharp hair-pin turns, commanding alternately exquisite views over Woodbridge Bay and forest-clad valleys of every shade of green, from the light hues of the balisier—a plant of the banana tribe, whose presence is regarded as a sure indication of the fertility of the soil—to the darker shades of the forest trees, whose branches are festooned with lianes and creeper of infinite variety. At places the road is cut clean out of the mountain side, exposing a rich red soil which gives its name to the Red Gully. Of the surface of the road there was nothing to complain; but what would it be like under the weight and strain of cart traffic? And how would vehicles pass one another on it? Perhaps the day will come when the finances of Dominica will permit of the widening of the road, and for its completion from Passinville, where it now ends through the Layou country to the Windward coast. Till then it will never fulfil the purpose for which it was conceived.

We drove as far as Highbury, where there is a small rest-house, or shanty, for the convenience of travellers. Leaving our car a little way beyond that place, we walked down a pathway to a typical settler's residence overlooking an expansive valley, where we found an Anglo-Indian and his wife, bemoaning their fate at being marooned in such a rainy district. One wonders how they carried the

lances and penates with which they were surrounded to their exalted eyrie!

The run down hill back to Roseau would have been a sad trial to the nerves if one had been seated behind any "shuver" other than Mr. Noble; but with that capable engineer, who seemed almost part of the car, at the wheel, no one could feel a moment's anxiety, and we were landed at Kingsland House again just before noon, after a most delightful and exhilarating run.

The next item on the programme was a drive through the Botanical Garden at the back of Roseau. This garden, now perhaps the most beautiful in the West Indies, is ideally situated in a rich and sheltered hollow on the left bank of the Roseau River, and at the foot of the Morne, an elevated plateau about 500 ft. above the sea level. It is well stocked with such economic plants as limes, oranges, cacao, kola, nutmegs, ramie, vanilla and coffee, which are sold at purely nominal prices to all and sundry who may wish to purchase them, whether they be estates' proprietors or peasants, whilst its spacious grounds are planted with many stately tropical palms which rear their heads towards the sky from an undulating grassy lawn.

Only just thirty years old, the Garden possesses all the freshness and vigour of youth, and consequently gives one some idea of what the famous garden at St. Ann's in Trinidad must have been like in its early days. Prior to 1891 a small nursery had been maintained in the grounds of Government House, but this proved to be altogether inadequate for the growing needs of the island, and the present garden was therefore established. The site was selected by Mr. (now Sir) Daniel Morris, and the garden was laid out under his direction by Mr. Henry F. Green, who was succeeded in 1892 by the present Curator, Mr. Joseph Jones, an official to whom Dominica certainly owes a debt of gratitude. No doubt Mr. Jones has received many tempting offers to go elsewhere, for he has the reputation of being a very capable agriculturist, and the local planters are certainly to be congratulated upon having retained his services for no fewer than twenty-eight years, thus securing a continuity of policy and a concentration of activities which is altogether unusual in the West Indian Civil Service. Mr. Jones is now an Official Member of the Legislative Council of the Presidency, and is deservedly esteemed and respected by all classes of the community. Like many of his colleagues in other islands, he received his early training at the Royal Gardens, Kew, whose services in selecting and sending out agriculturists and in giving advice on tropical agricultural matters have never been so fully appreciated in the West Indies as they deserve to be.

From the Gardens to the Club was quite a short run, and here I found some of the more energetic members, on the principle "The better the day the better the deed"—and it will be recalled that it was Sunday—engaged in putting new cushions to their billiard table. The Dominica Club is a comparatively recent creation; but it is second to none in the West Indies in dispensing the hospitality traditional to the West Indian colonies.

(To be continued.)



## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

The only country in Europe that exported sugar last year was the Republic of Czecho-Slovakia (that is, Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, and Slovakia). The export amounted to 232,884 metric tons. Of this the largest export was to Austria—about 160,000 tons. France took about 55,000 tons and Germany about 26,000 tons. Other countries, including Great Britain, imported much smaller amounts.

The coffee planters of Southern India realise the need of selection of seed, and of cross pollination to obtain a new strain of vigorous coffee yielding larger crops. They have already obtained, by working on Mendelian lines, a new hybrid which is highly resistant to disease, and gives a much larger yield than the ordinary kind. Mr. K. D. Anstead, Deputy-Director of Agriculture, has contributed an account of the industry in Southern India to the "Agri. Journal of India," xiv. 578 (1919).

In Queensland about 170,000 acres are under sugarcane. It is considered possible to increase the sugar area to 500,000 acres. In 1917 the record crop of 314,000 tons was produced. It is estimated that a production of only 220,000 tons would yield 8,200,000 gallons of molasses. This should produce 3,520,000 gallons of commercial alcohol. In the season 1919-20 the Government made up for the shortage in Queensland crops by importing 100,000 tons of raw sugar, mostly from Java.

The "Times" Jamaica correspondent, in the issue of July 20th, 1920, states that in the previous month there was severe competition between the four companies engaged in the banana trade in Jamaica. It was the biggest banana war the island has ever seen, and it was responsible for as much as 11s. 6d. a bunch being paid in the open market. Some buying agents even went to the length of paying the cost of transport to the shipping points. By the end of the month the price had settled down in some parts to from 5s. to 7s. a bunch.

Parts of New Zealand have for many years been overrun by rabbits, and the pastures for sheep and cattle have suffered greatly in consequence. Stringent laws have been passed compelling landowners to destroy rabbits in order that their numbers might be reduced and the pastures protected. But now rabbits, instead of being a pest, are a profitable industry. Last year more than 14,000,000 skins, valued on the spot at 1s. apiece, were exported to fill the demand for the fur. Besides, over 1½ million frozen dressed rabbits, valued at 1s. each, were exported to England and other countries in Europe for food. Well-stretched winter skins were selling as high as 9s. a pound, and second winter skins at 5s. a pound, while super and double winters sold at auction at 13s. 6d. a pound. At these prices a hunter and trapper with a good dog can make in the season from £4 to £8 a day.

A package of oranges from Jamaica was seen a few days ago at the office of Messrs. Elders & Fyffes covered with mould and in process of rapid decay. Experiments have been carried out at Kew Gardens to ascertain the value of various substances in preventing the decay of ripe fruit. The result of these experiments was that commercial formalin was most effective—cheap and easy of application, there being also an entire absence of danger in its use. The method recommended is to immerse the fruit for ten minutes in cold water contain-

ing 3 per cent. of commercial formalin, and afterwards placed on wire netting to drain and dry. It may be that this process would be too expensive to use with oranges, but it might be tried with high-priced fruits such as mangoes.

An article by Dr. F. W. Zeban, of the Louisiana Sugar Experiment Station, published in the "Louisiana Planter," has been reproduced in the "Agricultural News." It gives a survey of the results of investigations carried out in his laboratory on the relative importance of some of the colouring matters in cane-juices and sugar-house products. He outlines the main features of certain colouring matters. Little is understood as to the extent to which each of them contributes to the colour of any one product of the sugar-house. It is important, however, that exact knowledge of such a nature should be obtained, for it governs the procedure in any factory where the manufacture of certain type of final product is desired. For instance, the Javan factories are striving to produce a high-grade white sugar, the quality of the final molasses being immaterial, whereas the factories in Louisiana have to produce white sugar along with pale-coloured syrup and molasses.

British East Africa has large forest reserves of good timber. The greater part is in the highlands. A number of narrow-gauge railway lines have already been laid from the main line to those sections where operations are being carried out. The industry will probably develop into a very important one in the near future. Many saw-mills are now operating in various parts of the country. The Government is considering the question of improving the harbour facilities for the export of timber. There are large quantities suitable for railway construction work, furniture, &c. The timber of a species of *Podocarpus* has been tested for harbour works, and after a year in the water has been found perfectly sound and good, whereas haulks of pitch-pine have been quite eaten through by teredo worm in the same time. It also makes good railway sleepers and construction timbers, when creosoted. There is also a species of Juniper cedar that is of great value, as it is one of the few timbers that resist the attacks of the white ant and other insects. Species of both these timbers are natives of the West Indies at the higher elevations, and might well be grown in forest reserves or on private estates. *Podocarpus* is known locally under the name of yacca.

An expert has been sent out by the Colonial Office to the Bahamas for the purpose of research work on sponges. He is to investigate the possibility of extending the sponge industry in the Bahamas and Leeward and Windward Islands. Part of the scheme is to study methods of cultivating varieties of sponge of commercial value. The Bahamas sponges are very similar to the Florida sponges, but none of them are as valuable as the Mediterranean fine bath sponges. Successful attempts have already been made in rearing sponges by "cuttings." It is doubtful whether the total weight of sponges produced by cuttings would be greater than the weight of the sponges from which the cuttings were taken if these sponges were allowed to continue their growth undisturbed. But, at any rate, the method is useful in extending sponge-growing in suitable places where there are no sponges. H. V. Wilson, in the "Bulletin of the U.S. Fish Commission" (1897), suggested that sponges may be artificially reared from the eggs, in the same way that fishes or oysters are reared. The eggs develop into free-swimming larvae, which eventually attach themselves to rocks, and commence to grow as fixed sponges. The larvae of valuable kinds might be induced to attach themselves like oyster-spat to rocks where suitable conditions exist for their cultivation.



been asked to report what progress had been made in this direction. On a later date, Lieut.-Colonel Amery said that the report was referred to the Conjoint Board on October 2nd.

#### American Troops in Hayti.

Mr. Pennefather asked, on November 16th, if, according to a report made by the commandant of the American Marine Corps, during the three and a half years of occupation of Hayti by America some 3250, or approximately one out of every 400 of the Haytian population, had been killed; had the attention of the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs been drawn to a statement made by Mr. Harry A. Frank, in an American journal, to the effect that the Haytian Government had protested to England, asking her to intervene to stop such practices; whether the Haytian Government or anyone on its behalf had made any protest or request to the British Government; and, if so, would he state what attitude the British Government took in regard to the matter?

Mr. Cecil Harmsworth replied that he was aware that allegations had been made with regard to the conduct of some of the American troops in Hayti, and he understood that a board of inquiry has been appointed to investigate the matter. He was making inquiries with regard to the statements by Mr. Frank, but no request for intervention had been received by his Majesty's Government from or on behalf of the Haytian Government.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

### WEST INDIAN CURRENCY REFORM.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I should like, with your permission, to correct some of the impressions of a "Correspondent" on West Indian Currency that appeared in your last issue. If, as he suggests, they are based on the experience of a travelling auditor, the disadvantages of the present dual system would clearly not appeal to him as they do to others; for, firstly, he is concerned with books only, and not with coins; and, secondly, the interminable need of reconciling and carrying in mind values expressed in two different currencies (and three whenever U.S. or Canadian dollars are involved) is left to others. This supposition would also explain his making such assertions as "the only purely dollar currency which exists is the bank-note circulation"—this is inaccurate, inasmuch as he overlooks Government issues—the bit does not enter into commerce in any way whatsoever" and "is purely a matter for the sugar estates"—he is evidently unaware that where in banking sterling silver is put up in bags of \$25, \$50, and \$100, bits are a necessity if the inclusion of copper coins, which upsets the weights, is to be avoided. In the markets of British Guiana, again, goods are almost invariably priced in bits, and the same applies to certain task labour apart from the estates; in fact, the usage of the bit is perhaps the only serious obstacle to the adoption there of the scheme that I advocate.

As regards the double florins, they constitute merely an incidental and unessential part of the proposals, and the necessary supply, which would not amount to a day's output of the Mint, would be, I am informed, a mere bagatelle to it.

With the decimal aspect of the project my critic appears to agree, although, in regard to the adoption of decimal currency in the Mother Country, it is evident from his remarks that the Report of the Royal Commissioners has escaped his attention—or perhaps he does not regard them as "thinking persons."

I am, Sir, &c.

IVAN DAVSON.

November 19th, 1920.

## OUR LIBRARY.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN SUGAR JOURNAL ANNUAL. Vol. 1, No. 1. THE UICA PRINTING COMPANY, LTD., 42, COMMERCIAL ROAD, DURBAN. 5s., or 7s. 6d. bound.

This is the first appearance of an annual publication which promises to be an important addition to Sugar literature in general, and that pertaining to African sugar in particular. It deals not only with Natal, but also with Mauritius, the Mozambique district and East Africa. Its pages are so full of interest that it is difficult to select from them special articles of value. Of historical interest is a description of the mill made sixty-one years ago by the then firm of Mirrloes & Tait, of Glasgow, for the famous African explorer, Dr. Livingstone, on behalf of the Matabele chief Sekelutu, for a site above the Victoria Falls in N.W. Rhodesia; and the development of the African sugar industry is well shown by the side-by-side illustrations of this mill and the massive quadruple plant of the Sena sugar factory in the Mozambique.

An article of especial value in connection with modern factories is one especially written for the work by Mr. Charles Griffiths, O.B.E., on the "Electrification of Cane-Sugar Mills," the term "mills" being used for factories as a whole. Taking all things into consideration, the author concludes that a saving of 14s per ton of sugar is effected by the use of electricity instead of steam for motive power. In view of the use of alcohol for motor power, an important and interesting account is given of the Natalite factory, of which alcohol is the principal ingredient.

Space will not permit us to deal further with the interesting matter in the work under review, to the perusal of which we unhesitatingly refer those of our readers who are concerned with the subject of sugar and its by-products.

THE MANUFACTURE OF SUGAR FROM THE CANE AND BEET. T. H. P. HERIOT, F.I.C. 411 pp., 39 Illustrations. LONGMANS GREEN & CO.

This work is one of the series of Monographs on Industrial Chemistry, edited by Sir Edward Thorpe, C.B., LL.D., F.R.S., and covers the whole of the subject of sugar-making—beet, cane and refinery—including the by-products from these industries. To deal satisfactorily with such an immense subject in the limit of the 411 pages of this work is necessarily a difficult matter, and it is much to the credit of Mr. Heriot, who is the Lecturer on Sugar at the Glasgow Technical College, and has had considerable experience with Colonial manufacture, that he has succeeded in giving the salient points of each subject in a concise and business-like manner. Intended primarily for students, it is also of use to the manufacturer, as it points the way to the obtaining of fuller information in the direction of new processes and methods than the scope of the work permits. In a work of such excellence it is invidious to find fault, but it is a pity that, in connection with rum manufacture, only the Demerara method is particularised, no reference being made to the more important Jamaica work. In the description, also, of the cane constituents, the "glucose" is spoken of as possessing optical properties, when it is now generally recognised that it has no effect upon polarised light. It is also stated that saccharatin, the colouring matter in the rind of the cane, is believed to be the source of the yellow colour of "Demerara" sugar. As this body only develops a yellow colour under alkaline condition, and as "Demerara" sugars are acid, this cannot be the case.

Mr. Heriot's book is a valuable contribution to the literature of sugar, and is particularly remarkable for the absence of redundant verbiage and the general clearness of expression, and is thoroughly up to date.

F. I. S.



**WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.**

**Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, November 8th, per R.M.S. *Matagua* :—**

Mr. D. Breedy	Capt. and Mrs. B. H. Hodgson	Mr. F. W. Nutt
Mr. E. Downes	Mr. W. G. Hogg	Mr. L. Owens
Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Harding	Mr. E. A. Lang	Mr. and Mrs. A. Peck Briggs
Mr. C. F. Harding	Mr. F. W. Leighton	The Misses Ramsden (2)
Mr. W. A. Harding	Mr. D. B. MacCallum	Mr. & Mrs. A. Simpin
Mr. E. E. Harding	Capt. W. H. Macey	Mrs. E. Street
Mrs. H. Harding	Mr. W. MacMillan	Mr. D. Talmie
Miss M. A. Harding	Mr. G. Malek	Mr. R. W. Wilson
The Rev. and Mrs. H. S. Helwig	Mr. W. E. Messingham	Mr. G. A. Wolferstan
	Mr. F. J. Milne	

**Home arrivals from Jamaica, Avonmouth, November 14th, per s.s. *Camilla* :—**

Mr. A. M. Grose	Mr. & Mrs. M. Maer	Dr. and Mrs. J. McL. Thompson
Mr. S. M. Haughton	and family	
James	Mr. E. J. L. Simons	

**Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, November 16th, per R.M.S. *Patuca* :—**

Miss E. M. Alexander	Mr. S. Dair	Lt. Col. J. Oldfield
Mr. H. S. A. Alexander	Mr. C. V. Mair	Mr. & Mrs. O. R. R. Pease
Mrs. J. S. Athawes	Mr. F. Hemmard	Miss W. Power
Mrs. O. J. Austin	Mr. G. Hanna	Mr. H. Price Williams
Miss F. H. Bradshaw	Miss O. C. Hay	Mr. W. T. Robertson
Mr. F. B. C. Cobbold	Mr. C. A. Hinkel	Miss C. J. S. Sandeman
Mr. W. H. Coke	Mr. H. E. Hitchins	Mr. and Mrs. B. Eric Smith
Mr. D. Dauber	Rev. & Mrs. W. Inglis	Mr. Eboucair
Mr. C. Delgadillo	Miss V. M. Jones	Col. J. A. P. Sugal
Mr. E. A. Dubsou	Mr. M. H. C. Kaufman	Mr. W. E. A. Steadman
Master E. Dobson	Mr. L. Kenao	Mrs. Sutou Brown
Miss D. L. Dorle	Mr. S. Kenao	The Misses Sutou Brown (2)
Mr. R. Eppha	Miss G. H. Machie	Mr. H. Vinas
Mr. A. W. Forbes	Mr. A. MacMillan	Mr. and Miss Wells Durrant
Mr. J. M. Fotheringham	Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Mandors	
Mr. F. Fornaguerra	Mr. K. McCormack	
Hon. and Mrs. B. E. Ooset	Miss A. E. Murray	
Mr. E. Hank		

**Thos. & Jas. Harrison.—Sailings to West Indies, from London, November 10th, per s.s. *Chancellor* :—**

Mr. & Mrs. A. Gordon and child	Mrs. Johnson and son	Mrs. O. Sisnett
Mrs. A. Hodges	Mr. W. L. McKinstry	Mr. M. S. Moody Stuart

**Home arrivals from West Indies, London, November 20th, per s.s. *Counsellor* :—**

Mr. and Mrs. Duncau Lawrence and family	Mr. O. Bleh	Mr. C. Foste
	Mr. A. Pearman	Mrs. and Miss Yuille

**Sailings to West Indies from London, November 26th, per s.s. *Intaba* :—**

Mr. W. Abbott	Mr. L. Glog	Miss Phillips
Miss Atkinson	Mr. O. O. Gora	Mr. & Mrs. D. Pile
Mrs. F. E. Austin and child	Mr. O. Godley	Dr. & Mrs. Pilgrim
Mrs. H. D. Austin and child	Mrs. Gordon & child	Mr. Roberts
Miss Bell	Rev. Gregory	Mr. & Mrs. Roy & baby
Mr. T. H. Fell	Mr. H. O. Gvey	Mr. D. W. M. and Mrs. Sealy
Sir Henry and Lady (Dovell)	Mr. Hazell	Mr. & Mrs. Shankland
Captain Bowen	Miss J. B. Herbert	Miss D. Shopp
Mrs. Bowen	Rev. D. Howell	Mr. & Mrs. G. A. Stack
Mr. Brackenwood	Mrs. Hoyte	Mrs. Singer
Mr. Carmichael	Miss Hubby	Mr. & Mrs. Slinger
Mr. R. Chelloner	Mr. Jennings	Mr. Stonford
Mrs. B. Dalton & child	Mr. F. O. B. King	Miss Thomas
Mr. W. Dasse	Misses R. & D. Knaggs	Mrs. Webber and two children
Mrs. Donney	Miss Law	Miss G. White
Mrs. & Miss Evans	Mr. & Mrs. J. J. Law	Mr. York Wilkin
Mr. Finlay	Mr. Martin Maiden	Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wilkinson & family
Mr. W. O. Freeman	Mr. Manders	Mr. Harold Wright
Miss Otticus	Hon. J. T. de la Mothe	
	Miss E. Murray	
	Colonel A. D. Nourse	
	Mr. & Mrs. Perkins	

**Royal Netherland Mail.—Sailings to Trinidad from Dover, November 20th, per s.s. *Van Heuselaer* :—**

Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Allison	Mrs. Grell	Mr. Newsau
Rev. A. W. Boodle	Mr. W. T. Lane	Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Paterson
Mr. R. Campbell	Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Macmillan and son	Mr. & Mrs. Ribeiro
Mr. J. Glendinning	Mr. Matthews	Mr. I. J. Scott
Mr. D. Glenhousing	Miss Modie	Mr. A. P. Stouer
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Gordon	Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Moonie	Mr. C. C. Stollinger
Gordon & family	Miss Morrison	Mr. E. P. O. Swan
Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Grant		Mr. F. A. Williams

**DEATH.**

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is 8/8 for three lines, and 1/- for each additional line.  
**McDONALD**—Killed on 22nd September, fighting in Mesopotamia with the Royal Air Force, Flying Officer Ian Donald Roy McDonald, M.C., D.F.C. aged twenty-two, only son of Honourable Donald McDonald and Mrs. McDonald, of The Bungalow, Antigua, B.W.I.

**EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.**

The figures published below, showing the exports of produce from the British West Indies during the current year to various dates, have been kindly supplied to the West India Committee by the respective Governments.

	Anti gua To Aug. 31	Bar- bados. To Sept. 30	British Guiana To Oct. 14	British Hondur- as. To Sept. 30	Domi- nica. To Sept. 30	Grenada.	Jamaica. To June 30	Mont- serrat.	St. Lucia. To Sept. 30	St. Kitts Nevis. To Sept. 30	St. Vincent. To Oct. 15	Trinidad. To Aug. 31
Arrowroot											2,583,383	61,083 4,161
Asphalt												
Balsa			256,108									
Bananas				460,385	1,362		4,864,927					47,693
Bitters												57,590,423
Cacao			23,241	1,043	503,005		4,130,568		898,416		130,125 200,127	15,834,120 72,951 1,153,010
Cassava Starch												
Coco-nuts			2,301,164	3,583,693	647,120		13,650,051		236,436			
Coffee			103,950		1,341		3,041,744					
Copra			33,240	58,001			581,054		18,040			
Cotton, M. Gelante											666,743	175,650
Cotton, Sea Island	310 bales	104,481								494,320	21,341	
Cotton Seed												
Diamonds			18,978									
Dyewoods												
Ginger			6,717									
Gold												
Ground Nuts										7	8,846	16,214 2,757
Honey												
Lime Juice (raw)	2,040				287,541		675,922		35,142			
" (cond.)	1,080				80,730		12,063		15,351			
" oil									761			
Lime (citrus of)			53,689		373,958				1,088			
Logwood				1,140			13,316					2,5878.
Lumber			210,232									
Mahogany				5,149,058								165
Manjak					14,048				106,837	66,900	160,213	423,271
Molasses	115,000	8458,710	100				364,980					625,720
Oranges	1 brl.						78,597					25,802,783
Essential Oils												
Petroleum							4,797,184					
Pimento			18,108,613									16,683
Rice			15,003									42,080
Robber			21,071				239,027					
Rum			1,197,253	323								
Sbiologies			1,772,250				30,857		3,927	10,621		50,435
Sugar	12,282	32,963	51,825									40,360
Timber			59,795									

It is proposed to publish the above figures once a month. The figures can be read easily with the items to which they relate by laying a sheet of paper below them across the page.



## PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—Central 6642.  
Telegrams—"Corib, London."



15, SEETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Nov. 23rd, 1920.

**BANK RATE**, 7 per cent., as from April 15th.

**EXCHANGE** on New York, \$3 12½-\$3 50½.

**SUGAR.** At a sale held on the 12th instant about 16,000 bags of West Indian sugar were put up, but none were sold. Afterwards the crystallised was all privately disposed of at prices ranging from 79s. to 83s., and a few syrups from 45s. to 61s. 6d.

It is now feared that when the moratorium in Cuba expires on December 1st there will again be a run on the local banks engendered by the lack of confidence among the small farmers, and the position is still critical.

The case of the Canadian refiners for maintaining the retail price of sugar at 21 cents per lb., as put forward by Mr. Huntly Drummond, of the Canada Sugar Refining Company, is that they have on hand and due to arrive this year sugar to the value of \$65,000,000, part cane and part local beet, costing 19 cents at the refineries. At the time of high raw prices the Board of Commerce refused to allow the refiners to sell on a replacement basis, so as to protect themselves against a declining market, but promised to afford them such protection if necessary. He cited figures to show that the earnings of the Canadian refineries had been small as compared with those of other industries during the war, and pointed out that were the Canadian refiners to meet the United States price at this time the loss would be sufficient to wipe out their entire capitalisation and would aggregate \$10,000,000.

It is clearly to the interest of producers in the West Indies that the Dominion Government should assist the Canadian refiners in this emergency. While the Dutch Standard continues to be used for classifying sugars for duty purposes in Canada, West Indian producers can only sell sugar to the refiners in the Dominion. If those refiners were unwilling or unable to purchase sugar, the bottom would be knocked clean out of Canadian-West Indian trade as far as sugar is concerned, and the trade agreement would become a dead letter.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on November 13th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Tons
Imports	60,577	46,906	34,846	
Doliveries	52,324	44,245	35,603	
Stock	15,880	8,653	10,230	

**CACAO.** The market is still quiet, and only a small business passing. Public sales, which have been suspended since August 31st, were held again on Tuesday last, when about 20,000 bags were offered. There was practically no demand, the only sale of sound cacao made being that of about 200 bags of good plantation Trinidad, which realised 82s. 6d. to 85s. To-day's quotations for Trinidad are 80s. to 82s. and for Grenada, 67s. to 68s.

The stocks in London on November 13th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Bags
Trinidad	32,803	30,445	17,277	
Grenada	24,865	14,680	7,878	
Total of all kinds	233,598	106,790	138,895	

**RUM.** The market is depressed. 1919 Jamaica is quoted at 10s., and 1920 distillation at 9s. to 9s. 6d. The decrease in values is attributed to cheap sales of rum lying in Glasgow. Demerara pale ordinary (one year of age) is quoted at 5s. 9d. proof.

The stocks in London on November 13th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Puns.
Jamaica	10,563	7,975	4,118	
Demerara	15,637	14,912	10,237	
Total of all kinds	36,504	28,603	20,025	

**ARROWROOT.** Scarcely anything moving; quotations 3½d. to 7d.

**BALATA.** West Indian sheet market rather easier at 4s. 5½d. December delivery, spot, and 4s. 3d. c.i.f. value.

**COFFEE.** Imports of West Indian to October 31st, 6,250 cwt. Jamaica Blue Mountain is quoted 145s. to 160s., for low to good ordinary; 165s. to 175s. for low to good middling; and 180s. to 190s. fine middling to fine.

**COCO-NUT OIL.** In fair demand at £90 to £92 per ton.

**COPRA** remains dull, and prices show a further decline. West Indian f.m.s. is valued at £52 London, and £51 Hamburg.

**COTTON.** West Indian Sea Island has been neglected; quotations—which are purely nominal—have been reduced by 700 points, medium being quoted at 43d., and fine at 58d. Imports in the forty-seven weeks ending November 18th, 7,720 bales.

**HONEY.** At auction there was a very slow demand, and prices showed a decline of about 5s. per cwt. Jamaica is quoted at 55s. to 80s., but the enquiry is very limited.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** There is still no demand for **Mand-pressed Lime Oil**, and very little enquiry for **Distilled**, the quotations for the latter article being unchanged. The market for **Raw Lime-juice** is stagnant.

**LOGWOOD** is dull; quotations nominally unchanged.

**PETROLEUM.** News was received by cable on November 9th, and published the following day, to the effect that Well 3 of the Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Limited, in the Fyzabad district in Trinidad, had been drilled to oil-sands at 1,090 ft. on the 6th, and had yielded 100,000 barrels in eighteen hours. A dam holding 50,000 barrels had washed out, and to make matters worse, the well caught fire on the following day, the plants of Wells 2 and 3 being burnt, and extensive damage done to agriculture. On the 13th a further message was published announcing that damage to plant was £7,000, while that to agriculture was approximately estimated at £15,000, though, owing to mutilations in the cablegram, it was possible that this figure might be increased to £20,000. The fire was attributed to the wind changing and blowing the gas towards the boiler. The Apex Company's property adjoins that of the Trinidad Leaseholds, whose pipeline passes through it, and was formerly owned by Mr. T. Geddes Grant.

**ORANGE OIL.** The quotations for **Sweet** are unchanged, but no business is reported. **Bitter** is not wanted.

**SPICES.** **Pimento** remains very dull, with sellers at 37s. 8d., but no buyers. **Nutmegs** steady; 80's are quoted at 10d.; 110's at 7d.; and wormy at 5d. to 6d. **Mace** is quiet; fair to good pale 1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d.; red 1s. to 1s. 1d. per lb.

## WEST INDIAN STEAMER SAILINGS.

To	From	Packet.	Sailing.
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Camilo</i>	Nov. 30
B'dos & T'ndad	Barry(S.Wales)	<i>Hughli</i>	Early Dec.
B'dos & T'ndad	Liverpool	<i>Antillian</i>	Dec. 4
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Changwinola</i>	Dec. 7
West Indies	London	<i>Commodore</i>	Dec. 7
B'dos, T'ndad & Jamaica	London	<i>Agadio</i>	Dec. 8
Trinidad	Dover	<i>Crinssen</i>	Dec. 9
T'ndad & D'ara	Bordeaux	<i>Puerto Rico</i>	Dec. 13
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Rayano</i>	Dec. 14
West Indies	Liverpool	<i>Archibald</i>	Dec. 18
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chignecto</i>	Dec. 24
West Indies	New York	<i>Korona</i>	Dec. 29
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Caroquet</i>	Jan. 7

The above dates are only approximate.



# The West India Committee Circular

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### The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:  
CENTRAL 6842.



15, SRETHING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams:  
CARIB, LONDON.

Dec. 9th, 1920.

### The Canadian Sugar Collapse.

A VERY serious situation has arisen with respect to the Canadian sugar-refining industry, as the result of the collapse in sugar prices, which will undoubtedly have a reflex action on the British West Indies unless the Dominion Government comes to the relief of the refiners. The circumstances which have brought this about have already been related in our columns. Briefly, the Canadian refiners who had bought large stocks of sugar at 19 cents per lb., presumably to enable them to tide over the months when no crops were coming forward from the West Indies, induced their Government, when the slump took place, to fix the retail price of sugar at 21 cents per lb. in order to protect them against American refined sugar, which was being sent across the border and sold at 14 cents per lb. in Canadian markets. Consumers protested so vehemently at this action that within forty-eight hours the order was rescinded, and the refiners were face to face with the competition of cheap American sugar. The refineries were immediately brought to a standstill, and a sensational fall in the quotations of their stocks ensued, that of the Atlantic Sugar Refinery falling in a few weeks from \$164 to \$16. The case of the refiners is that when prices for raw sugar were at a high level, the Board of Commerce refused to allow them to sell on a replacement basis so as to enable them to protect themselves against a declining market, but promised to afford them such protection as might be necessary; but no good

purpose will be served at this juncture by attempting to lay the blame for the present *débâcle* at any particular door. The question which now really matters is, What can be done to remedy the present state of affairs? It is impossible to avoid sympathising with the Canadian refiners, who undoubtedly suffered from the evil effects of Government control—in which respect West Indian producers have been like sufferers as far as the markets in the United Kingdom are concerned; but, apart altogether from sentiment, it is manifestly desirable that steps should be taken to prevent the Canadian refineries, or any single one of them, from going into bankruptcy. This matter has a very important bearing on the recent Trade Agreement between Canada and the British West Indies, and it is perhaps fortunate that the ratifications of that Agreement have not yet been actually deposited, for the West Indian colonies will now have an opportunity of forcefully emphasising their views regarding the present situation. We stated recently that we considered the arrangement made in that agreement with respect to the Dutch Standard a reasonable one. The chief cause for complaint against the Standard, which is used to protect refiners by preventing light-coloured sugars, or sugars of grocery quality entering the Dominion and competing with their products, was that, owing to its variation of colour, sugars intended for refineries were sometimes penalised by being charged the higher rate of duty. This, it is proposed under the Agreement, to obviate, by the provision that sugar, even though it may be lighter than 16 Dutch Standard in colour, shall not be subject to the higher scale of duties, when a guarantee is given that it is imported by sugar refiners and intended for refining purposes. Reference to the Dutch Standard may seem irrelevant at this juncture; but what are the facts? Under recent Canadian tariff conditions there has been no inducement for West Indian producers to extend their factories and modify their process of manufacture with a view to producing direct consumption sugar, the duty on such sugar having been prohibitive. Consequently, if the Canadian refineries were to be brought to a standstill, the bulk of West Indian producers would not be in a position to avail themselves of the Canadian market, and to compete with American refined sugar. It would also be obviously most undesirable if the Canadian refineries were to be reduced in numbers, or if their control was to pass into the hands of one or two groups. This being so, it is obvious that the British West Indies could not incur the charge of interfer-



ing in Canada's domestic politics in representing to the Dominion Government the urgent importance of their taking steps to prevent the Canadian sugar refining industry going under. The West India Committee have made representations to this end through the HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA, and it is earnestly to be hoped that any controversy will be obviated, for it would be, to our mind, little short of disaster if anything were to occur to jeopardise the friendly relations which have existed between the West Indies and her younger sister Canada for so many years, or to prevent the consummation of the recent far-reaching Trade Agreement which promises to confer so great a benefit on both countries.

#### The Telegraphic Situation.

THE situation created by the refusal of the Government of the United States to allow the Western Union Telegraph Company to land their new cable between Barbados and America at Miami has an indirect bearing on the problem of West Indian cable communication. Fortunately no International complications are involved, the Western Union being an American concern. Their new cable was intended to form a link in communication between Brazil and America, the other link being the cable recently laid by the Western Telegraph Company of England between Pernambuco and Barbados. These cables were to be used for through traffic only, but when landing rights were granted to the two Companies by the Barbados Government, it was stipulated that in the event of all other means of telegraphic communication breaking down these Companies were to accept messages between Barbados and the outside world. We therefore looked to these new cables as promising to give some security against the intolerable state of affairs which arose from the breakdown of the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company's system last winter, resulting in the loss to business firms of many thousands of pounds. This renders it more imperative than ever that immediate steps should be taken to provide for the establishment of direct cable communication between the West Indies and the Mother Country via Bermuda as has been so strongly advocated by the West India Committee for so many years. The delegates at the Canada-West Indies Conference at Ottawa left no doubt as to the importance which they attach to this matter, and it will be recalled that in a Declaration attached to the Trade Agreement they pledged themselves to recommend for the favourable consideration of their respective Governments that direct British-owned and British-controlled cables should be laid as soon as possible, without waiting for the termination of the agreement with the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company, to connect Bermuda with Barbados, Trinidad, British Guiana, the Windward Islands, the Leeward Islands, and Turks Islands or Jamaica. Further, the Government of Canada promised to institute inquiries as soon as practicable as to the possibility of arranging for the laying of such cables, and that they would communicate the results of these inquiries to the Governments of the colonies. We understand that the various West Indian Governments are now being

consulted as to their views on this subject, and there can be no question as to what their wishes will be. The constant breakdown of West Indian telegraphic communication in recent years has been a positive scandal, and scarcely a fortnight goes by without some fresh interruption occurring which necessitates the payment of increased message rates (where communication by alternative routes can be effected), while the complaints as to the mutilation of messages are still general. In considering this question, recent developments in wireless communication will, no doubt, not be overlooked, and we contend that the British West Indian colonies in their new-found prosperity should not only have direct and all British cable connection with the outside world, but also an efficient wireless system for use in cases of emergency, and also for strategic purposes. We trust therefore that the various agricultural and commercial bodies in the West Indies will continue to ventilate the great importance of this question of telegraphic communication upon which the prosperity of the trade and industries of the colonies so largely depends, especially in these days of sudden and violent variations of prices.

## THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

### The Endowment Fund Now £22,743.

The remarkable increase in rents in the City of London, to which reference has already been made in the CIRCULAR, has so far prevented the Executive from securing the new premises which are so greatly needed. In the new buildings as much as £1 5s. or £1 10s. per square foot per annum is being asked. Consequently it is more important than ever that the total of the Committee's Endowment Fund shall be carried to a much higher figure. Since the last list of contributions was published the following amounts have been received:—

#### TWENTY-SIXTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Amount previously acknowledged	£22,647	18	3
Dr. E. Graham Pilgrim	50	0	0
C. J. P. Cave, Esq., J.P. (2nd donation)	5	5	0
Captain Albert Farley	5	5	0
W. R. Polson, Esq.	5	5	0
A. W. Rogers, Esq.	5	5	0
Wm. Tanner Boxwell, Son & Co.	5	0	0
Charles Sealy, Esq.	5	0	0
Frank A. Dixon, Esq.	2	2	0
Major A. G. Kent-Johnson	2	2	0
A. W. D. Alexander, Esq.	1	1	0
Mrs. W. A. Boyd	1	1	0
Dr. W. H. Fretz, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.	1	1	0
Edin.	1	1	0
E. H. Mathew-Lanowe, Esq.	1	1	0
Major W. W. Rhodes	1	1	0
Hon. A. Kenneth Solomon, K.C.	1	1	0
T. Augustus Toote, Esq.	1	1	0
Thomas Wildman, Esq.	1	1	0
F. R. Dragten, Esq.	19	0	0
A. F. A. Clairmonte, Esq.	10	0	0
Rev. W. H. Townsend	9	0	0
Allan Warner, Esq.	6	0	0
Anon.	2	0	0



## SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"WHEN man no done climb hill, him should neber trow 'way him stick."

The National Manufacturing Company has, states the "Cuba Review," decided to build a chocolate factory in Cuba, with a capacity of 1,000 quintals per day.

MRS. BLANCHE HARDY, who died at 36 Leckford-road, Oxford, on November 16th, at the age of seventy-five, was the daughter of the late Bishop Parry of Barbados.

HAS Peru banned the polariscope? We ask this because the "Sunday Express" makes Lord Beaverbrook write of sugar from that country as being "96 per cent. pulverisation"

MRS. HUDSON LYALL, wife of Mr. G. Hudson Lyall, M. B. E., son of the late Speaker of the House of Assembly of Barbados, has been awarded the C. R. E. in recognition of her war work.

An interesting fact in connection with economy in sugar factories is that one small drop per second leaking from the draw-off cock of an oil barrel means a loss of 34 gallons per month.

THE manager of a large firm of wholesale grocers in the United States has, says "Facts about Sugar," been fined \$5,000 and sentenced to two years' imprisonment for profiteering in sugar.

THE British Cotton Growing Association has agreed to contribute to the funds of the Tropical Agricultural College Committee the sum of £200 from the "King Edward VII. Lancashire Cotton Growing Endowment Fund," which they administer.

SENATOR HARDING, President-elect of the United States, visited Kingston, Jamaica, on November 30th on his way back to America from the Panama Canal. He visited the Governor, Sir Leslie Probyn, and received an enthusiastic welcome from the inhabitants.

Our congratulations are due to Mr. Leon Colvin, Manager of the Royal Bank of Canada in London, on the occasion of his Silver Wedding. Mr. Colvin was married to Miss Florence Beatrice Bascom on November 16th, 1895, at St. Philip's Church, Georgetown, British Guiana.

REAR-ADMIRAL SIR LIONEL HALSEY, who has been appointed Comptroller and Treasurer to the Prince of Wales, was well-known in the West Indies even before he accompanied his Royal Highness on his recent cruise in the *Benbow* as Chief of the Staff. Sir Lionel Halsey was Captain of H. M. S. *New Zealand*, which recently made a tour of the Empire, and was bunkered at Trinidad.

MR. GEORGE MACKENZIE, F. R. G. S., Editor, "Northern Chronicle," Inverness, N. B., writes suggesting that the bird-lizard reported to have been recently discovered in British Guiana is really the well-known hoatzin, or canje-pheasant, an excellent specimen of which, showing how it functions its lizard characteristic in the immediate post-egg stage, is in the Museum at Georgetown.

THE number of members of the West India Committee whose subscriptions for the present year are still unpaid

is now comparatively small. As the list diminishes the names of those still in arrears stand out in bolder relief. No member would wish to be on that list of the unpaying, and no member need be on it if he would only respond to one of the numerous reminders which some resolutely ignore.

THE Royal Mail Steam Packet Company announced on November 30th that it would establish early next year a passenger and cargo steamer service between Hamburg and New York, calling at Southampton and Cherbourg on the way. Among the steamers allocated to this service will be the *Orduña*, *Orbita*, and *Oropesa*, to which will be added the *Orea* when she is completed by Messrs. Harland & Wolff.

THE terrific weather which has recently obtained in the South-West had the effect of seriously impeding the voyage of the *Intaba*, which had to heave-to (and it may be presumed the bulk of the passengers heaved too) in the Bay of Biscay until the weather abated. By the by, a characteristic feature of the passenger list was the large number coming from the "England of the Western Seas," and it was suggested that the name of the vessel should have been on this occasion *Himtaba*.

MR. W. G. FREEMAN, Director of Agriculture for Trinidad and Tobago, who returned to the West Indies in s.s. *Intaba*, delivered quite a number of lectures during his visit to England, the bodies addressed being the Dudley Literary Society, the Imperial College of Science and Technology, the Gardening Staff at the Royal Gardens, Kew, the Bournemouth Natural Science Society, and the Hants and Dorset Branch of the Royal Colonial Institute. A favourite topic was Trinidad in relation to the new Tropical Agricultural College.

It will be noted from a paragraph in the "Produce Market Summary" in the present issue that at the last coffee sales at Liverpool a concession had to be made on coffee shipped from Jamaica in bags. It should be made known among producers of coffee that barrels are regarded as the orthodox mode of packing, and that the abandonment by some Jamaica shippers of a custom of, eighty years, owing to the high cost of materials, has led to prices for that commodity being reduced by more than what the enhanced price for barrels would be.

THE Roseau Sugar Factory and estates in St. Lucia have been acquired from the St. Lucia Usines and Estates Company, Limited, by Mr. Thomas B. Hull, who proposes, when suitable opportunity offers, to form a new limited liability company for carrying them on. The estates cover an area of over 3,000 acres, of which about 750 acres are under cane, part of the balance being devoted to the cultivation of cacao, limes and coconuts. Mr. Hull recently acquired also all the shares in the Cul-de-Sac Company, Limited, which also owns a sugar factory and about 3,000 acres of land. Mr. Hull is a St. Lucian, and an Old Boy of St. Mary's College in that island and Harrison College, Barbados. For many years he was with the St. Lucian firm of Barnard, Sons & Co., which he left last year to embark in business on his own account.

ARROWROOT JELLY.—Half pint of water, a glass of sherry, or half a glass of good rum, sweeten to taste, and add some grated nutmeg. Boil it; as soon as it begins to boil, add a dessert-spoonful of arrowroot which has been mixed smooth in two tablespoonfuls of cold water; stir all the time and boil until it thickens, put into a wet mould, and, when cold, ice and turn out—Mrs. H. Graham Yearwood.



## JAMAICA IMPERIAL ASSOCIATION.

The second annual report of the Council of the Jamaica Imperial Association, together with a list of members and an account of the yearly meeting, has now been published in pamphlet form.

It will be recalled that the Association was founded in 1917, with the objects among others of supporting the work of various patriotic bodies in this country, including the West India Committee, the Royal Colonial Institute, and the British Empire Producers Association, and of creating and fostering sound public opinion regarding matters affecting the economic, social, agricultural or industrial commercial welfare of Jamaica. Its Council is comprised of prominent men representing every parish in the island, and with Mr. Arthur Farquharson—whose recent illness is to be deplored—as Chairman, and Mr. Herbert de Lisser, C.M.G., as Secretary, it has a splendid record of solid work for the benefit of the community to its credit. In the course of his address to the members Mr. Farquharson said: "Perhaps the greatest desideratum in the island to-day is improvement in the condition of the population generally.

"This improvement in their condition is possible, because we see, when we come to consider the history of the people, what they have been able to do in the little more than half a century that has gone by since they were in a condition of slavery."

This statesmanlike utterance is described on the inside cover as "Jamaica's Watchword," and it forms the keynote of the operations of the Association which covered, during the year, a wide field.

Of particular interest at this juncture is the paragraph dealing with Mr. Harry J. Crowe's campaign, aiming at a political union between the West Indies and Canada. It seems that Mr. Crowe addressed a meeting on the subject at the Association rooms in April, and that the Chairman subsequently asked him "to state in writing what measures could be and would be taken to safeguard Jamaica's interests in the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada in the event of confederation taking place. The Chairman emphasised the necessity of something concrete being placed before Jamaica previous to her expressing any definite opinion on the subject. The report adds tersely: "To this request no reply was sent by Mr. Crowe during the year under review."

Jamaica's need of co-operation was emphasised in Mr. Farquharson's speech, and, apropos of prædial larceny, he mentioned that owing to the prevalence of that crime he was only able to reap 50 bushels of corn from 70 acres of irrigated land which he had placed under that crop in Vere with the object of coping with the food problem. Other matters dealt with included the development of the sugar and log-wood industries on co-operative lines, shipping and harbour development and railway electrification, which was reported upon favourably by the Westinghouse Electric Company.

SIR OWEN PHILLIPS, G.O.M.G., M.P., made the munificent gift of £10,000 to the Welsh Church.

## THE CANADIAN SUGAR POSITION.

The West India Committee sent the following cablegram to the Prime Minister of Canada on August 2nd through the High Commissioner, who kindly consented to despatch it:—

"West India Committee represent that as West Indian producers can only sell sugar to refiners in Canada owing to the maintenance of the Dutch Standard of classification, they regard it as most desirable that refineries should be supported at this critical juncture in interests of Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement."

The West Indian aspect of the recent collapse in sugar prices in Canada, and the resultant difficulties of the refiners is explained in a leading article in the present issue.

## TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA.

Mr. F. C. S. O'Hara, of the Canadian Ministry of Trade and Commerce, has submitted for the consideration of the West Indian Governments proposals for the establishment of a West Indian Trade Commissioner's Office in Canada, which would enable Canadian importers to get information regarding tropical products more quickly than they could otherwise do. The scheme met with favour among the delegates at the recent Ottawa Conference, and Mr. O'Hara estimates that it should be carried out for \$10,000 per annum as a beginning, and he suggests that the various West Indian colonies wishing to participate should contribute towards that sum.

Lord Milner, in submitting Mr. O'Hara's memorandum to the various Governments, foresees considerable practical difficulty in the way of selecting a really suitable individual who could represent all the different West Indian colonies and Bermuda, and suggests that the existing machinery of the Department of Overseas Trade could be utilised in this connection. The Department which was consulted stated that if the services of H.M. Trade Commissioner in Canada were made use of, it would be necessary to afford him additional assistance, in which case some contribution from the Colonial Governments concerned would be necessary. As an alternative, however, they suggest that if the West Indian colonies and Bermuda prefer to appoint as their representative a man with first-hand knowledge of conditions in those colonies, such an Officer could be attached to the Trade Commissioner's Office at Montreal.

In an interview published shortly before he left New York, Senator McCormick, who arrived last week in England, is reported to have said that "we do not believe that America has the same interest as, say, France or Britain in the Mediterranean or the Balkans, whereas we have an overwhelming interest in the Caribbean, and assume responsibility there to the exclusion of France and Britain." Considering that the British flag was flying in the Caribbean for over a century before the United States became a nation, Senator McCormick's claim is, to say the least of it, somewhat presumptuous. Perhaps, however, he used the term "America" in its wider sense, and Canada would certainly have something to say in the matter.



## THE BOILER RANGE.

### Its Control in Sugar Factories.

By F. I. SCARD, F.I.C.

The efficient working of the boiler department of a sugar factory is now more than ever of importance. The introduction of the use of mills with many units, coupled with a high degree of maceration, means not only much more potential energy being required than was necessary in this respect some years ago, but also a considerable amount of additional power for dealing with the extra juice extracted, as well as with the added water which has contributed to this result. It is highly essential, therefore, that every ounce of steam practically feasible should be got out of the megass, and it thus follows that the scientific control of the boiler range in a modern factory is a matter of the highest importance.

There are two factors which enter into the subject—viz., the degree of combustion of the megass in the furnace, and the economic working of the boiler as regards its capacity for absorbing and reproducing as steam the heat units in the gases from the furnace.

What is therefore necessary for the control of the boiler range is—(1) A knowledge of the theoretical heat value of the megass; (2) the ascertaining of the amount of steam generated by a given weight of megass; and (3) a knowledge of the composition and temperature of the gases in the exit flue of the boilers.

Analysis gives the composition of the megass, this being a part of the mill control routine. To ascertain from the analyses the theoretical heat value of the megass, the percentage of fibre is multiplied by 8550, and that of the sucrose by 7119. From the sum of the numbers thus obtained 1,100 times the percentage of water present is deducted, and the product divided by 100 will give the available heat units from the perfect combustion of 1 lb. of megass. Thus if the megass contains 47.5 per cent. of water, 47.0 per cent. of fibre, and 4 per cent. of sugar, the theoretical available heat value of 1 lb. would be 3,801 British thermal units. The heat value of the megass having been thus obtained, a primary point is to ascertain the quantity of water which is actually converted into steam in the boiler supplied by the particular furnace under observation. Two essential items of knowledge are required for this purpose, the one of the weight of megass consumed in the furnace, and the other of the weight of water evaporated in the boiler during the same period.

To ascertain correctly the first of these is a matter of considerable trouble. As a general rule, the megass is fed into the furnaces from a carrier running along, and at a comparatively low height from the platform of the furnace ranges. No opportunity presents itself for conveniently weighing the megass, and the only solution of the problem appears to be to apply the test to the whole boiler range rather than to individual furnaces and boilers, the knowledge of the total quantity of megass obtained in a given time being ascertainable from the mill control figures. If

this has to be done, provision must be made in the arrangement of the boiler feed department by which the whole of the feed water can be measured, and the duration of the trial should be not less than the twelve hours' watch of the factory.

This method is objectionable, inasmuch as it lays the trial open to great risks of inaccuracy, and gives no opportunity for the work of individual boilers and furnaces to be ascertained. In planning out a boiler range, therefore, sufficient height should be provided between the megass carrier and the furnace platform to permit of the introduction of some appliances for weighing the megass required for the trials. If this be done, there should also be especial tanks and pumps for the feed water, so that the evaporation of any particular boiler can be ascertained. In this case the minimum length of trial should be six hours, the observations commencing with the addition of the first load of megass and ending when the last load has been considered to have been consumed.

Whatever method be employed, the temperature of the feed water and that corresponding to the steam pressure should be noted, so that the actual work of the boiler as regards its absorption of the furnace heat can be ascertained. Not less than 65 per cent. of the theoretical fuel value of the megass should be absorbed.

The application of the evaporation tests should be performed periodically. If the individual boilers and furnaces are dealt with, the test should be so arranged that the range is completely dealt with once a fortnight. If the system is subjected to a test as a whole, a fortnightly trial is also sufficient.

In addition to the above, which would be carried out by the engineering staff, daily observations should be made by the chemical staff as to the composition and thermal conditions of the flue gases. It is necessary to obtain a knowledge of the proportions of carbonic acid, carbonic oxide and oxygen in the gases from the furnace, and this is best obtained from samples taken from the exit flue of the boiler. In each of these a permanent pipe should be introduced, the sample of the gases being obtained by introducing through it the suction tube of an aspirating arrangement. A Winchester quart bottle, filled with water, with a cork into which is introduced the aspirating tube and a syphon arrangement provided with a cock for regulating the syphoning of the contents of the bottle, makes a good arrangement. A small quantity of lard oil should be used along with the water, so as to preclude the absorption of carbonic acid by the water during the period of the sampling. The syphon cock should be so regulated as to provide for the sampling to extend over half an hour.

The objective in connection with furnace work is to obtain the maximum of combustion with the minimum of excess of air over what is theoretically required. The composition of the flue gases will show how far this result has been obtained, and the air supply should be so regulated as to leave a small percentage of carbonic oxide in the flue gases, say 0.5 per cent. This ensures that too much air has not been used. The higher the percentage of water in the megass, the greater will be the quantity of air required for



combustion on account of its dilution with the water vapour and consequent less facile contact with the megass. With modern mill work this excess should not exceed 75 per cent. of the theoretical.

The theoretical figure is found by taking once the percentage of carbonic acid found and adding to it twice the percentage of the carbonic oxide. This gives the oxygen required for the complete combustion of the carbon. The actual quantity of oxygen in the air used is found by taking once the percentage of the carbonic acid and adding to it half the percentage of the carbonic oxide, together with the percentage of free oxygen found. The percentage of excess of oxygen, and consequently of air, is thus given by the following formula:—

$$\frac{(CO_2 + \frac{1}{2}CO + O) - (CO_2 + 2CO)}{CO_2 + 2CO} \times 100$$

If 12 per cent. of carbonic acid has been found with 1 per cent. of carbonic oxide and 11 per cent. of oxygen, the excess of air over the theoretical will thus be 68 per cent.

The analysis of the gases is conducted in any of the apparatus supplied for the purpose by manufacturers of chemical apparatus. The carbonic acid is absorbed by potash, the oxygen by pyrogallic acid, and the carbonic oxide by cupreous chloride.

In addition to the analysis of the flue gases, the temperature of the exit flue should be recorded. This with megass work should not exceed 450 deg. Fahr., or be less than 400 deg. Fahr.

The flue gas observations should be performed daily. The results will at once show if there is anything wrong with the combustion, and indicate the cause.

If the above be carried out as a part of the routine of the factory, it will ensure control of the boiler range, and help to the obtaining of the maximum power out of the megass supply used. At the same time the routine work will provide the machinery necessary for any experiments that may be undertaken with a view to obtaining in practice more and more out of the theoretical heat value of the megass as steam.

An additional item of information of great value is that of the temperature of the combustion chamber of the furnace, but it is difficult to obtain this correctly, except by the introduction into it of metals and alloys which have known melting points, and a reliable pyrometer for this purpose is much wanted. With modern work it should not be less than 2,000 deg. Fahr. If this temperature is obtained in the combustion chamber, if the results of the analysis of the flue gases show that practically complete combustion has been obtained with an amount of air not exceeding the excess indicated above, and if the temperature of the exit gases is between 400 deg. Fahr. and 450 deg. Fahr., there is little wrong with the department.

VERA FIDELIA HUNT, of Queen's College, Barbados, has received honourable mention in the League of the Empire's Essay Competition, in which schools from every part of the Empire took part. Similarly, George Albury, of the Boys' Central School, Nassau, Bahamas, was honourably mentioned in the Junior Section.

## THE WORLD'S SUGAR SUPPLY.

(Continued from page 358 and concluded.)

**Czecho-Slovakia.**—Czecho-Slovakia will this year (1919-20) produce not more than 760,000 tons, of which about 350,000 will be available for exportation. Recently it has become evident that the Czecho-Slovakia crop will fall short by 150,000 tons, leaving a total production for this year of approximately 610,000 tons, which will be monopolised by the Government. The Czecho-Slovakia Sugar Export Company, Limited, is buying at a fixed rate the sugar of all the factories and refineries. This Company has also undertaken to buy all the sugar which may be available for exportation. It is interesting to remark that the Company has often come across, during the year, American crystallised being offered on the European markets at a lower price than that obtained for its own sugar when exported. In the month of August, when the writer of this report was staying at Prague, the capital of the new State, American refined sugars were offered at 2 cents a pound less in price than that at which Czecho-Slovakia was offering crystals in Germany.

**Russia.**—The general production of sugar in Russia, before the war amounting to 1,750,000 tons, has, according to the best information available to-day, fallen to 170,000 tons. In considering the future restoration of the sugar industry in Russia, we must take into account its vast extent, its want of railways and other means of communications, and the extremely defective methods of cultivation. The restoration of the industry will take many years, and will not be seen in this generation.

**France.**—There has been no exaggeration in the reports that the industrial portions of Northern France in which the sugar industry was carried on have, both as regards lands and factories, been completely destroyed. The soil has been completely destroyed, and the sour sub-soil has been dug up and brought to the surface in consequence of ravages caused by shells and the digging of trenches. From a production of 700,000 tons, France has fallen to that of 100,000 tons, and has consequently joined the ranks of the great sugar-importing countries.

**Holland and Bulgaria.**—Holland and Bulgaria will be able to satisfy their own needs, but Holland is paying greater attention to the production of cereals in consequence of the higher profits obtained from these in comparison with those made by beetroot.

**Other countries.**—All the other European countries will have to import sugar from the world markets.

Java will have to provide for the needs of the countries in the East which formerly were abundantly supplied by Russia, and, moreover, in these countries, which have grown rich through the war, the consumption is increasing and is likely to increase in ever-growing proportions. It is evident that the European demand for sugar will have to be left chiefly to Cuba. It must not be forgotten that the consumption in the United States will be sensibly increased by the prohibition of the liquor trade. For this reason it is probable that Cuba will have, during the coming crop, to supply the United States with at



least 3,000,000 tons of sugar. In spite of the increased crop which Cuba now produces, the housekeeper in the United States cannot reckon on being able to purchase more than 2 lb. of sugar at a time, and even this small ration cannot be obtained but at rare intervals. The scarcity of sugar in the United States cannot be too greatly exaggerated, and the rest of the world is in even worse conditions.

The total quantity which the present consumption of sugar would reach if that article could be sold freely cannot be definitely ascertained, but would be without doubt greater than what was formerly consumed. The increase in the consumption in the United States will exceed the most optimistic hopes of sugar producers.

There are many conditions which make it imperative for Europe to import sugar in large quantities for many years to come, among these conditions being:—

1. Europe stands in need of many other things in addition to sugar. Wheat is perhaps of the most urgent requirement, and much greater areas will be needed for the cultivation of grains of all kinds.

2. A great emigration from Germany is imminent, which will reduce considerably its labour supply already seriously diminished by the war.

3. One reason for directing the present labour to the cultivation of grain instead of to the production of beetroot for sugar is that the same labour applied to the cultivation of grain will produce more nutritive food than if it were applied to the cultivation of beetroot, which requires more manual labour than any other cultivation in Europe. Beetroot requires the same amount of manual labour as is required in orchards and kitchen gardens.

4. A very important factor in the disorganisation of the beetroot sugar industry in all parts of Europe is the change in the system of land tenancy. In Poland the new land law has broken the old estate ownership of thousand of acres possessed by the ancient nobility, for to-day no person or company is allowed to possess more than a certain acreage. The unlooked-for application for so radical a change in the possession of the soil, and in the system in the land tenancy has disorganised, and will continue to disorganise, an industry which depends entirely, or in a great degree, on the regular daily supply of raw material obtained from large and adjacent estates lying in the area which supplies each factory.

5. Finally, the rapid increase in the manufacture of sugar in Cuba has produced an addition of her shipments to the United States.

The refineries in the United States are for the first time in their history exporting a portion of their output, and are at present organising departments to prepare for shipments to Europe. Much Cuban sugar went to Europe passing through the American refineries with a profit of millions of dollars for the Equalisation Board, and when this Board ceased to exist, these profits will go to the refineries. The profits, in addition to the saving of shipping charges, should go into the pockets of the Cuban producer, and, as he has within reach evaporators, tayches and centrifugals, all he requires is the addition of "filtres de carton de huesco" to possess a complete refinery in his factory for his sugar.

To convert the Cuban sugar factories into refineries would cost a third of what a complete new factory would cost. Refined sugar exported direct from Cuba to Europe would mean saving the cost of

shipment and handling. The extra profit after allowing for the extra cost would be nearer three cents per pound than two cents. We should also gain considerably by reducing the quantity of raw sugar which encumbers the United States markets, and which obliges Cuba in many instances to make forced sales during the crop. There is another reason for the direct production of white sugar—namely, the very high prices now obtainable. During the last Louisiana crop, a large percentage of sugar produced was of that quality, and the producers obtained large profits. Almost all the machinery in Cuban factories can be converted at a small cost to make refined sugars, which is in great demand at present in Europe, and the difference in price between white and other sugar will be entirely out of proportion to the cost of producing white sugar which will be so high that I can hardly dare fix a limit to its price.

In conclusion, the result of my investigations has been to convince me that the beetroot crop will not for years to come be a serious competitor to the Cuban cane sugar.

*[It remains to be seen to what extent Mr. de Mesa's forecast will be justified. Meanwhile it should be noted that those eminent authorities Messrs. Willett and Gray estimate an increase of 875,929 tons in the beet production of Europe in 1920-1921.—Ed.]*

## MOLASSES AS A FERTILISER.

During 1919 fifty-four sugar factories were in operation in Mauritius, and it is recorded in Dr. H. A. Tempany's report on the Agricultural Department of the colony that their average extraction was estimated at 10.56 per cent. as compared with 10.95 in the preceding year. The percentage of vesou or first sugar to the total crop was no less than 94.45 per cent. as against 80.00 in 1913, and the steady increase in the production of high-grade white sugar is attributed principally to improvements in methods of curing by the introduction of Weston Centrifugals and increased use of crystallisers.

The percentage of sucrose in the cane in 1919 was 13.16 as compared with 13.63 in the preceding year. The total area under sugar in the colony at the end of 1918 was 168,670 arpents (253,005 acres), of which 51.9 per cent. is represented by estate cultivation, and 43.7 per cent. by that of Indians.

The bulk of the molasses produced in Mauritius is at present used as a fertiliser, being returned to the land. Of late years increasing attention has been devoted to the utilisation of alcohol for power purposes. A number of attempts have been made to develop the utilisation of alcohol and mixtures of alcohol and ether as a substitute for motor spirit, but for various reasons these have not so far been attended with a very great amount of success. There is, however, no doubt, says Dr. Tempany, that there is scope for very large developments in the production of alcohol from the waste molasses of the sugar industry as a source of power in the colony, while the fertilising constituents of the molasses so employed need not be lost, as they are capable of being returned to the land as liquors after distillation.



## GOLD COAST CACAO INDUSTRY.

Commenting on Mr Rnebe's article on Gold Coast cacao, which was summarised in the last issue of the CIRCULAR, Mr J. E. Cort, in a letter published in "West Africa" of November 6th, expresses the view that the war is responsible for the present deplorable state of the cacao farms in Africa at the present time.

"The handicap against West African cacao in the matter of price could, however, swiftly be much reduced if the matter of quality were taken in hand with determination by the Government. The purblind policy of *laissez faire* characteristic of past administrators in regard to West Africa's economic resources no longer holds sway, and it is merely a question for the traders and farmers to formulate ways and means to accomplish all that is desired. Whatever is attempted, the undignified scramble for indiscriminate quantities of cacao should be rendered impossible. The old order of rewarding the farmer tendering 'fair fermented' the same price as the farmer offering 'underfermented' ought compulsorily to be discontinued. The system of buying which does not discriminate both as to price and quality is justly condemned and should not be sanctioned by the Government, because of its negative effect on the teachings of the agricultural instructors whose one object is the encouragement of merit. In the past the trader has found it difficult to combine in his staff the necessary qualities of salesman of merchandise and technical expert in cacao; therefore it is not to be wondered at that his main object has been to circumscribe his chances of suffering loss in his cacao dealings."

Mr Cort warmly advocates the modification of the present "unfair system" of buying Gold Coast cacao, and suggests the appointment of a department of trained cacao samplers, whose certificate of analysis of physical characteristics shall be forthcoming before the purchase of cacao from farmers. This system should also, he thinks, be extended to the ports from which cacao is shipped. "At first it might be sufficient to establish two grades only, officially—viz., 'fair fermented' and 'fair average quality,' and for this purpose the widest possible percentage of defects might be allowed, providing the same were consistent with the same descriptions employed in the respective markets in Europe and America. By this arrangement dealers in cacao would not be limited in number or colour, a fact which would ensure to the industry the receipt of a fair price always for its produce. And, as a charge might be made for the sampler's certificate, the cost would not wholly be met by revenue from other sources."

Sir Francis Watts recently visited St. Vincent and gave an address on the agricultural outlook to an interested audience at the Court House. He emphasised the advantage which the island enjoys in having several staple industries, and expressed his belief that the manufacture of syrup was better suited to the conditions of the island than that of sugar, which necessitated the expenditure of vast sums on machinery. Still he hoped that enough sugar would be made for local requirements. He thought that the demand for arrowroot would be limited, and advocated the limitation of the cultivation of that crop.

## OBITUARY.

### LORD GLENCONNER OF THE GLEN.

As briefly announced in last CIRCULAR, Lord Glenconner died at his residence, 34, Queen Anne's-gate, Westminster, on Sunday, November 21st.

The death of Lord Glenconner deprives the British West Indies of a staunch friend and a generous supporter. Born in 1859, Lord Glenconner inherited estates in Trinidad from his father, Sir Charles Tennant, whom he succeeded as second Baronet in 1906. Five years later he was created Baron Glenconner of the Glen in Peebles-shire, of which county he had become Lord-Lieutenant in 1908. Educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, he took his M.A. degree in 1885. Lord Glenconner travelled extensively; but it is on his activities in connection with the British West Indies that the writer of this memoir proposes principally to dwell. Lord Glenconner paid several visits to Trinidad, his last being in January, 1910. The Tennant family estates included the sugar plantations and factories known as the La Fortune and Malgietout groups, sold recently, besides extensive estates under cacao, coconuts, and mahogany cultivation, which are still the property of Tennants Estates, Limited, of which firm Lord Glenconner was the sole proprietor. This firm, which has offices in London and San Fernando, also owns the business of Eugène Boissière & Co., general merchants in Port-of-Spain, and in 1917 opened a branch in Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela. It was, indeed, one of the first English commercial houses to trade under its own name in that country, in the future of which Lord Glenconner was a strong believer. He maintained a close personal interest in the West Indies to the time of his death, and no appeal to his time and fortune on behalf of those colonies was ever made in vain. As a member of the West Indian Club, he presided over a memorable dinner to the civil and military representatives of the West Indies at the Coronation of King George V. in 1911, at which his brother-in-law Mr. H. H. Asquith was present, and he was regular in his attendance at the meetings of the West Indian Contingent Committee, to whose funds he contributed liberally. More recently he gave a substantial donation towards the Endowment Fund of the West India Committee, of which he was also a member for many years. Lord Glenconner was a keen sportsman, being devoted especially to fishing, and it is noteworthy that one of his closest friends was Lord Grey of Falloden, who, it will be recalled, was a member of the Royal Commission which visited the West Indies in 1897. Lord Glenconner was married in 1895 to Pamela, daughter of the Hon. Percy Wyndham, and he leaves three sons and one daughter, his eldest son having been killed in action in 1916. Lord Glenconner was a man of singular charm of manner and great integrity; quiet and unassuming, he was devoted to doing good work, and was always ready to help friends and others who might be in need. From 1911 to 1914 he filled the position of Lord High Commissioner of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and from 1906 to 1910 he sat as the Liberal member for Salisbury, his keen interest in public affairs being further demonstrated by his serving on the Committees of the National Defence Association, the National Service League, the Liberal Colonial Club, and the Central Land Association. He was known to take a great interest in the movement for the establishment of a Tropical Agricultural College in the West Indies, which he would no doubt have actively supported if he had lived. His death will mean a great loss to the British West Indian colonies.

Mr. W. A. Curtis has been appointed Assistant Surveyor, Railways and Works Department, Jamaica.



## THE WEST INDIAN SOLDIER.

### An Appreciation by Colonel Amery.

Lieut.-Colonel C. Wood-Hill, D.S.O., who commanded the 1st British West Indies Regiment during the War, was the guest of the West Indian Club at a dinner at which Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G., presided, on November 24th.

Mr. Aspinall, proposing the health of the guest, said that since the West Indian Club dinners had been started twenty-one years ago—and he was reminded that this year marked their coming of age—it had been an unwritten rule that their guests should be men of distinction, associated directly or indirectly with the West Indian colonies. Colonel Wood-Hill admirably fulfilled both of these qualifications. It was largely owing to his persistent efforts that the officers and men of the British West Indies Regiment were permitted to realise their ambition and "go over the top" in Palestine, which they did with such precision and courage that they earned the unstinted praise and admiration of the Dominion troops brigaded with them. During a recent visit to the West Indies, he (the speaker) had noticed with regret that the services of the British West Indies Regiment were not so fully appreciated as they might be. The splendid work which the men had performed in France in "lumping" shells for the heavy guns appeared to be forgotten. Forgotten, too, was the brilliant advance in Palestine, to which he had just referred. What was the result? Rumours spread abroad and he had been distressed to see it stated in an article by a Mr. Franck, in the "Century Magazine," of America, that not a single West Indian soldier had died facing the enemy. He characterised that statement as a gross libel to which the casualty statistics of the British West Indies Regiment gave the lie direct.

Lieut.-Colonel L. S. Amery, M.P., the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, in supporting the toast, referred to Colonel Wood-Hill as one of his oldest and best personal friends, and mentioned that when in the old days of party politics he had come to help him electioneering, he was worth a whole battalion of canvassers. It was Colonel Wood-Hill's keenness, persistence and insight that had induced the authorities in Egypt to look upon the West Indies Regiment as more than hewers of wood and drawers of water, and to realise at last that the proper place for these splendid men was as fighting units in the front line—with what result they had already heard. It was in Palestine that the enemy power first toppled, and that contributed more than anything to the final catastrophic collapse of Germany's *moral*. The West Indies had taken a really effective part in the war, and the result had been a new consciousness of their corporate sense as a unit of the Empire. Referring to the Ottawa Trade Agreement, Colonel Amery spoke of the remarkable unanimity that prevailed, and said that it was the first meeting of the kind at which all the West Indian colonies had been represented. That agreement, in his opinion, marked the beginning of a further active development throughout the British West Indies. The full significance of Imperial Preference had not yet, perhaps, been fully appreciated. When it was realised in the West Indies that this Preference was intended to be permanent, confidence, stability, and enterprise would naturally ensue.

Replying to the toast, which was cordially honoured, Colonel Wood-Hill briefly traced the history of the British West Indies Regiment from the year 1915, when they were brought into being. They went, he said, to Egypt full of the highest hopes, but there they found 148 brigadiers (laughter) who had never before seen Caribbean folk,

and they were condemned to one and a half years of miserable, dreadful experience on the lines of communication. Then the 60th Division came out, commanded by Sir Edward Bullfinch, This General, who was the nephew of Sir Francis Fleming, understood West Indians, and within a week he said he would like to have the British West Indies Regiment in his (the 21st) Corps. The "Westies" might have faults, but he had many notably fine qualities as a soldier, especially his loyalty and pride of Empire. He (the speaker) personally had found no difficulty in commanding these troops, which he attributed largely to his sense of humour. To illustrate this, Colonel Wood-Hill told the following story. He was once warned that his life was in danger; and the names of six or seven soldiers who had threatened him were disclosed. He promptly appointed the ringleader, whose record on the conduct sheets was far from creditable, an unpaid Lance-Corporal, and detailed the whole of the gang for special employment, posting them round his tent at night to protect him from molestation. They appreciated the joke as much as he did, and he was able to congratulate them on the efficient way they had carried out their duties. (Laughter.)

Colonel Wood-Hill concluded by paying a tribute to the West Indian Contingent Committee, which had been so indefatigable in looking after the interests of the troops as far as could be done at home.

The health of the Chairman having been proposed by Mr. R. Baileford, the Chairman of the Club, the company adjourned to the Club room, where the remainder of a pleasant evening was spent.

Those present included: Mr. L. Barnard, Mr. S. X. Comber, Captain Allan Collymore, Lieut.-Colonel W. B. Davidson-Houston, C.M.G., Mr. A. W. Davson, Sir Edward Davson, Lieut.-Colonel H. M. Davson, C.M.G., D.S.O., Lieut.-Colonel F. B. Davson, O.B.E., Mr. P. M. Davson, Mr. A. Elder, Captain Farley, Sir William Goode, K.R.E., Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, C.B., C.M.G., Mr. G. E. L. Guppy, Mr. M. Hamel Smith, Hon. F. R. Harford, Mr. W. R. Hunt, Captain W. A. G. C. Kaye, Captain Gilfred Knight, Captain G. Hudson Lyall, M.B.E., Mr. E. J. Morris, Mr. J. E. Munro, O.B.E., Captain M. Napier, Major P. R. Nicholson, Mr. S. Page, Mr. H. C. Phillips, Mr. H. F. Preville, Colonel P. Schletter, C.B., Dr. E. Sturridge, Dr. F. Sturridge, and Captain F. F. C. Messing (Hon. Secretary).

### FAKED LIME-JUICE.

At Kingston, near London, on November 22nd, Sidney Jeffery, of Norbiton, was summoned for selling adulterated lime-juice, and Messrs. Gould, Limited, of Clapham Junction, the manufacturers, were summoned for aiding and abetting. The Surrey public analyst stated that the mixture was not lime-juice at all, but merely a flavoured, coloured, sweetened solution of phosphoric acid. His analysis showed that 1 oz. of the liquid would contain three times the maximum medicinal dose of phosphoric acid, and also an excessive proportion of salicylic acid. For the defence it was stated that the liquid was made last year, and the firm had previously been fined in respect of it, and they were doing their best to withdraw the stocks issued to retailers. Jeffery was fined 5s., and Messrs. Gould £25 and 10 guineas costs for aiding and abetting, and £1 for applying a false trade description to the liquid.

THE R.M.S.P. *Barima* (1,543 tons), sister ship of the *Belize*, now on the Trinidad-Tobago station, sailing from Southampton on December 17th, will call at Barbados-Trinidad on her way to the West Coast of South America, in order to accommodate returning West India passengers. The fare will be £60.



## GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

### VI. Sir Henry Morgan.

One of the most interesting of the personages who have played their part on the Jamaica stage was Henry Morgan, by turns privateer, buccancer, soldier, judge, politician and governor.

Little is known of his early career. Leslie, writing in 1739, who says of him "he was born of mean and obscure parents," obviously puts his parentage too low. Esquemelin, who knew him well, said "His father was a rich yeoman, or farmer, and of good quality in that country, even as most who bear that name in Wales are known to be."

He is said to have been the eldest son of Robert Morgan, of "Llanrhymny in Glamorganshire."

Llanrhymny is evidently the present Rhymney, about two miles south-west of Tredegar, on the Monmouthshire side of the Rhymney river, which separates the counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth.

It now owes its importance to its iron and steel works, and to the neighbouring coal mines.

Sir Henry Morgan was possibly descended from Rowland, grandson of Sir John Morgan, Knight of the Sepulchre, mentioned by Leland as "another of the Morgans, dwelling by Rumny at Magheu, having a fair house. He had bene a man of fair landes, if his father had not divided it partely to other



SEAL OF  
COLONEL EDWARD MORGAN.

of his sunnes." He was probably born in 1635. On the 2nd of December, 1671, at St. Jago de la Vega, when making an affidavit, he gave his age as "thirty-six years or thereabouts." Hans Sloane, who in 1688 said he was "aged about forty-five," evidently underestimated his years.

The story is that he was kidnapped at Bristol as a mere lad, and sold as a servant to Barbados, whence, on the expiration of his service, he found his way to Jamaica. But, if his companion Richard Browne is to be believed, Morgan came to the West Indies about 1658, when he would have been about twenty-three years old. Browne may, however, have referred only to his career when he was well known.

Morgan said, in writing to the Lords of Trade and Plantations in February, 1679-80, "I left the schools too young to be a great proficient in either that [Admiralty] or other laws, and have been much more used to the pike than the book."

He was nephew of General Edward Morgan, who, as deputy governor of Jamaica, preceded Sir Thomas Modyford from Barbados in June, 1664 (when the latter came as governor to Jamaica) and for a short time was lieutenant-governor under

Modyford, till he lost his life at the attack on St. Eustatius in the July of 1665.

Henry Morgan is supposed by some to be identical with the Captain Morgan who commanded a privateer in 1663 and was, in 1665, associated with other privateers in a raiding expedition in the bays of Campeche and Honduras, and up the San Juan River; but this is an error, for this captain is alluded to in the manuscript Jamaica Council Minutes\* of 22nd of August, 1664, as Captain Thomas Morgan.

At some date after 1665, Henry Morgan married his first cousin, Mary Elizabeth, second daughter and fourth child of General Edward Morgan and his wife, daughter of a Saxon nobleman, Johann Georg, Baron Von Pölnitz and his wife Anne Petronella van Hell, a Dutch woman. She owned land in Jamaica, in addition to the castle of Gossenstein and a house in Utrecht.

The Pölnitz family dates back to the beginning of the tenth century. From the thirteenth century onwards they appear in the Thuringian land. In 1655-58 they were living in Franconia, probably in Bamberg.

General Edward Morgan's brother-in-law, Gerhard Bernhard, Baron von Polnitz, was sent as special ambassador by the Elector of Prussia to Charles II. to congratulate him on his accession to the throne of England.

The name of Morgan is often mentioned in the rent roll of the Pölnitz family, and there is a deed extant in which "Edward Morgan of Landumenij [Llanrhymny] colonel in the service of his royal majesty of great Britain acknowledges to have received 1,222 Rix dalers from his dear brothers and brothers-in-law, all the Polnitz." Edward Morgan took refuge with his brothers-in-law on the family estates at Aschbach, near Bamberg, during the English Revolution.

There is in the possession of the Polnitz family an impression of the seal of Colonel Edward Morgan. It is marked as the seal of "Edward Morgan heer tot Landumnij."

The arms of the seal are, apparently, 1st and 2nd, a griffin (differenced, for a younger son, from the griffin of Lord Tredegar); 3rd and 4th, a fess dancette engrailed. The crest may be that of Lord Tredegar also differenced—a reinder attired. Burke, in his "General Armory," says that Sir Henry Morgan was the son of Lewis Morgan of Llangatock, and gives as his arms, argent three bulls' heads cabossed sable. In the long list of Morgans in the "General Armory" there are no arms like those of Colonel Edward Morgan. The arms of Colonel Edward Morgan appear to be a Germanised reproduction of the Tredegar arms, and justify the conjecture that Sir Henry Morgan belonged to a cadet branch of the Morgans of Tredegar.†

His marriage brought Morgan at once into direct relationship with Colonel Robert Byndloss, the husband since 1665 of his wife's eldest sister, Anna

\* These Minutes are in the office of the Colonial Secretary of Jamaica. A manuscript copy is in the West India Reference Library in the Institute of Jamaica.

† Information about the Pölnitz family, together with the accompanying copy of the seal of "Edward Morgan heer tot Landumnij," was contributed by the



Petronella, and a man of his own age, and later with Colonel Henry Archbould, who in 1671, married another sister, Joanna Wilhelmina. Both Byndloss and Archbould were members of Council, and men of considerable influence in the island.

In 1666, Modyford, then governor of Jamaica, commissioned Edward Mansfield, the buccaneer, to capture Curaçoa. Morgan commanded a ship in the expedition, and was present at the capture of Providence Island; and soon afterwards, on the death of Mansfield, succeeded to the leadership of the buccaneers.

Early in 1668 Modyford directed Morgan to organise a force and find out the truth about a reported intended attack by the Spaniards on Jamaica. Sailing, with some 500 men in ten ships, he plundered Porto Principe in Cuba; and the report of an intended attack was, not unnaturally, confirmed. He then sailed to the Spanish Main and, though the French who were with him would not support him, attacked Porto Bello, where it was reported Prince Maurice was held a prisoner, "judged to be the strongest place that the King of Spain possesses in all the West Indies excepting two, that is to say Havana and Cartagena." With great bravery, stained however by brutality, he captured it, and for fifteen days the buccaneers tortured the inhabitants in order to make them produce their riches, or spent their time in debauchery. A ransom of a hundred thousand pieces-of-eight and 300 negroes was extorted; a piece-of-eight at that time being worth about 5s, and a negro about £25.

According to the account, which Morgan rendered on his return to Jamaica in August, the behaviour of himself and his men was so exemplary as to encourage several ladies of great quality to stay with them. Esquemelin, who had gone originally to Tortuga as a servant of the French West India Company, and after serving as a domestic servant, received his freedom and joined the buccaneers, and is the source of much of the odium attached to the name of Morgan, tells a different story.

When the Governor of Panama asked Morgan for a pattern of the arms with which he had taken with such violence so great a city, he sent him a pistol and bullets and said he would come and fetch them away in a twelvemonth. He was not long behind his time in doing it.

Modyford was a little fearful of the consequences of this expedition against Porto Bello, as his commission only empowered him to make war on ships, not on towns. However, when the spoils had been squandered at Port Royal, Morgan was again commissioned to attack the Spaniards. The rendezvous was at Isle la Vache (known to the English as Isle of Ash), off the south coast of Hispaniola, a popular resort of pirates in those days; and thence the coast of Cuba was ravaged.

(To be continued.)

present representative of the family to Mr. Mowbray Howard, by whom it was kindly given to the present writer. Further information may be obtained from "A Vagabond Courtier. From the Memories and Letters of Baron Charles Louis von Polnitz. By Mrs. Edith E. Cuthell" (1913)

## THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

By ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 362.)

A visit to the churches followed, and after paying my respects to Mr. Sterns Fabelle, who has written so many pamphlets and articles that he has become a recognised historian of Dominica, I was off again in the *Guiana* bound now for Martinique.

As the cloud-capped mountains of Dominica faded away in the distance the thought arose: What has the future in store for this tropical paradise? Third largest of our West Indian islands, Dominica stands ninth only in order of importance of trade. Will it be content to remain in that position, perilously dependent, as it is now is, on a single industry, or will its latent resources be developed to such an extent that it will attain its proper place in the West Indian group? The island is now quietly prosperous, but, though one would not wish to be a Jeremiah, it is impossible to dismiss from the mind the thought of what would happen if history were to repeat itself and a blight were to min the lime plantations as it did the coffee estates in the early part of last century. Fortunately, the island now has a very efficient Agricultural Department, which furnishes the best safeguard against the recurrence of such a calamity, whilst constant endeavours are also being made to establish subsidiary industries. The members of the Royal Commission of 1897 expressed the view that where sugar could be completely or very largely replaced by other industries, the West Indian colonies would be in a much sounder position, both politically and economically, when they had ceased to depend wholly, or to a very great extent, upon the continued prosperity of a single industry. Dominica no longer produces enough sugar for its own requirements, and the Commissioners' remark might now be applied with equal force to the cultivation of limes. As was stated by the "Kew Bulletin" in 1888, Dominica, from the time of its settlement, has been justly celebrated for its fruit. "Possessing a fertile soil unsurpassed in any other part of the world, an abundant rainfall, and a wide diversity of climate, the capabilities of Dominica for the culture of tropical and sub-tropical fruits can scarcely be over-estimated." Sir Daniel Morris was of opinion that a banana industry could successfully be established, but means are lacking for the shipment, and, what is equally important, the distribution, of the fruit. Similarly, citrus fruit—other than limes—is precluded from entering the United States owing to the prohibitive tariff rates to which it is subject. Is it too much then to hope that the day may come when a line of fruit steamers is established, which will carry oranges, bananas, pineapples, and other fruits from the West Indian islands under the British flag to the markets of Canada and the United Kingdom? The imports of citrus fruit into Canada are comparatively negligible; but the requirements of the United Kingdom in respect of oranges, lemons, &c., amount to over 6,000,000 cwt. every year, which would certainly seem to be a trade well worth competing for.



Meanwhile, the present need of Dominica is roads. In 1913, Major J. A. Burdon, while administering the Government of the Presidency, elaborated a scheme for road development which met with general approval, and negotiations had already been entered into with a competent engineer for carrying it out, when the war supervened. This necessitated a modification of the original plan. Dominica alone of all the West Indian islands suffered through the war, the United States Government having for a time placed an embargo on the importation of green hms. Consequently the island emerged from the four terrible years of conflict impoverished rather than enriched, and the surplus funds which it had been proposed to devote to road construction were no longer available, having been expended on the maintenance of the existing roads. Since the cessation of hostilities, however, the fortunes of the island have again been in the ascendant, and it certainly seems to be a matter for regret that the proposals made by the West India Committee last year—when money was cheaper than it is now—that a loan should be raised for road development under the superintendence of a competent engineer with experience of road construction, did not commend themselves to the Colonial Office, for until the question of communications is seriously taken in hand Dominica can never be in the front rank of our West Indian colonies.

Another matter which deserves consideration is the political relationship of Dominica to the neighbouring English islands. Sir Robert Hamilton, who went out to Dominica in 1894 as a Royal Commissioner, to investigate the condition of the island, reported strongly in favour of its transfer from the Leeward Islands to the Windward Islands group, with which it undoubtedly has more in common, both geographically and socially, as well as from a commercial point of view. This recommendation was supported by the Royal Commission of 1897, but has never been acted upon. The Administrator has, however, been given a certain amount of Home Rule through being permitted to correspond directly with the Secretary of State, instead of through the Governor of the Leeward Islands, a privilege which resulted in a certain Administrator, who afterwards became Governor of the group, being "hoist of his own petard," and unable to secure, in Antigua, the control of Dominican affairs which he hoped to do.

It is a steam of a few hours only from Dominica to Martinique. During that short period the scene undergoes a remarkable change. Instead of forest-clad hills and luxuriant valleys, there appears a grim, grey mass of mountains utterly bereft of vegetation, for the first land that one picks up is the northern end of Martinique, which was completely devastated by the eruption of Mont Pelé, just eighteen years ago.

The reason why this volcano is called the "bald mountain" became obvious after the disaster of 1902, for Pelé then resumed the appearance which it must have presented after the eruption of a century ago, when every living plant for miles around was overwhelmed by the lava streams which were belched forth from its seething crater. The moun-

tains and country as far as the eye can see are one mass of lava, which, having become solidified in its passage to the sea, has assumed weird and fantastic shapes. Here and there a mountain torrent has eaten its way through the lava, forming ravines with clean-cut, precipitous sides, and similarly the action of the waves has sharply cut the solid lava stream at its junction with the sea. Over all, the scented and rocky cone of Pelé, peeping from the clouds, rules supreme, viewing the scene of destruction which he has wrought.

Twenty years ago these mountains were green and clothed with tropical forests like those of Dominica; on one of the lower hills was a calvary; at the foot many picturesque villages. Of these no vestige now remains, except a few solitary fishermen's huts. Proceeding down the coast past Les Abymes and Le Précheur—now little more than names—one reaches at length the dead city of St. Pierre, formerly the chief commercial port of Martinique and the most prosperous town in the French West Indies.

It will be remembered that, though St. Pierre escaped the lava streams, it was suddenly overwhelmed by the deadly whirlwind of fire which with appalling suddenness burst from the side of the mountain, destroying everything in its path. Within the space of a very few minutes, St. Pierre was transmuted from a gay French town, with its cabarets, cafés, its cathedral standing on one side of a leafy *place*, and its boulevard, into a semblance of Pompeii as it is to-day. But St. Pierre's fate was worse than that of the Latin city, for whilst the people of Pompeii took heed of the warnings which they received as to the imminence of their danger from Vesuvius, the inhabitants of this French island could not be induced to take the advice of scientists, who realised what the eruption of Pelé might involve, and abandon the district.

(To be continued.)

### WEST INDIAN STEAMER SAILINGS.

To	From	Packet	Sailing.
R'dos & T'lad	Barry (S. Wales)	<i>Hughli</i>	Dec. 11
T'lad & D'ara	Bordeaux	<i>Puerto Rico</i>	Dec. 13
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Bayano</i>	Dec. 14
West Indies	Glasgow	<i>Scientist</i>	Dec. 14
West Indies	Southampton	<i>Parina</i>	Dec. 17
West Indies	Liverpool	<i>Architekt</i>	Dec. 18
West Indies	London	<i>Intonbi</i>	Dec. 18
Jamaica	Avonmouth	<i>Coronado</i>	Dec. 21
Trinidad	Dover	<i>Orange Nassau</i>	Dec. 23
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Albanian</i>	Dec. 24
West Indies	New York	<i>Korona</i>	Dec. 29
West Indies	New York	<i>Parina</i>	
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Caraguel</i>	Jan. 7
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chaudière</i>	Jan. 21

The above dates are only approximate.

### MARRIAGE.

DANIELS-TRIPP.—On Monday, November 1st, at St. Chad's Church, Tucker Valley, Trinidad, by the Very Rev. E. J. Holt, Dean of Trinity Cathedral, Ivor C. Daniels, son of the late Charles Daniels, Esq., Bedfordshire, England, to Florence, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Tripp, Queen's Park, Trinidad, B.W.I.

### SILVER WEDDING.

COLVIN BASCOM.—At St. Philip's Church, Georgetown, Demerara, on the 16th November, 1895, Leon Colvin to Florence Beatrice Bascom.



## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

The pineapple industry in Hawaii has had a record year, the estimated output having been 6,000,000 cases of pineapples. The daily deliveries average about sixty-five carloads.

\* \* \*

Copal is a resinous gum found in large quantities in the marshy forests of the Central Congo. It is obtained from living trees, or is dug from the ground in a fossil state. This product enters largely into the manufacture of varnishes.

\* \* \*

A movement has arisen in New Zealand in favour of granting a subsidy for the encouragement of sugar-beet cultivation. The climate is said to be ideal for the purpose, and it is estimated that the industry could supply the local demand, and perhaps furnish a surplus for export.

\* \* \*

Progress is being made in Hawaii in the development of a substitute motor-fuel alcohol made from molasses and the waste of pineapple canneries. The waste molasses averages 135,000 tons a year. By using the Foster patent process this could be converted into about 9,000,000 gallons of motor-fuel.

\* \* \*

Sisal hemp seems to have a promising future in Tanganyika Territory (lately German East Africa). The exports in 1901 were only 254 tons, but by 1912 they had increased to 16,500 tons. Approximately 50,000 acres were under sisal cultivation when the war broke out. Cotton is also grown, 7,000 bales having been produced in 1912.

\* \* \*

The Falkland Islands have practically no industry but sheep-farming. There are about 700,000 sheep of the Romney Marsh breed in the islands, producing nearly 5,000,000 lb. of wool. The climate is healthy and invigorating, and the islands are recommended as a braising resort for holiday visitors from South American coast towns where the heat is excessive and enervating from November to May.

The cellulose expert to the Government of India reports that 14,000,000 tons of dry pulp can be produced per annum from bamboo and the savanna grasses of Assam. This pulp can be used in the manufacture of various grades of paper. The Government has granted concessions to pioneer companies on extremely favourable terms. Plans are being developed for the production of about 70,000 tons a year of this pulp.

\* \* \*

Lac, the resinous excretion of certain scale insects, has been an article of export from India for more than 200 years. The commercial production of lac is confined at present to India (including Burma), Siam, and Indo-China. The insect occurs on a large number of trees of various species. The nature of the "nose" is an important factor in the production of good lac. Probably the species of the lac insect is even more important. Among the trees on which the insect is cultivated is one well known in the West Indies—namely, *Albizia lebeck*, the Woman's Tongue Tree. The purposes to which lac is put are many and varied. Besides its use in the manufacture of gramophone records, sealing-wax, buttons, lithographic inks, imitation ivory, oil-cloth, &c., and as a constituent of varnishes, shellac (i.e., the manufactured article in flakes), it is now employed in the making of electric insulators and explosives.

The Australian Government has at last taken off the excise duty on industrial denatured spirits. The duty of 1s. a gallon, added to the high cost of denaturing, made the manufacture of industrial alcohol unprofitable. Every year hundreds of thousands of gallons of molasses have been run into the rivers in the sugar-growing districts of Queensland, because it did not pay to turn it into alcohol. A company has been formed to manufacture in Papua the motor spirit known as natakite. Research has discovered plants and trees estimated to yield 73 gallons of alcohol per ton. The company hope to manufacture 5,500,000 gallons of natakite a year. A system of replanting is to be taken in hand which will increase the output to 18,000,000 gallons a year. It is calculated that the retail price of the spirit will be 2s. a gallon. The company will arrange with farmers throughout Australia to raise crops of sorghum estimated to yield 80 gallons of alcohol to the ton. The farmers will be offered a share in the profits. If successful, Australia will probably be able to produce all the liquid fuel it requires.

\* \* \*

The sap of palm trees can be utilised for the production of both alcohol and sugar. For commercial production on a large scale, it is necessary to have pure stands over extensive areas of a species of palm giving a high yield. The nipa palm answers to these requirements, as it grows in dense formation on tidal areas in the tropics of the East. The "Bulletin" of the Department of Forestry of British North Borneo discusses the possibilities of establishing a nipa palm industry in Borneo. It is estimated that at least 300,000 acres exist at very accessible points throughout British Borneo. Laboratory experiments carried out at the Bureau of Science, Manila, indicate that there would be at least 12 per cent. of recoverable sugar in the sap, and the average annual yield of 4,000 gallons of sap per acre of nipa under management should produce about 4,000 lb. of sugar. Although the production of sugar from nipa sap has not as yet progressed beyond the experimental stage, the manufacture of alcohol is a well-established industry in the Philippines. Experts maintain that a well-organised plant operating near well-managed and concentrated areas of the palm can produce alcohol at a cost of 14 cents or less per gallon.

\* \* \*

The development of the oil-bearing areas of the world is proceeding apace. A totally new source of this fuel has been in process of investigation during the present year in the islands of Spitzbergen. During the past few years it has been ascertained that there is much mineral wealth—coal, iron, copper, lead, gypsum, asbestos, &c. The "Times" points out that it is the tertiary strata that contain the steam-coal seams. The coal can be won from them more cheaply than from any other mines in the world. The seams are worked by tunnels into the hillside. The coal is carried to the ship's side at the wharves by gravity ropeways, the sea-margin of the coal being within a few hundred yards of deep water. The steam coalfields are estimated to cover more than 500 square miles, and to contain more than 200,000,000 tons. The fields of household coal are much larger. Norwegians, Swedes, Dutch, and Germans are all active in getting coal or minerals. Two British companies, owning several thousand square miles, are arranging for active development. The islands are about 400 miles north of Norway. They possess a temperate climate, due to the Gulf Stream, and the prevailing westerly summer winds. They also enjoy continuous daylight for four months of the year. The Norwegians and Swedes work their mines all the year through, their settlements being brilliantly illuminated by electric light during the dark months. The sovereignty of the islands has been awarded to Norway by the League of Nations.



## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

### Antigua: Death of Mr. L. S. Cranstoun.

Mr. A. P. Cowley, writing under date November 5th, reports the death of Mr. L. S. Cranstoun, the owner of Cochrane and Thomas Estates and a member of the Legislative Council, as well as treasurer for some years of the Agricultural and Commercial Society. Respected by all members of the community, and a man of blameless life, straight in all his dealings, he will be much missed in Antigua. He leaves a widow and seven children.

### Rain Wanted in Barbados.

The weather for October, says the "Agricultural Reporter," has not been favourable. In Christchurch, on October 16th, rain had only fallen three days during the month, and the rainfall recorded was barely an inch. The parish of St. George was little better off with  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in., and a total for the year of  $24\frac{1}{2}$  in., as compared with  $33\frac{1}{2}$  in. for the same period last year.

### A Shark Leather Industry in the Bahamas.

The *Nassau Guardian* is informed that the New Canada Bahamas Steamship Service will commence about December 1st. Some concern is felt among growers of tomatoes by the announcement in Washington that the United States are considering the advisability of placing a quarantine on fruit and vegetables from (amongst other places) the Bahamas, Jamaica, and Cuba, in an effort to prevent the spread of the citrus black fly—a pest which, however, is unknown in the Bahamas. The Ocean Leather Company, a large concern now operating in Florida, has decided to establish a branch in Nassau, under the direction of Mr. G. W. Ambrister. The importation of shark hooks and lines has already commenced, and the company are prepared to purchase shark skins and fins at 6 cents a pound and tails at 4 cents.

On November 2nd, His Honour Sir Daniel Tudor, K.C., and Lady Tudor left for England on leave of absence. It is possible, says the *Guardian*, that Lady Tudor, who is Regent of the Gordon Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire, will not be returning to Nassau.

Commodore Gibbs, who has returned after a spell in New York, is doubtful whether Nassau will be able to accommodate all the Americans wishing to come there this winter. The coal situation in the United States is but one of the reasons which will take people to the Bahamas. The Residency at Mangrove Cay, Andros, was on October 18th struck by lightning, considerable damage being done. Mr. J. S. Lowe, the Commissioner, who was alone in the house at the time, appears to have had a very narrow escape.

The rate of exchange with the United States, which for some time has been five or six points below that of other West Indian colonies, jumped up in one day eight points, and was 37 on October 23rd. The Old Dominion Steamship Company has sold its steamers *Berkely* and *Brandon* to the Nassau Hotel and Steamships Company, which, after effecting improvements, intends to place them on the regular Florida route.

The returns of the colony's imports and exports for the last quarter do not make very encouraging reading. Whilst the value of the total imports of all classes shows an increase of £127,194 over that for the corresponding quarter last year, which is largely to be accounted for by the quantity of spirits imported, the exports only total £46,630, as against £109,802 for the same quarter last year. The rate of exchange with Europe has seriously affected the European market for

the two staple products—sponge and hemp. Cotton is one of the few articles of export which show an increase.

It is surprising, says the "*Nassau Guardian*," in a colony where one of the chief industries is steel growing—the annual export amounting to 8,000,000 lb—that a rope factory was not long ago established. Now, however, through the enterprise of Mr. B. W. Yeazel, the Royal Rope Factory is a *fait accompli*. At present two sizes of rope are being made,  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. and 2 in. thick, and the output averages 700 lb. per day.

The "*Nassau Guardian*" of October 9th commends to the favourable consideration of the Bahamas Contingent Committee the suggestion that a donation similar to that generously presented by the Merchants and Planters Contingent Committee of Trinidad should be made to the Endowment Fund of the West India Committee from the balance which it is understood they have in hand. Lieutenant W. F. Albury, who was the first man to enlist in the Bahamas Contingent, and left the colony in charge of the first thirty, afterwards serving in the 2nd British West Indies Regiment in Egypt and Palestine, has been gratified to receive from the Secretary of State for War a certificate of his having been mentioned in despatches by General Sir C. H. H. Allenby.

### British Guiana and Barbadian Immigrants.

S.S. *Asava*, constructed by Messrs. Sproston for the British Guiana Sugar Factories, Limited, was launched on September 27th. This vessel, which is 150 ft. long, will be used for the transportation of canes from the Company's estates to Plantation Wales.

Mr. J. C. McCowan, writing on October 6th, says that the weather then continued very dry. Mr. W. W. B. Shields, Mr. T. T. Smellie, and Mr. H. E. Murray have returned to the colony. Mr. P. E. F. Cressall, Inspector of Police, has left the colony on six months' leave of absence. The death is recorded of Mr. E. C. Haly, deputy manager of Plantation Blairmont, Berbice, at the age of forty-eight.

At the meeting of the Sugar Planters' Association on September 24th, a discussion took place on the difficulty experienced on the arrival of Barbadian immigrants of finding estates ready to receive them. It was stated that there was a great difficulty in providing housing accommodation, owing to a shortage of building material and a scarcity of carpenters. Mr. C. Farrar, the President, spoke strongly at the meeting of the Council of the Chamber of Commerce on October 19th on the cable question, through the unsatisfactory working of which, he said, considerable revenue had been lost to the colony. He suggested the re-establishment of the commercial wireless station, which was dismantled on instructions from the Admiralty on the outbreak of war. It was decided again to approach the Government in the matter. It was decided also to write to the Government with reference to the steamship service, suggesting one regular boat and a guarantee against loss as a preferable alternative to a subsidy.

### Jamaica's Income-tax Law Amended.

A further Bill amending the Income-tax Law of this year was introduced in the Legislative Council by the Attorney-General on October 26th, the proposed alterations to the existing law affecting insurance companies, which, except in the case of life insurance companies, will be assessed on their actual net profits.

The "*Gleaner*" of November 10th understands that the Hon. E. St. John Branch, K.C., Attorney-General of Jamaica since 1909, has been offered and has accepted the appointment of Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Judicature of the Straits Settlements and Judicial Commissioner of the Federated Malay States.

The hook worm campaign during September (says the "*Jamaica Times*") extended to Lower Clarendon. Of 1,952 persons examined, as many as 350 were found to be infected and have been placed under treatment.



Jamaica is the poorer by the death of two prominent local solicitors, Mr. Vernon D. Rowe and Mr. W. G. Clough, who died on November 8th and 7th respectively. Mr. Rowe was born in St. Catherine in 1883, and was admitted a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Jamaica in 1915. Mr. Clough was admitted to practice in 1871, and served for many years as Clerk of the Resident Magistrates' Courts of St. Catherine, Manchester, &c., retiring from the public service in 1912. The death is also reported of Dr. F. G. Grossett, J.P., who practised at Port Antonio.

The final conference in connection with the Venereal Diseases Commission was held on October 22nd at the Institute of Jamaica, the Hon. Colonel Herbert Bryan, C.M.G., D.S.O., presiding. Resolutions passed at the meeting favour the carrying on the Commission's work by Jamaica Social Purity Association, and urge the Government to grant financial aid to this highly important work.

Replying to Major Dixon in the Legislative Council on October 28th, the Colonial Secretary said the Government of Cuba had been offered every facility, including, if necessary, free passages, to the large number of Jamaicans wishing to return to their own island.

#### St. Kitts' New C.M.O.

Dr. C. H. Durrant, M.B., Ch.B., has been appointed Chief Medical Officer and Inspector of Public Health of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis, Port Health Officer for Basseterre, and Chairman of the Cunningham and Alexander Hospital Boards. Another appointment announced in the *Gazette* is that of Mr. K. S. Lockhart, to be Captain in the St. Kitts-Nevis Defence Force, and to be Commanding Officer of the Force.

#### Royal Bank of Canada in St. Lucia.

The "Voice" announces the wedding, on October 26th, at Holy Trinity Church, of Mr. J. H. Bourne, Managing Director of the Cul de Sac Company, to Miss Emily Bascom, eldest daughter of the late Rev. Canon J. R. Bascom and Mrs. Bascom.

The Royal Bank of Canada is now represented in St. Lucia, a branch having been opened at Castries on November 1st, under the management of Mr. G. A. Boyd.

#### A Drought in St. Vincent.

The weather throughout the colony continues dry, according to the "Times" of October 21st. Cotton-picking is general, but the crop is not so good as anticipated, and if the dry weather continues will be a short one. Other crops, such as cane and arrowroot, are also feeling the effect of the drought. The regulations prohibiting the exportation of ground provisions have been removed, with the result that a good supply has been sent to the Trinidad market.

#### Trinidad's Preferential Tariff.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council on November 5th, his Excellency the Governor presented Major A. E. Harragin, Inspector of Constabulary, with the insignia of the Distinguished Service Order for Valour in the field during the late war.

The increase in the trade of Trinidad has been so great of late that, on account of the congested condition of the steamers' warehouse, the cargo brought by s.s. *Canadian Gunner* had to be stored in the railway sugar-shed. This demonstrates the great need for the extension of the warehouse capacity to meet the needs of the big cargoes now arriving in the island. Reports from the Mamoral district show that, although the cacao crop was late, it promised to be favourable. The news of the prohibition of rice exports from British Guiana occasioned considerable apprehension among the Port-of-Spain importers, on account of the small supply of Crown rice, the only variety consumed by the East Indians in the island.

An important event in the history of these Colonies, and one which may be taken as a step towards their much

desired federation, has occurred during the week in the first sitting of the Court of Appeal for the British West Indies, at the Hall of Justice, Government Buildings, Port of Spain, writes Mr. Edgar Tripp, under date November 5th. The Court consisted of their Honours Sir Alfred Lucie-Smith, Kt., Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago, Sir Herbert Graves, Kt., Chief Justice of Barbados, and Sir Charles Major, Kt., Chief Justice of British Guiana. There was a full attendance of the Local Bar. The Acting Attorney-General, the Hon. I. H. Elphinstone, in his speech of welcome said that it seemed to him to be the firstfruits of the spirit of co-operation and sympathy among the units of His Majesty's Empire which the war has engendered, and that it was an idea capable of development with very good results for the West Indies. If the federation is to come, it must be preceded by some degree of uniformity in law. In replying, their Honours took the opportunity of congratulating Mr. Elphinstone on his well merited promotion to another colony, a sentiment in which the entire community joins, whilst heartily regretting the loss of one who has in a very short time established an enviable reputation in the Colony. There were not many cases down for trial, but those submitted were of some importance, and the decisions arrived at, together with the dignity of the procedure, have gone so far to justify the expectations of all of us who have for so many years been putting forward the necessity of the Court of Appeal, which is now so happily established.

The income-tax for 1920 has produced £108,000, a nice little addition to the revenue.

That very deserving institution, the Home Industries Association, founded about twenty years ago by Lady Maloney, held a very successful exhibition of the products of its members, &c., at the Prince's Building the other day. As usual, that most indefatigable lady Mrs. Perez was the moving spirit, and when that is said it need not be added that a very delightful time was spent by those who visited the show and that the financial results are certain to be satisfactory. Mrs. Perez presented on the occasion a most interesting little booklet on the history of the Association, which fitly recalls all the good work that has been accomplished, and the debt of gratitude that the community is under to the many ladies of Trinidad who have worked so strenuously and unselfishly towards the desired end.

Writing next day, Mr. Tripp reports the introduction and passing in the Legislative Council of a new Bill, relating to Customs duties, to give effect to the preference granted to Canada under the recent trade agreement. The proposal is a bold and statesmanlike one, being no less than that the whole of the duties on foodstuffs and cattle foods be removed, and that they all be placed absolutely on the free list under the British Preferential Tariff, whilst the duties on all foreign foodstuffs and cattle foods be retained at a figure sufficient to give the preference arranged for. British machinery, and a certain class of British cotton goods and glass-ware have also been placed on the free list. These changes will involve a loss of revenue of £70,000. To make this good, the duty on foreign commodities other than foodstuffs has been increased by 50 per cent., and on motor-cars and luxuries to 20 per cent. preferential, and 30 per cent. general. The spirit duty is increased from 13s. to 15s. preferential, and 17s. 6d. general, &c. The increases were estimated to produce £80,000. In the words of Mr. Walcott, the able originator of the Bill, the grand result will be the free admission of all British foodstuffs, and the reduction of the present duty on foreign foodstuffs; the granting of a 50 per cent. preference on all other British commodities without increasing the duties thereon, and in a very great reduction in the cost of living to the people of the Colony.

The ordinance went through the Council in the course of the sitting and becomes effective immediately.



## WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.

### Sugar Supply.

Mr. McCurdy, answering Mr. Jesson on November 2nd, said that, in his opinion, it was not desirable that sugar growers should be represented on the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply. He could not make a definite statement as to any early winding-up of the Commission.

### The Price of Sugar.

Sir W. Mitchell Thomson informed Sir A. Fell, on November 15th, that the price of raw sugars in New York had varied during the past year from 22½ cents per lb. to the present quotation of 5.50 cents, and added that the equivalent of the higher price had never been paid by the consumer in this country.

### The Exodus from Jamaica.

Mr. Jesson, who asked what action had been taken to prevent the exodus of coloured labour from Jamaica, was informed by Lieut.-Colonel Amery that a scheme for a central sugar factory had been approved. The factory would be built as soon as possible, and would buy cane from small farms under arrangements similar to those which had proved successful elsewhere. The erection of central factories on modern lines was undoubtedly one of the best methods of fostering the sugar industry and so providing employment. He would add that, in so far as the exodus of labour depended on the offer of higher wages in foreign countries, it was obviously not under the control of the Government, but the Secretary of State was in frequent communication with the Governor on the subject, and the latest reports showed that substantial increases in wages had been made in Jamaica.

### Pensions of Disabled Men of B.W.I.R.

In reply to Sir John Butcher, who asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, on November 24th, what was the maximum rate of pension now being paid to non-commissioned officers and men of the British West Indian Regiment who were totally disabled whilst on active service in Europe during the late war in the colonies of Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica, Trinidad, and Tobago respectively, Major Tryon, the Under-Secretary of State for War, said that the pension scheme administered by his Department for disabilities incurred in the Great War by soldiers of the British West Indies Regiment did not make any distinction as regards the colony from which the soldier had been recruited. The maximum daily rates for total disablement were from 3s. to 2s. 6d. for non-commissioned officers, and 2s., or in special cases 2s. 6d., for privates. Representations received from the Governor of Jamaica on the inadequacy of the existing rates were at present under consideration.

### Some Oil Substitutes and Denaturants.

The Right Hon. Austen Chamberlain informed Mr. Jesson that he had no information as to the price of the alcoholic mixture called Natalite, which was in use as a motor fuel in South Africa, in relation to that of petrol. Natalite, irrespective of the denaturant used, might only be imported into this country subject to payment of duty, as in the case of other spirit mixtures; but plain spirits might be imported for use duty-free as a source of power, provided the differential duty had been paid, and on condition that after importation the spirits were denatured as power methylated spirits, in a manner approved by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise. The question of the denaturants to be prescribed for this description of methylated spirits was under consideration.

On November 1st Mr. Jesson, who asked whether it was not a fact that, given reasonable transport, importing and denaturing facilities, over 200,000,000 gallons of Empire-produced alcohol could be imported into this country within two years from now, was informed by Mr. Chamberlain that the Government were alive to the

importance of securing an abundance of cheap liquid fuel. Provision had been made in the Finance Act of this year for the payment in respect of spirits (whether imported or home-made) denatured in this country as power methylated spirits, of an allowance which would have the effect of cheapening production.

Answering Mr. Macquisten, on November 6th, Sir R. Horne stated that the Fuel Research Board, which had been for a considerable time making investigations and researches in the production of alternative supplies of motor fuel, had taken into consideration the supplies of material arising from sugar plantations for making power alcohol.

## WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

### Trinidad Freeholds, Limited.

This company was registered in London on October 29th, with a capital of £100 in £1 shares, to acquire oil-bearing lands, mines, mineral, and other properties in Trinidad and elsewhere. Solicitors: Mayo, Elder & Co., 10, Drapers' Gardens, E.C. A company with the same name was registered in Trinidad earlier in the year, to acquire a property adjacent to that of the Leasehold in the Fyzabad district.

### Barbados Electric Supply Corporation.

The directors of the Barbados Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., report for the year ended June 30th that the trading profit amounted to £4,617, as compared with £3,600. A sum of £3,494, out of balance at credit and of profit and loss account, has been applied in writing off amounts standing to debit of underwriting commission, preliminary expenses and discount, and expenses of issue of debentures in the last balance-sheet. The balance remaining at the credit of profit and loss account is £2,767. A sum of £1,172 has been charged against trading for repairs and renewals, as compared with £1,303 in previous year.

### The Demerara Railway Company, Limited.

The receipts of the Demerara Railway Company for the half-year ended June 30th amounted to £691,700, and expenditure to £697,905, leaving a debit balance of £2,495. The net revenue was £3,232, to which is added Government subsidy, £6,250; withdrawal from renewal fund, £3,092; and £4,253 brought forward, making £16,928. Dividend for the half-year at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary stock; appropriation to renewal fund, £3,092; forward, £2,998. The directors have received a draft of a contract embodying terms provisionally agreed on in negotiations with his Excellency the Governor for the purchase of the undertaking by Colonial Government. The contract is now awaiting approval of the Combined Court.

### The St. Kitts (Capisterre) Co-operative Factory.

Another central factory is contemplated in St. Kitts, under the title of the St. Kitts (Capisterre) Co-operative Factory, Limited. The nominal share capital is £60,000, of which £47,000 has been subscribed by the owners of the estates contractors for the supply of canes, which comprises about 5,000 acres. Applications are now being invited for debentures to the amount of £40,000, to be secured on the factory and its railway. The prospective crop is 5,000 tons, and the machinery will be designed to make either sugar or syrup. The debentures are issued at par, and bear interest at 8 per cent., and it is proposed to put on one side £4,000 per annum from the profits as a sinking fund for the redemption of the debenture capital on September 30th, 1930. There is little doubt as to the success of another central factory in St. Kitts, but to the mind of the expert the policy of endeavouring to adapt the machinery to the manufacture of sugar or syrup is a weak part of the scheme.



## JAMES RODWAY, F.L.S.

By J. GRAHAM CRUICKSHANK.

(Continued from page 361 and concluded.)

An immediate demand for magazine articles was one of the results of the success of "In the Guiana Forest." Papers appeared in the "Cornhill," "Gentleman's," and "Longman's" magazines, besides "middles" in the "Saturday Review." Two notable papers about this time were "The Coming of the Rains in Guiana," and "Nature's Triumph," in the "Popular Science Monthly." Articles of a technical nature—"Phases of Evolution in the Guiana Forest," and "Death in the Forest"—appeared in "Natural Science." Later articles included "The River Names of British Guiana," and "The Forest People of British Guiana," in the "Bulletin" of the American Geographical Society.

A little book commissioned on the strength of "In the Guiana Forest" was "The Story of Forest and Stream," published in 1897 as one of their Useful Knowledge Series by Messrs. George Newnes, Limited. A second edition was brought out in 1913.

Besides this work many papers from Mr. Rodway's pen have appeared in "Timohri" of which journal he was appointed editor in succession to Mr. J. J. Quelch—and in the Demerara newspapers. His talks on Nature-study have been a feature at meetings of the few and rather lack-lustre improvement societies in Demerara. The Demerara "Daily Chronicle" recently said: "Mr. Rodway has been an unfigurable asset in the intellectual life of the colony."

Mr. Rodway has only twice been on holiday in England since coming to Demerara, for four months in 1886, and for six months in 1899. No one recalling rumours of the "deadly miasma of the Demerara swamps" would think so. The veteran historian and botanist—in white coat, tweed trousers, black bowler, and carrying an unopened black umbrella—still does his daily tramp, to and fro, to and fro, from his house in Coal street to the Museum. A white beard is blown about by the wind, and he is a little bent. Otherwise there is little to suggest seventy-two years—and fifty of them spent in Demerara!

His bright blue eyes have never looked at the world or on the pages of a book through spectacles. His enthusiasm in the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake is unabated. He is not the old man of Demerara, but the old boy.

The value of the sugar imported into the United States for the financial year 1913-14 was \$102,436,000, as compared with \$688,127,000 in 1919-20. At the 1913-14 prices the value would have been \$151,744,000, showing that the increase in quantity of over 50 per cent. in the six years. Cacao showed a similar increase. For the year 1913-14 the imported value was \$20,795,000; for 1919-20 \$72,946,000. The latter figure at the 1913-14 price would have been \$46,342,000. The increase in cacao imports in the six years was thus over 130 per cent., and as there were no cacao exports, this represents the increase on consumption.

## OUR LIBRARY.

THE TALE OF A ROAMING CATHOLIC. By F. P. LUIGI JOSÀ, RECTOR OF SAINT ENDELLION, CORNWALL (SOMETIME ARCHDEACON OF DEMERARA). LONDON: THE FAITH PRESS. 152 pp.

Forty years of Archdeacon Josà's priesthood were spent in British Guiana, where he is still well remembered. In the book that he has now written he gives an account of a varied and strenuous life spent in the service of the Church, and incidentally treats us to many shrewd observations on Bishops, priests and laymen he has met, which help to form a most readable work. The grandson of a Chamberlain to Pope Pius VII, the author himself became an acolyte at St. Peter's, Rome, where he received a free classical education in exchange for his services. It is strange to think that when he came to England in 1868 he could not speak a word of English. Six years later, however, he was ordained into the English Church. He had intended to undertake missionary work in India, but although he never saw the Eastern Empire the Hindi language, which he had accordingly studied, proved invaluable for his devoted work among the East Indians of British Guiana. Archdeacon Josà's first appointment in the Colony was as curate of St. Philip's Church, Georgetown, becoming at the same time Sub-Warden of Bishop's College. In 1884 he was made rector of Holy Trinity, Essequibo, where he remained for sixteen years, until his appointment to one of the most important livings in the Colony, that of Christ Church, Demerara, a church that, when the author went to it, "breathed Protestantism on all sides." Whilst in charge of this church, he was made Canon of the cathedral by Bishop Austin, who was the first Bishop of British Guiana, and had held the prelacy of a diocese as large as England for fifty years. The author was afterwards appointed Vicar-General, and administered the diocese in the absence of the Bishop. On the occasion of his departure from the Colony, in 1914, he received an address of appreciation signed by Dean Stoman and all the clergy of the diocese. For the last six years Archdeacon Josà has been rector of a Cornish parish. The "Tale of a Roaming Catholic" throws an interesting sidelight on the vicissitudes of the "Magnificent Province" during the past forty years, due to the fluctuations of the sugar industry. It also enables the reader to obtain an insight into the special conditions of a Colony containing such a variety of races as British Guiana. The author has met many interesting people in the course of his roaming; in particular, he recounts his associations with the late Mr. Quintin Hogg, at one time Deputy Chairman of the West India Committee, and amongst many good anecdotes, he recalls how that worthy but eccentric philanthropist, in order to improve his knowledge of humanity took to blacking shoes after office hours, and on one occasion was actually called upon to black the shoes of Sir James Weir Hogg, his father!

### FRANK (?) CRITICISM.

The *Century Magazine* of America publishes an article on the British West Indies which is certainly not calculated to promote friendly feelings between the two great English-speaking nations. The writer is a Mr. Harry Franck, who appears to have visited most of the British islands in the Caribbean. St. Kitts he found "more down-at-heel, more indolent, less self-relying" than even his own Virgin Islands, and swarming with negroes "as ragged as they were lazy and indolent." In Trinidad this notable traveller was evidently assessed at his true value, for he writes, "Woe betide the mere American who dares address



himself to a stranger, for British-enobbery reaches its zenith there." As a matter of fact, well-mannered Americans (among them Mr. Franck can hardly be classed) are as certain of receiving a cordial welcome in the Land of the Humming Bird as in any other part of the world!

Of the Jamaican Mr. Franck writes, "If he is working for you, or selling you something, the Jamaican can be softly courteous; when he has no such reasons to repress his natural brutality his impudence is colossal." But it is with regard to the British West Indian soldiers that he lets himself go. He writes:—"Official reports credit the 'B.W.I.' regiments with 'excelling in many acts of bravery,' and assert that 'their officers almost universally testify to their courage and loyalty'; but private information, even from some of those same officers or the very men who dictated the official reports, has a totally different tenor. According to this, they were utterly useless in actual warfare, not a man of them having died facing the enemy." As was remarked at the West Indian Club dinner to Colonel C. Wood Hill, which is reported in another column, this statement can only be characterised as a gross libel. That 185 men of the British West India Regiment were killed in action or died of wounds, 1,071 died of sickness, while 697 were wounded, are indisputable facts which cannot be controverted, and we are surprised that a magazine of the standing of the *Century* should lend its pages to such monstrous misstatements as those for which Mr. Franck is responsible.

### AN ELEGY ON CANE-SUGAR.

The "Globe" published the following "Elegy on Cane-Sugar" in its issue of November 29th.

(Apropos of the decontrol of sugar and the news that chemists have succeeded in extracting from artichokes a sugar sweeter than cane sugar.)

Sovereign of sweetness, sugar from the cane,  
For centuries unrivalled did'st thou reign  
Beloved of all, in various guises fashioned  
(I speak of days before the stuff was rationed),  
Loaf, castor, Demerara, and moist brown,  
And those convenient cubes, trim, crystallate,  
Whereby a gentleman called Tate  
Achieved renown

First rival to thy sovereignty there came  
An upstart linked with France's greatest name;  
Slim, snow-white slabs of sweetness that we slipped  
Into our fragrant cups of coffee, sipped  
Upon the Boulevards. True 'tis not so sweet  
As thou; yet 'neath thy throne it drove a wedge,  
This sugar from that common veg,  
The ruddy beet.\*

And next upsprang a scion of King Coal,  
A bold impostor, sweetness with no soul;  
His proper title, from the dull and crass hid,  
Is ortho-sulphamine-benzoic acid:  
A pseudo-sweet for those who would keep thin,  
But who to fatt'ning sweets are all too prone,  
The drug more generally known  
As saccharin.

Hard, hard is fate! For just as we are told  
That sugar will to-day be decontrolled,  
Once more the chemists seek to filch away  
The remnant of thy much diminished sway  
And now, unless the story is a hoax,  
They've planned to get an essence sweeter far  
Than juice of cane or beet or tar  
From artichokes.

\* The poet's meaning here is obscure, for sugar-beet is not "ruddy" at any rate in the chromatic sense.—Ed. "W.I.C.C."

### FISH OF THE ANTILLES.

(Continued from page 359 and concluded.)

*Ephippidae*. *Ephippus faber*. Spade-fish. A deep-bodied reef fish, feeding on small crustaceans. Grows to 20 lb. In autumn school on Florida coast, and are caught with seines. Much appreciated in the United States of America.

*Teuthididae* (Surgeon-Fishes: "Tangs")—Herbivorous. Three species of *Teuthis* are used as food in the West Indies. The largest (18 in.) is *T. bahianus*. Caught off Porto Rico in traps baited with cactus pulp set in 4 to 10 fathoms.

*Mullidae* (Red Mulletts).—*Upeneus maculatus* and *U. martinus* are the commonest species valued as food.

*Scombridae* (Mackerel Family)—The Spanish Mackerel, or Cavallas (*Scombrus [Cybium] maculatus*, *S. regalis* and *S. cavalla*), are valuable food-fishes, attaining a large size, averaging 5 lb. to 10 lb., and growing to 50 lb. or more. The United States of America, Gulf and Atlantic fisheries for these fishes are very important. They are well known in Cuba, but their migrations need study. Whether the Club Mackerel (*Scomber colias*), the Tunny (*Thunnus thynnus*), and other species, Albacores, Bonitos, &c., come in sufficient numbers to make a profitable fishery are matters for investigation. *Acanthocybium solandri*, resembling the Cavallas, but larger, is said to be fairly common round Cuba and Florida; it is a valued food-fish.

*Gempylidae*.—*Ruvettus pretiosus* (Escalar, Ruvetto, Oil-fish) is a large deep-water fish (to 300 or 400 fathoms), abundant about Cuba, and much appreciated as food.

*Xiphiidae*—The Sword-fish (*Xiphias gladius*), a large pelagic fish, seems to be fairly abundant in the West Indies. It is the object of an extensive American fishery in the Atlantic, and is valuable as food.

*Carangidae* (Horse-Mackerel Family).—Migratory, pelagic fishes. *Seriola lalandii* and *S. dumerili* (Amberfish; Coronado) are food-fishes of some importance in the West Indies; the former grows to 100 lb. weight. Of the species of *Caranz*, the largest, commonest, and most valuable appears to be *C. hippos* (Cavalla or Jack); *C. chrysos* and *C. crumenophthalmus* (Big-eyed Sead) are also important. *C. latus* and *C. lugubris* are reputed poisonous. Several other *Carangidae* are reckoned as food-fishes.

THE MAURITIUS ALMANACK AND COMMERCIAL HANDBOOK FOR 1920. Compiled under the direction of A. WALTER, F.R.A.S. THE MAURITIUS STATIONERY AND PRINTING COMPANY, LTD., PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

This work, which is the fifty-second publication of the present series, and the ninety-fifth publication since 1769, gives a remarkably comprehensive and complete account of the Crown Colony of Mauritius and all that appertains to it. It is divided into six sections, which deal with the geography, topography, early history, political constitution, Government departments, tariffs, commercial laws, copyrights, trade marks, patents, Ordnance proclamations, Government notices, statistics regarding life, occupations, religions, education, crime, agriculture, meteorology, cost of living, revenue and expenditure, shipping, trade, tables of weights and measures, lists of committees, boards, and includes a commercial directory. When it is said that the amount of information given is in the greatest detail in connection with each subject dealt with, it will be recognised how extremely valuable the work is. It would be hard to put a single question as to the colony which could not be answered from its contents. An example of minuteness of detail is given in the minimum size of oysters which is allowed in gathering being stated. Excellent maps are also included, bearing on the island as a whole—Port Louis in particular—and the rainfall distribution.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

WEST INDIAN CURRENCY REFORM.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR.—Since Colonel Davson has endeavoured to correct some of the impressions of a "Correspondent," perhaps you will permit the "Correspondent" to add a few lines to his earlier remarks.

His impressions are not based on the experience of a travelling auditor, but on those of long residence and a very close connection of nearly forty years. As the outcome of this experience, not disadvantages, but advantages of the present dual system have appealed to him, and specially so as pointing how easy would be the transition from a sterling to a decimal currency, which, of course, would be preferable to the present system. Probably Colonel Davson has had only a short residential experience in British Guiana and the West Indies, or he would not have written of "the interminable need of reconciling and carrying in mind values expressed in two different currencies," as he puts it. This gives the impression that he may be one of the very few, referred to previously, who refuse to adjust themselves to unaccustomed conditions, and who work themselves into a wholly unnecessary state of irritation, instead of taking things quietly in a hot country. Before making the assertion "this is incorrect" with regard to the statement that the only purely dollar currency which exists is the Bank Note Circulation, Colonel Davson should have been more sure of his ground. "A Correspondent" did not overlook the Government issues, but as these (always excepting Jamaica) only consist of \$1 and \$2 notes issued by the Governments of British Guiana and Trinidad, surely the general term "Bank Notes" sufficiently covers the ground. Very recently the Government of one of the smaller islands has made an issue of 2s. 6d., 5s., and 10s. notes, but it is understood that sterling accounts are generally kept in that island.

"A Correspondent" is aware that silver is put up in bags of \$25, \$50, and \$100. Silver in these bags, being worn, only weighs approximately, and rough-weighing permits of the use of a few coppers to make the exact sum required. Bits (41 pieces) are not legal tender in the islands where these bags are also in use.

"A Correspondent's" reference to the difficulty of obtaining double florins from the Mint was based upon the present impossibility of getting permits for exportation of silver coin, without which the Mint will not supply it for export.

Yours obediently,  
"A CORRESPONDENT"

ALCOHOL FROM RICE STRAW.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR, In connection with the production of alcohol for industrial, particularly motor, purposes, it must not be overlooked that British Guiana possesses a source of the manufacture of this form of spirit in the straw from her extensive and growing rice industry.

By treatment under pressure with dilute sulphuric acid, the fibre would be in great part converted into a fermentable sugar, from which the alcohol could be obtained in the ordinary manner. There would be no additional cost for sulphuric acid, as this agent has to be used in the wash to secure a good fermentation, and the acid used for the hydrolysis would be supplied for this purpose.

I am, Sir, Yours, &c.,  
FREDERIC I. SCARD.

November 27th, 1920.

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.

Royal Netherland West India Mail.—Home arrivals from Trinidad, Havre, November 23rd, per s.s. *Crynosus*—

Mr. R. L. Dawson	Mr. E. Newton	Mrs. B. Teller
Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Elphinstone	Mr. & Mrs. B. J. Paul	The Misses Teller (2)
Mr. J. M. P. Grall	Mr. J. T. C. Caspass	Mr. J. F. Ward

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Home arrivals from Jamaica, Avonmouth, November 21st, per R.M.S. *Changinola*—

Mr. K. Ayusley	Miss D. M. McFarlane	Miss E. M. Seymour
Capt. and Mrs. W. H. Drake	Mr. C. E. Mapleton	Lieut. W. H. Wallon
	Mrs. M. E. Patrick	

Home arrivals from Jamaica, Avonmouth, November 28th, per s.s. *Bayano*—

Mr. J. K. Alexander	Mr. W. H. Hey	Mr. H. S. Soltan
Mr. & Mrs. H. Bushell	Mr. A. U. D. le Poer Trench	Mr. and Mrs. F. U. Symondsou
Miss M. Bushell		
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Dent	Mr. M. H. Pattinson	

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Div.		PRICE, Dec 7th.
4 %	Antigua	44 70
3 1/2 %	Barbados	64 67
4 %	British Guiana	76 79
3 %	British Guiana	60 82
4 %	Grenada	71 73
4 %	Jamaica	77 78
3 1/2 %	Jamaica	60 63
3 %	Jamaica	67 60rd
4 %	St. Lucia	71 73
4 %	Trinidad	72 74
3 %	Trinidad	60 64
10 %	The Colonial Bank	64 64
4 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	105 115
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	66 71
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 Debentures	62 74
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures	70 75
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part Preference	4 1/2
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures	94 99
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	7 1/2
2s	St. Madeline Sugar	14 1/2
	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd.	42 1/2
	Petroleum Options, Ltd.	2 1/2
10 %	Trinidad Central Oilfields	4 1/2
4 %	Trinidad Dominion Oil, Ltd. 10%	5 1/2
12 1/2 %	Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. (2 1/2)	65 1/2
	United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.	28 1/2
4 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	20 25
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref.	77 62
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref.	48 53
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures	54 59
	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	3 1/2
	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Cum. 1st Pref.	33 44
	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " 2nd "	3 1/2
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures	85 87

WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 3/6 for three lines and 1/- for each additional line.

COPIES OF "THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR." Nos. 565 and 467 are much wanted. The Manager will gladly pay 6d per copy for unsold copies delivered at 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

WANTED for India, Agriculturists with tropical experience of Sugar-cane cultivation. Apply to the Sugar Corporation of India, Limited, 5, Wallace-street, Port, Bombay, India, stating qualifications.

ENGLISH NURSE for return voyage to British West Indies. Mrs. Martin-Sperry would be glad if anyone returning to Demerara or West Indies and desirous of securing services of competent English Nurse on the voyage out would communicate with her, c/o The West India Committee Circular, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3.

POSITION as Mechanical Engineer in West Indies or South America. M.I.E.S. certificated B.O.T. marine engineer. Scotch, age 35. Mechanical, electrical, chemical, sugar and constructional engineering experience, drawing office, surveying, &c. Nine years' foreign and tropical experience in responsible charge positions. Apply A. R. C., c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.



## PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—Central 0642.  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."



15, BRETHERIDGE LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Dec. 7th, 1920.

The Produce Markets continue to pursue a very quiet course. Consumers seem determined not to exceed pressing requirements, and any pressure arising to sell has naturally led to a depreciation respecting prices. One authority considers the cause of the present trade slump to be "that the world to-day is too poor to buy." It has been suggested that space might be saved by publishing merely the two words "nothing doing" instead of our usual fortnightly Summary!

**BANK RATE**, 7 per cent., as from April 15th.

**EXCHANGE** on New York, \$3.46-\$3.47.

**SUGAR.** The rationing of sugar in the United Kingdom was brought to an end on November 29th, and consumers can now purchase their supplies in any quantity from any grocer. The only restriction remaining is as to price. The maximum price of white granulated has been reduced to 80s. per cwt. (wholesale), and 10d. per lb. (retail), which also constitute the maximum "reasonable" prices at which, until further notice, West Indian grocery sugars may be sold.

It has been decided that the auction sales in "The Lane" shall in future take place on Wednesdays at 12 o'clock, and if necessary on Fridays also, at the same time. At the sale on November 1st some 1,400 bags of West Indian crystallised were sold at prices ranging from 66s. to 71s. per cwt. Indications tend more and more to point to an early demise of the Sugar Commission. A letter by Lord Askwith in the "Times" of December 2nd indeed goes so far as to state definitely that war-time control of sugar will end on the 31st of this month, but no authority for this statement is given. Again, it will be noticed that the control prices given above are "until further notice" only, instead of for a period of four weeks as previously. If further evidence were needed, it would be found in the fact that when the Cane Sugar Grading Committee recently applied to the Royal Commission for permission to sell West Indian sugars for all purposes, and to abolish grading, the Commission replied that they were unable to deal with the matter as the whole question of control was under Government consideration.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on November 27th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Tons.
Imports	61,056	47,807	35,858	
Deliveries	56,142	46,054	37,986	"
Stock	13,050	7,725	8,669	"

**CACAO.** The market remains flat. Small sales of West Indian have been made at a decline on the prices given in last CIRCULAR, Grenada being quoted at 60s. for fine and Trinidad at 75s. to 80s., the latter quotation being nominal.

Mr. Edgar Tripp reports that in Trinidad receipts, as usual at this period of the year, have been small. Mr. Tripp also reports that the exports from Trinidad to October 31st, were 68,821,636 lb. The exports to same date for the past ten years were as follows:—

1919	57,201,499	lb.
1918	53,296,973	"
1917	67,890,372	"
1916	50,636,017	"
1915	44,258,053	"
1914	60,745,517	"
1913	45,780,272	"
1912	40,143,025	"
1911	42,127,478	"
1910	49,332,789	"

In Venezuela there has been a very welcome change in the weather, encouraging hopes in relation to next crop. Small receipts from the Republic during the month were eagerly purchased at prices ranging from \$18 to \$18 50.

The stocks in London on November 27th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	
Trinidad	31,241	27,461	26,078	Bags
Grenada	23,095	12,583	7,421	"
Total of all kinds	221,345	128,748	136,168	"

**RUM** remains dull, and no improvement in the market is anticipated until at least the next Budget is presented, but little relief, if any, in the high duty prevailing is expected. Jamaica is almost unsaleable, the nominal value for 1920, 1919, and 1918 being 9s., 10s. and 11s. respectively. A few sales of one-year-old Demerara have been made at 5s. 9d.

The stocks in London on November 27th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Puns.
Jamaica	10,167	7,490	3,994	
Demerara	15,416	14,527	10,610	"
Total of all kinds	36,004	28,692	19,902	"

**ARROWROOT** continues very depressed, only a small hand-to-mouth business being done. Nominal quotations 3d. to 7d.

**BALATA.** The West Indian sheet market is quiet but steady. Spot is quoted at 4s. 5d. to 4s. 5½d. per lb. landed, and forward at 4s. 3d. to 4s. 3½d. c.i.f.

**COFFEE.** The market generally is flat. Good ordinary Jamaica is quoted nominally at 80s., but Blue Mountain retains full value. At auction in Liverpool, prices for the latter description ranged from 150s. for low to good middling, to 203s. for fine. A concession had to be made on coffee shipped in bags instead of barrels, as customary, as buyers are prejudiced against this method of packing.

**COPRA** remains dull, and prices show a further decline. West Indian firms is quoted at £48 London.

**COTTON.** West Indian Sea Island is still neglected. The nominal quotations have been reduced a further 300 points, medium being quoted at 35d., and fine at 58d. Imports into the United Kingdom in the forty-nine weeks ending December 2nd, 7,728 bales.

It is feared that the very heavy fall which has taken place in Sakalarides Egyptian cotton will entail a price for the new crop of West Indian, probably much below that which the planters expected. Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland report that Sakalarides which sold at over 100d. per lb. last season is now offering at about 36d. and 38d., and, as the crop is not yet marketed, it will probably decline somewhat further. The U.S.A. last year took enormous quantities of Egyptian cotton for motor-tyre purposes; this year, owing to over-production, they will not require anything like the same proportion of the crop, and have, in fact, been reselling cotton back to this country. Planters would be wise therefore not to expect more than about 40d. for white West Indian cotton. Goods made from West India cotton are a luxury, and consequently there is limited demand for them at the present time.

**HONEY.** There is no improvement in the demand for this article. A small business has been done at a decline on the prices given in last CIRCULAR, fair set Jamaica being quoted at 70s.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** Lime Oil: Handpressed is still neglected, with sellers at 18s. per lb. There are sellers of Distilled at 4s. 3d. per lb., but no business is reported. There is absolutely no inquiry for Raw Lime-juice, the nominal value of which is 2s. 3d. to 2s. 9d.

**LOGWOOD.** Market steady, but very quiet at unchanged rates.

**ORANGE OIL.** There have been sales of Sweet down to 13s. per lb., but Bitter is not wanted.



# The West India Committee Circular

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### The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:  
CENTRAL 6642.



15, SETHRING LANE  
LONDON, E.C. 3.  
Dec. 23rd, 1920

Telegrams:  
CARIB, LONDON.

### Imperial Preference—a Suggestion.

THE Legislature of Trinidad and Tobago have acted with commendable promptitude in revising their tariff to meet the conditions of the Canada West Indies Trade Agreement. The new Customs Duty Ordinance (No. 40, 1920), which received the GOVERNOR'S assent on November 5th, and has already come into operation, is far-reaching in its scope, inasmuch as it provides for a preference in the duties on a wide variety of articles when imported from sources within the British Empire, the West Indies having agreed to make the preference Imperial in the fullest sense rather than extend it to Canada only. By a bold and statesmanlike stroke of policy, foodstuffs of British origin are placed on the free list, the requisite preference being provided by a duty on comestibles imported from foreign countries. Certain classes of cotton goods and glass-ware have been similarly dealt with. These modifications will involve a loss of revenue of £70,000, which it is expected will be more than made good by increased duties on motor cars and luxuries and on the spirit duties. The removal of the duties from British foodstuffs should be a popular feature of the tariff locally, inasmuch as it will no doubt lead to some reduction in the cost of living. Apart from foodstuffs and wines and spirits, the preference on all enumerated articles of British origin, including mineral waters, boots and shoes, carriages, motor cars, haberdashery, hardware, musical instruments, silk, &c., is 33½ per cent, and similarly the *ad*

*valorem* duty on unenumerated articles other than those on the free list is 10 per cent, in the case of British goods and 15 per cent, in that of foreign goods. It is not stated why this preference is less than that provided for under the Canada West Indies Trade Agreement. Article 5 of the Agreement lays down that "The duty of customs on all goods (other than tobacco, cigars and cigarettes) being the produce or manufacture of Canada, imported into the colonies . . . which are now subject to duty, or which may be made subject to duty at any future time, shall not at any time be in the case of . . . Trinidad more than 50 per cent, of the duties imposed on similar goods when imported from any foreign country." Under the Trinidad tariff, on the other hand, the duties on Canadian goods apart from these specifically dealt with amount to 66⅔ per cent, of the duties on similar goods coming from foreign countries. No doubt some explanation will be forthcoming. Of one thing, at any rate, we may be certain, and that is that there has been no wilful attempt to depart from the terms of the Agreement. Apart from its significance in relation to the question of closer trade with Canada, the new Trinidad Customs Duty Ordinance marks a generous recognition of the substantial preference which the Mother Country has now given to the principal West Indian staples—sugar, cacao, rum, coffee, and oil, besides various minor products. As we have so often pointed out, the most sure and certain way of securing the continuance of Imperial Preference is by building up under it such a volume of trade as will make the abandonment of the policy unthinkable. By their new preferential tariffs which are now being adopted throughout those colonies the West Indies are taking a notable step in this direction. We ourselves share the view expressed by COLONEL AMERY on several occasions, that Imperial Preference has now become part of the settled policy of Great Britain; but on this subject our friends in the West Indies still appear to be somewhat sceptical. This, perhaps is not surprising, when one considers how sadly they were neglected in the past by successive British Governments. But it is better to look forward than to rake up the ashes of the past, and the question now arises, How can confidence be completely restored? The obvious way would be to guarantee a continuance of the preference in the United Kingdom for a definite number of years. It is, however, an axiom of British constitutional law that no British Parliament can bind its successor. Still, it would appear to be open to the British Legislature to enter into



a Trade Agreement as Canada has done, and one is inclined to ask whether this course might not with advantage be adopted. Even a Trade Agreement made by one Parliament can constitutionally be upset by its successor, but no Parliament would lightly repudiate a pledge made by its predecessor. We throw out this suggestion with a view to securing its ventilation, and it would be interesting to know to what extent it would meet with favour in this country.

#### The British Preference on Cocoa.

THE Statistical Office of the Customs and Excise Department of the United Kingdom is to be complimented upon the admirably lucid manner in which it has set out its annual statement of the trade of the United Kingdom for the year 1919. Its task has been rendered more complicated than usual, owing to the fact that during the last three months of the year preferences of varying amounts—mainly one-sixth off the general duty—were given on a number of dutiable articles imported from sources within the Empire. The statisticians have, however, risen to the occasion, with the result that on consulting their Blue-book, which has just been presented to Parliament, it is as easy to ascertain the figures relating to the imports of any dutiable commodity and particulars regarding the countries of origin, and the proportions of goods admitted at the preferential and the full rate of duty respectively, as it is to look up a train in the A B C. time-table. We have been prompted to make these remarks by an investigation regarding the position of cocoa (and we will drop for the moment the more technical term "cacao," which is not known to the Customs). For some weeks past the market for this commodity, in common with those of almost every other kind of produce, has been in the doldrums, the inevitable result of the inflation following the conclusion of the war—and we were anxious to ascertain whether any ray of hope as to the future of the English market for the golden and comforting bean could be held out to producers. In 1919 the imports of cocoa into the United Kingdom entered for home consumption amounted to 1,292,261 cwt., as compared with 1,225,054 cwt. in 1918, and 999,567 cwt. in 1917. According to the Board of Trade returns for November, the consumption of cocoa for the first eleven months of the present year have been 941,207 cwt. as against 503,087 cwt. for the same period in the pre-war year, and with retail prices of cocoa and chocolate on the down grade there is good reason to anticipate a further increase in consumption when the retail trade ceases to buy from hand to mouth only. Of the total imports retained for home consumption last year, 735,684 cwt. paid the full rate of duty, whilst 397,956 cwt. was admitted at the preferential rate, though the preference was in force for only three months in the year, the saving in duty to British-produced cocoa being thus £139,284, against Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S estimate for a full year of £200,000. This substantial preference should prove a distinct incentive to British growers to produce cocoa of the quality needed by the United Kingdom market, and should put them in a still more favourable position to meet the competition of foreign cocoa, though it

must be remembered that, preference or no preference, manufacturers will, to some extent, still continue to purchase the kind of cocoa best adapted to their own particular requirements. In this connection it is of interest to note that the imports of foreign cocoa last year included 61,358 cwt. from Portuguese West Africa, Ecuador being a more serious competitor with 177,148 cwt. Of British West African cocoa, no fewer than 1,422,129 cwt. were imported—or rather more than the total consumption of the United Kingdom—the British West Indian islands coming next with 262,431 cwt., the total imports from all sources being 2,201,993 cwt., the entrepôt trade being thus responsible for 909,732 tons. Opinions differ as to whether this entrepôt trade has come to stay or not. During the present year it has still been maintained at a high level. Thus during the eleven months ended November 30th last 829,698 cwt. were exported from the United Kingdom as against 467,573 cwt. for the same period in 1919, and 126,085 only in the pre-war year. The exports in 1920 included 229,156 cwt. shipped to the Netherlands, 113,339 cwt. to the United States, and no fewer than 450,667 cwt. to "other countries." Most of this large quantity presumably went to Germany. It is the general feeling in the "Lanc" that when the pre-war shipping facilities are restored, the bulk of the entrepôt business will revert to Hamburg, and we fear that this is likely to be the case so far as the European trade is concerned. With regard to the Portuguese cocoa industry, to which we have referred, we have been interested to learn from a correspondent intimately acquainted with the conditions of cocoa production in Trinidad, who recently visited San Thomé, that the West Indian colony has nothing to learn from the Portuguese island in respect of cocoa cultivation, the position being in fact the other way about. Compared with what is being done in the agricultural line in Trinidad, it might be said that there is little or no cultivation in San Thomé, the result being that nearly two-thirds of the crops have been lost through algal disease and thrips, whilst a spell of abnormally dry weather has further prejudiced the outlook for the coming crop. The Portuguese planters are said to be bestirring themselves, but they have another serious problem to face, that of the labour supply, and it is understood that the question of the conditions of labour in that island and Principe, which have been described as being akin to slavery, is to receive the consideration of the League of Nations now in session at Geneva. Our Correspondent states that in San Thomé itself the labourers are well treated, but that the trouble is that the planters cannot under present conditions get anything like the number of men they require from the mainland. These considerations will certainly give some encouragement to growers in the West Indies, who will no doubt appreciate more than ever the importance of maintaining cultivation at a high level in view especially of the experience of the Portuguese islands, and it should be the aim of British producers to study closely the requirements of the manufacturers who will naturally be disposed to favour British cocoa, provided they can obtain from within the Empire the varieties necessary for their particular requirements.



## SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"WHEN puss belly full, him say ratta bitter."

THE United Fruit Company has declared 100 per cent. stock dividend, in addition to an 8 per cent. cash dividend in respect of last year.

CAPT. H. V. M. METIVIER, O.B.E., whose appointment as Veterinary Surgeon for Trinidad and Tobago was recently announced, was married on December 9th to Sylvia Kathleen, eldest daughter of Mr. S. H. Nye, F.R.C.V.S., and the late Mrs. Nye, of Loughton.

FOLLOWING the seventeenth operation which he had undergone, Private R. E. Linton, No. 3895, British West Indies Regiment, died at the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, on November 19th. He was wounded at Poperinghe in July, 1917, and had remained a bed-patient until the time of his death. He was buried with full military honours at Greenwich Park Cemetery, Mr. G. P. Osmond, of the West India Committee, acting as chief mourner.

"THE WORKMAN," the organ of West Indians resident in the Panama Canal zone, learns that a large sugar factory is to be established in the district of Juan Diaz, and that the necessary machinery is now being bought in the United States. Our contemporary thinks that the sugar industry will be a great boon to the Isthmus, and prove a lucrative proposition to those engaged in it, and points to the number of West Indians, skilled in sugar-making, who are now in Panama.

ACCORDING to H.M. Trade Commissioner John H. Fowler, there is in Java between the producers and the buyers for export of sugar a large body of speculators, the second-hand market. The first-hand sales are made by the Javasehe Saiken Vereniging, an association of 160 of the largest sugar mills in Java, and by twenty-six smaller individual mills. The second-hand speculators are mostly Chinese. On March 1st, 1920, there were approximately 94,000 tons of the new crop, commencing in May.

THE tenor of Lord Milner's reply to various representations praying for the grant of representative Government to certain West Indian colonies has been that such a change in the constitution of the Government would be a serious step which could not be lightly carried out, and that his Majesty's advisers could not recommend such a considerable change without being satisfied that it accorded with the wishes of the inhabitants of the colony, and that it was calculated to promote their interests more effectually than the present system of Government.

THE annual report of the Cuba Cane Sugar Corporation for 1919-20, just published, states that the cost of producing the 545,154 long tons of sugar which constituted their crop was 8.523 cents a pound f.o.b. This included the purchase of the cane. The costs of manufacture—that is to say, the entire factory charges up to delivery on board ship—were 1.94 cents per lb. The cost of the canes would thus be 6.583 cents per lb. of sugar, which at 9 tons of cane to the ton of sugar would represent \$16.37 per ton of canes. The profit and loss account showed a working profit of \$22,249,020.

MR. DOUGLAS HOGG, K.C., who has been appointed Attorney-General to the Prince of Wales and a member

of His Royal Highness's Council, has paid three visits to the West Indies, the first being when he was quite a small boy. In 1890-91 he went out to see the sugar estates in Demerara, Trinidad, and Jamaica, and in 1893 he went out to act as overseer at Golden Fleece and Nonpareil, in Demerara, so as to qualify himself for the management of the business of his father, the late Mr. Quintin Hogg, Deputy Chairman of the West India Committee. Mr. Douglas Hogg consequently made a late start at the Bar, in spite of which, however, he has had and is having a brilliant career, being briefed in many leading cases.

CAPTAIN H. G. SELWYN BRANCH, who, we regret to learn, died recently at Yeji, in West Africa, of blackwater fever after two days' illness, was a brother of the Hon. E. St. G. Branch, K.C., who lately represented Jamaica at the Ottawa Conference. Captain Selwyn Branch, who at the time of his death was an officer of the Agricultural Department of the Gold Coast, was for some years Manager of the Island of Barbuda in the West Indies. A sportsman in the truest sense of the word, he was greatly respected, not only by the inhabitants of the island, but by all who knew him, and he was much missed when he left the Leeward Islands. In December, 1914, he was seconded, and obtained a commission in the 12th Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment, but he was taken prisoner and was not released until the Armistice.

THE death of Mr. Jesse Collings, which took place at Birmingham on November 20th, removes an interesting personality of the Victorian era. Identified with the movement for the establishment of small holdings, his slogan "Three acres and a cow" was in everybody's mouth in the 'eighties. Mr. Collings formed one of the party of guests which Sir Alfred Jones took out with him to Jamaica in the *Port Kington* in January, 1907, and he had a narrow escape from death during the earthquake, which found him in the garden of the Myrtle Bank Hotel. Soon after his return to England he presided over a meeting of the West India Committee at which the late Professor Milne delivered a lecture on "Construction in Earthquake Countries." Mr. Collings's only daughter is the wife of Mr. H. C. Field, a West India merchant, of Birmingham.

IT will be remembered that during the war the Board of Agriculture advocated the use of glucose as a substitute for sugar. In this connection it will be noted that in a recent murder trial the fact was emphasised that glucose was liable to contain arsenic, and was therefore unfitted for consumption. The presence of arsenic in this product is due to the fact that its manufacture depends upon the use of sulphuric acid, which, if prepared from pyrites, the normal source, contains arsenic. Attention was also drawn to the fact that some years back several cases of poisoning occurred from beer containing arsenic. The presence of this poison in the beer was due to a similar cause—viz, the substitution of a chemically-produced carbohydrate for that obtained by the biological process of malting. Apart from other dietetic disadvantages as compared with cane-sugar, the presence of arsenic in glucose is a serious matter in connection with the habitual use of that product.

ST. THOMIAN COCKTAIL, (much in vogue before St. Thomas went "Dry").—One part of whiskey, 2 of Italian vermouth, 2 of water (perhaps), with crushed ice, Angostura and sugar to taste. Beat up with a swizzle stick and drink while frothing. [The Editor will be glad to receive particulars regarding West Indian recipes for publication on this page.]



## THE PRINCE IN THE CITY.

### Another West Indian Visit Possible.

The Prince of Wales certainly enhanced his reputation as an orator by the speeches which he delivered on the occasion of the Reception and Déjeuner given in his honour by the Corporation of the City of London at the Guildhall, on December 7th. His speeches were delivered without the least trace of self-consciousness, and in ringing tones, which could be heard by every individual of the company, numbering at least eight hundred persons, present.

The first ceremony took place in the Guildhall Library, which the Prince entered at 12.30, the Royal procession being headed by four State trumpeters playing a fanfare. The Royal party was conducted by the Lord Mayor to a dais at the end of the Library, whereupon, in the absence of the Recorder, the Common Sergeant, Mr. Dickens, K.C.—son of the novelist—read the City's Address, which was then handed to the Prince by the Lord Mayor. It was noticed that in the Address no specific mention was made of the West Indies, but the Prince, in his reply, referred to his "long absence in Australia, New Zealand, and the West Indian Colonies," thus giving our oldest group of colonies their due. Then followed the déjeuner in the Guildhall, whose historic figures Gog and Magog can never have looked down upon a more imposing scene. The Lord Mayor in his resplendent robes of office, escorted his guest, who wore the uniform of a Captain in the Royal Navy, round the principal tables to his seat in a procession headed by the Toastmaster, the Mace-bearer and the Sword-bearer, whilst the band of the Royal Horse Artillery played the March from "Scipio."

After the usual loyal toasts, which were proposed by the Lord Mayor, the Prime Minister, in an impressive speech, proposed the Prince's health, which was drunk with loyal fervour and received with round upon round of cheers.

In his reply, for the full text of which we must refer our readers to the London daily papers of December 9th, the Prince, after referring to the fact that he had now received his third address from the City of London, and tactfully congratulating Mr. Lloyd George, (who, he said amid laughter, had been his first Welsh tutor on the occasion of his maiden speech at Carnarvon upon his fourth birthday as Prime Minister), he raised further laughter by saying that when a man was handsomely entertained, it was generally for one of two reasons, either to reward him, or to get something out of him, adding that he knew they would want to hear an account of his experiences. His impressions of his tour were, he said, rather kaleidoscopic. At the outset he referred to the West Indies:—

"Sailing from Portsmouth on March 16th in his Majesty's ship *Itanoun*, my first port of call was Barbados, where the warmth of my reception was a great encouragement to me at the outset of my journey. We then came to the Panama Canal, up to now man's greatest engineering feat, where the United States authorities gave us every facility and made admirable arrangements for our passage. It was a great achievement

getting that great ship through the locks, the largest that has ever been put through, particularly as we had the remains of a landslide to negotiate."

He then summarised in a graphic manner his tour through New Zealand and Australia, raising hearty laughter when he said that if there were any Sydney people present, he could tell them that he had certainly seen their harbour, and that he had appreciated it. Touching reference was made to his visit to the grave of one of our greatest writers, Robert Louis Stevenson, and his light touch again manifested itself when he advised the Lord Mayor when he had laid down his present high and arduous office that he could take no better holiday than in Hawaii, nor enjoy anything better than surf riding.

Returning to the West Indies, he said:—

"Our return passage through the canal was uninterrupted by any obstacle, and I began my fortnight in the West Indies at Trinidad, one of the largest of the West Indian islands, which is very rich in oil. From there I went down to British Guiana in a light cruiser, and spent twenty-four hours at Georgetown, Demerara. That is a colony with an area bigger than that of the United Kingdom, and with great possibilities. I visited most of the islands of the Windward and Leeward groups, but had, on account of a serious epidemic, to omit two or three of them. I regret very much not having been to British Honduras, Bahamas, and particularly Jamaica, the largest and most important of all, but hope to remedy this later on. After leaving the West Indies I spent a short time at Bermuda, that old-established naval station which again played its part in the recent war, and eventually reached England on October 11th."

The Chairman (Mr. R. Rutherford) and the Secretary of the West India Committee had the honour of attending this historic ceremony and luncheon, and it is an interesting coincidence that they should have been sitting under the shadow of the monument of the Jamaican Lord Mayor of London, Alderman William Beckford, formerly a member of their ancient body.

## THE COLONIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

A list of appointments and transfers for the month of November:—

- CAPTAIN A. C. FREETH, Medical Officer, Windward Islands.  
 MISS E. D. MULLINGTON, Nurse Matron, Colonial Hospital, Grenada.  
 LIEUT. P. A. McELWAIN, District Magistrate, St. Lucia.  
 MR. K. W. EARLE, Government Geologist for Windward and Leeward Islands.  
 CAPTAIN W. D. ELWIN, R.E., Headmaster, Grammar School, Dominica.

### Transfers and Promotions.

- SIR G. A. GOODMAN (Chief Judicial Commissioner, Federated Malay States and formerly Attorney-General of Barbados), Chief Justice, Straits Settlements.  
 MR. A. K. YOUNG (Attorney-General, Fiji), Chief Justice, Leeward Islands.  
 MR. W. ST JOHN BRANCH (Attorney-General, Jamaica), Puisne Judge, Straits Settlements.  
 MR. W. C. HUGGARD (Police Magistrate, Lagos), Solicitor-General, Trinidad.  
 MR. H. DUNK (late Registrar of Deeds, Land Registration and Survey Department, Cyprus), Registrar-General, British Honduras.  
 MR. H. W. STERLE (Magistrate, Dominica), Magistrate, St. Lucia.



**THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**

**Twenty New Members Elected.**

A fresh record has been established for the West India Committee this year, no fewer than 419 new candidates having been admitted to membership. At a meeting of the Executive on December 16th, the following candidates were elected, bringing the total membership of the Committee to 2,277.

NAME	PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES
His Excellency Lieut.-Col. Sir Charles O'Brien, K.C.M.G. (Barbados)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. Cyril Gurney
Mr. Benjamin H. Segre (Jamaica)	Mr. Cyril Gurney Mr. L. M. Harvey
Mr. G. R. Garnett (London)	Mr. C. Algernon Campbell Mr. Evan R. Campbell
Major W. D. Beamish (Country)	Mr. R. S. D. Goodwin Mr. R. Bryson
Mr. James Packer (Barbados)	Mr. Geo. R. Hutson Mr. H. S. Hutson
Mr. John R. Bovell (Barbados)	Sir F. J. Clarke, K.C.M.G. Mr. G. Elliott Sealy
Mr. W. A. Kirton (Barbados)	Mr. Henry H. Baird Mr. W. W. Nurse
Mr. Alex. B. Robertson (Trinidad)	Mr. J. Knox Mr. P. J. Scott
Dr. T. L. E. Clarke (St. Kitts)	Mr. A. D. C. Adamson Mr. G. H. Yearwood
Mr. H. H. Walwyn (St. Kitts)	Mr. A. D. C. Adamson Mr. G. H. Yearwood
Mr. W. E. Walwyn (St. Kitts)	Mr. A. D. C. Adamson Mr. G. H. Yearwood
Mr. G. B. Goodall (St. Kitts)	Mr. A. D. C. Adamson Mr. G. H. Yearwood
Mr. G. G. Goodall (St. Kitts)	Mr. A. D. C. Adamson Mr. G. H. Yearwood
Mr. A. B. Tucker (Country)	Mr. T. Hewitt Skinner Mr. R. Rutherford
Mr. R. V. Evan Wong, B.Sc. (British Guiana)	Mr. H. Leighton Piper Mr. W. A. Boyd
Mr. J. B. L. Todd (Trinidad)	Lieut.-Colonel J. H. Collens, V.D. Lieut.-Colonel H. A. Clifton
Mr. Willoughby Bullock, F.R.G.S. (London)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. Cyril Gurney
Mr. A. W. Thomson (London)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. Cyril Gurney
Mr. Thomas Fisher (Antigua)	Mr. G. Moody Stuart Mr. Cyril Gurney
Mr. F. L. Berry (London)	Mr. Cyril Gurney Mr. E. A. de Pass

Membership of the West India Committee is, by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, dated August 4th, 1804, confined to British subjects. Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is at present no entrance fee. The Secretary will gladly send upon request copies of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, and the compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50 40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

**DUTCH MAIL DEVELOPMENTS.**

The Royal Netherland West-Indian Mail, whose agents in London are Messrs. Wainwright Bros. & Co., announce that, beginning with the sailing of the s.s. *Stuyvesant* on January 8th, they propose to maintain a regular fortnightly mail and passenger service from Dover to the West Indies, calling at Plymouth on the way home. The other steamers on the service will be the s.s.s. *Jan van Nassau*, *Von Reusselaer*, *Crynsken*, and *Oranje Nassau*. The fare to and from Trinidad will be £70.

**TO FIGHT TROPICAL DISEASE.**

**London School's Expedition to Guiana.**

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is informed that the London School of Tropical Medicine, in response to an invitation from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has decided to send out an expedition to British Guiana to investigate the disease known as *filaria*, or elephantiasis, and to adopt measures for its eradication. The expedition will include two, or possibly three, experts, and will remain in the colony for a year at least.

Since the first list of contributions from members of the West India Committee towards the London School of Tropical Medicine, the following additional amounts have been received by Lord Milner in response to his personal letter. Any West Indians in doubt as to the value of the work which is being done by the London School of Tropical Medicine will do well to pay a visit to its new headquarters in Endsleigh Gardens, near Euston Station. Contributions towards the funds of the institution may be sent to Lord Milner, or to the West India Committee, 15 Seething Lane, London, E.C., who will be glad to forward them to the proper quarter.

Sena Sugar Estates, Ltd.	£1,000 0 0
Ste. Madeleine Sugar Company, Ltd.	250 0 0
Messrs Boule, Lagane & Co.	250 0 0
Antigua Sugar Factory Company, Ltd.	150 0 0
Messrs. Henckell Du Buisson & Co.	150 0 0
St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory	150 0 0
Henry K. Davson & Co.	105 0 0
Bank of Nova Scotia	100 0 0
Sagga Rubber Company, Ltd.	52 10 0
H. Crum Ewing, Esq.	50 0 0
Sheriff & Co (Jamaica), Ltd.	50 0 0
Frans Dove, Esq.	26 5 0
Hon. Sydney Cuthbert	25 0 0
Middleton & Co. Ltd.	25 0 0
G. V. Hepburn, Esq.	21 0 0
Hon. H. A. L. Simpson, O.B.E.	10 10 0
H. C. Shckell, Esq.	10 10 0
Dominion Cannery, Ltd.	10 0 0
John D. Sellier, Esq.	10 0 0
Thomas Abrahams & Co.	5 5 0
Dr. A. T. Ozzard	5 5 0
Hamilton Rolle, Esq.	5 5 0
His Excellency Sir E. Merewether, K.C.M.G.	5 0 0
Hon. T. A. V. Best, C.M.G., C.B.E.	5 0 0
Alistair Cameron, Esq.	5 0 0
A. F. G. Ellis, Esq.	5 0 0
Dr. C. A. Shaw	5 0 0
Hon. H. A. A. Nicholls, C.M.G., M.D.	3 3 0
Hon. G. S. Seton Browne	2 10 0
Captain J. Hamilton	2 2 0
H. J. Wainberg, Esq.	2 2 0
A. D. Lockhart, Esq.	2 2 0
Robert S. Reid, Esq.	1 0 0
Kenneth Reid, Esq.	1 0 0

GENERAL regret will be felt throughout the British West Indies at the announcement of the approaching retirement of their Archbishop, the Rt. Rev. E. A. Parry, D.D., after twenty years in charge of the Diocese of British Guiana, during which time he has been a familiar figure in the religious and social life of the colony, and prominently associated with all its philanthropic movements. Dr. Parry succeeded Archbishop Swaby as Primate of the West Indies in 1917. It will be recalled that his Grace was present at the Lambeth Conference in the summer of this year.



## BRITISH HONDURAS.

### Governor Hutson's Activities.

Mr. Eyre Hutson, C.M.G., Governor of British Honduras, left England on December 14th for Belize, where he will no doubt receive a cordial welcome on his return from a holiday, during which he combined much business in the interest of the colony with pleasure. He has certainly lost no opportunity of making known the requirements of British Honduras, which should enjoy a revival of prosperity as the result of the Trade Agreement with Canada. The question of British steamship communication will now be solved by the establishment of the Belize, Jamaica, Bahamas, Canada steamer service, and Mr. Hutson has informed us that steps are being taken, with the assistance of the Admiralty, to remedy the telegraphic position, which is at present deplorable. The local wireless station has never been satisfactory, and as it can ordinarily only communicate with Swan Island, whose wireless station is the property of the United Fruit Company, this means that messages have to pass through foreign hands, which is certainly undesirable.

The establishment of the Agricultural Department, a step which was strongly advocated by Mr. Hutson shortly after his assumption of the Governorship, should give a much-needed stimulus to agriculture, and it is much to be hoped that the fall in prices of produce will not deter the authorities from carrying out the recommendations of Mr. Dunlop for development where labour is available. Finally, there is the prospect of oil, and it is understood that the geologist who is to be appointed to make a survey of the colony, will pay special attention to the possibilities of petroleum being found, and a prominent English group is known to be taking a deep interest.

## OBITUARY.

### SIR CHARLES BRUCE, G.C.M.G.

We regret to state that Sir Charles Bruce, G.C.M.G., died in Edinburgh on December 13th, at the age of eighty-four.

Sir Charles Bruce, who was the son of an Indian Civil Servant, was educated at Harrow and Yale. He subsequently devoted himself to the study of Oriental languages, and, after serving for a while as an assistant librarian at the British Museum, he went out to Mauritius in 1868 as Rector of the Royal College at Port Louis. There he remained for ten years, until 1878, when he was transferred to Ceylon as Director of Public Instruction. In 1882 he returned to Mauritius as Colonial Secretary, and three years later he was made Colonial Secretary and Lieutenant-Governor of British Guiana. In 1893 he was promoted to be Governor of the Windward Islands, where he remained for four years, when he was transferred to Mauritius as Governor. There he remained until 1903, when he retired. As a member of the West India Committee he retained in his retirement a close interest in West Indian affairs, any matters relating to Indian immigration, in particular, receiving his close attention. Sir Charles was the author of three works—namely, "The Broad Stone of Empire," "The True Temper of Empire," and "Milestones on My Long Journey," which were reviewed in these columns. In the West Indies Sir Charles Bruce will be remembered for his integrity of character and fixity of purpose.

## SYNTHETIC AMMONIA.

In recent years the utilisation of the nitrogen of the atmosphere for the purpose of the manufacture of nitrogenous manures has made great progress, and done away with the fear of a nitrogen famine, which at one time threatened agriculture. Nitrate of calcium and cyanamide were the only forms of the products thus prepared, the former by the production of nitric acid by the agency of a high-tension electric arc, and its subsequent absorption by lime, and the latter by the formation of nitride of calcium, and the absorption by it of hydrogen, in which again electricity was the prime agent of formation.

The exigencies of the war had the effect of concentrating the minds of German scientists on simpler means of producing ammonia, and a process was introduced in which nitrogen and hydrogen were mixed in a gaseous form and the mixture submitted to the high pressure of 300 atmospheres, representing about 4,500 lb. on the square inch, and as the result, about 15 per cent. of the gases were converted into ammonia.

This process has now been improved by a Frenchman, M. Georges Claude, who increases the pressure to 900 atmospheres, 13,500 lb. on the square inch, and it is claimed that 30 per cent. yield is obtained. The nitrogen is obtained by liquefying the air and separating the oxygen from it by fractional distillation. A plant is now in operation which is capable of turning out ammonia equivalent to about 7 tons of sulphate of ammonia.

## AGRICULTURE IN ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The Report of the Agricultural Department of St. Kitts-Nevis for the year 1918-19 is now to hand. It shows that during the year a large amount of work was done in the direction of experiments with the various agricultural products in which the colony is interested. The manurial experiments with cotton were among the most important of these. These had been carried out for fifteen years, and the average results for this period showed that in many instances the effect of the manure was distinctly to lower the yield, while in no case was the excess due to the manure greater than 117 lb. of seed cotton over and above the 1,205 lb. per acre of the unmanured plot.

As regards the chief industries of the islands, the Report showed that for the year 1918, 9,105 tons of sugar, of which 7,220 tons were crystals, were exported. The low rainfall of 1917, was, it is stated, responsible for the poor crop.

The area in cotton in the Presidency, including Anguilla, was 5,800 acres, of which 2,000 acres were in St. Kitts, 3,000 acres in Nevis, and 800 acres in Anguilla. The quantity exported for the year was 579,569 lb. of lint; 292,708 lb. were purchased by the Imperial Government; 489 tons of cotton seed and 5,771 gallons of cotton-seed oil were also exported.

The other items of importance among the exports were 15,036 barrels of salt, and 920 barrels of lime-juice.



## THE SOILS OF BARBADOS.

Under the title "The Genesis of a Fertile Soil," the Hon. J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., of British Guiana, assisted by Mr. C. B. W. Anderson, contributes to the "West Indian Bulletin" an interesting paper on the subject of the origin of the soils of Barbados. For some time past the question as to whether the soils of "Little England" have arisen from the decomposition of the coral and other rocks forming the basis of the island or from air-borne volcanic debris—as first suggested by Mr. George Hughes—has given rise to some controversy. In describing the soils of Barbados in "The Geology of Barbados," which he wrote in collaboration with the late Mr. A. J. Jukes-Browne, Professor Harrison expressed the view that the origin of the soil was the disintegration and solution of the coral rock itself. He now, however, arrives at the conclusion that the genesis of the high as well as of the low level soils was volcanic. As regards the low-level chocolate and black soils he states that, in addition to the debris of purely volcanic origin derived either directly from their underlying limestone and from later showers of ash, or indirectly from the surface wash of the higher limestone terraces, detrital matter washed from the exposed strata of the ocean or Scotland series during the slow elevation of the lower districts of the island.

In conclusion, Professor Harrison writes: "I trust that this paper not only clearly indicates the origin, directly or indirectly, of the Barbados soils from the air-borne debris of the volcanoes of St. Vincent, and possibly of the Grenadines and other vents of the West Indian volcanic province, but recalls to many of the members of the Barbados Agricultural Society the marked scientific acumen of its Consulting Chemist, George Hughes, F.C.S., to which Barbadians were so deeply indebted for the great increase which took place in their sugar crops during the decade 1880-1890."

## THE WORLD'S SUGAR CROPS.

Messrs. Willett & Gray's estimates for the 1920-21 sugar crop of the world, published on December 2nd, 1920, show that a total of 17,307,900 tons may be expected as against 15,202,232 tons actual for 1919-20, an increase of 2,105,668 tons. Of the estimated total, 12,682,900 tons are cane and 4,625,000 tons beet, increases of 731,932 tons and 1,373,736 tons respectively.

As regards the cane crops, that of Cuba is put down as 4,000,000 tons, as against 3,730,077 tons made in 1919-20. The crops of Porto Rico and Hawaii remain much the same, whilst that of Louisiana indicates a recovery of nearly 70,000 tons. In the British West Indies there is no particular change on last year's figures, the total being 186,500 tons. The British Guiana's estimate still stands at the figure of 100,000 tons. The Argentine figures show a decrease of over 70,000 tons, and the Brazil crop is estimated at 300,000 tons as against a reaped crop of 177,155 tons last year. The crop of Formosa will exceed that of

last year by 65,000 tons. Java is credited with an advance of 180,000 tons. Other crops remain about the same.

The increases in the beet estimates are due to 430,000 tons in Germany, 170,000 tons in Czecho-Slovakia, 145,000 tons in France, 64,000 tons in Holland, 80,000 tons in Belgium, 95,000 tons in Spain, and 300,000 tons in the United States. It is worthy of note that Canada is expected to double her last year's crop.

## THE SUGAR INDUSTRY OF PERU.

An account of the sugar industry of Peru was given lately in a paper read by Mr. C. A. Gumble before the American Chemical Society. After stating the history of the industry in that country, the author describes the system of cultivation and manufacture employed. After a field has grown successive crops of cane for six or eight years, the cane roots are destroyed by deep ploughing, the field fertilised with about 3 tons of guano per acre, and replanted with cuttings from another field laid in shallow trenches and irrigated. The canes thus planted require twenty-two months to mature. After the canes have been cut and carried out, the field is irrigated thoroughly, after which a new growth commences. These canes take eighteen months to mature. The canes are "burnt" before being reaped, that is to say, the leaves, trash, &c., are destroyed by fire. A yield of from 40 to 50 tons per acre is obtained, and the cane contains from 15 to 16 per cent. of sucrose, the juice having a purity of from 85 to 88.

The factory usually grinds from 200 to 400 tons of canes in the twenty-four hours; a few have a capacity of from 1,200 to 1,400. The fibre in the megass averages about 45 per cent; 10 to 15 per cent. of water is used in maceration. White sugar is made for local consumption.

From the refuse, molasses and spirit of a strength of about 80 to 85 per cent. alcohol are made. The spirit is sold for local consumption. In 1910 the sugar production was 150,000 tons, and reached 276,000 in 1916. It is now about 250,000 tons.

## SIR GEORGE FOSTER'S MARRIAGE.

The congratulations of West Indians generally will be extended to Sir George Eulas Foster upon his marriage to Jessie, daughter of the late Sir William Allan, M.P., which took place recently at Geneva. The bride was given away by Mr. Ralfour, and the best man was the Hon. Newton Howell, K.C. Sir George Foster, who presided over the recent Ottawa Conference, has always taken a close interest in the promotion of trade between the West Indies and Canada, and it will be recalled that he was entertained at a banquet by the West India Committee to celebrate the ratification of the trade agreement in 1912.

FATHER C. J. CARY ELWES, S.J., in the course of a journey to Roraima, British Guiana, via the Mazaruni, claims to have discovered in the Atabarian-wann falls a second Kaieteur.



## THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

By ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 380.)

### The Tragedy of St. Pierre.

For several months before the final catastrophe Pelé had shown signs that he was awakening from his long sleep, and on April 25th the country-side was covered to a depth of nearly two and a half inches by lapilli and ashes ejected from his crater. This was followed on May 2nd and 3rd by a violent outburst of fire and lava which overwhelmed the Guérin sugar factory and estate, a little to the north of St. Pierre, involving the death of 150 people. The terrified inhabitants of the surrounding districts then flocked to St. Pierre, thus swelling the number of unfortunates who were so soon to face their doom. Some who could afford to do so took refuge in other parts of Martinique, and also in the neighbouring island of St. Lucia; but the majority of the populace could not be induced to believe that there was any imminent danger, and this sense of confidence was strengthened when they learnt that the Soufrière at St. Vincent was in eruption, for they believed that this effort of Nature would relieve Pelé.

So life went on much as usual in the gay little town, and when the sun rose on May 8th there was nothing to indicate that the end was near. It being a *fête d'obligation*, the stores were closed, and the populace, with the exception of those occupied with the business of the eighteen vessels lying in the roadstead, the sick, infirm, and the prisoners in the gaol, was on holiday bent. Then, without any warning, just after eight o'clock in the morning, the mountain burst open and the appalling curtain of gases and flame, descending with lightning rapidity, turned St. Pierre into a charnel-house. It is estimated that on this one day, in less than a minute, no fewer than 28,000 lives were lost in St. Pierre alone, only two men surviving, one being a malefactor named Ciparis, who was found by a rescue party still alive in a prison cell. Incidentally this circumstance should dispose of the suggestion that the disaster was a judgment to punish the people of a city which held a reputation for wickedness which was probably quite unmerited.

Towards evening on the fatal day a strange vessel entered the harbour of Castries, St. Lucia. She had no masts, she was smoking from stem to stern, and her decks and upper works looked as though they were covered with snow.

"Who are you and where do you come from?" shouted someone in the crowd which had gathered on the quays to watch this strange spectacle.

"Don't you recognise us?" replied an agonised voice from aboard the vessel. "We have come from the gates of hell! You can tell the world that St. Pierre has ceased to exist!"

The ship was the *Roddam*, of the Scrutton Line, and the manner in which she was brought to port by Captain Freeman, who, though grievously wounded, himself took the wheel, turning it with the crook of his elbow, will always stand out as one of the most brilliant feats of seamanship. Of the other vessels not one escaped, and by an

irony of fate the *Roddam* herself was wrecked in the Yennesi three years later.

Merciful Nature soon covered the ruins of the ill-fated town of St. Pierre with bush, but, to gratify the curiosity of tourists, the tangled undergrowth has now been cleared away, and from the deck of the *Guiana* we could recognise the various points of interest which I had seen under happier conditions some years before the cataclysm. There was the Quay, no longer stacked with hogsheds of sugar and rum as it was when I first saw it, but now desolate and deserted. There the Place Bertin, its sparkling fountain gone, its picturesque cathedral represented by two gaunt and ruined towers. There again one could trace the Rue Victor Hugo, the once red-roofed main street of the town, its stores, cafés and hotels now reduced to mere empty shells. Gone was the bridge crossing the Roxelane, from which we had watched the care-free Martiniquaises washing their clothes in the mountain torrent. Gone, too, was the trim little theatre which stood on higher ground approached by a double flight of steps, like the Villa Carlotta on Como. Of the trees which once graced the water-front, not a trace remained, and the whole aspect of this town of the dead was so utterly desolate and depressing that we were glad for once that we were not going ashore.

### Faulknor's Gallant Achievement.

All down the coast of Martinique there is a succession of small fishing villages, the largest being Le Carbet, behind which rise the sugar loaf mountains known as the Pitons du Carbet. It was here that Columbus landed on June 15th, 1502 from his caravel and here also that d'Esnambuc went ashore with the first French colonists in 1635. Martinique at that period was a stronghold of the Caribs, a warlike tribe which was with difficulty repressed. The English took the island in 1762, but only held it for a year. From 1794, however, when it was captured by Sir Charles Grey and Sir John Jervis, it remained British until 1800, in which year it was restored to France.

Proceeding leisurely down the coast in a south-easterly direction, we now altered our course due east, and entered the immense Bay of Fort de France, formerly, and during English occupation, known as Fort Royal, and headed for the town of the same name, the present capital of Martinique. The town of Fort de France stands on the north shore of this famous bay, which is almost encircled by lofty hills. Immediately beyond it, jutting out into the Bay, with its battlemented walls running sheer down into the water, is the famous Fort Louis, giving shelter to a secure anchorage for ships of war, from which de Grasse and his fleet sailed in 1782, before his memorable engagement with Rodney. It was this fort which was so gallantly captured by the redoubtable Faulknor in 1794, during the successful attack made on Martinique by Grey and Jervis. Faulknor was at the time in command of the *Zebra* (sixteen guns), and it was arranged that he, with Captain Brown in the *Asia* (sixty-four guns) should enter the harbour and cover the approach of a number of smaller vessels which had been specially built for the expedition, and brought out in sections to be assembled at Barbados, and equipped with bamboo scaling ladders to be used



in an assault on the fort. While the *Zebra* lay in towards the mouth of the harbour, the *Asia* wore, owing to "want of precision" on the part of the French Pilot, and Faulknor, realising that he could hope for no assistance from his consort, after waiting for some time under a galling fire of grape-shot, which his men stood "with a firmness not to be described," made up his mind to carry on alone. The pilot having completely lost his head, Faulknor seized the tiller and ran the *Zebra* in under the walls of this very fort at which we were now looking, sealed the ramparts, and, overpowering the guard, captured the position before the small boats had time to get alongside, though their crews rowed "with all the force and animation which characterise seamen in the face of an enemy."

Faulknor received with his own hands the Governor's sword and the colours of the fort, and the bay and its surrounding hills resounded the martial strains of "See, the Conquering Hero Comes," played by the ship's band whilst Jervis embraced the hero on the quarterdeck of the flagship. As a compliment to Prince Edward, the great-grandfather of King George V., who was in command of one of the brigades of troops engaged in the land operations, the fort was renamed "Fort Edward," but it has long since reverted to its original appellation.

#### The Alluring Charm of Fort de France.

Conspicuous from the deck of our steamer was the fretted spire of the Roman Catholic cathedral, a Gothic structure, built largely of steel, after the style of Violet le Duc, the pseudo-Romanesque dome of the Schoecheher Library, and the crowns of a superb group of royal palms, marking the Savane, the principal lung of Fort de France. On the heights overlooking the town, buried in foliage, was Fort Desaix, formerly Fort Bourbon, which was captured with great gallantry by the British forces from General Rochambeau in 1794, after a siege lasting thirty-two days.

The favourable impression of the town which we gained from the steamer was confirmed when we went ashore. Fort de France has quite an alluring charm, attributable perhaps to its characteristically vivacious people no less than to its picturesque houses, some of which are not without architectural pretensions. The Martiniquais have a *flair* of their own with their brilliant coloured turbans and fichus, and gaudy costumes, and the general atmosphere of the place is consequently gay and debonair. The town has many advantages over Pointe-a-Pitre, the principal being, perhaps, the absence of the encircling mangrove swamp and the possession of a delightful suburb of villas and chateaux of the well-to-do standing in gardens aflame with poinsettias, bougainvilleas, and hibiscus, on an elevation called the Plateau Didier, to which we were escorted by Mr. de Votcuil, an immigrant business-man from Trinidad, where he is more popularly known as "K. K."

A personality which impresses itself upon one in this French town is that of Schoecheher, who gave his name to one of the principal streets, to a village on the coast, and to a valuable library housed in a florid building alongside the Savane, and whose memory is further kept green by a statue facing the Hotel de

Ville. This statue tells its story. Schoecheher is depicted shielding a girl attired in the characteristic dress of Martinique, while on the pedestal are inscribed the words—

"AUCUNE TERRE FRANCAISE NE PEUT PLUS PORTER D'ESCLAVES."

Victor Schoecheher was Martinique's Wilberforce. In 1794 slavery was abolished throughout the French colonies by the Convention, only, however, to be re-established by Bonaparte in 1802, and it was not until the year 1848, after the outbreak of the Revolution, that, following a campaign by Schoecheher and other philanthropists, the slaves were finally liberated, an event which all true Martinicans regard as the glory of the Second Republic.

(To be continued.)

#### NOVEMBER'S TRADE RETURNS.

The Board of Trade Returns for November show that 9,946 tons of beet and 717,890 tons of cane-sugar were imported during the month, making a total of 1,167,361 tons for the eleven months of the year. Of the month's supply, 8,150 tons were direct consumption sugars, bringing the total of this source of supply to 173,871 tons for the eleven months. The total quantity recorded in the returns as having gone into home consumption is 1,040,367 tons for the eleven months, as against 1,572,034 tons in 1913. The consumption was therefore less than two-thirds the pre war amount.

The importation of cacao for the month was 31,256 cwt., making 2,007,791 cwt. for the eleven months. The British West Indies contributed 655 cwt., making 244,948 cwt. for the eleven months. The amount entered for home consumption for the month was 92,760 cwt. and for the current year 829,698 cwt. The bulk of the year's imports came from British West Africa, which has contributed 1,413,895 cwt. for the eleven months. The stock on hand on November 30th was 1,070,000 cwt.

Coffee imports to the end of November totalled 716,209 cwt., of which 6,512 cwt. came from the British West Indies. The consumption of this country has been 283,223 cwt. during this period, and the stocks on hand on November 30th amounted to 684,000 cwt.

#### THE PREFERENCE ON CACAO.

As is well known a preference of one sixth off the general duty is granted to Empire cacao entering the United Kingdom. The West India Committee have been informed by I.M. Customs that Empire cacao landed at a foreign port and subsequently re-shipped to England, cannot be admitted at the preferential rate of duty. This, it is claimed, is made clear by Section 8 of the Finance Act of 1919, which lays it down that the preferential rates shall apply "where the goods are shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise to have been consigned from and grown, produced or manufactured in the British Empire." The Board of Trade and Colonial Office, which were consulted, have agreed that any deviation from the principle would be contrary to the spirit and letter of the law.



## GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

### VI. Sir Henry Morgan.

(Continued from page 374.)

In January, 1669, Morgan nearly lost his life, when his flagship, the *Oxford* frigate, was blown up during a drinking bout; he and his officers in the after-part of the ship alone escaping.

In this same year, he resolved to attempt an attack on Maracaibo which L'Ollonais, the most blood-thirsty of all the buccaneers, had previously sacked with great brutality. Many of his captains refused to follow him, and he was left with but eight ships and five hundred men. Nothing daunted, he forced the entrance to the lake, sacked the town where, owing to their sad experience of L'Ollonais, "the fears which the Spaniards had conceived from the beginning were so great, that only hearing the leaves on the trees to stir, they often fancied them to be pirates." Both there and at Gibraltar, at the head of the lake, his men indulged in scenes of cruelty and debauchery for weeks. Finding that his retreat was intercepted by three Spanish men-of-war, sent from Spain on purpose to rout out the buccaneers, Morgan proved himself as crafty in strategy as he was bold in battle. By defeating the fleet by means of cunningly-designed fire-ships and deceiving the fort by a false attack, he retreated with treasure to the amount of fifteen thousand pieces-of-eight, a quantity of silver from one of the ships which he sank, a ransom of twenty thousand pieces-of-eight, and five hundred head of cattle.

As Morgan is often classed as a pirate, it may be well to give the full text from the unpublished Council Minutes of the commission under which his capture of Panama was undertaken. At the Council held at St. Jago de la Vega on the 29th of June, 1670, there were present, in addition to Sir Thomas Modyford, the Governor, Lieut. General Sir James Modyford, Major-General Thomas Modyford, Lieut. Colonel Thomas Ballard, Lieut. Colonel John Coape, Lieut. Colonel Richard Hope, Lieut. Colonel Robert Byndloss, Lieut. Colonel William Ivey, Major Thomas Fuller and Major Ant. Collier.

It was resolved that, "Whereas it evidently appeared to this Board by a copy of a Commission sent his Excellency by the Hon. Wm. Beck, Governor of Cuarazo, that the Queen Regent of Spain did, by her *Scedula* dated at Madrid the 20th of April, 1669, command her respective Governors in the Indies to make open war against the subjects of our Sovereign Lord the King in those parts, and also that the Governor of St. Jago de Cuba hath executed the same by granting commissions of war against us, and lately in a most hostile manner landed his men in three several places of the north side of this island marching as far as he durst into the country, burning all the houses they came at, killing and taking prisoners all the inhabitants they could meet with; and now lately they appeared with three ships on the south side of this island at Mitchel's Hole\* within eight leagues of our chief harbour and came near the shore full of men, but seeing the inhabitants prepared for them went off again, and the next day landed at Parathil Bay† eighteen leagues to leeward, and then burnt two houses.

That divers of the rest of the Spanish Governors have granted commissions and are levying forces against us, and have (as we are credibly informed) made St. Jago de Cuba their present magazine and their rendezvous, where their respective forces are to embody and unite for the speedy invasion of this island; which intention, if it be suffered to ripen so far as that, the enemy be enabled to land their forces in this island, we shall be enforced to quit the present care of our plantations and attend on the enemy's motion, whereby our said plantations will run to ruin, our cattle and other stock run wild, our slaves take the wood, and we, although conquerors by chance of war, put to begin the world again to our insupportable loss, and most infinite damage to his Majesty's service. And whereas his Majesty, out of his most princely foresight and great care of us, directed in the last article of his Royal Instructions which his Excellency hath upon this extraordinary occasion been pleased to communicate to this Board in these words:—

'And forasmuch as there are divers things incident to that Government there for which it is not easy for us to prescribe rules and directions for our service and the benefit of that island may require, instead of them you are, with the advice of the Council, to take care therein as fully and effectually as if you were instructed by us; of which extraordinary cases, giving us due information you shall receive further ratification from us as our service shall require.'

In discharge, therefore, of that great trust which is by that instruction put in us his Majesty's Council of this place and in this great and urgent necessity, we humbly advise and pray your Excellency for the seasonable prevention of these impending evils it may be ordained and be it ordained by his Excellency and his Majesty's Council now assembled, and by the authority of the same, that a Commission be granted to Admiral Henry Morgan to be Admiral and Commander-in-Chief of all the ships of war belonging to this harbour, and all the officers, soldiers, and seamen belonging to them; requiring him with all possible speed to draw them into one fleet, and with them to put to sea for the security of the coasts of this island and of the merchant ships and other vessels trading to and about the same; and to attack, seize, and destroy all the enemy's vessels that come within his reach; and also for destroying the stores and magazines laid up for this war; and dispersing such forces as are or may be brought together for prosecuting the same; that he have power to land in the enemy's country as many of his men as he shall judge needful, and with them to march out to such places as he shall be informed the said magazines and forces are; and them accordingly take, destroy and disperse, and finally to do all manner of exploits which may tend to the preservation and quiet of this island, being his Majesty's chief interest in the Indies; and that for the better Government of the said fleet, officers, soldiers and seamen he have power to exercise martial law, according to the articles of war already made or which hereafter shall be made by his Excellency, the same having been first published to them; and it is further ordained that in regard there is no pay for the encouragement of the said fleet that they shall have all the goods, merchandises &c., that can be got in their expedition to be divided among them according to their usual rules; and for their better encouragement to engage in this so necessary service, it is further ordained by the authority aforesaid that no person really belonging to the said fleet shall be molested for his debts, but are hereby protected until further order, of which the Provost Marshal is to take notice at his peril.

It is also ordered upon an extraordinary alarm when the companies are appointed to march all owners of slaves shall bring with them their men slaves furnished with bills, axes and other necessary tools for

\* Soon afterwards called Carlisle Bay

† Parrottee Bay in St. Elizabeth



the building of huts, clearing of ways and such other necessary works as they be appointed; and to the intent that no man shall be ignorant, it is further ordered that this order be published in the next Full Court in every Quarter Sessions within this island."

On this occasion Morgan found himself in command of twenty-eight English-built ships and eight taken from the French. In dividing the spoils between them they had, according to regulations, to reserve one-tenth for the Duke of York as Admiral, and one-fifteenth for the King.

When he sailed from Bluefields he was "in a better posture than ever any fleet that went out of this island, those rugged fellows having submitted to a stricter discipline than they could ever yet be brought to."

About this time, in July, 1670, Manuel Rivero Pardal, "Admiral against the English," nailed on a tree, near the west end of Jamaica, the following challenge:—

"I, Captain Manuel Rivero Pardal, to the chief of the squadron of privateers in Jamaica. I am he who this year have done that which follows:—I went on shore at Caimanos, and burnt twenty houses, and fought with Captain Ary and took from him a catch laden with provisions and a canoa. And I am he who took Captain Baines, and did carry the prize to Carthagena, and now am arrived to this coast, and have burnt it. And I am come to seek General Morgan, with two ships of twenty guns, and having seen this, I crave he would come out upon the coast and seek me, that he might see the valour of the Spaniards. And because I had no time I did not come to the mouth of Port Royal to speak by word of mouth in the name of my King, whom God preserve.—Dated the 5th of July, 1670."

But about the end of September one of Morgan's captives, Morrice, who was driven by wind into a bay off the east of Cuba, met and killed "the vapouring Admiral of St. Jago."

From August, 1670, with the Isle la Vache as headquarters, Morgan and his followers harassed the coast of Cuba and the mainland till in December it was agreed that the taking of Panama "stands most for the good of Jamaica and safety of us all." As a beginning, Providence Island was recaptured from the Spaniards, into whose hands it had recently fallen; the castle of Chagre was taken, and Morgan, with fourteen hundred men, seven ships and thirty-six boats, started up the river, only to have to take to walking the following day, leaving two hundred men in charge of the boats. After eight days of hardship, they crossed the mountain range, and came within striking distance of Panama. In the plains they were met by the Spanish horse and foot to the number of three thousand, but, thanks to Morgan's indomitable courage, they were again victorious, and Panama was captured. The source of its burning is unknown; Morgan says the Spaniards did it. Esquemelin says: "The same day, about noon, he caused certain men privately to set fire to several great edifices of the city, nobody knowing when the fire proceeded nor who were the authors thereof, much less what motives persuaded Captain Morgan thereto, which are as yet unknown to this day." It may have been the result of a drunken accident. "Thus," says Morgan, "was consumed the famous and ancient city of Panama, which

is the greatest mart for silver and gold in the whole world, for it receives all the goods that come from Spain in the King's great fleet and delivers all the gold and silver that comes from the mines of Peru and Potozi." Whatever the cause, Morgan's habit of keeping his own council played a not unimportant part in many of his successes; other leaders of buccancers often having their plans frustrated through gossip.

Esquemelin also tells us that while the English were drinking, the Spaniards sent all their riches away in a galleon.

In February, 1671, the return was commenced. The rearguard was commanded by Colonel Bledry Morgan, the Admiral's kinsman, possibly identical with Esquemelin's Captain Bredely. At Chagre the spoils were divided, Esquemelin stating that each received "whatever part thereof Captain Morgan pleased to give them." At all events, Morgan had to leave secretly, and was only followed by three or four of the ships to Jamaica, where he received the formal thanks of the Governor in Council on the 31st of May. That Morgan was not free from blame in this matter seems evident. Liberal by nature, the temptation to take more than his fair share of the plunder seems at times to have got the better of him.

Esquemelin returned to Jamaica by way of Cape Gracias a Dios and the Isla de los Pino. He found Lynch as governor, and Modyford and Morgan in disgrace; and Lynch making things so unpleasant for the buccaneers, by hanging those whom he captured, that they all went and threw in their lot with their French brethren at Tortuga. Dr. Holmes complained that his ship of thirty tons called the *Port Royal*, which was sent to Campeache for log wood, was taken by her captain with Morgan's fleet to Panama; that she was lost, and that the complainant could get no compensation. Morgan was ordered to appear before the Council and answer these charges, but there is no record of his having done so.

Richard Browne, who had been with Morgan in the Panama expedition, writing to Lord Arlington from on board the *Satisfaction* frigate off Hispaniola in October, 1670, said "Admiral Morgan has been in the Indies eleven or twelve years, and from a private gentleman by his valour has raised himself to now what he is, and no one can give so clear an account of the Spanish force." Browne was evidently then a believer in Morgan; he wrote on another occasion in reference to cruelty on the part of a buccaneer, "but for the Admiral he was noble enough to the vanquished enemy." But he later complained, as others had previously done, that Morgan had not kept faith with him. That he was not intentionally cruel seems probable, but it is also evident that at times he was either unwilling or unable to control the ferocity of some of his companions.

Lynch said, "To tell the truth of him, he's an honest, brave fellow. However, it must be confessed that the privateers did divors barbarous acts which they lay to his Vice-Admiral's charge."

(To be continued.)



## JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

The Balata tree, *Mimusops balata*, was introduced into the botanical gardens at Eala (Belgian Congo) fifteen years ago. There are about 200 trees growing, but no information is available as to their yield.

An important export trade in fur skins is being developed in New South Wales. For the six months ended January 31st, 1920, the value of the export from Sydney amounted to more than one million pounds sterling, excluding rabbit skins. Fox skins are largely exported, and there is an increasing demand for kangaroo, opossum, wallaby, and wombat skins.

The tobacco crop in San Domingo this year is a record one. It is estimated that it will amount to sixty million pounds. Hitherto the various countries of Europe keenly competed for this tobacco, as the price was low. However, this year there seems to be no market for it in Europe, and local buyers are only offering 2 to 3 cents a pound for it on the farms. The crop is of good quality, and could be purchased for as low as 5 cents a pound.

A law has recently been passed in Cuba authorising Dr. Rubio to test his plan for the treatment and cure of leprosy, and an annual credit for three years of over £12,000 has been voted for this purpose. Experiments will be made with sixty lepers, chosen by a special commission from the Leper Hospital. The commission will examine each case before it is submitted to Dr. Rubio for treatment. A report showing the progress made by each patient will be rendered every six months. At the end of the three years the results obtained will be made known.

Shark fishing is an important industry in Lower California. The local shark is 4 ft. to 5 ft. long, and weighs from 90 lb. to 125 lb. The fish are caught on long set lines on which are 50 to 100 hooks baited with small fish or lumps of shark flesh. The lines are fixed to floats, and the fishermen remove their catch daily. The Chinese buy the fins to make shark-fin soup. The liver is boiled down, and yields on an average one gallon of oil. The oil is sold to be mixed with paints, and as a leather preservative. The remainder of the fish is dried, and made into fertilizer or chicken food.

There is a world shortage of bristles! This is owing to the fact that want of food for man and beast has caused the untimely slaughter of thousands and thousands of pigs. Russia, before the war, supplied the larger proportion of bristles in the market, and was the main source of the extra fine grades. The very finest grades came from Siberia. The Siberian pig inhabits a comparatively cold climate, and spends his years in the open air. Hence his bristles grow long and coarse. Chinese bristles come next in value. The Chinese pig gets a full measure of exposure to weather in his wanderings in search of food, over which he is not too particular, but the climate is warmer than in Siberia.

Diseases of various kinds are caused by the want in foods of substances, occurring in the minutest quantities, called vitamins. In Mesopotamia, transport during the war was difficult, and at first it was necessary to feed the Indian troops chiefly on dried peas. Scurvy broke out, and advice was sought from the Lister Institute. Help could be given at once, for in the course of researches on diseases in connection with want of vitamins it had been discovered that if dry peas are

allowed to germinate, the anti-scorbutic vitamin is formed. The directions were to soak the peas and then expose them to the warm air, when they sprouted. When cooked they were a wholesome food, well supplied with the necessary vitamins, and the scurvy disappeared.

Bristles from India are fairly plentiful, but they cannot compete in length and coarseness with those from Russia and China, as the climate is so warm that it is an advantage to be as bald as possible. In highly-civilized countries the pig is housed and fed on corn and the leavings from his owner's table. He is even washed, scrubbed, and petted. The effect of civilization on the pig is to check the growth of bristles, but flesh and fat are developed, and the porker is ready for slaughter within a few months instead of years. The Russian peasant carefully hoards his pig's bristles until some itinerant pedlar passes by, and then barbers them. Collections are made in this way, and brought to the annual fairs. At some of these fairs buyers from all parts of the world purchase the accumulated stocks.

In the King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice an action was lately brought by an old lady claiming from the defendant £500 paid to him to start a castor-oil plantation in Jamaica. Apparently the terms were that 50 acres should be purchased for the cultivation, and a charge on the land should be given the plaintiff on production of title deeds. It was stated on behalf of the defendant that 42 acres had been acquired, but no title deeds were forthcoming. The defendant had impressed on the old lady the great value of castor-oil seeds for medicinal purposes and for the lubrication of aeroplanes. He told her that he regarded castor-oil planting as the coming industry, and that there would be a boom in castor oil for aviation. As the defendant had failed to carry out his undertaking, judgment was given for the plaintiff with costs.

Great efforts are being made in the United States to develop their potash resources. Glaucinite, or green sand, is one of the most important sources of potash in the United States. A narrow strip of green sand runs close to the surface through the States of New Jersey and Delaware. At New Brunswick, in the former State, there is in process of construction, according to the "Times," a \$2,500,000 plant for the manufacture of potash from glaucinite. The process not only produces potash cheaply, but also leaves a residue high in lime content. This by-product is valuable as a fertilizer in agriculture, and even more so in the making of brick, tile, wall-plaster, and fire-proofing materials. The plant will have an annual output of 30,000 to 40,000 tons of caustic potash, the purest variety of potash salts, and, in addition, 1,000,000 tons of the residue.

A "climbing bamboo" (*Chusquea*) grows in the mountains of Jamaica, Haiti, and Porto Rico. Anyone who has been in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica must have seen this graceful little bamboo climbing over bushes and trees and hanging in feathery masses of great beauty. It flowers only at long intervals, and then after flowering and setting seed, the plants all over the mountains die, and give place to the seedlings, which spring up in great profusion. The strange point about the flowering is that it appears to be quite independent of climatic conditions. Sir D. Morris sent living plants from Jamaica to Kew Gardens in 1822, and these plants growing in the Kew hot-houses flowered at the same time as the wild plants on the mountains of Jamaica. This period of flowering was from the autumn of 1824 to the beginning of 1826. The next flowering season was just thirty-three years later, chronicled in the *American Journal of Botany* for last March.



## WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

*The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.*

### Barbados Enjoys Better Weather.

A fortnight of favourable weather was reported on November 9th, the cane crops greatly benefiting from the steady rains. Nothing, however, says the "Advocate," could save the ratoon at some places in St. George and the lower part of St. Peter. Christ Church and some parts of St. Philip have had a very poor rainfall for the year, and their crops reflect it.

Two well-known planters in the island have recently died—Mr. W. C. Browne, late manager of Pool Plantation, St. John, and Mr. Frank Hutson, the proprietor of several estates in St. Andrew, and of Frere Pilgrim in Christ Church.

Hon. W. L. C. Phillips, O.B.E., resumed his duties as Colonial Treasurer on October 11th. Prerogative Plantation, of 73 acres, of which 54 are arable, has been sold by Mr. E. C. Hoppie to Mr. R. A. Evelyn. The "Agricultural Reporter" gives the figure at which the estate changed hands as £7,500.

The Returned Soldiers Committee, appointed at the end of 1918, has now presented to His Excellency the Governor its report, which is a record of really useful work admirably carried out.

### British Guiana's Serious Rice Shortage.

In his speech on the occasion of the opening of the annual session of the Combined Court on November 19th, His Excellency the Governor referred to the shortage of rice in the Colony, due to over-export of the 1919 crop, in view of which he expressed his determination to prohibit the export of this commodity until the end of October, 1921, at the earliest. As regards the sugar situation, His Excellency mentioned that, notwithstanding the high price of sugar, the acreage in the Colony under sugar cane had diminished by 6,000 acres—which he attributed to the increase in wages combined with the extension of the rice industry and the cutting-off of coal supplies. Speaking of the immigration question, Sir Wilfred said until some reliable opinion could be formed as to their chances of obtaining more population, it was impossible to undertake any big schemes of development. There was a good prospect of immigration from Barbados proving a success, as far as it went, and besides this the islands of Grenada and St. Lucia had a small surplus of population which they were willing to pass on to British Guiana.

The long absence of rain recalls to the "Argosy" the disastrous drought of 1912, and cannot but have a serious effect on crops, whilst householders, both in Georgetown and New Amsterdam, have in many instances run short of water. Mr. A. E. Bratt was the recipient on November 10th of an address of welcome from the West Coast Agricultural Association, on the occasion of his assuming the position of manager of Plantations Leonora and Cornelia Ida.

Mr. A. Beeby Thompson, the Consulting Engineer, who has come to British Guiana at the request of the Home Government to investigate the Colony's water problems, was welcomed by the Georgetown Town Council on November 15th. Addressing the Council, Mr. Beeby Thompson said in his opinion there was an extremely large supply of water available, which could be obtained at very moderate cost. The tank system was wrong, and in the speaker's opinion mosquitoes were much worse in Georgetown than in any West Indian city.

Mr. H. J. Paul, the Assistant Director of Public Works, who has been acting as Director since the departure on leave of Mr. E. C. Buck, has applied for leave to relinquish

his appointment. Mr. Alexander Duckham, Chairman of the Trinidad Central Oilfields, and a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, paid a short visit to the Colony at the beginning of November.

The diamond, weighing over 21 carats, which was recently found in the claim Good Hope, held by Mr. R. A. Cedric Smith, is the second largest stone ever unearthed in the Mazaruni district.

### British Honduras's New Assistant Bishop.

At the monthly meeting of the Council of the Chamber of Commerce on November 19th, at which, in the absence of the Hon. G. E. Grabham, the Hon. S. Cullbert presided, the question of participating in the British Empire Exhibition, 1923, came up for discussion. The chairman said that, although as a rule he was opposed to the Colony taking part in exhibitions, this was something quite different to its predecessors. A resolution was passed, making it clear that the Government should be satisfied that there would be an exhibit from the Colony warranting the expenditure involved before consenting to guarantee any of the expenses of the Exhibition. On the motion of Mr. P. Stanley Woods, seconded by Captain Melhado, the Council endorsed the nomination by the Legislative Council of the Belize Estate and Produce Company as the local agents of the Canadian Mercantile Marine Company. Lieut. W. G. V. Blogg, A.D.C. to His Excellency the Governor, was on November 20th married to Miss Alva East, a cousin of the Bishop of Honduras, at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. The Venerable Vibert Jackson, Archdeacon in Central America, has been appointed Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of British Honduras.

A letter to the "Clarion" from a Northern River planter speaks of fine crops of water-melons, rice, and corn during the harvesting season just completed.

An Early Closing Bill has been introduced into the Legislative Council, but has received opposition from the unofficial Members. Mr. P. Stanley Woods, who is editing the "Clarion" in the absence of Mr. Percy George in England, has received the gratifying news that his son Philip, who is a student at London University, has been successful in passing the London Matriculation examination. Mr. A. J. Pavitt, H.M. Trade Commissioner for the West Indies, who left Trinidad for Jamaica, via Colon, at the end of September, is hoping also, if time permits, to visit British Honduras in order to acquaint himself with trade conditions in this colony.

### The Governor and Dominica's Legislative Council.

By a Bill recently introduced into the Legislative Council, the short title of which is the Constitution Act, 1898, Amendment Ordinance, 1920, it is proposed to empower the Governor to appoint unofficial or official members of the Legislative Council whenever the number of either class present and capable of acting drops below six.

A committee has been set up by the Administrator to enquire into the alleged shortage in the labour supply of cetates in the Presidency, and to make recommendations. The committee held its preliminary meeting on November 19th, says the "Chronicle." Mr. Walter opening the proceedings with an address. Mr. A. Welby Solomon, who is its chairman, has also been appointed an official member of the Legislative Council. Mr. J. H. Steber, the editor of the "Dominica Guardian," was married on November 14th to Miss Victoire Joseph.

The Chamber of Commerce, at their meeting on November 10th, Mr. D. O. Riviere presiding, resolved to recommend to the Administrator that the island's requirements would be met if the Harrison Direct Lino or some other cargo service would call at Roseau fortnightly during crop time (August to February), and once a month out of crop. A fund is being raised to provide for the building of a new hospital in Roseau.



### The Prince at Dominica's Recreation Club.

The Recreation Club claims to be the only similar social institution in the West Indies to have been honoured with a visit from the Prince of Wales. The Hon. A. H. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., M.I., writing on November 2nd, says that on his visit to the island on September 26th his Royal Highness went over the grounds of the Club, shook hands with all the ladies, signed a number of slips of paper for the young girls, and took a whiskey and soda with the Hon. Treasurer of the Club.

### Mr. J. P. G. Munro Dies in Grenada.

It is notified in the "Gazette" that the Seditious Publications Ordinance has not been disallowed by His Majesty the King. The death of Mr. J. P. G. Munro removes a prominent and popular figure from the public life of the Colony, in which he was born seventy-two years ago. Called to the Bar in 1870, he was a member of the House of Assembly until its abolition in 1875—a step for which he voted.

### Cuba the Source of Jamaica's Epidemic?

The outbreak of alastrim in the island is accounted for by Dr. Hunt (in reply to a question in the Legislative Council on October 21st) as having been in all probability introduced from Cuba, where cases have existed for over twelve months. The exodus of labourers to Cuba appears, with the decline in the price of sugar, to be becoming less serious, and the returns for June, July, and August show that the number of persons who returned to Jamaica from Cuba (and other places) exceeded the departures.

Hon. J. A. G. Smith, M.L.C. for Clarendon, against whom a motion of censure was recently brought forward in the Legislative Council and afterwards withdrawn, addressed on November 18th a large meeting in Edmondson Hall, which enthusiastically supported his attitude regarding the Dutch colour standard and the Ottawa trade agreement.

Following his recently expressed "desire for closer relations between the elected members and the Executive," his Excellency the Governor has invited Hon. A. G. Nash, the Member for Manchester, to accept a seat on the Privy Council.

### The Prince of Wales's Visit to Montserrat.

Great praise is due to Mr. R. C. Otway, the Superintendent of Public Works, for the success of the preparations for the Prince's visit on September 27th. A stately arch, decorated with wild fruits and flowers, bearing the motto "Welcome," was erected at the head of the wharf, at the base of which were two crowns studded with golden yellow limes, behind which were palm leaves clothed in Saxa Island cotton, while two rows of native palms leading from the arch to the Strand, formed the walk and gave a very pleasing and artistic appearance to the entire get-up. Private residences in Plymouth were also gaily decorated, and all sections of the community vied with each other in the enthusiasm of the reception accorded their Prince. The events of the day were an inspection of the guard of honour composed of members of the Defence Force and returned soldiers, a visit to Government House, in the grounds of which his Royal Highness played several sets of tennis, and a motor ride to Fox's Bay, when the Prince bathed in the sea.

### St. Kitts and the Cotton Boll Worm Menace.

We are being favoured with seasonable weather, giving us almost daily showers, says Mr. E. J. Shelford, writing on November 18th, and the improved general appearance of the cane crop around the island is very marked; although the unprecedented drought, which was ex-

perienced until September must have a prejudicial effect, and the 1921 crop will fall below the average.

It was reported at the close of last week that the pink cotton boll worm, which is well known in Egypt, had been discovered in Montserrat in widely-scattered localities. On November 15th the chemist of the Department of Agriculture discovered infected bolls in the selected cotton plots being grown at the Government Station at La Guérite. Specimens were shown at a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society held on Tuesday afternoon. It was decided to burn immediately the rows on which the pests had been discovered, and so far no reports of its discovery elsewhere have come to hand. The cotton crop is nearly over in the Northern District of the island. Sir Francis Watts has been informed by wire, but it is to be hoped that the last has been heard of the matter.

### Rum Production in St. Lucia.

The Troumassée distillery has started operations, says the "Voice," the first consignment of rum leaving the estate for the Government spirit warehouse on November 26th. The Choce estate of 784 acres under cane, coconut, and lime cultivation, is to be sold, the proprietor, Mr. W. J. Knight, retiring after thirty-five years in the colony.

### American Lighting Scheme for St. Vincent.

It seems likely that Kingstown will shortly be lighted by electricity. Mr. A. E. Freshman, of Schenectady, U.S.A., has been visiting St. Vincent to arrange a scheme with this end in view. The "Sentry" suggests that the expense might be avoided by utilising the power supply of St. Vincent Electric Light Company. The St. Vincent Self Help Association, which aims at fostering thrift and industry, has already forty members, although only started in October.

Fairly heavy showers fell at the beginning of October, when the picking of the cotton crop was being carried on. The light cruiser *Cambrian* has paid a three-day visit to the Harbour, leaving for St. Lucia on October 28th.

The spell of wet weather does not appear to have caused appreciable loss to cotton planters, and a fair Sea Island crop is expected. The Cotton Growers' Association and Agricultural and Commercial Society have adopted a motion recommending amalgamation with the Arrowroot Growers' Association.

### Trinidad's Congested Dock Warehouses.

We have been pleased (writes Mr. Edgar Tripp on November 16th) to welcome in the Gulf H.M.S. *Chatham*, flagship of the New Zealand Navy. She is commanded by Commodore Hotham, who was well known and justly popular here as commander of the *Aeolus* a few years ago, and a long time previously as a midshipman cricketer who gave our bowlers something to remember. Another visitor is H.M.S. *Southampton*, carrying the flag of Rear-Admiral Hunt, Commander-in-Chief of the South American Squadron, while the *Cambrian* is also with us.

The warehouse accommodation at Port-of-Spain has become so congested as to provide a serious obstacle to the trade of the port. Owing to the large importation lately of goods of all descriptions, the steamers' warehouses have been blocked with goods, while a large fleet of loaded lighters waiting to discharge have been delayed afloat sometimes for ten days or a fortnight. The Chamber of Commerce has not failed from time to time to protest against this state of affairs, and to represent that whatever scheme of harbour improvements be ultimately adopted, the immediate necessity of extended warehouse accommodation should be recognised. Seven years ago the Chamber presented a practical scheme which in their idea would provide at a reasonable cost all the facilities wanting, for some years to come, with-



out interfering in any way with possible future extensions, but the matter has been allowed to hang fire until the present disgraceful state of things obtains. The Governor, however, appears now determined to tackle the question. At a meeting of the Council held on the 5th he presented a minute on the Port-of-Spain Harbour improvements, in which, without pledging himself to abandon his opinion regarding deep-water piers, he recommended an immediate adoption of the seven-year-old proposal of the Chamber of Commerce, subject to a few alterations, all of which appear to be very practical and useful, and will no doubt be adopted. These improvements include a considerable extension of present warehouse and wharf room, and the building of a new bonded warehouse and Customs office. It is sincerely to be hoped that these most urgently required improvements will be put in hand at once, for the position has become a very serious one.

At an important meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on the 12th a strong resolution was passed regarding the decision of the Government to turn the beautiful island of Chacaachacare into a leper settlement. At the present moment there is so great a demand for all the available houses at the Islands Gasparee and Monos that one has to book apartments months beforehand, and this difficulty will be accentuated year by year as the colony advances in wealth and population. Chacaachacare is the largest of the islands, which tower grandly at the entrance of our magnificent harbour. It offers much greater facilities than any of the others for the erection of a large number of island resorts and for future hotels, and there is no other island available for the purpose. It affords an opportunity for the safest of bathing in its sheltered bay, or in the ocean breakers outside, and is in every respect an ideal and absolutely required future health resort. It is this place which the Government proposes to devote to the use of the lepers of this side of the world. One may well imagine what the first impressions of our future tourists may be, when in answer to their questions while entering the famous Bocca, they are informed that the principal island which attracts their attention is devoted to this purpose. The Governor has announced his intention to carry the scheme through, and the Chamber is equally determined to put forth every effort to prevent what they consider to be desecration.

Writing again on November 23rd, Mr. Tripp says that following the disturbances in December last a Committee consisting of twenty-four members, with the Hon. A. G. Bell as Chairman, was appointed by the Governor to consider and report upon the rates of wages and to examine into the economic position of the labouring classes, with a view to recommending rates of wages suited to the present conditions. This Committee has now reported in a document of 137 pages containing the whole of the evidence taken and a vast amount of statistics as to the relative cost of wages in pre-war and present days, with the average number of days worked and as to the cost of living of the different sections of the labouring classes. An immense amount of time and trouble must have been expended by the Committee in the labours recorded in the voluminous document now presented, and it is hoped that results commensurate with the trouble involved will be the outcome. In any case, the records of the conditions in which the people of the colony live, which are now so fully presented, will always form a most useful work of reference, and the thanks of the community are due to the Committee for all the time and attention which they must have devoted to the work entrusted to them.

Messrs. Furness, Withy & Co., who have recently taken over the whole undertaking of the Trinidad Shipping and Trading Company, Limited, have inaugurated the new service with the visit of the *Port Victoria*, a beautiful tourist ship, which has remained in the Harbour for three days. Certain of the leading authorities of the new

Lines were amongst the passengers and have been making themselves acquainted with the conditions of the port, and the opportunities afforded generally in the colony for progress and development. It is to be hoped that in any scheme of improvement decided on they will not omit one of the most evident and foremost requirements—viz., the provision of increased hotel accommodation, the want of which is now seriously felt. There can be little doubt that the manifold attractions offered by Trinidad will draw greater numbers of tourists and visitors year by year.

A very interesting wedding took place last Saturday, when the only daughter of the Hon. A. G. Bell was married to the only son of the Hon. Arthur Wight, a young officer who distinguished himself during the recent war. The bride and bridegroom are amongst the most popular members of young society in Trinidad, and the best wishes of the whole community go with them.

Lord Milner has forwarded for the consideration of these colonies a despatch from the Government of Canada suggesting the appointment of a Trade Commissioner to represent the West Indian colonies and Bermuda in Canada. The matter will be brought before the Chamber of Commerce on the 25th instant.

The members of the Venereal Disease Commission have arrived in the island. The recently published results of an inquiry into the extent of the disease in Trinidad afford conclusive evidence of the necessity of dealing with it speedily and thoroughly.

Mr. J. Randolph Rust has been elected Mayor of Port of Spain for the ensuing year.

#### Wreck off the Turks Islands.

A report from the Direct West India Cable Company records that rain is badly needed. The Nova Scotia schooner *Mary L. Ozner*, bound from Barbados to Grand Turk in ballast, recently foundered on Silver Caye and became a total wreck, the captain and crew being brought ashore in the vessel's boat. Business in the salt industry has been fair. The Government cotton gin is working full blast, and several bales are ready for shipment. A quantity is also being ginned by the West India Cotton Company of Lorimers. Reports from the West Indies Development Company and the Patriot Cay Cotton Company are also favourable. The Commissioner's experimental patch in Grand Turk is now in full bloom. The conch shell, sisal and sponge industries are very quiet. There is still a considerable exodus of labourers to the United States.

A later report states that on October 20th s.s. *Philadelphia* (Clyde Line), bound from New York to San Domingo, and calling at Grand Turk for labourers, ran ashore on the northern portion of the island. Five days later, s.s. *Nemesis* arrived from Cuba with the object of salvaging the cargo and attempting to refloat the steamer, but, owing to the weather, salvage operations had to be suspended. The wreck has brought all business to a standstill, and the Government cotton gin has been shut down, it being impossible to induce the populace to take an interest in anything except "wrecking." Thus a schooner coming for salt had to cancel her charter, as it was not found possible to load her. Reports from the cotton plantations are most favourable, and picking has started on the patch planted out at Grand Turk last July. The industry is attracting many who were previously interested in sisal.

The West Indian Club held a Christmas House Dinner at their rooms at 4 Whitehall-court, on December 21st. Captain F. F. C. Messum, the Hon. Secretary, presided over the revels, which took the form of a musical entertainment. Since Captain Messum assumed office the activities of the Club have shown a notable development—new members are coming in apace.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

## SUGAR FROM MEGASS.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR,—In further of Mr. Scard's remarks upon the conversion of rice straw to fermentable sugar, it would also apply to the digestible cellulose of the sugar cane. I hope that the manufacture of power alcohol will not prevent the manufacture of some "Molascuit," as the value of this product is now thoroughly recognised by British agriculture, and for which desideratum I have so earnestly worked.

Yours faithfully,

GEO. HUGHES.

## THE ORIGIN OF TRINIDAD'S ASPHALT AND OIL.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR,—In a recent issue of your valued WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR I noticed an American description of Trinidad as an island "bubbling with oil." Quite so; but it will be found in the south of the island or on the opposite coast of Venezuela, where this island or the mainland has received the organic *debris* through the ages, carried down the great rivers from Amazon to the Orinoco. This suspended organic matter colours the sea green for a hundred miles off the coast, and the current running north deposits this vegetable *debris* on either side, and through the Serpent's Mouth, the result of first stages of decomposition being asphalt and petroleum, &c. Borings and searches for oil should make this an object-lesson of where to look for it.

This view is original, and I do not know if others have formed this conclusion.

Yours faithfully,

GEO. HUGHES.

## WEST INDIAN CURRENCY.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—In a recent contribution to your columns on the desirability of the West Indies adopting their own currency (as is now being done in West Africa) one point was mentioned which I think is deserving of more than passing consideration. If the West Indies had their own currency, I imagine that they would have every right to claim the seigniorage on such a coinage, and, while it is difficult to estimate to what this would amount, it is undoubtedly a fact that it would be a considerable sum. According to the last report of the Deputy-Master of the Mint, the coinage allocated to the West Indies and British Guiana showed an annual average of £150,000 in value, on which the seigniorage probably exceeded 35 per cent. With the lower intrinsic value of the new silver issue this may possibly in the future approximate 60 per cent, which would give an annual amount of about £80,000 in respect of seigniorage. It will be evident that if this could accrue annually to a central West Indian Fund our difficulties regarding steamship, cable, wireless and aviation subsidies, and even possibly in respect of the eventual adoption of some form of federation, would be greatly diminished. Other advantages which would be obtainable by the adoption of a West Indian currency have already been discussed, but it seems desirable to emphasise what may perhaps be the most important of all, as such a benefit would surely make the change attractive to the West Indies.—Yours faithfully,

CARIBBEAN.

The present number completes Volume XXXV of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, the title page and index of which will be published with an early issue. Cases for binding the CIRCULAR can be supplied post free for 4/- each. Members can have their CIRCULARS bound for the inclusive charge of 7/6 on sending them, carriage paid, to the Secretary, The West India Committee Rooms, 15, Sutherland-lane, E.C.3. Spring-backed filing cases to hold the issues for the current year as published can be obtained at the same address, post free 3/6 each.

## WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.

## Empire Exhibition.

The British Empire Exhibition (Guarantee) Bill, under which the Government proposes to guarantee £100,000 towards the British Empire Exhibition to be held in London in 1923, if private guarantees for £500,000 are forthcoming, was read the third time and passed in the House of Commons without debate on December 14th.

## The Cost of Sugar.

Mr. McCurdy, replying to Mr. Raper on December 14th, said that 5½d. per lb. c.i.f. London, at which certain quantities of the best quality white sugar had recently been quoted, was equivalent to a price of 9.65 pence per lb. to the consumer, making allowance for duty payable, cost of transport and distribution, and retailers' profits.

## The Anti-Dumping Bill.

Mr. Jesson, who asked on December 15th if the proposed legislation concerning dumping would be so framed as to protect such overseas industries against foreign competition in the home market as sugar, rice, cotton and other raw materials and foodstuffs, was informed by Mr. Bridgeman that he could not make any statement as to the scope of the measure before its introduction.

## Sugar Commission's Obsequies.

Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson, asked on December 13th when it was proposed to abolish the Sugar Commission, replied that the policy of the Government was to bring to an end at the earliest possible date those Government trading activities for the conduct of which the Royal Commission had been appointed. Negotiations were now proceeding between the Government and the controlled industries concerned.

## The Bauxite Industry of British Guiana.

Mr. L. Scott, who asked on December 8th whether the Imperial Mineral Research Bureau had been instructed to investigate and report on the question of grants or concessions of bauxite-bearing properties in British Guiana, whether it had yet presented such a report, and, if not, when the report might be expected, was informed by Lieut. Colonel Amery that the professional adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on mineral questions had from time to time been asked to advise on points arising in connection with the bauxite industry in British Guiana, and had consulted his colleagues on the Bureau. The Bureau had not been asked to examine into such questions on behalf of the Colonial Office.

## Jamaica's New Central Sugar Factory.

Mr. Jesson, who asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies on December 14th if he could give particulars of the central sugar factory in Jamaica, and whether that factory was intended to deal mainly with cane grown principally by smallholders, was informed by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Shipping (Colonel Leslie Wilson) that the proposed central sugar factory in Jamaica would be capable of an output of 10,000 tons annually, and a consulting engineer was shortly proceeding to the colony to advise the Colonial Government as to the most suitable process of manufacture, the choice of machinery and other details. The factory would deal with cane grown by smallholders whom it was the policy of the Government to encourage; but, in view of the magnitude of the scheme, it was not possible to rely mainly on cane from that source.

The total area in India under sugar this year is 2,669,000 acres, a decrease of 60,000 acres as compared with last year.



**WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.**

**Naparima Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited.**

It has been decided to call up the balance of 10s outstanding on the 100,000 partly-paid shares, to increase the nominal capital from £200,000 to £500,000, and to issue at once 50,000 of the new shares *pro rata* to the existing shareholders.

**Kern Trinidad Oilfields, Limited.**

This concern has been registered as a private company, with a capital of £300,000 in £1 shares, to acquire and develop oil bearing areas in Trinidad. The directors are Mr. W. Ivey, Mr. H. H. Haldin, K.C., Mr. A. Mitchell, all directors of the Kern River Oilfields of California, Limited, and Mr. C. B. Stocken, and the offices are at 36-38 Kingsway, W.C.

**The Demerara Railway Company, Limited.**

Presiding at the meeting of the Demerara Railway Company on December 11th, Mr. R. A. Robertson, D.L., said that the gross revenue of £42,253 constituted a record for a June half-year. On the other hand, the expenditure represented an increase of almost 20 per cent. With regard to the negotiations with the Colonial Government, a cablegram from the Governor of British Guiana had been received by the Colonial Office stating that the Combined Court had approved the contract for taking over the railway with some amendments. The consideration for the sale was to take the form of permanent annuities to be issued by the Colonial Government to the amount of £25,802, with the addition of a small payment in cash. The amount of the annuities was the equivalent of the full rates of dividend upon the company's preference stocks, and would leave a balance available for the ordinary stock approximately equal to a dividend of 2½ per cent. They understood that the contract in its final form was now on its way to this country, and as soon as possible the necessary meetings of shareholders would be convened.

**Spies Chairman on Trinidad's Proven Oilfields.**

Presiding at the general meeting of the Spies Petroleum Company, Limited, on December 6th, Mr. G. Grinnell-Milne said that they had turned their eyes to certain opportunities which had been offered to them in the West. All over America there were fields—some of them untried, some of them more or less proven—from which great quantities of oil might be expected to be taken out in the future, and they had therefore given their attention very much to those opportunities. They had been aided to some extent in getting in certain directions free options. Other options which they held were not expensive options. The whole range of the West was before them and other people to look into and to examine. Both North and South America showed very interesting fields, but to them the most interesting from the first had been Trinidad, because it was a British territory, because they had excellent options on it, and because it had not, so far as they could see, been overdone, and those people who had gone there had achieved a considerable success in a very short period as a result of the efforts they had put forward. There the land was not hypothetical; it was proven. The results had been splendid. The evidence would be found in the value of the shares of the companies which were working there. The pioneer work—the original and necessary expense, waste, sometimes of time, sometimes of money—had all been gone through, and in those very areas where the other companies were working successfully they had options over some thousands of acres which they found it imperative to examine. They had on the spot in Trinidad an expert of world-wide reputation. They had had an informal report on some of the properties, and had detained that expert there so that he might make a full

report on such portions of the areas as would be found necessary before taking any further action in the matter. Mr. Grinnell-Milne added that they had decided to send out Mr. Trew, who had been successively secretary, manager, and director, and Mr. Dabell to Trinidad.

**The St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory, Limited.**

The directors in their ninth annual report, which covers the year ended September 30th, 1920, state that the results of the year were satisfactory, owing to high prices and fair crop. The weather throughout 1919 was favourable, with sufficient rainfall well distributed, and towards the close of that year there was the promise of a very good crop, but severe drought later on reduced it.

The following figures give the results of the year, and a comparison with previous years:—

		1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
Cane	Tons	101,248	97,372	62,354	81,078	86,711
Sugar	"	11,591	11,843	7,314	8,914	10,037
Sucrose in cane	Per cent.	12.74	13.39	13.02	11.11	12.80
in bagasse	"	2.99	2.60	2.51	2.54	2.61
Purity of juice	"	84.70	65.5	38.2	84.00	83.4
Recovery of sucrose	"	65.57	87.08	80.55	86.50	85.62
Yield of sugar	"	11.44	12.16	11.73	10.87	11.67
Price of sugar per ton		£17 18 10	£18 13 2	£20 9 1	£25 0 0	£27 15

After charging revenue with £18,000 for interest and sinking fund on debentures and additions sinking fund, there remains a surplus of £123,916 16s 9d, to be allocated as follows:—To original contractors, £61,958 8s 5d (giving a supplementary payment of 14s 11.24d. per ton, making a total of 50s 4.49d.); to "A" shareholders, £56,766 1s 6d; and to Factory Staff Fund, £5,192 2s 10d. The amount remaining at the credit of the "A" shareholders, after additions and deductions as shown in the balance-sheet, is £62,884 1s 10d. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 4s. per share, which will absorb £13,000. This leaves a balance of £49,884 1s 10d., but from this amount an exceedingly large sum has to be deducted for excess profits duty (at the increased rate for this year) and for the new corporation tax. For the reasons explained in the report for 1917, the company suffers in an exceptionally severe way from the unfair incidence of the excess profits duty, and until that tax is withdrawn only a very small part of the profit is left for distribution amongst the shareholders. The export duty has been raised enormously, the charge on the company amounting to £13,585 17s 6d. Assuming a yield of 20 tons per acre, it is equivalent to an additional land-tax of 31s 3d per acre.

**The Antigua Sugar Factory, Limited.**

The directors, in their first annual report of the company incorporated February 24th, 1920—in the ordinary course this would have been the sixteenth report of the company incorporated August 31st, 1903—state that the results of the year were satisfactory, owing to high prices and a crop rather over the average. Favourable weather, with 43 to 53 inches of rain, was, however, followed by six months of very severe drought, which told heavily on the canes in the northern and central districts. The following figures give the results of the year, and a comparison with previous years:—

	1920.	Average 1915-1919.
Cane	93,793 tons	90,149 tons
Sugar	10,038 "	8,804 "
Sucrose in cane	13.02 per cent.	12.57 per cent.
Fibre in cane	16.80 "	16.81 "
Sucrose in bagasse	3.09 "	2.79 "
Purity of juice	82.92 "	85.70 "
Recovery of sucrose in cane	83.62 "	81.90 "
Yield of sugar	11.35 "	10.98 "
Price of sugar per ton	£27 0 4	£19 13 5

The directors go on to say:—"The new export duty, which was imposed for the first time in 1916 as a war emergency measure, and which had until 1919 been kept at a moderate rate, has been raised this year to 40s 6d per ton, amounting to a levy of £19,023 15s 6d on the



revenue from our crop. This exorbitant imposition was proposed by the finance committee of the Council, which is dominated by merchants in St. John's, and it was carried by their votes in the Legislative Council, supported by the Government official majority, notwithstanding that the amount was far beyond what the Government itself had considered necessary. The portion of the charge which falls to be borne by the planters is equivalent to an extra land-tax of 32s. per acre. A protest has been made on behalf of the planters and the two factories in the island against the present system of Government, under which they have to bear a very large proportion of the taxation of the island without being given adequate representation in its Government."

The profit and loss account shows a surplus of £105,128 11s. 6d., to be allocated as follows, in terms of the agreements: To planters, £52,564 5s. 9d. (equal to 11s. 7.314d per ton of canes, making a total payment of £2 12s. 10½d per ton); shareholders, £48,371 15s. 2d.; staff fund, £4,192 10s. 7d.

The above sum of £48,371 15s. 2d., together with £998 6s. interest, makes a total of £49,370 1s. 2d. at the credit of the shareholders. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 10 per cent., which will absorb £19,373 12s., leaving a balance of £29,996 9s. 2d. to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty, corporation profits and income-tax.

#### Ste. Madeleine Sugar Company, Limited.

The first annual report of the Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co., Ltd., incorporated March 17th, 1920, states that, as shareholders were aware, the capital of the old company—viz., £150,000 gave an entirely incorrect view of the value of its property and other assets, and it was accordingly considered advisable to raise the authorised share capital to £750,000, and the issued capital to £600,000, the latter being a valuation based on normal pre-war values of the assets. The reconstruction was carried through by liquidation of the old company, and distributing to the shareholders 10s. per share, amounting to £75,000, from the assets, also four fully-paid shares in the new company for each share held in the old company, and one fully-paid share of £1 in the Naparima Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd., acquired as mentioned below, for every two shares held in the old company. Last March the directors carried through an arrangement for the sale of the company's oil rights to the Naparima Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd., under which the company received fully-paid shares for £180,000 in the oil company. Of these, shares for £75,000 were distributed among the Ste. Madeleine shareholders as above, and the company retains the remaining shares for £5,000. The sugar made during the year totalled 17,510 tons against 16,482 tons for 1918-19.

The company, in accordance with a resolution passed at an extraordinary general meeting on July 22nd last, has issued £100,000 additional shares for the purchase of the adjoining estate of Malgretout. These shares bring the total issued capital up to £700,000.

The total profit for the year is £93,448, out of which the directors have allocated £7,202 to the staff fund, leaving £86,246, subject to excess profits duty, corporation and income taxes. The working capital of the company has not been found sufficient for its needs, and in view of the recent heavy fall in the value of sugar, and the fear of difficult times ahead in financing, the directors recommend that no distribution be made to the shareholders this year, and that the above balance be carried forward. With regard to the working of the factory, the report shows that the canes contained 12.09 per cent. of sucrose, as against 11.69 per cent. last year, while the recovery of sucrose was 78.86 per cent., as compared with 81.59 per cent. in 1919. On the report the shares fell to 11s. 3d., the Naparima Oilfields being quoted at 41s.

Presiding at the meeting on December 17th, Mr. Moody

Stuart referred to the fluctuations in the price of sugar during the year, and said the Company had kept aloof from the chances of big "ups and downs," having sold the bulk of their crop in advance after the market had risen to a tempting level, but, unfortunately, before the "utterly unwarranted upward rush set in." The price seemed good, for it left over 100 per cent. profit on the capital as it stood then, or over 50 per cent. if it fell badly short, as it had done. A moderate quantity of sugar had been reserved for making white, but before it could be made the débacle came. A dividend could be paid, but the directors believed that the shareholders would approve of their policy of "Safety First." Original shareholders had done well, having received for each £1 share 10s. in cash and 10s. in shares in the Naparima Oil Company, which would start boring operations next month. It was hoped, if circumstances warranted it, to declare in due course an interim dividend. The motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was adopted without discussion.

#### United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited.

The report for the year 1919 states that the issued capital now stands at £1,250,000. As from January 1st, 1919, the company has owned the whole of the share capital of the United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Ltd., which, in turn, owns (in addition to majority holdings in the United British Producing Co., Ltd., and the United British Mineral Oil Co., Ltd.) the entire issued share capital of the United British Refineries, Ltd., and the United British Pipelines, Ltd. The result of thus acquiring the control of further territories, refining plant, &c., and of the reorganisation is shown in the elimination of loans from the balance-sheet and a reduction of the adverse balance from £36,173 to £23,101. The sum of £42,626 is credited in the profit and loss account as dividend receivable from the United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Ltd.; £10,294 has been written off against abandoned and unproductive wells, and £10,000 on account of depreciation of other assets. The company's operations so far have not given result sufficient for the purpose of providing depreciation of the cost of the properties originally acquired from the Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. During 1919 nearly 18,000 ft. of new drilling was done on the various properties, but results were disappointing, and production from all sources of 40,892 tons was considerably less than in the previous year. During last year and the current year large expenditure has been incurred on drilling material and equipment generally for the development of the properties. That this has not so far secured greater and more steady production is due partly to the unfortunate loss by fire of well No. 117, partly to the physical difficulties peculiar to the strata encountered in the completion of wells, and partly to the fact that the whole of the expenditure has not yet had time to bear fruit. To forward development and to provide means of transport and other essential facilities, further funds must, however, be provided, and the directors have decided to make an issue of 250,000 shares of £1 each at par, offering shareholders one share for every five of their present holdings.

Presiding at the annual meeting on December 1st, Mr. Watson, in the course of his speech, referred to the great increase in the cost of stores and materials. Production fell away considerably in 1919 as compared with 1918, and these circumstances made it necessary to raise still further capital. With regard to pipe purchases, whilst they were buying pipes at £9 0s. 4d. per ton in May, 1914, they were paying in September £68 6s. 11d. or an advance of no less than 658 per cent., the increased cost being also 314 per cent. on boilers, 350 per cent. on wire ropes, 270 per cent. on derrick timber, and 340 per cent. on galvanised iron. Referring to the drilling staff, he said that







## PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—Central 6642.  
Telegrams—"Carib, London."



16, SREYFING LANE,  
LONDON, E.C. 3

Dec. 23rd, 1920

There is no new feature of interest in the various produce markets, actual trading being reduced to a minimum with prices almost nominal. Buyers, practically without exception, are merely operating in order to meet urgent requirements, so that the actual volume of trade partakes of a retail character.

**BANK RATE**, 7 per cent., as from April 16th.

**EXCHANGE** on New York, \$3'48½-\$3'50½.

**SUGAR.**—The belief is still general that the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply will be brought to an end before long. Meanwhile, it is of interest to note that they recently refused an offer of Brazilian sugar at 24s per cwt. f.o.b. The suspension of rationing should soon lead to an increase of consumption, but, owing to the agitation regarding the cost of living which has been conducted by the Press, consumers are buying sugar only from hand to mouth, and in very small quantities. Meanwhile control prices of sugar remain unchanged.

With regard to the Canadian refiners the position is now clear. The action taken by the West India Committee in cabling to the Prime Minister of the Dominion, asking that steps might be taken to support the refiners in the interests of the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement, appears to have been in full accord with that taken by the various West Indian Colonies concerned. The Committee have received a message in reply to the effect that the Canadian Government is watching the position closely.

It is stated that, as the result of the Conference held at Ottawa on December 13th between the refiners and the Government, arrangements have been made whereby advances will be made to the refiners which will enable them to carry on. This has produced a feeling of greater confidence.

The immediate outlook for sugar generally is full of uncertainty, inasmuch as quotations are now below the figure which the Cuban producers state to be their cost of production, but it is probable that the decline will not be carried much further and that there will be a recovery next year, though the exaggerated values of 1919 will not be repeated. One important factor to bear in mind is that when prices rise consumption in the East falls off very rapidly, which results in sugar being diverted from the East to Europe. Conversely, when prices reach a low level the sweet tooth of the Oriental again begins to assert itself.

The British West Indian producers may be regarded as fortunate at this juncture in enjoying a substantial preference for their produce in the markets of the United Kingdom and Canada.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on December 11th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Tons
Imports ... ..	62,034	40,883	37,840	
Deliveries ... ..	58,617	47,744	40,980	"
Stock ... ..	11,553	8,337	7,847	"

**CA CAO** is still a declining market, and there is a lack of export enquiries. Fine Trinidad is quoted at 72s. to 80s., and fine Grenada at 57s. to 59s. Imports from British West Indies to November 30th, 244,948 cwt.

Mr. Tripp asks us to state that owing to a mistake in the official return of Trinidad exports supplied to him, the total shipments for the colony to October 31st

were 61,866.636 lbs. and not 68,821,636 lbs. as stated in last CIRCULAR.

The stocks in London on December 11th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	
Trinidad ... ..	29,903	27,157	22,088	Bags
Grenada ... ..	21,656	15,157	7,000	"
Total of all kinds	210,283	123,803	118,288	"

**RUM.** There is no change to report in the market which remains dull. Little or no business has been done in Jamaica for some weeks, the nominal values for 1920, 1919 and 1918 remaining at 9s., 10s. and 11s. respectively. Demerara of one year of age is worth 5s. 9d.

The stocks in London on December 11th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	
Jamaica ... ..	9,772	6,973	3,868	Tons.
Demerara ... ..	15,166	15,114	11,027	"
Total of all kinds	35,290	28,872	19,869	"

**ARROWROOT** remains in a depressed condition; a few hand-to-mouth transactions have been made at 3d. to 4d. Nominal quotations 2½d. to 7d.

**BALATA.** The West Indian sheet market is easier at 4s. 5d. to 4s. 5½d. per lb. for spot, and 4s. 2d. to 4s. 2½d. c.i.f.

**COFFEE** remains dull with easier prices. There is practically no demand for export qualities, but firm home-trade lots are steady. Good ordinary Jamaica is quoted nominally at 75s. to 80s., and Blue Mountain at 170s. to 190s. Total stocks in London on December 11th, 20,122 tons.

**COPRA** is weak and prices during the past fortnight have shown a decline of £8 per ton. Nominal value of West Indian f.m.s. £39 10s.

**COTTON.** West Indian Sea Island is still neglected. The nominal quotations are 35d. for medium and 50d. for fine. Imports in the fifty-one weeks ending December 16th, 7,731 bales.

**HONEY.** There is no demand for this article, the market at the moment being lifeless.

**LIME PRODUCTS.** There is no business to report in this market, and the nominal quotations are unchanged.

**LOGWOOD** is in very poor demand. Nominal value £15 to £17 per ton.

**ORANGE OIL.** No change or business to report in either **Sweet** or **Bitter**.

**SPICES.** There have been few changes in values and business is very dull. There are spot sellers of **Pimento** at 3½d. (or at 30s. 6d. per cwt. c.i.f. terms), but no business is reported. There is nothing doing in **Ginger**.

### BIRTH.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is 3/6 for three lines, and 1/- for each additional line.

**CAVANAUGH.**—At Belice, British Honduras, on November 8th, the wife of R. J. L. Cavanaugh, Superintendent of Police, of a daughter.

### WANT.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 3/6 for three lines and 1/- for each additional line.

**WANTED** for India, Agriculturists with tropical experience of Sugar-cane cultivation. Apply to the Sugar Corporation of India, Limited, 3, Wallace-street, Fort, Bombay, India, stating qualifications.